

Mr. *Gresham* appeared in the House.

The Petitions of sundry Prisoners, which were delivered by *Samuel Chamberlaine*, Esq; read the first Time, and ordered to lie on the Table.

Mr. *Ringgold* brings in, and delivers to Mr. Speaker, the following Report :

By the COMMITTEE appointed to confer with Messieurs Prigg and Calder, concerning the Variation of the Compass, and report to the House their Opinions of the proper Measures to be taken, to remedy the Evils arising therefrom.

YOUR Committee having conferred with Mr. Prigg, and Mr. Calder, upon the Subject of the Variation of the Compass, and how the Evils arising therefrom, may be best remedied, are informed by those Gentlemen, that there is a West Variation, of about Two and an Half, or Three Degrees; that this Variation, is now, and has been decreasing ever since the first Settlement of this Province; but, that the Experiments and Observations they have hitherto made, do not sufficiently authorize them, to say at what Rate it decreases. To adjust this, and to know whether the Decrease be regular, at different Periods of Time, they are of Opinion, that it will be necessary to make many Experiments and Observations, as well upon ancient, as upon later Surveys; and that, when by this, or any other Means, the Variation of the Variation, (as it may be termed) or the Rate in which the Variation decreases, can be pretty nearly settled, it may then be proper, in order to prevent the Evil complained of, to have a good Theodolite provided by each County, that a true Meridian Line be taken and fixed in some convenient Place, as near the Court-House in each County, as may be, by setting up three Pillars of durable Stone, at convenient Distances, in the Plain of such Meridian; and that some Person be appointed to try the said Instrument, by such Meridian Line, and note down, in a Book to be kept for that Purpose, among the Records of each County, the Variation of the said Instrument from such Line, which Variation, so found, shall be the Standard of Variation for each County, respectively; and thereafter such Instrument to be tried annually, and whatever it shall be found to vary from such first Trial, to be also noted down in the same Book, and be allowed in every Course to be run by such Instrument, until the next Trial, and a Certificate thereof given by the Person appointed to try such Instrument, to the Surveyor of each County, respectively, and so from Year to Year. Some such Method, as this, your Committee are of Opinion, might be effectual to prevent the Evils arising from the Variation hereafter; and it appears also to your Committee, to be very necessary, that something should be done to regulate former Surveys; but, as this would occasion a considerable Change in the Situation of many Surveys, and be attended with much Difficulty, your Committee beg Leave to offer it, as their Opinion, that it is most prudent to refer the Consideration of the Whole to the next Meeting of Assembly, by which Time, it may be hoped, that every Gentleman will have considered the Matter, with that Attention which the Nature and Importance of it require, and come prepared to determine finally, upon some Regulation, that may prevent an Evil that is daily increasing.

All which is humbly submitted to the Consideration of this Honourable House.

Signed per Order,

EDWARD. FORD, Cl.

Mr. *Ringgold* brings in, and delivers to Mr. Speaker, a Bill, entitled, *An Act to enable Thomas Hunt, Executor of William Hunt, late of London, Merchant, deceased, and Jonathan Smyth, Executor of Peter Bayard, late of Cæcil County, deceased, to pay the Money therein mentioned*: Which is read the first Time, and ordered to lie on the Table.

The Bill, entitled, *An Act for lengthening the Time of inspecting Tobacco, in Frederick and Baltimore Counties, and at Elk-Ridge Warehouse, in Anne-Arundel County*: Read the second Time; the Question was put, Whether the said Bill do pass? Resolved in the Negative.

For the NEGATIVE.

Messieurs	{	Wolstenholme,	Gresham,	Goldsbrough,	Veazy,	Hollyday,
		Eden,	Mackall,	M. Tilghman,	Ward,	Wright,
		Buchanan,	Harrison,	N. Thomas,	Beall,	Selby,
		Ringgold,	Wilson,	Sulivane,	Tyler,	Purnell.
		Bordley,	Dickinson,			

For the AFFIRMATIVE.

Messieurs	{	Chase,	Parran,	Hooper,	Allen,	Jenings,
		Worthington,	Gantt,	Deye,	J. Dashiell,	Luckett,
		Johnson,	Hayward,	Baxter,	Cresap,	Chapline.
		Griffith,	Gale,	Hall,		

Mr. *Hayward* brings in, and delivers to Mr. Speaker, a Bill, entitled, *An Act to prevent the Evils arising from the Manumission of Slaves*: Which is read the first Time, and ordered to lie on the Table.

The Bill, entitled, *An Act appointing new Visitors for the Public School in Frederick County, and for other Purposes therein mentioned*; read the second Time, and will pass. Sent to the Upper House, by Mr. *Jenings*, and Mr. *Luckett*.

John