

M O N D A Y, November 26, 1781.

THE house met. Present the same members as on Saturday, except Mr. Chew, Mr. Fitzhugh, Mr. S. Worthington, Mr. M'Mechen, and Mr. Bowie. The proceedings of Saturday were read. Mr. Thomas Firman Eccleston, a delegate returned for Dorchester county, and Mr. James Chapline, a delegate returned for Washington county, appeared, and after qualifying in the usual manner, took their seats in the house.

Richard Barnes, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker a petition of Margaret Button, praying the general assembly to secure to her certain property, now in her possession, lately seized by the commissioners appointed to preserve confiscated British property; a petition of Stanley Byus, of Dorchester county, praying an act may pass, enabling him to exchange for new bills of credit a sum of continental currency, now in his possession as executor of James Byus, deceased; and a petition of Elizabeth Stainton, widow, and relict of Benson Stainton, late deceased, and Margaret Campbell, daughter of said Elizabeth Stainton, setting forth, that the aforesaid Benson Stainton died intestate, without leaving heirs, whereby his property has become escheat to the state, and praying the general assembly to confirm to them the said property; severally endorsed; "By the senate, November 26, 1781: Read and referred to the house of delegates.

"By order,

J. MACCUBBIN, clk."

And also a representation from the commissioners appointed to preserve confiscated British property.

Which were read, and the representation from the commissioners on British property referred to Mr. Ridgely, Mr. Sprigg, Mr. Wright, Mr. Stone, and Mr. Norris, to consider and report thereon.

ORDERED, That Mr. Eccleston be added to the committee appointed to enquire and report a list and amount of the claims of public creditors, &c.

William Hindman, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker letters from the president of congress of the 27th of June, 12th and 25th of July, and 21st and 29th of September; from his Excellency general Washington, of the 10th of July, 27th of August, 3^d, 11th, and 15th of September, 12th of October, and 16th of November; from the superintendant of finance, of the 6th, 16th, and 27th of July, 7th, 8th, 21st, 26th, and 28th of August, 17th of November, and one in October; from Charles Thomson, of the 26th of June and 10th of July; from general Greene, of the 21st of August and 24th of October; from general Smallwood, of the 18th of October; from general Gist, of the 27th of October; from delegates in congress, of the 3^d of July, 1st, 3^d, 7th, 8th, and 18th of August, and 6th of October; from the governor of Virginia, of the 20th and 21st of October; from the executive council of Virginia, of the 11th of October; from colonel Blaine, of the 27th of September; and from David Poe, of the 29th of October.

A letter of excuse from Mr. Taney, for departing without leave, was laid before the house, and read and accepted.

A petition from John Dicars, of Frederick county, praying a remission of a fine imposed on him for not marching with the militia when ordered, was preferred and read.

A petition from sundry residents in Frederick county, members of the German reformed church, praying the general assembly to exempt from sale five acres of manor land, which has been made use of by them as a burying ground and place of divine worship, was preferred and read.

Mr. Stone brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker the following report:

By the COMMITTEE appointed to consider and report their opinion on the representation of the commissioners appointed to preserve and sell confiscated British property.

YOUR committee beg leave to report, that by an inventory, communicated to them by the commissioners, of the property late belonging to the Nottingham company, which is esteemed by the commissioners sufficient for carrying on the iron-works, and laid off to be sold in undivided tenths, agreeable to the directions of the act of the last session of assembly, it appears, that there are 8364 $\frac{1}{4}$ acres of land, which, estimated at £. 4 10 0 specie per acre, amounts to £. 37,938 0 0; and that the personal property belonging to the said works, and laid off as aforesaid, amounts to £. 17,050 0 0 specie, the whole amounting to the sum of £. 54,988 0 0 specie.

That it is the opinion of your committee, founded on the information given them by the said commissioners, that if the property aforesaid be sold in the manner directed by the aforesaid act, the state will suffer a very considerable loss; and are further of opinion, that it would advance the public interest, if the commissioners were at liberty to dispose of the whole of the said property together, provided the same would sell for at least the sum of £. 55,000 0 0, as your committee are of opinion, that the estimate on the personal property is considerably less than the same would sell for; and if the commissioners should not be able to sell the whole together for the

aforesaid