

thereof. ORDERED, That Mr. Chafe, Mr. Courfey, Mr. Kent, and Mr. Seney, be a committee to prepare and bring in the said bill.

ORDERED, That the memorial and petition of Charles Wallace, together with the representation from the commissioners respecting the same, referred from the last to the present session, be referred to Mr. Thomas, Mr. Joseph Dashiell, and Mr. Caufin, to consider and report thereon.

A petition from John Bayly, setting forth, that in December last, a soldier belonging to the Maryland line came to his house, and was there taken with the small-pox, by which means several of his family took the infection, and praying a compensation for his trouble, was preferred and read, and referred to Mr. Plowden, Mr. Mills, and Mr. Hawkins, to consider and report thereon.

A memorial from sundry inhabitants of the state of Maryland, setting forth, that they have claims against William and Robert Molleson, late merchants in London, praying commissioners may be appointed to possess themselves with the books, &c. of said William and Robert Molleson, now in the hands of Thomas Contee, Esq; was preferred and read.

A petition from Philemon Griffith, a captain in col. Rawlings's late regiment, praying to be allowed the depreciation of his pay while in service, was preferred and read.

Mr. Burgefs has leave of absence till Thursday next.

A petition from Richard Marshall, praying the will of Thomas Dent Hardy, late of Prince-George's county, may be confirmed, it not being evidenced agreeable to law, was preferred and read.

ORDERED, That Mr. Waggaman be added to the committee appointed to consider and report on the petitions of nonjurors.

A petition from Richard Richards, a prisoner in Frederick county gaol, praying an act may pass for his relief, was preferred and read, and referred to Mr. Beatty, Mr. Shriver, Mr. Beall, and Mr. Stull, to consider and report thereon.

A petition from John Usher Charlton, setting forth, that he was appointed paymaster to the sixth Maryland regiment, in which post he acted till congress directed paymasters to be taken out of the line of the army, and praying to be allowed the depreciation of his pay, in the same manner as the officers now in service, was preferred and read.

A petition from Calvert Pelly was preferred and read, and referred to Mr. Burgefs, Mr. Quynn, and Mr. Oneale, to consider and report thereon.

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

THE Committee appointed to consider and report on the message received from his Excellency the Governor, together with the papers therein referred to, beg leave to report, that your committee having taken into consideration the subject matter referred to them, so far as the same has any immediate relation to the internal defence of this state, and the protection of the trade thereof, and of the inhabitants who live on or near the waters of the Chesapeake, have come to the following resolutions, viz.

RESOLVED, That it is the opinion of this committee, that \_\_\_\_\_ be appointed commissioners by act of the general assembly, to provide and put in motion such a marine force as may be necessary, together with such aid as can be procured from the commander in chief of the French ships of war within this bay, and from the state of Virginia, to protect the inhabitants of this state, residing on the bay and navigable rivers, from the ravages and depredations of the enemy, and also to protect the trade of said bay; and for that purpose that they be empowered to employ such number of the recruits for this state, as may be wanted to act as marines.

That the said commissioners be empowered and requested to call on Mr. Stephen Steward, to know in what forwardness the galley may be that he contracted to build for this state, and to see that the same be completed, manned and armed, as speedily as possible; and that they have full power to settle and adjust the claim of said Steward against this state, and to pay what may appear to be justly due.

That the said commissioners have the direction of all the vessels of war and barges belonging to this state, and may contract for the hire of such other vessel or vessels as may be thought sufficient for the above purposes, and may agree to insure the same at the risk of this state.

That the said commissioners be empowered to draw on the treasury for a sum not exceeding \_\_\_\_\_ money, and may apply the same, or so much thereof as may be necessary for the above purposes.

That it is the opinion of the committee, that 180 men (to be composed of sailors, bay-craftsmen and marines) be raised by bounty, to man four barges.

That it is the opinion of the committee, that the bounty, wages, and other expences, for the four barges for six months, would be about eight thousand pounds specie.

That it is the opinion of your committee, that a small fort be erected at the mouth of Smith's creek, to cover the barges, hold the magazines, and protect the trade; and that 50 men, with  
a captain