

The house met. Mr. Bowie and Mr. Job appeared in the house. Mr. M^cBryde and Mr. Hopper, two delegates returned for Caroline county, appeared, and after qualifying in the usual manner, took their seats in the house.

A petition from Nicholas Gaffaway, setting forth, that he observed in the Maryland gazette an advertisement, signed William Chapman, giving public notice, that he intended to petition the general assembly to pass a law, declaring a deed passed by the executors of his father to his the said William Chapman's father, good and valid, and praying that the petition of the said William Chapman be dismissed, was preferred and read, and referred to the committee appointed on the petition of William Chapman.

A petition from John Graves, setting forth, that he is under execution for preaching the gospel, and praying he may be discharged therefrom, was preferred and read.

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

By the COMMITTEE appointed to enquire into the facts contained in the petition of Philip Shoals.

YOUR committee, having taken the said petition into their consideration, beg leave to report thereon, that they are of opinion the said Philip Shoals ought to have a road to his mill, agreeable in substance to the prayer of his petition; and that Messieurs John Hood, Nicholas Dorsey, and Reuben Merriwether, or some other person or persons, ought to be appointed by act of assembly to lay out said road, and ascertain the damage to individuals. All which is submitted to the consideration of the honourable house.

By order,

W. H. M^cPERSON, clk.

Which was read.

The house proceeded to take into consideration the order of the day, which being read, the sheriff of Anne-Arundel county appeared at the bar of the house, and after giving the house information respecting his conduct, and Mr. Speaker informing him it is expected he will in future observe the duties of his office in forwarding public letters, and more particularly the laws, ORDERED, That he be discharged from the bar of the house.

The sheriffs of Prince-George's and Charles counties appeared at the bar of the house, and were discharged therefrom.

The house adjourns till to-morrow morning 9 o'clock.

W E D N E S D A Y, May 15, 1782.

THE house met. Present the same members as on yesterday, except Mr. Hall. The proceedings of yesterday were read.

The memorial of the merchants and traders of Baltimore-town; the petition of William Winder; and the petition of sundry inhabitants of Worcester county; were read.

The petition of William Winder, and the petition of the inhabitants of Worcester county, were referred to Mr. Joseph Dashiell, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Dennis, Mr. Love, and Mr. Wagman, to consider and report thereon.

A memorial from Mountjoy Bayly, praying to be allowed the depreciation of his pay while in service, was preferred and read, and referred to the committee appointed on the petition of James Fernandes.

ORDERED, That Mr. Dennis, Mr. Forrest, Mr. Plowden, Mr. Stone, and Mr. Joseph Dashiell, be a committee to consider and report on the petition of Mrs. Bacon.

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

THE committee, appointed to take into consideration the state of the prisoners, beg leave to report, that since the prisoners captured at York in Virginia have been stationed in Frederick county in this state, they have been guarded by a small number of militia; that about one hundred and fifty have escaped; that these have principally escaped, by the advice and assistance of persons inhabiting near the station of the prisoners, who have enticed them away, concealed them, disguised them, and gave them information of the route to the enemy's posts.

That it is the opinion of your committee, there is no existing law of this state, which provides a remedy adequate to the evil.

Your committee therefore beg leave to suggest the propriety of a law to punish any person or persons, who shall knowingly entice, persuade, or assist, any prisoner or prisoners of war of this or the United States, to escape, or shall knowingly conceal or harbour any prisoner or prisoners as aforesaid, by obliging any person or persons who shall be convicted of crimes as aforesaid, or any of them, to serve in the barges or galleys of this state for a term not exceeding — months, in