

ture suspended, its public faith brought into question, and your executive reduced to the most humiliating condition, and exposed to the most mortifying animadversions and censures.

We take the liberty of recommending a revision, as early as possible, of our criminal law: Nothing can be of more consequence to government, than that the laws affecting the lives of its citizens should be reduced to the utmost certainty, and that punishments be regulated by the degrees of criminality: And we beg leave to suggest, as the most effectual means to obtain a well digested system, to commit this business into the hands of a select number of eminent gentlemen of the law.

The importance of trade and commerce to a country is so universally understood and acknowledged, that no arguments need be offered to shew they are objects which call for every public encouragement. Peace opens to us the most extended prospects, and the task is yours, to seize the present opportunity, of making such commercial improvements, as may lay a permanent foundation to make this a great, happy, and flourishing country. The act of assembly which relates to our shipping and registers requires an immediate change and amendment.

It is far from our intentions to embarrass your deliberations with a variety of objects, but we cannot pass over matters of so high concernment as religion and learning. The sufferings of the ministers of the Gospel of all denominations, during the war, have been very considerable; and the perseverance and firmness of those, who discharged their sacred functions under many discouraging circumstances, claim our acknowledgments and thanks. The Bill of Rights and Form of Government recognise the principle of public support for the ministers of the Gospel, and ascertain the mode. Anxiously solicitous for the blessings of government, and the welfare and happiness of our citizens, and thoroughly convinced of the powerful influence of religion, when diffused by its respectable teachers, we beg leave most seriously and warmly to recommend, among the first objects of your attention on the return of peace, the making such a provision as the constitution in this case authorises and approves.

The act for founding a college at Chester, which passed the session preceding the last, will reflect for ever a lustre on its proceedings; and it is with the greatest pleasure we observe, that such has been the zeal of the Eastern Shore for the advancement of learning, that the sum of five thousand pounds, which the act required, and allowed to be raised in five years, has been nearly doubled in less than one year. Nothing can be a stronger proof of the happy influence of public encouragement, and we trust that the general assembly will think this college deserving of their further attention and favours, and will extend their views to the establishing and encouraging other seminaries of learning in this state.

We have the honour to be, with sentiments of high respect and attachment, gentlemen, your most obedient humble servants,

WILLIAM PACA.

The honourable the General Assembly.
Which were severally read.

John Smith, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker a petition from Edward Johnson, the appointed guardian of Jonathan Plowman, praying an act may pass, to authorise him to lease out, on reserved ground-rents, several lots or portions of ground in Baltimore-town, for the benefit of the said Jonathan Plowman, endorsed; "By the senate, May 8, 1783: Read and referred to the consideration of the house of delegates.

"By order,

J. DORSEY, clk."

On motion, Leave given to bring in a bill relating to ideots, lunatics, and other persons of insane minds; and Mr. M'Mechen, Mr. Forrest, and Mr. B. Worthington, were appointed a committee to prepare and bring in the said bill.

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

F R I D A Y, May 9, 1783.

THE house met. Present the same members as on yesterday. The proceedings of yesterday were read. Mr. Wilkinson, Mr. Hall, Mr. Chase, and Mr. Burgess, appeared in the house.

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

THE committee to whom was referred the petition of John Buckman, of St. Mary's county, beg leave to report, That from the best information they can obtain, the facts set forth are truly stated, and that from the peculiar situation of the petitioner's son, it is proper and reasonable to grant his prayer. Your committee therefore are of opinion, that a law should pass, authorising the justices of St. Mary's county court to levy such a sum of money as in their judgment may appear necessary. Which is submitted to the honourable house.

By order,

J. KNAPP, clk.

Which was read the first and second time, concurred with, and leave given to bring in a bill pursuant thereto; and Mr. Forrest, Mr. Key, and Mr. M'Mechen, were appointed a committee for that purpose.

A memorial