

The engrossed bills No. 7 and 8, were read and assented to, and sent to the senate, with the paper bills thereof, by Mr. Ridgely and Mr. S. Worthington.

The report from the committee of claims was read.

Mr. N. Worthington delivers to Mr. Speaker a bill, entitled, An act to authorize and empower Elizabeth Vallette, Thomas Harwood and William Brogden, executors of the last will and testament of Elie Vallette, late of Anne-Arundel county, deceased, to sell and dispose of the real estate of the said Elie Vallette, for the purposes therein mentioned; which was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

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

THE committee to whom was referred the petition of sundry purchasers of Nanticoke manor, and the representation from the commissioners, relative to the sales thereof, beg leave to report, that the several lots into which said manor was divided at the time of sale, was not by actual survey; and that it appears from a survey since made, that several of the purchasers are injured, by elder surveys running into their lots; and that by said survey it appears, as might reasonably be expected, some lots are more, and others less valuable, than was expected at the time of sale. That at the time of sale, in January 1782, a certain Pritchett Willey made claim to about five hundred acres lying within said manor; and your committee observe, that a patent did issue from the land-office the 22d of July, 1776, to a certain Pritchett Willey, for 225 acres of land, called Marsh Pasture, which appears to lie within said manor, and includes near one third of the town of Vienna; which patent, your committee are credibly informed, was obtained by fraud and deception. That Marsh Pasture was surveyed for a certain George Bonwitt, the 26th of September, 1773, under a common warrant, which your committee are informed was fraudulently obtained, and on return of his certificate caveats were entered to prevent a patent issuing; in which state it still remains.

That these, and other claims of a similar nature, include a considerable part of the manor, and near two thousand acres of the reserves contiguous to it; and as there was formerly a power vested in the judges of the land-office, or the proprietary's agent, to enter caveats, and prevent patents issuing in all cases of fraud that came to their knowledge, your committee are of opinion that such a power ought now to be vested some where; and that no patent ought to issue on old certificates for any manor or reserve lands; and that the patent obtained by Pritchett Willey, from Richard Lee, the late president of the proprietary's council, ought to be considered as null and void. 1st. Because it was fraudulently obtained. 2dly. Because the convention had assumed the reins of government, and appointed a council of safety; and your committee are of opinion, that any act of the proprietary's council, after that, was illegal. And 3dly. Because said patent was granted after the declaration of independence. Therefore your committee are of opinion, that where the lots purchased are affected by elder survey running into, or lying within said lots, that proper persons ought to be appointed to ascertain proper value of the land and improvements taken away by such elder surveys, and what deduction ought in justice to be made on that account, and that where the purchases are covered by the undecided claims of others, that executions ought to be suspended.

All which is submitted to the honourable house.

By order,

W. H. McPHERSON, clk.

Which was read.

On the second reading the bill to appoint trustees to take care of the person and property of Joseph Enfor, an idiot, the question was put, That the following words, "unless he shall die before his sister the said Mary shall arrive to the age of twenty-one years, in which case the said trust shall continue until she shall arrive to twenty-one years of age," be struck out? The yeas and nays being called for by Mr. Oneale appeared as follow:

A F F I R M A T I V E.

Messieurs	Pearce,	Reynolds,	Gibson,	Kent,	Morris,	Griffith,
	B. Worthington,	Sherwood,	Rowland,	Coursey,	Shriver,	Oneale,
	Brogden,	Hindman,	Magruder,	Dashiell,	Ogle,	Edwards.
	Fitzhugh,					

N E G A T I V E.

Messieurs	Bond,	S. Worthington,	Miller,	Quynn,	Taylor,	Fell,
	N Worthington,	Jackson,	Seney,	Duvall,	Wheeler,	Stull,
	Dent,	Job,	Sewell,	Beatty,	Keene,	Burgess.
	Ridgely,	Brevarid,				

So it was determined in the negative.

The bill being read throughout, the question was put, That the said bill do pass? Resolved in the affirmative. Sent to the senate by Mr. S. Worthington and Mr. Fell.

The house adjourns till 3 o'clock.