

first time and ordered to lie on the table. ORDERED, That the said bill be read the second time on Friday next.

A petition from a number of inhabitants of Montgomery county, and a representation from the practising attorneys of said county court, severally praying that the court-house may be removed from the place it now is to George-town, and several counter petitions to the same, were preferred and read, and referred to the second Tuesday in the next session.

Mr. M'Mechen, from the committee, brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker the following report:

THE committee to whom was referred the letter from the mayor of the city of Annapolis, enclosing the proceedings of the corporation of the said city, beg leave to report, That they have considered the same, and thereupon come to the following resolutions:

1st, That it is the opinion of the committee, that the honour, dignity, and welfare, of the United States, require that their representatives should have a fixed and permanent place of residence, with jurisdiction and authority over all inhabitants and residents within the district or territory assigned for the reception of congress and their officers, and the ministers of kingdoms and states in amity or alliance with the United States.

2d. That it is the opinion of the committee, that the city of Annapolis, with its precincts, is the most eligible and proper place, within the United States, for the permanent residence of the honourable congress, for the following reasons: First, The city of Annapolis is more central than any other city or town in the federal states, and equally convenient to the delegates to travel there by land or water. Secondly, The city standing within three miles of the bay of Chesapeake, and on a large navigable river, with a high, dry, sandy soil, with many springs of excellent water, is remarkably healthy. Thirdly, The bay of Chesapeake and rivers falling into it, will afford safe and capacious harbours for fleets of ships of any size and force, and dispatches may be conveyed or received with great facility to or from Europe, or any other part of the world. And lastly, The city is very capable of defence, with a small force, against numbers, there being only eighteen feet water within five miles thereof, and two large creeks running one on each side, and heading above the said city within a quarter of a mile of each other, and the ground in and near the city well calculated for works of defence. This last reason is founded on the opinion of the engineers of the French army.

3dly. That it is the opinion of the committee, that the general assembly (the corporation and citizens of Annapolis having signified their consent) offer the said city with its precincts to the honourable congress, for their permanent residence, and to invest that body with such jurisdiction and power within the same, and over the inhabitants and residents thereof, as may be required by congress, as necessary for the honour, dignity, convenience, and safety, of that body.

4thly. That it is the opinion of the committee, that the general assembly present the stadhofe and public circle in the city of Annapolis (exclusive of the school-house and court house of Anne-Arundel county, and loan-office, standing on the said circle) to the honourable congress, for their use.

5thly. That it is the opinion of the committee, that the general assembly present to congress the buildings and ground in the said city, appropriated for the residence of the governor of this state, for the habitation of their president.

6thly. That it is the opinion of the committee, that the general assembly offer to congress to erect, at the expence of this state, thirteen dwelling houses and other buildings, for the residence of the delegates of each of the thirteen confederated states, and that a sum not exceeding thirty thousand pounds specie be applied to that purpose.

7thly. That it is the opinion of the committee, that a copy of the proceedings of the corporation of the city of Annapolis be transmitted, with the determination of the general assembly, to the honourable congress.

All which is submitted to the honourable house.

By order,

A. GOLDBER, c'k.

Which was read, and thereupon ORDERED, That the same be read the second time on Saturday next.

A memorial from Legh Master, setting forth, that the commissioners for preserving confiscated British property have taken all his real and personal property into their possession since the passing the law in favour of him in April session 1782, and praying a direction to the said commissioners to restore his property to him; was preferred and read.

The house adjourns till 3 o'clock.

P O S T M E R I D I E M.

The house met.

On considering the returns of the valuations of the reserved lands, made by virtue of an act of assembly passed April session, 1782, entitled, An act for the sale of certain confiscated British property,