

Mr. Kent, from the committee, brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker a bill, entitled, An act to record and make valid a deed of bargain and sale, executed by James Raley, and Benjamin Newnham and Mary his wife, to John Moore, of Queen-Anne's county; which was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

The house adjourns till Monday morning 9 o'clock.

M O N D A Y, November 17, 1783.

THE house met. Present the same members as on Saturday, except Mr. Dunn and Mr. Hindman. The proceedings of Saturday were read. Mr. John Stevenson, a delegate returned for Baltimore county, appeared, and after qualifying in the mode prescribed by the constitution and form of government, took his seat in the house.

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

THE committee to whom was referred the petitions of sundry inhabitants of Charles county, beg leave to report, that they have duly considered them, and believe the facts set forth in the said petitions are true, and that a great number of them, together with their securities and families, will be entirely ruined if not relieved by the legislature.

Your committee further beg leave to report, that in their opinion the petitioners ought to be relieved, by allowing them to discharge their contracts with any certificates issued by this state, at par, and that they should be indulged with a farther time of payment.

All which is submitted to the honourable house.

By order,

W. H. M'PHERSON, clk.

Which was read.

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

THE committee to whom was referred the petition of Gerard Harben, in behalf of himself and brothers, Elias and William, of Montgomery county, beg leave to report, that the facts therein contained are truly stated; and your committee are clearly of opinion, the want of another witness to the said will was solely owing to the writer, as set forth in said petition, and that the intention of vesting the lands in said will to the petitioner and his brothers, Elias and William, ought not to be frustrated by a defect of formality. Your committee do therefore recommend, that a law should pass, making valid the will of the said James Harben, in the same manner, to all intents and purposes, as though the same had been subscribed by three witnesses. All which is submitted to the honourable house.

By order,

A. GOLDER, clk.

Which was read.

Mr. Carroll brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker the following report from the auditor:

To the honourable the GENERAL ASSEMBLY of MARYLAND.

THE deranged state of the public accounts in the auditor's office, renders it absolutely necessary that the following report be made to the honourable house of assembly, by the person now acting as auditor-general of Maryland.—He finds, upon looking over the books, that the accounts passed in that office since September, 1782, are not posted up in the general account book. This defect, he supposes, may have been occasioned by the encrease of business in the office, such as settling the officers and soldiers accounts for depreciation of pay, which was formerly done by commissioners, and by the liquidation of loan-office certificates. The first of these duties now takes up the whole of the auditor's time, and is indeed faster pressed upon him than it can be executed to the satisfaction of those who apply. The other business sufficiently takes up the labour and attention of the deputy, so that the urgent business of preparing the accounts for the commissioner for settling the continental claims of the state, and the commissioner for settling with the officers and soldiers of the army, cannot by them be attended to. Both the commissioners are waiting for the necessary papers, which cannot by this office be prepared, without the auditor is allowed the assistance of some clerks for that purpose. He has extracted from the instructions of the commissioners the following parts, upon which he has ventured to make a few observations, which are submitted to the honourable house, and he doubts not they will take such order therein as the nature and urgency of the cases require.

Annapolis, November, 1783.

CHRIS. RICHMOND.

Extract from the instructions of Mr. Nourse, commissioner for settling the continental account with the state of Maryland.

1st. **Y**OU will receive herewith a set of books, in which are to be recorded, in a fair and regular manner, all accounts and settlements by you made. These books are ruled with double sets of columns—in the first of which will be inserted the nominal sum in dollars and ninetieth parts of a dollar—and in the second, the specie value of each sum, according to the dates, in dollars