

that the said petitioner was not the original inventor. All which is submitted to the honourable house.

By order,

J. KNAPP, clk.

Which was read.

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

THE committee to whom was referred the petition of Samuel Groom Osborne, of Harford county, beg leave to report, that they have examined the facts therein stated, and the vouchers produced in support of the same, and find them truly stated, and are of opinion that a resolve ought to pass, directing the treasurer of the western shore to grant the petitioner another certificate of the same kind, and for the same amount, instead of the one lost. All which is submitted to the honourable house.

By order,

T. PURDY, clk.

Which was read.

A petition from the Presbyterian congregation in and near Bladensburg, in Prince-George's county, stating, that a certain John Brady bequeathed, by his last will and testament, a legacy of one hundred pounds to the said congregation, and praying they may be enabled to hold the said legacy; was preferred, read, and referred to Mr. Craufurd, Mr. Dorsey and Mr. Waggaman, to consider and report thereon.

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

THE committee to whom was referred the petition of Benjamin Benson, of Charles county, beg leave to report, that they have maturely considered the subject matter of said petition, and are of opinion, that from the particular hardships of his case, the relief prayed for should be granted. All which is submitted to the honourable house.

By order,

J. KNAPP, clk.

Which was read.

The report on the memorial of Samuel G. Osborne, was read the second time and concurred with.

The memorial and address of a delegation on behalf of the yearly meeting of the society of the people called Quakers, referred from the last to the present session, was read, and referred to Mr. Chase, Mr. Mercer, Mr. Craufurd, Mr. Dorsey, Mr. W. Tilghman, Mr. Comegys and Mr. Waggaman, to consider and report thereon.

The report on the petition of Benjamin Benson, was read the second time, and the question put, That the house concur therewith? Determined in the negative.

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

THE committee to whom was referred the petition of Thomas Rufston, beg leave to report, that upon inquiry it appears to them a certain John Rufston, and divers other persons, known by the name of the Principio Company, did, about the year 1721, and afterwards, take up several tracts of land for the purpose of erecting and carrying on works for the manufacture of iron, which were confiscated as British property, and sold for the benefit of the state; that about the year 1737 the said John Rufston died, leaving, as it is said, Job Rufston his son and heir; that the said Job Rufston died about the year 1784 in Chester county, in the state of Pennsylvania, at which time the petitioner, who alleges that he is his eldest son and heir, lived in England, whither he had gone for his education about the year 1763, and resided constantly until the year 1785, when he returned to Pennsylvania; that it appears from a certificate of Benjamin Franklin, Esquire, late minister from the United States to the court of Versailles, that the petitioner, notwithstanding his residence in England, has always been considered as a firm friend to liberty and the cause of America. Under these circumstances, your committee beg leave to submit it as their opinion, that it will be consistent with the dignity of the state to relieve the petitioner, as far as consistent with justice, from the disabilities of alienage, and to make him compensation for such share of the said confiscated property as he would have been entitled to if he had been a citizen of Pennsylvania at the death of his father.

Your committee cannot undertake to say what that share is, or whether he would have been entitled, in law or equity, to any share at all, because it appears, that from the time of the death of the petitioner's grandfather, John Rufston, the property in question has never been in the possession of his family.

Your committee are therefore of opinion, that it would be expedient for the chancellor to determine, on a bill to be filed by the petitioner, to which the attorney-general shall be made a party, whether he would have been entitled to any and what proportion of the said property, if he had been a citizen of Pennsylvania at the death of his father, and if the chancellor shall decree in his favour, that the proper mode of making him compensation will be by directing the treasurer of the western shore to assign to him such part of the bonds taken on the sale of the said property as shall be agreeable to the proportion ascertained by the said decree; and in as much as it appears to your committee, that the claim of the petitioner's family hath lain dormant since the death of his grandfather, they are further of opinion, that the petitioner should pay all the costs of the suit to be instituted in the court of chancery.

All which is submitted to the honourable house.

By order,

J. KNAPP, clk.

Which was read.

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

THE committee to whom was referred the petition of Thomas Wirt, of Cæcil county, beg leave to report, that they have examined the facts referred to in said petition, and believe the same to