

and compulsory abolition are exceptionable (the first being dangerous, and the last in violation of acquired rights,) no opportunity of attaining that end by silent and gradual steps, with the consent of the owner, ought to be neglected. Wherefore, they are of opinion, that the third section of an act, entitled, An act to prevent disabled and superannuated slaves being set free, or the manumission of slaves by last will and testament, be repealed, saving the rights of creditors.

Your committee are further of opinion, that it is inconsistent with the Divine will, and repugnant to the immutable principles of justice, that a penalty should be inflicted on the child for the offence of the parent; and therefore think that the twenty-sixth, twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth sections of the act relating to slaves and servants, passed in the year seventeen hundred and fifteen, so far as the same respects the issue mentioned in the above sections, be repealed, saving and reserving all rights and interests acquired under the same; and that an act, entitled, A supplementary act to the act, entitled, An act relating to servants and slaves, passed in the year seventeen hundred and twenty-eight, so far as respects the issue therein mentioned, be repealed, saving as aforesaid.

The committee further report, that the exportation of slaves out of this state, is a species of traffic inhuman in itself, and disgraceful to the government, and ought, if possible, to be restrained, but under what limitations the same ought to be done, the committee do not decide.

The committee further beg leave to report, that the honour of the state is deeply concerned in inflicting exemplary punishments on a practice which there is reason to think has of late prevailed, of exporting negroes and mulattoes entitled to freedom by fraud or violence out of this state.

All which is submitted to the honourable house.

By order,

T. PURDY, clk.

Which was read.

ORDERED, That the same have a second reading on Tuesday next.

A petition from the inhabitants of Elk-Ridge Landing, praying an act may pass to have the road from said landing to Hammond's Ferry, on Patapiscu river, freighted and kept in good repair, and put under the same regulations as other public roads in Anne-Arundel county, was preferred, read, and referred to Mr. B. Worthington, Mr. Moore and Mr. Ridgely, of Wm. to consider and report thereon.

The report on the petition of Charles Worthington, was read the second time, concurred with, and leave given to bring in a bill pursuant thereto.

The report on the memorial of Elizabeth Willson was read the second time, and the question put, That the house concur therewith? Determined in the negative.

A memorial from Archibald Moncrieff, Robert Dorsey and William Hammond Dorsey, stating that Robert Dorsey and Thomas Gaffaway became security to the state for John Dorsey, for one eighth part of the confiscated British property known by the name of The Nottingham Works; and praying the securities aforesaid may be relieved upon giving up the said property, and relinquishing the payments made; was preferred, read, and referred to Mr. Sterett, Mr. U. Forrest, M. Oneale, Mr. B. Worthington and Mr. Pinkney, to consider and report thereon.

A petition from John Parker, of Prince-George's county, stating that he had a slave condemned in Prince-George's county court to be hanged for committing a rape on the body of a white woman; that his excellency governor Smallwood reprieved him, on condition that he should be transported to the West-Indies; that before an opportunity offered to transport said slave, he ran away, and was taken and committed to the sheriff of Frederick county, who advertised him, and afterwards sold him for his prison fees; and praying compensation; was preferred, read, and referred to Mr. Digges, Mr. Craik, Mr. O'Brion and Mr. Oneale, to consider and report thereon.

A petition from James John Skinner, late an officer in the Maryland line, praying an act may pass granting him such a portion of the lands in this state, as has been given to other officers, and such other emoluments as may appear just, was preferred, read, and referred to Mr. Fraizer, Mr. Pinkney, Mr. Shryock, Mr. Winder and Mr. Bayly, to consider and report thereon.

A petition from John Pickering, father and administrator of John Pickering, late a soldier in the Maryland line, stating that some person, after the decease of his son, personated him, and obtained a certificate to the amount of his pay; and praying the auditor may be directed to issue a new certificate to him for the pay aforesaid; was preferred, read, and referred to Mr. Pinkney, Mr. Steele and Mr. Winder, to consider and report thereon.

A petition from William Philips, of Dorchester county, praying the treasurer of the western shore may be directed to refund him the sum of £. 84 16 3 currency, for caution and improvements on land which has been proclaimed and patented to Robert Goldborough, Esquire, of Dorchester county, was preferred, read, and referred to Mr. Steele, Mr. J. Worthington and Mr. Dalhiell, to consider and report thereon.

A petition from Robert Smith, Jacob Norris and Hance Crevey, stating that William Cole, in his lifetime, and at the time of his death, was seized and possessed of a considerable real and personal property, and died indebted to them; and praying an act may pass to sell part of the said real estate for the payment of the same; was preferred, read, and referred to Mr. Pinkney, Mr. Norris and Mr. Hopewell, to consider and report thereon.

A petition from Samuel G. Osborn, collector of the taxes of Harford county, praying the fieri facias for the arrearages of 1786, and the fieri facias for the arrearages of 1784, may be suspended, to enable him to obtain payment of his deputies, and that the commissioners of the tax may be authorized to make him an additional allowance for insolvencies, was preferred, read, and referred to the committee on the petition of Benjamin B. Norris and John Love, to consider and report thereon.

A petition from Thomas Moore, of North-Carolina, stating, that he has a claim, as overseer at the Lancaster forge, against James Russell, Walter and John Ewer, and John Buchanan, whose property