

Mr. Lynn, from the committee, brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker the report on the petition of sundry inhabitants residing on the reserved lands westward of Fort Cumberland, as amended; 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 Robert Peters, of Montgomery county, beg leave to report, that they have taken the same under consideration, and are of opinion that his case is singularly hard, but not being in possession of any papers or vouchers to establish the facts therein contained, are further of opinion that the same ought to be referred to the next session. All which is submitted to the honourable house.

By order,

A. GOLDER, clk.

Which was read.

A petition from John Frederick Amelung, of Frederick county, was preferred, read, and referred to the consideration of the next session of assembly.

A petition from Barbara Wire, of Washington county, was preferred and read, and the question put, That the said petition be referred to the consideration of the next session of assembly? Resolved in the affirmative.

Mr. O'Brien brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker a bill, entitled, An act to permit William Kearney, of Queen-Anne's county, to import into this state certain slaves bequeathed to his wife by the last will and testament of her father; which was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

The following message being prepared, was read and agreed to:

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, DECEMBER 8, 1789.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOURS,

THIS house have thought it advisable, for the dispatch of public business, to sit twice a day, and have therefore rescinded the resolution entered into at the commencement of the session, and agreed after this day to sit from nine o'clock in the morning to one in the afternoon, and from three o'clock in the afternoon till seven.

By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk.

The bill to permit William Kearney, of Queen-Anne's county, to import into this state certain slaves bequeathed to his wife by the last will and testament of her father, was read the second time by especial order, passed, and sent to the senate, together with the message respecting the fitting hours of this house, by Mr. Purnell.

On motion, the question was put, That upon the first reading of every petition or memorial of a private nature that may be presented to this house during this session, the same shall be referred to the consideration of the next session of assembly, except in cases where the subject matter of any petition, or any material circumstance thereof, hath arisen or shall arise during this session? Determined in the negative.

On motion, the question was put, That the twentieth rule of this house be rescinded? Determined in the negative.

RESOLVED, That so much of the resolution of the last session of assembly limiting the time within which petitions shall be preferred and decided on, as would prevent a final determination on applications now before the legislature, be rescinded, with a view to such applications only.

Sent to the senate by Mr. Dennis.

James Carroll, Esquire, from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker the resolution respecting Benjamin Bradford Norris, of Harford county, endorsed; "By the senate, December 7, 1789: Read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

"By order,

H. RIDGELY, clk.

"By the senate, December 8, 1789: Read the second time and assented to.

"By order,

H. RIDGELY, clk."

The resolution respecting the property of Robert Christie, endorsed; "By the senate, November 20, 1789: Read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

"By order,

H. RIDGELY, clk.

"By the senate, December 5, 1789: Read the second time and dissented to.

"By order,

H. RIDGELY, clk."

And the following message:

BY THE SENATE, DECEMBER 8, 1789.

GENTLEMEN,

WE have dissented to the resolution authorising the issuing of additional certificates to the creditors of Robert Christie. As this subject is of much moment, we beg leave to assign the motives of our conduct, and to direct the attention of the legislature to these particulars, lest the interests of this state should be unwarily involved beyond the funds intended for the payment of claims exhibited against the estates of persons convicted or attainted of treason.

After the general confiscation of British property, it was thought just and reasonable that such claims of our fellow-citizens as should be admitted and adjusted, should also be paid or secured; but it cannot be conceived that it was the intention of the legislature to make the state answerable beyond the value of the property which was made chargeable with these claims; but we are apprehensive that the amount of sales upon this property, which is indeed very considerable, and appears to exceed the demands of the creditors, hath been hitherto the rule by which the propriety of issuing certificates hath been determined. Now when we consider the nature of the security given by the purchasers on the sale of this property, and the various events of indulgence, disputed titles, delay