

and insolvency, which may attend their engagements before a recovery of the money be completed, we are induced to fear that the real value, which may be finally received into the treasury, will be extremely short of the present expectation, and perhaps insufficient to discharge the certificates issued on the claims of these creditors. It is therefore conceived to be most proper for the legislature not to authorise any additional certificates of this kind to be issued, because when they are once granted, the state must become answerable in any event, even though the value of the property intended for their payment should prove deficient.

It is for these reasons that we take the liberty to advise the expediency of an act of assembly which might serve as a general regulation in cases of this nature, providing that such claims of the creditors of persons convicted or attainted of treason as have been adjusted and admitted, should remain thus liquidated upon the books of the auditor-general, and that the payment, or other satisfaction thereof, should be postponed until the money shall be received from the purchasers of this property, and deposited in the treasury; or providing, if it be more agreeable to the creditors, that the treasurer be authorised to assign the bonds executed on this account to the amount of each particular claim in discharge thereof; and if the bonds cannot be easily negotiated in this manner, that he be authorised to issue orders on the debtors, or their securities, to the amount of the creditor's claim, in discharge of the like sums upon their bonds, and upon refusal to pay, that the same proceedings be allowed upon such orders for the recovery of the money as are allowed upon the original bonds lodged in the treasurer's office, and permitting such orders to be sufficient evidence of the demand. Upon this system the claims of this kind could be settled or compromised between the individual creditor and debtor, and the state be freed from much embarrassment from both. How far these ideas may be extended to other public subjects of a pecuniary nature, is submitted to the wisdom of your house. We find that property, both real and personal, is accumulating or returning upon our hands, and we cannot but wish that a power should be vested some where to dispose of the same for certificates, or to assign the same to the public creditors who may choose to accept thereof in discharge of their debts, upon some terms or price to be mutually agreed to.

By order,

H. RIDGELY, clk.

The resolution respecting Benjamin Lamming, endorsed; "By the senate, December 4, 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 dissented to.

"By order,

H. RIDGELY, clk."

The resolution in favour of Nancy Handy, endorsed; "By the senate, December 3, 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 dissented to.

"By order,

H. RIDGELY, clk."

The following message and resolution:

BY THE SENATE, DECEMBER 5, 1789.

GENTLEMEN,

A BILL for the gradual abolition of slavery, and for preventing the rigorous exportation of negroes and mulattoes from this state, has been originated in this house, and lain some time for consideration. The great importance of this subject, whether considered with a view to the persons whom it concerns, or to the advantage and happiness of the community at large, appears to be such as to require peculiar investigation, and the most serious attention of the legislature. Hence it is conceived, that a discussion of this subject by a joint committee of both houses will be proper, that by a candid exchange of sentiments such a system may be reported, as will be thought most agreeable, as well to the sense of both branches of the legislature, as to the sense of our fellow-citizens. With this view, we have framed the resolution which accompanies this message, and do request that a committee be appointed, on the part of your house, to investigate the subject of the bill above mentioned, with the committee chosen on the part of the senate, to whom, under this expectation, we have referred the same.

By order,

H. RIDGELY, clk.

BY THE SENATE, DECEMBER 5, 1789.

RESOLVED, That the bill, entitled, An act to promote the gradual abolition of slavery, and to prevent the rigorous exportation of negroes and mulattoes from this state, be committed to Charles Carroll, John Hall and Nicholas Hammond, Esquires; and that a message be prepared and sent to the house of delegates, requesting a committee to be appointed, on the part of that house, to investigate the subject with the above committee of the senate, in order that their opinion thereon may be reported to the legislature, for their consideration.

By order,

H. RIDGELY, clk.

And a letter from the president of the council of the 5th instant, enclosing a letter from William Kilty, with sundry papers of information respecting his agency, and an account current between the state and colonel Hollingsworth, one of the state agents, endorsed; "By the senate, December 8, 1789: Read and referred to the consideration of the house of delegates.

"By order,

H. RIDGELY, clk."

Which were read, and the letter from William Kilty, and account of colonel Hollingsworth, referred to Mr. Pinkney, Mr. Faw, Mr. Craik, Mr. W. Tilghman, Mr. N. Worthington, Mr. J. Tilghman, jun. and Mr. Ridgely, to consider and report thereon.

Mr. Murray has leave of absence.