

men named to strike, after some time reported, that the honourable Philip Key, Esquire, was unanimously elected.

The proceedings of yesterday were read.

A petition from Mary Boylan, of Frederick county, praying to be divorced from her husband, was preferred, read, and referred to Mr. M'Pherson, Mr. Seney, Mr. Duvall, Mr. J. Worthington, Mr. B. Worthington, and Mr. Bayly, to consider and report thereon.

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

THE committee to whom was referred the petition of Reuben Meriweather, of Anne-Arundel county, report, that they have examined into the material facts stated in his petition, and find that the original deed from Henry Howard to James Howard, bearing date the 2d day of September, 1766, appears to have been altered in the manner stated in the said petition, and also that the same alteration appears to have been made in the land records of Anne-Arundel county, and both alterations seem to be in the same hand writing, and different from the hand writing of the deed and the record.

The committee are of opinion, that the supposed fraud is a matter properly inquirable into in a court of chancery, or by a jury, and that it will be improper for this house to decide as to the fact; yet as neither the courts of law or equity are competent to alter a record without being authorized by the legislature, the committee are further of opinion, that an act ought to pass for the relief of the petitioner, empowering the chancellor to alter the record upon the fact's being ascertained so as to justify it.

All which is submitted to the honourable house.

By order,

T. PURDY, clk.

Which was read.

William Perry, Esquire, from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker the bill to make valid certain certificates of survey of lands formerly in Washington but now in Allegany county, endorsed; "By the senate, November 10, 1790: Read the first time and ordered to lie on the table."

"By order,

H. RIDGELY, jun. clk.

"By the senate, November 11, 1790: Read the second time by especial order and will pass."

"By order,

H. RIDGELY, jun. clk."

Ordered to be engrossed.

The following message :

BY THE SENATE, NOVEMBER 10, 1790.

GENTLEMEN,

WE have appointed Richard Ridgely, James Carroll, and Nicholas Hammond, Esquires, to be of the committee to hear and determine on the excuses of absenting members, agreeably to your message of this day by Mr. Nicholas Worthington.

By order,

H. RIDGELY, jun. clk.

Which was read.

And a petition and memorial from sundry inhabitants, and others called quakers, of Cæcil county, praying that all female orphans, who shall be bound out in future under the law of the state, may serve till they arrive to the age of eighteen years, endorsed; "By the senate, November 11, 1790: Read and referred to the consideration of the house of delegates."

"By order,

H. RIDGELY, jun. clk."

Which was read, and referred to Mr. Ridgely, Mr. Hollingsworth, Mr. Oldham, Mr. B. Worthington, and Mr. Douglass, to consider and report thereon.

A petition from John Roan, of Prince-George's county, an invalid soldier, respecting his half pay, was preferred, read, and referred to Mr. R. Bowie, Mr. Smith, and Mr. F. Bowie, to consider and report thereon.

A petition from Joshua Beall, of Prince-George's county, stating, that the state has commenced suit against him, and praying the proceedings may be stayed; was preferred, read, and referred to Mr. Seney, Mr. Clark, Mr. W. Bowie, Mr. F. Bowie, and Mr. B. Worthington, to consider and report thereon.

An address from the people called quakers, praying a reconsideration of the law prohibiting the manumitting slaves by last will and testament, and that some mode may be adopted for the protection of those already manumitted against the attempts of evil disposed persons; was preferred, read, and referred to Mr. B. Worthington, Mr. Ridgely, Mr. M'Mechen, Mr. Smith, and Mr. Tilghman, to consider and report thereon.

Mr. Winder, from the committee, brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker a bill, entitled, An act directing the time, places and manner, of holding elections for representatives of this state in the congress of the United States, and for appointing electors on the part of this state for choosing a president and vice-president of the United States, and for the regulation of the said elections, and also to repeal the act of assembly therein mentioned; which was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

ORDERED, That the said bill have a second reading on Tuesday week next.

A petition from John O'Donnell, of Baltimore-town, respecting drawback on goods, was preferred, read, and referred to Mr. B. Worthington, Mr. Tilghman, and Mr. Smith, to consider and report thereon.

A petition