

Amendments proposed. Strike out the words "of the third section," after the word "part," in the 8th line from the top of the 1st page; and after the word "infalment," in the 10th line from the top of the same page, insert "which is contained within the third section thereof." After the word "repealed," in the said 10th line of the same page, add the following section: "And be it enacted, That from and after the passage of this act, it shall and may be lawful for any person or persons, capable in law to make a valid will and testament, to grant freedom to, and effect the manumission of, any slave or slaves belonging to such person or persons, by his, her, or their last will and testament, and such manumission of any slave or slaves may be made to take effect at the death of the testator or testators, or at such other periods as may be limited in such last will and testament." At the end of the bill, add the following section: "And, whereas it is just and reasonable that the faithful services of slaves should not be forgotten after they are grown old, or incapable of labour, and humanity requires that such slaves, when grown old in service, or rendered infirm by accidents or misfortunes, should be still supported and maintained by their masters, mistresses or owners; Be it therefore further enacted, That if any master, mistress, owner or owners, of any slave or slaves, grown old and incapable of labour, or otherwise disabled by sickness or accident, shall refuse or neglect to provide necessary and sufficient food, cloathing, covering or dwelling, for such old or disabled slave or slaves, or shall suffer any such slave or slaves to depart from their respective habitation or quarter, and wander or remain at large, begging or becoming burthensome to the respective neighbourhoods, or to other persons, it shall be lawful for the justices of the county courts, where the master, mistress, owner or owners, of such slave or slaves shall reside, and they are hereby required, upon the complaint or information of any credible person, (such complaint or information being supported by oath or affirmation,) to cause such complaint or information to be minuted among their proceedings, and thereupon to issue their warrant to the sheriff of their county against such master, mistress, owner or owners, of such slave or slaves, thereby to cause such master, mistress, owner or owners, to appear before them at some day to be limited in such warrant, and if, on a due examination in a summary way, the said justices shall be satisfied that such master, mistress, owner or owners, of such slave or slaves, have not provided necessary and sufficient food, cloathing, covering or dwelling, for such slave or slaves, or have suffered such slave or slaves to depart and wander, or remain at large, contrary to the provisions and intention of this act, the said justices are hereby empowered and required to cause such master, mistress, owner or owners, of such slave or slaves, to enter into a recognizance, with one sufficient surety, if the same shall be awarded, in the penalty of thirty pounds current money, to be taken to, and in the name of, this state; and the condition of the said recognizance shall be such, that if such master, mistress, owner or owners, of such slave or slaves, his, her, or their executors or administrators, shall not provide necessary and sufficient food, cloathing, covering and dwelling, for such slave or slaves, or shall suffer such slave or slaves to depart and wander, or remain at large, contrary to the provisions of the act of assembly in such cases made and provided, then such recognizance shall remain in force and virtue; and if any such master, mistress, owner or owners, of any such slave or slaves, shall afterwards commit any breach of the condition of such recognizance, it shall be lawful for any person to put in suit and prosecute such recognizance against the cognizor or cognizors thereof; and if the master, mistress, owner or owners, bound by such recognizance, his, her, or their executors or administrators, shall be convicted of any of the breaches assigned by verdict, confession or otherwise, the judgment of the court shall be rendered for the penalty and costs of suit, and the same may be recovered by any process of execution, and one third of the penalty shall be applied to the use of the prosecutor, and the remainder to the use of the poor of the county in which such conviction shall happen, and the person prosecuting such recognizance, shall be endorsed upon the original writ, and be answerable for the fees and costs: Provided, that if any slave or slaves shall run away or abscond from the service of their master, mistress, owner or owners, contrary to the will of such master, mistress, owner or owners, such running away and absconding shall not be construed, deemed or taken, to be a departing and wandering, or remaining at large, within the meaning of this act." Strike out the words "not exceeding" in the 5th line from the bottom of the first page, and instead thereof insert the word "under."

which were read.

Mr. Walker, from the committee, brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker a bill, entitled; An act for the removal of the seat of justice from Melville's warehouse to Pig Point, in Caroline county; which was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Ridgely, from the committee, brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker a bill, entitled, An act for the better administration of justice in the several counties of this state; which was read the first time, and thereupon ORDERED, That the said bill have a second reading on Wednesday, the first of December next.

Mr. Beatty and Mr. Smith appeared in the house.

The report on the petition of John Tomlinson, was read the second time and concurred with.

The report on the petition of Henry Ennalls, and others, was read the second time and concurred with.

Mr. Ott, from the committee, brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker the supplement to an act, entitled, An act to encourage the destroying of wolves, as amended; which was read the first and second time by especial order and passed.

The house adjourns till to-morrow morning 9 o'clock.

W E D N E S D A Y, November 24, 1790.

THE house met. Present the same members as on yesterday. The proceedings of yesterday were read.