

Thomas Smithson and lieutenant-colonel Thomas Ennalls, as the exterior bounds of the aforesaid land, pursuant to an ordinance of assembly then made; and if any person should presume to purchase or lease any part thereof (except as before excepted) such purchase or lease should be utterly void and of none effect.

The committee further find, that by an act passed in the year seventeen hundred and forty-one, entitled, An act for the relief of Charles Sewell, of Saint-Mary's county, Esquire, and other purposes therein mentioned, it is provided, that when the said Indians, commonly called the Ababcoes, Hutswaps, and Tequassimoes, for whose use the said land was settled and taken from the owner thereof, shall totally leave and desert the same, that the same land shall be sold and disposed of by commissioners or trustees to be appointed by the assembly, and that the money arising by the sale thereof, shall be applied to reimburse the public the money directed by this act to be paid to the said Charles Sewell.

The committee further report, that according to the best information their present leisure will admit of obtaining, there are not above seven or eight of the tribe now remaining, among whom are three women and two children, one of which is a girl; that in all probability they will be extinct in a few years; the committee cannot say, whether the small remnant of them are the heirs or descendants of those on whom the said lands were settled as aforesaid, but they are inclined to believe they are.

The committee further find, that the said Indians have leased all the said lands to sundry tenants, and contrary to the provisions of the act of seventeen hundred and twenty-three; and that the said tenants have cut and wasted the said lands in such a manner that their value is greatly lessened, and from the best information they can receive, the yearly income of rent from the tenants doth not exceed ninety pounds current money.

The committee, upon the foregoing state of facts, are of opinion, that the state being entitled to the reversion of the lands aforesaid, ought to take steps to prevent further unnecessary damage to them, and that it would be the interest of the state, as well as of the remnant of the tribe, to appoint an agent or agents to purchase the right of the said Indians, for a compensation which this state will secure to be annually and punctually paid to them.

All which is submitted to the honourable house.

By order,

W. E. SEWELL, clk.

Which was read.

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

THE committee to whom was referred the petition of Susanna Houser, heretofore widow of Casper Fritchie, report, that some time in the year 1781, Casper Fritchie, then the husband of the petitioner, was executed at Frederick-town, in Frederick county, for high treason; that he left a wife and three small children, and at the time of his death, was possessed of a small lot, with some improvements thereon, and a trifling personal property, which lot had been purchased of Daniel Dulany, Esquire, and for which there still remains a balance unpaid of about sixty pounds current money. The committee further find, that a petition was presented to the general assembly at their session in November, 1781, and a committee appointed to take the same into consideration, which committee reported that the state ought to release the said property. The committee are of opinion, that humanity ought to induce the legislature to relinquish the right of the state to the property aforesaid. All which is submitted to the honourable house.

By order,

W. E. SEWELL, clk.

Which was read.

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

THE committee to whom the petition of sundry of the inhabitants of Frederick county, and part of Washington county, was referred, have taken the same into consideration, and are of opinion that the prayer of the said petition is reasonable and ought to be granted, as the said inspection is to be on the navigation of Patowmack, from whence they may convey their tobacco on board the boats with ease and less expence to the petitioners. All which is submitted to the honourable house.

By order,

J. WINCHESTER, jun. clk.

Which was read.

The report on the petition of John Parnham, and others, was read the second time, concurred with, and the resolution therein assented to.

The report on the petition of William Bagford, was read the second time, concurred with, and leave given to bring in a bill pursuant thereto. ORDERED, That Mr. Ridgely, of William, Mr. Forrest, and Mr. Tilghman, be a committee to prepare and bring in the same.

The report on the petition of Thomas James and John Rowles, was read the second time, and the question put, That the house concur therewith? Determined in the negative.

The message from the senate of the 25th instant, by Daniel Bowley, Esquire, was read the second time, and the question put, That the house accede to the proposition in the said message? Resolved in the affirmative. ORDERED, That Mr. Tilghman, Mr. Stone, Mr. Winder, Mr. Craik, and Mr. Lethbury, be a committee to prepare and bring in a bill agreeably to the said proposition.

The bill to open a road from Swearingen's ferry, on Patowmack river in Washington county, was read the second time, passed, and sent to the senate by Mr. Plater.

The resolution in favour of John Parnham, and others, was sent to the senate by Mr. J. Worthington.

The following proposition was laid before the house and read, viz.

That the register of the land-office be and he is hereby directed to issue to John Tomlinson, of Allegany county, a land warrant for one hundred acres of land, in lieu of one granted to him under