

The bill for the relief of Rhode Phillips, of Dorchester county, was read the second time, passed, and sent to the senate by the clerk.

The report on the petition of Elizabeth Wilson, was read the second time and dissented to.

The report on the petition of Richard H. Courts, was read the second time, concurred with, and thereupon RESOLVED, That the auditor-general be and he is hereby authorized and directed to liquidate and settle the pay and depreciation of pay of Richard Henley Courts, late a surgeon's mate under the appointment of doctor William Brown, and grant him certificates for the amount that may be due him, and the same be charged to the United States.

Mr. T. Marshall, from the committee, brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker a bill, entitled, An act to prevent swine from going at large in the town of Bladensburg, in Prince George's county; which was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

The report on the representation of John Gassaway, was read the second time and concurred with.

The report on the petition of Thomas Beatty, was read the second time, concurred with, and leave given to bring in a bill pursuant thereto.

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

THE committee to whom was referred the petition of Richard Hall, of Cæcil county, report, that they have examined the same, and find the facts therein stated to be true; they are therefore of opinion that the prayer ought to be granted. All which is submitted to the honourable house.

By order,

J. O'BRYON, 3d. clk.

Which was read.

Mr. Pinkney, from the committee to whom was referred the memorial of sundry inhabitants of Pennsylvania and New-Jersey, brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker the following report:

THE committee to whom was referred the memorial of certain citizens of the states of Pennsylvania and New-Jersey, have heard and duly attended to the observations submitted to them by counsel employed by the memorialists; they have examined the original acts of the legislature which relate to this subject, and made such other inquiries as appeared to them necessary, and, after full consideration of the same, they have agreed to, and submit, the following resolution and remarks:

RESOLVED, That it is the opinion of the committee, that all bills of credit emitted by virtue of the act of 1766, ch. 26, 1769, ch. —, and 1773, ch. —, are and ought to be considered as irredeemable, and that no equitable considerations now exist to induce the legislature to make compensation to any holders thereof.

The committee, in support of the resolution so far as it respects the emissions of 1766, offer the following observations: By the act of 1766, ch. 26, 173,733 dollars were to be emitted in bills of credit, for the purpose of discharging the public debt of the then province; these bills were thereby declared to be redeemable between the 25th of March and the 25th of June, 1777, by payment of the value thereof in bills of exchange, to be drawn, at forty days sight, on trustees in London, who were directed to sell so much bank stock, the property of the province, as should be necessary to discharge the same; and bills so emitted by virtue of this act, now constitute one part of the claim of the memorialists.

In the November session of 1779, after the time had expired when these bills were declared to be redeemable by the foregoing act, the legislature of the state, by their act of ch. 36, directed all those bills to be brought in by the first of June ensuing, or to be ever thereafter irredeemable; and, in exchange for the same, the holders were to receive, at their option, either bills of exchange drawn on the trustees of the bank stock in London, or certificates payable with interest, &c. if, however, the bills so drawn should not be honoured, neither drawer nor endorser to be liable for damages, except costs of protest, but the bills were to be renewable; and, in case the former trustees should decline to act, other persons were empowered to dispose of the bank stock to discharge the same.

In pursuance of this act, bills of credit, to the amount of £. 3042 13 9 currency, were presented to the treasurer, and bills of exchange drawn on the trustees in London for the amount; these bills, or a part of them, were protested, and the payment of the whole sum has been since provided for by the act of 1783, ch. 35, sec. 5.

Certificates were also issued, at the option of the holders, to the amount of £. 417 5 5 for bills presented of the same emission.

And all bills, which any holders now retain, emitted by virtue of the act of 1766, ch. 26, are, by the act of 1779, ch. 36, declared to be for ever irredeemable.

No reasons have been suggested to the committee of sufficient validity to destroy the force of this provision of the last recited act.

The committee are firmly persuaded that the law of 1779, will prove, on minute investigation, a full compliance, in letter and spirit, with the terms proposed by the law of 1766; that the public faith plighted by the last recited act, has, in no instance, been violated, and that additional provisions seem to have been devised, with anxious solicitude, to secure to the holders of those bills every advantage originally destined for their benefit.

When it was considered, that a change of political situation, succeeded by an entire revolution of government, would, of itself, have justified considerable deviations from the terms proposed by the act of 1766, and that the credit given to public bodies or individuals, must ever have relation to those fortuitous events to which all human affairs are liable, the committee contemplated, with peculiar satisfaction, the legislature, in the midst of the calamities of a civil war, making every exertion to comply faithfully and punctually with the engagements of the former government.

That a time should be limited for the currency of paper emissions, is customary, and indispensably necessary to preserve the community from the imposition of frauds and counterfeits; the forfeiture of