

tributions of benevolence from being wasted by an indiscriminate distribution; that supplies were withheld from those who had brought with them any thing for their support; that all who were acquainted with mechanical arts were furnished the means of employment, and those sent to labour who were capable of it; that between five and six hundred, after having their immediate and pressing wants removed, have been enabled to go to Old France, and about sixty have had their passage paid to the West-Indies; but notwithstanding every exertion, and all the œconomy of the committee, there still remain about three hundred and fifty persons, chiefly old men, women and children, who rely entirely on the generosity of the people of Maryland to furnish them with the means of existence, which cannot be furnished for less than five hundred dollars per week. Your committee have no doubt but that these people will receive every assistance from congress at their next meeting, (who may, if necessary, take measures to have it allowed in our debt to France) but that period is at a distance, and in the mean time they will perish for want of the necessaries of life, without the aid of this general assembly, for private charity, now strained to the utmost, will be exhausted, and the committee of Baltimore, with all their care, have not money remaining sufficient to support them beyond the end of this month, and the unfortunate people are at this time destitute of winter cloathing, without beds, and without covering to shelter them from the inclemency of winter, which, to persons reared beneath the scorching sun of Saint-Domingo, must appear with additional severity. It is not for this committee to say whether these people, thrown amongst us thus destitute and forlorn, have not a just claim to our protection, from the great services they have heretofore rendered to us. Before the present war, the French Saint-Domingo opened to us a very great, constant and certain market for our flour, and furnished to us the means of a very extensive and lucrative commerce; and we cannot but remember that they are a part of that nation who held out to us assistance and support when the clouds of adversity hung heavy over this our now flourishing republic, and that they are now the victims of unprincipled men, unfortunately clothed with authority, which they have abused, and who, by arming slaves against their masters, and committing the most wanton violations of private property, have torn asunder the bands of society, and introduced all the horrors of civil war.

It appears to this committee, that there is every reason to believe, that in the ensuing spring, all these people, who cannot support themselves in this country, and thus become an useful acquisition, will return to the West-Indies, or go to Old France, but it seems unreasonable to leave Baltimore-town any longer under the pressure of that burthen which it has hitherto so cheerfully borne. Of the money collected in the state of Maryland, Baltimore has supplied two thirds, without taking into the account the expences incurred by many individuals, who, besides their share of the public contributions, generously received great numbers of them beneath their own hospitable roofs.

This committee therefore beg leave to recommend to the house the appointment of a committee in Baltimore-town, with power to draw on the treasury of this state, monthly, for the sum of ——— dollars, until the ——— day of ———, for the subsistence of the French citizens now in that town, from Saint-Domingo; and that a committee be appointed to prepare instructions to the senators, and requisitions to the representatives of this state in the congress of the United States, directing them to bring this subject as early as possible before congress, and to endeavour to obtain from them, that they will make the support of those unfortunate French citizens a charge on the United States, and provide a fund for their future support, as well as to reimburse to this state all money drawn from our treasury for that purpose, and that, as soon as congress shall provide such funds, then the power of the committee of Baltimore to draw upon the treasury of this state shall cease.

All which is submitted to the honourable house.

By order,

J. W. KING, clk.

Which was read.

**ORDERED**, That the same have a second reading on Thursday next, and that this house will now hear the committee appointed by the citizens of Baltimore-town for the relief of the inhabitants of French Saint-Domingo.

Mr. George Plater, a delegate returned for Saint-Mary's county, appeared, and after qualifying in the mode prescribed by the constitution and form of government, and taking the oath to support the constitution of the United States, took his seat in the house.

A petition from fundry inhabitants of Baltimore and Frederick counties, praying an act may pass, investing commissioners with powers to hold and regulate fairs at the town of Westminster, in Frederick county, for the sale of black cattle, horses, and other live stock, was preferred, read, and referred to Mr. Bayly, Mr. Beatty and Mr. Johnson, to consider and report thereon.

A representation from the judges of the high court of appeals, praying an increase of salary, was preferred, read, and referred to Mr. Duvall, Mr. Sprigg, Mr. M'Mechen, Mr. S. Wilmer and Mr. Daffin, to consider and report thereon.

An application from John Gassaway, captain of the volunteer company of the city of Annapolis, praying that his company may be equipped with arms out of the public arsenal, was preferred, read, and referred to the committee appointed to bring in a bill to regulate the militia of this state.

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

**THE** committee to whom was referred the petition of Margaret Myers, report, that they have examined, and find the facts therein stated to be true; they are therefore of opinion that the prayer thereof ought to be granted, and submit the following resolution:

Whereas Thomas Yates, of Baltimore county, on the tenth of November, 1781, and fourth of February, 1782, at the sale of the confiscated estate of the Nottingham company, became the purchaser