

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS, November, 1796.

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The report on the petition of sundry inhabitants of Washington county was read the second time; concurred with, and leave given to bring in a bill pursuant thereto. ORDERED, That Mr. Cellar, Mr. Bowles and Mr. Douglass, be a committee to prepare and bring in the same.

A petition from William Handy, of Worcester county, stating, that the abolition society, in conjunction with the civil officers of Pennsylvania, have deprived him of his negroes, and arrested his person, and praying relief in the premises, was preferred, read, and referred to Mr. M'Acchen, Mr. Robins and Mr. Handy, to consider and report thereon.

A petition from the trustees of the poor of Queen-Anne's county, praying they may be authorized by law to dispose of the buildings and land now appropriated to the use of the poor, and to purchase other land, not exceeding ten acres, for erecting suitable buildings for the said poor, was preferred, read, and referred to Mr. Nicholson, Mr. Wilmer and Mr. C. Frazier, to consider and report thereon.

On motion, Leave given to bring in a supplement to an act for the speedy recovery of small debts out of court, and to repeal the acts of assembly therein mentioned. ORDERED, That Mr. Robins, Mr. Barroll, Mr. Nicholson, Mr. Wilkins and Mr. Jones be a committee to prepare and bring in the same.

A petition from sundry inhabitants of Baltimore county, counter to a petition for freightening and amending the great road leading from Baltimore to Harford county, was preferred, read, and referred to the committee on the petition to which it is counter.

A petition from sundry inhabitants of Kent county, stating, that they experience great inconvenience from hogs going at large, and praying an act may pass to prevent the same, was preferred, read, and referred to Mr. Wilmer, Mr. Neale, Mr. Calvert, Mr. J. C. Thomas and Mr. Ridout, to consider and report thereon.

A petition from John Patterson, and others, of Cæcil county, possessors of the Widow's Lot, praying the right of pre-emption, was preferred, read, and referred to Mr. Barroll, Mr. Robins, Mr. Key, Mr. Ridgely and Mr. Chapman, to consider and report thereon.

The order of the day for the second reading the bill for the better administration of justice in the several counties of this state is postponed till Tuesday next.

Mr. Chapman, from the committee, brings in and delivers to the speaker a bill, entitled, An act to empower the justices of the levy court of Charles county to assess and levy annually a sum of money for the purpose therein mentioned; which was read the first and second time by especial order, and passed.

The bill declaring the right of personal liberty, and redressing the injuries thereto, was read the second time agreeably to the order of the day, and passed.

Mr. Whittington, from the committee, brings in and delivers to the speaker a bill, entitled, An act for establishing a company for opening and extending the navigation of the river Pocomoke; which was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

The bill for the relief of Lucy Jennings, widow and devisee of Richard Jennings, late of Frederick county, deceased, was read the second time, and passed.

On motion, Leave given to bring in a bill to authorize and empower the levy court of Kent county to levy on the assessable property of the said county a sum of money for the purposes therein mentioned. ORDERED, That Mr. Barroll, Mr. Campbell and Mr. Wilmer, be a committee to prepare and bring in the same.

Mr. Lockett has leave of absence for a few days.

Mr. Robins, from the committee, brings in and delivers to the speaker the following report:

THE committee to whom was referred the petition of William Handy, of Worcester county, report, that they have taken the same into consideration, and are of opinion, from the facts disclosed to your committee, that the petitioner has been grossly injured in his person and property by some of the citizens of Pennsylvania, but inasmuch as the federal judicatures are open to the citizens of the United States indiscriminately, and competent to redress all the injuries he may have sustained, your committee conceive it would be improper for the legislature to interfere and become a party on behalf of the petitioner; but your committee submit the propriety of letting the said petitioner have a sum of money on loan, with sufficient surety, to institute and carry on the necessary suits, for the redressing such injuries as your committee are confident the petitioner has received. All which is submitted to the house.

By order,

Z. HUGHES, clk.

Which was read.

Mr. Ridout, from the committee, brings in and delivers to the speaker the following report:

THE committee of grievances and courts of justice, to whom was referred the petition of Benjamin Griffith, of Baltimore county, praying to be relieved from a decree obtained against him in the chancery court of this state at the instance of Josias Pennington, report, that they have taken the same under consideration, and are of opinion that any interposition of the legislature, as to the subject of the said petition, would be improper, because the present case has been acted upon by the judiciary department in this state, agreeably to the constitution and form of government, and inasmuch as no mal-practice or corruption is alleged by the petitioner against the said judiciary department who passed the decree complained of, or any evidence shewn to your committee to induce an opinion that the petitioner has not had justice rendered him agreeably to the law of the land; your committee therefore think that the petitioner's case should be left to the decision of the judiciary departments of this state. All which is submitted to the house.

By order,

J. W. KING, clk.

Which was read the first and second time and concurred with.

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A petition