

The report on the petition of John Hammond was read the second time, concurred with, and leave given to bring in a bill pursuant thereto. ORDERED; That the committee appointed on the said petition prepare and bring in the same.

Mr. Harwood, from the committee, brings in and delivers to the speaker the following report: THE committee to whom was referred the petition of the vestry of St. Peter's parish, in Talbot county, report, that they have taken the same into consideration, and are of opinion that the prayer thereof is reasonable and ought to be granted. All which is submitted.

By order,

S. MAYNARD, clk.

Which was read.

Mr. Bruce, from the committee, brings in and delivers to the speaker the following report, as amended.

THE committee to whom was referred the petition of Upton Beall, clerk of Montgomery county, report, that they have taken the same into consideration, and finding the facts therein stated to be true, are of opinion that the relief prayed for ought to be granted, and beg leave to submit to the house the following resolution:

RESOLVED, That the sum of fifteen per cent. interest, incurred by Brook Beall, late clerk of Montgomery county, for delay in payment of retailers and marriage licences on a balance of forty-two pounds fourteen shillings and two-pence, except so much as may be necessary to pay the agent's commission on the same, be and the same is hereby remitted to the heirs or administrators of the said Brook Beall.

By order,

R. K. WATTS, clk.

Which was read.

Mr. Carroll, from the committee, brings in and delivers to the speaker a bill, entitled, An act to empower John Hammond, of the city of Baltimore, father and guardian of John Barnett Hammond, to lease the real estate therein mentioned; which was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

The supplement to the act, entitled, An act to erect Baltimore-town, in Baltimore county, into a city, and to incorporate the inhabitants thereof, was read the second time, and passed.

The bill to prevent the sale of spirituous liquors to prisoners in the several county gaols of this state, was read the second time, and the question put, That the said bill do pass? Determined in the negative.

The following message and resolution were read and assented to.

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, DECEMBER 29, 1797.

GENTLEMEN OF THE SENATE,

WE have sent you another resolution for the revision of the laws, in the expectation that upon re-consideration of the subject you will be induced to concur with us in opinion, and to assent to it in the manner in which it is now framed.

At a very early period of the session the plan on which the resolution of this house was grounded was contemplated by some of the members, and it was not till after a full consideration of the subject, and a very general communication on it, that the question was put, and carried without a dissenting voice.

The interchange of the acts of assembly with the several states, (some of which have already transmitted theirs,) suggested the propriety and necessity of a compilation, more correct and less defective than our present code, and we deem it conducive to the convenience, and to the legislative character of the state, to transmit a body of laws, freed from the incumbrance of such as have been repealed, or have ceased to have operation, and accompanied with an index, which might at one view convey a knowledge of our system of jurisprudence, on the various subjects which it embraces.

It was also considered by the members generally, a compilation, such as the resolution proposes, would be extremely useful, and would tend greatly to remove the ambiguity and difficulty which daily occurs to the most diligent inquirer, and by confining every subject under its proper head, might facilitate the endeavours of succeeding legislatures to improve our judicial system.

To the acts of assembly since the session of 1784 there is no general index, although the subjects on which they treat are of the utmost importance, and have made the most considerable changes as to the law for the regulation of property; and daily experience demonstrates the difficulty of tracing the acts, on any particular subject, through the different sessions in which they have been taken up.

To these observations on the nature of the work proposed, we think proper to suggest the inconvenience and difficulty which would otherwise attend the transmission of our laws to the several states. Our acts, as they now stand, will extend to four large volumes; those since 1784 cannot be procured with any degree of certainty, or (if at all) without great expence, and the acts of 1785, (probably the most important of any,) cannot possibly be procured without a new impression, that would occasion an expence, which, joined with that attendant on the purchase of the others, would fall little short of that which is now proposed.

We beg leave further to observe, that for the purpose of ensuring a punctual and speedy completion of the undertaking, we preferred the commission of it to one person in preference to a greater number; and that the conditions under which it was to be performed were such as to excite fidelity and industry in its execution.

Impressed as we are with the expediency and necessity of the measure, agreeably to the plan contained in our resolution, we have nevertheless, with a view to take from the magnitude and expence of the undertaking, made such alterations in the amended resolution, now sent for your concurrence, as we trust will, in addition to the reasons we have given, induce you to recede from the opinion on which your dissent was grounded, and to concur in the resolution herewith sent.

By order,

W. HARWOOD clk

RESOLVED, That William Kilty be and he is hereby appointed to revise the acts of assembly of this state, and to prepare an edition thereof, including all public acts now in force, in the order in which they