

Petitions from Ebenezer Handy, of Somerset county, Nathaniel Bailey, of Queen Anne's county, Robert Dance and Philip Edwards, praying acts of insolvency, were preferred, read, and referred to the committee appointed on petitions of a similar nature.

Mr. Thomas Hughlett, a delegate returned for Caroline 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.

The bill for the establishment of a school in Caroline county, was read the second time, and passed.

The report on the petition of Richard Chew was read the second time, and the resolution therein contained assented to.

A petition from William Webb Haddaway and Thomas Bullen, of Caroline county, coroners, praying an increase of fees, was preferred, read, and referred to Mr. Nicholson, Mr. J. Buchanan, Mr. Ridgely, Mr. Leigh, Mr. Hall, Mr. Key and Mr. A. Buchanan, to consider and report thereon.

A petition from Stephen Cooper, of Caroline county, crier, praying an increase of fees, was preferred, read, and referred to the committee appointed on the petition of William Webb Haddaway.

Mr. Hall, from the committee of elections and privileges, brings in and delivers to the speaker the following report :

THE committee of elections and privileges report, that they have received a return from Cornelius H. Gist, sheriff of Baltimore county, stating, In pursuance of a warrant from the honourable the speaker of the house of delegates of Maryland, I do hereby certify and return, that on Monday the twenty-sixth day of November, instant, I held an election for one delegate to represent Baltimore county in the general assembly in the room of Elijah Merryman, resigned, and that I continued the said election by adjournment until Wednesday the twenty-eighth day of November, instant, when the polls were closed; that on the close of the polls on Monday Richard Hall had a majority of votes, but that on the close of the polls on Wednesday Alexis Lemmon had a majority of votes, and if the honourable the house of delegates shall be of opinion that the election could not lawfully be held more than one day, then I return the said Richard Hall duly elected, but if the house shall be of opinion that the said election might lawfully be adjourned as aforesaid, then I return the said Alexis Lemmon duly elected. As witness my hand, this twenty-ninth day of November, seventeen hundred and ninety-eight.

CORNELIUS H. GIST, Shff. Balt. Co'ty.

Your committee are of opinion that the said return is not in the form prescribed by the constitution and form of government, and that they therefore cannot report either of the persons therein mentioned duly elected, and we submit to the house the propriety of ordering the said sheriff to attend at the bar of this house to amend his return.

By order,

J. F. HARRIS, clk.

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

A petition from James Green, of Harford county, praying a sum of money may be levied on the said county for his support, was preferred, read, and referred to Mr. Jarrett, Mr. M'Comas and Mr. Montgomery, to consider and report thereon.

On motion, Leave given to bring in a bill for the better security of property in slaves. ORDERED, That Mr. Key, Mr. T. Buchanan and Mr. Winder, be a committee to prepare and bring in the same.

On motion, ORDERED, That Cornelius H. Gist, sheriff of Baltimore county, attend at the bar of this house immediately, in order to amend his return of a delegate elected for said county in the room of Elijah Merryman, resigned.

The bill to prevent the firing of woods in the several counties in this state therein mentioned, was read the second time, and passed.

On motion, Leave given to bring in a bill to compel the attendance of members of the general assembly. ORDERED, That Mr. M'Pherson, Mr. Harwood and Mr. J. Magruder, be a committee to prepare and bring in the same.

The following resolutions were propounded to the house and read.

STATE OF MARYLAND.

IN THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

WHEREAS it is highly expedient that every constitutional barrier should be opposed to the introduction of foreign influence into our national councils, and that the constitution of the United States should be so amended as to effect and secure, in the best manner, the great objects for which it was designed; therefore RESOLVED, That the senators and representatives of this state in the congress of the United States be and they are hereby requested, to use their best endeavours that congress propose to the legislatures of the several states the following amendment to the federal constitution, to wit. That in addition to the other qualifications prescribed by said constitution, no person shall be eligible as president or vice-president of the United States, nor shall any person be a senator or representative in the congress of the United States, except a natural born citizen, or unless he shall have been a resident in the United States at the time of the declaration of independence, or naturalized and admitted a citizen at the time of making this amendment to the constitution.

And whereas the mode appointed by the federal constitution for the elections of a president and vice-president of the United States is attended with inconvenience, and it is the opinion of this legislature that the said constitution ought to be so amended, that the electors of the president and vice-president, instead of voting in the manner prescribed by said constitution for two persons, should ballot by name for one