

A petition from James Cruikshank, of Kent county, praying an act of insolvency, was preferred, read, and referred to Mr. Scott, Mr. Montgomery, Mr. Ellicott, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Stephen and Mr. McPherson, to consider and report thereon.

Petitions from Jacob Falconar, of Kent county, Levi Butler, of Charles county, Henry Downes, junior, of Queen-Anne's county, Samuel S. Harwood, of Montgomery county, and Nathan Newton and Tubman Pollett, of Somerset county, praying acts of insolvency, were preferred, read, and referred to the committee appointed on the petition of James Cruikshank.

On motion, Leave given to bring in a bill to reform the penal laws of this state. ORDERED, that Mr. Montgomery, Mr. Mercer, Mr. Stephen, Mr. Scott and Mr. Chapman, be a committee to prepare and bring in the same.

Mr. Montgomery, from the committee, delivers to the speaker the following report:

THE committee appointed to report the rules proper to be observed during this session, beg leave to submit the following:

1. At the hour appointed for sitting the roll of the house shall be called over, and the absent members, if any, sent for.

2. Every member shall take his seat when the speaker takes the chair, and remain uncovered till the house rises.

3. Every member who shall deliver his opinion, or speak in any debate, shall rise, and respectfully address himself to the speaker.

4. No member, at the time of speaking in debate, shall name any other by his proper name, but shall use some other distinction.

5. If two or more members shall rise to speak at the same time, the speaker shall determine which shall speak first.

6. No member shall speak a second time until every member who offers to deliver his sentiments has spoken once.

7. Any member called to order by the speaker, or any member, shall thereupon take his seat.

8. When the house is sitting, no member shall hold conversation to interrupt debate.

9. No motion shall be debated until the same be seconded, and, (if desired by the speaker or any member,) reduced to writing, delivered in at the table, and read by the clerk.

10. When a motion is made and seconded, the matter of the motion shall receive a determination by the question, or be postponed by a motion for commitment or postponement, or by the previous question, before any other motion shall be received.

11. Every question shall be entered on the journal, and the yeas and nays shall be taken when required by three members who shall have divided on the question.

12. The previous question, that is, Whether the question propounded be now put? may be called for by any member on any question, except to an amendment, or other matter which cannot in its nature be postponed.

13. If a question in debate contains more distinct parts than one, any member may, of right, have the same divided into as many questions as parts.

14. All questions shall be determined by a majority of the members present, those dividing in the affirmative rising in their places, those in the negative continuing in their seats, and so vice versa until a decision by the speaker.

15. Whenever the speaker shall decide any question, the same shall be final, unless the yeas and nays be required.

16. Every bill or resolution originated in this house, or received from the senate, shall be read on two several days, with an intermission of one day at least, during which time it shall lie on the table for the perusal of the members, unless on very urgent occasions the house shall, by special order, dispense with this rule, which order shall be entered on the journal.

17. Conferrees, and members appointed on draughts, if required by three members, shall be elected by ballot, and the number shall in no case exceed seven.

18. No bill or resolve shall have a second reading until every member in the city be called upon to attend, except he be excused by the house for indisposition, or necessary attendance on the public business.

19. No petition, memorial, or other application to the house, shall be received, unless presented by a member.

20. All questions of order shall be determined by the speaker, but there may be an appeal by any member to the house from the decision, and the determination of the house in such cases of appeal shall be final.

21. No motion shall be made after the hour of adjournment without leave of the house.

22. All misdemeanors which shall happen in the house, shall be censured or fined by the house.

23. No member shall answer on the yeas and nays who did not divide on the question, and if any member divides on one side, and answers on the other on the yeas and nays, the same shall be noted on the journal at the request of any member.

24. All fines imposed by the house shall be paid to the clerk, and applied as the house shall direct.

25. The substance of all petitions, memorials, or other applications, shall be entered on the journal.