

THE committee to whom was referred the petition of Gassaway Watkins, of Anne-Arundel county, beg leave to report, that after examining into the matters therein stated, find, that the said Watkins entered into the service of his county as a soldier in the revolutionary war, and continued to serve as such to the end thereof; his conduct during this struggle, placed him high in the opinion of his companions in war, and acquired him the reputation of a brave and valuable officer. Your committee further find, that his circumstances are much straitened, and having a large family of children to provide for, an annuity from the state would greatly contribute to render easy his declining days, and give to his children and family a decent though frugal support. Your committee, in order to bring the subject before you, beg leave to submit the following resolution:

RESOLVED, That the treasurer of the western shore be and he is hereby directed and required to pay unto Gassaway Watkins, of Anne-Arundel county, late a captain in the revolutionary war, a sum of money equal to half pay as a captain, annually, in quarterly payments, during his life, as a reward to those meritorious services which he rendered his country in establishing her liberty and independence.

By order,

N. MARTIN, jun. clk.

Which was read.

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

THE committee to whom was referred the petition of Evans Willing, beg leave to report, that they have taken his case into consideration, and are of opinion that from the circumstances attending his claim for remuneration, the committee are of opinion he is entitled to the interference of the legislature, and therefore recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

RESOLVED, That the treasurer of the eastern shore pay to Evans Willing the sum of one hundred pounds current money of Maryland, as compensation for a negro man named Joe, who was drowned in consequence of a pursuit to apprehend him as a runaway.

All which is submitted.

By order,

W. DIXON, clk.

Which was read.

On motion, Leave given to bring in a bill, entitled, A supplement to an act, entitled, An act authorising Joseph Green, late sheriff and collector of Charles county, to complete his collection. ORDERED, That Mr. C. Dorsey, Mr. Stone and Mr. Rogerson, be a committee to prepare and bring in the same.

On motion, Leave given to bring in a bill, entitled, A supplement to an act authorising the collection of certain ground-rents due on lots in the town of Cumberland, in Allegany county. ORDERED, That Mr. Bruce, Mr. Briscoe and Mr. Tomlinson, be a committee to prepare and bring in the same.

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

THE committee appointed to inquire into the expediency of appropriating a sum of money for the purpose of opening and improving the road between the Baltimore turnpike terminating at William's-Port, and the great western road contemplated by the United States, and commencing at Cumberland, beg leave to report, that after giving to the subject all that consideration its importance merits, they feel fully and deeply impressed with the many and great advantages that would follow the state's granting a small sum of money to the attainment of this end. From William's-Port to Hancock the road is now in tolerable condition, and as it passes through a country rather fertile and well peopled, it may not be so necessary immediately to expend any money on its improvement, and it is also possible individual exertion, or the turnpike company itself, might bring about the completion of that particular part; but the road from Hancock to Cumberland possesses none of these advantages or prospects...it passes for the greater length through a country stricken with poverty, and thinly peopled, and without the interposition of some aid of this kind, can never grow into use, or become of general extensive utility or convenience. Your committee beg leave to observe, that roads in all countries necessarily become an object of great national concern, they are of the highest general importance, and in many instances cannot be perfected without the aid of government, and hence, whenever a nation turns its attention towards internal improvement, roads become an object of primary consideration, and in truth no great or valuable improvements can go on without them. In proportion as your roads are improved, so do others of a different kind start up and keep pace with them, wealth and commerce spread into the remotest corners, and the most distant parts feel themselves brought as it were so much the nearer to market, as the ease and convenience of getting there is increased from the goodness of your roads. The road under consideration becomes particularly interesting in these points of view, and moreover claims your attention as furnishing a complete line of communication from the centre of the United States, at Washington city, into the very heart of the western country, and without this a blank or chasm will be left, that will materially obstruct the trade of the state, and prevent its deriving those advantages from its intercourse with the United States, which its situation from nature, and its high consequence as a commercial state, so justly entitle it to. Without the improvement we recommend, wagons and other heavy carriages will be cut off from the benefit they ought to derive from the turnpike of the United States leading them into Maryland, and must necessarily take a direction either into Pennsylvania or some of the neighbouring states. Under these opinions your committee beg leave to submit the following resolution:

RESOLVED, That the court of Allegany county be and they are hereby authorised and required, to appoint two or more persons, with authority and directions to examine and locate the road from Hancock to Cumberland, laying off the same on the nearest, most direct and practicable ground, and return a plot of the same, to be record-