

Mr. Reid presented the petition of Meshach Browning, of Allegany county, praying for relief; which was read and referred to Messrs. Reid, M'Mahon and Shaw.

On motion by Mr. Merrick, Ordered, That a special committee, consisting of one member from each county and city, appointed by the chair, inquire and report to this house in general terms, the condition and urgency of the business now pending before the legislature, or likely to be shortly brought forward, with a suggestion of a day on which the session may be closed with advantage to the public interest. In pursuance whereof the speaker appointed Messrs. Merrick, Hawkins, Moffett, Stewart, Reynolds, Brawner, Turner, Hughlett, Teackle, Hicks, Evans, Gantt, Claude, Brown of Queen-Anne's, Spence, Kemp, Montgomery, Charles, Hunt, Harding and M'Mahon, the committee.

On motion by Mr. Wright, Ordered, That the committee on grievances and courts of justice be directed to inquire into the legality of the practice heretofore, and now pursued, as well by executors and administrators of deceased persons, as by others, of dividing large debts, claims, or sums of money into smaller, and of taking and giving two or more promissory notes, or bills obligatory, for the payment of the same, for the purpose of bringing said debts, claims or sums, by such division or arrangement, within the jurisdiction of a justice of the peace, with a view to expedite and facilitate the collection thereof; and if the said practice, on inquiry, should be found to have been illegal, to report to this house a bill, providing, that for the future, it shall and may be lawful, in all cases where the parties can agree, for an executor, administrator, or other person or persons, to make such divisions, and to give or take such promissory notes, bills obligatory, or other evidences of debt

The speaker laid before the house a report from Peter Emerson, inspector of tobacco at the state's warehouse No. 2, relative to the amount of money paid by him into the western shore treasury within the year ending on the 30th of November; and a communication from the register in chancery, transmitting a copy of the accounts for seals and taxes accrued on proceedings in chancery in the year 1830; which were read and severally referred to the committee on ways and means.

On motion by Mr. Keene, leave was given to bring in a bill, to be entitled, An act to alter and repeal so much of the tenth section of an act passed December session 1829, chap-