

Mary B. Goodwin, of the state of Indiana, praying for the passage of an act authorising her guardian to pass a final account, &c. which was read and referred to Messrs. Brown, of Queen-Anne's, Brewer and Hawkins.

And Mr. Evans presented the petition of the commissioners of Cecil county, praying a supplement to the act entitled, An act empowering and directing the commissioners of said county to build two fire-proof offices for the use of the clerks of the county and register of wills for the safe keeping of the records appertaining to their respective offices in the town of Elkton; which was read and referred to Messrs. Evans, Co-megys and Gale.

Mr. Brawner submitted the following resolutions and order; which were severally read and adopted.

Resolved, That the increased proportion of the free people of colour in this state, to the white population, the evils growing out of their connection and unrestrained association with the slaves, their habits and manner of obtaining a subsistence, and their withdrawing a large portion of employment from the labouring class of the white population, are subjects of momentous and grave consideration to the good people of this state.

Resolved, That as philanthropists and lovers of freedom, we deplore the existence of slavery amongst us, and would use our utmost exertions to ameliorate its condition, yet we consider the unrestricted power of manumission as fraught with ultimate evils of a more dangerous tendency than the circumstance of slavery alone, and that any act, having for its object the mitigation of these joint evils, not inconsistent with other paramount considerations, would be worthy the attention and deliberation of the representatives of a free liberal-minded and enlightened people.

Resolved, That we consider the colonization of free people of colour in Africa as the commencement of a system, by which, if judicious encouragement be afforded, these evils may be measurably diminished, so that in process of time, the relative proportion of the black to the white population, will hardly be matter for serious or unpleasant consideration.

Ordered, therefore, That a committee of five members be appointed by the chair, with instructions to report a bill, based as nearly as may be, upon the principles contained in the foregoing resolutions, and report the same to the consideration of this house.

In pursuance whereof the speaker appointed Messrs. Brawner, Hawkins, Merrick, Bell and M'Mahon, the committee