

On motion by Mr. Chapman, leave was given to bring in a bill for the benefit of Horatio Clagett, of the District of Columbia. Ordered, That Messrs. Chapman, Brawner and Rogers, report the same.

Mr. Ely submitted the following preamble and resolution:

WHEREAS, it appears to this general assembly that Thomas Culbreth, Esq. the former and present clerk of the executive council, was in the year eighteen hundred and twenty-six employed, under the authority of the state, faithfully to superintend and supervise the transcribing of the chancery records for the years during which T. H. Bowie was register, and other preceding and succeeding years, and in consideration of such faithful service, was paid from the treasury of the state upwards of five thousand dollars of the public money:

And whereas the services, for which the said large sum of money was considered to have been a fair remuneration, never have been performed, but on the contrary have been improvidently neglected, to the great and incalculable injury of the people of the state:

And whereas it has been proved to the entire and complete satisfaction of the present legislature, that the records in chancery for the year eighteen hundred and sixteen, during the official term of the said Bowie, were in the proper office of the register in chancery previous to the appointment of the said Culbreth as superintendant and supervisor as aforesaid, and as such it was his duty to have seen them correctly and properly transcribed:

And whereas, it has been further satisfactorily proved, that the said last mentioned records, never were transcribed, although they were taken from the office of the register in chancery for that purpose, but are in fact lost, and cannot now be found:

And whereas the records thus lost are of immense and vital importance to the people of the state, inasmuch as a large number of them may thereby be subjected to vexatious law suits, and even to the loss of the land which they may hold under the decrees in chancery for that year:

And whereas suit was brought by the state against Henry Wayman, in Anne-Arundel county court, as surety of the late Thomas H. Bowie, former register in chancery, upon the ground that the said Bowie had not registered the decrees and other papers in chancery, for the year eighteen hundred and sixteen, and judgment was rendered therein against the said Wayman, and all further proceedings upon