

JOURNAL

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OF THE

HOUSE OF DELEGATES

OF THE

COMMONWEALTH

VIRGINIA

PRINTED AT THE CAPITOL, IN THE CITY OF RICHMOND, ON
TUESDAY, THE TENTH DAY OF NOVEMBER, ONE
THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-FIVE.



RICHMOND:

W. M. GAYNE, Printer for the State

late war, he enlisted as a soldier, and served for the space of two years; that he carried of his own property into the field, a musket and three blankets, the first of which, was left with the army when he was discharged, and the latter were in the service; and praying compensation as well for his services, as for the musket and blankets.

Ordered, That the said petitions be referred to the Committee of Claims; that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their opinion thereon, to the House.

The Speaker laid before the House, a letter from the Register of the land which was read, and ordered to be referred to the committee appointed to inspect and examine the Register's office.

And then the House adjourned 'til Monday morning, eleven o'clock.

MONDAY, the 16th of November, 1795.

ORDERED, That Mr. Chamberlayne be added to the Committee of Mr. Quarles, (of Norfolk county) Mr. Hatcher, and Mr. Hull, to the Committee of Propositions and Grievances, and Claims; Mr. Rootes to the Committee of Privileges and Elections, Propositions and Grievances, Courts of Justice, and Mr. Wilkinson, (of Southampton) to the Committees of Privileges and Propositions and Grievances, and Claims; and Mr. Hill, (of Madison) to the Committee of Claims.

Mr. King, from the Committee of Propositions and Grievances, reports that the committee had, according to order, had under their consideration, petitions to them referred, and had come to several resolutions thereupon, which in his place, and afterwards delivered in at the clerk's table, where the same again twice read, and agreed to by the House, as followeth:

1. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that the petition of persons, praying that an act may pass for establishing a town on the land of Elizabeth Zane; as the same is already laid off into lots and streets, in the county of reasonable.

2. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that the petition of Francis, praying that an act may pass, authorising him to erect a toll bridge over Goose creek, in the county of Loudon, at the same place where the petition for a public ferry, is reasonable.

3. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that the petition of inhabitants of the counties of King & Queen, Gloucester, Middlesex, and Stafford, praying that an act may pass for opening and extending the navigation of the Rappahannock river, as far as the same shall be found practicable, under the like limitations and restrictions as are contained in the act for opening and extending the navigation of Matapony river, is reasonable.

4. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that the petition of inhabitants of the county of Surry, praying that an act may pass for altering the mode of holding courts in the said county, and fix the same on the lands of Robert M. known by the name of the Cross Roads, (the proprietor thereof having agreed to erect the public buildings at his own expence,) is reasonable.

Ordered, That a bill or bills be brought in pursuant to the said resolutions, and the Committee of Propositions and Grievances, do prepare and bring in the same.

Ordered, That leave be given to bring in a bill, To amend the act, intituled, to reduce into one the several acts concerning the establishment, jurisdiction, and organization of the district courts; and that Mr. Page, (of Spotsylvania) Mr. Thompson, Mr. M'Rae, Mr. Cavendish, Mr. Stevenson, Mr. Nimmo, Mr. Cary, Mr. Ellzey, Mr. Brooke, (of Prince William) and Mr. Shield, do prepare and bring in the same.

Ordered, That leave be given to bring in a bill, To amend the penal laws of the Commonwealth; and that Mr. Taylor, (of Prince George) Mr. Lee, (of Fairfax) Mr. Marshall, Mr. Andrews, Mr. Evans, (of Accomack) Mr. M'Rae, Mr. Eggleston, Mr. Wilkinson, (of Southampton) Mr. Mayo, Mr. Brock, (of Essex) Mr. Magill, Mr. Stuart, Mr. Wright, Mr. Beale, Mr. Alexander, Mr. Braxton, Mr. Quarles, (of Norfolk county) Mr. Falcon, and Mr. D. do prepare and bring in the same.

Ordered, That leave be given to bring in a bill, To amend the act for ascertaining the salaries to the officers of civil government; and that Mr. Payne, Mr. Lee, (of

Mr. Goodwyn, (of Southampton) Mr. Willis, Mr. Shackelford, Mr. Jennings, Mr. Quarles, (of Fluvanna) Mr. Langhorne, Mr. Haymond, Mr. Bogard, Mr. Hull, Mr. Martin, Mr. Hancock, (of Bedford) Mr. Allen, Mr. Barnet, and Mr. Dulaney, do prepare and bring in the same.

Ordered, That leave be given to bring in a bill, *To establish district poor houses, and houses of correction throughout this commonwealth*; and that Mr. Penn, (of Campbell) Mr. Bentley, Mr. Ruffin, Mr. Claiborne, Mr. Calett, Mr. Hutcheson, Mr. Delony, Mr. Gregory, Mr. Newton, (of Norfolk county) Mr. Griffin, Mr. Fox, Mr. Smith, Mr. White, Mr. Willis, and Mr. Taylor, (of Prince George) do prepare and bring in the same.

A petition of a number of inhabitants of the county of Botetourt, whose names are thereunto subscribed, was presented and read, setting forth, that prior to the year 1787, no person in the county was employed to collect the public revenue; that in consequence thereof, the petitioners in being compelled to pay the arrearages heretofore due, as well as those which have accrued since, labor under great disadvantages; and praying that they may be permitted to pay the amount of their certificate taxes in specie, according to the value of certificates, at the time the same became due.

Ordered, That the said petition be referred to a committee of the whole House, on Thursday next.

A petition of sundry inhabitants of various parts of this state, whose names are thereunto subscribed, was presented and read, setting forth, that they consider slavery not only a moral but a political evil, which in all its forms, and degrees, is an outrageous violation and odious degradation of man, tending to weaken the bands of society, and endanger the peace and obstruct the prosperity of the country; and praying that an act may pass to ameliorate the present condition of slaves, and give freedom to such as shall be born after the passing of the said act.

Ordered, That the said petition be referred to a committee of the whole House, on the 31st day of March next.

On a motion made,

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to prepare estimates of the expences of civil government and of the public debt, and to report their opinion of the provision which ought to be made for the support of government and payment of the public debt.

And a committee was appointed, of Mr. Andrews, Mr. King, Mr. Cary, Mr. Eggleston, Mr. Callis, Mr. Goodrich, Mr. Moseley, (of Buckingham) Mr. Pierce, Mr. Penn, (of Campbell) Mr. Madison, Mr. Gordon, Mr. Cureton, Mr. Goodwyn, (of Greenville) Mr. Dabney, Mr. Chamberlayne, Mr. Moseley, (of Powhatan) Mr. Armstrong, Mr. Tinley, Mr. Pope, Mr. Price, senior, Mr. Catlett, Mr. Cook, Mr. Dupuy, and Mr. Rootes.

The House, according to the order of the day, resolved itself into a committee of the whole House, on the state of the commonwealth; and after some time spent therein, Mr. Speaker resumed the chair, and Mr. King reported, that the committee had, according to order, had the state of the commonwealth under their consideration, and having made some progress therein, had directed him to move for leave to sit again.

Resolved, That this House will to-morrow resolve itself into a committee of the whole House, on the state of the commonwealth.

A petition of sundry inhabitants of the county of Halifax, whose names are thereunto subscribed, was presented and read, setting forth, that under an act of Assembly passed in the year 1784, the glebe lands of the Episcopal Church, in the said county were sold, and the money arising from the sale thereof, improperly, and in their opinion, unjustly applied to the purchase of another glebe, sundry slaves, &c. and praying that an act may pass, directing a sale of the glebe lands and slaves, purchased as aforesaid, for the general benefit of the said county.

Ordered, That the said petition be referred to a committee of the whole House, on Monday the 30th instant.

A petition of Robert Reagh was presented and read, setting forth, that he intermarried with a certain Martha Meek, lived with her upwards of nine years in content and harmony, and in the course of that time had a numerous offspring; that notwithstanding these ties upon her fidelity, she eloped from him three years ago, with a certain John Ewing, and has since continued to reside with him in open adultery; and praying that an act may pass, authorising some court of record to take cognizance of the facts therein stated, and directing the chancellor to pronounce a decree of divorce accordingly.

Ordered, That the said petition be referred to the Committee of Religion; that