

advantage to the public, and of course merits the attention and encouragement of this province, and that the sum requested for that purpose is not unreasonable.

Your committee further beg leave to report, that Alex'r M'Fadon of Frederick county, by his petition, hath expressed his desire of erecting a linen, woollen, and cotton manufactory, in or near Frederick-town; that he is also well acquainted with the business, and would undertake to carry on the same with the public encouragement and assistance, and proposed that a sum not exceeding four thousand pounds should be advanced to him from time to time, by the province, on giving bond with good security for the payment of the money lent, with four per cent. interest after the expiration of three years from the advancement thereof. Your committee further report, that Mr. M'Fadon in person informed them, that although he proposed by the above scheme to carry on the same so extensively, as thereby to manufacture annually fifty thousand yards, yet if it did not meet with the approbation of the honorable the convention, he was willing to undertake to set up a manufactory, on having not less than one half of the above sum advanced to him; that he proposed to begin at first with the sum of five hundred pounds, and draw out to the amount of the sum stipulated, in proportion as he should purchase the materials to manufacture; that he would not engage to deliver any certain quantity of linen or woollen cloth, unless he could be assured of purchasing the rough materials, nor could he agree for any price, as he was uncertain on what terms he could purchase the same; that if he could buy them he would furnish the province with any quantities within his power at a reasonable price, on their paying his for the same; and that the original sum borrowed would be absolutely necessary for him to carry on the manufactory aforesaid entire, during the time aforesaid.

Your committee further beg leave to report, that Edward Parker, of Cecil county, by his petition hath set forth, that he hath erected a house, provided himself with all manner of implements necessary for carrying on a linen and woollen manufactory, and had also engaged a number of weavers, but found it absolutely impossible to carry on the same with spirit, and in an extensive manner, without a considerable sum of ready cash, and therefore prayed, that the sum of three hundred pounds, out of the public treasury, might be advanced to him, upon his giving bond with undoubted security, for the delivery of the value of two hundred pounds in good strong merchantable linen cloth, manufactured in this province, on or before the first day of May next, and the value of one