

On motion, Leave given to bring in a bill to appoint an agent for the year 1797. ORDERED, That Mr. Robins, Mr. Winchester, Mr. Brother, Mr. Wilson and Mr. W. Thomas, be a committee to prepare and bring in the same.

The additional supplement to the act, entitled, An act relating to the standard of English weights and measures, was read the second time, and the question put, That the said bill do pass? Determined in the negative.

A petition from John Flemming, junior, of Montgomery county, praying an act of insolvency, was preferred, read, and referred to the committee appointed on petitions of a similar nature.

The house proceeded to ballot for a committee clerk, and the ballots being deposited in the ballot box, the gentlemen named to strike retired, and after some time reported, that Archibald Golder was elected.

ORDERED, That he be qualified.

The clerk of the senate delivers the bill to confirm the title of Levin Irving and Samuel Smylie to the lands therein mentioned, endorsed; "By the senate, December 13, 1796: Read the first time" and ordered to lie on the table.

"By order,

A. VAN-HORN, clk.

"By the senate, December 15, 1796: Read the second time and will not pass.

"By order,

A. VAN-HORN, clk."

And the bill to lay out certain roads, and authorising certain public landings, in Worcester county, endorsed; "By the senate, November 30, 1796: Read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

"By order,

A. VAN-HORN, clk.

"By the senate, December 15, 1796: Read the second time and will not pass.

"By order,

A. VAN-HORN, clk."

Mr. Key, from the committee, brings in and delivers to the speaker a bill, entitled, An act respecting two tracts of land lying in Allegany county, the one called Grassy Cabin, the other called The Desert, and a bill, entitled, An act for confirming the divisions made in the city of Washington of the estate of John Davidson, deceased, and for other purposes; which were severally read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Key, from the committee of conference, brings in and delivers to the speaker the following report:

THE joint committee of both houses, appointed to confer upon the subject of the stock due to this state in the bank of England, beg leave to report, that they have communicated with Samuel Chase, Esquire, agent for the recovery thereof, and have received from him the following verbal information respecting the actual situation of the said stock: That in consequence of the death of James Russell previously to the year 1789, against whom, as the only acting trustee of said stock, the agent, while in London, had filed a bill in the high court of chancery of England to enforce a transfer thereof, it will be necessary to file a bill of revivor to reinstate the suit, and entitle himself to a recovery of the stock, as agent for the state; that the executors of Osgood Hanbury, and company, in virtue of an assignment made by the agent, pursuant to the act of assembly of November session, 1786, chap. 50, empowering him to assign to the said Hanbury, and company, a sum not exceeding £. 11,000 capital bank stock, have filed a bill in chancery against Henry Harford, Esquire, late proprietary of the then province of Maryland, and others; that in making the said Henry Harford party to the said suit, the agent conceives they have acted very improperly, and that it was without his knowledge; that had he been advised with upon the occasion, he would not have assented to the measure, of which he cannot see the necessity, or divine the reason; that he has long ago lodged money in the hands of Mr. William Murdock, of London, to pay the Messieurs Lyons, his solicitors in chancery, their bills of costs; that Mr. Murdock has frequently called upon them to produce their bills, and receive their amount, which, though often promised, they have hitherto declined producing and receiving payment; that the agent had understood, that the former chancellor was averse from giving a decree respecting this stock, alleging, that it was a matter fitter for diplomatic negotiation than for his decision as chancellor; that in consequence of this information and suggestion, our executive, on the application of the agent, had requested the executive of the United States to direct Mr. Jay, if not inconsistent with the objects of his mission, to interpose on behalf of this state with the British ministry, and to obtain payment of the bank stock *bonâ fide due* to it; that Mr. Jay, or Mr. Pinkney, the resident minister at the court of St. James, was accordingly instructed to that purpose, and that the necessary papers to give them full information and knowledge of the claim of this state to the said stock were transmitted to Mr. Pinkney, and are now probably in the hands of Mr. King, the present minister of the United States to that court; that Mr. Jay had some conversation with the chancellor respecting this stock, but that its recovery had not been made the subject of negotiation; that the secretary of state has promised the agent to write to Mr. King to render every service in his power to this state with respect to its stock in the bank of England; that Mr. William Pinkney is instructed by the agent, (but the instructions have not been imparted to the committee,) to consult with Mr. King, to use his utmost endeavours, in conjunction with that gentleman, to obtain a decision in the court of chancery, and in consequence thereof an assignment and transfer of the stock to the persons appointed to receive it by the act of assembly of November session, 1791, chap. 86; that one of the said persons is misnamed in the said act, being called Sir James instead of Sir Robert Herries, which misnomer the committee are of opinion should be rectified by a supplementary act of the present session; that the capital bank stock, exclusively of the aforesaid assignment to Osgood Hanbury, and company, amounts at this time to £. 60,000; that by the latest advices £. 100 capital stock of the bank of England would command