

They therefore submit to the consideration of the house the propriety of appointing a day in the next session of assembly for the parties to appear before the committee of grievances and courts of justice.

By order,

W. PINKNEY, clk.

Which was read.

Mr. Joshua Seney, from the committee, brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker a bill, entitled, An act continuing the act relating to colts in criminal cases; which was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

The house adjourns till to-morrow morning 9 o'clock.

S A T U R D A Y, December 15, 1787.

THE house met. Present the same members as on yesterday, except Mr. Gough. The proceedings of yesterday were read.

Mr. Shaw, from the committee, brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker the following report:

THE committee to whom was referred the petition of John Crane, beg leave to report, that after considering all the circumstances of his case, they are of opinion that the petitioner is precluded from any claim to the land sold Mr. Belain Posey, by electing to become a subject of that government which was inimical to America, and that nothing can be done for his relief, unless the general assembly should be disposed to make him some gratuity for his losses. All which is submitted to the honourable house.

By order,

W. PINKNEY, clk.

Which was read the first and second time and concurred with.

Mr. Oneale, from the committee, brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker the following report:

THE committee to whom was referred the papers relative to the survey of the lands to the westward of Wills's creek, having taken the same under their consideration, had the verbal information of colonel Francis Deakins, and viewed the rough and unfinished plot of those lands, are of opinion, that the work has been conducted with diligence; that the state is in a capacity to discharge its engagement of a bounty of land to the officers and soldiers to whom it has been promised, and to allow the settlers to purchase the spots on which they are seated.

That provision ought to be made for the immediate payment of £. 600, or thereabouts, to Francis Deakins, on account, to reimburse his advances, and enable him to discharge part of the claims of his assistants.

That a preference ought to be given to the people who have already settled on the said lands belonging to the state, for small quantities on which they have respectively seated before the said survey, not exceeding the quantities requested, and noted by the surveyor, at prices according to the quality, not less than five, nor exceeding twenty shillings per acre, payable at two equal yearly payments, and that the price of provisions furnished, and services rendered, in assistance to colonel Deakins in surveying the said lands, ought to be discounted in payment as specie.

That for the ease of those people, who are generally poor, a proper person or persons ought to be appointed, and go in the neighbourhood, with power to decide disputes concerning the pre-emption, contract for the lands, receive the purchase money or security therefor, and on payment, give titles on the part of the state, without any farther charge than to indemnify the public.

That it will be for the interest of the state to have the confiscated lands lying to the westward of Wills's creek laid out in lots as the other lands of the state there, except such as belonged to Anthony Stewart, who, by the auditor's return, appears to be probably indebted in more than the value of his estate, or of others who may be discovered to be in like circumstances.

That as to the lands patented within the manors and reserves to the westward of Wills's creek, the general assembly cannot, with propriety, give orders for any disposition thereof, but that the cases of each ought to be stated, and the attorney-general's opinion taken, so that the claim of the state may be prosecuted, or relinquished, as law and justice may require, and that no grants ought to issue for any lands to the westward of Wills's creek, unless the chancellor, on special information that the land lies there, shall specially so order.

That the line to which colonel Deakins has laid out the lots, is far within that which this state may rightfully claim as its western boundary, and that at a time of more leisure the consideration of the legislature ought to be drawn to the western boundaries of this state as objects of very great importance.

That in the present stage of the business, and under the uncertainty who are entitled to bounties of land under subsisting engagements, the legislature cannot, with justice and propriety, proceed to give directions as to the distribution amongst the officers and soldiers:

That from the situation of the lands to the westward of Wills's creek, their capability of improvement, their extent, the facility of intercourse between the eastern and western settlers by the present roads, and those in contemplation through those lands, courts of justice, and a new county to the westward of Sideling-hill creek, ought to be established without delay.

That in any disposition of the said lands, the privilege of roads and waters ought to be reserved to the public through the same lands.

All which is submitted to the honourable house.

By order,

A. GOLDR, clk.

Which was read.