

the said court with respect to the personal estates of idiots and lunatics. ORDERED, That Mr. Craik, Mr. Crabb, and Mr. M'Mechen, be a committee to prepare and bring in the same.

The paper bill No. 50 was sent to the senate by Mr. Tomlinson.

RESOLVED, That the auditor be and he is hereby authorized and directed to settle with, and grant a certificate or certificates for depreciation of pay unto, John Lanham, late a soldier in the first Maryland regiment, on the same terms and in the same manner that depreciation of pay hath been heretofore granted to officers and soldiers of the Maryland line.

Mr. Craik, from the committee, brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker a bill, entitled, An act for enlarging the power of the high court of chancery, and the several supplementary acts to the said act, and for increasing the power of the said court with respect to the personal estates of idiots and lunatics; which was read the first and second time by especial order and passed.

The bill respecting certain collectors of this state, was read the second time and passed.

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

THE committee appointed to examine the state and condition of the public records and papers in the general court office, report, that they have taken a view of the said records and papers, and find that a number of the record books have been so considerably injured, by being removed during the war, that they require new binding; many are without alphabets, and others are so obliterated as to want transcribing in part, of which a particular description follows.

Among the land records which require new binding and an alphabet, are, Liber W. R. C. containing records from the year 1676 to 1699; T. P. containing records from 1709 to 1719; P. L. containing records from the year 1731 to 1737; E. I. No. 3. containing records from the year 1737 to 1744; B. T. No. 4, containing records from the year 1759 to 1762. Among the same records which require an alphabet, are, Liber T. L. No. 2, containing records from 1699 to 1709; D. D. No. 4, containing records from 1765 to 1770; D. D. No. 5, containing records from 1770 to 1774; D. D. No. 6, containing records from 1774 to 1783. Among the same records which require binding, is one book containing records from 1749 to 1756. Among the records of the laws which require new binding and an alphabet, and transcribing in part, is Liber L. No. —, containing records from 1711 to 1733. Among the same records which require an alphabet, are, Liber C. and W. H. containing records from 1640 to 1674; H. S. No. 1. containing records from 1755 to 1768; G. R. containing records from 1769 to 1777.

The committee further report, that many of the record books of the court proceedings want alphabets, and the alphabets to others want transcribing.

That there is no record of the judgments and proceedings of the court from September term, 1765, to the year 1779, when the appointment of Mr. Thomas B. Hodgkin took place, during which time, according to the best information the committee could receive, between one and two thousand common recoveries were suffered.

That the dockets from 1765 to 1775 are much torn and obliterated, and from the year 1775 to 1779 there is no docket, except a part of one in the year 1778.

That the papers in the said office, from the year 1700 to the year 1779, are all promiscuously intermixed, and lay in large bundles on shelves, many of which are without the proper endorsements.

That the papers, during the clerkship of Mr. Thomas B. Hodgkin, are in good order; the land and law records made up; but the judgments and court proceedings, from the year 1782 to 1788, are not yet recorded.

That the records and papers since the appointment of John Gwinn, Esquire, the present clerk, are in good order; the land and law records are made up to the present time, and the other records to the year 1789, and the various and different papers of the office, since the appointment of Mr. Gwinn, are alphabetically sorted in proper bundles, to the credit of the officer, who appears to have paid great attention to the duties of his office.

Upon the foregoing state of facts, the committee recommend the following resolution:

RESOLVED, That the governor and council be authorized and empowered to contract with the clerk of the general court of the western shore to transcribe such of the records and dockets of the said court as are defaced, to complete the said records from the year 1765 to the time of the appointment of Mr. Hodgkin, and to make the necessary alphabets where there are none, and also a general alphabet, to separate and sort all the papers of the office, up to the time aforesaid, and arrange them in proper bundles, in alphabetical order, and to have all the said records well bound with good strong linen, and well secured in cases, and also for the binding of the said records where necessary; and that the governor and council pay the said clerk, and defray all expences which may accrue in the work, by draughts on the treasury, to be paid out of any monies unappropriated.

All which is submitted to the honourable house.

By order,

H. WHETCROFT, clk.

Which was read.

Mr. Pinkney, from the committee, brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker the following message:

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, DECEMBER 21, 1790.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOURS,

THIS house have dissented from your amendments to the bill, entitled, An act to continue and amend the act for the more effectual punishment of criminals. We think it would tend, in great measure, to destroy the utility of the criminal court to substitute the associate justices in the place of the present magistrates, because, from the number of these magistrates, and their activity in the execution of their trust, offences have been brought to light, which, in all probability, would otherwise have escaped