

Mr. Wright of Dorchester, reported a bill entitled, An act to incorporate the Choptank Steam Boat Navigation company of Maryland;

Which was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

On motion by Mr. Palmer, the house took up for consideration the bill reported by him, entitled, An act to extend the powers of the Chancery court and county courts as courts of equity.

Mr. Handy moved to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause, and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

“That whenever any person or persons shall be bona fide indebted in a sum of money of, or over five pounds, and being so indebted, shall become lunatic, or non compos mentis, it shall and may be lawful for any person or persons, bodies politic or corporate, to whom such lunatic or person, non compos, mentis shall be so indebted, to file his, her, or their bill in the high court of Chancery, or in the county court, sitting as a court of equity, in the county in which said lunatic or person non compos mentis resides, praying for the sale of the personal or real estate of said lunatic or person non compos mentis for the payment of such debt or debts, and the said Chancellor or county courts as courts of equity shall entertain said bill, and shall cause process to issue, to compel the appearance of said lunatic or person non compos mentis, and his trustee or trustees, if he have any, and if he have not the said Chancellor, or county courts shall appoint a special trustee to appear, answer and defend the said bill, and the said Chancellor or county courts shall be authorised to decree a sale of the real or personal estate of such lunatic or person non compos mentis, for the payment of such debt or debts; and to appoint a trustee to make said sale, who shall give bond to the state of Maryland, to be approved by said court, for the faithful discharge of the said trust, and whose course of proceeding shall conform to the course of proceeding by a trustee appointed to sell real estate to pay the debts of a deceased person.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the said trustee shall not pay any claim against said lunatic or person non compos mentis, which shall not have been first allowed by the court, passing the decree.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That if after the payment of the said debts of the said lunatic or person non compos mentis, commissions of the trustee, and the costs