

N E G A T I V E.

Messieurs Turner, Deye, Ridgely, Stevenson, J. Bond.

ORDERED, That Mr. Hall, Mr. S. Chase, and Mr. Ridgely, be added to the committee appointed to prepare and bring in a bill for the better regulating the militia of this state, for the defence and security thereof.

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

F R I D A Y, March 7, 1777.

THE house met. Present the same members as on yesterday, except Mr. M'Pherson, Mr. Selby, Mr. Douglass, and Mr. Mason. The proceedings of yesterday were read. Mr. Hall appeared in the house.

A member of the house, at the request of the council of safety, laid before the house a memorial of William Goddard, of Baltimore-Town, printer, setting forth, That in consequence of a publication in the Maryland Journal of the 25th ult. under the signature of *Tom Till Truth*, and written by a member of the honourable congress, with a view of serving the cause of freedom, a set of men, not remarkable for their penetration and sagacity, who hold nocturnal meetings in the town of Baltimore, under the specious name of "The Whig Club," usurping, with despotic violence, the powers of government, took great umbrage at said publication, and in an arbitrary inquisitorial manner demanded the author's name; that he, thinking himself bound in honour not to suffer the secrets of his press to be extorted from him in a tumultuous way, absolutely refused to comply with the demand of this self-created court; whereupon they deputed, or rather detached, six men, partly armed, to require his personal appearance before the club; that being greatly indisposed, he refused to obey the summons; that this committee, or detachment, agreeable to their orders, forcibly carried him before their constituents, or chiefs, to a tavern where they had assembled; that he was there detained a prisoner, and treated with circumstances of indignity and insult, not to be patiently endured by a freeman possessed with a spark of honour or sensibility; that after he had positively refused the criminal curiosity of this club, or in any shape to submit to their usurpation, he was held up by them, in certain resolves which they immediately entered into, as the author of the offensive performance, and therefore an enemy of the most dangerous kind to the United States, at the same time warning and commanding him, on pain of the resentment of "A Legion," to depart the town and county within a short limited term, and all this was conducted with the most ridiculous *apery* of a legal meeting or congress; that having invariably demeaned himself as a friend of America, to constitutional law and government, and the rights of mankind in general, feels a just indignation at the unmerited abuse he has received from a lawless ambitious knot, who under the garb of lovers of freedom, are violently invading the liberty of the press, and infringing on the most sacred rights of their unoffending neighbours; that being now exiled from his business, his family and friends, by lawless power, he most cheerfully makes application and sues for protection to your honourable board, (the council of safety of the state) not doubting but such infamous practices, tending to injure the common cause of this country, and to disturb the repose of society, will be discountenanced by a public censure, and that such measures will be pursued, as will effectually restrain and deter "A Legion" from violating the laws of the land, and the rights of humanity. Which was read, and the house having referred back the said memorial to the council of safety, the question was put, That this house will re-consider the said memorial? Resolved in the affirmative.

A F F I R M A T I V E.

Messieurs	Read,	Hammond,	Ridgely,	Gilpin,	Chaille,	J. Bond,
	Jordan,	Hall,	Stevenson,	O. Sprigg,	Mitchell,	Dickinson,
	Ford,	Galloway,	Shepherd,	Magruder,	Edelen,	J. Sprigg,
	Lethrbury,	Turner,	R. Bond,	S. Chase,	Sheredine,	Schnebely.
	Maxwell,	Deye,	Veazy,			

N E G A T I V E.

Messrs.	Perkins,	Ewing,	Kent,	Smith,	Craufurd,	Williams,
	Tillard,	Bowie,	Wright,	J. T. Chase,	Brice,	Crabb.
	Henry,	Gibson,	Smithson,			

The question was then put, That the said memorial be referred to the council of safety, without any instructions from this house? Carried in the negative.

A F F I R M A T I V E.

Messrs.	Tillard,	Bowie,	Gibson,	Wright,	Smith,	Williams,
	Henry,	Craufurd,	Kent,	Smithson,	J. T. Chase,	Crabb.
	Ewing,	Brice,				

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