

On motion, leave given to bring in a bill to punish certain crimes. ORDERED, That Mr. S. Chase, Mr. Hall, and Mr. Fitzhugh, do prepare and bring in the same.

The petition of the inhabitants of Frederick county was read a second time, and granted. Leave given to bring in a bill agreeable to the prayer of said petition. ORDERED, That Mr. Edelen, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Young, and Mr. Sheredine, do prepare and bring in the same.

On motion, that the resolves of the convention of the delegates of this state, on the 30th of October, 1776, relative to a claim set up by the constitution or form of government of Virginia, injurious to the inhabitants of this state, be read, ORDERED, That the same be read, and they were read accordingly, in the words following, to wit:

“ In CONVENTION, Wednesday, October 30, 1776.

“ THE convention, according to the order of the day, resolved itself into a committee of the whole, on that part of the constitution of Virginia, which was referred to their consideration; Mr. T. Wright in the chair. After some time spent therein, Mr. President resumed the chair, and Mr. Wright reported, That the committee had, according to order, taken the same into consideration, and had come to several resolutions thereon, which he read in his place, and afterwards delivered in at the table, where the same were again twice read, amended, and agreed as follow:

“ RESOLVED *unanimously*, That it is the opinion of this convention, that the state of Virginia hath not any right or title to any of the territory, bays, rivers, or waters, included in the charter granted by his majesty Charles the First to Cæcilius Calvert, baron of Baltimore.

“ RESOLVED *unanimously*, That it is the opinion of this convention, that the sole and exclusive jurisdiction over the territory, bays, rivers and waters, included in the said charter, belongs to this state, and that the river Patowmack, and almost the whole of the river Pocomoke, being comprehended in the said charter, the sole and exclusive jurisdiction over the said river Patowmack, and also over such part of the river Pocomoke as is comprehended in the said charter, belongs to this state; and that the river Patowmack, and that part of Chesapeake bay which lies between the Capes and the south boundary of this state, and so much thereof as is necessary to the navigation of the rivers Patowmack and Pocomoke, ought to be considered as a common highway, free for the people of both states, without being subject to any duty, burthens, or charge, as hath been heretofore accustomed.

“ RESOLVED *unanimously*, That it is the opinion of this convention, that the very extensive claim of the state of Virginia to the back lands hath no foundation in justice, and that if the same, or any like claim, is admitted, the freedom of the smaller states, and the liberties of America, may be thereby greatly endangered; this convention being firmly persuaded, that if the dominion over those lands should be established by the blood and treasure of the United States, such lands ought to be considered as a common stock, to be parcelled out at proper times into convenient, free and independent governments.”

The house took the same into consideration, and were informed, That a copy of the said resolutions was delivered by a delegate of this state in congress early last winter, to a delegate for Virginia, to be laid before the legislature thereof, and thereupon RESOLVED, That Mr. Speaker be requested to join the president of the senate in a letter to the honourable the general assembly of the state of Virginia, and to enclose a copy of the said resolves to that body, and to request their sentiments on the subject matter therein contained, and to assure that respectable body, that this assembly entertain the most cordial esteem and friendship for their sister state of Virginia, and are anxiously solicitous to preserve the same inviolate, by removing and preventing every cause of discontent and jealousy.

T. Stone, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker the resolve of this day, sent up by Mr. Holland and Mr. Williams, thus endorsed; “ By the senate, Nov. 8, 1777: Read and assented to with the following amendments: Between the word “ furnish” and the word “ one,” in the second line, insert the words, “ one pair of good strong shoes and.” And between the word “ for” and the word “ each,” in the fifth line, insert the words, “ each pair of shoes and for.” And between the word “ pair,” and the word “ not,” in the 5th line, insert the words, “ of stockings.”

By order,

A. C. HANSON, cl. sen.

Which amendments were read, and ordered to lie on the table.

On motion, leave given to bring in a bill to ascertain and establish a divisional line between Anne-Arundel and Calvert counties. ORDERED, That Mr. Hall, Mr. Hammond, Mr. Worthington, Mr. Tillard, Mr. Fitzhugh, and Mr. Somervill, do prepare and bring in the same.

Mr. J. T. Chase appeared in the house.

S. Wilson, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker the following message:

By the S E N A T E, November 8, 1777.

Gentlemen,

WE concur with your resolve of yesterday, by Messrs. A. Hall and Magruder, so far as it relates to the recommendation of the militia officers for Harford county, to be commissioned by the governor; but we cannot consent to recommend a lieutenant for Prince-George's county, apprehending