

A letter of resignation from Mr. Johns was laid before the house and read, and thereupon **ORDERED**, That Mr. Speaker issue his warrant to the sheriff of Talbot county, for the electing a delegate for the said county in the room of Mr. Johns, which issued accordingly, returnable on or before the first day of August next.

Mr. Quynn brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker a bill, entitled, An additional Supplement to the act for the assessment of property within this state; which was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

On motion, Leave given to bring in a bill to procure salt provisions for the army. **ORDERED**, That Mr. Bayly, Mr. Wilmer, Mr. Earle, Mr. Bruff, and Mr. Brown, do prepare and bring in the said bill.

Mr. Ward, from the committee, brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker the following report: By the **COMMITTEE** appointed to take into consideration the petition of sundry inhabitants on the south side of Elk-river, in Cæcil county.

THE committee beg leave to report the following resolutions:

That by an act, entitled, An act for the relief of sundry of the inhabitants of this state, passed in October session 1778, it is enacted, that in all cases where any person has been obliged to desert his habitation, and has sustained considerable damage by means of the ravages and waste of the British army, the governor and council of this state are empowered to give relief, by making an allowance in the assessment of such person.

That this act, though calculated to relieve the distressed of the suffering inhabitants of this state in point of taxation, hath not had the desired effect, by reason of the difficulty and expence in attending the governor and the council, to prove themselves proper objects of the relief intended.

That to remedy this inconvenience, the commissioners of the tax be invested with competent powers of examining into the circumstances of such sufferers, and granting relief to those who may deserve it, in as full and ample manner as the governor and council could by the above recited act; and that the relief proposed should be confined to those who have manifested their attachment to the state.

All which is submitted to the consideration of the honourable house.

By order,

W. H. M'PHERSON, clk.

Which was read.

On hearing and considering the excuse of Mr. M'Mechen, and the excuse offered on behalf of Mr. Jordan, for not attending on the day appointed for the meeting of the general assembly, the house accepted thereof.

The letter from his Excellency the governor, requesting an explanation of the 33d section of the form of government, was read the second time, and referred to Mr. Chase, Mr. J. Hall, Mr. Fitzhugh, Mr. Cadwalader, Mr. M'Mechen, and Mr. Bruff, who are appointed a committee to consider and report thereon.

The house adjourns till 3 o'clock.

P O S T M E R I D I E M.

The house met.

A letter of excuse from Mr. Harrison, for not attending on the day appointed for the meeting of the general assembly, was laid before the house and read.

A petition from Zachariah Forrest, collector of the tax in St. Mary's county, praying to be allowed a further time for the collection and payment of the assessment, was preferred and read the first and second time, and referred to Mr. Eccleston, Mr. Key, and Mr. Mackall, who are appointed a committee to consider and report thereon.

The order of the day, for taking into consideration the resolutions of congress of the 18th and 20th of March last, being read, the question was put, That the same be referred for consideration until Monday next. Resolved in the affirmative.

On a second reading of the bill, entitled, An additional Supplement to the act for recruiting the quota of troops of this state in the American army, which had been committed for amendments, the question was put, That the following words be struck out? "The governor and council, judges of the general court, chancellor, delegates to congress actually there attending, ministers of the gospel who have taken the oath of fidelity to the state, county pensioners, and those entitled to exemptions by having found substitutes heretofore, only excepted, the said exemptions to be finally determined, in case of controversy, by the lieutenant and field officer, or the majority of them then present." The yeas and nays being called for by Mr. Job appeared as follow:

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

Messieurs	Key,	Smith,	Gibson,	Bruff,	M'Comas,	Driver,
	Mackall,	Frøeland,	Birkhead,	Earle,	Archer,	Sprigg,
	W. Stevenson,	S. Hanson,	Job,	Ringgold,	Norris,	Burgess,
	Fitzhugh,	Deye,	Magruder,	Gaunt,	Taylor,	Bayly.
	Williamson,	Banning,				

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