

continue, and even to be increased by an heavy accumulating interest upon a large debt, for which no funds are yet provided, and our quota of the continental debt and interest remains also unprovided for, the strictest œconomy in all our affairs is certainly become necessary; we therefore think, that the salaries of the gentlemen of the council might be lowered to three hundred pounds each, the auditor-general three hundred and fifty pounds, and his deputy one hundred and fifty pounds, and the clerk of the council two hundred pounds, the treasurer's office we are of opinion may well be executed for six hundred pounds to the principal, out of which he might employ assistant clerks.

We have another objection to the bill, more weighty than that already mentioned. The independency of the judges is essential to the impartial dispensation of justice; this principle cannot be questioned, and is recognized by the declaration of rights; for in pursuance of the principle that declaration provides, "that salaries liberal, but not profuse, ought to be secured to the chancellor and judges, during the continuance of their commissions." Their salaries have hitherto been settled annually by the civil list bill, and consequently cannot be said to be secured to them during the continuance of their commissions. It may not be improper to settle annually the salaries of officers annually chosen, nothing at least in our constitution expressly militates against an annual regulation of the salaries of such officers; but an annual regulation of the judges salaries, is repugnant, as we conceive, to the letter and spirit of the constitution, which meant that they should really be independent, and superior to every undue influence. In our judgment, no influence over them would be more dangerous than that of the legislature, arising from the hope of increasing, or the apprehension of decreasing, salaries; an influence of this kind would have a tendency to introduce the greatest evil in government, an accumulation and union in the same persons of the legislative and judicial powers, so wisely and expressly proscribed by our constitution.

The perplexities and confusion of the times may apologise, in some degree, for past inadvertency, for we are convinced, a deliberate violation of the declaration of rights was never intended by the legislature in any point, much less in one so essential. However, as the enemy hath some time since changed an offensive into a defensive war on this continent, as now a regular and effectual administration of law and justice hath taken place amongst us, it is become the duty of the general assembly to establish permanent salaries, and to secure a punctual and full payment of them to the judges.

We therefore deem it both expedient and necessary that a bill, distinct from the civil list bill, should originate in your house for that purpose; such a bill will meet with our ready concurrence, provided that the salaries of the judges be liberal, compared with the present exigencies of the state; for what might now be esteemed liberal under those exigencies, may not appear so hereafter, when, from a happy change of circumstances, the resources of the people sh. l. be greater than at present. In this point of view, we consider the salaries settled on the judges by the present bill as sufficiently liberal.

If on a revision of the subjects of this message, your ideas should coincide with ours, as to the quantum of the salaries proposed by us to be altered, and settled annually on all the other civil officers of government, except the judges, a bill originated by you for that purpose will have our ready assent.

By order,

Charles Carroll, of Carrollton, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker the bill to prevent the subjects of an enemy from coming into this state, endorsed; "By the senate, December 5, 1782: Read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

J. MACCUBBIN, clk.

" By order,

" By the senate, December 12, 1782: Read the second time and will not pass.

J. MACCUBBIN, clk.

" By order,

Also a petition from John M'Mullen, of Worcester county, praying an outlet from a lot of ground in Snow-Hill, over the land of a certain William Selby; and a petition and remonstrance from sundry inhabitants of Worcester county, praying that the register of the land-office might be directed not to grant warrants to affect those parts of Bald-Beach calculated for salt-making, where the applicants have no other view than to monopolise the manufacturing that article; severally endorsed; "By the senate, December 12, 1782: Read and referred to the consideration of the house of delegates.

J. MACCUBBIN, clk."

" By order,

J. MACCUBBIN, clk."

Which were read.

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

F R I D A Y, December 13, 1782.

**T**HE house met. Present the same members as on yesterday, except Mr. Stull, Mr. Stevens, Mr. Holland, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Seney, and Mr. Smithson. The proceedings of yesterday