

May 27  
Liber C. B.  
No. 24  
p. 421

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> May 1783.

Present His Excellency the Governor

Benjamin Stoddert, Gabriel Duvall and James Brice Esquires.—

Ordered that the western shore Treasurer pay to Henrietta M. Walker Administratrix of Joseph Walker Deceased, One hundred pounds, nine shillings and nine pence and to Kirby Jones seventeen pounds, ten shillings and ten pence specie agreeable to the "Act to adjust the Debts due from this State" per Accounts passed.—

That the said Treasurer pay to James Vernay four pounds eleven shillings specie agreeable to the Act aforesaid per Account passed the 2<sup>d</sup> of December 1782.—

May 27  
Liber No. 78  
p. 441

[W<sup>m</sup> Paca, in Council Annapolis to The Chev<sup>r</sup> D'anmours, Consul General of France]

We have been honored with yours of the 15<sup>th</sup> instant and wish it were in our Power to make such Arrangements in the Naval Department as might give you Satisfaction, but our present System of Laws will not suffer Us to adopt the Proposition of lodging the Papers of foreign Ships with the Consuls of the Nations to which they respectively belong.—Policy, and the Dignity of Government require that the Collection of Duties should be entrusted only to Subjects of the State, and consequently Ship's Papers ought to be deposited with them only as a Security in the first place for the Payment of the Duties, and as Vouchers in the next place to ascertain the Dutiable Articles and the Quantum.

Altho' our Naval Officers are men of Integrity and Abilities our Laws will not depend on that Security, but require an Oath of Office with Sureties for the faithful Execution of the Trust: besides Officers of our own Appointment, are removeable at our pleasure for Misconduct, and always amenable to our Authority. The Consular Power where there is no Compact or Treaty ascertaining it's extent is a very Limited Jurisdiction and exercisable only in Matters which merely arise between Subjects of the Nation to which the Consul belongs and which affect them solely and exclusively. There is no Doubt that some System will be soon established by Congress on this Subject, and we hope no ill Consequences will arise in the Mean time acting in Conformity to our Laws and the Common Practice and Usage of our Naval Officers.—

Ibid. [W<sup>m</sup> Paca in Council Annapolis to The Honorable The General Assembly]

The Memorial which accompanies this has been for some Time past preferred to us on a Supposition that we were the proper Body for the Citizens of this State in the Predicament of the Memorialists to apply to for the means of Redress: but on a full Consideration of