

"Journal of the Council"

"In Council April 1st. 1789

"Sir,

We have given full consideration to the Auditor General's letter of the 26th. March last respecting the expediency of some person's attending on the part of this State to the final Settlement of its' Accounts with the Union, to your Communication on the same Subject, and to the powers vested in the General Board of Commissioners by the Ordinance of Congress of the 7th. May 1787, and we are perfectly convinced that such a Measure is proper and necessary, and that the Assembly if now Sitting would adopt it. We therefore authorize and request you to proceed to New York in quality of Commissioner on behalf of this State, and to lay before the General Board of Commissioners such further claims as you may think the United States ought to be charged with, as well as such [p. 55] testimonies and vouchers as may tend to make good the charges already made. Your knowledge of the business renders more particular directions unnecessary at this time. Our Senators and Representatives in the Congress of the United States will, we have no doubt render you their assistance in any difficulties that may arise in the execution of this trust, and we shall give immediate attention to such communications as you may make us on the progress of the business. We shall not undertake to fix your Salary; the General Assembly will undoubtedly consider your services properly, but we will make you occasional advances—" On which the Honorable John Davidson Esqr. proposed to strike out the words "your knowledge of the business renders more particular directions unnecessary at this time"—and insert the following—"We conceive your letter, with the Auditors report (which we enclose you) comprehend nearly the whole of the business you will be engaged in, your knowledge of the Accounts and claims of Maryland makes it unnecessary for us to be very particular on this subject, one circumstance however in addition to those laid before us, we wish to draw your attention while in New York, that is the Advances made by Congress in Continental Money to the several States; for we have great reason to believe Maryland has not drawn from the Continental treasury near her proportion, should this be the case she certainly ought to have credit on the Books of the United States for the deficiency, as the several States are now producing claims against the Union which have been procured with the money advanced them respectively, therefore it is necessary for Maryland to see that those Charges are properly brought forward or have the Credit Suggested."

On the Question to agree to the Amendment the votes appeared as follows:

Negative

The Hon'ble. James Brice
John Kilty Esqr.

Affirmative

The Hon'ble. John Davidson Esqr.

The Council adjourned 'till tomorrow morning.

Thursday 2d. April 1789

The Council met.

Present as on Yesterday.

The Council adjourned 'till tomorrow morning.