

And returns the bill, entitled, An act for the relief of Benjamin Moreton, of Baltimore county, thus endorsed; "By the house of delegates, December 8, 1796: Read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

"By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk.

"By the house of delegates, December 12, 1796: Read the second time and will pass.

"By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk."

Which said last mentioned bill was ordered to be engrossed.

The bill, entitled, An act for the benefit of Eleanor Shuman, widow of Peter Shuman, and her children, was read the second time and will pass.

The senate adjourns until to-morrow morning 10 o'clock.

T U E S D A Y, December 13, 1796.

THE senate met. Present the same members as on yesterday, except the honourable John Grahame, Esquire, who had leave of absence. The proceedings of yesterday were read.

The bill, entitled, An act declaring the right of personal liberty, and redressing the injuries there-to, and the bill, entitled, An act for the benefit of Eleanor Shuman, widow of Peter Shuman, and her children, were sent to the house of delegates by the clerk.

The bill, entitled, An act to confirm the title of Levin Irving and Samuel Smylie to the lands therein mentioned, was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

The clerk of the house of delegates delivers to the clerk of the senate a bill, entitled, An act to ascertain the allowance to jurymen and witnesses of the general courts, and the several county and orphan courts in this state, thus endorsed; "By the house of delegates, December 5, 1796: Read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

"By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk.

"By the house of delegates, December 12, 1796: Read the second time and will pass.

"By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk."

A bill, entitled, An act to ascertain the allowance of the members of the general assembly, electors of the senate, and electors of president and vice-president of the United States, thus endorsed; "By the house of delegates, December 12, 1796: Read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

"By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk.

"By the house of delegates, December 12, 1796: Read the second time by especial order and will pass.

"By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk."

And a bill, entitled, An act for the better administration of justice in the several counties of this state, thus endorsed; "By the house of delegates, November 22, 1796: Read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

"By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk.

"By the house of delegates, December 10, 1796: Read the second time and will pass.

"By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk."

Which said bills were severally read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

The bill, entitled, An act to authorise the president and directors of the Patowmack company to contract the breadth of the locks at the Great Falls of Patowmack, was read the second time by especial order and will pass.

To the PEOPLE of the UNITED STATES.

FRIENDS and FELLOW-CITIZENS,

THE period for a new election of a citizen, to administer the executive government of the United States, being not far distant, and the time actually arrived, when your thoughts must be employed in designating the person, who is to be clothed with that important trust, it appears to me proper, especially as it may conduce to a more distinct expression of the public voice, that I should now apprise you of the resolution I have formed, to decline being considered among the number of those, out of whom a choice is to be made.

I beg you, at the same time, to do me the justice to be assured, that this resolution has not been taken, without a strict regard to all the considerations appertaining to the relation, which binds a dutiful citizen to his country; and that, in withdrawing the tender of service which silence in my situation might imply, I am influenced by no diminution of zeal for your future interest; no deficiency of grateful respect for your past kindness; but am supported by a full conviction that the step is compatible with both.

The acceptance of, and continuance hitherto in, the office to which your suffrages have twice called me, have been a uniform sacrifice of inclination to the opinion of duty, and to a deference for what appeared to be your desire. I constantly hoped, that it would have been much earlier in my power, consistently with motives, which I was not at liberty to disregard, to return to that retirement, from which I had been reluctantly drawn. The strength of my inclination to do this, previous to the last election, had even led to the preparation of an address to declare it to you; but mature reflection on the then perplexed and critical posture of our affairs with foreign nations, and the unanimous advice of persons entitled to my confidence, impelled me to abandon the idea.

I rejoice, that the state of your concerns, external as well as internal, no longer renders the pursuit of inclination incompatible with the sentiment of duty, or propriety; and am persuaded whatever partiality may be retained for my services, that in the present circumstances of our country, you will not disapprove my determination to retire.

The impressions with which I first undertook the arduous trust, were explained on the proper occasion. In the discharge of this trust, I will only say, that I have with good intentions, contributed towards