

4. PROCEEDINGS of the CONVENTION

relative to the conduct of the said Samuel Purviance, junior, which was read a first and second time, and follows in these words, to wit.

“ By the committee appointed to examine the papers laid before the Convention by the Council of Safety, relative to the conduct of Samuel Purviance, junior, of Baltimore-town, &c.

“ YOUR committee do report, that they have examined the papers laid before the Convention, from which it appears to your committee, that the charge arising from the said papers falls under the following heads :

“ First, That the said Samuel Purviance, since the rising of the last Convention, hath usurped a power to direct the operations of the military force of this province (at the recess of Convention, was sitting, and might without inconvenience have been applied to) as appears by his letter of instructions to captain Samuel Smith of colonel Smallwood's battalion, bearing date the 14th day of April last, a copy of which, attested by the clerk of the Council of Safety, your Committee refer to.

“ Secondly, That the said Samuel Purviance being, at the time of his writing the said letter and giving the said instructions, chairman of the committee of Baltimore county, did write the said letter and give the said instructions under colour of his said office of chairman, and as if at the request of the said committee; whereas the said committee were not consulted thereon, nor made acquainted therewith, as appears by the said letter and instructions, and by the proceedings of the said committee, attested copies whereof among the said papers are referred to.

“ Thirdly, That the said Samuel Purviance, by writing and speaking, and particularly by a letter by him written to the president of the Congress some time about the middle of April last, hath unjustly represented the Convention and Council of Safety, as irresolute and afraid to execute the trusts reposed in them, and endeavoured to draw a suspicion upon them of a want of spirit and zeal in the execution of their duty.

“ All which is humbly submitted to the consideration of the honourable Convention.

“ By order, R. RIDGELY, clk. com.”

On consideration whereof, RESOLVED, That Thursday next be appointed for the appearance of Samuel Purviance, junior, to answer the charge exhibited against him; but if it should appear by affidavit that Mr. John Smith (whose testimony Mr. Purviance alleges is material to him) cannot be had here on that day, then the Convention do order, that Mr. Purviance shall appear as aforesaid on the Saturday following at 9 o'clock.

Mr. Mackall and Mr. Buchanan appeared in the house.

On reading a second time the petition of James Hutchings of Queen-Anne's county against the conduct of Samuel Purviance, junior, RESOLVED, That the same be taken into consideration on Thursday next.

The proposals of Henry Hollingsworth being read a second time, RESOLVED, That a committee be appointed to consider of the same and report their opinion thereon; and Mr. Gilpin, Mr. Ringgold, and Mr. Rumsey, were elected by ballot a committee for that purpose.

Convention adjourns till to-morrow morning 9 o'clock.

SATUR-