

governor of the state of Maryland, and desiring him to take upon himself the execution of his office.

Adjourned till next day 3 o'clock P. M.

S A T U R D A Y, February 15, 1777.

**S**ENATE met according to adjournment. The same members present as on yesterday, except Turbutt Wright, Esq; The proceedings of yesterday were read.

On reading a second time the message from the house of delegates by Messieurs Douglass and Williams, the following message, in answer, was sent to the house of delegates by Joseph Nicholson, junior, Esquire.

By the S E N A T E, February 15, 1777.

Gentlemen,

WE beg leave to suggest the propriety of fixing the number to be chosen delegates to congress, before the ballot is taken, and propose that the number be five; should you agree to this, we will then immediately appoint a committee of this, to join the committee named by your house, for the purpose mentioned in your message by Messieurs Douglass and Williams. We have requested the president of this house, to join the speaker of yours, in a letter to be sent by express to Mr. Johnson, notifying his appointment, and wish this business to be done as speedily as may be. We also propose, that a joint letter from the president of this, and the speaker of your house, be written to the gentlemen nominated of the council, requesting their attendance to put in motion the executive branch of our government.

By order,

R. RIDGELY, cl. sen.

Mr. Yates and Mr. Benson from the house of delegates, bring in and deliver to Mr. President the following message:

By the HOUSE of DELEGATES, February 14, 1777.

May it please your honours,

THIS house concur with the two last propositions in your message of this day by Joseph Nicholson, Esquire. They were aware of the impropriety of proceeding to ballot for delegates in congress, without ascertaining the number, and are of opinion the number you propose is too small, therefore propose six, and that any three or more of them be authorized and empowered to represent this state in congress.

By order,

G. DUVALL, cl. ho. del.

Which was read and ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Burgess and Mr. Stevenson from the house of delegates, bring in and deliver to Mr. President the following message:

By the HOUSE of DELEGATES, February 15, 1777.

May it please your honours,

THIS house have requested their speaker to join the president of your house in a letter of thanks to colonel Simpson, of Accomack county in the state of Virginia, for his spirited conduct in marching his battalion of militia into this state, in order to assist general Hooper in quelling the insurrection in Somerset and Worcester counties, and hope for your concurrence.

By order,

G. DUVALL, cl. ho. del.

Which was read and ordered to lie on the table.

The senate, having previously qualified for the purpose, proceeded to the choice of a member in the room of Edward Tilghman, Esq; who declined taking a seat in the senate, and Thomas B. Hands, Esquire, was elected by ballot.

The following message was sent to the house of delegates by Matthew Tilghman, Esquire.

By the S E N A T E, February 15, 1777.

Gentlemen,

WE think it necessary, in consequence of the intelligence this day received by capt. Winder, to dispatch an express to general Smallwood, with instructions to discharge from their present service the Virginia regiment, and the two companies of regulars on the continental establishment; we are also of opinion, that orders should be given to countermand the Annapolis independent company of militia, which still remains in this city; if the express should reach the general before the troops land at Cambridge, such an instruction will probably prevent their landing, and at least save them a fatiguing and unnecessary march to Somerset and Worcester counties, by avoiding of which, they will be enabled to join general Washington the sooner; who we have reason to believe stands in need of being speedily reinforced. We conceive such an instruction the more necessary, as without it, we apprehend, general Smallwood will look upon himself obliged, in compliance with his former instructions, to proceed with his whole force to  
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