

mination of mens characters and comparative abilities in this way. Anxious to finish the business of appointing the civil officers of the state, and desirous that men of the first ability and integrity may be appointed, we agree to a free communication of sentiments on this subject previous to a joint ballot, and have appointed Joseph Nicholson and Matthew Tilghman, Esquires, of this house, to meet such members as may be appointed by yours for that purpose.

By order,

R. POTTS, cl. sen.

On the second reading of the resolve of the house of delegates respecting surgeons, &c. for the army, the same was assented to with the following amendment, viz. After the word "general" in the fifth line of the first page, insert the following, "whilst attending his duty."

Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Ridgely from the house of delegates, deliver to Mr. President the petitions sent them by Mr. Contee, and also Daniel Melfon's petition, severally endorsed as follows: "By the house of delegates, April 2, 1777: Read and referred to the governor and council, with full power to take such order thereon as they think proper."

"By order,

G. DUVALL, cl. ho. del."

Which were severally read, and the petitions referred to the governor and council, with full power as above.

Adjourned till next day 10 o'clock.

### T H U R S D A Y, April 3, 1777.

**S**ENATE met according to adjournment. The same members present as on yesterday except Robert Goldsborough, Esquire. The proceedings of yesterday were read.

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

The petitions referred yesterday to the governor and council, were sent by Thomas Stone, Esquire.

Mr. Gibson and Mr. Archer from the house of delegates, deliver to Mr. President the following letter from the governor, and resolve of the house of delegates.

Gentlemen of the general assembly,

I HAVE been informed that some of the militia who were lately in service under my command, have expressed their dissatisfaction at their not having received their pay. Thinking it by no means prudent that they should call at Philadelphia in their way home, and there wait the settlement of their accounts, I promised to use my endeavours that every thing should be finished in their own neighbourhood, and have taken such steps as I thought most likely to succeed, to get some person appointed by congress to settle with and pay them: but I have not learned whether it has been mentioned in congress, and think it likely that in the multiplicity of their more important business it may be omitted. Persuaded that the march of the militia was serviceable to our cause and may again be necessary, I should be sorry that occasion for any just complaint was given, or that a delay should discourage their marching on a future emergency. I have therefore, and because I know that many of those who cheerfully went have pressing necessities for the little due to them, taken the liberty to recommend this matter to your consideration, and to request that you will appoint persons to settle the accounts, and, if necessary, enable an advance by our treasury of the money due.

THOMAS JOHNSON, jun.

### In the HOUSE of DELEGATES, April 3, 1777.

**O**N reading his excellency the governor's letter to the general assembly of April 2, 1777, relative to the pay of the militia lately in the service of the United States, and under his command, **RESOLVED**, That his excellency be empowered to appoint proper persons to audit and settle the accounts of the said militia, and to draw on the treasurers of this state for such sums of money as may be necessary for the discharge of such claims, and that he be requested to take the most effectual and speedy measures for re-payment of any monies advanced by this for the use of the United States.

Extract from the minutes,

G. DUVALL, cl. ho. del.

Which resolve and letter were severally read, and the resolve assented to and sent to the governor by George Plater, Esq;

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

### By the HOUSE of DELEGATES, April 3, 1777.

May it please your honours,

WE concur with your message by Matthew Tilghman, Esq; and have appointed Mr. Hall, Mr. Wootton, and Mr. J. T. Chase, to meet the members appointed by your house.

By order,

G. DUVALL, cl. ho. del.

Matthew Tilghman, Esq; brings in a bill, entitled, An act to open the courts of justice, and for other purposes therein mentioned; which was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

Mr.