

Mr. Smith and Mr. Sheredine from the house of delegates, deliver to Mr. President the following message :

By the HOUSE of DELEGATES, April 3, 1777.

May it please your honours,

THIS house have named Mr. Hall, Mr. Wootton, and Mr. Bruff, to join such members of your house as you may appoint, to examine the ballot boxes, for the appointment of judges and other officers, in the place of those objected to by your honours. This house are of opinion, that no person should be balloted for to any office or appointment, unless named to each house before balloting, and that no ballots ought to be counted for any person not so named. If this mode should meet with your honours approbation, the persons proposed to this house will be communicated to the senate.

By order,

G. DUVALL, cl. ho. del.

The engrossed bill, No. 4, with the paper bill, entitled, An act to expedite the march of troops in and through this state, was read and assented to, and sent to the house of delegates by George Plater, Esq;

The following message was sent to the house of delegates by Joseph Nicholson, jun. Esq;

By the SENATE, April 3, 1777.

Gentlemen,

WE have appointed Thomas Contee and Charles Grabame, Esquires, to join the members named by your house to examine the ballot boxes for the appointment of judges and other officers in the place of those upon your list who were objected to by us.

We concur in the proposition made in your message by Messieurs Smith and Sheredine, and on being informed of the persons proposed in your house for the vacancies, will communicate the names of those who have been mentioned in this, and shall be ready to ballot this afternoon.

By order,

R. POTTS, cl. sen.

The bill, entitled, An act to direct the forms of the commissions to the judges and justices and civil officers of this state, and the oath of office to be taken by the governor, the chancellor, judges, justices, and all civil officers of this state, was read a second time and will pass with the following amendments.

After the oath of a member of the privy council insert the following: "The oath of chancellor. I, A. B. chancellor, do solemnly promise and swear, that as chancellor I will do equal right and justice according to law, equity and good conscience, in every case in which I shall act as chancellor, freely without sale, fully without any denial, and speedily without delay, and will behave myself justly, honestly and faithfully in the said office, according to the best of my knowledge and understanding. So help me God."

"Oath of judge of the court of admiralty. I, A. B. do solemnly promise and swear, that as judge of the court of admiralty I will do equal right and justice according to law, in every case in which I shall act as judge of the court of admiralty, freely without sale, fully without any denial, and speedily without delay, and will behave myself justly, honestly and faithfully, in the office of judge of the court of admiralty, according to the best of my knowledge. So help me God."

In the first line of the second page, strike out the words "of the chancellor and." In the same line insert the word "other," between the words "any" and "court." In the second line of the same page strike out the word "chancellor;" between the letter "B" and word "judge;" also strike out the word "chancellor" at the end of the same line. In the third line of the same page strike out the words "law and," and between the words "right" and "in" in the same line, insert the words "and justice according to the law of this state;" and in the fourth line strike out the word "chancellor;" in the same line strike out the words "according to the laws thereof." Strike out the words "so long as I shall continue therein" in the sixth and seventh lines.

After the form of the oath to the attorney general, &c. insert the following :

"Form of a commission to the judges of the court of appeals and the general court. The state of Maryland to A. B. C. D. &c. Esquires, Greeting. Be it known, that reposing great trust and confidence in your integrity and sound judgment in the law, you, and every of you, are jointly and severally appointed and assigned judges of the court of appeals, or general court, (as the case may be) to do equal right and justice, according to the law of this state, in every case in which you shall act as judges, jointly or severally, freely without sale, fully without any denial, and speedily without delay. And you, and every three or more of you, are assigned judges of the court of appeals, or you, and every one or more of you, are assigned judges of the general court, (as the case may be) to execute the office of judge of the said court, justly, honestly, and faithfully, according to law, and you are to hold and execute the said office of judge for and during your good behaviour. Given under the seal of the state of Maryland, this day of \_\_\_\_\_ in the year of our lord seventeen hundred, &c.

"Witness C. D. chancellor."