

claration of rights, which declares, "That no other test or qualification ought to be required on admission to any office of trust or profit, than such oath of support and fidelity to this state, and such oath of office, as shall be directed by this convention or the legislature of this state, and a declaration of a belief in the christian religion."

BECAUSE, if the oath prescribed as a test be substantially similar, as is contended, to the oath prescribed by the form of government, it can afford no greater security, and therefore unnecessary; if it be different, it is contrary to the declaration of rights, and ought not to be imposed.

BECAUSE, we conceive it of the last importance to preserve inviolate those two great pillars of the constitution, the declaration of rights and the form of government; the 42d article of the first declares, "That this declaration of rights, or the form of government to be established by this convention, or any part of either of them, ought not to be altered, changed or abolished, by the legislature of this state, but in such manner as this convention shall prescribe and direct;" and the 59th article of the latter, "That this form of government, and the declaration of rights, and no part thereof, shall be altered, changed or abolished, unless a bill so to alter, change or abolish the same, shall pass the general assembly, and be published at least three months before a new election, and shall be confirmed by the general assembly after a new election of delegates, in the first session after such new election." The imposition of this oath is therefore, in our opinion, a direct infringement, both of the declaration of rights and of the form of government, betrays an unbecoming instability in our councils, and has a manifest tendency to endanger the peace and unanimity of the state.

MATTHEW TILGHMAN,
CHARLES CARROLL;

SAMUEL WILSON,
CHARLES GRAHAME.

Mr. Banning and Mr. Ewing from the house of delegates, deliver to the president the following resolve, which was read and concurred with.

In the HOUSE of DELEGATES, April 17, 1777.

RESOLVED, That captain Nathaniel Smith be appointed a major of the artillery stationed at Baltimore-Town; that if circumstances should require major Fulford, stationed at the city of Annapolis, to repair to Baltimore-Town, that major Smith take command of major Fulford during the time he shall remain on duty there; and if the public service should require that major Smith be ordered to Annapolis, that he be there subject to the command of major Fulford.

By order,

G. DUVALL, cl. ho. del.

Sent to the house of delegates by George Plater, Esquire.

The several engrossed bills No. 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, were read and assented to.

On a second reading of the resolve of the house of delegates of the 17th, by Mr. Perkins and Mr. Maxwell, it was dissented to, and sent to the house of delegates, with the following message, by Joseph Nicholson, junior, Esquire.

By the SENATE, April 18, 1777.

Gentlemen,

THO' we do not approve, yet we conceive it not within our department to censure the appointment and meeting of the committees from the four New-England states, and therefore cannot concur with your resolve upon that subject.

We rely on the wisdom of the congress, to whom it more properly belongs, to interpose in case of any meetings or partial confederations dangerous to the general union.

By order,

R. POTTS, cl. sen.

Mr. Magruder and Mr. Allein from the house of delegates, deliver to the president the following resolves, which were read and assented to.

In the HOUSE of DELEGATES, April 18, 1777.

RESOLVED, That the governor be requested to issue his proclamation, commanding all militia officers to train and discipline their several corps, according to the resolutions of the several late conventions of this state.

Great uneasiness having prevailed and still prevailing in Queen-Anne's county, respecting the appointments of field officers in that county, RESOLVED, That the governor and the council be requested to take into consideration the appointments of field officers for the several battalions in Queen-Anne's county, and that the governor, with the advice of the council, appoint and commission such persons as he shall think best qualified for the said offices, and who will best promote the service of this state.

By order,

G. DUVALL, cl. ho. del.

Sent to the house of delegates by Charles Carroll of Carrollton, Esquire,

Mr. Bowie and Mr. Read from the house of delegates, deliver to the president the journal of accounts.