

The following answer to the message of yesterday from the house of delegates, was sent by Samuel Wilson, Esquire.

By the S E N A T E, April 18, 1777.

Gentlemen,

W E shall not, in answer to your message by Messieurs Hall and Lethrbury, enter into a disquisition of any subject, not necessary to produce a passage of the bill referred to. We shall upon all future occasions receive with pleasure information produced by your deliberations; and though the constitution has given us power over your bills, yet you may be assured, this authority shall never be exercised to reject any regulation, which in our judgment consists with the true policy of a free and virtuous society. We do not agree that the persons particularly enumerated in your proposition, be inserted in the bill. If the enumeration comprehends persons not included by the general words in the form of government, we conceive it ought not to be made; if the persons particularly mentioned in your proposition will be included by the general words, the enumeration is not only unnecessary, but will have the effect of creating a doubt, whether others who appear to fall within the same reason, not being particularised, can be required to take the oath; an inconvenience intended to be guarded against by the general comprehensive words adopted by the framers of our government. We have no doubt but the militia and military officers of this state, subsisting commissioners of towns, teachers, visitors and trustees of public or county schools, and members of corporations, may be required to take the oath under the general terms of the bill. A clause for disqualifying *ipso facto* all officers of profit or trust who neglect to take the oath within three months, and for supplying the places thus vacated agreeable to their respective institutions, we think right, and therefore we agree that such a clause, pursuing the general terms of the bill, be inserted. We are sorry that there should still continue a diversity of opinion respecting absentees; we meant to deprive them of office only, should they not comply with the conditions of our amendments, not to subject them to imprisonment for life, if they returned after that time; and when you proposed to limit the time for their return to nine months, instead of during the war, as was by us proposed, we apprehended there was no other disagreement between us. You have now explained your intention to be different from what we understood it to be; and we, upon re-consideration of this subject, do not agree to that part of the clause inflicting the penalty of imprisonment for life upon return after twelve months, because we cannot see the policy of the exclusion which will thereby be produced, and we are unwilling to tarnish the lustre of our glorious cause by any measures which may have the appearance of unnecessary and vindictive severity, and therefore we adhere to our last amendment.

As you think little advantage will be derived to the state by lodging a power with the justices of the peace, to arrest the disaffected and compel them to give bond with security for their good behaviour, we shall not particularly adhere to that amendment; but we still retain our opinion, that a clause to that effect might be useful; for though in a few instances the experiment has not been followed with the desired consequences, yet should men of considerable influence and fortune, from a well grounded apprehension of their dangerous practices, be obliged to give bond with security for their peaceable conduct, we conceive they would demean themselves for the future in such manner as not to give just cause of suspicion or offence.

By order,

R. POTTS, cl. sen.

Mr Magruder and Mr. Maxwell from the house of delegates, deliver to the president a bill, entitled, A supplementary act to the act, entitled, an act to promote the recruiting service, which was read a first time and ordered to lie on the table

Mr. Archer and Mr. Bond from the house of delegates, deliver to the president the following resolve, which was read and assented to.

In the HOUSE of DELEGATES, April 18, 1777.

RESOLVED, That the marines in the service of this state shall have the same pay and cloathing as the artillery men in the service of this state.

By order,

G. DUVALL, cl. ho. del.

Sent to the house of delegates by Thomas Contec, Esquire.

The bill, entitled, An act relating to the bills of credit emitted by an act of assembly passed at November session 1766, was read a second time and will pass, with the following amendments and message therewith sent by Charles Grahame, Esquire, to the house of delegates.

Amendments. Strike out from the word "and" in the 11th line of the 2d page to the word "authorised" in the 14th line of the same page, inclusive, and insert the following: "And whereas by another act; entitled, An act for emitting bills of credit, and other purposes therein mentioned, passed at a session of assembly begun and held at the city of Annapolis, on Friday the 17th day of November, and ended the 20th day of December, anno domini 1769, among other things it was enacted, That an office should be kept at Annapolis, under the management of two such persons, commissioners, who should reside in the city of Annapolis, to be nominated and appointed by the governor, or commander in chief for the time being, to carry the said act in execution: And also it was enacted, that the said commissioners, within the time appointed by the said