

mediately necessary, as will appear by reference to our message. The infant and humble state of our marine does not require dock-yards, store-houses, and an expensive navy board. We wish to ease the governor and council, whenever it can be done consistently with the public welfare, and therefore we would willingly consent that they should employ discreet and trusty persons to import military stores, and such as are best acquainted with the construction of vessels and their equipment, to overlook and forward our naval preparations, reserving to themselves a general directing, controuling, and superintending power over those whom they may employ for that purpose. It will be necessary, we apprehend, before the close of the session, to continue to the governor and council some of the powers already entrusted to them by a resolve of the general assembly of the 21st of March, in the delineation of which, such as are requisite for the above purposes, may safely and with more propriety be lodged in the governor and council, than in a distinct board, not subject to the direction and controul of the chief executive power in our state, from which, by our constitution, all other subordinate executive powers ought regularly to flow.

By order,

R. POTTS, cl. sen.

Mr. Sheredine and Mr. Smith from the house of delegates, deliver to the president a bill, entitled, An act for the payment of the journal of accounts, endorsed as follows; "By the house of delegates, April 18, 1777: Read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

By order,

G. DUVALL, cl. ho. del.

"By the house of delegates, April 19, 1777: Read a second time by an especial order and will pass.

By order,

G. DUVALL, cl. ho. del."

The bill, entitled, A supplementary act to the act, entitled, an act to promote the recruiting service, was read a second time by an especial order and will not pass. Sent to the house of delegates by William Paca, Esq;

The engrossed bill, entitled, An act to open the courts of justice, and for other purposes, was sent to the house of delegates by Thomas Stone, Esq;

On reading of the message from the house of delegates of this day by Messieurs Ennalls and Maxwell, the following answer was drawn, and sent to the house of delegates by William Paca, Esq;

By the S E N A T E, April 19, 1777.

Gentlemen,

IN consequence of your message of this day by Messieurs Ennalls and Maxwell, we have appointed George Plater and Matthew Tilghman, Esquires, to join the gentlemen named by you for consulting with the governor and council on the most effectual measures for the security and protection of this state.

By order,

R. POTTS, cl. sen.

The bill, entitled, An act for the payment of the journal of accounts, was read a first time and ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Harrison and Mr. Richardson from the house of delegates, deliver to the president the following instructions:

By the GENERAL ASSEMBLY of MARYLAND, April 18, 1777.

INSTRUCTIONS to Samuel Chase, William Paca, William Smith, Benjamin Rumsey, and Charles Carroll of Carrollton, Esquires, delegates to congress.

WE have long and impatiently expected that a confederacy would have been formed between the United States; nothing we apprehend but the urgency of affairs more immediately pressing and necessary would have protracted to this time that essential measure. Without it there will be no bond of unity among these states, no general superintending and controuling power; when once the object of the subsisting union ceases by a happy conclusion of the present war, you, gentlemen, must be fully sensible of the importance of a permanent confederacy, and that its permanency depends on its being founded in justice and good policy. On a subject in which we feel ourselves and our posterity will be so deeply interested, it becomes our duty thus publicly to deliver our sentiments for the better regulation of your conduct. We do therefore instruct you to move for a stricter union and confederacy of the Thirteen United States, reserving expressly to the general assembly of this state the power of confirming and ratifying the said confederacy, without which ratification we shall not consider it as binding upon this state; and should any other colony solicit to be admitted into that confederacy, you are to oppose such admission until the general assembly can be informed thereof, and their consent obtained thereto.

Without an economical management of our revenues, it will be extremely difficult to support this expensive war; nothing can contribute more to such management than a liquidation of the public debt, and the laying down in the confederacy some equitable rule for the ascertaining the quotas of that debt, which the several confederating states are to pay. We know no rule liable to so few exceptions as the number of white inhabitants in each of the states; negroes rather weaken than strengthen the southern states, yet as they are accounted property, tho' often of a precarious, and the very young and aged always of an expensive, nature, we consent that the negro taxables in this state be deemed and taken as part of our people for the purpose of taxation.

Representatives