

T U E S D A Y, December 16, 1777.

THE senate met. Present the same members as on yesterday. The proceedings of yesterday were read.

Messrs. Winder and M^cPherson, from the house of delegates, deliver to the president the resolves of congress, which were sent from this house on the 3d of December, by Charles Carroll of Carrollton, Esq; and a resolve of the house of delegates, to empower the governor and the council to open subscriptions in each county for loans, and to appoint a commissary to procure supplies and necessaries for the officers and soldiers; which was read and ordered to lie on the table.

Messrs. Smoot and Brice, from the house of delegates, deliver to the president a resolve to establish the salaries of several officers of the government; which was read and ordered to lie on the table.

Messrs. Ford and H. Wilson, from the house of delegates, deliver to the president the following message:

By the HOUSE of DELEGATES, December 16, 1777.

May it please your honours,

THIS house having taken into their consideration the resolve of congress of the 22d of November, 1777, recommending to the states of Virginia, Maryland, and North-Carolina, the appointment of commissioners to meet at Fredericksburg in Virginia on the 15th day of January next, in order to regulate and ascertain the price of labour, manufactures, internal produce, and commodities imported from foreign parts, military stores excepted, and also to regulate the charges of innholders, are of opinion that the said recommendation ought to be complied with, and accordingly propose to appoint five commissioners, with a power to any three or more of them to act in conjunction with the commissioners of the other states, for the above purposes.

Should your honours concur with us in opinion, this house will immediately proceed to ballot for the commissioners to be appointed by this state. The list of gentlemen proposed to be ballotted for is herewith sent.

Which was read.

Messrs. Kent and Ward, from the house of delegates, deliver to the president a bill, entitled, An act of indemnity, thus endorsed; "By the house of delegates, December 10, 1777. Read the first time and ordered to lie on the table."

"By order, G. DUVALL, cl. ho. del.
"By the house of delegates, December 16, 1777: Read the second time and will pass.

"By order, G. DUVALL, cl. ho. del."

The bill, entitled, An act for the better security of the government, was read the second time, passed, with the following amendments, and sent to the house of delegates by George Plater, Esq;

Amendments: After the word, "shall," in the 12th line of the first page, strike out to the word, "take," in the said twelfth line, and insert, "on or before the first day of March next."

After the word, "shall," in the seventeenth line of the first page, strike out to the word, "solemnly," and insert, "on or before the first day of March next." After the word, "name, in the eighteenth line of the first page, strike out to the words, "it being represented," in the beginning of the eleventh page, and insert the several following clauses:

"*And be it enacted,* That the said oath and affirmation shall be taken within the time aforesaid, before some magistrate of the county or city where the person, who takes such oath or affirmation, resides.

"*And be it enacted,* That every magistrate aforesaid shall keep two paper books; one for all persons who shall take the oath aforesaid, and the other for all persons who shall take the affirmation aforesaid, prefixing to one of the said books the oath aforesaid, and to the other the affirmation aforesaid. And all persons required by this act to take the said oath, or affirmation shall, after taking the same, subscribe his name thereto, in such book as contains the oath, if such person takes the said oath, or in such book as contains the affirmation, if such person takes the said affirmation; and if any such person cannot write his name, he shall make his mark, and the magistrate shall thereto set his name.

"*And,* For the ascertaining such as shall neglect to take the said oath, or affirmation, and that there may be a record evidence of such neglect,

"*Be it enacted,* That every magistrate aforesaid, shall make out fair copies of his said books, with all convenient dispatch, after the aforesaid first day of March, and the same transmit to the governor and council of this state, and shall deliver the original books to his next county court which shall happen after the said first day of March next, there to be recorded.

"*And be it enacted,* That every magistrate of the county shall, and he is hereby enjoined and required to attend one day in every week, until the said first day of March next, at the most convenient places in his neighbourhood, with his books aforesaid, for the purpose of administering the oath, or affirmation, aforesaid, and for the purpose of having the same subscribed to,