

Messrs. Hammond and Bowie, from the house of delegates, deliver to the president a bill, entitled, An act for the payment of the Journal of the accounts, thus endorsed; "By the house of delegates, December 22, 1777: Read the first and second time, by an especial order, and will pass." By order, G. DUVALL, cl. ho. del.

Messrs. Strawbridge and Crabb, from the house of delegates, deliver to the president a resolve relative to the ship Lydia, which was read and assented to.

The resolve of the house of delegates, of November 28, by Messrs. Plowden and L. Wilson, was read the second time, and assented to.

The said resolve, with the resolve of this day, by Messrs. Lechbury and Kent, and the resolve of this day, by Messrs. Maxwell and Quynn, and the resolve of this day, by Messrs. Strawbridge and Crabb, were sent to the house of delegates, by William Hindman, Esq;

Messrs. Chase and Lechbury, from the house of delegates, deliver to the president the engrossed bill, No. 22, with the paper bill thereof, which engrossed bill was thus endorsed; "By the house of delegates, December 22, 1777: Read and assented to."

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

On motion, RESOLVED, That Daniel of St Thomas Jenifer, Thomas Stone, and Samuel Chase, Esqrs. be commissioners for this state, to meet the commissioners appointed by the commonwealth of Virginia, for the purpose of settling the navigation of, and jurisdiction over, that part of Chesapeake bay which lies within the limits of Virginia, and over the rivers Patowmack and Pocomoke; and that the said commissioners, or any two of them, have full power and authority, on behalf of this state, to adjust and settle the jurisdiction to be exercised by the said states respectively over the said waters and the navigation of the same; their proceedings to be laid before the general assembly of this state, and to be ratified or dissented to by the said assembly.

RESOLVED, That the president and the speaker, by a joint letter to the general assembly of Virginia, or, in their recess, to the governor of that commonwealth, give information, that Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer, Thomas Stone, and Samuel Chase, Esqrs. are appointed commissioners on behalf of this state, for the purpose aforesaid; and that they will meet the commissioners of Virginia, at Alexandria, on Monday the second day of February next, or at any other time or place which may be more convenient to the commissioners of Virginia. Which resolutions were sent to the house of delegates by Charles Carroll of Carrollton, Esq;

Messrs. Read and Turner, from the house of delegates, deliver to the president the aforesaid resolve, thus endorsed, "By the house of delegates, Dec. 22, 1777: Read and assented to."

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

Charles Carroll of Carrollton, Esq; from the committee appointed to draw up instructions for the commissioners of this state appointed to meet the commissioners of Virginia, for the purpose of settling the navigation of, and jurisdiction over, that part of the bay of Chesapeake within the limits of Virginia, and over the rivers Patowmack and Pocomoke, brings in and delivers to the president the following report:

INSTRUCTIONS to Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer, Thomas Stone, and Samuel Chase, Esquires, appointed commissioners to meet the commissioners of the commonwealth of Virginia, for the purpose of settling the navigation of, and jurisdiction over, that part of the bay of Chesapeake within the limits of Virginia, and over the rivers Patowmack and Pocomoke.

THE General Assembly of Maryland, reposing great trust and confidence in your discretion, abilities, and integrity, submit to your wisdom and management the settling the extent of the jurisdiction proper to be exercised by this state and the commonwealth of Virginia, over that part of the bay of Chesapeake lying within the limits of Virginia, and over the rivers Patowmack and Pocomoke, as also the free navigation in those waters. These are matters of the utmost consequence to the people of both states, and if happily settled in such manner as to give mutual satisfaction, will contribute to keep up and perpetuate that harmony so essential to the interests of neighbouring states.

As it is not intended, that the settlement made between the respective commissioners should be final or binding, till ratified by the general assembly of each state; for your government in conducting this business, we think proper to instruct you in the following particulars:

1. You are to insist, that the commonwealth of Virginia shall expressly relinquish every claim of right to impose tolls on any vessels whatever sailing through the capes of Chesapeake bay to the state of Maryland, or returning from this state through the said capes outward bound; this you are to insist on as a condition *sine qua non*, and if not acquiesced in by the commissioners from the commonwealth of Virginia, you are to break off the conference, and not enter into the discussion of any of the matters herein after mentioned.

2. You are to endeavour to settle the point of jurisdiction over that part of the bay lying within the limits of Virginia in the following manner: That all piracies, crimes, or offences, committed on the said part of the bay by the subjects of this state, or by any other persons not subjects of the commonwealth of Virginia, against the subjects of this state, shall be tried in the