

P O S T M E R I D I E M.

The senate met.

Dr. Thomas and Mr. Maddux, from the house of delegates, deliver to the president a bill, entitled, An act to raise the supplies for the current year, thus endorsed; "By the house of delegates, April 6, 1778: Read the first time, and ordered to lie on the table.

"By order, G. DUVALL, cl. ho. del."
 "By the house of delegates, April 14, 1778: Read the second time, and will pass.
 "By order, G. DUVALL, cl. ho. del."

Which was read the first time, and ordered to lie on the table.

The senate adjourns till to-morrow morning 9 o'clock.

W E D N E S D A Y, April 15, 1778.

THE senate met. Present the same members as on yesterday, except Brice T. B. Worthington, Esq; The proceedings of yesterday were read.

Mr. Deye and Mr. Stevenson from the house of delegates, deliver to the president a bill, entitled, An act for allowing a further time for taking the oath of fidelity and support to this state, thus endorsed; "By the house of delegates, April 15, 1778: Read the first and second time, by an especial order, and will not pass.

"By order, G. DUVALL, cl. ho. del."
 The bill, entitled, An act to revive and continue the acts of assembly therein mentioned, was read the second time, passed, and sent to the house of delegates, by Charles Grahame, Esq;

On reading a second time the message from the house of delegates, by Mr. Maddux and Mr. Gresham, of Monday last, the following message, in answer, was sent to the house of delegates, by William Hindman, Esq;

By the S E N A T E, April 15, 1778.

Gentlemen,

WE have reconsidered the amendment proposed by this house to the bill, entitled, An act for the speedy recovery of public debts, which you have rejected, and have weighed the reasons urged in your message by Mr. Maddux and Mr. Gresham, against the propriety thereof, which are by no means satisfactory to us. The clause for binding the real property of supposed debtors to the public from the time of issuing writs against them, we conceive, may be productive of very injurious consequences to individuals, without affording any effectual security against fraudulent practices; when a writ is issued, it will only be necessary for the public agent to lodge a short note or declaration of the claim, and in cases where accounts are not liquidated, the course will be to claim the whole money delivered, and put the defendant to make out his application thereof by proof, and the consequence may be, that the party sued will be subject to have his whole real estate tied up until judgment, for a claim of ten thousand pounds, when only one hundred is due, and immediately on judgment being obtained, execution may be taken out against the goods, chattels, lands and tenements of the debtor: The disadvantages attending a sale under these circumstances need not be pointed out. Another effect of the bill will be, that private creditors, who may have advanced money to those who afterwards engage with the public will be necessitated to delay any execution against the lands of their debtors, until a settlement of their public accounts, and judgment thereon had; which we conceive will be very inconvenient, and in many cases unjust. Add to these, that the clause, if not amended will *ex post facto* change the nature and effect of the contract made between the public and those to whom money has been delivered. We cannot see that the bill gives an effectual security against those debtors who are inclined to rob the public by fraudulent conveyances, because such men will not wait until a writ is issued against them, but will convey their estates in trust before any writ can be taken out to bind their lands. The case of loan-office bonds does not appear to be applicable; there the debtor knows the effect of the contract entered into at the time of making it, the sum due may be exactly known, and lands are not tied up for a nominal sum exceeding what is really due; private creditors and purchasers, by application to the office, can know the extent of the incumbrance, and provide for the discharge thereof; by the act regulating the loan-office, steps are directed to be taken to discover if there be any incumbrances on the land prior to a delivery of the money, and the lien originates with the bond, which precludes every possibility of fraudulent conveyances. We wish you to consider these objections to the bill in its present form, and to accede to our amendment; but we are so very desirous to adopt a speedy mode for recovering the public debts, that rather than so necessary a bill should fail, from a disagreement of the two houses upon particular parts of it, that if our reasons in support of the amendment are not satisfactory, we will withdraw it, and agree that the bill shall pass with the clause as it now stands.

By order,

R. RIDGELY, cl. sen.

The senate adjourns till three o'clock.

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