

Thus convinced, we should betray the trust reposed in us by our constituents, were we to authorize you to ratify on their behalf the confederation, unless it be farther explained. We have coolly and dispassionately considered the subject; we have weighed probable inconveniencies and hardships against the sacrifice of just and essential rights; and do instruct you not to agree to the confederation, unless an article or articles be added thereto in conformity with our declaration; should we succeed in obtaining such article or articles, then you are hereby fully empowered to accede to the confederation.

That these our sentiments respecting the confederation may be more publicly known, and more explicitly and concisely declared, we have drawn up the annexed declaration, which we instruct you to lay before congress, to have it printed, and to deliver to each of the delegates of the other states in congress assembled copies thereof, signed by yourselves, or by such of you as may be present at the time of the delivery, to the intent and purpose that the copies aforesaid may be communicated to our brethren of the United States, and the contents of the said declaration taken into their serious and candid consideration.

Also, we desire and instruct you to move at a proper time, that these instructions be read to congress by their secretary, and entered on the journals of congress. We have spoken with freedom, as becomes freemen; and we sincerely wish, that these our representations may make such an impression on that assembly, as to induce them to make such addition to the articles of confederation, as may bring about a permanent union.

The said declaration and instructions were sent to the house of delegates by George Plater, Esq; Messieurs Hughes and Chew from the house of delegates, deliver to the president the journal of accounts, thus endorsed; "By the house of delegates, December 15, 1778: Read and will pass. By order, J. DUCKETT, cl. ho. del."

And also the following resolution:

The Treaties of Alliance, Amity and Commerce, entered into between his Most Christian Majesty and the United States of America, signed at Paris the sixth day of February seventeen hundred and seventy-eight, by the Sieur Gerard, royal syndic of the city of Strasbourg, and secretary of the council of state of his Most Christian Majesty, on behalf of his Most Christian Majesty, and on behalf of the United States of America by doctor Benjamin Franklin, Silas Deane, and Arthur Lee, Esquires, commissioners at the court of Versailles from the said States, and ratified in Congress in the month of May last by the delegates of this state on behalf of this state, they having full powers to ratify the same; being lately communicated to the general assembly by congress, were read and considered.

Whereupon RESOLVED unanimously, That this house doth heartily approve of the said treaties, as equal, honourable, and wise; and as the representatives of the people of Maryland they are determined religiously to abide by, and faithfully to fulfil, as becometh good and true allies, all the articles and conditions of the said treaties.

By order,

J. DUCKETT, cl. ho. del.

RESOLVED, That a copy of the above resolution be transmitted by the president of the senate and speaker of the house of delegates to our delegates in congress, and that they be requested to move that the same be entered on the journals of congress.

By order,

J. DUCKETT, cl. ho. del.

The bill, entitled, An act for the relief of certain nonjurors therein mentioned, was read the first and second time by especial order and will pass; which was sent to the house of delegates by Charles Carroll, Esq; of Carrollton.

Messieurs Hall and Strawbridge, from the house of delegates, deliver to the president the following resolution:

By the HOUSE of DELEGATES, December 15, 1778.

RESOLVED, That Messieurs Smith, Hall, Bruff, Maccubbin, and Bordley, together with such members of the senate as they may think proper to nominate, or any three or more of said persons so nominated, be a committee in the recess of assembly to inspect and examine the accounts and proceedings of the auditor-general, and to see that the same be properly posted and entered up; also the accounts of the late and present commissaries of stores and commissioners of loan-office. That they call on the council of safety and also on the governor and council, for a sight of their journals and other proceedings, and also for an account of the disposition and loan of all public monies; and on all persons who have had public monies advanced to them by the late conventions, general assembly, council of safety, or by order of the governor and council, to render an account thereof, and in general that they or any three or more of them have full powers to enquire into the expenditure of all public monies, and that they have power to send for persons, papers and records, and that they make report of their proceedings to the next general assembly; that they have power to employ a clerk and door keeper, and be allowed their reasonable expences whilst at Annapolis, and in going and coming thereto.

By order,

J. DUCKETT, cl. ho. del.

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