

brought against me as founded on that conversation, and I have now the satisfaction to find not the least evidence has been adduced to fix it on me.

'Tis no uncommon thing to torture a man's sentiments and expressions to his disadvantage; whenever they become a subject of discussion, times and circumstances must be attended to, without which no true opinion can be formed of them. I must beg, gentlemen, therefore, to advert to the time when this conversation happened, and to the particular situation of our affairs at that time. My residence the preceding winter was in the city of Annapolis, and I had an opportunity of being fully informed of many things which did not reach the public ear. Our army under general Washington was known to be much inferior to that of general Howe, had suffered the extremities of cold through the course of the winter, was illy provided, and was more than once on the point of disbanding for want of provisions, they were not more than twenty-two miles from the enemy, and expected daily to be attacked, and in the words of the gentleman who brings the charge against me, were neither in a condition to fight or run away. Add to this, that the flattering hopes of a French alliance, even in the opinions of the most sanguine, began to vanish. The assembly was called for the purpose of recruiting the army, and nothing was thought to be effectual but draughting from the militia. This measure, from my knowledge of the people with whom I was acquainted, and from what I knew had passed in the counties of Accomack and Northampton, in Virginia, I had the greatest reason to believe would fail; under these circumstances, I confess, I was strongly impressed with an opinion, that all further opposition was vain and destructive, and if my fears were more strongly excited than those of other gentlemen, it was my misfortune, not my fault. The expression that I would give up independence, can never be tortured into an aversion to it, surely nothing further can be inferred, than that on good terms for America I should rather part with independence, than vainly struggle on in the pursuit, till nothing was left us but absolute submission.

I have ever exerted myself to the utmost of my power in the support of the independence of America, and I appeal to the supreme magistrate of this state, whether on several occasions, I have not, with alacrity, undertaken and effectually executed what has been required of me, in promotion of the service of this and the United States.

The senate taking into consideration the information given against Mr. Wilson at the last session by Mr. Chase, and having now examined Mr. Paca, one of their members, between whom and Mr. Wilson the conversation happened which was the foundation of that information, and also Mr. Nicholson, another of their members, who was present at the above conversation, are unanimously of opinion, that there is nothing disclosed on the examination of the said William Paca and Joseph Nicholson, that can be considered as any proof at all of the charges brought against Mr. Wilson of toryism or treason.

The senate adjourns till to-morrow morning 8 o'clock.

F R I D A Y, July 30, 1779.

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

Messieurs H. Goldsborough and Smoot, from the house of delegates, deliver to the president a bill, entitled, An act to aid and make valid the proceedings of Talbot county court, thus endorsed; "By the house of delegates, July 30, 1779; Read the first time and ordered to lie on the table. By order, J. DUCKETT, cl. ho. del.

"By the house of delegates, July 30, 1779: Read the second time by especial order and will pass. By order, J. DUCKETT, cl. ho. del."

The engrossed bill, No. 1, was read and assented to.

The engrossed bill, No. 2, was read and assented to, and, with the paper bill thereof, sent to the house of delegates by William Paca, Esq;

Mr. Chase having declared to the senate yesterday, that his information or charge against Mr. Wilson was not properly stated in their record of the 17th day of last session, and that if he was permitted by the senate, he would explain the charge as he then intended to make it. Resolved therefore, That Mr. Chase be permitted to deliver in to the senate, on Monday morning at the sitting of the house, for their consideration, his own state in writing of the information he then gave, or charge he then made, either against Mr. Wilson or any other gentleman, and that he be acquainted by a member of this house with this resolution.

On reading the resolve, the question was put, That the words "for their consideration," struck out? Determined in the negative.

N E G A T I V E.

The honourable Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer, Esq; president, the honourable Matthew T. Man, Joseph Nicholson, Charles Carroll, Barrister, William Hindman, Richard Barne Joseph Sim, Esquires.

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