

I premised, that I did not intend to have spoke of the senate at this time, as I had done, if I had not been urged to it in conversation with some of the members of the house of delegates, respecting a bill then depending for the relief of the nonjurors, because I proposed to publish what I knew, before the next election for senators. I then informed the senate, that on the 14th instant, being asked by a member of the house of delegates my opinion of the bill, I condemned it in strong terms, and observed, that I believed there was a design in some members of both houses to relieve all nonjurors, and that "there were some tories, and some not whigs in both houses," and that I would, if requested, give the information and facts on which I grounded this opinion.

Mr. Nicholson then informed the senate, that in company with him, in the presence of several gentlemen, on the 15th, I had said there were traitors in the senate. To this I answered, that he was certainly mistaken; that I did not recollect I had made use of such an expression, that I could not have spoken in the plural number, because I knew of no fact which could have justified it; that if I had said there was a traitor in the senate, I did not remember it, but I was inclined to believe such a conclusion had been drawn from some transaction I had related of one of the body. Mr. Nicholson said, he could not be positive, but he believed I had said there were traitors in the senate.

I then mentioned to the senate, what I had been informed by Mr. Paca passed between him and Mr. Wilson on Kent island, which was confirmed in substance by Mr. Nicholson. I also mentioned, that in December, 1776, the day before congress left Philadelphia, I was informed by several members of congress, that Mr. Carroll had declared, that he would not have come as a delegate but to bring about a reconciliation. This Mr. Carroll admitted, and said it was his sentiment, and justified by the instructions from this state; I also mentioned, that on the same day I was informed by several members of congress, that either Mr. Carroll or Mr. Tilghman, or both, had proposed to them in the congress room, "to send commissioners to general Howe to ask for terms." Mr. Carroll said, he did not remember he ever made such proposal; Mr. Tilghman said, he never did. Being asked from what member of congress I was told this matter, I answered, I could not exactly remember, but I believed by Mr. Samuel Adams, but was positive I was so informed by several members.

Being asked if I knew of any other conduct, which I deemed exceptionable in any other member, and requested to say all I knew of any of the body, I observed, that there was a connection between Mr. Jennings's family and mine, which I did not desire to have broke off, but that I might not be deemed partial, I would inform them, that Mr. Jennings had taken an oath of allegiance and fidelity to the state of Pennsylvania, after he had qualified as a senator; that in my opinion no man could hold and yield allegiance to two states, and that I thought Mr. Jennings not entitled to a seat in the senate; but I do not remember, nor do I believe, I said Mr. Jennings was of a suspicious character from his connections, or that he ought to be expelled. To have said the first, would have been inconsistent with my desire, to preserve the harmony between our families; to have said the latter, would have been contrary to my opinion of the power of the senate over their members, and expressed at their table. I concluded with reading the letter by the president, and mentioning the conversation I had been informed passed between him and Dr. Craick, which is stated in substance on the journal.

Being called on by Mr. Nicholson to name the traitor in the senate, I answered, that I did not recollect ever to have said, there was a traitor in the senate; that I thought any man, who had taken an oath to support our independence, and who had accepted an office under the new government, and who would afterwards have given up our independence, was in my opinion a traitor; that I was informed by Mr. Paca, Mr. Wilson had told him, (on Kent island, March, 1778) after he had qualified as a senator, that he would give up our independence, and therefore I thought Mr. Wilson a tory and a traitor.

August 2, 1779.

S. CHASE.

In the SENATE, March 17, 1779.

THE senate being informed yesterday by Mr. Joseph Nicholson, one of their members, that Mr. Samuel Chase had said in his hearing before several gentlemen, that there were traitors in the senate; and Mr. Tilghman and Mr. Carroll, Barrister, having acquainted the senate this morning, that a report was industriously spread about town, as coming from Mr. Chase, that they had been applying to general Howe for protection, and, as it might be apprehended they were the traitors meant by Mr. Chase, requested that he might be called upon to declare his knowledge of there being traitors in the senate, for that they should consider themselves as unworthy a seat in that body, if any thing like such a charge could be made out against them.

Whereupon it was RESOLVED, That Mr. Chase be summoned to testify concerning the premises, and summons did accordingly issue in the following words, and was served by the messenger of this house.

WHEREAS the senate hath received information, that Samuel Chase, Esq; on the 15th day of March, 1779, in public company in the city of Annapolis, did affirm and declare, that there