

14 VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS, NOVEMBER, 1779.

Messieurs Quynn and Macubbin, from the house of delegates, deliver to the president a bill, entitled, An act for the relief of William Whetcroft of the city of Annapolis, thus endorsed; "By the house of delegates, November 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, December 4, 1779: Read the second time and will pass.
"By order, J. DUCKETT, cl. ho. del."

His Excellency the governor communicates to the president a letter from Ephraim Blaine, Esq; deputy commissary general, which was read, and with the petition of sundry inhabitants, merchants of Baltimore-town, was sent to the house of delegates by Joseph Sim, Esq; Matthew Tilghman, Esq; from the conference, brings in and delivers to the president the following report:

At a conference agreed to by the two houses of assembly, for the purpose of considering the proper measures to be adopted to procure speedy and full supplies of flour and forage for the army of the United States, by what mode a quantity of cloathing, blankets, shoes, and other necessaries can be obtained to furnish the troops of this state, and the recommendation of congress of the 19th of November to enact laws for the establishing and carrying into execution a general limitation of prices,

WERE PRESENT,

Matthew Tilghman, Charles Carroll of Carrollton, and Brice T. B. Worthington, Esquires, senators:

John Hall, John Henry, John Hanson, William Stevenson, Peregrine Lethbury, and Samuel Chase, Esquires, delegates.

Who made choice of Matthew Tilghman, Esq; president, and Mr. Henry Ridgely, clerk.

YOUR conferrees appointed for the above purposes have agreed to the following propositions, and submit the same to the consideration of the general assembly.

That it would be improper at this present session of assembly to enact laws, establishing and carrying into execution a general limitation of the prices of country produce, common labour, the wages of tradesmen, mechanics, and foreign merchandise, agreeable to the resolution of congress of the 19th of November, 1779; but although your conferrees are of opinion, that it would be highly inconvenient to, and bear hard on, the inhabitants of this state, to frame laws for a general regulation of prices, to have effect, before it is ascertained that the several states in the union will adopt similar measures; yet they would beg leave to recommend to the general assembly, that commissioners be appointed to meet commissioners appointed by the legislatures of the several states of New-Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode-Island and Providence plantations, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Virginia, at the city of Philadelphia, on the first Wednesday of January next, for the purpose of considering the expediency and practicability of limiting the prices of merchandise, produce and labour, and of agreeing to the same, should they judge it necessary, in such manner as may be best adapted to the situation and circumstances of this state. And that the commissioners so to be appointed by this state report their proceedings to the next general assembly for confirmation, if deemed proper.

That as the great number of purchasers, under a variety of characters, has tended to create the very high and exorbitant prices of grain, and other provisions necessary for the army, the conferrees are of opinion, that no person whatever be permitted to purchase within this state, any grain or other provisions, except the commissary-general and his deputies duly authorized, and that the latter ought to be limited as to their number and district by the general assembly.

That as your conferrees are satisfied great quantities of the articles last mentioned have been purchased up contrary to, and in evasion of, the laws in existence, the same should be seized under such restrictions and limitations of price, as the general assembly may think proper, for the use and benefit of this state, and that proper measures should be immediately adopted for that purpose.

That a power be given to the governor and the council, if they shall judge it absolutely necessary for the subsistence of the army of the United States, to commission and direct agents properly qualified, to take into their possession any grain or other provisions, that may be found in the possession of any person, more than is necessary for the support of themselves and family for one year, who shall refuse to sell the same for the current price, the said price to be paid to the owner or possessor, on taking the said provisions out of their possession.

That there is reason to believe that sundry persons in this state have withheld and refused to sell their wheat and other grain of the growth of the preceding years, by means whereof the fly and other destructive vermin have been increased, and produced evils arising from such a conduct, a power be lodged in the agents to be appointed as above mentioned to seize the same, giving to the withholders one half of the current price.

That