

danger can arise from the delay of a few months, unless indeed it is apprehended, that any part of the property meant to be seized may in the mean time be removed or transferred. It is not our desire or intention that the present owners should avail themselves of the delay, and therefore wish it to be considered by your house, whether a short bill, merely for the prevention of the transfer or removal of British property, may not be proper at this time.—To sum up in a few words what we have said, we are far from being convinced of the justice of confiscating British property; the line drawn by the bill for distinguishing British subjects from our own, is liable to the most forcible objections; we think we have proved that the policy is bad; the necessities of the public are not, in our judgment, such as to justify the seizure and confiscation, in opposition to the dictates of sound policy, and the principles of our constitution; the sum arising from the sales would, we think, for the reasons already suggested, be very inconsiderable, and far short of the real value of the property sold. We could wish the observation, that it is easier to acquire money than to keep it and use it thriftily, were more attended to. Every unnecessary expence should in these times be avoided, œconomy should be studied and practised; we cannot help regretting the length of our sessions of late, and the heavy burthens that must thereby necessarily fall on the people; we shall not contribute to lengthen the present by more messages on this subject, which we fear will not convince either house, but only serve to protract time and accumulate expence.—We must therefore again call your attention to the essential business now necessary to be done, among which the most important is the recruiting our quota of continental troops; this essential service cannot or ought not to be delayed one moment; when the proper arrangements for this purpose are adopted by the legislature, the assessment bill passed, and our civil officers provided for, we would wish to adjourn to some time in the month of March next, and we think in a few days the above material business may be completed. The reasons we have now given in support of our conduct on this bill, in consequence of the information and reasoning you have offered to induce a reconsideration, will evince the propriety of sending it to you again, in the same manner we at first returned it.

By order,

H. RIDGELY, cl. sen.

The bill, entitled, An act to empower the governor and the council to sell the public property therein mentioned; the bill, entitled, An act to make valid a deed from Joseph Semmes, of the kingdom of France, to Charles Goodrick, of Charles county; the bill, entitled, An act relating to certain certificates; the bill, entitled, An act to appoint commissioners to state and settle the public accounts; were severally read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

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

F R I D A Y, December 24, 1779.

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

Messieurs Deye and W. Stevenson, from the house of delegates, deliver to the president a bill, entitled, An act for calling out of circulation certain bills of credit emitted by acts of assembly, thus endorsed; "By the house of delegates, December 20, 1779: Read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

" By order,

J. DUCKETT, cl. ho. del.

" By the house of delegeates, December 24, 1779: Read the second time and will pass.

" By order,

J. DUCKETT, cl. ho. del."

The bill, entitled, An act relating to certain certificates, was read the second time by especial order and with the proposed amendment will pass: strike out in the third line from the bottom the words "assessments of" and insert the words, "taxes due from."

Messieurs Barnes and Maccubbin, from the house of delegates, deliver to the president the engrossed bills from No. 18 to No. 27, with the paper bills thereof, which engrossed bills No. 18, 19, and 21, were thus endorsed; "By the house of delegates, December 19, 1779: Read and assented to;" the engrossed bills No. 22, 23, and 24; "By the house of delegates, December 20, 1779: Read and assented to;" the engrossed bills No. 20, 25, and 26; "By the house of delegates, December 23, 1779: Read and assented to;" and the engrossed bill No. 27; "By the house of delegates, December 24, 1779: Read and assented to.

" By order,

J. DUCKETT, cl. ho. del."

The bill, entitled, An act to empower the governor and the council to sell the public property therein mentioned, was read the second time by especial order and with the proposed amendments will pass: In the ninth line of the first page, after the word "and" insert "such of," and at the end of the tenth line, add "as they may judge it for the benefit of the state to sell."

The bill, entitled, An act to make valid a deed from Joseph Semmes, of the kingdom of France, to Charles Goodrick, of Charles county, was read the second time by especial order and will pass; which, with the bill, entitled, An act relating to certain certificates, and the bill, entitled, An act to empower the governor and the council to sell the public property therein mentioned, was sent to the house of delegates by Brice T. B. Worthington, Esq;

The report of the committee appointed to tax the fees arising on the determination of the case between William Wheterost and Edward Dorsey, was read the second time and concurred with.

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