

ons, which, as free men and legislators, we have a right to enjoy and exercise, and which, if we should sacrifice, we shall become contemptible even in your own estimation, and be degraded from the respectable station we at present occupy, into an useless and miserable appendage of legislature.

If the two branches of the legislature unhappily differ on this subject, there can be no reason why distrust, suspicion, and malevolence, should take place; we feel ourselves entirely free from these passions, and wish most sincerely to give every assistance in our power to dispatch the business necessary to be done for the public welfare. If any mode of agreement upon this controversy can be devised, let it be adopted, if not, let us lay it aside, and co-operate in every other measure for the common interest.

By order,

J. MACCUBBIN, clk.

The bill, entitled, An act to increase the allowance of justices of the peace and jurymen, was read the second time by especial order, passed, and sent to the house of delegates by Joseph Sim, Esq;

The house adjourns till 3 o'clock.

P O S T M E R I D I E M.

The senate met.

Messieurs Earle and Williamson, from the house of delegates, deliver to the president a bill, entitled, An act for sinking the quota of this state of the bills of credit emitted by congress, thus endorsed; "By the house of delegates, May 14, 1780: Read the first and second time by especial order and will pass.

"By order,

F. GREEN, clk."

With the following message:

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, MAY 14, 1780.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOURS,

FROM an earnest desire to adopt some mode, this session, to comply with the request of congress relative to their emissions, and to furnish that body with new bills of credit, to answer, as far as in our power, the want of gold and silver, we have sent your honours a bill for sinking the quota of this state of the bills of credit emitted by congress. Our plan to induce the holders of those bills to bring them into the treasury, may be liable to objections, but as it is the best mode we are able to devise, and your honours have agreed to waive any exceptions to it, we esteem your assent as already obtained to that part of our bill. We propose to make the new bills a tender, and flatter ourselves your honours will not refuse a bill so essentially necessary to the welfare and safety of this state, and without which congress will remain unprovided, by this state, with the means to pay our army, and to defray other contingent and necessary expenses, for no other cause than that the new bills are made a tender. We cannot but think such provision proper and necessary to give credit and value to the new bills, and really fear, without it, the great object we have in view, to induce our people to place confidence in, and to receive them at the value of specie, will be defeated.

We are willing to revise the present tender law, and to amend the same, in such manner as may be most agreeable to the principles of universal justice; some provision is necessary for the case of merchants and other persons who have received their debts from the planters and farmers in obedience to the tender law, and from a desire to support the credit of the continental money, and who are indebted to absentees or merchants, who have no factors in this state. Justice requires, that those who have received the continental emissions for their sterling or current money debts, contracted before the depreciation, should not be deprived of the power of paying their old debts to their creditors by composition in the same money, as far as they have received, and no farther ought they to desire, nor would we permit. Other cases, which may appear to merit the attention of the general assembly, shall be considered on the revision. Nothing but the want of time prevents our attention to the subject at this session, which will probably conclude to-morrow, beyond which we do not expect to keep a sufficient number of members to compose a house. Your honours may be assured that this house will make the revision of the tender law the first business of the next session, and we believe no great inconveniences will happen in the mean time, as this house will not allow any debts contracted antecedent to a time to be agreed upon by the two houses to be extinguished by a tender after this day, unless in the cases above mentioned. This house propose to adjourn to the twentieth day of August next.

By order,

F. GREEN, clk.

Which was read.

Messieurs Bayly and Dennis, from the house of delegates, deliver to the president the engrossed bill No. 29, with the paper bill thereof, which engrossed bill was thus endorsed; "By the house of delegates, May 14, 1780: Read and assented to.

"By order,

F. GREEN, clk."

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

M O N.