

another galley, and the fort will require no more men to garrison it, than will be necessary to man and fight the galley. The fort will give security to all the inhabitants on Patuxent, cut off any communication by the enemy's cruisers in the bay with some of the disaffected in that part of the country, and the people, secure from the ravages of the enemy's small cruisers, may be at leisure to cultivate their lands; our bay trade may be carried on with very little inquietude, and our merchant vessels bound to sea may collect and lie in perfect safety under the guns of the fort, and the vessels from sea may often come there for protection. If no fort is erected on Patuxent, or on some other river, and none appears to us so proper, the galley, sloop, and barges, will have no place to retire to, if overpowered by superior force. These and other reasons influence us to wish your honours to consent to that part of our bill.

We shall not give any opinion whether the bill is a money bill, as we wish to avoid the discussion of every question which may tend to delay or disagreement in sentiment. We return your honours the bill, and hope you will consent to what we esteem so essentially necessary to the protection of our people and their trade.

By order,

F. GREEN, clk.

Which was read.

Messieurs Taylor and Job, from the house of delegates, deliver to the president a bill, entitled, An act to draught the non-commissioned officers and privates of the regiment extraordinary into the battalions of the quota of this state, and to recal the commissioned officers of the said regiment, endorsed; "By the house of delegates, January 17, 1781: Read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

By order,

F. GREEN, clk.

"By the house of delegates, January 26, 1781: Read the second time and will pass.

By order,

F. GREEN, clk."

The senate adjourns till half after 3 o'clock.

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

The senate met.

The bill, entitled, An act for the defence of the bay, was sent to the house of delegates by Thomas Stone, Esq; with the following message:

BY THE SENATE, JANUARY 26, 1781.

GENTLEMEN,

THIS house have, upon consideration, agreed to recede from their amendment respecting the fort to be built on Drum Point, as it seems to be esteemed by your house an object of great importance, and promises in the execution of it very considerable protection both to the trade of the bay and the inhabitants of the neighbourhood of it.

The destruction of the houses on the islands, we apprehend, may be attended with pernicious consequences, and are therefore desirous that our amendment to this part of the bill may be adopted.

The poverty of many of the people directed to be removed from the islands, will subject them to great distress unless some provision is made for them, we are therefore anxious that a discretionary power should be vested in the justices of Somerset, Worcester, and Dorchester counties, for this purpose.

We are equally desirous with the house of delegates to avoid the discussion of any question that may tend to procrastinate public business, or produce a disagreement in sentiment. If your house is of opinion, that the bill to which this subject refers is a money bill, it will be agreeable to the senate to offer the amendments in a private way, and that the proceedings of both houses should be erased from the journals.

By order,

J. MACCUBBIN, clk.

The bill, entitled, An act to draught the non-commissioned officers and privates of the regiment extraordinary, &c. was read a first and second time by especial order and will pass.

The bill, entitled, An act to explain that part of the act for sinking the quota required by congress, &c. was read a second time by especial order, passed, and, with the above bill, sent to the house of delegates by George Plater, Esq;

The bill, entitled, An act to authorise the lieutenants of the militia to appoint field days, &c. was read the second time by especial order, and the question being put, That the bill do pass? Resolved in the affirmative.

#### A F F I R M A T I V E.

Honourable Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer, Esq; president, honourable George Plater, Charles Carroll, of Carrollton, William Hemsley, John Henry, Thomas Stone, and Samuel Hughes, Esquires.

#### N E G A T I V E.

Honourable Richard Barnes and William Hindman, Esquires.

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