

forcible manner to the minister of France, and urge the propriety, indeed the necessity, of a post being taken and fortified, and a strong fleet stationed within our capes, to cruise occasionally on the coast. Your knowledge of the importance of the trade carried through this bay, and of the many advantages which would result to France and the United States from protecting the commerce and agriculture of Maryland and Virginia, and the convenience of the station for intercepting the enemy's communication between New-York and South-Carolina and Georgia, renders it needless for us to adduce arguments in proof of the utility or necessity of the measure.

Judging from our knowledge of the ability and resources of this state to raise men and money, and the best information we can acquire of the numbers, abilities, and resources, of the others, we cannot but be of opinion we are greatly over-rated, and therefore instruct you to move in congress, that the quota of this state in men and money may be lessened.

The frequent actions our troops have been engaged in thinned our line, and the late disastrous battle near Camden has added considerably to their former losses. It is not in the power of this state to fill up the vacancies occasioned by such untoward events; we think that the deficiency in the army of the confederated states, occasioned by sickness and the sword during a campaign, ought to be divided among the several states, in proportion to the original quotas assigned to each. Unless such a rule be adopted, it may happen, that one state may be called upon to raise a double proportion of men, to fill up for the losses of the preceding campaign. The inequality of such a rule is evident, and, if persisted in, may occasion the officers, tender of the interests of their particular states, and commanding their respective quotas, to be more sparing of their men. We need not point out the consequences which would follow.

We find, by the late arrangement of the army, that it is proposed to raise forty-two thousand men for the approaching campaign. How far it may be in the power of the United States to raise, cloath and pay so many, we shall not undertake to determine; we can only speak of the ability of this state, which we sincerely believe cannot nearly raise and keep up her assigned quota of that number. When requisitions are made by congress exceeding the ability of the states, disappointment and despondency are the sure and natural effects. Overstrained exertions leave a nation in a state of languor and debility; the measure of defence ought to be proportioned to the powers of attack; we hope the strength of our enemy, so long baffled and often disgraced, does not make such a great force necessary; if it does, we could wish that our real situation should be made known to his Most Christian Majesty, with the strongest solicitations for additional troops; we shall be so far from entertaining any apprehensions or jealousies from such a measure, that we should retain the deepest sense of the obligation, if enough were sent to put a speedy and happy end to the war.

Which were read, assented to, and sent to the house of delegates by Samuel Hughes, Esq;

Messieurs J. Stevenson and Duckett, from the house of delegates, deliver to the president a bill, entitled, An act to secure disaffected persons, endorsed; "By the house of delegates, February 2, 1781: Read the first and second time by especial order and will pass.

"By order,

F. GREEN, clk."

Messieurs Hindman and Whitely, from the house of delegates, deliver to the president the following resolution:

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, FEBRUARY 2, 1781.

Whereas this state is indebted on certificates, and otherwise, for loans, goods, and provisions, furnished on credit, services performed, and provisions taken for public use, which have not been paid for agreeable to the intention of the legislature, or expectation of the creditors; this general assembly, desirous of doing justice to all,

RESOLVE, That they will, at the next session, liquidate and ascertain all just claims that may then be unsatisfied against this state, and if they shall not have means within their power to make immediate satisfaction, will reduce them to a real standard, according to the value at the time the payment ought to have been made, and will allow interest from such time; and to enable the legislature to do the justice intended, those who have certificates given by any person, except the treasurer, are requested to send copies thereof to the auditor-general, who is to make a list thereof, and to lay the same, with the copies he may receive, before the general assembly.

By order,

F. GREEN, clk.

Which was read and assented to.

Messieurs Hungerford and Alexander, from the house of delegates, deliver to the president the following resolutions:

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, FEBRUARY 2, 1781.

RESOLVED, That this legislature highly approve the spirited and active behaviour of major Steward, in fitting out the sloop Porpoise for a cruise against the enemy infesting the bay; they regret the accident which separated him in the Active, after her capture, from the Porpoise, before her severe conflict with the Hibernia, of much superior force.

RESOLVED,