

meant that they should really be independent, and superior to every undue influence. In our judgment, no influence over them would be more dangerous than that of the legislature, arising from the hope of encreasing, or the apprehension of decreasing, salaries; an influence of this kind would have a tendency to introduce the greatest evil in government, an accumulation and union in the same persons of the legislative and judicial powers, so wisely and expressly proscribed by our constitution.

The perplexities and confusion of the times may apologise, in some degree, for past inadvertency, for we are convinced, a deliberate violation of the declaration of rights was never intended by the legislature in any point, much less in one so essential. However, as the enemy hath some time since changed an offensive into a defensive war on this continent, as now a regular and effectual administration of law and justice hath taken place amongst us, it is become the duty of the general assembly to establish permanent salaries, and to secure a punctual and full payment of them to the judges.

We therefore deem it both expedient and necessary that a bill, distinct from the civil list bill, should originate in your house for that purpose; such a bill will meet with our ready concurrence, provided that the salaries of the judges be liberal, compared with the pressing exigencies of the state, for what might now be esteemed liberal under those exigencies, may not appear so hereafter, when, from a happy change of circumstances, the resources of the people shall be greater than at present. In this point of view, we consider the salaries settled on the judges by the present bill as sufficiently liberal.

If on a revision of the subjects of this message your ideas should coincide with ours, as to the quantum of the salaries proposed by us to be altered and settled annually on all the other civil officers of government, except the judges, a bill originated by you for that purpose will have our ready assent.

By order,

J. MACCUBBIN, clk.

The bill, entitled, An act to prevent the subjects of an enemy from coming into this state, was read the second time and will not pass.

A petition from John M^cMullen, of Worcester county, praying an outlet from a lot of ground in Snow-hill, over the land of a certain William Selby, was read, referred to the consideration of the house of delegates, and, with the above bill, sent by Charles Carroll, of Carrollton, Esq;

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

F R I D A Y, December 13, 1782.

THE same members appeared as on yesterday, except the honourable George Plater, Esq; who is indisposed.

On application of John Gray, summons issued to procure the attendance of William Goddard and Zachariah Man, to testify on his behalf.

The members present adjourn till to-morrow morning.

S A T U R D A Y, December 14, 1782.

THE senate met. Present as on yesterday. The proceedings of Thursday were read. James M^cHenry, Esq; appeared, and after qualifying as directed by the 28th article of the form of government, took his seat. The honourable George Plater, Esq; appeared in the senate.

Messieurs Shriver and Ogle, from the house of delegates, deliver to the president the following resolution:

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, DECEMBER 13, 1782.

Whereas it is represented, that the troops at this post are in great distress for want of proper cloathing,

RESOLVED, That the intendant of the revenue be directed to furnish major Davidson with necessary cloathing for seventy-five men, and that the same be charged to the United States.

By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk.

Which was read, assented to, and sent to the house of delegates by John Smith, Esq;

John Smith, Esq; has leave of absence.

On motion, Richard Barnes and James M^cHenry, Esquires, are added to the committee appointed to enquire into the state of the several paper currencies.

The bill to confirm certain purchases of confiscated property, was read the second time, passed, and sent to the house of delegates by James M^cHenry, Esq;

On motion, **ORDERED**, That the consideration of the resolution directing the intendant to sell specifics to pay off the journal of this session, be postponed until the bill for raising the supplies for the next year is sent to this house.

A petition