

The bill, entitled, An act for the discovery of confiscated British property, was read the second time with the proposed amendments and will pass.

Amendments proposed. 1st page, 6th line, after the word "possession" insert "or the title papers thereof or relating thereto." After the word "known," same line, insert "and deliver up." Strike out from the word "may," 9th line, same page, to the end of the bill, and insert, "and shall direct the attorney-general to file a bill in the high court of chancery, on behalf of this state, for the discovery of such trust or concealed property, and for delivering up such deeds, writings, and evidence of title to the same, and thereupon proceedings shall be had and decree made according to the rules of the high court of chancery in such casts. And be it enacted, That if any person having possession of any confiscated British property, and not having a fair claim of title thereto, or having obtained the possession of any property formerly belonging to any British subject, in virtue of any gift, grant, sale, devise, or conveyance, made or executed since the 10th of April 1775, and before the first of December 1779, by any person declared to be a British subject, by the act to seize, confiscate, and appropriate, all British property within this state, with intent and design to cover and protect such property from confiscation, or by any conveyance, gift, grant, sale, or devise, made since the first of December 1779, by any person declared a British subject as aforesaid, not bona fide in pursuance of some contract or agreement made before that day in writing, or for the just payment of a debt due before that day by the person making such grant, conveyance, or sale, to the person receiving the same, and shall not discover the same property, and the circumstances under which the same is held, and deliver up the same and the title papers thereof to the intendant of the revenue, by the first day of January in the year seventeen hundred and eighty-six, such person shall forfeit one fourth of the value of the property; and if any person having possession of any such property shall voluntarily discover the same, the intendant shall have full power and authority to sell the same to such person at a reasonable price, secured to be paid to this state; and after the first day of January seventeen hundred and eighty-six, the intendant, on waving the penalty, may direct a bill to be filed as aforesaid against any person having possession of such property."

The following resolution was prepared, assented to, and, with the above bills, sent to the house of delegates by William Perry, Esq;

BY THE SENATE, JANUARY 22, 1785.

WHEREAS a considerable space of time may intervene before a decree can be obtained in the high court of chancery of Great-Britain for a transfer of the bank stock due to this state, and for the recovery whereof a suit is now depending in the said court; and whereas the said bank stock, by the accumulation of dividends, may amount, when the decree shall be obtained, to a sum greatly exceeding the value of eighty thousand pounds currency, for which the agent hath given bond with security, conditioned for the faithful execution of his trust; and whereas it was the intention of the legislature, that security should be given by the agent to the amount of the whole sum to be recovered, and though there is the greatest confidence in the punctuality of the agent, and in the due execution of his trust, yet it is proper to pursue the idea of the act under which he was appointed, by covering the whole sum to be received by bond and security; RESOLVED, That the governor and the council be requested to call on the said agent to give an additional bond, with security to be approved by the said governor and council, conditioned for the due performance of his trust in the payment of any further sum, over and above the value of eighty thousand pounds currency, and not covered by the said agent's present bond, and which may be paid to the said agent in virtue of a decree of the lord high chancellor of Great-Britain, or on appeal by the determination of the house of lords of that kingdom.

By order,

J. DORSEY, clk.

The resolution respecting Robert Reynolds, was read and assented to.

Thomas Stone, Esq; brings in and delivers to the president a bill, entitled, An act respecting the appointment of delegates to congress; which was read the first and second time by especial order, passed, and, with the above resolution, sent to the house of delegates by George Gale, Esq;

Mr. Plowden, from the house of delegates, delivers to the president the bill, entitled, An act to impose duties on certain enumerated articles imported into and exported out of this state, and on all goods, wares and merchandize, imported into this state, with the following message:

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, JANUARY 21, 1785.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOURS,

WE are really concerned that the senate rejected our bill to impose duties on certain enumerated articles imported into and exported out of this state; the objects of it are very important, to bring a very considerable sum of money into the treasury to assist the revenue, and to encourage the building and navigating vessels by our own citizens. If the duties in the act were imposed for the mere regulation of commerce, it would not have been a money bill, and we would have considered the amendments you desire; but to strike out of the present bill, (or to adopt the expedient of sending up another, omitting) the parts you object to, would be an indirect surrender of the privilege vested by the constitution in this house of originating money bills, and an admission of your honours to amend them; when by the form of government to such bills your assent or dissent only can be given. This house adopted the very small duties on exports from a conviction of their propriety, and that the imposition of them was justified by the maxims of commerce, as laid down by the ablest writers on the subject; and therefore, if we could alter the bill without waving our essential privilege, we should not be inclined to do it. The increase  
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