

treasury, enclosing a statement of the accounts of the several states with the United States; and a letter from John Langden, the governor of New-Hampshire, with a resolve of the legislature of that state, and an act respecting navigation and commerce; which were severally read, and referred to the consideration of the house of delegates.

The president lays before the senate a petition from a number of the inhabitants of Washington county, respecting a division of the said county; and a petition from the rector, governor, trustees and visitors, of King William school, in the city of Annapolis, setting forth, that funds had been granted to the use of the said school, which they are incapable of disposing, and praying that the said funds may be applied to the support and maintenance of St. John's college; which were read, referred to the consideration of the house of delegates, and, with the above letters, resolve and act, sent by Richard Barnes, Esq;

The senate adjourns till Monday morning 10 o'clock.

M O N D A Y, December 19, 1785.

THE senate met. Present as on Saturday. The proceedings of Saturday were read. Mr. Bayly, from the house of delegates, delivers to the president a bill, entitled, An act to correct a mistake in a deed of bargain and sale executed by William Askew to John Millan, to record a deed of bargain and sale executed by John Millan to William Mackie, and to empower Priscilla Mackie, William Magruder, and Leonard Smith, to dispose of part of a tract of land for the purposes therein mentioned, endorsed; "By the house of delegates, December 14, 1785: Read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

"By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk.

"By the house of delegates, December 19, 1785: Read the second time and will pass.

"By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk."

Which was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

The bill, entitled, An act for the relief of the poor in Talbot county, was read the second time, passed with the proposed amendment, and sent to the house of delegates by Benedict E. Hall, Esq;

Amendment proposed. In the 6th line from the bottom of the 22d page, after the word "mentioned," insert, "Provided also, and be it enacted, that the trustees, or a major part of them, appointed by this act, shall have full and sufficient power to settle with the aforesaid John Stevens and Moses Allen, and to make such allowance to the said John Stevens and Moses Allen, that they or the major part of them may think just, for the depreciation of any money which the said John Stevens and Moses Allen may have received in virtue of the aforesaid act, entitled, An act for the relief of the poor in Talbot county, any thing in this act to the contrary notwithstanding."

Thomas Stone, Esq; from the committee appointed to prepare a message in answer to the message of the house of delegates on the subject matter of Mr. Harford's memorial, brings in and delivers to the president the following message, with the following resolution:

BY THE SENATE, DECEMBER 19, 1785.

GENTLEMEN,

UPON the receipt of your message proposing a conference on the memorial of Henry Harford, Esq; we deemed it expedient previously to determine, whether any compensation should be made to the memorialist, for the losses stated in his memorial to have been incurred by him in consequence of the late revolution. For it naturally occurred to us, that it would be mispending time to discuss the quantum and manner of making the compensation, if either house should be of opinion, that no compensation ought to be made to the memorialist. On the fullest inquiry into the subject, and examination of the arguments suggested by the memorialist's counsel in your house (at which most of us were present), and which were again stated to and satisfactorily answered in this house, we are decidedly of opinion, that the memorialist cannot of right ask, or this state, consistently with that justice which is due to others, grant him, any relief or retribution for the losses he has sustained in consequence of the revolution, and the acts of our legislature. That revolution and those acts were occasioned by the prosecution of an unjust war, commenced against this country by the British government, of which the memorialist is a subject. On that government, therefore, to which he remained attached during the whole war, and with whose success his own interests were so intimately connected, he ought only to rely for compensation for his losses. However rigorous the confiscation of the property of British subjects might appear, abstractedly considered, the act for seizing and confiscating that property, under the circumstances and with the restrictions it was passed, we are convinced, was perfectly justifiable. The severity of the measure long delayed its adoption, and that delay mitigated its severity, by affording to every British subject the opportunity of avoiding the consequences of the confiscation act.

The memorialist came of age in the spring of seventeen hundred and seventy-nine, the act of confiscation passed in the beginning of the year seventeen hundred and eighty-one, full twelve months after the measure had been warmly and generally agitated in this state, and must have been known in England. Instead of repairing to Maryland and becoming a citizen, the memorialist, confiding in the power and success of his native country, remained in England, attending on the court of chancery, and waiting the adjudication of suits which were to determine the right to the province of Maryland and its dependences, between the memorialist and the heirs at law