

that any three or more of the said commissioners have authority to act, and that their proceedings be reported to the next session of the general assembly, for their examination, and adoption if approved; that the governor be requested to transmit a copy of the above resolve to the executives of the states of Pennsylvania and Delaware.

By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk.

And also the following resolution:

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, FEBRUARY 21, 1786.

RESOLVED, That the commissioners for this state to meet commissioners from the states of Pennsylvania and Delaware, respecting the navigation of the river Susquehanna and its streams, and other purposes, be paid each thirty-seven shillings and six-pence current money per day for every day's attendance on the above service.

By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk.

Which were read, assented to, and sent to the house of delegates by Thomas Stone, Esq;

Mr. Dent, from the house of delegates, delivers to the president the bill, entitled, An act to prevent the exportation of unmerchantable tobacco, and the bill, entitled, An act to prevent frivolous appeals and writs of error, and improper removals of causes from the inferior to the superior courts, with the following message:

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES FEBRUARY 21, 1786.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOURS,

YOUR message of Saturday last, by Samuel Hughes, Esq; hath recalled our attention to two of the bills which you were pleased to return to us, under a confident expectation, that upon a reconsideration we would recede from our amendments proposed to one, and that the other would obtain our assent. We little expected from your honours, on a day fixed by us for rising, any thing which might delay the close of a session so uncommonly long. The arguments urged by you have not induced us, either to recede from the above amendments, or to pass the bill which respects appeals and writs of error. That part of your message, more especially, which relates to this bill, we cannot but consider as untimely, when more than five weeks have elapsed since it received our negative. The principal benefit which we apprehend can result from a regulation of the staple of tobacco, must be to prevent the exportation of that which is unmerchantable, and not found. To this we conceive the bill will, if passed with our amendments, be fully competent. Were we to pass it without them, a regulation would be made, which, if advantageous to the purchasers of tobacco, would, in our opinion, be prejudicial to the interests of the planters, and occasion great discontents. We are also satisfied, that the execution of such a law, if practicable, must be attended with the greatest difficulties. Reflecting upon the present unhappy situation of this country, just emerged from the calamities of war, our citizens largely involved in debts, many of them to foreigners, to whom during this war they could have no access for payment, and the uncommon scarcity of money throughout the state, we cannot agree to a bill, tending in its consequences to deprive distressed debtors of a part of that time within which they may be enabled to extricate their persons and property out of the power of cruel or oppressive creditors.

Whenever the two branches of the legislature entertain opposite opinions upon questions of importance, if a judgment is to be formed from experience of past events, their mutual efforts, by long arguments to convince, have more the effects of disagreeable warmth, and an unnecessary waste of time, than public utility. We wish to avoid those consequences, especially at this period of our sitting.

By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk.

The bill, entitled, An act for the valuation of personal property within this state, was read the second time and sundry amendments proposed.

On motion that a committee be appointed to prepare amendments to the said bill, RESOLVED That John Henry, Thomas Stone, and Charles Carroll, of Carrollton, Esquires, be a committee for the same.

Mr. Grabame, from the house of delegates, delivers to the president the bill, entitled, An act ascertaining what shall be recovered on protested bills of exchange, and to repeal an act of assembly therein mentioned, endorsed; "By the house of delegates, February 21, 1786: Reconsidered and will pass with the proposed amendments.

"By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk."

Amendments proposed. Page 1, lines 8 and 18, after the word "company," add the word "society." Page 2, lines 1 and 4, after the word "company," add "society." Same page, line 4th, strike out the word "whether." Line 5th, after the word "being" strike out the word "or," and insert the word "on." Line 6th, after the word "company," insert the word "society." 5th line from the bottom, strike out from the word "persons" to the word "entitled," and insert "company, society or corporation." Page 3, lines 4 and 9, after the word "company," insert the word "society." Same page, strike out from the word "exchange" in the 10th line, to the same word inclusive in the 4th line of the 4th page.

The senate adjourns till to-morrow morning 10 o'clock.

W E D N E S D A Y, February 22, 1786.

THE senate met. Present as on yesterday. The proceedings of yesterday were read.

The bill entitled, An act to alter and amend the law in certain cases, was read

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