

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS, November, 1786. 27

"By the house of delegates, January 11, 1787: Read the second time by especial order and will pass."

By order, W. HARWOOD, clk."

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

Mr. Loockerman, from the house of delegates, delivers to the president a bill, entitled, "An act to suspend the erecting of the public buildings in Caroline county, endorsed; "By the house of delegates, January 11, 1787: Read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

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The president lays before the senate a memorial from William Fitzhugh, praying for a compensation for that part of his property which was destroyed by the enemy; which was read and referred to the consideration of the house of delegates, and sent by Thomas Stone, Esquire.

The senate proceeded to the further consideration of the bill, entitled, A supplement to the act for the further relief of the securities of Thomas Williams, deceased, late collector of the tax and public dues in Prince-George's county, and for other purposes therein mentioned, and the following amendments were proposed and agreed to.

Amendments proposed. Strike out from the word "whereas," the beginning of the preamble, to the end of the bill inclusive, and insert the following: "Whereas by the act for the further relief of the securities of Thomas Williams, late collector of the tax for Prince-George's county, the said securities, or either of them, are vested with full power and authority to sell and dispose of such part or parts of their property, or the property of the late Thomas Williams, as they might think proper; and to take bonds to the state from the purchasers, payable in the year seventeen hundred and ninety, in specie or certificates, and in such case, upon the bonds being lodged with the treasurer of the western shore, the said securities, or either of them, should have a receipt and credit on the treasurer's books for so much money as was expressed in the condition of the said bonds; and it being the intention of this legislature, that no receipt or credit as aforesaid should be allowed the said securities, or either of them, on any bond given for property sold, which at the time of passing the said act did not belong to the said securities, or some one of them, or to the estate of the said Thomas Williams; and under colour of the said act, the said securities may tender to the treasurer bonds taken for property acquired in the course of collecting the taxes or otherwise, contrary to the true intent and meaning of the said act: Therefore, be it enacted, by the general assembly of Maryland, that no bond hereafter to be offered, shall be received by the treasurer from the said securities, or either of them, and placed to their credit, unless the said securities, or some one of them, make oath, (to be administered by the treasurer of the western shore) at the time of offering such bond, that the same was bona fide taken for the purchase of property which belonged to the estate of the said Thomas Williams, or some one of the said securities, at the time when the said recited act passed. And it is hereby declared to be the true intent and meaning of the said recited act, that persons indebted for taxes to be collected by the said securities, have a right and election to pay such certificates or bills of credit for the said taxes as the said securities have a right to pay into the treasury; and if any property is or shall be taken by the said securities, and sold, it shall be sold upon the terms of paying in money or certificates aforesaid, at the election of the buyer, to the amount of the sum due to the said securities, and the residue, if any, in money or certificates, if the owner shall so direct, to the owners of the property taken; and these terms shall be publicly notified at the time of sale; and if any property already taken and not sold, or if sold and purchased by the securities, or any of them, or any person for them, may be redeemed by paying certificates or bills of credit as aforesaid, on or before the first day of March next; and it is hereby declared to be the duty of the said securities to give certificates in change, if they have them, to the purchasers of property sold, or to any person offering to pay the tax in certificates."

The following message was prepared, agreed to, and, with the above bill, sent to the house of delegates by John Henry, Esquire.

BY THE SENATE, JANUARY 12, 1787.

GENTLEMEN,

IN consequence of your message by Mr. Bowie, we have reconsidered the bill, entitled, A supplement to the act for the further relief of the securities of Thomas Williams, deceased, late collector of the tax and public dues in Prince-George's county, and for other purposes therein mentioned, and have passed the same with the amendments that accompany the bill.

We have dissented to that part of the bill which gave the persons indebted for public dues the liberty of lodging bonds in the treasury, payable in the year 1790; and we were induced to adopt this measure from a persuasion of the ill policy of increasing the public debtors, and that if the proposed indulgence had been granted in this instance, the inhabitants of other counties in this state, who are in arrears, would reasonably expect the same, in consequence of the act relative to the arrearages of taxes due the state before the first day of January, seventeen hundred and eighty-three, passed November session, seventeen hundred and eight-five.

You have not informed us of any abuses committed by the securities of the late Thomas Williams, in the collection of the public dues under the act passed in their favour. However we apprehend, that abuses which may hereafter be committed by collectors in settling with those indebted, will be prevented