

That a rumour of approaching peace being spread antecedent to these purchases, the memorialist consulted with doctor Franklin and Mr. Jay, respecting the propriety of making them, who were both of opinion, that it was improper to relax in any of the preparations of war; and it appears in February to us, that Mr. Jay declared he knew not of the intended peace forty-eight hours before the preliminary articles were signed. However disadvantageous, therefore, these expenditures may now be thought, a contrary conduct in the memorialist must have been greatly reprobated, had a reverse of fortune taken place.

Your committee further represent, that by instructions from the governot and council, the memorialist was authorised to pay eight per cent. for money to be advanced, taking tobacco in payment for the interest at fourteen livres per hundred weight, and nine per cent. on a payment in flour at thirteen livres per hundred weight. That the loan procured from Messieurs Vanstaphorst, was on the terms of paying only five per cent. interest in tobacco at fourteen livres per hundred weight, with a premium to them of four and a half per cent. for soliciting the subscriptions, according to the usual custom of similar transactions in Holland. Your committee further pray leave to report, that the memorialist conceives himself entitled to an allowance of two and a half per cent. for negotiating the loan, and five per cent. for his commission on the articles purchased, and on the incidental charges, more especially as he was not to have received any compensation from the state, had he failed of success. And it appears, that he was resident in France and Holland, conducting the business intrusted to him, for above two years, at a considerable expence. By testimony produced to us we find, that five per cent. on purchases was at that time the usual commission.

Your committee further report, that whilst the memorialist was in France, for the purpose of purchasing the articles he was commissioned to procure, he received remittances from Messieurs Vanstaphorst in bills of exchange, of which many were drawn, on the house of Post Herion and company, in Paris, that were duly paid; that in July, seventeen hundred and eighty-four, he received a bill on those gentlemen for the sum of six thousand three hundred livres, which was not presented until two days after it became due, the reason of which omission was owing to the distressed state of the memorialist's family, whose wife was then lying dangerously ill, and died shortly after, one of his children having died two days before. That the memorialist having, until that time, been punctually paid the former bills drawn on this house, was the less solicitous about presenting the last, and unfortunately the drawees failed before his application to them for payment, whereby it is apprehended a loss may be sustained.

The memorialist does not claim a credit for this sum, but prays an indulgence for the payment of it, and we think, from the circumstances of his then situation, it will be reasonable to allow until the first day of January, seventeen hundred and ninety, to make such payment without interest.

All which is submitted to the honourable house.

By order,

W. PINKNEY, clk.

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

Mr. Owings, from the house of delegates, delivers to the president a bill, entitled, An act to authorise Baltimore county court to graht a new trial in the case therein mentioned, endorsed; "By the house of delegates, January 16, 1787: Read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

"By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk.

"By the house of delegates, January 16, 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. Jackson, from the house of delegates, delivers to the president a bill, entitled, An act to settle and pay the civil list, and other expences of civil government, endorsed; "By the house of delegates, January 16, 1787: Read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

"By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk.

"By the house of delegates, January 16, 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. F. Bowie, from the house of delegates, delivers to the president the bill, entitled, An act to aid and confirm the proceedings of Dorchester and Caroline county courts, endorsed; "By the house of delegates, January 16, 1787: Read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

"By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk.

"By the house of delegates, January 17, 1787: Read the second time by especial order and will pass.

"By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk."

Which was ordered to be engrossed.

And also the following resolution:

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, JANUARY 16, 1787.

(RESOLVED, That Elizabeth Wright, executrix and residuary legatee of William Wright, deceased, late collector of the taxes for Queen-Anne's county, and the securities of the said William Wright, be and are hereby discharged from all interest due this state on account of the nonpayment of the several sums by him to have been collected at the respective times limited by law for collecting and paying the same; and that where interest may have been paid to the collector, the same shall be returned by the said executrix.

By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk.

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

The bill, entitled, An act respecting insolvent debtors, was read the second time and will not pass.

Mr.