

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS, November, 1786. 37

BY THE SENATE, JANUARY 19, 1787.

GENTLEMEN,

WE think the allowance of seventeen shillings and six-pence per day to the members of the general assembly, for their attendance this session, is too high; and we have therefore dissented to your resolve for this purpose.

At a time when our treasury is exhausted, and the weight of taxes complained of, there is a necessity to reduce the expences of government. It appears to us improper that an allowance so high should be made the members of the general assembly, especially as allowances to many officers have been lessened, and as another session is proposed by you in the course of this year, which would extremely increase the public expence.

We will consent to a resolve allowing fourteen shillings per day to the members of the general assembly, and have returned you the journal of accounts, that if you agree to such allowance the proper corrections may be made. The charge to Job Garretson of £. 388 15 8¹, for keeping prisoners and deserters, we think improper to be put on the journal of accounts, as we see no reason to distinguish Mr. Garretson from other public creditors, and we wish his account should be examined by the officers to whom it belongs to do this business.

By order,

J. DORSEY, clk.

The senate adjourns till to-morrow morning 9 o'clock.

S A T U R D A Y, January 20, 1787.

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

The resolution respecting Elizabeth Wright, was read the second time and dissented to.

The engrossed bills No. 45, 46 and 47, were read and assented to, and, with the paper bills thereof, and the above resolution, were sent to the house of delegates by Daniel Carroll, Esquire.

Thomas Stone, Esquire, from the committee appointed to prepare a message in answer to the message from the house of delegates of the sixth instant, proposing an adjournment to the 20th of March next, brings in and delivers to the president the following message:

BY THE SENATE, JANUARY 20, 1787.

GENTLEMEN,

WITH inexpressible regret we perceive, by your message of the sixth of January by Mr. Bowie, that you have determined to adjourn to the 20th of March, and leave the material business of the session unfinished, after setting upwards of eight weeks at a heavy charge to the public.

Although we have been officially informed, that the continental treasury is empty, and the necessity of raising troops has been urged by congress, you have not passed an assessment bill to bring any money into the state or continental treasury, nor have you taken any measures to comply with the requisition of congress for raising a troop of horse.

An act of the commonwealth of Virginia for appointing deputies to meet at Philadelphia in May next for revising the federal government, and correcting its defects, was early communicated to this legislature: In consequence thereof your house proposed to appoint deputies, which we acceded to, and a conference took place to ascertain the powers to be given to the deputies. A report was made by the conferees, which has been agreed to by the senate.

As this proposition originated with you, and the measure is confessedly necessary and important, we are not a little surpris'd that you have resolv'd to adjourn, without making this appointment. Although it may be urged, that this deputation may be made at the session proposed by your house to be held in March next, time enough for the deputies to meet at Philadelphia in May, yet it must be obvious, that the other states, perceiving that the legislature of this state has adjourned without making the appointment, may conclude that the measure has not met their approbation. This inference may create suspicions destructive of that unanimity which is admitted, by the wisest and best men in the United States, to be absolutely necessary to preserve the federal union.

The neighbouring states of Virginia and Pennsylvania have discovered their sense of the importance of this meeting, and their expectations of its effects, by appointing some of their first characters to assist in the deliberations.

We cannot account for your postponing the consideration of these great and interesting subjects, and your adjournment to the 20th of March, unless it be to appeal to the people upon the bill for an emission of paper money, which we rejected. This appeal tends to weaken the powers of government, and to disseminate divisions and discord among the citizens of this state, at a crisis, when the energy of the one, and the union of the other, are more than ever necessary. Appeals to the people, upon a diversity of opinion arising between the two branches of the legislature upon any public measure, are unprecedented. The framers of our government have no where intimated the propriety of one branch appealing to the people from the proceedings of the other. Every man of reflection will readily perceive, if this practice should prevail, that the public business will no longer be conducted by a select legislature, consisting of two branches, equally free and independent, calmly deliberating and determining on the propriety of public measures, but that the state will be convulsed upon every difference of opinion between those branches, respecting any question which either may think important. Thus the checks wisely established by the constitution, will in time be destroyed, force instead of reason will govern, and liberty must finally yield to despotism; for the same causes, all circumstances being similar, will produce here the same effects which they produced in the ancient republics of Greece and Rome. It must also be obvious, that the members of your house being more numerous, and more dispersed throughout the state, than the members of the senate, they will