

By THE SENATE, APRIL 21, 1787.

GENTLEMEN,

WE consider the appointment of deputies to meet at Philadelphia in May next, as a matter of the highest importance to the union, and therefore have agreed to the time you mention for the appointment on Monday next: We also agree to the number five as the most proper, and convenient number; and in addition to the gentlemen named by you, have nominated Thomas Johnson, William Paca, Samuel Chase and Thomas Stone, Esquires. John Henry and George Gale, Esquires, desire not to be considered in the nomination, as it would not be in their power to attend, even if they should be elected. Peregrine Tilghman and William Harrison, Esquires, are nominated by this house to join the gentlemen named by you to examine the ballot boxes.

By order,

J. DORSEY, clk.

The message in answer to the message by Mr. F. Bowie, was read the second time and agreed to.

The president lays before the senate a petition from John Brown and Richard Carmichael, on behalf of William Carmichael, respecting certain property, formerly belonging to the said William, which was confiscated; which was read, referred to the consideration of the house of delegates, and, with the above message, was sent by John Smith, Esquire.

The senate adjourns till Monday morning 8 o'clock.

M O N D A Y, April 23, 1787.

THE senate met. Present as on Saturday, except John Henry, Esquire. The proceedings of Saturday were read.

The president lays before the senate a letter from John Henry, Esquire, stating the reasons which induced him to depart the senate without leave; which was read.

The president lays before the senate petitions from John Brown and Thomas Smith, late receivers of quit-rents, praying to be authorized to collect the arrearages of said quit-rents; which were read, referred to the consideration of the house of delegates, and sent by Daniel Carroll, Esquire.

The senate adjourns till 3 o'clock.

P O S T M E R I D I E M.

The senate met.

Mr. Ridgely, from the house of delegates, delivers to the president the following message:

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, APRIL 23, 1787.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOURS,

WE are truly sensible of the distresses of private debtors, and that many of them are unable to pay their debts, without parting with their property at one third or less of its real value. We consider such a grievance and oppression, as demands legislative redress. Your honours manifest with real concern the sufferings of our people from a rigid collection of debts in the manner the laws now permit. In times of great distress, we have many instances of legislative interference in private contracts, and this house are of opinion, that the circumstances of our people are wrought up to such an extreme of difficulty, as will well justify this legislature in the like interposition to preserve many respectable citizens and their families from inevitable ruin. We know of no relief that can be given to debtors but what will, in some degree, break in upon private contracts, and therefore conceive this objection must be waved, or no substantial redress can be afforded. If any effectual mode of relief can be devised by a conference, we shall readily agree to it; and to manifest our earnest wish to effect so desirable an object, we have nominated Mr. Thomas Johnson, Mr. B. Worthington, Mr. Stone, Mr. Wright and Mr. Hollingsworth, to meet such gentlemen as you may appoint to confer on the best and most efficacious means of relief to private debtors under the present circumstances of this country; and we flatter ourselves, that the joint exertions and wisdom of both branches will devise measures correspondent with the distresses and expectations of our constituents.

By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk.

Which was read.

Mr. Henry, from the house of delegates, delivers to the president the following message:

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, APRIL 23, 1787.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOURS,

MESSIEURS Paca, Johnson, Chase and Stone, were in nomination in this house as deputies to attend at Philadelphia; the three gentlemen first mentioned declined personally, and at their request their names were struck out. Mr. Stone's name was struck out, because it was feared he could not attend from peculiar circumstances. We have thought it necessary to give this information to your honours; that you may wave your nomination as to the three first mentioned gentlemen, or at least may not ballot for them, on a presumption that they will not act. We are also informed, that the governor desires his name to be taken off the nomination.

By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk.

Which was read.

The senate proceeded, according to the order of the day, to the election of five deputies to represent this state in the convention to be held at Philadelphia in May next. The ballot box was prepared, the ballots deposited therein, sealed up, and delivered to the committee of the senate appointed to meet the committee of the house of delegates, who retired to the conference room, and after some