

the governor and council be and they are hereby required and authorized to employ some attorney of said court to argue the said causes on behalf of the state, and that they allow to such attorney such compensation for his trouble as they may think adequate, and draw an order for the same on the treasury of the western shore.

By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk.

Which said resolutions were read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

The president communicates to the house a memorial from Samuel Chase, Esquire, chief judge of the general court; which was read, and referred to the consideration of the house of delegates, and sent there by the clerk.

The resolution in favour of the securities of Thomas Williams, was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

The senate took into consideration the message from the house of delegates respecting the bill, entitled, An act to regulate and discipline the militia of this state, and would not recede from the ninth and sixteenth amendments.

On motion, the following message was prepared, read and agreed to, and sent to the house of delegates by the clerk, with the said bill.

BY THE SENATE, DECEMBER 23, 1793.

GENTLEMEN,

WE have reconsidered the 7th, 9th, 14th and 16th amendments proposed by us to the bill, entitled, An act to regulate and discipline the militia of this state, and have determined to recede from the 7th and 14th; we adhere to our ninth amendment, from a conviction that it is improper to intrust the money arising from fines to the discretionary expenditures of the officers. The proposed amendment makes no appropriation of the money, but leaves it to the wisdom of the legislature, at a future session, to make some general and uniform system for the appropriation of all money arising under the operation of this act. It will make a very considerable fund, well worthy of the mature deliberation of the legislature. We will recede from the 16th amendment, provided you agree to confirm the volunteer companies in the town of Baltimore. The public situation of that town requires that energy and activity of exertion which is best produced by volunteer companies, and none of the inconveniences pointed out in your message can result from the allowance of them in a single city. We hope, that upon further consideration you will accept the amendment under that restriction. If this proposition meets your approbation, we request you to return the bill, and we will make the amendment accordingly.

By order,

W. PERRY, jun. clk.

The report of the trustees for building a new church in the city of Annapolis, was read, and referred to the consideration of the house of delegates, and sent there by the clerk.

The clerk of the house of delegates delivers the following resolution and instructions:

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, DECEMBER 23, 1793.

Whereas John Hall, Brice Thomas Beale Worthington, James Brice, William Hall, the 3d, and Charles Wallace, are appointed commissioners by law for the purpose of building a gaol in Anne-Arundel county, and a meeting of the said commissioners cannot be readily and frequently had, so as to carry on and complete the business of the said building, on account of the indisposition of two of the said commissioners, and the distant residence of another, RESOLVED, That John Randall and James Mackubin, of the city of Annapolis, be and they are hereby appointed commissioners for the purpose of building the said gaol, in addition to those already appointed, and with the like powers, and that any three or more of them have power to act.

By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk.

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, DECEMBER 23, 1793.

To the honourable JOHN HENRY and RICHARD POTTS.

GENTLEMEN,

WE, the General Assembly of Maryland, your immediate constituents, call your attention to a subject affecting to humanity, and involving the interests of this state. The horrors of war, some time in June last, forced a very large body of the citizens of French St. Domingo to quit their country, and seek shelter in the hospitable states of America, their allies; a body of near twelve hundred arrived at Baltimore, destitute of every necessary of life, without money, and unskilled in our language.

The charity of individuals (especially those of Baltimore-town,) furnished present relief to their wants; but private beneficence was unequal to such great exertions, and a just regard to Baltimore-town, as a part of the state of Maryland, called on us to relieve the citizens of that town from the pressure of so great a burthen. The interference of this general assembly became necessary to preserve the existence of at least three hundred and fifty old men, women and children, who had no other dependence until the meeting of congress, the period for which was, at that time, from a variety of reasons, extremely uncertain. For these reasons a grant of five hundred dollars a week, from the first day of December, instant, to the second day of February next, was made by this general assembly for their immediate support. We are informed that other states have made similar grants for the temporary support of exiles from the same country. They are in this country the most helpless of all beings, and humanity, and a just regard to national character, forbid that we should suffer any of our fellow-citizens to perish for want, while the God of nature showers down plenty on us with a bountiful hand. We need not recall to your minds what glory Great-Britain alone, to say nothing of other countries, has acquired, by affording assistance to unhappy wretches who have heretofore

sought