

"By the house of delegates, December 22, 1795: Read the second time by especial order and will pass.

"By order, W. HARWOOD, clk."

Which two last mentioned bills were ordered to be severally engrossed.

And the bill, entitled, An act for the relief of sundry insolvent debtors, with the following message:

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, DECEMBER 22, 1795.

GENTLEMEN OF THE SENATE,

WE are induced to send back the bill for the relief of sundry insolvent debtors for your reconsideration, under an expectation that you will agree to recede from the amendments which require that the concurrence of three fourths of the creditors, in value, must be obtained before the party can derive any of the indulgences held out by the bill; in a very few instances, perhaps in not one which are comprised in the bill, can this requisite concurrence of the creditors be obtained, the consequence must be, that to several of the persons mentioned in the bill, some of whom are now suffering a rigorous confinement, and are real objects of the legislative indulgence, the relief contemplated in the bill must be delusive.

We would also state, that there are instances where this concurrence cannot be had within the time prescribed, on account of the distance of the several creditors from one another; besides, the objects of relief cannot flatter themselves with the most distant prospect of meeting with the acquiescence of those creditors, whose rigour, in a variety of instances, may have forced them to apply for the interposition of the legislature. We have agreed to all the other amendments, except those which disallow of the preference given by the insolvent to security, from which we hope you will also recede.

By order, W. HARWOOD, clk.

Which was read.

The clerk of the house of delegates delivers the paper bills No. 23, 55, 56, 60, 62 and 65, which were thus severally endorsed; "By the house of delegates, December 23, 1795: The engrossed bill whereof this is the original read and assented to.

"By order, W. HARWOOD, clk."

Robert Smith, Esquire, from the committee, brings in and delivers to the president a bill, entitled, An act declaring the power of the governor in certain criminal cases; which was read the first and second time by especial order, will pass, and sent to the house of delegates by the clerk.

The clerk of the house of delegates delivers the bill, entitled, An act respecting a tract of land lying within this state claimed by Thomas Digges, Esquire, of the kingdom of Great-Britain, thus endorsed; "By the house of delegates, December 21, 1795: Read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

"By order, W. HARWOOD, clk."

"By the house of delegates, December 22, 1795: Read the second time by especial order and will not pass.

"By order, W. HARWOOD, clk."

"By the house of delegates, December 23, 1795: Upon reconsideration will pass.

"By order, W. HARWOOD, clk."

Which was ordered to be engrossed.

The message from the house of delegates respecting the bill, entitled, An act for the relief of sundry insolvent debtors, was read the second time, and on motion, ORDERED, That the senate reconsider the said bill; which was accordingly reconsidered, and will pass with the following additional amendment.

At the end of the amendment directed to be inserted at the end of the 9th line and 3d page, insert further "And provided also, that the chancellor may, without the assent of the creditors as aforesaid, from time to time order to be discharged from custody any of the said petitioners who may be in actual confinement in virtue of any process issued, or that may be issued, in pursuance of any debt at this time due and owing by him, which discharge is hereby declared to be a release only of the person of such debtor, but not of his property, unless the assent in writing of three fourths in value of the creditors as aforesaid be obtained."

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

BY THE SENATE, DECEMBER 23, 1795.

GENTLEMEN,

IN answer to your message respecting the bill for the relief of insolvent debtors, we have to inform you, that we cannot, consistently with our present opinions, recede from the amendment that prevents the insolvent from giving a preference to a security, neither can we recede from the amendment that requires the concurrence of three fourths in value of the creditors; but rather than negative the law, we are willing to submit the clause herewith sent as an additional amendment, which we trust will be considered by you a sufficient qualification, as it will tend to remove all objections arising from considerations of personal sufferings produced by actual confinement in gaol. The petition of Gerard Gover, of Harford county, for the benefit of an insolvent act, has been preferred here, and we are willing to include him in the present bill, if modified as we now propose.

By order, H. WARFIELD, clk.

The clerk of the house of delegates delivers the bill, entitled, An act declaring the power of the governor in certain criminal cases, thus endorsed; "By the house of delegates, December 23, 1795: Read the first and second time by especial order and will pass with the proposed amendment.

"By order, W. HARWOOD, clk."

Amend-