

execute them. While almost all the other officers are attended to, and their services have been thought deserving of some increase, should the chancellor and judges of the general court go unnoticed? Will there not be ground to apprehend that they may consider themselves as slighted by the legislature, or regarded as deficient in their duties, and thus be induced to resign? It is to be feared that the judges of the general court may resign their seats, in order to resume their profession, by which they may be enabled to provide better for their families. You must be fully sensible that nothing contributes more to the welfare of a country, nothing tends more to the security of the citizen, and preservation of public liberty, than an upright, firm and able administration of justice. We submit it to your consideration, whether such an administration can be looked for; should incompetent men, from mere necessity, accept the appointment, and be placed in the seats of judgment. It is declared by our bill of rights, that the independency and uprightness of judges are essential to the impartial administration of justice; to secure that independency it also declares, that salaries liberal, but not profuse, ought to be secured to the chancellor and judges during the continuance of their commissions. We are persuaded you will think with us, that the present salaries of the chancellor and of the judges of the general court, and of the district courts, cannot be considered as liberal under the existing circumstances of the country, and when compared with the increased price of labour, the profits of trade, and the actual depreciation of money. We flatter ourselves that these reasons, and others which your own good sense and candour must suggest, will induce you to make augmentation to the salaries of your above-mentioned officers, as may be really adequate to their services, and consistent with the principles of our constitution.

By order,

A. VAN HORN, clk.

The clerk of the house of delegates delivers the paper bills number 43, 44, 45, 48, 49, 50, 51 and 53, the engrossed bills whereof were thus endorsed; "By the house of delegates, December 30, 1796: Read and assented to.

"By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk."

The paper bills No. 13, 19, 42, 46, 47, 56 and 66, and the engrossed bills thereof, were sent to the house of delegates by the clerk.

The clerk of the house of delegates delivers to the clerk of the senate the following resolution:

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, DECEMBER 30, 1796.

RESOLVED, That Richard Alexander Contee be and he is hereby released from all claim the state of Maryland may have for the deficiency in the purchase money of the lot of land in Baltimore-tow, late the property of Robert and James Christie, purchased by him from the agent of this state, amounting to the sum of two hundred and fifty pounds current money.

By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk.

Which was read the first and second time by especial order and assented to.

On motion, ORDERED, That the governor and council be requested to take steps to render secure the ceiling in the chamber of the senate.

The senate adjourns until 5 o'clock.

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

The senate met.

The resolution in favour of Richard Alexander Contee was sent to the house of delegates by the clerk.

The clerk of the house of delegates delivers to the clerk of the senate the following message, and the bill therein mentioned.

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, DECEMBER 30, 1796.

GENTLEMEN OF THE SENATE,

WE return you the bill for laying out a road from a place called Bean-town to Port-Tobacco, in Charles county, and hope, upon reconsideration, it will pass your house. The convenience and public benefit arising to the people of that county from the road as contemplated, appeared to us to be well established. If you think the provisions of the bill defective, we will cheerfully accede to any amendments that may render it more perfect; but hope you will consent that the object of the bill shall not be entirely defeated.

By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk.

Which was read.

The bill, entitled, An act for the relief of sundry insolvent debtors, with the amendments thereto, was sent to the house of delegates by the clerk.

The clerk of the house of delegates delivers to the clerk of the senate the following resolution:

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, DECEMBER 30, 1796.

RESOLVED, That Walter Bowie, Levi Gantt, Benjamin Lowndes and Thomas Duckett, of Prince-George's county, and William Harwood and Edward Hall, of Edward, of Anne-Arundel county, and Charles Wallace and James Williams, of the city of Annapolis, be and they, or any four of them, are hereby authorized and empowered to examine the situation of the country between the city of Washington and the city of Annapolis, and ascertain and determine the direction and position of the nearest and most convenient and practicable road that can be laid off between the said places, and report the same, with a plot thereof, to the next general assembly.

RESOLVED, That each of the said persons, for every day he shall attend in ascertaining the direction and position of the said road, shall be allowed the sum of two dollars; and the respective levy courts of the counties of Prince-George's and Anne-Arundel are hereby authorized and empowered