

ORDERED, That the clerk write to the several absent members by express, and require their immediate attendance, and that they pay the expence of said express.

Mr. Perkins and Mr. Selby have leave of absence.

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

T H U R S D A Y, March 6, 1777.

THE house met. Present the same members as on yesterday, except Mr. Hall. The proceedings of yesterday were read. Mr. Schnebely appeared in the house. Mr. Mason has leave of absence. Mr. Joseph Sprigg, a delegate returned for Washington county, appeared in the house, and after having qualified agreeable to the constitution and form of government, in the presence of Mr. Speaker and the other members, he took his seat. Mr. Douglass, Mr. M'Pherson, and Mr. Williams, have leave of absence.

Mr. J. T. Chase brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker a bill, entitled, An act to prevent desertion; which was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

And Mr. Sheredine brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker a bill to make the bills of credit issued by congress, and the bills of credit emitted by acts of assembly and resolves of the late conventions, a legal tender in all cases; which was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. J. T. Chase brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker the following report:

By the COMMITTEE appointed to receive all petitions and proposals for the establishment of manufactories, and to consider and devise the best ways and means of promoting trade and commerce within this state.

YOUR committee, having taken into consideration the best means of promoting trade and commerce, are of opinion, that the repealing and declaring void all the laws of this state imposing duties on foreign bottoms, and a duty on any articles or commodity imported into or exported out of this state (except such acts of assembly as lay duties on all negroes imported within this state), would greatly tend to encourage and advance the trade and commerce thereof. They also beg leave to suggest as their opinion, that the establishment of an insurance office, by the public, under proper regulations, would not only promote trade and commerce, but would be highly conducive to the general good.

All which is submitted to the honourable house.

By order of com.

NICHOLAS HARWOOD, cl.

Which was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

On motion, leave given to bring in a bill to provide carriages for the army, and to ascertain the hire thereof, and the pay for crossing ferries. ORDERED, That Mr. S. Chase, Mr. Edelen, Mr. Lethbrury, Mr. Kent, Mr. Ridgely, Mr. Henry, and Mr. Gilpin, do prepare and bring in the same.

Mr. J. T. Chase brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker the following message:

By the HOUSE of DELEGATES, March 6, 1777.

May it please your honours,

THIS house having taken into consideration that part of the resolve of congress of the fifteenth of February seventeen hundred and seventy-seven, recommending to the legislatures of New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia, the appointment of commissioners to meet at York-Town, in Pennsylvania, on the third Monday of this instant, for the purpose of considering of and forming a system for regulating the price of labour, of manufactures, and of internal produce, within those states, and of goods imported from foreign parts, except military stores, are of opinion, that the said recommendation ought to be complied with, and have accordingly resolved to appoint five commissioners, with a power to any three or more of them, to act in conjunction with the commissioners of the other states for the above purpose.

Should your honours concur with us in opinion, this house will immediately proceed to ballot for the commissioners to be appointed by this state.

By order,

G. DUVALL, cl. ho. del.

Which was read and concurred with.

The following message being prepared, was read and agreed to:

By the HOUSE of DELEGATES, March 5, 1777.

May it please your honours,

THIS house are of opinion, that the following persons, viz. Jesse Davis, Daniel Fookes, Boaz Walton, John Parsons, Samuel Williams, and Jonathan Fookes, insurgents in Somerset or Worcester counties, are entitled to the benefit of the proclamation published by the general assembly, and ought to be discharged from custody, that they may have their election to take that benefit or not.

Should