

ing qualified agreeable to the constitution and form of government, in the presence of Mr. Speaker and the other members, they took their seats.

Mr. Hall brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker the following reports :

By the COMMITTEE of AGGRIEVANCES and COURTS of JUSTICE.

YOUR committee have taken into consideration the memorial of William Goddard of Baltimore county, printer, and having enquired into the truth of the facts therein contained, do find, That on Monday evening, the third of this instant, colonel Nathaniel Ramsey, attended by George Turnbull, called on said Goddard, at his house in Baltimore-Town, and, on behalf of the Whig club, requested he would discover the author of a piece published in the Maryland journal, under the signature of *Tom Tell Truth*, which he refused to comply with.

That captain John Slaymaker, the same evening, delivered Mr. Goddard a summons, signed Legion, requesting him to attend the next evening at six o'clock, at the house of Mr. Rusk (tavern keeper in Baltimore-Town) to answer such questions as might be asked by the club relative to the above publication.

That a little after six o'clock, the evening of the fourth instant, Messieurs Benjamin Nicholson, Nathaniel Ramsey, Robert Buchanan, Hugh Young, and James Smyth, (some of them armed) came to the house of the said Goddard, and on his refusal to discover the author of the said publication, required him to attend the Whig club, and, after some altercation, said Goddard went with those gentlemen to the house of Mr. Rusk, where the club were assembled.— Commodore James Nicholson was in the chair that evening, David Stewart, Esquire, secretary, Mr. Robert Parviance, captain Nathaniel Smyth, and the gentlemen who attended Mr. Goddard that evening and the evening before, were present, together with many others. That the said Whig club assumed the powers of a legal assembly, questioned Mr. Goddard concerning the author of said publication, on his refusal to make him known they repeatedly ordered him to withdraw under guard, and finally proceeded to pass sentence of banishment upon him; a copy of which sentence he demanded, and the same was served upon said Goddard the same evening by captain David Plunkett, purporting a resolve of the Whig club, that Mr. William Goddard should leave the town by twelve o'clock next day, and the county in three days; should he refuse obedience, that he would be subject to the resentment of a Legion.

Your committee are of opinion, that such proceedings are a manifest violation of the constitution, directly contrary to the declaration of rights assented to by the representatives of the freemen of this state, and tend in their consequences (unless timely checked) to the overthrow of all regular government.

And which is submitted to the consideration of the honourable house.

By order of com.

JOHN JOHNSON, clk.

By the COMMITTEE of ELECTIONS and PRIVILEGES.

YOUR committee have examined the return of two delegates for Talbot county, and beg leave to report, That by the certificate of the judges who held that election, it appears that Messieurs Nicholas Thomas and John Bracco were duly elected and returned.

Signed by order,

JOHN JOHNSON, cl. com.

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

T U E S D A Y, March 11, 1777.

THE house met. Present the same members as on yesterday. Mr. Ridgely, Mr. Smithson, and Mr. Smith, appeared in the house.

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

W E D N E S D A Y, March 12, 1777.

THE house met. Present the same members as on yesterday, except Mr. Speaker, who had leave of absence on account of the indisposition of his brother, and Mr. Hammond, who had not leave of absence. Mr. Craufurd and Mr. T. Bond appeared in the house.

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

T H U R S D A Y, March 13, 1777.

THE house met. Present the same members as on yesterday: Mr. Ford, Mr. Kent, and Mr. Bruff, appeared in the house.

The honourable Thomas Sprigg Wootton, Esquire, not attending, the house proceeded to the choice of a speaker in his stead, and the honourable Nicholas Thomas, Esquire, was elected.

The proceedings of Monday were read.

On