

the order of the house to attend in custody of Charles Jacob, he withdrew; and the house having considered the subject, ORDERED, That he be discharged from the custody of the serjeant, on paying the expence of the messenger sent after him.

ORDERED, That Mr. Parran be called to the bar, and that Mr. Speaker inform him of the resolution of the house; and he appeared at the bar, and Mr. Speaker informed him accordingly. Mr. Parran took his seat in the house.

ORDERED, That a committee be appointed to tax the fees arising on the express and messenger sent after Mr. Ennalls and Mr. Parran; and Mr. Sheredine, Mr. S. Chase, Mr. Wootton, and Mr. Bruff, were appointed a committee for that purpose.

Mr. William Ennalls, a delegate elected for Dorchester 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.

On motion, leave given to bring in a bill to prevent the prosecution of ordinary keepers, hawkers, pedlars, and petty chapmen, and for other purposes therein mentioned. ORDERED, That Mr. S. Chase, Mr. Wright, and Mr. Hall, do prepare and bring in the same.

ORDERED, That three persons be added to the committee appointed to prepare and bring in a bill to prevent the distilling of grain; and Mr. Wootton, Mr. J. T. Chase, and Mr. O. Sprigg, were added to the said committee.

Mr. J. Sprigg has leave of absence for ten days on account of the indisposition of his wife. Mr. Ridgely has leave of absence till Monday the thirty-first instant.

Mr. Sheredine brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker a report from the committee appointed to tax the fees arising on the express and messenger sent after Mr. Ennalls and Mr. Parran; which was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

Thomas Contee, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker a resolve for dissolving the council of safety, and vesting the governor and council with their powers; thus endorsed, "By the senate, March 21, 1777: Read and assented to.

"Signed by order, R. RIDGELY, cl. sen."

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

Samuel Wilson, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker the bill, entitled, An act to promote the recruiting service; thus endorsed; "By the senate, March 18, 1777: Read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

"By order, R. RIDGELY, cl. sen."

"By the senate, March 21, 1777: Read the second time and will pass with the amendments herewith sent.

"By order, R. RIDGELY, cl. sen."

Amendments proposed. In the fifth line of the first page, between the words "money" and "verified," insert the following, "or two thousand pounds of tobacco."

Strike out the word "and" in the third line of the second page.

After the word "soldiers," in the sixth line of the same page, insert the following, "And be it enacted, That the creditors aforesaid shall not be affected by the act of limitations, from and during the time they shall be precluded, as aforesaid, from prosecuting their claims; nor shall the delay of suing out execution during such time operate so as to prevent the suing out the same, after the discharge of such debtors from the service."

In the eleventh line of the second page, strike out the words "including an allowance," and instead thereof insert the following, "and in every such case the magistrate shall deduct from the value of the said servant or apprentice the sum."

In the third line from the bottom of the second page, insert the word "immediately" between the words "be" and "paid."

Strike out the two last clauses and insert the following: "And be it enacted, that the governor shall appoint a proper and discreet person in every hundred in each county of this state, who shall repair to and require every house-keeper within his hundred, except tavern-keepers, to deliver in an account of all the blankets the property of the said house-keeper, over and above the number necessary for and commonly used by the family in the winter season, and shall deliver to the said collector one third part of the said overplus. And if the said collectors shall suspect a concealment by any house-keeper, then the said collector shall tender to the said house-keeper the following oath or affirmation, viz. I, A. B. do swear, or affirm, that I will deliver in to the best of my knowledge a just and true account of the number of blankets belonging to me, over and above the number necessary for and commonly used by my family in the winter season; and the said house-keeper shall deliver to the said collector one third part of such overplus: and the said collector shall deliver to every house-keeper, or his assigns, a certificate of the number and value of the blankets so as aforesaid received by him, which value shall be ascertained either by agreement, or by the appraisement, on oath, of an indifferent person, to be administered by the collector, and be paid by either of the treasurers of this state, who shall transmit, with all convenient speed, to the governor and council, fair and exact lists of the number of blankets, and from and by whom collected; and the said collectors shall, without loss of time, convey to and deposit in the public store