

ness of appointing the civil officers of the state, and desirous that men of the first ability and integrity may be appointed, we agree to a free communication of sentiments on this subject previous to a joint ballot, and have appointed Joseph Nicholson and Matthew Tilghman, Esquires, of this house, to meet such members as may be appointed by yours for that purpose.

By order, R. POTTS, cl. sen.

Which was read.

ORDERED, That a message be prepared to the senate in answer thereto.

Mr. S. Chafe and Mr. J. T. Chafe appeared in the house. Mr. T. Bond has leave of absence till Monday next.

The following message being prepared, was sent to the senate by Mr. Stevenson and Mr. Polk.

By the HOUSE of DELEGATES, April 3, 1777.

May it please your honours,

WE concur with your message by Matthew Tilghman, Esq; and have appointed Mr. Hall, Mr. Wootton, and Mr. J. T. Chafe, to meet the members appointed by your house.

By order, G. DUVALL, cl. ho. del.

Mr. Ford appeared in the house.

On motion, RESOLVED, That the judges of the general court have for the present a *per diem* allowance for their expences.

Adjourned till 3 o'clock.

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

The house met. Mr. Smithson appeared in the house.

The house having named Mr. Hall, Mr. Bruff, and Mr. Wootton, as a committee from this house to examine the ballot boxes for the appointment of judges and such other officers as were objected to by the senate, ORDERED, That a message be prepared to the senate acquainting them therewith.

The following message being prepared, was sent to the senate by Mr. Smith and Mr. Sheredine.

By the HOUSE of DELEGATES, April 3, 1777.

May it please your honours,

THIS house have named Mr. Hall, Mr. Wootton, and Mr. Bruff, to join such members of your house as you may appoint, to examine the ballot boxes, for the appointment of judges and other officers, in the place of those objected to by your honours. This house are of opinion, that no person should be ballotted for to any office or appointment, unless named to each house before balloting, and that no ballots ought to be counted for any person not so named. If this mode should meet with your honours approbation, the persons proposed to this house will be communicated to the senate.

By order, G. DUVALL, cl. ho. del.

George Plater, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker the engrossed bill No. 4, with the paper bill thereof, thus endorsed; "By the senate, April 2, 1777: Read with the amendments and passed for engrossing."

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

The engrossed bill read and assented to, and the paper bill thereof so endorsed, and sent to the senate by Mr. Downes and Mr. Crabb.

Joseph Nicholson, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker the following message:

By the SENATE, April 3, 1777.

Gentlemen,

WE have appointed Thomas Contee and Charles Grahame, Esquires, to join the members named by your house to examine the ballot boxes for the appointment of judges and other officers, in the place of those upon your list who were objected to by us.

We concur in the proposition made in your message by Messieurs Smith and Sheredine, and on being informed of the persons proposed in your house for the vacancies, will communicate the names of those who have been mentioned in this, and shall be ready to ballot this afternoon.

By order, R. POTTS, cl. sen.

Which was read, and the list of persons proposed by this house communicated to the senate accordingly.

The senate communicate their list by Charles Carroll of Carrollton, Esq; which was read.

Thereupon the ballots being deposited in the ballot box, the gentlemen named by this house retired, and after some time they returned and reported, that upon examining the joint ballots of both houses, a majority appeared in favour of Benjamin Rumfey and Solomon Wright, Esquires, judges of the general court; Mr. Samuel Ridgeway justice for Queen-Anne's county; Mr. John Beall surveyor of Prince-George's county; and Mr. Thomas Barrow surveyor of Caroline county; Mr. John Veazy, 3d, register of wills; and Mr. Meveril Lock naval officer.

RESOLVED,