

proper, and necessary to be taken by the governor, because your honours twice concurred with us in the opinion. It remains with your honours therefore to explain why an oath, proper to be taken by our governor, is improper to be taken by the other civil officers of government.

If your honours cannot agree to the oath as a test of disaffection, we hope your consent to that part of our bill, which directs it to be taken by the general assembly, the council, and the civil officers of this state.

We disagree to your amendments relating to persons who fled from this state and to non-associators. We are willing to give the first nine months to return and take the oath in the bill, and will also allow one month to the latter to take the oath.

We think some reward should be allowed for the taking up persons travelling without passes, and therefore have rejected your amendment on that subject.

If the last clause but one in our bill should be agreed to, there will be no necessity to direct attorneys to take the oath of fidelity, we have therefore dissented to your amendment respecting them.

This house agree to strike out of the bill every thing that relates to the election of, and power to, the committees of observation. We do not agree to your proposed amendment as to disaffected and dangerous persons, except that part which invests the governor (with the advice of the council) with particular powers, and directs a suspension of the *habeas corpus* in case of invasion.

We have agreed to all the other amendments proposed by your honours.

As we apprehend the bill concerns the peace and safety of this state, we have returned it to your honours for your further consideration: We esteem the bill of great importance, and shall be very unwilling, that the loss of it should be imputed by your, and our, constituents, to this house.

By order,

G. DUVALL, cl. ho. del.

Which was read a first and second time and assented to.

Turbutt Wright, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker the bill, entitled, An act concerning marriages, thus endorsed; "By the senate, April 8, 1777: Read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

By order,

R. POTTS, cl. sen.

"By the senate, April 10, 1777: Read the second time and will pass with the amendments herewith sent.

By order,

R. POTTS, cl. sen."

Amendments proposed by the senate to the bill, entitled, An act concerning marriages.

In the 4th line of the 5th page, strike out the word "sixteen" and insert "twenty-one."

In the 5th line of the same page, strike out the word "fourteen" and insert "sixteen."

Strike out from the word "years" in the same line and page to the word "and" in the 7th line of the same page.

Strike out from the word "said" in the 7th line of the 8th page to the word "and" in the 12th line.

By order,

R. POTTS, cl. sen.

Which amendments were read and assented to, and the bill passed for engrossing.

Mr. Henry Banning, a delegate returned for Talbot 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, RESOLVED, That the settlement of the rank of all military officers of the seven battalions raised by this state, as a part of her quota of the continental army, be referred to his excellency general Washington. Sent to the senate for their concurrence by Mr. Wootton and Mr. Henry.

Thomas Contee, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker the bill, entitled, An act for the more speedy recovery of common law fines and forfeited recognizances, thus endorsed, "By the senate, April 10, 1777: Read the first and second time by an especial order and will pass.

By order,

R. POTTS, cl. sen."

Which was read here and passed for engrossing.

A petition from sundry inhabitants of the upper part of Prince-George's county was read and ordered to lie on the table.

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

## F R I D A Y, April 11, 1777.

THE house met. Present the same members as on yesterday, except Mr. Mitchell. The proceedings of yesterday were read.

The bill, entitled, An act to open the courts of justice, &c. read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

On motion, leave given to bring in a bill for the more speedy recovery of small debts out of court. ORDERED, That Mr. Hall, Mr. Wootton, and Mr. Bruff, do prepare and bring in the same.

On motion, leave given to bring in a bill for the payment of the journal of accounts. ORDERED, That Mr. Lethbury, Mr. Maddox, and Mr. Wright, do prepare and bring in the same.

Y

Mr.