

2 VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS, OCTOBER 1777.

The house then proceeded to the choice of a speaker, and the honourable Nicholas Thomas, Esq; was elected by ballot.

The house appointed Mr. Gabriel Duvall clerk. ORDERED, That he qualify as such, by taking the several oaths required, subscribing a declaration of his belief in the christian religion, and by taking an oath, that he will honestly, faithfully, and diligently, discharge the office of clerk to the house of delegates of Maryland, and that he will not disclose or reveal the secrets thereof.

Mr. Allen Quynn was appointed serjeant at arms, and Mr. Robert Reynolds door-keeper. ORDERED, That they qualify as such, by taking the several oaths required.

The house appointed Mr. William Hyde an assistant clerk. ORDERED, That he be qualified. Adjourned till 3 o'clock.

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

The house met. Mr. Athanasius Ford, a delegate returned for St. Mary's county, Mr. Jeremiah Magruder, a delegate returned for Prince-George's county, and Mr. Alexander M'Pherson, a delegate returned for Charles county, appeared in the house, and, after being duly qualified, they took their seats.

ORDERED, That Mr. Hall and Mr. Forbes do acquaint his excellency the governor, that there are a sufficient number of delegates convened to compose a house. They return and acquaint Mr. Speaker they delivered the message.

A certificate of the clerk's qualification was produced and filed.

RESOLVED, That for the dispatch of public business this house will sit during this session from nine o'clock in the morning until three in the afternoon.

ORDERED, That a message be prepared to the senate acquainting them therewith.

The following message being prepared, was sent to the senate by Mr. Ford and Mr. Purnell.

By the HOUSE of DELEGATES, October 31, 1777.

May it please your honours,

THIS house hath appointed from nine o'clock in the morning until three in the afternoon for its sitting every day during this session for the dispatch of public business.

By order,

G. DUVALL, cl. ho. del.

Mr. Speaker laid before the house a letter from Mr. William Bruff, a delegate returned for Queen-Anne's county, and a letter from Mr. Peter Chaille, a delegate returned for Worcester county, signifying a resignation of their seats; which were read.

Certificates of the qualifications of Mr. Hyde, the serjeant at arms, and the door-keeper, were produced and filed.

ORDERED, that the following rules be observed this session:

1. That no member of the house use any reviling speeches, or name any member by his proper name, but shall use some other distinction, as "the gentleman who spoke last," or the like.
2. That none shall deliver his opinion, or speak to any debate, unless he shall stand up in his place, and reverently direct his speech to the speaker.
3. That no member speak above once on any debate, without leave of the house declared by the speaker, and if two persons or more shall rise up together, the speaker shall appoint who shall speak first, and no member shall interrupt any other, until the gentleman speaking hath ended.
4. That no person come into the house, while the same is sitting, with sword or other weapon, upon penalty of such fine as shall be imposed on him by the speaker, not exceeding twenty shillings.
5. That if any member be absent at the hours appointed, the speaker and twenty of the members having met, according to the order for sitting, he shall be fined according to the discretion of the speaker, not exceeding ten shillings for any offence, unless upon such excuse as the speaker shall admit.
6. All misdemeanors which shall happen in the house shall be censured or fined in the house.
7. That if any member of the house depart without leave of the house, he shall forfeit all his preceding allowance due to him for his attendance this session.
8. That every bill proposed to the house shall be read two several days before it is sent to the senate, and between every reading one day shall be intermitted; and that, in that time, the bill shall be laid on the table for the perusal of all the members, unless on very urgent occasions Mr. Speaker, with the consent of the house, shall dispense therewith, and then the bill, being read twice at one sitting, shall be as sufficient as if read several days, when so entered in the clerk's journal.

RESOLVED, That the reverend Mr. Read be requested to perform divine service in this house every morning during the present session at a quarter before nine o'clock.

On motion, RESOLVED, That a committee of elections and privileges be appointed to examine and inspect the returns of elections, and report whether they have been made agreeable to the