

## NEGATIVE.

Tillard,  
Fitzhugh,Somerville,  
Deye,Ridgely,  
Stevenson,

Burgess,

Williams,

Crabb.

Sent to the senate by Mr. Kent and Mr. Ward. They return and acquaint Mr. Speaker they delivered the bill.

Agreeable to the order of the day, the house resolved itself into a committee of the whole, on the articles of confederation and perpetual union between the United States of America. After some time spent therein, Mr. Speaker resumed the chair, and Mr. Fitzhugh reported, that the committee had, according to order, taken into their consideration the said articles, and had come to several resolutions thereon, which they directed him to report, and which he read in his place, and afterwards delivered them in at the table, where they were again read, and are as follow :

RESOLVED, That the delegates to congress from the state of Maryland be instructed to endeavour to get an amendment of the fourth article of the confederation, by striking out the word "paupers" and inserting a provision, "that one state shall not be burthened with the maintenance of poor persons who may remove from another state."

RESOLVED, That the said delegates be instructed to use their endeavours to obtain an explanation of the eighth article of the confederation, which may be construed to comprehend those lands only which may be granted to or surveyed for any person at the time of ratifying the articles of confederation in the congress of the United States; and to represent that all the lands within each state, thereafter granted to or surveyed for any person, with the buildings and improvements thereon, should from time to time be valued according to such mode as the United States in congress assembled shall direct, to find the proportion in which each state ought to contribute towards the common expence, and supplying the treasury of the United States.

RESOLVED, That the delegates to congress from this state be instructed to remonstrate to the honourable congress, That this state esteem it essentially necessary for rendering the union lasting, that the United States in congress assembled should have full power to ascertain and fix the western limits of those states that claim to the Mississippi or South Sea. That this state consider themselves justly entitled to a right in common with the other members of the union, to that extensive tract of country which lies to the westward of the frontiers of the United States, the property of which was not vested in or granted to individuals at the commencement of the present war. That the same hath been or may hereafter be gained from the king of Great-Britain or the native Indians by the blood and treasure of all, and ought therefore to be a common estate to be granted out on terms beneficial to all the United States. And that they use their utmost endeavours to obtain, that an article to this effect be made part of the confederation.

George Plater, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker the bill, entitled, An act for the better security of the government, thus endorsed; "By the senate, November 15, 1777: "Read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

"By order,

A. C. HANSON, cl. sen.

"By the senate, December 16, 1777: Read the second time and will pass with the proposed amendments.

By order,

A. C. HANSON, cl. sen."

Amendments: After the word, "shall," in the 12th line of the first page, strike out to the word, "take," in the said twelfth line, and insert, "on or before the first day of March next." After the word, "shall," in the seventeenth line of the first page, strike out to the word, "solemnly," and insert, "on or before the first day of March next." After the word, "name," in the eighteenth line of the first page, strike out to the words, "it being represented," in the beginning of the eleventh page, and insert the several following clauses:

"And be it enacted, That the said oath and affirmation shall be taken within the time aforesaid, before some magistrate of the county or city where the person, who takes such oath or affirmation, resides.

"And be it enacted, That every magistrate aforesaid shall keep two paper books; one for all persons who shall take the oath aforesaid, and the other for all persons who shall take the affirmation aforesaid, prefixing to one of the said books the oath aforesaid, and to the other the affirmation aforesaid. And all persons required by this act to take the said oath, or affirmation shall, after taking the same, subscribe his name thereto, in such book as contains the oath, if such person takes the said oath, or in such book as contains the affirmation, if such person takes the said affirmation; and if any such person cannot write his name, he shall make his mark, and the magistrate shall thereto set his name.

"And, For the ascertaining such as shall neglect to take the said oath, or affirmation, and that there may be a record evidence of such neglect,

"Be it enacted, That every magistrate aforesaid, shall make out fair copies of his said books, with all convenient dispatch, after the aforesaid first day of March, and the same transmit to the governor and council of this state, and shall deliver the original books to his next county court, which shall happen after the said first day of March next, there to be recorded.

"And