

Brice T. B. Worthington, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker the bill, entitled, An act of indemnity, thus endorsed; "By the senate, December 16, 1777: Read the first and second time by an especial order and will pass.

"By order,

A. C. HANSON, cl. sen."

Which was ordered to be engrossed.

The following message being prepared, was sent to the senate by Mr. Deye and Mr. Williams:

By the HOUSE of DELEGATES, December 16, 1777.

May it please your honours,

THIS house have nominated Mr. Winder, Mr. Deye, and Mr. Kent, to examine the ballot boxes, in conjunction with the members of the senate for that purpose appointed, for the choice of commissioners to go to Fredericksburg.

By order,

G. DUVALL, cl. ho. del.

Thomas Contee, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker the resolutions sent up this day by Mr. Smoot and Mr. Brice, thus endorsed; "By the senate, December 16, 1777: Read and assented to.

By order,

A. C. HANSON, cl. sen."

The ballots for the said commissioners being deposited in the ballot-box, the gentlemen named to strike retired to the conference room, and after some time return and report, that upon striking the ballots of both houses, the largest numbers stood as follow: For Mr. John Steward, 37; Mr. Josias Beall, 29; Mr. Normand Bruce, 25; Mr. Ezekiel Forman, 21; Mr. B. T. B. Worthington, 21; Mr. Thomas S. Wootton, 21.

The house thereupon proceed to ballot a second time for two of the three who are reported to have an equal number, and the ballots being deposited in the ballot box, the committee appointed to strike retired, and after some time they return and report, that they had, with a committee of the senate, examined the ballots of both houses, and that a majority appeared in favour of Mr. Worthington and Mr. Forman. RESOLVED therefore, That Mr. John Steward, Mr. Josias Beall, Mr. Normand Bruce, Mr. Brice T. B. Worthington, and Mr. Ezekiel Forman, or any three or more of them, be commissioners from this state to meet at Fredericksburg, on the 15th day of January next, in order to regulate and ascertain the price of labour, manufactures, internal produce, and commodities imported from foreign parts, military stores excepted, and also to regulate the charges of innholders.

An address from Abraham Vanbibber was presented to the house and read.

William Hindman, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker a resolution of that body, empowering and directing the governor and the council to distribute three hundred stand of arms to the lieutenants of Kent and Talbot counties, which was read, and ordered to lie on the table.

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

W E D N E S D A Y, December 17, 1777.

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

Mr. West brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker a report from the committee appointed to examine the accounts and proceedings of the board of auditors, &c. which was read and ordered to lie on the table.

A memorial from the commissioners of the loan office was laid before the house and read, representing, That by an act of assembly, entitled; An act for emitting bills of credit, and applying part thereof, they are directed to compel the punctual payment of the interest, annually, which should be due on loans to be made by virtue of said act; that in case of failure their office bonds are liable to be put in suit; that from a variety of circumstances, the state has been for a considerable time past without judges or clerk in the general court, by which means, and not by neglect or remissness, they have been prevented from a strict compliance with said act, and therefore praying to be indemnified in the premises; also reminding the house, that their salary is inadequate to the nature of their trust, and the multiplicity of business they are obliged to transact, and therefore praying an augmentation thereof.

ORDERED, That the committee appointed to enquire what laws will expire this session, make a report on Friday next.

George Plater and William Paca, Esquires, from the senate, acquaint Mr. Speaker that the governor is attending in the senate ready to sign some laws which have passed this session, and that it is requested that this house will attend there immediately to see him sign the said laws. Mr. Speaker left the chair, and (with the members of this house) went to the senate, and there presented the following engrossed bills to the governor, who signed the same, and affixed the great seal thereto, in the presence of the members of both houses:

No. 5. An act to enable the surviving visitors of Cecil county free-school to fill up the vacancies for visitors in said school.

No. 6.