

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS, OCTOBER 1777. 55.

RESOLVED, That the time heretofore fixed for closing the journal of accounts be extended to Friday next, and that the said journal be closed on that day.

The house taking into consideration the report of the committee of the whole on the articles of confederation and perpetual union, &c. came to the following resolutions thereon:

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.

RESOLVED, That this state will contribute their quota of men and money towards carrying on the present war with Great-Britain, for the purpose of establishing the freedom and independence of the United States, according to such rule of proportion as shall be determined by the United States in congress assembled, and will pay their proportion of all money issued or borrowed by congress, or which may hereafter be issued or borrowed for the purpose aforesaid. And that this state will accede to, and faithfully execute all treaties which have been or shall be made by authority of congress, and will be bound and governed by the determinations of the United States in congress assembled relative to peace and war.

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

T H U R S D A Y, December 18, 1777.

THE house met. Present the same members as on yesterday, except Mr. Smithson. His excellency the governor having, by proclamation, agreeable to the recommendation of the honourable congress, appointed this day to be observed, in all churches and congregations of christians throughout this state, as a day of general and solemn THANKSGIVING,

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

F R I D A Y, December 19, 1777.

THE house met. Present the same members as on yesterday. The proceedings of Wednesday were read.

ORDERED, That the letter from the honourable the president of congress, of the third instant, and the resolve of congress of the same date, be referred till the next session of assembly.

The engrossed bills, No. 17, 18, read and assented to, and sent to the senate, with the paper bills thereof, by Mr. Strawbridge and Mr. Crabb.

Thomas Stone, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker the following message:

By the S E N A T E, December 19, 1777.

Gentlemen,

IN consequence of the letter and resolve herewith transmitted, we propose that three commissioners be appointed, by the joint ballot of both houses, to meet the commissioners appointed by the general assembly of Virginia. Conceiving it will also be proper to name a committee from both houses to draw up instructions for regulating the conduct of our commissioners, in transacting the business to be entrusted to them, we have appointed Charles Carroll of Carrollton, Thomas Stone, and Brice T. B. Worthington, Esqrs. for that purpose.

By order,

A. C. HANSON, cl. sen.

The resolve referred to in the above message is the following:

VIRGINIA,