

proceeded to ballot for a speaker in his stead, and the honourable William Fitzhugh, Esq; was elected.

~~ORDERED~~, That Mr. J. Hall and Mr. Chafe do acquaint his excellency the governor, that there are a sufficient number of delegates convened to proceed to business. They return and acquaint Mr. Speaker they delivered the message.

RESOLVED, That for the dispatch of public business during this session, this house will sit from nine o'clock in the morning until one in the afternoon, and from three till five. ORDERED, That a message be prepared and sent to the senate acquainting them therewith. And it was prepared and sent accordingly by Mr. Lethbury and Mr. J. Hall in the words following:

By the HOUSE of DELEGATES, March 17, 1778.

May it please your honours,

THIS house have appointed from nine o'clock in the morning until one in the afternoon, and from three till five, for its sitting during this session for the dispatch of business.

By order,

G. DUVALL, cl. ho. del.

ORDERED, That the rules of last session be observed this session.

ORDERED, That Mr. Chafe, Mr. J. Hall, Mr. Sheredine, Mr. Bruff, and Mr. Lethbury, be a committee of elections and privileges. That Mr. Murray, Mr. R. Barnes, Mr. Brice, Mr. Earle, Mr. Worthington, Mr. Bruff, and Mr. Kent, be a committee of grievances and courts of justice. That Mr. Smith, Mr. Turner, Mr. Earle, Mr. West, Mr. Sheredine, Mr. Bruff, Mr. Contee, and Mr. J. Barnes, be a committee of claims. That Mr. West, Mr. Maxwell, Mr. A. Hall, Mr. Gibson, and Mr. Sprigg, be a committee of manufactories. That Mr. Worthington, Mr. Brice, and Mr. Quynn, be a committee to enquire what laws will expire this session.

Mr. Nicholas Harwood, Mr. John Callahan, and Mr. Archibald Golder, are appointed assistant clerks. ORDERED, That they be qualified.

Matthew Tilghman, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker a letter from the honourable Henry Laurens, Esq; president of congress, to his excellency the governor, of the 1st of January last, enclosing an act of congress of the day preceding, for promoting a speedy reformation in the army in discipline and œconomy; also a letter and act of the 12th of January, relative to the securing of salt; also a letter of the 17th of the same month, enclosing an act of congress for suspending the embarkation of lieutenant general Burgoyne and the troops under his command, until an explicit ratification of the convention of Saratoga shall be properly notified by the court of Britain to congress; and an act relating to inhabitants of the United States, who voluntarily enlist with the enemy; also a letter of the 24th of the same month, enclosing an act of congress for establishing a communication for transporting provisions from the southern states for the use of the army, and for defraying the expences attending the same, together with the commissary general's proposals to which the act refers; also a letter of the 3d of February, enclosing acts of congress of the 19th and 21st of January, for retaliating upon the enemy; also a letter of the 10th of February, enclosing an act of congress of the 3d of the same month, for obliging all persons holding commissions or appointments under congress to take and subscribe certain oaths; and an act for restraining and preventing misconduct in continental officers civil and military, and for correcting the abuse of supernumeraries in the civil line; and a resolve subjoined, recommending to the legislatures of the several states to enact laws for the most speedy and effectual recovery of debts due to the United States of America; also a letter of the 21st of February, enclosing an act of congress of the 18th of the same month, for embodying a sufficient number of militia for guarding prisoners, to be stationed at Fort Frederick, &c. and acts of the 5th and 6th of the same, for establishing divers regulations in the civil and military departments of the army, and for other purposes therein mentioned; and also a letter of the 1st instant, enclosing acts of congress of the 26th of February, for filling up the continental battalions, accompanied by a return from the board of war, shewing the numbers wanting to complete them, and for ascertaining the amount of necessaries supplied British prisoners from the commencement of the present war; several letters from the board of war, of the 25th of November, 31st of December, 1st and 17th of January, and 10th, 11th, and 23d of February; two letters from a committee of congress then at camp, of the 20th and 28th of February; and a letter from his excellency general Washington, of the 29th of December, recommending the adopting the most early and vigorous measures to complete the eight regiments to be furnished by this state; also a letter of the 16th of February, requesting supplies of provisions to be forwarded from this state to camp, and enclosing a letter from the committee of congress of the same date, and upon the same subject; also a letter of the 19th of the same month, enclosing an address to the inhabitants of New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia; and a letter from general Smallwood, of the 22d of January, enclosing a return of cloathing wanted in the seven Maryland regiments under his command; and a letter from colonel Adams, of the 1st instant, relative to disaffected persons on the eastern shore.

Certificates