

By the SENATE, June 15, 1778.

Gentlemen,

THE subject of your message of the 12th, being of a very interesting and important nature, has had our mature deliberation; a respectful regard is at all times due to the recommendations of his excellency the governor, but our constitution and form of government, having been framed by a very full representative of the people for that purpose specially convened, ought not to receive alteration, except from the greatest necessity, and with the utmost care and circumspection. The present circumstances of the state may require some change, but it is worthy of much consideration, whether on that account only, it may be proper or prudent to alter any parts, which might otherwise be thought perfect; and though we might be willing to remove and amend any present imperfections, which may be pointed out to us, yet we would rather wish to avoid going into any alterations not absolutely and essentially necessary. We therefore request that you would be pleased to enumerate those imperfections, which from experience you have discovered, that we may be the better enabled to judge of the expediency of going into a committee of both houses on the subject; a mode of proceeding, which, in our opinion, is not altogether regular; and, although it has sometimes succeeded, yet in general, we think, has been productive rather of delay than dispatch.

By order,

R. RIDGELY, cl. sen.

The house, according to order, resolved itself into a committee of the whole, on the articles of confederation, &c. After some time spent therein, Mr. Speaker resumed the chair, and Mr. Chairman reported, That the committee had, according to order, taken into consideration the subject matter referred to them, but not having had time to go through the same, had directed him to move for leave to sit again. ORDERED, That this house will, on to-morrow, resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to consider further of the same.

Mr. Plowden appeared in the house.

Adjourned till next day 9 o'clock.

T U E S D A Y, June 16, 1778.

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

The house, according to order, resolved itself into a committee of the whole, on the articles of confederation, &c. After some time spent therein, Mr. Speaker resumed the chair, and Mr. Chairman reported, That the committee had, according to order, taken into their consideration the subject matter referred to them, and had come to a resolution thereon, which they had directed him to report; which he read in his place, and afterwards delivered in at the table, where it was again read, and ordered to lie on the table, and is as follows:

The committee of the whole house, having taken into their consideration the articles of confederation and perpetual union, and the general assembly of this state having, in October last, given particular instructions to their delegates in congress relative thereto, to which they have hitherto received no answer; Therefore RESOLVED, That their said delegates in congress consider themselves bound by the said instructions, and that they do not ratify and confirm the said articles of confederation, until congress shall take the said instructions into consideration, and shall enable the said delegates of this state to give a direct and positive answer thereto; and then not without the express authority of the legislature of this state.

RESOLVED, That this house will, on Thursday next, take into consideration the said report.

Mr. West, Mr. Smith, Mr. Forbes, Mr. Tillard and Mr. Henry, are appointed a committee to devise the best ways and means to promote the trade and commerce of this state.

The bill, entitled, An act to prohibit, for a limited time, the exportation of wheat, flour, rye, Indian corn, rice, bread, beef, pork, bacon, live stock, and other victual, was read the second time, by especial order, passed, and sent to the senate, by Mr. Hughes and Mr. Brice.

The bill, entitled, An act for the holding the general court for the eastern shore at Chester-Town, in Kent county, during the time therein mentioned, was read the second time, and will not pass. Sent to the senate by Mr. Lloyd and Mr. Gresham.

Adjourned till 3 o'clock.

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

The house met. Mr. Semmes has leave of absence.

The house taking into consideration the report of the committee of elections and privileges, concur with those parts of the said report relating to the elections for Talbot and Worcester counties. ORDERED, That the consideration of that part of the said report relating to the election of Mr. Samuel Hanson, be postponed till to-morrow.

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ORDERED,