

T U E S D A Y, October 27, 1778.

**T**H E house met. All present as on yesterday. The proceedings of yesterday were read.

The house appointed Mr. John Duckett clerk. **ORDERED**, That he qualify as such, by taking the several oaths required, subscribing a declaration of his belief in the christian religion, and by taking an oath, that he will honestly, faithfully, and diligently discharge the office of clerk to the house of delegates of Maryland, and that he will not reveal or disclose the secrets thereof.

Mr. Robert Reynolds was appointed sergeant at arms, and Mr. Cornelius Mills door keeper. **ORDERED**, That they qualify as such, by taking the several oaths required.

The house appointed Mr. Nicholas Harwood and Mr. William Hanson M<sup>r</sup> Pherfon as assistant clerks. **ORDERED**, That they be qualified.

**ORDERED**, That Mr. Hall do acquaint his excellency the governor, that there are a sufficient number of delegates convened to compose a house. He returns and acquaints Mr. Speaker he delivered the message.

His excellency the governor communicated to Mr. Speaker sundry letters and other papers from congress, which were severally read and ordered to lie on the table.

Certificates of the qualification of Mr. Nicholas Harwood, Mr. William Hanson M<sup>r</sup> Pherfon, the sergeant at arms, and the door keeper, were produced and filed.

On motion, **RESOLVED**, That for the dispatch of public business this house will sit, during this session, from nine o'clock in the morning until three in the afternoon. **ORDERED**, That a message be prepared to the senate acquainting them therewith.

**ORDERED**, That the following rules be observed this session,

I. That no member of the house use any reviling speeches, or name any member by his proper name, but shall use some other distinction, as the gentleman who spoke last, or the like.

II. That none shall deliver his opinion or speak to any debate, unless he shall stand up in his place and reverently direct his speech to the speaker.

III. That no member speak above once on any debate, without licence of the house declared by the speaker, and if two persons or more shall rise up together, the speaker shall appoint who shall speak first, and no member shall interrupt any other until the gentleman speaking hath ended.

IV. That no person come into the house while the same is sitting with sword or other weapon, upon penalty of such fine as shall be imposed on him by the speaker, not exceeding twenty shillings.

V. That if any member be absent at the hours appointed, the speaker and twenty of the members having met, according to the order for sitting, he shall be fined according to the discretion of the speaker, not exceeding forty shillings for any offence, unless upon such excuse as the speaker shall admit.

VI. All misdemeanors which shall happen in the house shall be censured or fined in the house.

VII. That if any member of the house depart without leave of the house, he shall forfeit his preceding allowance due to him for his attendance this session.

VIII. That every bill proposed to the house shall be read two several days before it is sent to the senate, and once after, before it be engrossed, and between every reading one day shall be intermitted; and that in that time the bill shall be laid on the table for the perusal of all the members, unless on very urgent occasions Mr. Speaker, with the consent of the house, shall dispense therewith, and then the bill being read twice at one sitting, shall be as sufficient as if read several days, when so entered on the clerk's journal.

IX. That no person who has refused to sign the association (unless from religious principles) be permitted to come within the doors of this house during the session.

On motion, **ORDERED**, That a committee of elections and privileges be appointed to examine and inspect the returns of elections, and report whether they have been made agreeable to the mode prescribed by the constitution and form of government; and Mr. Maddux, Mr. Hall, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Deye, and Mr. Polk, were appointed a committee accordingly.

**RESOLVED**, That a committee of grievances be appointed, and that the said committee have likewise the character of a committee for courts of justice, and that that character and the duty of such committee be annexed to the said committee of grievances as a standing part of their duty; and Mr. Hall, Mr. Brown, Mr. Polk, Mr. Lloyd, Mr. W. M. Beall, Mr. Maccubbin, and Mr. Bordley, were appointed a committee for that purpose.

**RESOLVED**, That a committee be appointed to examine and state the several claims on the treasury; and Mr. Brice, Mr. Eccleston, Mr. Burges, Mr. Jackson, and Mr. Veazey, were appointed a committee for that purpose.

**ORDERED**, That Mr. Ridgely, Mr. Sewell, Mr. Bruff, Mr. Bordley, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Sprigg, and Mr. Chase, be a committee to receive and examine any proposal for the establishment of