

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS, OCTOBER, 1778. 5

His excellency communicates to Mr. Speaker a petition of sundry inhabitants of Cecil county, praying to be relieved for the many heavy losses they sustained by the English troops landing at the head of Elk river, and marching through that part of the country wherein they resided.

Upon reading the said petition a first and second time by an especial order, ORDERED, That Mr. Thomas, Mr. Goldsborough, Mr. Hall, Mr. Veazey, Mr. Ward, Mr. Job, and Mr. Evans, do prepare and bring in a bill for the relief of the petitioners.

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

T H U R S D A Y, October 29, 1778.

THE house met. All present as on yesterday. The proceedings of yesterday were read. Mr. William Bond, son of Joshua, and Mr. Benjamin Bradford Norris, two delegates returned for Harford county, appeared in the house, and after being duly qualified they took their seats.

ORDERED, That Mr. Smith and Mr. Bruff be added to the committee of claims.

A petition of sundry inhabitants of St. Mary's county, and a petition of sundry inhabitants of Charles county, were severally read and ordered to lie on the table.

A letter from the commissioners of the land-tax in St. Mary's county, and a remonstrance of Mr. Daniel Wolfenholme, were severally read and ordered to lie on the table.

ORDERED, That Mr. Smith, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Brown, Mr. W. M. Beall, and Mr. Bordley, be a committee to examine the returns of the commissioners of the tax from the several counties of this state, and make their report thereon.

ORDERED, That Mr. Brice do acquaint the reverend Mr. Hanna, that he is requested to perform divine service in this house at a quarter of an hour before nine every morning during this session.

Mr. Thomas brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker a bill, entitled, An act for the relief of sundry of the inhabitants of this state; which was read the first and second time, by an especial order, and will pass.

His excellency communicates to Mr. Speaker a letter from the marine committee of congress to Mr. William Smith in Baltimore-town, and a letter from Mr. Smith to his excellency; which were severally twice read by an especial order. Whereupon RESOLVED, That the governor and council be authorized and empowered to grant a permit, under proper limitations, after all requisites are complied with, to captain Styles, commander of the schooner Swan, now lying in Patuxco river, to load with bread and flour, or other provisions, on account of congress.

The petition of the inhabitants of the town of Cambridge was read a second time and granted, and leave given to bring in a bill according to the prayer of the petition. ORDERED, That Mr. Goldsborough, Mr. Hall, and Mr. Polk, do prepare and bring in the same.

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

F R I D A Y, October 30, 1778.

THE house met. All present as on yesterday. The proceedings of yesterday were read. Mr. John Stevens, a delegate returned for Baltimore county, Mr. James M'Comas, a delegate returned for Harford county, and Mr. John Hanson, a delegate returned for Frederick county, appeared in the house, and after being duly qualified they took their seats.

Agreeable to the order of the day, the house took into consideration that part of the report from the committee of elections and privileges relative to Mr. M'Comas, and after some debate Mr. M'Comas withdrew, and it appearing to this house, that at the beginning of the election for representatives for Harford county, Mr. M'Comas held a colonel's commission, which he did not resign till the third day thereof, RESOLVED, That he was ineligible, and his seat vacated.

ORDERED, That Mr. M'Comas be called in, and he appeared at the bar accordingly.

ORDERED, That Mr. Speaker do acquaint Mr. M'Comas with the resolution of the house, and inform him that he is discharged from any further attendance as a member of this house; which he accordingly did.

ORDERED, That a new writ of election issue to the sheriff of Harford county, to hold an election for one member for that county, in the room of Mr. M'Comas; which issued accordingly.

The house then took into consideration that part of the said report relative to Mr. William Bond; and it appearing to the house that Mr. Bond was discharged by the governor and council in July last from purchasing cattle and provisions for the use of this state, RESOLVED, That Mr. Bond was eligible.

Joseph Nicholson, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker the petitions of sundry non-jurors; which were referred to the committee appointed to consider of and report upon the petitions of non-jurors.

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ORDERED,