

The house took into consideration the report upon general Washington's letter, and after some debate thereon, the following resolve :

Whereas the legislature of this state, on the 11th day of April, 1777, passed a resolve empowering his excellency general Washington to settle the rank of all officers in the Maryland forces in the continental service; and as the general, doubtful of the powers to him given by the said resolve, has, by his letter of the 5th of October, 1778, requested an explanation of the same, and this house being of opinion, that the powers given to the general by the said resolution confined him to the settlement of rank and precedence only; therefore **RESOLVED**, That it is the opinion of this house, that the general assembly did not mean to confer powers for changing the appointment of any officer by adding or taking away a grade, but that the general assembly in forming the roster of rank, considered the act of convention of the 22d of August, 1776, as a superseas of the acts of convention of the 15th of January, 1776, and conducted themselves accordingly, and the rather, as that establishment of rank of the 22d of August was agreeable to what prevailed in most, if not all, the other states, and that the general assembly intended only to authorise an alteration in the instance of precedence amongst those of similar rank, when it might be found that mistakes had taken place in that respect.

Being read, the question was put, That the following be entered as an amendment thereto ?

Whereas the legislature of this state, on the eleventh day of April, 1777, passed a resolve, empowering his excellency general Washington to settle the rank of all officers in the Maryland forces in the continental service, to quiet the minds of, and to do justice to such as thought themselves injured by partial promotions; and as the general, doubtful of the powers to him given by the said resolve, has, by his letter of the 5th day of October, 1778, requested an explanation of the same, therefore it is **RESOLVED**, That his excellency general Washington have full power to settle and determine the rank of all or any of the officers of this state in the continental service, both with respect to grade and precedence, as to him shall appear just and right; and that the president of the senate and speaker of the house of delegates be directed to write to the general, advising him thereof. Resolved in the affirmative.

A F F I R M A T I V E.

Messieurs	Lloyd,	Eccleston,	Veazey,	Sherwood,	J. Hanson,	Norris,
	Worthington,	Deye,	Ward,	Carmichael,	Key,	Schnebely,
	Hall,	Stevenson,	Job,	Bordley,	Wilson,	Burgess.
	Harrison,	Hammond,	R. Goldborough,	Chaille,	Bond,	

N E G A T I V E.

Messieurs	Sewell,	Chew,	Polk,	Evans,	Quynn,	Bruff,
	Thomas,	S. Hanson,	Smoot,	Gantt,	Brice,	Keene,
	Mackall,	Maddux,	Woolford,	Magruder,	H. Goldborough,	Smith.
	Reynolds,					

Mr. Gantt hath leave of absence until Wednesday next.

On motion, **ORDERED**, That the following :

Whereas it is found by experience to be absolutely necessary that the legislature of this state should have it in their power to inspect the charters, acts of assemblies, and resolves of the conventions of the neighbouring states, in order that they may thereby be enabled more effectually to co-operate with them in the several measures necessary for their joint security and welfare; and whereas no provision has hitherto been made for that purpose; therefore **RESOLVED**, That the president of the senate and speaker of the house of delegates be requested to procure, at the expence of this state, the several charters of the states of Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Virginia, together with the several acts of their respective assemblies and conventions, and that the same, when procured, be kept for the use of the legislature of this state.

Be entered as the resolve of this house. Sent to the senate by Mr. Sherwood and Mr. Strawbridge.

A petition of John Galloway was preferred and read, and referred to the committee appointed to bring in the supply bill, &c.

On motion, leave given to bring in a bill for regulating grist-mills, and for other purposes therein mentioned. **ORDERED**, That Mr. R. Goldborough, Mr. Smith, Mr. Carmichael, Mr. Polk, and Mr. Maddux, do prepare and bring in the same.

The following message :

By the **HOUSE** of **DELEGATES**, November 21, 1778.

May it please your honours,

**THIS** house have taken into consideration the letter of general Washington's of the 5th of October last, respecting rank, and herewith send you the result of their deliberation on that subject. If your honours should agree with us in opinion, we shall hope that his excellency general Washington may be informed, as soon as may be, of the powers intended to be given him by