

Which was read and ordered to lie on the table.

Agreeable to the order of the day the house took into consideration the confederation, and resolved itself into a committee of the whole; Mr. Deye in the chair. After some time spent therein, Mr. Speaker resumed the chair, and Mr. Chairman reported, that the committee had come to several resolves, which he read in his place and delivered in at the table, which were then read by the clerk, and are as follow:

**RESOLVED**, That it is the opinion of this committee, it is fundamentally wrong, and contrary to all the principles of equity on which a confederation ought to be founded, that the state of Maryland, or any other state in similar circumstances, should be burthened with very heavy taxes for the subduing and guarantying immense tracts of country, when they are to have no share of the monies arising from the sale of lands, or be otherwise benefitted thereby; and that this state ought to declare, that they mean not on those terms to incur, nor will be responsible for, any part of such expence.

**RESOLVED**, That in the opinion of this committee, we ought to rely on the wisdom and justice of congress, to put such construction on the eighth article of the confederation, as may be consistent with the general scope and intention thereof; and that instructions be given to our delegates in congress, to declare that the state of Maryland is willing to accede to every article of the confederation, provided the same be explained to the satisfaction of the general assembly, in such manner as not to oblige them to relinquish their claim to the western country, or to guaranty the exclusive claim set up by some of the other states to the same, by extending their limits to the Mississippi or South-Sea, far beyond any settlements made or property acquired by the subjects of the United States at the commencement of hostilities with Britain. And that our said delegates ought to be instructed to represent, that in our judgment the claim last aforesaid is without any solid foundation, and in its consequences will, if submitted to, prove ruinous to us and all the other states in similar circumstances; and therefore that we think ourselves justifiable, before that point be explained, in refusing to enter into the said confederation.

And ordered to lie on the table.

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

F R I D A Y, November 27, 1778.

**T**HE house met. All present as on yesterday. The proceedings of yesterday were read. Mr. Gantt, Mr. Thomas, and Mr. Brown, appeared in the house. Mr. Bruff brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker the following report:

By the **COMMITTEE** appointed to enquire into the facts stated in the petition of Elie Vallette.

**YOUR** committee have examined an official book produced by Mr. Vallette, containing the monies received by colonel Fitzhugh for official matters during the last eighteen months he was commissary-general, by which it appears, that he hath received for searches and copies, from the first of January, 1776, to the first of January, 1777, the sum of £. 50 6 6, and from the first of January, 1777, to the sixth day of June, 1777, the further sum of £. 22 18. It doth further appear to your committee, that constant attendance was given to the office in Marlborough, by a clerk employed by said Vallette, whose board and salary, together with the said Vallette's occasional travelling charges, your committee are of opinion are not over rated at £. 200 exclusive of the money received; and that the said Elie Vallette is entitled to a reimbursement thereof. Your committee are further of opinion, that a sum not less than £. 150 ought to be allowed to the said Vallette, as a recompence for his superintending the said office for the eighteen months last past, during the time the records were kept in Marlborough. Your committee are of opinion, it will not be necessary to make any further allowance to the said Elie Vallette, for clerks or other expences, as the records of the commissary's office are removed to Annapolis, the place of his residence. All which is submitted to the consideration of the honourable house.

Signed per order,

JOHN CALLAHAN, cl. com.

Which was read a first and second time and concurred with.

The petition of Gabriel Child was read a second time, and referred to Mr. Thomas, Mr. Chew, and Mr. Sewell, to enquire into the facts therein stated, and make report thereof to the house.

The petition of Leonard Belt was read the second time and referred to the committee of claims.

Mr. R. Goldsborough hath leave of absence.

The memorial of John Baker was read the second time, and the question was put, That the house agree thereto? Carried in the negative.

N E G A-