

the proposed addition. Nor have we any objection to diminish (if you think it necessary) the pay of those members, who from their residence in or near the city, may attend the assembly with greater convenience than others.

By order,

R. RIDGELY, cl. sen.

William Hindman, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker a bill, entitled, An additional supplement to the act for the better security of the government, thus endorsed; "By the senate, December 14, 1778: Read the first and second time by especial order and will pass with the amendment proposed."

"By order,

R. RIDGELY, cl. sen."

After the words "as aforesaid" in the beginning of the sixteenth line, insert "and the collectors and their securities are or shall be insolvent, the same."

Which amendment was read and rejected.

Thomas Jennings, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker the paper bill No. 21, thus endorsed; "By the senate, December 14, 1778: The engrossed bill, whereof this is the original, read and assented to."

"By order,

R. RIDGELY, cl. sen."

Mr. Hall brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker a resolve respecting the Treaties of Alliance, Amity and Commerce, which was read and ordered to be entered.

The Treaties of Alliance, Amity and Commerce, entered into between his Most Christian Majesty and the United States of America, signed at Paris the sixth day of February seventeen hundred and seventy-eight, by the Sieur Gerard, royal syndic of the city of Strasbourg, and secretary of the council of state of his Most Christian Majesty, on behalf of his Most Christian Majesty, and on behalf of the United States of America by doctor Benjamin Franklin, Silas Deane, and Arthur Lee, Esquires, commissioners at the court of Versailles from the said States, and ratified in Congress in the month of May last by the delegates of this state on behalf of this state, they having full powers to ratify the same; being lately communicated to the general assembly by congress, were read and considered.

Whereupon RESOLVED unanimously, That this house doth heartily approve of the said treaties, as equal, honourable, and wise; and as the representatives of the people of Maryland they are determined religiously to abide by, and faithfully to fulfil, as becometh good and true allies, all the articles and conditions of the said treaties.

By order,

J. DUCKETT, cl. ho. del.

RESOLVED, That a copy of the above resolution be transmitted by the president of the senate and speaker of the house of delegates to our delegates in congress, and that they be requested to move that the same be entered on the journals of congress.

By order,

J. DUCKETT, cl. ho. del.

Mr. Hughes from the committee appointed to draw up instructions to the delegates in congress, brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker the following report and instructions:

By the COMMITTEE appointed to prepare instructions to our delegates in congress.

IN obedience to the order of the honourable house, your committee have agreed on the draught of instructions to our delegates in congress, which are herewith submitted to the consideration of the honourable house.

Signed by order,

NICH. HARWOOD, cl. com.

By the STATE of MARYLAND,

A D E C L A R A T I O N.

WHEREAS the general assembly of Maryland hath heretofore resolved, "that the delegates from this state should be instructed to remonstrate to the congress, that this state esteem it essentially necessary for rendering the union lasting, that the United States in congress assembled should have full power to ascertain and fix the western limits of those states that claim to the Mississippi or South Sea.

"That this state considered themselves justly entitled to a right in common with the other members of the union, to that extensive tract of country which lies to the westward of the frontiers of the United States, the property of which was not vested in, or granted to, individuals, at the commencement of the present war; that the same had been, or might thereafter be gained from the king of Great-Britain or the native Indians by the blood and treasure of all, and ought therefore to be a common estate, to be granted out on terms beneficial to all the United States, and that they should use their utmost endeavours that an article to that effect be made part of the confederation.

"That this state would contribute their quota of men and money towards carrying on the present war with Great-Britain, for the purpose of establishing the freedom and independence of the United States, according to such rule of proportion as should be determined by the United States