

By the HOUSE of DELEGATES, December 15, 1778.

May it please your honours,

IT would be our wish to avoid altercation at this advanced period of the session, but as we view the bill, entitled, An additional supplement to the act for the better security of the government, as useful, necessary and important, we must beg leave to recall your attention to that subject. It was not only our design to provide for the contingent insolvencies of collectors and their securities, but also to lay a foundation for the commencement of suits, under the limitations and restrictions proposed, against such persons as took the oath after the 12th of April, and provided certificates without date; at the same time leaving such actions subject to a legal construction of the act for the better security of the government.

Notwithstanding our high opinion of your legal knowledge and acute discernment, yet the arguments stated in your message received by the house of delegates at a late hour in the last session, did not convince us that the bill to declare and amend the law would have an *ex post facto* relation. We are of opinion the bill now proposed holds out the best and most effectual mode to bring the much contested point before that judicature established by our constitution, for the exposition of laws, and therefore in the draught of our bill have cautiously avoided any expressions capable of a retrospective tendency. The collector cannot, by law, collect the treble tax from those persons, who have obtained certificates from the county court without date, and whose names have been expunged by the commissioners of the tax from the list of nonjurors, although such persons, by virtue of the act for the better security of the government, may be subject to the treble tax, and ought to pay the same. If then there are any instances in which the public treasury will be robbed, either through the ignorance, mistake, or design of men, to whom the execution of our laws has been committed, no doubt your honours known attachment to the frugality of finance, will suggest the propriety and necessity of receding from your proposed amendment. We have therefore returned you the bill and hope for your concurrence.

By order,

J. DUCKETT, cl. ho. del.

Being prepared, was sent to the senate by Mr. Brice and Mr. Ward.

Mr. Strawbridge brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker a bill, entitled, An act for the payment of the journal of accounts, which was read the first and second time by especial order, passed, and sent to the senate by Mr. Deye and Mr. Bayly.

Brice Thomas Beale Worthington, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker the resolve respecting the committee in the recess of assembly, concerning the criminal law, thus endorsed; "By the senate, December 15, 1778: Read and concurred with.

"By order,

R. RIDGELY, cl. sen."

And the following message:

By the SENATE, December 15, 1778.

Gentlemen,

WE have appointed Charles Carroll of Carrollton, and Brice Thomas Beale Worthington, Esquires, to join the gentlemen named in your message by Messieurs Hall and Strawbridge, for the purposes therein mentioned.

By order,

R. RIDGELY, cl. sen.

ORDERED, That the account of Robert Cummins be referred to the committee of both houses appointed in the recess of assembly, with full power to adjust the balance and transmit the same to the governor and council in order for payment.

The house adjourns till 4 o'clock.

P O S T M E R I D I E M.

The house met.

The engrossed bill, No. 24, was read and assented to, and sent to the senate, with the paper bill thereof, by Mr. Potter and Mr. Jackson.

William Hindman, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker the paper bill, No. 24, thus endorsed; "By the senate, December 15, 1778: The engrossed bill, whereof this is the original, read and assented to.

"By order,

R. RIDGELY, cl. sen."

Richard Barnes, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker the journal of accounts, thus endorsed; "By the senate, December 15, 1778: Read and assented to.

"By order,

R. RIDGELY, cl. sen."

The engrossed bill, No. 23, was read and assented to, and sent to the senate, with the paper bill thereof, by Mr. Sprigg and Mr. Hammond.

Thomas Jenings, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker the paper bill, No. 23, thus endorsed; "By the senate, December 15, 1778: The engrossed bill, whereof this is the original, read and assented to.

"By order,

R. RIDGELY, cl. sen."

Mr