

N E G A T I V E.

Messieurs	J. Mackall,	H. Ridgely,	H. Goldsborough,	Bowie,	Norris,	Schnebely,
	Sewell,	Reynolds,	W Goldsborough,	J. Beall,	Bond,	Smith,
	Lloyd,	Chew,	Veazey,	S. Chase,	M'Comas,	J. Chase,
	Gresham,	Harrison,	Ward,	W. M. Beall,	Keene,	Bayly,
	Worthington,	S. Hanson,	Job,	J. Hanson,	Hughes,	Cramphin,
	Hall,	Polk,	Stevenson,	Sturgis,	Sprigg,	Crabb.
	Maccubbin,	Strawbridge,	C. Ridgely,	Chaille,	Barnes,	

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

Messieurs Lethrbury, Quynn, Burgesfs.

Mr. Job brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker the following report :

YOUR committee, to whom the petitions of the nonjurors were referred, beg leave to report, that they have examined between two and three hundred petitions, and many have been handed to them which they have not yet read, the whole containing the names of more than 1000 petitioners, all of whom pray to be relieved from the payment of the treble tax, and a large majority of them from all the disabilities inflicted on them by the act for the better security of government. They express their attachment to this state and the independence of America, and some have yielded personal service to support the same ; certificates are affixed to most of the petitions, signed by militia officers and others, to ascertain the truth of the facts contained in them ; the reasons alleged by them for not taking the oath or affirmation, agreeable to law, are, old age, sickness, lameness, absence out of their county or this state, some of which causes prevented them from attending a magistrate to take the test.

A large number of Germans represent, that being unacquainted with the English language, and having few persons to interpret the oath to them, the time elapsed in which the law required them to take the oath, before they understood it so as to be sensible it was their duty to take it. Certificates of officers are annexed to the German petitions, certifying their allegiance and services to this state. Others of the petitioners allege, they were under undue influence, or were unacquainted with public transactions, and such like reasons prevented them from taking the oath ; yet profess they have and will yield allegiance to this state. Some allege they omitted taking the oath from religious scruples in their consciences. As the reasons of the petitioners (and many other nonjurors) for not taking the oath, may be arranged under some of the foregoing heads, and not from enmity or disaffection to our freedom and independence, your committee having under contemplation the frailty of human nature, and great variety of opinions which God permits amongst mankind, are of opinion, that some mode of general relief to nonjurors ought to be adopted, excepting such only from that relief who by their actions have endeavoured to prevent or overturn our freedom and independence. All which is submitted to the honourable house.

Signed by order, JOHN CALLAHAN, cl. com.

Which was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Lethrbury brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker a bill, entitled, An act concerning nonjurors ; which was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

The house adjourns till to-morrow morning 8 o'clock.

T U E S D A Y, August 10, 1779.

THE house met. Present as on yesterday, except Mr. Burgesfs. The proceedings of yesterday were read. Mr. Ford, Mr. Wilson, and Mr. Bordley, appeared in the house.

ORDERED, That the order of the day for taking into consideration the petition of Robert Long, be read, and it was read accordingly.

ORDERED, That the same be taken into consideration the tenth day of the next session of assembly.

The report upon the state of the army, was read a second time and referred for consideration at the meeting of the house in the afternoon.

A memorial of the justices of Baltimore county was preferred, and read a first and second time, and referred to committee No. 3, to bring in a bill pursuant to the prayer of the memorial.

A bill, entitled, An act to direct the recording of a deed from Richard Jones, and Anne his wife, to Edward Willett of Prince-George's county, was read the first and second time by especial order, passed, and sent to the senate by Mr. J. Beall and Mr. Wilson.

Mr. Hall brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker a bill, entitled, An act to appoint commissioners to take the depositions of witnesses on the petition of sundry the inhabitants of Cæcil county, which was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

A petition of Joseph Mellenger was preferred and read, and referred to committee No. 4.

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