

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

The house met.

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

IN obedience to the honourable house of delegates, your committee have examined the auditor-general's books, and the books of the commissary of stores, and have made report of the state and condition thereof, to which they beg leave to refer.

Your committee having examined the accounts contained in the books of the auditor-general, and find a great many of them improperly entered; upon the whole they are of opinion, that the accounts in that department are very far from being kept in that clear and distinct manner, which business of that importance necessarily requires.

Your committee have drawn off a list of balances No. 1, that now appear on the auditor's books, amounting to the sum of £. 565,015 5 4, which several accounts, except those distinguished with the letter D in the margin being doubtful, your committee are of opinion ought to be balanced by the United States as a debt properly due by them, and herewith lay the same before the house for their consideration.

Your committee further report, that they have drawn off list No. 2, containing the amount of the naval account, expence of artillery, fortifying Fort Frederick and Annapolis, sinking vessels at Baltimore, and expences of magazines at Frederick, Mount Giff, Tootell's, Talbot, and Baltimore, amounting to the sum of £. 182,519 4 11½.

Your committee are of opinion, from the state of those several accounts, as stated in the auditor's books, a considerable part of which amount ought to be charged to the United States, and herewith lay the same before the house for their consideration.

Your committee further report on No. 3, the money charged this state per account received of the honourable Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer, amounting to the sum of £. 730,496 12 6, and the money received into the treasury, and otherwise accounted for by the delegates, amounting to the sum of £. 699,454 6, which leaves a balance of £. 31,042 6 6 unaccounted for.

Your committee are of opinion, that whatever sums of money are hereafter paid to, or ordered to be paid to our delegates in congress, that the receiver should be debited with the amount, and on his or either of them producing to the auditor-general proper vouchers of the sums expended, the same will pass to their respective credits, and not be blended with other accounts, as heretofore practised, which renders it difficult to know how the public money is expended, and herewith lay the same before the house for their consideration.

Your committee further report on No. 4, that on the auditor's books, in the account stated against the United States, there are three charges stand blank. Your committee are of opinion, the auditor should be directed to fill up those blanks, and herewith lay the same before the house for their consideration.

Your committee further report on No. 5, the account against the United States with this state cannot by your committee be adjusted, until the list of balances No. 1 be examined by the house, and order therein what part of the sum of £. 565,015 5 4 is chargeable to the United States.

Your committee further report, that considerable sums of money stand charged on the auditor's books against officers in the army advanced in 1777, are of opinion, that if the colonels of each respective regiment were called on for an account of the money advanced, and the paymaster for the money with them accounted for, are of opinion would facilitate a settlement.

Your committee further report, that there appears on the auditor's books considerable sums of money advanced for the purpose of encouraging the different manufacturers, are therefore of opinion the auditor should be empowered to call on them respectively for a compliance of their contract.

Your committee further report, that there appears to be sums of money advanced to the committees of observation.

Your committee further report, that on examining the auditor's office, found the papers properly arranged in alphabetical order, and that the present ledger is nearly filled.

Your committee are of opinion, a new set of books ought to be immediately opened, and a fixed time annually for balancing and opening a new set of books, which period we your committee would recommend that each set of books should commence annually on the second Monday in November, which would not interfere with the transactions of the succeeding governors, and that the auditor shall proceed to collect, settle and balance the present set of books.

Your committee have also examined the books of accounts of the commissaries of stores lately kept by Charles Wallace Howard, which books are not so correctly kept as ought to have been, and many articles standing in said books unpriced. The books kept by John Bullen are incorrect, very few articles therein charged, no price fixed, as also goods charged and delivered private individuals not by them accounted for. Neither does it appear to your committee, that there was any inventory of the public stores taken when Mr. Bullen succeeded Mr. Howard, so that your committee cannot report whether those gentlemen have done justice to the public or not.

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