

Mr. Sprigg brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker a bill, entitled, An act for the regulation of the staple of tobacco; and for other purposes therein mentioned; which was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

Brice Thomas Beale Worthington, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker a petition of Abraham Rutledge, a nonjuror in Baltimore county; a petition of sundry subscribing inhabitants of the said county; a petition of sundry other inhabitants of said county; a petition of Thomas Hutchins of said county; severally endorsed; "By the senate, December 16, 1779: Read and referred to the consideration of the house of delegates.

"By order,

H. RIDGELY, cl. sen."

Which were severally read, and granted so far as relates to the treble tax only, except that of Thomas Hutchins, which was granted agreeable to his prayer.

And a petition of Henry Stevenson, late sheriff of Baltimore county, praying to be relieved from paying 15 per cent. into the treasury for not having made his collection in time, thus endorsed; "By the senate, December 17, 1779: Read and referred to the consideration of the house of delegates.

"By order,

H. RIDGELY, cl. sen.

Which was read and referred to Mr. Sprigg, Mr. Lethbrury, Mr. Alexander, Mr. M'Mechin, and Mr. Hammond, to report thereon.

A petition of sundry nonjurors in Queen-Anne's county, and a petition of Richard Adderton, of Prince-George's county, a nonjuror, were severally read and granted, so far as relates to the treble tax only.

Mr. Job brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker a message; which was read and ordered to be engrossed.

Adjourned till 3 o'clock.

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

The house met.

William Hindman, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker the bill, entitled, An act for the more effectual preventing forestalling and engrossing, and for other purposes therein mentioned, thus endorsed; "By the senate, December 14, 1779: Read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

"By order,

H. RIDGELY, cl. sen.

"By the senate, December 17, 1779: Read the second time and will pass with the amendments proposed.

"By order,

H. RIDGELY, cl. sen."

In the fifth line of the sixteenth page, after the word "paying," strike out the words "not exceeding one half of." In the thirteenth line of the seventeenth page, between the words "account" and "of," insert the words "on oath." In the sixth line of the eighteenth page, strike out the word "tenth" and insert "first," and the word "January" and insert "February." Which amendments were read and agreed to, and the bill passed for engrossing.

And the bill, entitled, An act for the regulation of officers fees, thus endorsed; "By the senate, December 15, 1779: Read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

"By order,

H. RIDGELY, cl. sen.

"By the senate, December 17, 1779: Read the second time and will pass.

"By order,

H. RIDGELY, cl. sen."

Ordered to be engrossed.

A petition of the inhabitants of Susquehannah manor, in Cecil county, was preferred and read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. J. Hall brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker a bill, entitled, An act to appoint commissioners to take and state the public accounts; which was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

The following engrossed message:

By THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, DECEMBER 17, 1779.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOURS,

WE have considered your several amendments to our bill relating to the estates of deceased persons. We have agreed to all your amendments, except the last, relative to the power we proposed to give to the orphans court or the chancellor, where provision may be made by will, testament, or deed, for the support of widows and orphans, to make a further allowance out of the estate, where the provision intended has become insufficient. We have not agreed to your other amendments from any conviction of their propriety, but from a belief that the bill amended contains useful and beneficial regulations, and may prevent some of the injuries and inconveniences intended to be remedied. Your last amendment is wholly inadmissible; and if the cries of the fatherless and widows cannot prevail on your honours to recede from that amendment, we have no hopes that any thing we can say will have that effect. Our house have unanimously determined