

“ By the senate, December 20, 1779: Read the second time and will not pass.
 “ By order, H. RIDGELY, cl. sen.”

And the following message:

By THE SENATE, DECEMBER 20, 1779.

GENTLEMEN,

THE extreme severity of the weather, and prospect of danger to the eastern shore gentlemen of being shut out from their homes during the winter, call upon us to give every possible dispatch in our power to the necessary public business, and make us anxiously desirous to have it completed; but we are so situated, having but eight attending members, without the least expectation of an addition to the number, that if sickness, or other accident, should prevent any one of them from giving their attendance, the whole business of the session must remain unfinished. From these considerations, amongst others, we have been induced to return, with a negative, the bill, entitled, An act for the seizure and confiscation of British property within this state.—It is a bill of an extraordinary kind, the subject is abstruse, difficult and important, and in our opinion ought to receive more mature deliberation than from the present circumstances can be given; and we the more readily adopt this measure, because, though the bill is confessedly important, yet we conceive it to be of such a nature, as that no evil can arise to the public from its being postponed, even should the final passage of it be the result of a full and free discussion.

By order, H. RIDGELY, cl. sen.

Which was read a first and second time, and ORDERED, That Mr. Chase, Mr. Letchbury, Mr. Fitzhugh, Mr. J. Henry, Mr. J. Hanson, Mr. Bruff, and Mr. M^cMechin, do prepare and bring in a message to the senate in answer thereto.

Richard Barnes, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker the bill, entitled, An act for building a bridge over Tuckahoe creek, 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 20, 1779: Read the second time and will not pass.

“ By order, H. RIDGELY, cl. sen.”

The bill, entitled, An act to prevent distilling grain into spirit, thus endorsed; “ By the senate, December 19, 1779, Read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

“ By order, H. RIDGELY, cl. sen.

“ By the senate, December 20, 1779: Read the second time by especial order and will pass.

“ By order, H. RIDGELY, cl. sen.”

Which was ordered to be engrossed.

And the engrossed bill No. 5, with the paper bill thereof, thus endorsed; “ By the senate, December 17, 1779: Read and assented to.

“ By order, H. RIDGELY, cl. sen.”

Which said bill was read and assented to.

The house proceeded to a second reading the bill for the limitation of prices, and after spending some time therein, adjourned till to-morrow morning 9 o'clock.

T U E S D A Y, December 21, 1779.

THE house met. Present as on yesterday, except Mr. E. Hall. The proceedings of yesterday were read. Mr. Wilmer hath leave of absence on account of the indisposition of his family. Mr. Banning hath leave of absence. Mr. J. Hall appeared in the house.

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

THE committee appointed to report to the honourable house on the letter received from Robert Troup, secretary to the board of treasury at Philadelphia, dated the 7th December, 1779, enclosing an extract of a resolve of congress of the 7th of October last, directing their treasurers to transmit to congress, on the first day of every month, returns of the sum of money which they may have respectively received for supplying the continental army. Your committee beg leave to report, that in their opinion all monies for continental purposes ought to be placed in the continental treasury of this state, and returns made as directed by congress, by which means congress would receive the information they require, and be enabled to direct the application of the money. Your committee beg leave to observe, that large sums of money have at different times been received from the continent, and put into the state treasury, and paid away by the treasurer, with many other large sums, for continental purposes, for which trust and business the treasurer hath received no compensation; but should the money appropriated to continental purposes be placed in the continental treasury, the treasurer would be entitled to the commission allowed by congress for his trouble in transacting that business. All which is submitted to the consideration of the honourable house.

Signed by order, NICH. HARWOOD, cl. com.

Which was read.

Mr. Crau-