

W E D N E S D A Y, March 29, 1780.

THE house met. Present the same members as on yesterday, except Mr. Williamson and Mr. Norris. The proceedings of yesterday were read.

Mr. Brown, from the committee appointed to enquire into the state of the militia, &c. brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker the following report :

THE committee appointed to enquire into and report the state and condition of the militia, and report their opinion what further regulations of the militia may be necessary, and what measures should be now adopted to put this state into the best condition for defence, and to carry on the war, beg leave to report to the honourable house, that from the best information they have been able to collect, the militia throughout this state are at this time, and have been for a long time past, in a disreputable condition, owing, as your committee conceive, to a neglect of duty in the officers, and the smallness of the fines imposed by the acts of assembly for delinquency, for want of authority to compel non-commissioned officers to accept their appointments, and want of arms and accoutrements, of which, from the best information your committee has been able to procure, there is but a very small number belonging to or within the state; your committee therefore are of opinion, the most effectual means for regulating and putting the militia of this state in a proper condition for defence, will be, to repeal all the laws heretofore made for regulating the said militia, as they are found to be quite inadequate to the purpose for which they were originally intended, and to enact one general law for that purpose on a more extensive system.

Your committee are further of opinion, that speedy and effectual measures ought to be taken to procure arms, ammunition, and accoutrements, sufficient for the militia of this state, and that the same be either deposited in the most safe and convenient parts of the respective counties, whence they may be distributed upon any emergency, or put immediately into the hands of the militia, making them accountable for the same, under proper penalties.

All which is submitted to the consideration of the honourable house.

Signed by order,

JOHN CALLAHAN, cl. com.

Which was read and ordered to lie on the table.

Robert Goldsborough, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker a letter from Thomas Johnson Esq; of the 23d of February, 1780, in answer to the address of the general assembly, and a letter containing a resignation of his appointment as delegate to congress; which were read.

A petition from Robert Long, praying an act may pass to restore him to the possession of certain disputed premises, &c. and a petition from Æneas Campbell, were preferred and read.

Charles Carroll of Carrollton, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker petitions from sundry nonjurors, severally endorsed; "By the senate, March 29, 1780: Read and referred to the consideration of the house of delegates.

"By order,

H. RIDGELY, clk."

Which were referred to the committee appointed to consider and report on the petitions of non-jurors.

A petition from Peter Kephart, praying an allowance for a mare which was lost in the public service, was preferred and read, and ordered to lie on the table.

A petition from Messieurs Roulhac and company, with a petition from several French merchants, &c. were preferred and read, and referred to Mr. J. Hall, Mr. M'Mechen, Mr. Chase, Mr. Gaunt, and Mr. W. Stevenson, who are appointed a committee to consider and report on the same.

A petition from Nathaniel Mitchel, of the island of Bermuda, praying permission to load his vessel with corn or other provisions for the use of the inhabitants of said island, was preferred and read.

The house adjourns till half past 2 o'clock.

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

The house met.

The report from the committee of elections and privileges, was read the second time, and the question put, That John Taylor, under the circumstances mentioned in the said report, be eligible to a seat in this house? Carried in the negative. Whereupon ORDERED, That Mr. Speaker issue his warrant to the sheriff of Harford county, for the election of a delegate in the room of the said John Taylor; which issued accordingly, returnable on or before the 22d day of April next.

RESOLVED, That this house will, on Friday next, go into the choice of two delegates to congress, in the room of the honourable Thomas Johnson and James Forbes, Esquires, resigned.

RESOLVED,