

inclination, to renew the said powers of attorney. Which is submitted to the consideration of the honourable house.

Signed by order,

JOHN CALLAHAN, cl. com.

Which was read.

The engrossed bills No. 16 and 17 were read and assented to, and with the paper bills thereof sent to the senate by Mr. Ward and Mr. Chapline.

Mr. Eccleston has leave of absence.

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

By the COMMITTEE appointed to enquire into the conduct of the commissioners and others concerned in the execution of the act for the immediate supply of flour, corn, wheat, &c. for the army.

IN obedience to the order of the honourable house, your committee have taken divers letters and papers relative to the subject referred to them into their consideration, and have wrote circular letters to the several commissioners in the counties, endeavouring thereby to obtain such information as would enable them to make a proper representation to the honourable house; but the answers to those letters are few, and so obscure in some instances, that your committee are often left in the dark, both as to quantities and price.

Your committee however beg leave to submit the subjoined estimate to the consideration of the honourable house, which is as accurate as it was in their power to make; the different quantities of each separate article, the price given by each commissioner, and the whole of the provision obtained by said act, so far as the same has come to their knowledge, is there presented to view.

Your committee beg leave to observe, that in Caroline county the very extraordinary price of £. 37 10 has been given for wheat, and £. 22 10 for corn; that it is represented to your committee, that a certain John Stevens, of said county, was called in to make a valuation, and that he fixed the same at the above rate; that in Cæcil county £. 30 5 has been given for wheat, which is much beyond the prices given in other counties. Your committee have taken the liberty of supposing a price where there has been none returned, in order that the honourable house might have an idea of the aggregate sum in one view.

Your committee further beg leave to report, that they are unable to ascertain the quantity of provision furnished by this state since October last, colonel Blaine not having it in his power to furnish it, for want of returns from his assistants.

All which is submitted to the honourable house.

Signed per order,

GEO. RANKEN, cl. com.

Which was read.

The bill relating to sheriffs and collectors of the tax, was read the second time by especial order, passed, and sent to the senate by Mr. Read and Mr. Norris.

ORDERED, That Mr. Jordan be added to the committee appointed to tax the costs on the petition of the vestry, &c. of Christ-church parish in Calvert county, preferred the last session.

The report on the petition of the Nanticoke Indians was read the second time and concurred with, and the petition referred to the next session of assembly.

ORDERED, That Mr. J. Hall be added to the committee appointed on the petition of Robert Riddle.

Mr. Job, from the committee appointed to report on the petitions of nonjurors, brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker a report, which was read.

Richard Barnes, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker the paper bills No. 16 and 17, severally endorsed; "By the senate, April 25, 1780: The engrossed bill whereof this is the original read and assented to.

"By order,

H. RIDGELY, clk."

And the bill for abolishing the payment of quit-rent, thus endorsed; "By the senate, April 24, 1780: Read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

"By order,

H. RIDGELY, clk.

"By the senate, April 25, 1780: Read the second time by especial order and will pass with the proposed amendments.

"By order,

H. RIDGELY, clk."

Amendments proposed. Strike out from the word "state" in the 6th line to the word "and" in the 8th line. After the word "states" in the 11th line insert the following: "And whereas the payment of quit-rent from the declaration of independence hath ceased, and of right ought to cease, being an acknowledgment of a feignory incompatible with the absolute sovereignty of this free and independent state." Strike out the enacting clause in the bill, and insert the following: "Be it therefore enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the citizens thereof, from the declaration of independence, and for ever thereafter, be, and they are hereby declared to be, exonerated and discharged from the payment of the aforesaid quit-rent; and that the same shall be for ever abolished and discontinued."

The house adjourns till half past 2 o'clock.