

viduals, which would turn the collective body of the people into a court of honour, for the satisfaction of particular persons who think themselves aggrieved. If I have committed an offence, it is only cognizable as a contempt of the *house*, and to that house I have made the required acknowledgments. Abusive language in a court of judicature is certainly punishable, not as an offence to the party who supposes himself injured, but as contumelious respecting the court; a sentence awarding personal concessions to him, would be rather ludicrous than just. The house of delegates would check a member, who, in the heat of debate, should digress from the subject to fall on the speaker, and would proportion their punishment to the grossness of the language; but I believe the most violent sticklers for precedents will scarcely contend, that the resentment of the individual, and not that of the house, is to be deprecated. An affront to A, the house has nothing to do with, in my opinion; if he is a member, they may consider it as an affront to the whole, and the whole therefore can properly demand atonement; or this incongruity will ensue, that the offence, though considered as done to one, is to be repaired by concessions to another. I am demanded to solicit pardon of particular members, but who they are I am at a loss to know, as none are *particularised*; but if they should be *particularised*, I still adhere to my opinion respecting the impropriety of such humiliating conduct.

JAMES HINDMAN.

The honourable speaker of the house of delegates.

The following order was moved, viz. That Mr. Hindman be committed to the custody of the serjeant at arms attending this house, and to remain in his custody until he comply with the order of the house? Resolved in the affirmative.

Mr. Hindman was accordingly committed to the custody of the serjeant at arms.

On motion, the question was put, That this house will take into consideration, on Monday the 27th day of this month, the information given on Friday the 10th instant respecting the conduct and declaration of two members of the senate? Resolved in the affirmative.

The house adjourns till to-morrow morning 9 o'clock.

F R I D A Y, November 17, 1780.

THE house met. Present the same members as on yesterday, except Mr. Clagett, Mr. Alexander, Mr. T. Gantt, and Mr. Magruder. The proceedings of yesterday were read. Mr. Hall appeared in the house.

Mr. Dashiell, from the committee, brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker the following report:

THE committee appointed to devise a proper and effectual mode to defend our rivers, &c. to whom was referred the letters from the governor to the merchants of Baltimore, and their answers, respecting their fitting out vessels of war against the enemy's small privateers and cruisers, now committing depredations in the river Patuxent, beg leave to report, that they have considered the said letters, and thereupon come to the following resolutions:

That it is the opinion of the committee, that the general assembly highly approve the conduct and public spirit manifested by the merchants and inhabitants of Baltimore-town, and their fitting out the brig and schooner in the manner and on the terms by them proposed.

That it is the opinion of the committee, that the state ensure to Mr. John Gwinn three hundred thousand pounds continental currency, the estimated value of his brig, with rigging and sails and twelve six pounders, if taken or lost while employed in the proposed expedition against the enemy's cruisers, and that the state repair or make good any damage the said brig may sustain in the public service.

That it is the opinion of the committee, that the state ensure to Mr. Thomas Worthington two thousand five hundred pounds specie, the estimated value of his schooner, with rigging, sails, and twelve four pounders, if taken or lost while employed in the proposed expedition against the enemy's cruisers, and that the state repair or make good any damage the said schooner may sustain in the public service.

That it is the opinion of the committee, that the state reimburse the money expended in fitting out the said brig and schooner, and that during the cruise the said vessels be subject to the order and directions of the governor and council.

That it is the opinion of the committee, that whatever prizes or salvage may be taken or acquired by the said brig and schooner, be given to the captains, officers, and crews, of the said vessels, to be divided amongst them in the same manner as on board continental vessels of war.

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

By order,

G. RANKEN, clk.

Which was read the first and second time, and the several resolutions therein concurred with.

Brice T. B. Worthington, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker a petition from Philip Shoal, praying an act may pass for the opening a road to his mill through the lands of Weldon