

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS, OCTOBER, 1780. 33

committee humbly represent to the honourable house, that as they have no other testimony offered to them to induce a belief that the petitioners are of that society but merely their own assertions in said petition, they apprehend, that in case such evidence were admitted, the precedent would be improper, as every man moved by motives of disaffection might avail himself in the same manner, by claiming an exemption from bearing arms. Your committee are therefore of opinion, that the prayer of the petitioners, as it appears unsupported by any direct or collateral proofs, ought not to be granted by the honourable house, to exempt the petitioners from military duty. All which is submitted to the consideration of the honourable house.

By order,

J. KNAPP, clk.

Which was read:

Brice T. B. Worthington, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker letters from the president of congress of the 13th and 16th of November, enclosing resolutions of congress of the 10th and 14th, and a copy of a letter from general Washington of the 7th; two letters from general Gates of the 8th of November, with a copy of a letter from general Smallwood of the 31st of October; and a petition from Legh Master, setting forth, that a vessel, in which he came as a flag of truce from the island of Providence, has been seized and detained in Baltimore, on account of her having on board more provisions than were sufficient for her voyage, that he was entirely ignorant of her having more on board than was allowed by law, and it was contrary to his orders, therefore praying that the general assembly would interfere, and order her to be released, endorsed; "By the senate, November 23, 1780: Read and referred to the consideration of the house of delegates.

By order,

J. MACCUBBIN, clk."

Which were read.

The report from the committee appointed to examine the returns of the commissioners of the tax, &c. was read the second time and concurred with, and, on motion, Leave given to bring in a bill to empower the present sheriff of Worcester county to collect the balance of the five pound tax, and the county levy of Worcester county, not collected by the said sheriff. ORDERED, That Mr. Dennis, Mr. Morris, Mr. Dashiell, Mr. Houston, and Mr. Scott, do prepare and bring in the said bill.

ORDERED, That the subject matters contained in the said report be taken into consideration on Tuesday next.

ORDERED, That the letter from the president of congress of the 13th instant, with its enclosure, be referred to Mr. Chase, Mr. Hall, and Mr. Potts, to consider and report thereon.

That the letter from the president of congress of the 16th instant, with its enclosures, be referred to the committee appointed to consider and report on the letters from general Washington, &c.

On reading the memorial of Mr. Legh Master, RESOLVED, That the same be referred to the governor and the council, with power to give such orders respecting the seizure of the flag as they may think proper; and that if they find that no intended and gross violation of the flag has happened, that they give orders for the discharge of the vessel of the said Legh Master, and for his departure with his vessel, in such time and with such provisions as they may think necessary for the use of the crew and prisoners carried by him.

Sent to the senate by Mr. Worthington and Mr. W. Stevenson.

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

F R I D A Y, November 24, 1780.

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

On motion, the question was put, That the house resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration the bill for calling out of circulation the quota of this state of the bills of credit issued by congress? Resolved in the affirmative.

The house then resolved itself into a committee of the whole; Mr. W. Stevenson in the chair. After some time spent therein, Mr. Speaker resumed the chair, and Mr. Chairman reported, that the committee had, according to order, taken into their consideration the subject matter referred to them, and not having had time to go through the same, had directed him to move for leave to sit again. RESOLVED, That this house will, on to-morrow morning, at the meeting of the house, resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to consider further of the same.

William Hindman, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker a letter from George Plater, Esq; in congress, of the 21st instant; a letter from John Henry, Esq; in congress, of the 14th, enclosing a letter from le Chevalier du Buysson; and an application of the reverend Henry Addison, for permission to return to this state; which were read.

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