

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS, OCTOBER, 1780. 35

relief; a petition from William Cumming, a nonjuror, in Frederick county; severally endorsed;
" By the senate, November 27, 1780: Read and referred to the consideration of the house of
" delegates.

" By order,

J. MACCUBBIN, clk."

And a letter from John Hanson, Esq; in congress, of the 9th instant. Which were read.
Mr. Quynn, from the committee, brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker the following report:

THE committee, appointed to consider the memorial of colonel Moses Rawlings, beg leave to report, that from the state of facts disclosed to them by colonel Rawlings, it appears, that he ought to have an immediate supply of sixty thousand pounds, to pay off arrears, and to support and feed the prisoners at Fort-Frederick and others that are daily expected, there being no provisions on hand except bread, and that the collector of Washington county, as your committee are informed by colonel Rawlings, hath no considerable sum of public money in his hands.

Your committee are of opinion, that colonel Rawlings ought to be authorized to make contracts for beef and other provisions in hard money, payable in paper at the exchange at the time of payment; and that the sheriff of Washington county, or any other sheriffs or collectors, ought not to be allowed to discount certificates at the treasury for provisions, unless actually received from and granted to the inhabitants of the county where such sheriff or collector may reside.

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

By order,

J. KNAPP, clk.

Which was read the first and second time and concurred with.

Mr. Morris, from the committee, brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker a bill, entitled, An act to empower the present sheriff of Worcester county to collect the balance of the five pound tax and county levy not collected by the late sheriff; which was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

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

THE committee, to whom was referred the resolve of congress of the 10th of November, having considered the same, beg leave to report the following resolutions:

Whereas it is represented to the general assembly, that our allies have suffered inconveniences and injuries from the abuse the British make of papers and clearances taken in American prizes, by personating the officers and commanders named in such papers; for the prevention of which in future,

RESOLVED, That the governor and council be requested, on granting commissions for private vessels of war, to certify, under their seal of office, on the back of the commissions, a minute description of the persons of the captain and his lieutenant, with their age, stature, complexion, and other visible distinguishing marks, respectively.

RESOLVED, That where commissions commonly called letters of marque and reprisals, are granted to armed vessels going on mercantile voyages, the naval officer clearing out such vessels be directed by the governor and council to endorse on the clearance of such vessel, a minute description of the persons of the master and his mate, with their age, stature, complexion, and other visible distinguishing marks, respectively, under the seal of his office; and that he require the master and mate to undersign their clearance in his presence.

By order,

J. KNAPP, clk.

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

ORDERED, That the order of the day, for taking into consideration the information given respecting the conduct of two members of the senate, be postponed until Monday next.

The house having taken into consideration the report of the committee appointed to consider the memorial of colonel Rawlings, commissary of prisoners, and it appearing, that the said prisoners are in the utmost want of an immediate supply of provisions, therefore RESOLVED, That the said colonel Rawlings be empowered to make contracts for beef or pork, or other provisions, in hard money, payable in paper at the current exchange at the time of payment, for the immediate supply of the said prisoners; and that the governor and council be requested to draw on the sheriff of Washington county in favour of colonel Rawlings for the sum of sixty thousand pounds continental money.

Whereas it is represented to this general assembly, that several collectors of the tax have paid into the treasury certificates purchased by them, RESOLVED, That no certificate be allowed to any collector in his account, unless the same has been bona fide received by him in payment of taxes due, or to become due, from the person paying such certificate in his county, and on the settlement of the account of any collector, he shall make oath before the treasurer, that the certificates for which he claims an allowance were actually and bona fide paid to him for taxes due or to become due from the person paying such certificate in his county.

Mr. Mills appeared in the house.

According to order, the house 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