

chose to add his weight and influence to their more powerful arms, against that of his native country, whom he now solicits to receive him into her bosom, perhaps (Judas like) to be the better enabled to betray her, and it not appearing to your committee, that he has at any time since the forming our constitution, and previous to his arrival at New-York, signified his approbation of our government, the conduct of this state, or a desire to become a subject thereof, we think it would be impolitic at this time to permit any person to come from an enemy's country, whose attachment to this we are not well assured of. Our enemies have long since been convinced of the divisions amongst us, owing to the disaffected, added to a want of virtue in the well affected, was the only remaining hope left them, as an inducement to continue this war. We view it as the interest of Great-Britain to send as many disaffected amongst us as they can, each of them will have his share in relaxing the springs of our government (which already want energy) by poisoning the minds of our people, damping their zeal, throwing them off their guard, and at length infusing a spirit of disaffection, or a mistaken opinion of whiggism; this being the case, your committee beg leave to report to the honourable house, whether a speedy exportation and non-importation of all such persons would not be the most likely method to give satisfaction to our people, restore union, and shorten the war. All which is submitted to the honourable house.

By order,

J. KNAPP, clk.

Which was read.

Mr. Hall appeared in the house.

Brice T. B. Worthington, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker the following message:

BY THE SENATE, DECEMBER 20, 1780.

GENTLEMEN,

OUR consideration of the bill, entitled, An act for the confiscation and seizure of British property, has been long interrupted by a close attention to another very important object; we have now taken that bill again under our consideration, and being extremely desirous to settle, upon principles consistent with justice and the law of nations, the seizure of British property within this state, and being of opinion, that a conference on this subject will be the most expeditious way, and most likely to produce an uniformity of sentiment, on a point which has long engaged the attention of the legislature, we propose to confer with you on the bill for the seizure and confiscation of British property, and have nominated Matthew Tilghman, Charles Carroll, of Carrollton, Brice T. B. Worthington, and John Henry, Esquires, to join any members you may please to appoint for that purpose.

By order,

J. MACCUBBIN, clk.

Which was read.

William Hindman, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker a letter from the president of congress of the 4th instant, enclosing an act of congress of the 30th of November; and a letter from Joshua Beall, of Prince-George's county, of the 16th instant, requesting the general assembly to suspend their determination on the application of the reverend Henry Addison, until a petition now signing against his returning is presented; which were read.

On the second reading the report of the committee on the letters of congress and general Washington, the question was put, That the tax or rate for raising the supplies for the year 1781 be laid in real money, as the standard, dischargeable in produce and paper money to the value? Resolved in the affirmative.

The message from the senate relative to the bill for the seizure and confiscation of British property, was read the second time, and thereupon the following message was prepared and sent to the senate by Mr. Wright and Mr. Maccubbin.

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, DECEMBER 20, 1780.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOURS,

WE agree to the conference proposed in your message by Brice T. B. Worthington, Esq; and have appointed Mr. T. Johnson, Mr. Chase, Mr. Stone, Mr. Hall, Mr. Potts, Mr. M'Mechen, and Mr. Wright, to join the members named by your honours for that purpose.

By order,

F. GREEN, clk.

The house adjourns till half after 3 o'clock.

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

The house met. Mr. Martin has leave of absence.

The house proceeded on the second reading the report of the committee appointed on the letters of congress, &c. and the question was put, That the house concur with that part of the said report relative to the payment of tobacco by tobacco makers in the first payment of the tax? Resolved in the affirmative.

On progression in reading the said report, the question was put, That the blank in that part of the said report relative to the price of tobacco be filled up with "sixteen shillings and eightpence?" The yeas and nays being called for by Mr. Oneale, appeared as follow:

A F F I R M A-