

A letter from Thomas Johnson, Esq; containing a resignation of his appointment as a delegate to congress, was laid before the house and read.

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

By the COMMITTEE of GRIEVANCES and COURTS of JUSTICE.

Your committee beg leave to report to the honourable house, that they have enquired into the complaints of the commissioners of the tax of Harford county, and Richard Dallam, Esq; and others, against James Horner, sheriff of that county, and find the following facts to be proved:

That the commissioners of the tax met according to law to settle and adjust the collector's accounts, that he refused to lay before them the particulars of his collection, and that they, apprehending it would be disadvantageous to the state to settle with him in the manner he desired, by striking the balance in tobacco, the tenth part of which they had reason to believe he had not actually received from the people in that commodity, and that he anticipated the day of payment (as he told them) by throwing 100,000 weight of tobacco into the treasury, which, if true, the commissioners very justly supposed some speculator had supplied in order to share part of the profits; in consequence of which, the people who had not discharged their tobacco tax, would be subject to pay the collector at the rate of £.90 per cent. which would tend to his own emolument, by putting a considerable sum of money into his pocket, and would distress and harass the people, and render them less able in future to pay their proportion of the taxes, in order to carry on this just and necessary war; but upon examination of the treasurer's books, and Mr. Horner's receipt, it appears, that he had paid into the treasury 54,922 $\frac{1}{2}$  lb of tobacco only, and that 33,932 $\frac{1}{2}$  of said tobacco was procured from a certain Richard Lemmon, of Baltimore, at £.58 per cent. and 10 per cent. for cask, as Mr. Horner informs your committee; and by Mr. Horner's account rendered us, it appears, that he had received from the people of Harford county only 20,078 $\frac{1}{2}$  lb of tobacco for their tax; and your committee are of opinion, that the said Horner ought not to have credit with the commissioners of his county for more tobacco than he actually received, and that the remainder that he has paid into our treasury ought to be received only in lieu of as much money as Mr. Horner shall be able to prove, to the satisfaction of the governor and council, the tobacco actually and bona fide cost him.

Your committee beg leave further to report, that they have considered the complaints and accounts of Benjamin Howard, John Smith, and Israel Morris, and find the following facts: that he received from Benjamin Howard £.391 6 9, from John Smith £.82 18 8, and from Israel Morris £.82 6 4, too much, amounting in these three accounts to £.566 11 0; part of the above sums was taken by excessive fees, and partly from a mistake in the certificates that the sheriff had to collect by, which mistakes the sheriff says his clerk made in copying, &c.

Your committee beg further leave to report, that it is proved to their satisfaction, that the sheriff, or his deputies by his order, had received double taxes from the young men, but upon complaint, he has given orders to return them their money, but the sheriff's books not being settled, it does not appear to your committee, whether Mr. Horner intended to give credit for any of these mistakes.

Your committee beg leave further to report, that it appears to them, that in one instance, Mr. Charles Gilbert, father-in-law to the sheriff, took 30s. from a pauper for his £.5 tax, and that Mr. Michael Gilbert, one of the under sheriffs, took £.3 from the same man for his £.10 tax, but after Mr. Dallam's informing the pauper, Mr. Hakins, that he was not assessed, and that the sheriff had no right to take any tax from him, they returned him his money.

Your committee beg further leave to report, that it is proved to their satisfaction, and admitted by Mr. Horner, that he, the said Horner, did refuse to receive new state money, or certificates, for taxes.

Your committee beg further leave to report, that it is their opinion, from sundry evidences, that Mr. Horner's refusing to discount the commissary of purchases certificates for wheat, &c. has, by that conduct, discouraged many of your good citizens from furnishing that necessary article for the use of our distressed army, and was a very great hindrance to that worthy and vigilant officer in executing the commission which he was honoured with.

Your committee further beg leave to report, that it appears, from the testimony of doctor Archer, that he committed to the custody of Mr. Horner, the sheriff, a certain John Butler and Peter Scott, brought before him as deserters; these men, from evidence hereunto annexed, which we beg to refer the honourable house to, were two soldiers belonging to the Virginia line, that had been taken by the British in the Jerseys, and afterwards carried to Staten-island, from which they made their escape, and delivered themselves up to a captain Gray at South Amboy, from whom they received a permit to join their regiment, then in North-Carolina, by which pass they drew provisions and passed unmolested until they got to the Cross-roads in Harford county, where they were taken up and committed to gaol; that after they were committed to gaol, they offered to enlist themselves rather than continue in gaol, and on proviso of having their liberty, they