

The resolve respecting the officers of the late colonel Rawlings's regiment, and the resolve in favour of Isaac Perkins, were sent to the senate by Mr. Bayly and Mr. Duckett.

Samuel Hughes, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker the said resolves, severally endorsed; "By the senate, January 20, 1781: Read and assented to.

"By order,

J. MACCUBBIN, clk."

The order of the day being read, the house took into consideration the articles of confederation, and thereupon

RESOLVED, That this house, on the most deliberate consideration, are of opinion, that this state is highly interested with the other United States, both in justice and policy, in the soil and government of the back country.

That on the plainest principles of justice, any profits arising from the sale of the back lands, ought to be a common stock, to be applied by congress towards the expences of the war; and that on the soundest policy, to secure the peace, safety, and happiness, of the United States, the fertile and extensive western country, should in due season be laid out in convenient districts, and free independent governments established therein; and that those new states should be received on terms of equality into the union.

RESOLVED, That this state hath, from the commencement of the war, strenuously exerted herself in the common cause, and that if no formal confederation was to take place, it is the fixed determination of this state to continue her exertions to the utmost, agreeable to the faith pledged in the union.

The question was then put on the following:

But because it is said that the common enemy are encouraged to hope that the union may be dissolved, unless this state confederates, and therefore prosecutes the war, in expectation of an event so disgraceful to America, and our friends and illustrious ally are impressed with an idea, that the common cause would be promoted, by this state formally acceding to the confederation; from an earnest desire to conciliate the affection of the sister states, to convince our illustrious ally of an unalterable resolution to support the independence of the United States and the alliance with his Most Christian Majesty, and to destroy for ever any apprehension of our friends or hope in our enemies, of this state being again United to Great-Britain,

This house **RESOLVE**, That this state now accede to the confederation, and that the delegates appointed to represent this state in congress, or any two or more of them, be authorized and directed, on behalf of this state, to subscribe and ratify the articles of confederation.

But this house declare, that by acceding to the confederation, this state doth not relinquish, or intend to relinquish, any right or interest she hath, in common with the other United States, to the back country, but now claim the same as fully as was done by the legislature of this state in their declaration, which stands entered on the journals of congress; and also declare, that no article or clause in the said confederacy can or ought to bind this or any other state, to guarantee the jurisdiction of any state over the said back lands or the inhabitants thereof, relying on the justice of the several states hereafter as to the claim aforesaid made by this state.

The yeas and nays being called for by Mr. Deye appeared as follow:

A F F I R M A T I V E.

Messieurs	Mills,	Freeland,	Sullivan,	Magruder,	Morris,	Jo. Chapline,
	Plowden,	E. Johnson,	Whitely,	Clagett,	Dashiell,	Cramphin,
	W. Stevenfon,	Causin,	Lawson,	Chafe,	T. Johnson,	Bayly,
	Wilmer,	Hanson,	Job,	Quynn,	Alexander,	Oneale,
	Maccubbin,	Hindman,	Craufurd,	Dennis,	M'Mechen,	Hungerford.
	Fitzhugh,	Shaw,	Duckett,			

N E G A T I V E.

Messieurs	Deye,	Hammond,	Taylor,	M'Comas,	Norris,	Ja. Chapline.
	J. Stevenfon,					

So it was resolved in the affirmative.

ORDERED, That a bill be brought in upon the said resolution, and that Mr. T. Johnson, Mr. Chafe, Mr. M'Mechen, Mr. Dashiell, and Mr. Sullivan, do prepare and bring in the said bill.

The house adjourns till half after 3 o'clock.

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

The house met.

The bill to enable naval officers to grant registers for vessels, was read the second time and passed.

On motion, Leave given to bring in a bill to regulate auctions. **ORDERED**, That Mr. Dashiell and Mr. M'Mechen do prepare and bring in the said bill.

Mr. Dashiell brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker the said bill; which was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

A letter