

98 VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS, OCTOBER, 1780.

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

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 amendments proposed to the bill for the defence of the bay, were read the second time and rejected.

The report on the petition of Roger Nelson, was read the second time and concurred with.

Whereas, on the twenty-fifth day of March, 1779, the house of delegates did resolve, "that the officers who now are, or shall hereafter be, in the Maryland line, and who shall continue in the service till the end of the present war, shall, unless they should thereafter resign or be cashiered for mal-conduct, be entitled to half pay during their lives, and that the same commence at the end and expiration of the seven years heretofore provided for by congress; and that the widows of all such officers as are or shall be entitled to the half pay as aforesaid, shall receive the same pay during their widowhood, that their husbands were or would have been entitled to," but no express provision was thereby made for the officers of the quota of this state of the troops in the continental service, other than those of the Maryland line aforesaid; it is therefore

RESOLVED, That all the officers of the quota of this state of the troops in the continental service, and their widows, shall be entitled, and on the same footing, as the officers of the Maryland line, and their widows, under the said recited resolves.

RESOLVED, That any officer of the quota of this state of the troops in the continental service, who hath been, or may hereafter be, disabled, by loss of limb, or any wound, from performing military duty, and shall resign his commission in the continental army before the end of the war, shall be entitled, from the time of his resignation, to the provision made by the said recited resolves, agreeable to his commission at the time of his resignation, and his widow after his death, as if such officer had continued in the service to the end of the war.

The bill to explain that part of the act for sinking the quota required by congress of this state of the bills of credit emitted by congress, which relates to the duty imposed on ordinary licences, was read the second time by especial order and passed. Sent to the senate by Mr. Quynn and Mr. Caufin.

The resolves respecting the officers of this state in the continental service, were sent to the senate by Mr. Shaw and Mr. Norris.

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

F R I D A Y, January 26, 1781.

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

The bill to authorise the lieutenants of the militia to appoint field days, and to direct the payment and mode of recovery of militia fines in specie or the value, was read the second time by especial order and passed. Sent to the senate by Mr. Dennis and Mr. Chapline.

John Henry, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker the resolves respecting the officers and soldiers of this state in the continental service, endorsed; "By the senate, January 26, 1781: Read and assented to.

"By order,

J. MACCUBBIN, clk."

The bill to settle and adjust the accounts of the troops of this state, &c. was read the second time and committed for amendments.

ORDERED, That Mr. Chase and Mr. Fitzhugh be a committee to prepare a message to the senate, respecting the amendments proposed to the bill for the defence of the bay.

Mr. Chase brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker the following draught of a message:

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, JANUARY 26, 1781.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOURS,

WE cannot agree to your proposition to strike out of the bill for the defence of the bay, that part which directs a fort to be built on the River Patuxent. We are of opinion, that a small fort erected there, with heavy cannon, would afford much greater protection to all the inhabitants on that river, and to our bay, and foreign trade, than the galley you propose to substitute in the place of the fort. The expence of erecting the fort will be far less than the expence of building another galley, and the fort will require no more men to garrison it, than will be necessary to man and fight the galley. The fort will give security to all the inhabitants on Patuxent, cut off any communication by the enemy's cruisers in the bay with some of the disaffected in that part of the country, and the people, secure from the ravages of the enemy's small cruisers, may be at leisure to cultivate their lands; our bay trade may be carried on with very little risque, and our merchant