

have had his unrigged vessel taken away or destroyed, we apprehend, must be proper or improper, according as the provision in favour of those who may already have had their other property taken away or destroyed is proper or improper, they both appear to us to be proper, and standing on the same reason; if indeed, the owner of an unrigged vessel, or any other property, taken away or destroyed, has been guilty of any fault or negligence, which occasioned it, he ought to be distinguished for that reason, but we believe, generally speaking, the attachment and activity of individuals in favour of the revolution and our cause, have marked them out to our enemies as objects of their revenge, and ought, as strongly, to mark them out to this state as friends worthy of protection and favour.

The very great importance of this bill to our finances, with a view to encourage our citizens to a determined and obstinate resistance, and to shew that men in their own conduct lay down the rule of their indemnification for their losses, have strongly impressed us with the necessity of its passing, we have therefore returned you the bill, in hopes it may meet with your affirmative.

Which was read and agreed to, and sent to the senate, with the bill to seize, confiscate, and appropriate all British property within this state, by Mr. Clagett and Mr. Hindman.

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. Norris, from the committee, brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker a bill, entitled, An act for the building a gaol for the safe keeping of the disaffected and prisoners of war; which was read the first and second time by especial order and passed. Sent to the senate by Mr. Wilmer and Mr. Shaw.

The engrossed bills No. 38, 39, 40, and 41, were severally read and assented to, and sent to the senate, with the paper bills thereof, by Mr. Norris and Mr. Job.

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

W E D N E S D A Y, January 31, 1781.

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

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

THE committee appointed to consider the representation of the governor and council, respecting the artillery companies belonging to this state, in the service of the United States, beg leave to report, that it appears, by the return of captain Brown, there are 45 non-commissioned officers and privates of his company now in Baltimore-town, and that there are 12 privates annexed to the Virginia regiment, subject to be recalled.

Your committee are also informed, that captain Dorsey's company consists of 36 non-commissioned officers and privates, and the late captain Gale's company of 39 non-commissioned officers and privates, now with the southern army, and that there are 13 commissioned officers belonging to said companies.

Your committee are induced to think there is a well grounded apprehension, that the non-commissioned officers and privates of the three Maryland companies are intended to be incorporated into the Virginia regiment, and the officers of said companies left without command.

Your committee are of opinion, that if such arrangement should take place, it would be doing manifest injustice to the merit of your brave officers, who have eminently distinguished themselves in the service of their country, and would be highly injurious to the interest of this state.

Your committee are therefore of opinion, that this state ought to keep up four companies of artillery, to be commanded by a major and other officers, who are to take rank agreeable to the date of their commissions, to serve in the army of the United States as a part of the quota of troops of this state in the continental service; and as several officers will be wanting to complete said companies, your committee are of opinion, that after the officers now belonging to said companies are provided for as aforesaid, a preference should be given to such of the supernumerary officers as may apply, to fill up the vacancies.

Your committee are informed, that men may be readily enlisted to fill up said corps, which would facilitate the means of having our quota of troops in the field; and in order to induce men more readily to enter into the service, your committee are of opinion, that the same bounties should be given to the non-commissioned officers and privates of said companies, as are given to the officers and privates belonging to this state in the continental service.

All which is submitted to the honourable house.

By order,

G. RANKEN, clk.

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