

Which was read the first and second time and concurred with, and thereupon

RESOLVED, That the governor and council be requested to write to the board of war, informing them, that this state is desirous to keep up four companies of artillery, to serve in the continental army as part of the quota of this state, to be commanded by a major, and to request that they will fill up commissions accordingly to the officers now belonging to the said companies, who are to take rank agreeable to the date of their commissions, and to fill up commissions to such officers who may be recommended by the governor and council to supply the vacancies.

William Hindman, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker the bill to seize, confiscate, and appropriate all British property within this state, with the following message:

By THE SENATE, JANUARY 30, 1781.

GENTLEMEN,

WE cannot recede from our amendments to the confiscation bill, but are willing to concur in measures to prevent payments being made to British subjects of debts due to them from the subjects of this state; as this subject is important, and the session is so near its end, we think it most advisable to refer to a future session, the discussion of the propriety of confiscating debts, as also the indemnification to be made for unrigged vessels destroyed by the enemy, and imported merchandise, upon both which articles the owners calculate upon the risk to be run, and conducted themselves accordingly, which is not so much the case with owners of other property. It was intended by the senate to exclude from indemnification vessels on the stocks, but we find, on comparing our amendments with the bill, that this article was not expressly excepted, and will therefore be covered by the general terms "all property on the land within this state." As the bill is confessedly important, and the most material parts are agreed to by both houses, there can be no reason that it should miscarry on account of a disagreement upon particular parts, in which time and mature consideration may produce an agreement. We conceive the amendment respecting the debts due to Messieurs Hanbury and Grove, will be proper, though the debts of others be not taken, but if you have any objection to this amendment, we will waive it. We have before us another bill of considerable importance, and have not time to go into a chain of reasoning upon our several amendments. We have now but eight attending members, and one of them so much indisposed that his further attendance is very doubtful; we therefore wish the material business of the session may be finished as soon as possible.

By order,

J. MACCUBBIN, clk.

Which was read.

Richard Barnes, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker the bill for the building a gaol for the safe keeping of the disaffected and prisoners of war, endorsed; "By the senate January 31, 1781: Read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

"By order,

J. MACCUBBIN, clk.

"By the senate, January 31, 1781: Read the second time by especial order and will pass.

"By order,

J. MACCUBBIN, clk."

Which was ordered to be engrossed.

The bill, entitled, A Supplement to the act to procure recruits, was read the second time by especial order, and passed with the following amendment:

Amendment proposed. Add to the bill the following clause: "And, whereas many of the non-commissioned officers and privates who have served in the quota of this state of the continental army, who have been discharged because their times have expired, may be inclined to enter again into the service, Be it enacted, that in case any person, sufficient and proper to be passed as a recruit, who hath already served one year or more in the continental army, and hath been discharged, and shall enter as a recruit according to the act of the present session to procure recruits, shall not only be entitled to all the benefits proposed by the said act, but also to a certificate for the depreciation of the pay which became due to him whilst he was in service, between the first day of January 1777, and the last day of July last, as if he was in the quota of this state of the continental army at the time of passing the act of the present session to settle and adjust the accounts of the troops of this state in the service of the United States, and for other purposes."

The said bill, with the amendment, and the resolve respecting the artillery companies belonging to this state, was sent to the senate by Mr. Taylor and Mr. Joseph Chapline.

John Henry, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker the resolve respecting the artillery companies, endorsed; "By the senate, January 31, 1781: Read and assented to.

"By order,

J. MACCUBBIN, clk."

The engrossed bill No. 42, was read and assented to, and sent to the senate, with the paper bill thereof, by Mr. Causin and Mr. Norris.

Thomas Stone, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker the engrossed bill No. 44, with the paper bill thereof, which engrossed bill was read and assented to, and the paper bill, so endorsed, was sent to the senate by Mr. Hammond and Mr. Lawson.

On the second reading of the message from the senate relative to the confiscation bill, the question was put, That the following message be sent to the senate?

"We