

8 VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS, NOVEMBER, 1781.

Which was read, and thereupon the house proceeded to the choice of the council, and the ballots being deposited in the ballot box, the gentlemen named to strike retired, and after some time returned and reported, that upon examining the ballots it appeared, that the following gentlemen were elected, viz. John Hoskins Stone, James Brice, Jeremiah Townley Chase, Samuel Turbutt Wright, and Benjamin Canada Stoddert, Esquires. Whereupon

RESOLVED, That John Hoskins Stone, James Brice, Jeremiah Townley Chase, Samuel Turbutt Wright, and Benjamin Canada Stoddert, Esquires, be, and are hereby declared to be, the council to the governor.

The following message was prepared and sent to the senate by Mr. Jenifer and Mr. Stone.

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, NOVEMBER 21, 1781.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOURS,
WE propose that a joint letter be written by the president of the senate and the speaker of the house of delegates, notifying to the gentlemen chosen into the council their election.

By order,

F. GREEN, clk.

William Hindman, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker the following message.

BY THE SENATE, NOVEMBER 21, 1781.

GENTLEMEN,

WE agree to the proposal contained in your message by Messieurs Jenifer and Stone, of informing the gentlemen chosen into the council of their appointment, by a joint letter from the president of the senate and speaker of the house of delegates.

By order,

J. MACCUBBIN, clk.

Which was read.

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

T H U R S D A Y, November 22, 1781.

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

A petition from Thomas Smyth, junior, collector for Kent county, setting forth, that he has not been able, by the most active measures, to complete the collection of the assessment due on the tenth of October last within the time prescribed by law, and therefore praying a further time; was preferred and read.

Mr. John Allen Thomas, a delegate returned for Saint Mary's county, and Mr. Thomas Sprigg, a delegate returned for Washington county, appeared, and after qualifying in the usual manner, took their seats in the house.

Mr. Hall, from the joint committee of both houses, brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker the following address to His Excellency General Washington, viz.

THE General Assembly joyfully embrace the opportunity, which your welcome arrival in this city affords them, of testifying to your Excellency in person, their high sense of your signal services, and of shewing you every mark of esteem and respect. Actuated by the purest public spirit, your long and steady perseverance, and anxious unremitting vigilance, under the pressure of surrounding difficulties, to save your country from the tyranny and oppression of a powerful nation, exhibit to the world a character of most exalted virtue, and fill the minds of all America with gratitude and veneration.

Strength of judgment, united with genius full of resources, and singularly distinguished by a constant serenity and presence of mind, in the midst of dangers and distress, instantly discerned, and seized the decisive moments of enterprise, planned the passage of the Delaware in a wintry and tempestuous night, the consequential surprise and capture of the Hessians at Trenton, speedily followed by that masterly movement, which extricated undisciplined levies from an imminent and unequal conflict with veteran troops, eluded the vigilance of an active commander, turned retreat into victory at Prince-town, checked the enemy's rapid career, raised the drooping spirits of your country, and inspired your soldiers with confidence in their general and themselves.

Your military talents, eminent as they are, form not the most admired part of your character: your inviolable regard to the civil authority, manifested on all occasions, and in situations the most trying, claims the warmest acknowledgments of the guardians of the rights and liberties of the people.

Your great example has diffused its influence throughout the states; your watchful care and attention have been extended in every quarter, and the happy effects are viewed with equal admiration and pleasure in all our military operations, conducted by brave and virtuous officers, and executed by undaunted troops, patient and persevering under accumulated hardships and distress.

Accept, Sir, the sincerest thanks of the legislature on behalf of this state, for your eminent services; with warm and grateful hearts they entertain the highest sense of the great obligations you