

Mr. Speaker, with the members, returned and resumed the chair.

The bill to appropriate certain lands to the officers and soldiers of this state, &c. sent to the senate by Mr. Thomas and Mr. Plowden.

Richard Barnes, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker a letter from his Excellency General Washington, of the 19th of December; which was read.

On a second reading of the report of the committee on the number of recruits wanting to complete the quota of this state, &c. the question was put, That the clause relative to the sale of confiscated British property not appropriated, be struck out? The yeas and nays being called for by Mr. Thomas appeared as follow:

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

Mr. Forrest,	Cadwalader,	Tilden,	Job,	Kent,	Courfey.
Mr. Plowden,	Lloyd,	Chew,			

N E G A T I V E.

Messieurs	Thomas,	B. Worthington,	S. Worthington,	Seney,	Taylor,	Burgefs,
	Mills,	Jenifer,	Hindman,	Chafe,	Norris,	Griffith,
	Stevenson,	Stone,	Miller,	Quynn,	M'Mechen,	Bayly,
	N. Worthington,	Ridgely,	Bowie,	Beatty,	Wilson,	Oneale.
	Hall,	Howard,	Hawkins,	Duvall,	Sprigg,	

So it was determined in the negative.

The engrossed bill No. 7, was read and assented to, and sent to the senate, with the paper bill thereof, by Mr. Quynn and Mr. Hawkins.

The report from the committee, on the number of recruits, &c. was read throughout, and the question put, That the house concur therewith? Resolved in the affirmative, and leave given to bring in a bill pursuant thereto. ORDERED, That Mr. Chafe, Mr. Hall, and Mr. Thomas, do prepare and bring in the said bill.

The bill to embody a number of select militia, was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

The bill for the relief of Martin Bulger, a languishing prisoner in Baltimore county gaol, was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Thomas, from the committee, brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker a bill, entitled, An act to regulate the militia; which was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Duckett appeared in the house.

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

THE committee, to whom was referred the petitions of nonjurors, beg leave to report, that they have taken said petitions into consideration, and are of opinion, that the same indulgence should be given to them as has been heretofore given to nonjurors; a list of the names of the petitioners is herewith delivered.

Your committee have also considered the petitions of some religious sects, who allege, that they are principled against wars and fighting, therefore praying an exemption from military duty and militia fines. Your committee think, that every indulgence, consistent with the defence and security of the state, should be given to religious people, but that to release persons able to bear arms from military duty tends to weaken the defence of the state, and that such exemptions ought not to be granted till the war is ended.

Your committee have also examined the returns of suspensions of the treble tax, by the commissioners for Washington county, and find, that the treble tax has been suspended to six persons; that the commissioners of the tax for Frederick county have suspended the treble tax to one hundred and sixty-nine persons, on account of religious scruples, and to seventy-nine persons, well affected to our government, who had neglected to take the oath of allegiance to this state in due time; that the commissioners of the tax for Talbot county have suspended the treble tax to thirty-seven persons, on account of scruples of conscience; that the commissioners of the tax for Caroline county have suspended the treble tax to two hundred and twenty persons, on account of scruples of conscience; lists of which, as returned, are herewith delivered.

All which is submitted to the consideration of the honourable house.

By order,

G. RANKEN, clk.

Which was read.

Mr. Lloyd, from the committee, brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker a bill, entitled, An act for the relief of Patrick Hamilton, John Page, Clement Beall, Thomas Williams, Benjamin Cawood, and Joseph Baxter, and the several collectors of the tax; which was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

A bill, entitled, An act to empower Henry Griffith and Charles Greenbury Griffith to sell certain lands, for the purposes therein mentioned, was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

On