

subjects mentioned in the message of the governor and council; and that Mr. Chase and Mr. Hall do prepare and bring in the said message.

The following message being prepared, was sent to the senate by Mr. Hindman and Mr. Sherwood.

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, MAY 13, 1782.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOURS,

THE measures to be adopted for the protection of our bay trade, and to defend our inhabitants exposed to plunder by the enemy's barges; regulations respecting the land office and the sale of vacant lands; and the other subjects, recommended in the message of his Excellency the governor and the council, require the speedy decision of the general assembly; and we conceive that a conference will best discover the sentiments of the two houses on those subjects, and procure the passage of such laws as may be necessary to execute their determinations. The heavy expence by long sessions, and the season of the year, induce us to make the present sitting as short as possible; and we expect, with your honours assistance, to be able to finish the most important business in two weeks. If you should agree to our proposals, we will immediately nominate conferrees on the part of this house.

By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk.

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

By the COMMITTEE appointed to examine into and report on the petition of John Briscoe.

YOUR committee are fully satisfied, that the petitioner John Briscoe was a joint partner in trade with James and Robert Buchanan, merchants in Glasgow; that the said Briscoe stands engaged for the payment of considerable sums of money, due from the said company; that there are considerable debts due to the said company from the people of this state, more than sufficient to pay the debts; that many debts due to the said company have been lost, and more will be lost, unless a power is given to some person to secure them; that the share of the debts due to the said company make a very great proportion of the petitioner's estate, who has a wife and children to support. Your committee do therefore beg leave to give it as their opinion, that a law should pass, empowering one or more persons to assign and set over to the said John Briscoe as many good debts due to the said company, as will pay and satisfy the debts for which the said Briscoe stands engaged, and to divide the residue of the debts so as to give to the said Briscoe one third part thereof. All which is submitted to the consideration of the honourable house.

By order,

W. H. M'PHERSON, clk.

Which was read.

ORDERED, That Mr. Hall, Mr. Quynn, and Mr. N. Worthington, be a committee to consider and report on the petition of William Chapman.

Charles Carroll, of Carrollton, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker a petition from Anne Tilley, setting forth, that she and her family have for many years past kept the ferry at South river, and latterly in conjunction with William Brown, of London-town, who privately and unknown undermined her, and praying that she may be permitted to keep one boat in conjunction with said Brown, or be at liberty to keep a boat for the use of her former customers; and a petition from sundry inhabitants of Nanticoke manor, praying they may be allowed ten per cent. in the purchase of said manor, &c. severally endorsed; "By the senate, May 13, 1782: "Read and referred to the consideration of the house of delegates.

"By order,

J. MACCUBBIN, clk."

Which were read.

ORDERED, That Mr. Quynn, Mr. Hindman, Mr. Chew, Mr. Stull, Mr. Stone, Mr. Forrest, and Mr. Winder, be a committee to enquire into and report the proceedings of the commissioners appointed to preserve confiscated British property, and particularly the amount of the said property discovered or sold, and the expence of the said commissioners and their clerk since their appointment.

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

THE committee, to whom the petition of John Anderton, of Dorchester county, was referred, beg leave to report, that upon examining the papers referred to by said petition, they find, that Lancelot Lee, by a deed of bargain and sale, bearing date the 2d day of December, 1769, did convey unto James Russell, merchant of London, a tract of land called Renoboath, lying on the head of Nanticoke, together with all other lands belonging to said Lancelot Lee, in consideration of the sum of three hundred and seventy-five pounds sterling. They also find a bond, bearing date the day and year above mentioned, from James Russell, merchant of London, to Lancelot Lee aforesaid, conditioned for the sale of the lands conveyed by the deed aforesaid; and in case the lands sold for more than three hundred and seventy-five pounds sterling, the overplus to be paid to the said Lancelot Lee.