

That the following barges, to wit: The large barge now in this dock, built at Salisbury; also the barge commonly called Dashiell's barge, the barge Protector, now in Pocomoke, and the barge at Cambridge called the Defence, if to be procured on reasonable terms, be equipped and manned for the purposes aforesaid; and that each barge be commanded by a captain and a first and second lieutenant.

That two hundred and fifty men be enlisted to serve until the first day of January next, to man the said barges.

That until a sufficient number of men can be procured by enlistment to man the said barges, such number of the recruits enlisted in this state as the honourable major-general Smallwood shall think fit for this service, and can be spared, be employed for this purpose.

That a surgeon be appointed for this service, and proper hospital stores be provided.

That the expence of procuring, equipping, and paying, the said force until the first day of January next, and all other charges, except for rations, will amount to the sum of nine thousand seven hundred and twenty five pounds, agreeable to an estimate hereto annexed.

That to defray this expence, it will be proper to appropriate two thousand pounds, arising from the sales of confiscated British property, which the conferrees are informed will be in the hands of the commissioners in a few days; and for the remainder, that the commissioners for the preservation and sale of confiscated British property, be directed to confirm the sales of the lots of land on Whetstone-point, to such of the former purchasers, who have not made their first payments, as are now ready and willing to pay the money upon demand; and upon default of such purchasers, to expose such lots to sale, upon the terms for selling certain confiscated British property, by the act of the last session of assembly to raise recruits; and that the said commissioners call on such purchasers of lots on Whetstone point, who have made their first payments, to discharge and pay their second payments; and also that the said commissioners be directed to sell certain lots of confiscated British property in Baltimore-town, or other unappropriated British property, upon the terms aforesaid, to the amount of one thousand pounds; and also that all money which has been raised for land warrants, or for composition upon certificates, since the first of May last, and all money which shall hereafter, before the first day of January next, be paid for land warrants, or for composition upon certificates; and the money to become due on the third payments for British property sold in virtue of the act to raise recruits aforesaid, be applied and appropriated, so far as the same may be necessary for this service; and to make up any deficiency, that the intendant of the finance be directed to sell such of the specifics as he may judge necessary, and most for the advantage of the state.

That to procure a galley or vessel of force immediately, to co-operate with the said barges, a letter be written to the commander of the French marine at York, requesting him to join to the barges of this state, such vessel or vessels of force as he may think adequate and proper for this service; but if it should be inconvenient for the commander of the French navy at York to furnish such vessel, then it is the opinion of the conferrees, that a proper vessel be procured and equipped, with the utmost dispatch, at the expence of this state, and that the legislature ought to make provision for defraying such expence.

That a co-operation with the state of Virginia is highly desirable, and as that state is deeply interested in the protection of the trade of the Chesapeake, it is apprehended nothing but a free communication is necessary to obtain a junction of force; wherefore it is the opinion of the conferrees, that a gentleman of character and knowledge be sent from the general assembly, to confer with the legislature or executive of Virginia upon this subject.

That the vessels of this state, as soon as equipped, be sent to York in Virginia, and be put under the command of the officer commanding the French navy there.

That all officers and men belonging to the vessels of this state be subject to the articles established by congress for the government of the continental navy.

By order,

G. RANKEN, clk.

Which was read.

A petition from sundry inhabitants of Worcester county, setting forth, from their local situations, they are much exposed to the ravages and cruelties of the enemy's barges, and apprehending they are assisted in the operations by a certain Alexander Taylor, on Mills's-island, and others living on Assateague-island, and praying an act may pass for removing the said Taylor, his family, and all other families, from the said islands, and prohibiting for the continuance of the war any person or persons from residing on the said islands, was preferred and read.

The petition of Francis Deakins, referred from the last to the present session, was read, and referred to Mr. Mills, Mr. Bayly, Mr. Stone, Mr. Forrest, and Mr. Oneale, to consider and report thereon.

Robert Goldsborough, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker a memorial from William Paca, on behalf of his son John Philemon Paca, an infant, setting forth, that Richard Bennett, being seized in fee in several tracts of land lying in Kent county, did, by his last will, devise the same, in tail, to Lloyd Dulany, with the remainder, in fee, to Henrietta Maria Dorsey, Margaret