

The bill relating to Robert Long, of Baltimore county, and the resolution directing lieutenant Robert Denny to pay the money in general Smallwood's hands to the intendant of the revenue, were sent to the senate by Mr. M'Mechen and Mr. Fell.

Richard Barnes, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker the following vote of thanks:

His Excellency the Count de ROCHAMBEAU.

S I R,

WE should be wanting to ourselves, and constituents, were we not to embrace the opportunity, which your presence affords, of testifying the thanks of the people of Maryland, for the services rendered by your Excellency to the United States of America. To encounter the toils and perils of war, in quest of glory, has ever been the peculiar characteristic of the French nobility and nation; whatever could be performed by the most signal valour, aided by the most judicious conduct, and consummate military skill, has often, before the present period, been achieved by French generals, and French soldiers. In recalling the evils which lately threatened this state from a British army, we see a French nobleman, at the head of a few regular troops, and the yeomanry of the country, opposing their celebrated commander, engaging his veterans, and disconcerting his measures, till your presence, and the combined forces, completed our safety in the capture of this general and his army. As long as liberty shall be considered of value, this event must perpetuate our gratitude, while it unites your fame with that of general Washington's. To preserve in troops far removed from their own country the strictest discipline, and to convert into esteem and affection deep and ancient prejudices, was reserved for you; and this praise is all your own. We view with regret the departure of troops, which have so conducted, so endeared, and so distinguished themselves, and we pray that the laurels they have gathered before York-town may never fade, and that victory, to whatever quarter of the globe they direct their arms, may follow their standard. You are going to present yourself before your royal master, our great and good ally, who alone can make you a return. It is only left to us to wish, that the moment may be happy, and that in your report to his majesty, it were possible to include the sense of the citizens of Maryland, for the services of his army under the command of your Excellency.

Which was read the first and second time and unanimously agreed to, and the following message was prepared and sent to the senate by Mr. Beatty and Mr. Ogle.

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, JANUARY 8, 1783.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOURS,

WE agree to the vote of thanks to his Excellency the Count de Rochambeau, handed in this day by Richard Barnes, Esq; and propose that it be signed by the president of the senate and speaker of this house, and presented to him by a committee of both houses. We have nominated Mr. Brice T. B. Worthington and Mr. Hall to join any members you may appoint for that purpose.

By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk.

Mr. Kent, from the committee, brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker a bill, entitled, An act to compel the attendance of the members of the general assembly; which was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

William Hindman, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker the bill to regulate the militia, and the following message:

BY THE SENATE, JANUARY 8, 1783.

GENTLEMEN,

IT was by no means the intention of our amendment to prevent the governor from taking the command of the militia, whenever he should be advised to it by the council, but only to exempt him from ordinary militia duties; and therefore, if you judge it necessary, it may be expressly provided, that the exemption extend no further.

The exemption of the governor and members of the council, the members of the general assembly, the chancellor, the judges of the general court and the court of appeals, the judge of the court of admiralty, and the members to congress, is founded on the principle, that no set of men in the state should be unequally burdened, or that an undue proportion of public services or duties should be imposed upon, or required from, any part of the society; a principle, in our opinion, incontrovertible, and which we cannot, in this instance, see any sufficient reason for deviating from, especially as we presume our constituents are far from expecting or desiring it.

We admit that examples set by those men to whom the people have entrusted their liberty and property, will ever be attended with its proper effect; and although we cannot subject that set of men to an attendance on the usual days of muster, and other ordinary militia duties or services that may be often incompatible with their other duties, we are convinced they will, on any necessity or emergency, readily step forth to join their fellow citizens, and share with them any dangers in defence of their country; and we are of opinion, that such voluntary joining the militia, and acting with it in such circumstances, will be more exemplary, and have a better effect,

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