

For further information relative to the transactions in the intendant's office, he begs leave to refer the honourable the general assembly to the several books and papers laid before them with this report; he is very sensible that it does not comprehend all the duties enjoined him by the act passed last session respecting finance; but he hopes when the honourable the general assembly will be pleased to consider, that the books in the auditor's office have not been balanced since May 1778, and that not an article charged in the day-book has been posted since the first day of October 1782, and that the treasurer of the eastern shore has not made any returns of receipts and payments since last session; and also, that the intendants's and his assistant's time for four months past has been greatly engrossed in settling the officers and soldiers accounts, and distributing five months pay among them; that allowances will be made.

DAN. OF ST. THO. JENIFER,
Intendant of the revenue.

Which was read.

The supplement to the bill for the benefit of Mrs. Rebecca Hanson and Miss Catherine Dulaney, was read the second time and passed. Sent to the senate by Mr. De Butts and Mr. Maxwell.

Mr. Courfey, 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 Doctor William Baker.

YOUR committee beg leave to report to the honourable house, that they have enquired into the facts set forth in the said petition, and find them to be true.

Your committee further report, that by an act which passed in November session, in the year 1781, the holders of specie certificates granted by the state, were allowed to carry in their certificates, and to receive the bills of credit of the last emission for the principal and interest which had become due thereon; that many persons availed themselves of this privilege; but the bills of credit then in the treasury being insufficient to pay off and discharge the whole of the said certificates, others were deprived of this advantage, and could not derive the least benefit from a subsequent regulation of the general assembly, declaring that the said bills of credit should be received at par with specie for the confiscated property that had been sold.

Your committee further report, that the said certificates were granted for money lent, goods and other property sold and seized under acts then in force, whereby this state made considerable exertions, and afforded extraordinary aid in carrying on the late war.

Your committee further report, that the bills of credit of the last emission now in circulation, for the redemption of which the said property purchased by the said Doctor Baker, with other property of very great value, was sold, does not amount to the sum of twenty thousand pounds, and that your committee have good reason to believe, that a sum of money is now due in the said bills of credit, from the several collectors, which far exceeds the said sum of twenty thousand pounds.

Your committee beg leave to observe, that such is the great scarcity of specie, that it is with difficulty the good people can procure what is sufficient to pay their assessments; and your committee are fully convinced, that if the property of the purchasers of British property is executed and sold, it will not produce one fourth part of its real and intrinsic value, whereby great oppression will ensue, and many good and honest men, with their families, will be involved in inextricable ruin.

Your committee are of opinion, that under all circumstances disclosed, it would be highly inequitable, and repugnant to the plainest principles of justice and sound policy, and destructive of the reviving credit of the state, not to allow the purchasers of confiscated British property to discount debts due them from the state, and that the petitioner, Doctor Baker, will suffer in a particular manner, owing to an unbounded confidence in the faith of the state, if he is debarred of a right common in transactions and dealings between man and man, the right of setting off one debt against another, founded on the principle of preventing a multiplicity of suits, whereby much expence and trouble is saved to both parties, and justice well and speedily administered.

Your committee beg leave to report, that it is their opinion, that the petitioner should be allowed to discount the debts due him from the state, in discharge and satisfaction of the bonds given by him to the state, for the confiscated British property purchased by him. All which is submitted to the honourable house.

By order,

W. H. M'PHERSON, clk.

Which was read.

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

By the COMMITTEE of ELECTIONS and PRIVILEGES.

YOUR committee beg leave to report, That by the certificate of the sheriff of Kent county it appears, that Mr. Peregrine Lethbury, Mr. William Stevenson, Mr. Robert Maxwell, and

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Mr.