

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS, NOVEMBER 1784. 79

W E D N E S D A Y, January 5, 1785.

THE house met. Present the same members as on yesterday. The proceedings of yesterday were read.

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

THE committee to whom was referred the petition of Thomsey Davidg, beg leave to report, that they have taken the same into consideration, and are of opinion, that as the statute of frauds and perjuries (introduced and established above sixty years ago as the law of the land) enacted, that every demise of land shall be in writing, and signed by the party devising the same, or some other person in his presence and by his exprels directions, and shall be attested and subscribed in the presence of the devisor by three or four credible witnesses, or else utterly void and of none effect; and the petitioner states, that the will of her husband was attested and subscribed in his presence by only two witnesses; that to pass a law to make the said will valid in law, would be to repeal the statute of frauds, and to destroy its effect as to the case of the petitioner, and to take away a right vested by law in the heir of the testator. All which is submitted to the honourable house.

By order,

W. PINKNEY, clk.

Which was read the first and second time and concurred with.

On motion, ORDERED, That the petition of the commissioners and other inhabitants of Charles-town, in Cæcil county, be referred to Mr. Miller, Mr. Job, Mr. Ogievee, and Mr. M'Mechen, to consider and report thereon.

Mr. Oneale, from the committee, brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker a bill, entitled, An act to authorise the issuing grants for the lands therein mentioned; which was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

On motion, Leave given to bring in a bill relating to interest in certain cases, and other purposes. ORDERED, That Mr. Wootton, Mr. De Butts, Mr. Hindman, and Mr. Ware, be a committee to prepare and bring in the same.

Mr. Quynn, from the committee, brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker a bill, entitled, An act to enable the corporation of the city of Annapolis to lay a tax on property within the said city, and the precincts, to regulate and licence ordinaries and retailers of spirituous liquors within the said city, and the precincts thereof; which was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

On the second reading the resolution in favour of Thomas Cromwell, Stephen Shelmerdine and John Bailly, the question was put, That the house concur therewith? The yeas and nays being called for by Mr. Waters appeared as follow:

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

McF. Taney,	Ridgely of Wm. S eventon,	Waters,	Chaille,	M'Mechen.
Fraizer,	Ridgely,	Gibson,	Johnson,	

N E G A T I V E.

McF. De Butts,	Harris,	Bravard,	Quynn,	Love,	Cellars,
Plowden,	Roberts,	Job,	Townhend,	Bond,	Swingle,
N. Worthington,	John Dashiell,	Ogievee,	Joseph Dashiell,	Wheler,	Cramprin,
Ware,	Steel,	Digges,	Beatty,	Harccattle,	Oneale,
Dent,	Miller,	Seney,	Norris,	Stull,	Edwards.

So it was determined in the negative.

Agreeably to the order of the day, the bill for the relief of James Armstrong of Baltimore county, and Robert Wood of Frederick county, insolvent debtors, was read the second time and passed. Sent to the senate by Mr. Beatty.

William Perry, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker a resolution of congress of the 16th of December, 1784, relative to a note from the chargé des affaires of his most christian majesty, of the 1st of December 1784, respecting delays and difficulties complained of by the French agents in settling their accounts in this country, together with a copy of said note; a letter from P. J. Van Brekel, minister from the republic of Holland, of the 27th of December 1784; a letter from Messieurs Nicholas and Jacob Vanstaphorsts, of the 6th of October 1784, to his excellency the governor, and an address to the general assembly, respecting a contract made by Matthew Ridley, Esq; agent of this state, with them; and also copies and extracts of letters between Matthew Ridley, Esq; agent for the state of Maryland, and Messieurs Nicholas and Jacob Vanstaphorsts, merchants of Amsterdam, respecting a negotiation for raising a loan of six hundred thousand Guilders Dutch currency, for account of the above mentioned state of Maryland; severally endorsed; "By the senate, January 5, 1785: Read and referred to the consideration of the house of delegates.

By order,

J. DORSEY, clk."

On the second reading by especial order, agreeably to the order of the day, the bill to raise the supplies for the year seventeen hundred and eighty-five, the question was put, That the words "seventeen hundred and eighty one," as the valuation of lands upon which to lay the tax for the ensuing year, be struck out, and "seventeen hundred and eighty-three" inserted therein? The yeas and nays being called for by Mr. Ridgely of William appeared as follow:

A F F I R M A -