

others, contrary to the declaration of rights." But let such objections be well weighed before they lead you to any injurious suspicions of the integrity of your representatives. Let it be considered, whether they come from the friends or enemies to the general principles of the bill—those who wish for any legal support to the ministers of religion, or those who profess themselves opposed to it.

Consider the whole frame and spirit of the bill. It declares the most perfect equality; and if your representatives were so weak or wicked as to design any thing contrary to the constitution, they are at least wise enough to know that the act would be null and void in itself.

A poll tax, such as was levied under the old constitution (where the expence of government was not supported in proportion to property and the benefits to be derived, but by the head), is justly declared grievous and oppressive by the bill of rights.

The instruction to be given to all men, from the word of God, is equally important to the rich and poor; and the souls of both are alike precious in their Maker's sight. Yet still the rich man will pay in proportion to the number of his family and the taxables dependent upon him, which is just and reasonable. Nevertheless the sum to be paid by every individual, when thus borne equally by all, will be small indeed compared to the burthen which now falls upon a few; while many of the rich and fordid, as well as many of lower degree, whose profligate lives are a reproach to society, escape wholly free.

Whether the tax shall be raised upon property in general, or in any other mode, will be maturely considered by your representatives, when they shall have further opportunity of consulting you thereon. Let what is best upon the whole be done. Your representatives will not, they cannot, do any thing injurious to your interest, which is inseparable from their own.

The great and almost only point is—Whether or not it be necessary, and the desire of a majority of the good people of this state, that some suitable provision should be made by law, for the support of the christian religion according to the bill of rights, and the resolutions of your representatives hereunto prefixed?

Upon this great question, your instructions are desired; and while you give them, we beseech you to exercise all possible temper and discretion; considering yourselves as in the presence of your Almighty Creator; and that the judgment which you are to pronounce may be finally decisive upon the future religion, glory, honour and happiness, of your country and posterity, to the latest generations!

Which was read the first and second time, and the question put, That the said address be agreed to? The yeas and nays being called for by Mr. Ridgely of William appeared as follow:

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

Messieurs	De Butts,	Taney,	Roberts,	Steel,	Quynn,	Hardcastle,
	B. Worthington,	Fraizer,	Gibson,	Johnson,	Townshend,	Downes,
	N. Worthington,	Ware,	John Dashiell,	Seney,	Chaille,	Cramphin,
	Carroll,	Dent,	Waters,	Chafe,	Joseph Dashiell,	Oneale.
	Grahame,	Hindman,	Elzey,			

N E G A T I V E.

Messieurs	Plowden,	Miller,	Beatty,	Love,	Steret,	Cellars,
	Graves,	Bravard,	Shriver,	Bond.	M'Mechen,	Swingle,
	Ridgely of Wm.	Oglevee,	Norris,	Wheeler,	Stull,	Edwards,
	Stevenson,					

So it was resolved in the affirmative.

The above address being agreed to, ORDERED, That it be signed by Mr. Speaker, and that eighteen hundred copies thereof be immediately published, and one hundred copies sent to each county, and that it be published in the Maryland Gazette and Baltimore journal.

Mr. Chafe, from the committee, brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker a bill, entitled, An act to appoint an intendant of the revenue; which was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

Samuel Hughes, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker the resolution respecting Uriah Forrest, endorsed; "By the senate, January 14, 1785: Read and assented to.

"By order, J. DORSEY, clk."

The resolution respecting Samuel Chafe, Esq; agent of the state of Maryland, relative to the bank stock, endorsed; "By the senate, January 14, 1785: Read and dissented to.

"By order, J. DORSEY, clk."

The following message:

BY THE SENATE, JANUARY 14, 1785.

GENTLEMEN,

WE have considered your message by Mr. Cramphin, and will agree to a resolve to advance to Mr. Chafe the sum of five hundred pounds sterling on account of the bank stock, to be applied to the payment of the agent's commission, if the bank stock or part of it is received; and and if no part of the bank stock is received upon which the agent is to draw commission, then to be accounted for.

By order, J. DORSEY, clk.

A memorial from Richard Anderson, Perry Benson, and James Bruff, late captains of the Maryland line, on behalf of themselves and others, the disabled and maimed officers of the said line, setting