

dorsed; " By the senate, December 29, 1784: Read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

" By the senate, January 19, 1785: Read the second time and will pass. " By order, J. DORSEY, clk.

And the bill to enable the governor to exercise certain powers therein mentioned, endorsed; " By the senate, January 16, 1785: Read the first time and ordered to lie on the table. " By order, J. DORSEY, clk.

" By the senate, January 19, 1785: Read the second time and will pass. " By order, J. DORSEY, clk."

Which were ordered to be engrossed.

The petition of Hugh Young was read the second time and granted.

Whereas Hugh Young hath represented to this general assembly, that he hath a claim against this state, which he cannot settle with the auditor general and the intendant of the revenue, and requesting that some mode may be adopted to afford him an opportunity of trying his claim at law, RESOLVED, That the said Hugh Young be authorized to commence and prosecute his action within a year from this time, which action shall be brought against the state as defendant, by issuing a summons directed to the intendant of the revenue, or to the attorney-general, and sending with such summons a short note, expressing the cause of action; and the said Hugh Young may declare, that the state is indebted unto him in any sum he may think proper, and the attorney-general shall plead non assumpsit, and the jury shall try such issue, and if they find for the plaintiff, may assess such damages as they may think just, and if for the state, the plaintiff shall pay costs of suit, and the damages (if any found) shall be paid by the state; and if the jury should find that the said Hugh Young is indebted to the state, they may find accordingly, and judgment may thereupon be entered and given against him for such sum and costs of suit.

Sent to the senate by Mr. Steret.

On the second reading of the message from the senate respecting the bill to repeal part of the act for the better security of government, the question was put, That a committee be appointed to prepare an answer to the said message? The yeas and nays being called for by Mr. Steret appeared as follow:

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

Messieurs	De Butts,	N. Worthington,	Hindman,	Gantt,	Quynn,	Hardcastle,
	Powden,	Carroll,	John Dashiell,	Johnson,	Townshend,	Dowdes,
	Graves,	Fraizer,	Job,	Seney,	Chaille,	Oncle.
	B. Worthington,	Harris,	Bowie,	Chafe,	Joseph Dashiell,	

N E G A T I V E.

Messieurs	Grahame,	Stevenson,	Miller,	Shriver,	Bond,	Stull,
	Ware,	Gibson,	Bravard,	Norris,	Wheeler,	Crampin,
	Dent,	Elzzy,	Digges,	Love,	Steret,	Edwards.
	Ridgely of Wm. Steel,					

So it was resolved in the affirmative.

ORDERED, That Mr. Chafe, Mr. Carroll, and Mr. Joseph Dashiell, be a committee to prepare and bring in the same.

Mr. Chafe, from the committee, brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker the following message:

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, JANUARY 20, 1785.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOURS,

AS the reasons assigned by the senate are not calculated to induce us to retract our opinion, (though we declared we should do it if our judgment was convinced) we cannot but consider your message as a justification, or rather apology, to your constituents, for your persevering in a decision, which, we think, you have formed without sufficient grounds, and if just, must be maintained by other arguments than those adduced by your honours.

Whether the restoring the nonjurors to the rights of freemen, will reconcile or attach them to our government, is a matter of opinion; and we think, lenity and indulgence will win more on the temper and passions of men, than harshness and severity. The humiliating situation in which the nonjurors now stand, is disgraceful, and they never can love, though they may fear, a government that continues a distinction so injurious to their feelings, and now declared unnecessary by a very great majority of this house.

The senate entertain an opinion, that the nonjurors, from principles inimical to freedom, refused to take the test, required from all the citizens of this state, in seventeen hundred and seventy-eight; and that they are now enemies to our government. We think, that very many, if not the far greater part, of the present nonjurors, declined to take the oath required, from a very different cause, than friendship to Great-Britain, or enmity to the revolution. It appears to us probable, that the greater part of the quakers, methodists, dunkers, and menonists, refused to take the test, from scruples of conscience; which, however erroneous, are entitled to every possible indulgence. We are well informed, that many of the nonjurors, in some of the counties, were misled by artful and designing men, to believe that their religion was in danger. It is not probable, that very many of the present nonjurors became so, from any affection to, or predilection in favour of, Great-Britain; and it is less probable, that such attachment continues at this time. Your honours must discover a great alteration, and the apparent reason for such change,