

“ By the senate, January 21, 1785: Read the second time by especial order and will pass.  
 “ By order, J. DO-SEY, clk.”

Which was read the first and second time by especial order and passed. Sent to the senate, with the resolution requesting the governor to deliver to Mr. Harford his private papers, by Mr. Miller.

The following message being prepared, was sent to the senate by Mr. Roberts.

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, JANUARY 21, 1785.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOURS,

WE expected by your message in answer to ours on Tuesday last, to have closed this session on Thursday, but being disappointed, we are determined to put an end to it this evening

By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk.

The engrossed bill No. 76, was read and assented to, and sent to the senate, with the paper bill thereof, by Mr. Fraizer.

The following message being prepared, was sent to the senate by Mr. Hardcastle.

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, JANUARY 21, 1785.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOURS,

WE have agreed to adjourn till 5 o'clock this evening, for the purpose of sealing the laws, therefore hope your honours will make the necessary preparation for putting an end to the session.

By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk.

The house adjourns till 5 o'clock.

### P O S T M E R I D I E M.

The house met.

William Perry, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker the bill to impose duties on certain enumerated articles imported into and exported out of this state, endorsed; “ By the senate, January 14, 1785: Read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

“ By order,

J. DORSEY, clk.

“ By the senate, January 20, 1785: Read the second time and will not pass.

“ By order,

J. DORSEY, clk.”

And the following messages:

BY THE SENATE, JANUARY 21, 1785.

GENTLEMEN,

SUPPOSING your bill to impose duties on certain enumerated articles imported into and exported out of this state, and on all other goods, wares, and merchandise, imported into this state, might be considered so much of the nature of a money bill, as to prevent this house from a right to propose amendments, and wishing to avoid every occasion of dispute between the two houses upon the subject of the separate rights of either, we adopted the usual mode of communication to obtain amendments to the bill, by reducing the duty on salt to four-pence per bushel, shortening the continuance of the bill for three years, and striking out every part which relates to imposing a duty on exports, and to add a clause for appropriating the money, or part of it, to congress, for the current year. Having failed in the attempt to obtain these amendments, we were constrained to negative the whole bill, or to adopt those parts which we consider as impolitic. We have dissented to the bill, though very desirous of laying the duties proposed by it upon imports, except on salt; though the duty on this article will perhaps in its operation be more equal than any other, yet we think it too high, and its equality is rather an objection than a recommendation of it; for if indirect taxation is to be as equal as a direct assessment, we see no reason for preferring the first to the last mode of drawing money from the people. Indirect taxation, or laying duties on such articles as are consumed, has been generally adopted, with a view to throw the burthens of government on those who are best able to bear them; pursuing this principle, the articles generally consumed by the rich, ought to pay a higher duty than those in the use of which the poor participate with the rich in a degree proportionate to their circumstances; the duty upon salt, according to this reasoning, ought to be much lower than we proposed to make it; but as it appeared to us that you were desirous of laying a duty on this article, and we wished to gratify your views as far as we could, without laying too heavy a burthen, we proposed fixing the duty on salt as high as could be done, without its being too burthenfome. The continuance of the bill we think too long. In matters so important as the regulation of trade, great caution ought to be used, and we ought to know by experience the effect of a system, before we establish it for a length of time. If the regulations are good, there can be little doubt but the act will be continued; if injurious, the sooner they end the better; and although it may be said, that if this act is found by experience to be improper, it may be repealed, we think it is more prudent to depend on the wisdom of both houses, to continue a beneficial law, than on their concurrence to repeal an act which may have effects injurious to commerce, though its immediate tendency is to bring money into the treasury. A commission of four per cent is given by the bill to the naval officers, exclusive of the fees of office. We admit that the naval officers in general, and particularly the naval officer at the port of Baltimore, should be men of character and strict integrity, and therefore that they ought to have a decent support, so as to place them above temptation. The naval officer at Baltimore-town in particular deserves well of this country; the responsibility of his office, the trouble and expences attending its due execution, require that the salary should be liberal; but while we express this

opinion,