

the governor of this state, respecting the memorial of Sick Kiefar, in behalf of himself and thirty-four others, natives of China and Bengal, being part of the crew of the Pallas Indiaman, commanded by captain John O'Donnell.

Mr. Wootton appeared in the house.

Thomas Stone, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker the bill to approve, confirm and ratify, the compact made by the commissioners, &c. enforced; "By the senate, November 21, 1785: Read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

"By order, J. DORSEY, clk.
"By the senate, November 21, 1785: Read the second time by especial order and will pass.
"By order, J. DORSEY, clk."

Which was ordered to be engrossed.

The several letters from the board of treasury of the United States, and from the secretary of congress, with the resolutions respecting finance, were read.

The letter from William Smailwood, Esq; notifying his acceptance of his appointment as governor, was read.

ORDERED, That a committee be appointed to report an estimate of the supplies necessary for the current year, for continental and state purposes, with their opinion of the ways and means to raise the same.

The house proceeded to ballot for the said committee, and the ballots being deposited in the ballot box, the gentlemen named to strike retired, and after some time returned and reported, that Mr. Chase, Mr. Hall, Mr. B. Worthington, Mr. Lethbury, Mr. Carroll, Mr. Turner, and Mr. Key, had a majority of ballots.

On reading and considering the report from the commissioners of this state, appointed to meet the commissioners from the commonwealth of Virginia, to regulate and settle the jurisdiction and navigation of Patowmack and Pocomoke rivers, and that part of Chesapeake bay which lieth within the territory of Virginia, the house came to the following resolutions, to wit.

1. RESOLVED, That it is the opinion of this house, that this state should concur with the commonwealth of Virginia, in making a joint application to congress for their consent to form a compact for the purpose of affording, in due time, and in just proportion between the two states, naval protection to such part of Chesapeake bay and Patowmack river, which may at any time hereafter be left unprovided for by congress, and that such compact, when made, be laid before congress for their approbation; and that such compact, if approved, should continue until mutually dissolved by the two states, or until congress shall declare that such compact ought no longer to exist.

2. RESOLVED, That it is the opinion of this house, that if the general assembly of the commonwealth of Virginia concur in making such application to congress, the delegates from this state to congress be authorized and requested to make such application on behalf of this state, in conjunction with the delegates from the commonwealth of Virginia, to congress, or with such other persons as the legislature of Virginia shall appoint for that purpose.

3. RESOLVED, That it is the opinion of this house, that foreign gold and silver coin, received in the two states as the current money thereof, should pass in the two governments at the same value, according to its fineness and weight; and that, if the species of coin could be regulated at the same nominal value, it would be of great convenience to the commerce between the citizens of the two states.

4. RESOLVED, That it is the opinion of this house, that the damages on foreign bills of exchange protested, ought to be the same in both states, and that foreign protested bills of exchange should be considered, in all cases and to all purposes, as of equal rank with debts upon contract in writing, signed by the party.

5. RESOLVED, That it is the opinion of this house, that draughts by the merchants of either state upon those of the other, in the nature of inland bills of exchange, should be subject by law to official protest by a notary public, and that the damages for non payment should be the same in both states.

6. RESOLVED, That it is the opinion of this house, that it is essential to the commerce and revenue of the commonwealth of Virginia, and of this state, that duties on imports or exports (if laid) should be the same in both states; and that it is proper for the legislatures of the said states, at their annual meeting in the autumn, to appoint commissioners to meet and communicate the regulations of commerce and duties proposed by each state, and to confer on such subjects as may concern the commercial interests of both states, and within the power of the respective states; and that the number of the said commissioners should be equal, not less than three nor more than five, from each state; and that they should annually meet in the third week of September, if required by the legislature of either state or the commissioners thereof, at such place as they should appoint.

7. RESOLVED, That it is the opinion of this house, that the third, fourth, fifth, and sixth resolutions, should be communicated to the legislatures of Delaware and Pennsylvania; and that they be requested to nominate commissioners for the purpose expressed in the sixth resolution, and that his excellency the governor be requested to transmit immediately copies of the said resolutions to those states.

Sent to the senate for their concurrence by Mr. Turner.

Charles Carroll, of Carrollton, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker the following report: