

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

THE committee, to whom was referred the petition of John Stevens, late collector of the tax for Dorchester county, beg leave to report, That they have considered the same, and find the facts therein stated to be true, and are of opinion, that a bill ought to pass, to enable the collector of the said county to collect and pay into the treasury, in the same manner and at the same time that other taxes are to be collected and paid in the year seventeen hundred and eighty-six, the two shillings and six pence imposed by the act to establish funds to secure the payment of the state debt, and for the punctual payment of the annual interest thereon, which ought to have been collected and paid in the year seventeen hundred and eighty-five. All which is submitted to the honourable house.

By order,

J. GASSAWAY, clk

Which was read the first and second time, concurred with, and leave given to bring in a bill pursuant thereto.

Mr. Waggaman brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker a bill, entitled, An act for the relief of John Stevens, of Dorchester county, late collector of the tax; which was read the first and second time by especial order, and the question put, That the said bill do pass? Resolved in the affirmative.

Sent to the senate by Mr. Waggaman.

The following message being prepared, was sent to the senate, with the bill, entitled, A Supplement to the act allowing a longer time to compound on old certificates, &c. by Mr. Gale.

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, MARCH 9, 1786.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOURS,

THIS house will not recede from their amendment to the bill originated in the senate, entitled, A supplement to the act allowing a longer time to compound on old certificates, &c. and return the bill for your honours to decide thereon as you may think proper.

By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk.

Thomas Stone, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker the bill for building a new prison in the city of Annapolis, endorsed; "By the senate, March 7, 1786: Read the first time" and ordered to lie on the table.

"By order,

J. DORSEY, clk.

"By the senate, March 7, 1786: Read the second time by especial order and will pass.

"By order,

J. DORSEY, clk."

Which was ordered to be engrossed.

And the bill for the regulation of the poor in the several counties of this state, for the relief of indigent mariners, and for repairing the poor-house in Baltimore county, with the following message:

BY THE SENATE, MARCH 9, 1786.

GENTLEMEN,

WE cannot by any means submit to your opinion, that the bill for the regulation of the poor in the several counties of this state, for the relief of indigent mariners, and for repairing the poor-house in Baltimore county, is a money bill. Although so late in the session, we are forced to enter into a discussion concerning the nature and extent of money bills, as defined by our form of government, to combat an opinion, which, if suffered to pass unnoticed, may be drawn into precedent, and if adopted or acquiesced in, would tend to embarrass the proceedings of the legislature, and abridge the constitutional rights of the senate. It is probable that habits and jealousies acquired under the former government, had their influence in producing that part of our constitution which excludes the senate from originating or amending money bills. The inconvenience of the exclusion has been often felt, indirectly evaded in several instances, and repeatedly acknowledged by the most experienced members of your house. That the exclusive privilege of originating money bills, coupled with the unreasonable restraint imposed on the senate from amending them, might be abused by the house of delegates, was foreseen by the framers of the constitution, who defined what should be deemed a money bill, to prevent alterations on that topic, and the probable abuse which would grow out of the exclusive privilege from improper tacks being made to such bills by the house of delegates. The definition of a money bill, given in the 11th section of the form of government, is clear and explicit. It is thereby declared, that every bill assessing, levying, or applying taxes, or supplies for the support of government, or the current expences of the state, or appropriating money in the treasury, is a money bill. The particular instances enumerated in the same section, described what are not money bills, were cited by way of illustration, and are but very few of the many instances or cases which might have been adduced to point out what were not money bills, in the opinion and judgment of the framers of our government. The bill, to which this message particularly relates, certainly does not come within the above definition of a money bill, and although it is not comprised among the enumerated cases illustrating what are not money bills, as defined by the form of government, it surely cannot be fairly inferred from that omission, that the said bill is a money bill; for if this inference be just, then every bill levying money on the people for any purpose whatever, not particularised by the exception in the 11th section, although within the reason of that exception, is a money bill, and then this other absurd consequence must be admitted, that a money bill, though ever so logically and truly defined, would not be a money bill within the definition given, if not