

Which was read the first and second time and agreed to; and thereupon ORDERED, That the said address be signed by Mr. Speaker, and that 1800 copies thereof be immediately published, and 100 copies sent to each county, and that it be published in the Maryland Gazette and Baltimore Journal.

The house adjourns till to-morrow morning 9 o'clock.

W E D N E S D A Y, January 17, 1787.

**T**HE house met. Present the same members as on yesterday, except Mr. P. Mitchell and Mr. Grahame. The proceedings of yesterday were read. Mr. Joshua Seney and Mr. Jackson appeared in the house.

The bill to settle and pay the civil list and other expences of civil government, was sent to the senate by Mr. Jackson.

The bill for the benefit of John Taylor, of Harford county, and Thomas Woolford, of Dorchester county, was sent to the senate by Mr. Norris.

The bill to authorise Baltimore county court to grant a new trial in the case therein mentioned, was sent to the senate by Mr. Owings.

The resolution in favour of Elizabeth Wright, executrix and residuary legatee of William Wright, deceased, was sent to the senate by Mr. F. Bowie.

On motion, ORDERED, That the committee of claims be directed to make an allowance on the journal of accounts of twenty pounds to the reverend Mr. Higinbotham for acting as chaplain to this house this session.

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

THE committee to whom the memorial of Matthew Ridley was referred, beg leave to report, that they have examined into the contract made between the memorialist, as agent for this state, and Messieurs Vanstaphorst, of the city of Amsterdam, and are of opinion that he executed the commission entrusted to him with diligence and fidelity. The negotiating a foreign loan at that time, appears to us to have been attended with many difficulties. That applications to the court of France, for obtaining a supply of money, were repeatedly urged in vain, nor could a promise of expending the sums, if advanced, in the manufactures of that country, induce an assent to the solicitation. That after many fruitless endeavours in France, the memorialist went to Holland, and there applied to a considerable banking house, who declined embarking in the affair, and had not Messieurs Vanstaphorst agreed to furnish the sum, it is probable the loan must have entirely failed.

Your committee further report, that from the testimony of respectable witnesses produced to them, it appears that the articles purchased by the memorialist, for the use of the state, were of an excellent quality, and that the arms, in particular, were superior to any before imported.

They further report, that in order to procure the several articles on the best terms, and with a view to superintend their fabrication, the memorialist returned from Holland to France, and, by his economical attention, procured the muskets and bayonets sent to the state for one livre and an half under the price paid by the United States for arms of an inferior quality, with a discount for prompt payment on the whole purchases made, amounting to eleven thousand two hundred and fifty-nine livres.

That a rumour of approaching peace being spread antecedent to these purchases, the memorialist consulted with doctor Franklin and Mr. Jay, respecting the propriety of making them, who were both of opinion, that it was improper to relax in any of the preparations of war; and it appears in February to us, that Mr. Jay declared he knew not of the intended peace forty-eight hours before the preliminary articles were signed. However disadvantageous, therefore, these expenditures may now be thought, a contrary conduct in the memorialist must have been greatly reprobated, had a reverse of fortune taken place.

Your committee further represent, that by instructions from the governor and council, the memorialist was authorised to pay eight per cent. for money to be advanced, taking tobacco in payment for the interest at fourteen livres per hundred weight, and nine per cent. on a payment in flour at thirteen livres per hundred weight. That the loan procured from Messieurs Vanstaphorst, was on the terms of paying only five per cent. interest in tobacco, at fourteen livres per hundred weight, with a premium to them of four and a half per cent. for soliciting the subscriptions, according to the usual custom of similar transactions in Holland. Your committee further pray leave to report, that the memorialist conceives himself entitled to an allowance of two and a half per cent. for negotiating the loan, and five per cent. for his commission on the articles purchased, and on the incidental charges, more especially as he was not to have received any compensation from the state, had he failed of success. And it appears, that he was resident in France and Holland, conducting the business entrusted to him, for above two years, at a considerable expence. By testimony produced to us we find, that five per cent. on purchases was at that time the usual commission.

Your committee further report, that whilst the memorialist was in France, for the purpose of purchasing the articles he was commissioned to procure, he received remittances from Messieurs Vanstaphorst in bills of exchange, of which many were drawn, on the house of Post Herion and company, in Paris, that were duly paid; that in July, seventeen hundred and eighty-four, he received a bill on those gentlemen for the sum of five thousand three hundred livres, which was not presented until two days after it became due, the reason of which omission was owing to the distressed state of the memorialist's family, whose wife was then lying dangerously ill, and died shortly after, one of his children having died two days before. That the memorialist having, until that time, been punctually paid the former bills drawn on this house, was the less solicitous about presenting the last,

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