

'Daniel Carroll, Esquire, from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker the resolution respecting the estate of Archibald Buchanan, endorsed; "By the senate, December 13, 1787: Read and assented to.

"By order,

J. DORSEY, clk."

The resolution respecting an appeal depending in the court of appeals, endorsed; "By the senate, December 12, 1787: Read and assented to with the proposed amendment.

"By order,

J. DORSEY, clk."

Amendment proposed. At the end of the resolution, add "Provided always, that the said appeal shall not, on any pretence, be continued longer than to the end of two courts after the meeting of said court in the month of October last past."

Which was read the first and second time and agreed to.

And the following report:

To the honourable the GENERAL ASSEMBLY of MARYLAND.

YOUR auditor begs leave to lay before your honours an account, No. 1, of the state debt, by which it appears, that the balances of principal and interest, exclusive of the bank stock, amount to the sum of £. 13,094 12 3¹/₂ to the debit of the state.

Your auditor not having possession of the accounts current transmitted by congress last year, and delivered by the governor and council to the general assembly at November session, 1786, cannot make out a state of the deficiencies upon the several requisitions of congress since the year 1781.

No. 2 is the account current with the treasurer of the western shore, by which the honourable the general assembly will see how the public money has been disposed of since November, 1786, and the balance now remaining in the treasury, with its appropriation, amounting in final settlements to 237,283⁵/₈ dollars, in continental loan-office certificates to £. 7,275, in continental money £. 89,994 18 9, in continental state money to £. 12,464 8 4, and in specie to £. 6,601 10 6.

No. 3 is a list of claims which have been presented, and could not be settled for various reasons, as expressed on the said list.

No. 4 is an account of the claims against property confiscated, by which your honours will perceive, that there hath been paid the sum of £. 10,534 17 9¹/₂; that there are now accounts passed for payment to the amount of £. 56,972 17 6, in which is included the claim of Hanbury against Daniel Dulany of Walter's estate; that there are claims, for the present rejected, amounting to £. 30,475 11 3, which it is presumed will be laid before the chancellor, and proceedings had thereon, agreeably to the mode allowed by act of November session, 1786, chap. 49, sect. 4, and that the whole amount paid, passed and rejected, is £. 97,983 6 6¹/₂. Upon this head your auditor begs leave to remark, that there are three estates where the property sold is insufficient to pay the claims; namely, on doctor Henry Stevenson's a deficiency of £. 2,035 11 0¹/₂, on Anthony Stewart's a deficiency of £. 2,628 17 6, and on Robert Christie's estate £. 4,015 13 11¹/₂: From this it will be evident to your honours, that the state cannot be benefited by taking upon itself to make dividends to claimants, particularly as the accounts are in many instances-disputable, and therefore your auditor begs leave to suggest the propriety of giving up to trustees, to be approved by the chancellor, the said trustees giving such security as he may approve, the bonds which have been received by the state for the property of each, or make such payments to them out of the treasury as would have been made to individual claimants to the amount of the net proceeds of each estate. This will prevent great delay and trouble to your officers, and may probably be found more satisfactory to the creditors of the said doctor Henry Stevenson, Anthony Stewart and Robert Christie. Your auditor informs your honours, that having found it necessary to examine and compare the several claims against Robert Christie with the books of said Christie, he waited upon Mr. James Jaffray, of Baltimore-town, in whose possession they were, and demanded the said books; that Mr. Jaffray delivered him sundry fee, docket, and other books, relating to the sheriff's office, but denied having in his possession the journal and ledger of Mr. Christie, the only books which could throw that light upon the subject your auditor sought for. Should trustees be appointed for this estate, your auditor thinks they ought to be empowered to demand all the books, and to collect all the debts due to the said Christie; by those means they may probably secure to the creditors a better dividend than can be made out of the net proceeds of the property confiscated. And upon the claims against doctor Henry Stevenson, your auditor begs leave to lay before your honours a letter, No. 5, from the doctor, whose proposal appears to be reasonable, and more particularly so as he believes some of the accounts which have been exhibited to him, are not supported by legal evidence, and as they may certainly be more justly scrutinized by the doctor than any other person. Your auditor was directed, by the governor and council, to make out a list of the soldiers who are entitled to lands within this state. He hath not been able to do it, owing to his having found some ambiguities in the acts relating to this business, it not being expressed in any of the said acts, that the soldiers of the Maryland line, then with the army, and reinstated in the spring of 1779 on a bounty of one hundred dollars, paid by congress, are entitled to the bounty of fifty acres of land, in the same manner as those who were at the same time first enlisted within the state of Maryland. The rolls of the artillery companies have not yet come to hand from New-York, which is also another reason why the list required has not been made out.

Upon the present state of the public accounts unsettled, your auditor begs leave to observe, that although great exertions have been made to procure settlements of accounts with persons who had received money for public purposes during the late war, both by advertisements and letters, there are still upwards of one hundred persons who were written to, have not yet come in with their accounts and vouchers; and although the greatest number of those persons may not owe money to the state, but on the contrary, may have some small balances due to them upon settlement, yet does