

N E G A T I V E.

Messieurs	Thomas, Plowden, T. Ringgold, N. Worthington, J. Worthington,	Mackall, Freeland, Brooke, Chapman, Cox,	Jones, Eccleston, Eccleston, jun. Townsend,	Dennis, Purnell, Corbin, Hughlett,	Douglafs, Ott, Swearingen, Cromwell,	Crabb, Wootton, Bayard, Tomlinfon.	26.
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So it was resolved in the affirmative.

The clerk of the senate delivers the bill for the relief of sundry insolvent debtors, endorsed; "By the senate, December 15, 1792: Read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

"By order, H. RIDGELY, clk.

"By the senate, December 20, 1792: Read the second time and will not pass.

"By order, H. RIDGELY, clk."

On motion, ORDERED, That Mr. Chapman, Mr. Duvall, Mr. Sprigg and Mr. Crabb, be a committee to prepare a message to the senate upon the subject matter of the said bill.

The house adjourns till 5 o'clock.

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

The house met.

The additional supplement to an act, entitled, An act for the better administration of justice in the several counties of this state, was read the second time and passed.

On the second reading the bill concerning slaves, the question was put, That the following clause be struck out of the said bill? "And, whereas the citizens of this state experience very great inconveniences from free negroes dealing with slaves, whereby very great inducements are held out to slaves to pilfer and steal, and the secret mode of carrying on such dealing and correspondence renders it almost impossible to obtain the testimony of white persons to convict such free negroes of the offences aforesaid, whereby they go unpunished for the same, Be it enacted, That any slave or slaves, above the age of fifteen years, may, at any time hereafter, be received and admitted as a witness, to convict any free negro of dealing as aforesaid with any slave or slaves contrary to the provisions of this act, and such testimony shall be as good and available in law, for the purpose aforesaid, as the testimony of a white person, any law heretofore passed to the contrary notwithstanding; and if any free negro, who shall be convicted of dealing with any slave or slaves as aforesaid, shall be unable to pay the fine of three pounds aforesaid, the justice, before whom such free negro shall be convicted, shall have full power and authority to sentence such free negro to work at the rate of — per day for the master or owner of such slave until the said sum of three pounds is fully paid and satisfied."

The yeas and nays being called for by Mr. Thomas, appeared as follow:

A F F I R M A T I V E.

Messieurs	J. Ringgold, Brooke, Grahame, Ridgely, of Wm. Sherwood,	Cox, Kerr, Jones, Dashieil, Denwood,	Eccleston, Frazier, Clark, Quynn, Duvall,	Hutchings, Townsend, Purnell, Corbin, Beatty,	Dorsey, Sappington, Amos, Driver, Loockerman,	Ott, Swearingen, Threikeld, Wootton, Tomlinfon.	30.
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N E G A T I V E.

Messieurs	Thomas, Plowden, Harwood, Mackall, Freeland,	Chapman, Eccleston, jun. Goldborough, Hollingworth, Oldham,	Forman, Ewing, Sprigg, Contee, O'Bryon,	Barnes, Dennis, Jarrett, Prall,	Hughlett, Douglafs, Cromwell, Jacques,	Crabb, Oneale, Bayard, Johnson.	27.
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So it was resolved in the affirmative.

The bill being read throughout, the question was put, That the said bill do pass? Determined in the negative.

Mr. Chapman, from the committee, brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker the following message:

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, DECEMBER 20, 1792.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOURS,

THIS house have returned the bill for the relief of sundry insolvent debtors, and hope that your honours, on reconsideration, will assent thereto, or that you will propose some system for the relief of those unfortunate citizens which will contain more salutary provisions. We conceive that the bill contains every necessary guard against fraud, and that it is as unexceptionable in all its parts as the nature of the subject will admit. It appears to us that the legislature ought not to adjourn until some provision be made for the objects of the bill, many of whom must otherwise remain immured in gaol, without a prospect of relief, until the next meeting of the general assembly. The feelings of humanity so strongly suggest the propriety and necessity of a bill for their relief, that we flatter ourselves your honours will either assent to that passed by this house, or that you will send us one better adapted to the relief of those debtors, and at the same time more likely to secure justice to their creditors.

By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk.

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

The supplement to the act, entitled, An act to restrain the ill practices used by sheriffs in taking goods by fieri facias and selling them by venditioni exponas, was read the second time, and the question put, That the said bill do pass? Determined in the negative.

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