

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

The house met.

The engrossed bills No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 60, 61, 62, 63, 67, 68, 69, 72, 73, 74, 75 and 78, were read and assented to, and sent to the senate, with the paper bills thereof, by the clerk.

ORDERED, That in consideration of the length of the session, the increased duties and great attention of the assistant clerk of the house of delegates, that he be allowed the sum of sixty dollars in addition to his per diem allowance, and that the same be placed on the journal of accounts.

The bill declaring what shall be evidence in certain cases therein mentioned, and the bill to authorize the justices of the levy court of Prince-George's county to levy a sum of money on the assessable property of said county for the purposes therein mentioned, were sent to the senate by the clerk.

The report on the petition of Allen Bowie was read the second time, and the resolution therein contained dissented from.

The clerk of the senate delivers the bill for amending, and reducing into system, the laws and regulations concerning last wills and testaments, the duties of executors, administrators and guardians, and the rights of orphans and other representatives of deceased persons, endorsed; "By the senate, January 8, 1799: Read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

"By order,

A. VAN-HORN, clk.

"By the senate, January 15, 1799: Read the second time and will pass with the proposed amendments.

"By order,

A. VAN-HORN, clk."

Which amendments were read.

The following message:

BY THE SENATE, JANUARY 15, 1799.

GENTLEMEN,

THE bill, entitled, An act to confirm an act passed at November session, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-seven, entitled, An act to alter, abolish and repeal, such parts of the second, third, fourteenth and forty-second sections of the constitution and form of government, as relate to the judges, time, place and manner, of holding the several elections therein specified, as also, the bill, entitled, An act to regulate elections, are now before us. The senate think that district elections, as contemplated in the last mentioned bill, will be beneficial to the state, provided proper regulations are made upon the subject; amongst those they conceive the evidence to ascertain the qualification of voters the most important.

To expedite business at this late period of the session, and to prevent embarrassment, the senate propose a conference, and if you accord with them, have appointed William H. Dorsey, David McMechen and Robert Milligan, Esquires, conferees to meet any gentlemen you may think proper to appoint for that purpose.

By order,

A. VAN-HORN, clk.

Which was read.

Mr. Key, from the committee, brings in and delivers to the speaker the following message:

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, JANUARY 15, 1799.

GENTLEMEN OF THE SENATE,

WE have received your answer to our message relative to the bank stock.

That you originally negatived the resolution, occasioned our surprize, not only because the measure to us appeared wise and proper, but because, in the joint committee of both houses, it was almost unanimously approved of, and recommended for adoption; but the measure of our surprize has been increased by the senate's refusing to reconsider the resolution, on the ground that no new facts or arguments have been urged. As that message was the first communication between the two houses on the subject, we are at a loss to know what is meant by no new facts or arguments being produced; and indeed to us, if anterior communications had existed, it seems novel to require new arguments until the old ones are refuted.

We hold these facts incontestable; first, that the chancellor has determined we have no remedy in his forum for the recovery of the bank stock. Secondly, that the stock is in the hands of the accountant-general of the crown of Great-Britain. If these be facts, and the senate has not denied them, it evidently follows, there can be no recovery but by negotiation; and if no recovery but by negotiation, we repeat the question, what period more likely to succeed than the present? Had the senate pointed out a more eligible time for negotiation than the present, we might have had our understandings convinced. We again urge to the senate, and the importance of the subject must excuse our importunity, if negotiation is the only remedy, and no period is likely to be more propitious than the present, where or when shall we find an abler negotiator than Mr. King, our minister? If answers to these plain questions have been passed by, to adopt a train of inconclusive reasoning, we feel justified in again calling the attention of the senate to them, adhering, as we do, to the sentiments contained in our first message.

The senate allege, that from mere intimations of the chancellor, and opinions of counsel in England, they can scarcely reason at all, or but imperfectly, and yet immediately speak of the recent payment of Russell's claim by the British government as amounting to a full admission of the right of this state. If the senate have any information of this recent payment, on which they