

and speculation, is upon so deep and scientific a plan, that it would be a task of some difficulty, either to understand or explain it, with any degree of precision.

There were however some parts of it sufficiently plain, and equally obnoxious to many members of the House.

The Intendant had advanced the sum of £.500, sterling, on the recommendation of the late Governor, to Mr. Chase, the State's Agent for the recovery of the bank stock in England.

This occasioned a considerable clamor, and pretty severe censures were levelled at the conduct of both of these gentlemen, by several members of the Senate and House of Delegates.

In the Senate, particularly, it was highly reprobated, and a message, requiring that Mr. Chase should give them an account of his agency, was sent to the House of Delegates.

This was refused and a contention was for some time on foot between the two branches, till the point was given up by the Senate, it appearing clearly by the constitution, that such powers were confined to the House of Delegates alone.

Several publications appeared in vindication of the advance made to Mr. Chase, and a variety of opinions prevailed of course, both within the House and out of it, on the propriety of the measure. — At length the late Governor, and the Intendant, had a hearing before the House of Delegates, who passed a resolve in justification of their conduct, by a majority of 41 against 4, in favor of the former, and 42 against 6, in favor of the latter.

This decision, although sufficient for the gentlemen concerned, did not give general satisfaction; the determination in their favor seemed to proceed from the judgment formed by the house, of the urgency, and peculiar nature of the business; for that the advance or recommendation, were conformable to the constitution or to the express direction of any act, cannot possibly be contended.

Although the whole transaction may be pretty generally known, it may not be improper to give some account of it here.

In April, 1783, an act passed, authorizing the Governor and Council to appoint an Agent and Trustee, for the purpose of procuring the bank stock, belonging to *this State, then in the hands of Trustees in England*, and was allowed a commission of 4 per cent. Mr. Chase was the person chosen for this