

by so large a sum of public money, would contribute to reduce the funds of the State, and burthen the good citizens thereof.

The severity of this report was not very agreeable to many members of the House.—The office itself was a favorite object with some and the officer with others, so that we find a majority of the House gave a decision very opposite to the opinion of the committee, and many of them, doubtless, without any interested motives.

To this report the Intendant delivered a reply in writing, in which many points appeared to be satisfactorily answered.

The advancement of a small sum to the Trustees for the poor of Anne Arundel County, from the dictates of humanity, and the charge of commission on the sales of Mr. Dulany's property, were objects too inconsiderable, to affect an officer of high trust, if the other parts of his conduct had been less liable to exception.

But there were some parts, which I am inclined to judge the people at large will never be brought to approve, whatever may be the sentiments of the House of Delegates on them.—I allude to the sums paid to Mr. Stone and Mr. Chase (100 guineas to each) as counsel for the State, and the exchange of certificates made with Col. Stone.

With respect to the first, the Intendant in his report accounts for it from the necessity of the case, and the distant residence of the Attorney-General, and observes that the gentlemen must have been losers on the occasion, having rendered him very considerable services.

It is probable that people in the country who are unaccustomed to retaining fees of such magnitude, will with difficulty subscribe to this doctrine.—But be that as it may, the illegality of the measure must be so apparent, and the progress from one stretch of power to another, so imminent and probable, that it is certainly the interest of a free people, not only to discountenance and reprobate such conduct, but effectually to put it out of the power of any officer, to exercise it to their prejudice in future.

With regard to the exchange made with Col. Stone, the calculations of the committee, and those of the Intendant, are so widely different, that it would require a considerable degree of *practical* knowledge in speculation, to decide upon them.

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