CHAP. VII.

An ACT for the adjournment of Charles county court. Lib. TBH. No. 1. fol. 246.

Passed 5th of July, 1780.

CHAP. VIII.

An ACT for sinking the quota required by congress of this state of the bills of credit emitted by congress. Lib. TBH. No. 1. fol. 247.

Preamble.

WHEREAS on the eighteenth day of March, in the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty, congress passed an act in the following words: "These United States having been driven into this just and necessary war, at a time when no regular civil governments were established of sufficient energy to enforce the collection of taxes, or to provide funds for the redemption of such bills of credit as their necessities obliged them to issue, and before the powers of Europe were sufficiently convinced of the justness of their cause, or of the probable event of the controversy, to afford them aid or credit; in consequence of which, their bills increasing in quantity beyond the sum necessary for the purpose of a circulating medium, and wanting at the same time specific funds to rest on for their redemption, they have seen them daily sink in value, notwithstanding every effort that has been made to support the same, insomuch that they are now passed by common consent, in most parts of these United States, at least thirty-nine fortieths below their nominal value, and still remain in a state of depreciation, whereby the community suffers great injustice, the public finances are deranged, and the necessary dispositions for the defence of the country are much impeded and perplexed; and as, effectually to remedy those evils, for which purpose the United States are become competent, their independence being well assured, their civil government established and vigorous, and the spirit of their citizens ardent for exertion, it is necessary speedily to reduce the quantity of the paper medium in circulation, and to establish and appropriate funds that shall insure the punctual redemption of the bills; therefore Resolved, that the several states continue to bring into the continental treasury, by taxes or otherwise, their full quotas of fifteen million dollars monthly, as assigned them by the resolution of the seventh of October, seventeen hundred and seventy-nine, a clause in the resolve of the twenty-third of February last, for relinquishing two thirds of the said quotas to the contrary notwithstanding; and that the states be forthwith called on to make provision for continuing to bring in to the said treasury their like quotas monthly, to the month of April, seventeen hundred and eighty-one, inclusive; that silver and gold be receivable in payment of the said quotas, at the rate of one Spanish milled dollar in lieu of forty dollars of the bills now in circulation; that the said bills, as paid in, except for the months of January and February past, which may be necessary for the discharge of past contracts, be not re-issued, but destroyed; that as fast as the said bills shall be brought in to be destroyed, and funds shall be established as hereafter mentioned, for other bills, other bills be issued, not to exceed on any account one twentieth part of the nominal sum of the bills brought in to be destroyed; that the bills that shall be issued shall be redeemable in specie, within six years after the present, and bear an interest of five *per cent. per annum*, to be paid also in specie at the redemption of the bills, or, at the election of the holder, annually, at the respective continental loan-offices, in sterling bills of exchange, drawn by the United States on their commissioners in Europe, at four shillings and six-pence sterling per dollar; that the said new bills issue on the funds of individual states for that purpose established, and to be signed by persons appointed by them, and that the faith of the United States be also pledged for the payment of the said bills, in case any state on whose funds they shall be emitted should, by the events of war, be rendered incapable to redeem them, which undertaking of the United States, and that of drawing bills of exchange for the payment of interest as aforesaid, shall be endorsed on the bills to be emitted, and signed by a commissioner to be appointed by congress for that purpose; that the face of the bills to be emitted read as follows, viz. "The possessor of this bill shall be paid —— Spanish milled dollars "by the 31st day of December, 1786, with interest in like money, at the rate of five *per cent. per* "*annum*, by the state of ——, according to an act of the legislature of the said state, of the —— "day of ——, 1780;" and the endorsement shall be as follows, viz. "The United States insure "the payment of the within bill, and will draw bills of exchange for the interest annually, if de-"manded, according to a resolution of congress of the 18th day of March, 1780;" that the said new bills shall be struck under the direction of the board of treasury, in due proportion for each state, according to their said monthly quotas, and lodged in the continental loan-offices in the respective states, where the commissioner to be appointed by congress, in conjunction with such persons as the respective states appoint, shall attend the signing of the said bills, which shall be completed no faster than in the aforesaid proportion of one to twenty of the other bills brought in to be destroyed, and which shall be lodged for that purpose in the said loan-offices; that as the said new bills are signed and completed, the states respectively on whose funds they issue receive six tenths of them, and that the remainder be subject to the orders of the United States, and credited to the states on whose