

Which was read and concurred with.

The resolution of the house of delegates, relative to the treaties between France and the United States of America, was read and unanimously assented to, and sent to the house of delegates by Thomas Stone, Esq;

Charles Carroll of Carrollton and Brice Thomas Beale Worthington, Esquires, were appointed to join the committee of the house of delegates, to prepare and lay before the general assembly an account of the expenditure of all public monies in this state, and the following message and resolution from the house of delegates on that subject were sent to the house of delegates by Brice Thomas Beale Worthington, Esq;

By the S E N A T E, December 15, 1778.

Gentlemen,

We have appointed Charles Carroll of Carrollton, and Brice Thomas Beale Worthington, Esquires, to join the gentlemen named in your message by Messieurs Hall and Strawbridge, for the purposes therein mentioned.

By order,

R. RIDGELY, cl. sen.

Messieurs Brice and Ward, from the house of delegates, deliver to the president the following message :

By the H O U S E of D E L E G A T E S, December 15, 1778.

May it please your honours,

IT would be our wish to avoid altercation at this advanced period of the session, but as we view the bill, entitled, An additional supplement to the act for the better security of the government, as useful, necessary and important, we must beg leave to recall your attention to that subject. It was not only our design to provide for the contingent insolvencies of collectors and their securities, but also to lay a foundation for the commencement of suits, under the limitations and restrictions proposed, against such persons as took the oath after the 12th of April, and procured certificates without date; at the same time leaving such actions subject to a legal construction of the act for the better security of the government.

Notwithstanding our high opinion of your legal knowledge and acute discernment, yet the arguments stated in your message received by the house of delegates at a late hour in the last session, did not convince us that the bill to declare and amend the law would have any *ex post facto* relation. We are of opinion the bill now proposed holds out the best and most effectual mode to bring the much contested point before that judicature established by our constitution, for the exposition of laws, and therefore in the draught of our bill have cautiously avoided any expressions capable of a retrospective tendency. The collector cannot, by law, collect the treble tax from those persons, who have obtained certificates from the county court without date, and whose names have been expunged by the commissioners of the tax from the list of nonjurors, although such persons, by virtue of the act for the better security of the government, may be subject to the treble tax, and ought to pay the same. If then there are any instances in which the public treasury will be robbed, either through the ignorance, mistake, or design of men, to whom the execution of our laws has been committed, no doubt your honours known attachment to the frugality of finance, will suggest the propriety and necessity of receding from your proposed amendment. We have therefore returned you the bill and hope for your concurrence.

By order,

J. DUCKETT, cl. ho. del."

Messieurs Deye and Bayly, from the house of delegates, deliver to the president a bill, entitled, An act for the payment of the journal of accounts, thus endorsed; "By the house of delegates, December 15, 1778: Read the first and second time by especial order and will pass.

"By order,

J. DUCKETT, cl. ho. del.

The senate adjourns till 4 o'clock.

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

The senate met.

Messieurs Potter and Jackson, from the house of delegates, deliver to the president the engrossed bill, No. 24, with the paper bill thereof, which engrossed bill was thus endorsed; "By the house of delegates, December 15, 1778: Read and assented to.

"By order,

J. DUCKETT, cl. ho. del."

Which engrossed bill was read and assented to, so endorsed, and the paper bill thereof sent to the house of delegates by William Hindman, Esq;

The journal of accounts was read and assented to, and sent to the house of delegates by Richard Barnes, Esq;

Messieurs Sprigg and Hammond, from the house of delegates, deliver to the president the engrossed bill, No. 23, with the paper bill thereof, which engrossed bill was thus endorsed; "By the house of delegates, December 15, 1778: Read and assented to.

"By order,

J. DUCKETT, cl. ho. del."

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