

there were traitors in the senate, and that he could prove it: And the senate deeming it highly expedient, that the truth of the charge should be made appear, DO order you to summon the said Samuel Chase, Esq; to appear before us immediately, to testify the truth of his knowledge of and concerning the above premises.

To WILLIAM TUCK,
Messenger of the senate.

H. RIDGELY, cl. sen.

Mr. Chase appeared in the senate, and a number of the gentlemen of the house of delegates and others being present, Mr. Nicholson repeated the information he had before given, and Mr. Chase was called upon to disclose his knowledge of any traitorous acts committed by any member of the senate. He first said, he had obeyed the summons of the senate, though he by no means admitted the power thereof, to call him before them; and he thus publicly expressed himself on that matter; that this power might not be drawn into a precedent against others. That he did not intend to have made known what he should now declare before the senate, but proposed to publish in the newspaper his knowledge of facts and sentiments thereon, some time before the next election of senators. He said, the worthy member must have been mistaken, he did not recollect he had said there were traitors in the senate, he might perhaps have said there was a ~~traitor~~, but that he did not clearly recollect he had said that. He then said, that he had declared there were tories in the senate, and if he was at liberty, he would name the gentlemen and give his reasons for the assertion. He was told, that he was at full liberty to disclose every thing he knew relative to the conduct of any member of the senate; but being first asked by Mr. Tilghman and Mr. Carroll, Barrister, if he had said, that they or either of them had applied to general Howe for protection, declared, that he had never said so, but that he had said he was informed by Mr. Samuel Adams and some other members of congress that he could not at that time recollect; that one or both of the above-named gentlemen, in December, 1776, when general Howe was approaching Philadelphia, had proposed, in conversation with some members of congress, that propositions of reconciliation or accommodation should be made to said general Howe; the gentlemen observed, that they could not recollect any such conversation, but admitting it to be true, they were fully justified by the instructions, with which they were then charged by the preceding convention of this state, and even if they had made such a proposition to congress, they were of opinion their instructions would have fully justified them. And Mr. Chase alleging that he was told, that Mr. Carroll, Barrister, in particular, had said when in Philadelphia, that he would not have gone to congress without such instructions, Mr. Carroll admitted the same to be true, and said he had frequently declared as much to members of the convention, before he went, and also to several gentlemen when at Philadelphia.

Mr. Chase then being called upon to name the traitor in the senate, said Mr. Wilson was the man, and who, he was informed by Mr. Paca, had expressed sentiments averse to the independence of America, after having taken an oath to maintain and support the independence thereof, and is in his opinion a tory and a traitor; and that Mr. Wilson intimated those sentiments to Mr. Paca on his way to the general assembly, March, 1778.

Mr. Chase afterwards said, he could give the senate some information of Mr. Jenings, which, he thought, would justify the expulsion of him; that he had taken the oaths of fidelity to two free and independent states; that in his opinion as a lawyer and constitutionalist, no man can be true and faithful to two states; that Mr. Jenings was of a suspicious character from his connections, and had remained neuter in the present dispute until very lately, and in his judgment he was not entitled to a seat in the legislature of this state, and ought to be immediately expelled.

Mr. Chase then being repeatedly asked, whether he had any thing further to declare against any other member of the senate, said, it might look like partiality if he passed by the president, and immediately produced a copy of a public letter wrote by the president, dated 2d February, 1777, in answer to a letter from some of the gentlemen, who were elected into the senate, which letter is to be seen on the files in the senate. The letter, he said (to say the very least of it) was very imprudent and exceptionable, and in his opinion had a tendency to subvert the constitution. Mr. Chase likewise mentioned some conversation he had heard of, between the president and a certain doctor Craick, which was, that the president had told doctor Craick some time last spring, that that was the time to bring about a reconciliation, when the commissioners were arrived at New-York. On which the president observed, that he should be glad that a copy of that letter might be taken by every gentleman present, as he was convinced it could not have a tendency to subvert the present government; that the intimation relative to the conversation between himself and doctor Craick was groundless, as he had not been more than once in doctor Craick's company for eighteen months or two years, and that was in January, 1778.

Mr. Chase being then asked, if he had any further information to give to the senate, after some pause declared, he had not. He was then told, he might withdraw.

Samuel Wilson, Esq; has leave of absence.

The senate adjourns till to-morrow morning 8 o'clock.

WEDNES.