

missioned by the governor agreeably to the constitution and form of government. ORDERED, That Mr. Lethbrury, Mr. Taney, and Mr. Ramsey, be a committee to prepare the said message. Mr. Taney, from the committee, brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker the following message:

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, DECEMBER 29, 1785.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOURS,

THIS house propose to ballot for a person to be commissioned by the governor, on the joint recommendation of the senate and house of delegates, as register of wills for Talbot county, in the room of John Bracco, Esq; resigned, and have appointed Mr. Quinn and Mr. Joshua Seney to join such members of your house as you may think proper to examine the ballot boxes. Mr. James Bracco is proposed by this house to be balloted for.

By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk.

Which was read, agreed to, and sent to the senate by Mr. McMechen.

ORDERED, That Mr. Bracco, Mr. Digges, Mr. Quinn, Mr. Cramphin, Mr. Turner, and Mr. Brice Worthington, be a committee to examine and inquire into the proceedings and conduct of the commissioners appointed for the sale of confiscated British property, and to report to the house their opinion thereon.

Mr. Cramphin, from the committee, brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker the following report:

By the COMMITTEE, to whom was referred the inspection of the intendant's books, papers, and accounts.

YOUR committee beg leave to report, That they have endeavoured to investigate the several matters referred to their consideration, with an ardent desire neither to extenuate nor aggravate any matter or thing, which should be found worthy of approbation or reprehension, in the books, papers, or accounts, of the intendant. The books are interspersed with erasures, blanks, and memorandums. They are not kept in a clear and perspicuous method; if they were, the intendant's transactions could be easily understood, and the general assembly might have at any time a comprehensive knowledge of the same.

That it is with no less surprise than regret, your committee find the large outstanding balances due by collectors of the taxes to this state continue to be reported by the intendant, when he, by law, is empowered to take the most decisive measures to effect a speedy payment of the same, in order that the state might be in a situation to execute her compact with the public creditors, and her engagements with the United States.

That the practice heretofore used, and still continued by the intendant, of keeping the product of specifics sold by him, and other money belonging to the state, paid him as intendant by debtors to the state, in an iron chest, separate and distinct from the other public money in the treasury, and without the knowledge of the treasurer, may have a dangerous and pernicious tendency, as your committee can see no check by which the present, or any future intendant, in his receipt or expenditure of the same, can be restrained.

The intendant has exhibited to your committee a state of specifics sold, which are not reported by him, up to May last, amounting to the net sum of £ 2226 3 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ ; and there are sales not stated in this account exhibited by him to a small amount. The committee are informed by the intendant, that the probable amount of specifics yet to be sold, and the debts due for specifics sold to persons who are doubtful debtors, together with such as have received specifics and whose accounts remain unsettled, will not bring into the treasury more than £ 500.

Your committee report, that large bodies of the confiscated lands sold by the intendant, do not net per acre so much as they would have done in ready money, had they been declared vacant, and liable to be affected by common or special warrants, and consequently appear to have been sold very low, and greatly to the loss of the state.

Your committee report, that on examining the sales of the confiscated property of Daniel Dulany, son of Walter, the intendant has charged commission on £ 11,349 13 2, amounting to £ 170 4 6; in this he has charged the state with £ 56 14 10 commission on Mrs. Dulany's thirds, more than, in the opinion of your committee, he can have a fair claim to.

Your committee report, that the probable value of the real confiscated property yet to be sold, will not exceed £ 750; in this amount the lands to the westward of Fort Cumberland, and part of the reverend Mr. Addison's property, are not included. This state of real property yet to be sold is taken from an account of the intendant.

The intendant having advanced 100 guineas to the honourable Thomas Stone, and the like sum to Samuel Chase, Esquire, for the purpose of retaining them as attorneys for the state, your committee cannot discover any entry on the intendant's books for the same.

Your committee further beg leave to report, that the intendant purchased, for the use of the state, certificates liquidated under the act of May session 1781, amounting, with interest, to £ 2897 16 specie. These certificates were for provisions furnished, and, agreeably to act of assembly, were discountable in the present or any future assessment; that these certificates were as good to the state as so much specie in the treasury. That the intendant exchanged these certificates with colonel John H. Stone, for £ 3497 16 3 depreciation certificates, principal and interest.

Your committee offer to the house an exact state of the matter, as entered on the intendant's books.