

And the following message:

By THE SENATE, DECEMBER 29, 1785.

GENTLEMEN,

WE have considered your several private bills herewith sent, and return them with a negative. They contain cases which we think it probable may merit relief, but we cannot consent to it in the mode proposed by your house. We have ever considered the interference of the legislature, in questions relating merely to private property, as highly improper. Applications of this kind have of late become so numerous, as greatly to retard the public business, extend our sessions into an unusual length, and if countenanced will ultimately engraft the judicial upon the legislative power of the state.

We need not point out the great injury and injustice which individuals frequently sustain from the legislature's exercise of this judicial power. The general assembly have not the means of obtaining the information which is necessary to a full investigation of the subject upon which they decide, and not being under the immediate and sacred influence of an oath, their opinions may be more hastily formed, and their judgment more insensibly warped by passion and prejudice.

The bill for enlarging the power of the high court of chancery, sent you by this house, and which is now under your consideration, will, if passed into a law, remove these objections, and would afford a proper constitutional mode of redress.

We hope, gentlemen, these reasons will induce you soon to take up that bill, weigh its consequences, and if it meets your approbation, which we greatly wish, invest the chancellor with a power that will exempt the legislature from a disagreeable service, and give the applicant his proper relief in a court of equity.

By order,

J. DORSEY, clk.

Which was read.

A petition from Valek, Burger, and Schouten, of Baltimore county, merchants, setting forth that they have paid a duty of eight pence per bushel on a large quantity of salt, and praying an exemption from said duty; was preferred and read.

The order of the day, respecting the powers of the high court of chancery, is discharged.

The following message being prepared, was sent to the senate by Mr. Stevenson.

By THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, DECEMBER 30, 1785.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOURS,

WE consider the bill for enlarging the powers of the high court of chancery of great consequence. We think some provisions necessary, and propose a conference with your honours on the subject matter of the bill, and that any defects therein, or any further regulations, may be considered by the conferees; if the senate agree to a conference, this house have appointed Mr. Chase, Mr. Lethbrury, Mr. Hall, Mr. M'Mechen, and Mr. Joshua Seney, to join such members of the senate as they may appoint for this purpose.

By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk.

The house adjourns till to-morrow morning 9 o'clock.

SATURDAY, December 31, 1785.

THE house met. Present the same members as on yesterday. The proceedings of yesterday were read. Mr. Dent appeared in the house.

A petition from Thomas Usher, of Baltimore county, praying to be exonerated from a duty imposed on British bottoms; was preferred and read, and referred to Mr. M'Mechen, Mr. Joseph Dashiell, and Mr. W. Bowie, to consider and report thereon.

The petition of Valek, Burger, and Schouten, was read and referred to the above committee, to consider and report thereon.

Mr. Quynn, from the committee, brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker the following report: By the COMMITTEE, to whom was referred the petition of Clement Brooke, of the county of Baltimore, executor of Robert Young Stokes, late of Harford county, deceased.

YOUR committee beg leave to report, That they have taken the same into their consideration, and find the facts therein stated are true; that the granting the prayer of said petitioner would increase the number of inhabitants, and would advance the prosperity and commerce of the town of Havre-de-Grace. All which is submitted to the honourable house.

By order,

W. PINKNEY, clk.

Which was read.

The supplement to an act to establish a road from the Sinepuxent road, &c. was read the second time and passed. Sent to the senate by Mr. Purnell.

Mr. Wootton appeared in the house.

On motion, Leave given to bring in a bill to declare and ascertain the right of citizens of this state to private roads or ways. ORDERED, That Mr. Chase, Mr. Lethbrury, Mr. De Butts, and Mr. Joshua Seney, be a committee to prepare and bring in the same.

The house took into consideration, agreeably to the order of the day, the report on the representation of the honourable Alexander Contee Hanson, and on the second reading the said report the question was put, That the house concur therewith? The yeas and nays being called for by Mr. W. Bowie appeared as follow:

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