

such a law, if practicable, must be attended with the greatest difficulties. Reflecting upon the present unhappy situation of this country, just emerged from the calamities of war, our citizens largely involved in debts, many of them to foreigners, to whom during this war they could have no access for payment, and the uncommon scarcity of money throughout the state, we cannot agree to a bill, tending in its consequences to deprive distressed debtors of a part of that time within which they may be enabled to extricate their persons and property out of the power of cruel or oppressive creditors.

Whenever the two branches of the legislature entertain opposite opinions upon questions of importance, if a judgment is to be formed from experience of past events, their mutual efforts, by long arguments to convince, have more the effects of disagreeable warmth, and an unnecessary waste of time, than public utility. We wish to avoid those consequences, especially at this period of our sitting.

By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk.

Which was read the first and second time, agreed to, and sent to the senate, with the bill to prevent the exportation of unmerchantable tobacco, and the bill to prevent frivolous appeals, &c. by Mr. Dent.

Thomas Stone, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker the resolutions respecting the commissioners appointed by this state to meet commissioners from the states of Pennsylvania and Delaware, severally endorsed; "By the senate February 21, 1786: Read and assented to."

"By order,

J. DORSEY, clk."

The house adjourns till 5 o'clock.

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

The house met.

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

W E D N E S D A Y, February 22, 1786.

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

On the second reading the bill respecting executions against certain public debtors, the question was put, That the following clause be struck out? "And the officer shall fully obey the directions of the said execution, and upon the return of such execution, the defendant shall, on motion to set it aside, be allowed to shew any matter or thing which he could have pleaded in bar of the action, had it been commenced in the usual way, but the judges shall determine on the said motion the first court, unless the defendant shall allege any material fact, and it shall appear to the court, that testimony to prove the said fact is wanting, and that he hath used all reasonable endeavours to procure such testimony, and that there is a probability that the same may be procured in a reasonable time thereafter?" The yeas and nays being called for by Mr. Oneale appeared as follow:

A F F I R M A T I V E.

Messieurs	Taney,	Goldborough,	Ennalls,	Chafe,	Chaille,	Norris,
	Fraizer,	Bracco,	Digges,	Quynn,	Joseph Dashiell,	Oneale,
	Dent,	Adams,	F. Bowie,	John Seney,	Purnell,	Beall.
	Stevenson,					

N E G A T I V E.

Messieurs	Key,	Grahame,	Ridgely of Wm. Baker,	R. Bowie,	Carey,	
	B. Worthington,	Jones,	Roberts,	Oglevee,	Joshua Seney,	Love,
	N. Worthington,	Turner,	Gale,	Miller,	Faw,	Steret,
	Carroll,	Stone,	Waggaman,	Ramfey,	Beatty,	Funk.

So it was determined in the negative.

The bill being read throughout, the question was put, That the said bill do pass? The yeas and nays being called for by Mr. Norris appeared as follow:

A F F I R M A T I V E.

Messieurs	Key,	Turner,	Bracco,	Baker,	F. Bowie,	Beatty,
	Carroll,	Stone,	Gale,	Oglevee,	Chafe,	Love,
	Grahame,	Ridgely of Wm. John Dashiell,	Miller,	Ramfey,	Quynn,	Steret,
	Gantt,	Stevenson,	Adams,	Digges,	John Seney,	Funk,
	Fraizer,	Roberts,	Waggaman,	R. Bowie,	Joshua Seney,	Oneale,
Jones,	Goldborough,	Ennalls,		Faw,	Beall.	
Dent,						

N E G A T I V E.

Messieurs	B. Worthington,	N. Worthington,	Taney,	Norris.
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So it was resolved in the affirmative.

Sent to the senate by Mr. John Dashiell.