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Saturday, December 18. 1779.

The House met Present as on Yesterday except Mr. J. Hall. The Proceedings of Yesterday were read. Mr. Ireland hath leave of absence till Monday next. Adjourned till 3 o'clock

Post Meridieum. The House met.

Mr. Smith brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker the following Report
The Committee appointed to enquire into the state of a Cash of Medicine, in the Continental Store, report they have examined the same, and find the following Articles therein contained, all which appear to be of good Quality, and are very useful and necessary in common Practice. Sassafras 11 Bags, supposed to contain 1600. Sugar of Lead, 1 Box, ditto 24 lb Opium, 2 Bags, ditto 100 lb. Rhubarb, 3 Bales, ditto 75 lb. Aloe 1 ditto, ditto 50 lb. Croton Tartar 1 ditto, ditto 100 lb. Camphor 7 ditto, ditto 50 lb. Sassa 1 ditto, ditto 50 lb. Which was read the first and second time by special Order. Signed Order Geo. Rankin. C. Secy.
And referred to the next Session of Assembly.

A Petition of Phoebe Gault, on Behalf of her Husband Oliver Gault, a Nonjuror, was presented and read the first and second time by special Order and granted. Ordered that the said Oliver be relieved from the trouble Tax, without taking the Oath of Fidelity, being insane
Richard Barnes, Esq. from the Senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker the following Message

By the Senate, December 18. 1779

Gentlemen, We cannot recede from the Amendments we made to the Clause empowering the Orphan's Court, or the Chancellor, to give Relief to Widows and Orphan Children, in the Cases particularized, because we think the Clause, as amended, the most essential in the Bill, and without the Amendment proposed, extremely exceptionable; for were the Amendments to be departed from, and the Clause retained, a Power would be liberally given to the Justices of the Orphan's Court, or to the Chancellor, of allowing the last Wills of deceased Persons in many Instances, a Power, as we conceive, too extensive and dangerous to be lodged in any Man, or Body of Men. We cannot suggest the Reasons which occasioned the Unanimity of your House in rejecting the Amendments in Question; they were, no Doubt forcible, and therefore we are not a little surpris'd they have been withheld from us; for an Appeal on this Occasion to our Understandings had been full as proper as to our Feelings; not that we are less susceptible of Pity and Compassion than yourselves, or less desirous of drying up the true Source of the Tears of the fatherless and of Widows; the proposed Amendments affording equal Relief, and doing stricter Justice, than the Clause as it stood in the Bill, evince the Truth of those Assertions. The Reflection, therefore, obliquely cast upon us in your Message of Yesterday, of being regardles of the Grievances of Widows and Orphans, is not only injurious and impolitic, but has a Tendency to destroy that Temper and mutual Respect which are so necessary to be preserved by public Bodies, for the judicious and dispassionate Transaction of the public Business. It gives us some Cause to think that you should adopt the other Amendments, without being convinced of their Propriety; this, in our Opinion, is erring in the other Extreme, and carrying your Complaisance too far. Some of these Amendments we esteem important, and none of them immaterial. The Powers given by one of the Clauses of the Bill to the Orphan's Court, commensurate and coequal in all respects with those of the Court of Chancery, we thought too extensive and important to be imparted to Men, who, with the best Intentions, from the want of Knowledge might make an improper and dangerous Use of them.

We are of Opinion, that the Bill as amended, even without the Clause (which must be struck out, in case you persist in rejecting our Amendments) contains some useful Regulations, and may prevent many of the Inconveniences and Injuries intended to be remedied, and therefore we accede to your Proposal

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