

By the SENATE, December 20, 1779.

GENTLEMEN,

THE extreme severity of the weather, and prospect of danger to the eastern shore gentlemen of being shut out from their homes during the winter, call upon us to give every possible dispatch in our power to the necessary public business, and make us anxiously desirous to have it completed, but we are so situated, having but eight attending members, without the least expectation of an addition to the number, that if sickness, or other accident, should prevent any one of them from giving their attendance, the whole business of the session must remain unfinished. From these considerations, amongst others, we have been induced to return, with a negative, the bill, entitled, An act for the seizure and confiscation of British property within this state.—It is a bill of an extraordinary kind, the subject is abstruse, difficult and important, and in our opinion ought to receive more mature deliberation than from the present circumstances can be given; and we the more readily adopt this measure, because, though the bill is confessedly important, yet we conceive it to be of such a nature, as that no evil can arise to the public from its being postponed, even should the final passage of it be the result of a full and free discussion.

By order,

H. RIDGELY, cl. sen.

By the HOUSE of DELEGATES, December 21, 1779.

May it please your HONOURS,

WE herewith return you the bill, for the seizure and confiscation of British property, and will briefly suggest the reasons and motives which induced this house to adopt the measure, and flatter ourselves they will so far operate with your honours as to obtain your assent to the bill. Justice, policy and necessity influence our conduct.

By the requisition of congress (of the 6th of October last) this state was called on to raise its quota of 135 million of dollars, in nine months, to commence on the first day of February next: the proportion of that sum required of this state is fourteen million two hundred and twenty thousand dollars; the monthly sum to be raised one million five hundred and eighty thousand dollars; this sum would require a
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