

Mr. Hopewell, from the house of delegates, delivers to the president the following message:

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, MAY 11, 1787.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOURS,

WE have agreed to some, and rejected others, of your amendments to the bill respecting insolvent debtors; and, as we think the bill of great consequence, we propose a conference on the several amendments and the subject of said bill, and this house have appointed Mr. Thomas Johnson, Mr. Chase, Mr. Paca and Mr. Wright, to confer with such members of your house as your honours may appoint.

By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk.

The senate adjourns till to-morrow morning 8 o'clock.

S A T U R D A Y, May 12, 1787.

THE senate met. Present as on yesterday. The proceedings of yesterday were read.

Mr. Quynn, from the house of delegates, delivers to the president the following message:

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, MAY 12, 1787.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOURS,

THE purchasers of the Nottingham forges and furnace, and purchasers of other confiscated British property, in state and continental state money, having solicited this general assembly to relieve them from their purchases, and take them back for the use of the state; and this request involving questions of much difficulty, we wish to collect the sense of both branches of the legislature thereon, and therefore propose a conference on the above applications, and, if assented to, we have appointed Mr. Thomas Johnson, Mr. Paca, Mr. Brice T. B. Worthington, Mr. Wright, and Mr. McMechen, to meet such gentlemen as you may think proper to appoint.

By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk.

Which was read.

The president lays before the senate a memorial from Samuel Chase, praying that upon surrendering up all his property for the use of his creditors, he may be discharged from all former debts; which was read and referred to the consideration of the house of delegates.

Charles Carroll, of Carrollton, Esquire, from the committee appointed to prepare a message on the subject of the bill repealing all such acts, or parts of acts, which are repugnant to the treaty between the United States and his Britannic majesty, brings in and delivers to the president the following message; which was read, assented to, and, with the above memorial, was sent to the house of delegates by Daniel Carroll, Esquire.

BY THE SENATE, MAY 12, 1787.

GENTLEMEN,

WE have acceded to the amendment made by you to the bill, originated in this house, repealing all the acts or parts of acts repugnant to the treaty of peace, because we conceive the bill, as altered, to be substantially the same with the one proposed by congress, and adopted by us. We cannot however silently pass over your departure from the usual mode of proceeding in altering the title of the bill; forms are necessary to the transacting of public business with propriety and dispatch, if disregarded confusion will ensue; a deviation on your part from parliamentary usage, may warrant similar deviations on ours. Although in disregarding the form, you have complied with the substance of the requisition of congress, by declaring the late treaty of peace between the United States and his Britannic majesty to be the supreme law within this state, and that it shall be so considered and adjudged in all courts of law and equity; still we think it would have been better, for the sake of uniformity, to have adopted the bill proposed by congress, and originated in this house. The session has been spun out much beyond our expectation, and very little business of a public nature has been concluded on. We are anxious to rise, and very unwilling to go into a conference on a matter which may be delayed, without materially injuring the public, to the fall session. We wish you had pointed out, in your message of yesterday by Mr. Hopewell, which of our amendments to the bill for the relief of insolvent debtors you had agreed to, and which you had rejected, we then might have formed an opinion whether a conference would probably answer any good purpose. Some of the amendments, unamended, has not our hearty approbation; we are apprehensive, notwithstanding the alterations and corrections it has undergone in this house, that it will open the door to many frauds, which future legislatures, no doubt, will endeavour to restrain as much as possible, with what success we will not undertake to determine. To avoid the frequent applications of insolvent debtors to the general assembly to be discharged from confinement; to remove the evil of long imprisonments, seldom productive of any benefit to creditors, and always injurious to the morals or the health of the persons confined; and to prevent the repetition of many abuses practised under the late law for the relief of insolvent debtors, we passed your bill, after we had amended such parts of it as appeared most exceptionable and liable to be abused. However, being always open to conviction, and ever ready to relieve that class of indigent citizens, who, from misfortune and casualties, rather than from misconduct and extravagance, are so much involved in debt as to be obliged to surrender all their property for the use and benefit of their creditors, we will not refuse the proposed conference, and have appointed Charles Carroll, of Carrollton, John Hall, William Perry and Richard Ridgely, Esquires, to meet the conferees of your house at twelve o'clock this evening.

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