

only. It held not error to the innocent; and its provisions were to be in force so far only as they were compatible with the law and constitution of the United States and of this state; and there might be exigencies in which, for the public safety, it would be proper to suspend the act of Habeas Corpus.

Although in the title of the act of 1777, its object was in part to suppress the growth of toryism, which its framers might have considered as likely to produce the crimes of treason and sedition, toryism itself was not therein stated as a crime, and it is therefore deemed unnecessary to examine critically the meaning or derivation of the word. If not accurately defined, during the revolution, it was then well and clearly understood; and to those who remember those days that tried men's souls, it will be sufficient for us to state our belief, that it is the same thing now that it was then, unless indeed that it now appears with bolder front, and calls more imperiously for the restraining power of the law—and if the voice of a large portion of the people has been raised in strong terms against it, let the blame rest on those whose conduct has called forth such indignant expression.

To the veterans of the revolutionary army, and to the patriots of that day, we are ready to express as we feel, our respect and regard for their services. But in looking to the past we must not be blind to the present time; and it was in vain that the fabric of our independence was raised, if its authors now shrink from its support, or bend their efforts towards its destruction.

We have then stated our sentiments on this bill, and without sending it back at this late period, we shall leave the people to judge of the correctness of its adoption by us, and its rejection by your body.

By order,

THO'S ROGERS, CLK.

Which was read.

On motion by Mr. J. H. Thomas, the following message was read, agreed to, and sent to the senate.

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, Jan. 31, 1814.

Gentlemen of the Senate,

On Saturday evening, this house rejected a bill which originated in your body, to revive an old act of 1777, for the punishment of certain crimes and misdemeanors, and to prevent the growth of toryism. The reasons of this house for rejecting the bill were explicitly stated in a message which accompanied its return to the senate. This morning we informed your body that we should be prepared to adjourn this evening, and early to night we received an answer from you, stating that you would be ready to close the session at 8 o'clock. More than two hours have now elapsed since the hour you thus fixed upon; and at this moment when we were expecting and have been impatiently waiting to be apprised of your immediate readiness to receive the governor, for the purpose of signing and sealing the laws, we have just received an elaborate message from you urging the motives and considerations which have actuated the senate in holding up to popular view the charge of toryism against those who do not implicitly believe in the wisdom and virtue of the present war, and the immaculate infallibility of the rulers by whom it was wickedly declared, and has been so wretchedly conducted.

Silence, perhaps, would but express the only sentiment your message is calculated to excite, and we should certainly feel it an idle waste of time to postpone the adjournment of the session, for the mere purpose of repelling insinuations, which are equally stale and absurd, unfounded and disreputable.

It is not for us to say what personal knowledge the senate may have of the principle of toryism, or those traitorous combinations and conspiracies which they have imputed to the present time. Our own associations have never led us into discoveries of that nature, and the only serious accusations we have seen published to the world, have been, not against the opponents of this pernicious war, but against persons who have been among the foremost in the clamorous ranks, that have so often pledged "their lives, fortunes and sacred honors" in support of that war.

In conclusion we cannot refrain from remarking that there is one section in the old law, proposed by the senate to be revived, which might suggest a strong motive of generous forbearance to us against the passage of the bill. That section would authorise the governor and council, at their discretion, to cause the arrest of any persons liable to suspicion. It would be painful to us to perceive the authors of any penal statute, or their friends, liable, perhaps to become the first among its victims.

By order,

UPTON S. REID, CLK.

Mr. Stephen and Mr. Wm. Hollingsworth, from the senate, inform the speaker, that the governor is attending in the senate to sign and seal the engrossed bills, and request his attendance, with that of the members of this house, for the purpose.

The speaker left the chair, and attended by the members of this house, went to the senate, and there presented the following engrossed bills to the governor, who signed the same, and affixed the great seal thereto, in the presence of both houses:

No. 1. An act authorising a lottery to raise a sum of money for the purpose of completing the German Lutheran Church in Taney-Town, in Frederick county, and for other purposes.

2. An act for the relief of Sarah Wooters, of Caroline county.

3. An act for the relief of James Rea, of Harford county.

4. An act for the relief of Joshua Dorsey, of the city of Baltimore.

5. An act to repeal an act entitled, an act to encourage the destruction of crows in the several counties therein mentioned, so far as it relates to Saint Mary's and Harford counties.

6. An act to settle and ascertain the salary of the members of the council for the ensuing year.

7. An act for the relief of Ann Gentle, Sylvester Hunt, and Allen Demar, of Prince George's county.