

be sold at the rate of twenty five dollars in continental bills of credit, for four shillings six pence sterling, on condition that the persons purchasing the same lend to the United States a sum of money equal to the sum paid for the bills, for which they shall receive six per cent. per annum interest.

Resolved, That one hundred thousand pounds sterling, the residue of the sum for which Congress have determined to draw on Mr. Jay and Mr. Lawrence, be drawn in manner following: ¹

Adjourned to 10 oClock to Morrow.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1779

A letter, of 26 November, from the president of New Hampshire, was read, accompanied with a copy of "an act to allow appeals to Congress in certain maritime causes," passed by that State:

Ordered, That the said copy be referred to the Committee on Appeals.

A letter, of 29 November, from the council of Massachusetts Bay, was read, accompanied with the proceedings of a committee appointed by the legislature of that State "to investigate the causes of the failure of the expedition to Penobscot, and to examine into the conduct of the commanders by land and sea employed in the said expedition," ² &c.

Ordered, That the minutes of the said proceedings lie on the table for the perusal of the members.

A letter, of 20th, from Nathan Denison, was read:

Ordered, That it be referred to the Board of Treasury.

A letter, of 27, from Don Juan de Mirailles, was read:

¹ These paragraphs, in the writing of Robert R. Livingston, are in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 26, folio 99. It originally read to call for £100,000 at twenty for one in specie.

² The New Hampshire letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 44, folio 191; the Massachusetts proceedings are in No. 65, 11, folio 17.

Ordered, That it be referred to the Board of Admiralty, to take order thereon.

A letter, of this day, from Captain Galvan, was read, soliciting the rank of lieutenant colonel in the army of the United States:¹

Resolved, That Captain Galvan be informed his request cannot be complied with.

On motion of Mr. [James] Forbes, seconded by Mr. [John] Fell,

Resolved, That hereafter all applications for promotion in the army of the United States of America be made to the Board of War, and all applications for promotion in the navy to the Board of Admiralty, and that they report to Congress.

The Board of Treasury, to whom was referred a memorial of Captain Joseph Baldesqui, pay master to Brigadier Count Pulaski's legion, report,

That by a certificate of Messrs. Johnson and Howell, auditors of the main army, dated at West Point, the 24 August, 1779, accompanying the said memorial, it appears that Captain Baldesqui has duly and regularly settled his accounts, as pay master to Count Pulaski's legion, to the first day of March last; and that on the whole of the evidence before the Board, they are of opinion he has discharged his duty with strict integrity and honor:

Resolved, That Congress concur in the said report.

Ordered, That the report of the Board on the accounts of Benjamin Randolph, be re-committed.

The Board, having examined the account of Benjamin Randolph against the Honble John Jay, Esq^r, late President of Congress, referred to them the 24 instant, beg leave further to report:

¹This letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 78, X, folio 191.

| | | | |
|---|-------|-------|-------------------|
| That M ^r Randolph charges for Liquors and Provisions furnished the President's Table, from the 9 of January to the 23 ^a of March, 1779, | £193 | 7 | 6 |
| For the use of his house and furniture from the 14 th of December, 1778, to the 25 of March, 1779, | 1442 | 17 | 1 |
| For repairs of damage done to his House and furniture, | 851 | 12 | 6 |
| | <hr/> | | |
| Amounting to | 2487 | 17 | 1 |
| That he credits against said account | | 25 | |
| | <hr/> | | |
| which deducted leaves | 2462 | 17 | 1 |
| Equal to | 6567 | 55/90 | doll ^s |

That as no contract was made with M^r Randolph, the Board on the above State submit the following Resolution:

That a warrant issue on the Treasurer in favor of Benjamin Randolph for dollars and 90ths in payment for the use of his House and furniture from the 14 of December, 1778, to the 25 of March, 1779, for Repairs of damage done to the same, and for sundry Liquors and Provisions furnished by him to M^r Jay, late President of Congress, while the said House was occupied by him.¹

The Committee on the Post office brought in a report, which was read; Whereupon,

Resolved, That the rate of postage, until the further order of Congress, be twenty prices upon the sums paid in the year 1775:

That single letters, directed to any officer of the line, and all letters directed to general officers or to officers commanding in a separate department, [and all letters to and from the ministers, commissioners and secretaries of these United States at foreign courts, be free.]²

Congress took into consideration the report of the committee to whom was referred the letter of 2d November last, from the governor of Connecticut; and, thereupon,

¹ This report, dated December 27, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 136, III, folio 931. The Randolph account was passed by the Board of Treasury, January 7, 1780.

² The remainder of this day's entries was made by George Bond. The words in brackets were not in the original report, which is, in the writing of Cyrus Griffin, in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 61, folio 453.