

Mr. JACKSON made several remarks, which we heard in addition, that justice to him forbids the attempt to report them. He concluded with moving that the yeas and nays be taken; for which purpose a sufficient number of members rose.

Mr. NICHOLSON. In a government like ours, the theory of which is republican, & the practice of which, he hopes, would always continue to be republican, he considered the representatives of the people, responsible to the people by whom they were created. It was necessary to give efficacy to this responsibility that the people, who were to judge, should possess the full information, as to, not only the acts, but the motives of the public agents. It was of little consequence to them to know what laws are enacted, compared with a knowledge of projects that were attempted or prevented, & the grounds on which they were supported or opposed. Nor could the merit of the acts themselves be understood, unless the reasons for them were stated. It was therefore, of the highest consequence that the reasons for our conduct should be clearly understood, that our measures may be comprehended and our motives also known, that our conduct may judge whether we have faithfully discharged our duty.

Under this view of the subject, he thought it extremely indelicate to resist the admission within the bar of those persons who thought themselves qualified to take the debates and proceedings of the house. But what rendered the attempt still more improper was, its being an innovation on the practice of the house. For since he had become a member of the Legislature, individuals of this description had been placed by the house at their ease in a situation convenient for hearing what passed. Why is it now broken in upon? For such an innovation and a departure from the established practice of the house, there ought to be the strongest reasons; particularly when the attempted innovation is resisted, and was made by those, whose conduct was to be scrutinized.

It was no without deliberation that the practice of the house had been influenced and adhered to. Some gentlemen had some time since, contemplated the employment of a particular individual, whose services were to be paid for by the house. But he was abandoned from the supposed fact of giving by such an act to the public mind; when by the house might be made responsible for his accuracy and truth.

The difficulty attending the business he acknowledged to be great. But to the extent he had allowed, he thought the house had added right in for being in error, such that by merely assigning a convenient place to the stenographers. It was deemed best to confine the business to persons not known officially to the house, whose own individual interest could influence the result. This no precise resolve had been passed to this effect it was well understood that this was the course the house meant to pursue, after having given the subject a deliberate and solemn consideration.

Still we now find Mr. NICHOLSON after this mature consideration, on the most fugitive of personal convenience, on a subject of such importance as to involve a people, as from a considerable distance, [reference to some old paper] shall we, after the fashion of an unwarlike politician, fortified by the long period to which it has been subjected, on the suggestion of a trifling inconvenience, which he believed on examination, would not be found to exist at all, adopt the innovation proposed by the report of the committee? For his own part he thought they were all deeply interested in having the debates well taken as, it was not in their power altogether to prohibit their being taken.

He had heard but two objections made to the old plan. The first was, that by passing a resolve, admitting the Stenographers, he is within the bar, the house gave a sanction to the reports published by them. The second was, that as the Speaker had heretofore had the management of the business, it would be wrong to take it out of his hands.

As to the first objection, he thought it altogether groundless. The resolution, submitted by the gentleman from North Carolina, (Mr. Hill), which he withdrew the house to act upon, did not purport the election of any particular person. It simply generally those individuals, who were to take the debates. It is an admission make us responsible for the conduct of men we do not know, and over whom we have no control? Have we heretofore been considered as responsible? And wherein consists the difference between our past situation, and the situation we shall be in, if the motion of the gentleman from North Carolina, be adopted? We shall then only have a change that which before had been done by the Speaker. Governed by a sense of duty, the Speaker has refused admission within the bar. It became the duty necessarily, in order to admit for the house to pass a resolution. But it did not follow that the last responsibility would arise from such an act.

Indeed by admitting the Stenographers within the bar, the responsibility of the house would be diminished; for if the house admitted them, no one could then say that it had done any thing that interfered with a full report of the debates; who ever by excluding the Stenographers, the unavoidable inaccuracies committed might be charged to the house.

The second objection made to the resolution of the gentleman from North Carolina, was that as the Speaker had heretofore had the management of the business it would be wrong to take it out of his hands. Mr. NICHOLSON, in reply to this objection, observed that the power, heretofore exercised by the Speaker on this subject, had not been exclusively delegated to him by the house. It had often been thought of, the objection related to the convenience of the members, he thought it by were the best judges of the propriety of granting it. The inconvenience alleged to exist was entirely a matter of opinion. He thought it had either no existence, or a very limited existence, as he had remarked before the subject was extremely delicate. He would not consent to give the room for being charged with a wish to furnish the means of making an enquiry into his conduct. He believed that the innovation, contended for, would be to crowd—so far, therefore, from considering it as in any way, wrong in itself, and likely to be mischievous in its effects.

Mr. ORIS was one of those who was not disposed to make a strong stand against the resolution offered by the gentleman from N. Carolina. He did not view the plan as interfering with a right as did the gentleman who had preceded him. It appeared to him in the nature of a question of convenience; and as to the objection, it could not be affected by any admission given to the Stenographers to come within the bar. Any of the gentlemen he had heard speak of that this situation at present occupied by the Stenographers was exclusive of all others, whereas if they were inconvenient they might take any other place that they did not come within the bar. They were admitted because there was room. But in our present chamber the room was full; nor could they occupy a part of that space without materially interfering with the convenience of the members.

In his opinion the proper question for the house to consider was, whether a gentleman should take place independent of the Speaker, or whether he

should decide its propriety. It did not follow, if the Speaker retained the management, that the exclusion would apply to all occasions. It was not that the places, desired by the Stenographers, were general assigned to the high executive officers of the government, and the foreign ministers. But, in confidence with their accommodation, the exclusion could be granted, during any important debate, he had no doubt, of the Speaker's readiness to admit them, and they might thus obtain a temporary place within the bar.

Mr. ORIS thought the remarks of the gentleman from Virginia covered too much ground. They ascribed to the friends of the report an attempt to preclude the people from obtaining all information of what passed in this house. No such design existed. For his part he wished the people to know every thing that occurred within these walls. There was no doubt of the debates, as heretofore given, being an inadequate organ of the ideas of the members—they had been taken for nearly twelve years; and sometimes they had been accurate, and at other times, terribly inaccurate; and to complete had the distortion of sentiments often been that had it not been for the name that was attached to a particular speech, the members, to whom it was ascribed, would not have known it to be his. Mr. ORIS would, notwithstanding, not deny the ability of a person who read the debates to form a tolerable idea of the arguments used on a particular subject.

The charge of innovation, Mr. ORIS thought unjust. He proposed to leave the business as it has heretofore been left, free from any resolve of the house, to the control of the Speaker. By this conduct no sanction would be given to the performances of any reporters; but, on the other hand, if the house passed a resolve, directing the Speaker of his previous power, they would render themselves responsible, and would virtually give a sanction.

If it were resolved that the house should interfere, he would much rather select and pay an individual, competent to the business, and appeal for the faithful discharge of his trust, to his candour and impartiality.

If the house passed the resolution admitting the Stenographers within the bar, Mr. ORIS asked, whether they would not in fact be officers of the house. The only difference between them and the other officers would be that one would be paid, while the others would not.

Mr. ORIS said that, in his opinion, the most inconvenient position in the house had been taken by the Stenographer. It was near the clerk's office, between which and the bar there was a perpetual passage of the members. If an experiment were made of a position on the other side, or in the open gallery, he was persuaded it would be very convenient. Are not, said Mr. ORIS, the galleries constructed for the express purpose of hearing? Are they not intended for the good people of the United States? And if they can hear in them, cannot the Stenographers also?

Mr. ORIS concluded by stating the extreme inconvenience that would arise from admitting the Stenographers, the interference it would produce with the assignment of seats to the Secretaries of our Government and the foreign ministers, and with declaring his opinion that it was most expedient to adopt the report of the Committee.

Mr. NICHOLSON said, that if he understood the objections made by the gentleman from Massachusetts to granting an admission of the Stenographers within the bar, they might be all alluded under three heads.

1. It would be against precedent.
2. It would prevent the members from having elbow-room.
3. There is a possibility that the Speaker may indulge the Stenographers.

As to the first objection, he would ask whether the house had not a right to exercise any power themselves that was exercised by the Speaker. Heretofore the Speaker has exercised the power, and admitted the Stenographers within the bar; he now refuses to do it, and we are called upon to perform what he refuses. If we think it proper to admit them we have a right to do it. The power heretofore exercised by the Speaker, was derived from us, according to the well known maxim, *qui facit per alium, facit per se*.

But, we are told that the admission would interfere with the accommodation of the Secretaries and the foreign ministers. Suppose it should, said Mr. NICHOLSON. I ask whether the convenience and the interest of the people of the United States are to be prostrated by our compliance to the Secretaries and foreign agents? It is our duty to enable the people to obtain the best information of what is doing here, that we can supply. Shall we abandon our duty, shall we sacrifice the interest of our constituents, to a sense of politeness to these Gentlemen? It would be much better to submit to the inconvenience experienced by the Secretaries and the foreign ministers, if there is not room for them within the bar, than to conceal from the people the knowledge they have a right to possess. Let them, the foreign ministers, if there be such a competition, retire into the Galleries.

He considered the subject as of high importance both to the country, and the members themselves. They all ought to deliberate on the subject, and to be rigidly injected.

Genlemen say that the debates have been heretofore imperfectly taken. Will they remedy the evil by excluding the Stenographers from places within the bar? If heretofore, notwithstanding the favourableness of their position, when stillness and silence reigned, they have been unable to take the debates with precision, can it be expected that, driven to a distance from most of the members, surrounded by a crowd in perpetual motion, successfully to accomplish their object? Sir, said Mr. NICHOLSON, the expectation is absurd. It cannot be done. I have placed myself without the bar, and I declare it impossible to hear correctly. If then, you are determined to exclude them from their usual places, you had infinitely better turn them out of the house altogether.

As to the convenience of the galleries for hearing, Mr. NICHOLSON was not able from a trial made by himself to decide upon it. But he had heard but one uniform opinion, which was that owing to the constant passage of persons, and the frequent crowd it would contain, it was impossible to hear there with any distinctness. With respect to the remarks made by the gentleman from Massachusetts, on this point, he thought them altogether inapposite. The gallery was not constructed by us, & if it were a bad place for hearing, it arose not from any fault to be ascribed to us. All that we did, was to open our doors to all citizens, who conducted themselves with decorum.

The personal inconvenience to members alleged, did not in the opinion of Mr. NICHOLSON exist. He thought there was ample room. The chamber they occupied was similar to that in Philadelphia; and the positions desired by the Stenographers were relatively the same as those in Philadelphia. By advancing the clerk's table three feet, every difficulty would be removed.

(To be Continued.)

Extract of a letter from a Gentleman at Montreal, to his correspondent in N. York, dated November 6th.

A gentleman from Albany, of the name of LE CONTEUX, passed through this city a few days ago, under a strong guard, on his way to Quebec. It seems that he has been taken up as a spy. He is a Frenchman. If he has been meddling in the affair, he will, no doubt, meet with punishment.

THE subscriber intending to leave this place shortly, particularly requests those persons indebted to him, to pay their accounts immediately as possible.

A. T. BROWNE.

He has just received from Charleston an assortment of

- 4-4 & 7-8 Fine Irish Linens,
- Chinaz,
- Durans,
- Ladies Beaver Hats,
- Do to Fine Kid Shoes,
- Ditto Slippers,
- London Bottled Porter in Bbls. 3 doz.
- Coffes,
- Dimites,
- Mullins,
- Youth's Morocco Jockey Caps, trimmed with fur and plaid,
- Umbrellas,
- Parasoles,
- Fine & Coarse Hats,
- Men's Hofs, &c. &c.

Which with his former large assortment, he will continue to dispose of during his stay, at low advance.

A. T. B.

January 1.

NOTICE.

AS the subscriber intends to depart early in the ensuing Spring from the place and will be absent some months, he requests those that have demands against him to present them for payment on or before February next; he will be most grateful to those indebted to him, to discharge the same as speedily as may be convenient. Also, he begs leave to again remind those indebted to the estate of Richard Borden, deceased, that pressing demands against said estate, require an immediate payment of their Bonds, &c. and those that have further claims against the estate, are once more desired to render the same within the time limited by law, to Mrs. K. Burden, Adm'x.

DANIEL M'NIEL.

January 1.—208—1m.

The Subscriber has received by the ship Friendship from Liverpool.

- 6000 Bushels of Salt,
- 4 Bales Woollens,
- 30 Crates Crockery Ware,
- 30 Casks Nails,
- 45 Tons Coals,
- 4 Bales Olinaburges,

Which he will dispose of at low advance for immediate payment.

He has also on hand,

- A few Puncheons of fine flavoured Rum, between two and three years old, which he offers for sale wholesale and retail—
- Fresh Hyson Chulung and Bohea Teas, imported by the Ann and Hope, Indianan, the latter end of last August.

R. BRADLEY.

Wilmington, Nov. 13.

For LIVERPOOL, The American Ship Friendship, Isaac Tubbs, Master, burthen 230 tons, with good accommodation for passengers. For Freight or Passage apply to the Master on board or to R. BRADLEY, Wilmington, Nov. 13. 2011f

On Thursday the 23d of January next, WILL BE SOLD AT Vendue by the subscriber, at Duplin Court-House, his Stock of Cattle, Hogs and Sheep, Plantation tools, Household and Kitchen Furniture; &c. All, 100 Acres of Land on Perkinson in Duplin. At the same time and place (unless previously taken by private contract,) WILL BE LET, For two years, to commence from the 1st of March next, That valuable Plantation and Stand for a Tavern, now occupied by the subscriber at said Court-House. Conditions will be made known on the day, and a liberal credit given to such as purchase to any considerable amount. He also expects that such of his old customers as are in arrears, will come forward in the mean time and settle their accounts, as he is about to leave the State as soon as his business can be settled. BENJ. LIDDON. Duplin C. H. Dec 25

TO BE RENTED, TWO Thirds of that valuable and well known Plantation on Rocky-Point, called MOSELEY HALL. The terms may be known by applying to the subscriber. ALSO, Will be hired out on the third day of January next, on the above mentioned Plantation for the term of one year, A number of valuable country born slaves. HENRY WATERS, Guardian to Elizabeth Moseley. December, 25.

FOR SALE, THE Houses and Lot in Fayetteville, possessed by Col. Dekester. The Houses and Lot in do, possessed by Stephen Beck, on the North east corner of the Court-House square. The House and Lot on said square possessed by John O'Quinn. The Houses and Lot on Old-Street, opposite to Mr. Adam's old store, possessed by Mrs. Crawford. The Houses and Lot on the south side of Kay-treer, possessed by James M'Cracken. Land & Lots unimproved. One small Lot on the North-west corner of St. John's square. One do, on the Creek, on the South-side of the said square. One do, adjoining James Lundie's shop, on the South side of Main-street. One acre Lot on the Cross-street, below John Lammon's. One do, behind Mr. Winflow's garden. One 1-2 acre on the South side of Grove street, joining Mrs. Vann's. Five 1-2 acre Lots in the lower part of the town, viz. No's. 7, 9, 10, part of 14, 32 and 113. 192 Acres between Grove-street and M. Borge's brick-yard place. 6 Acres on the South side of the creek, adjoining Groff's mill place. 120 Acres above Haymount, and towards the race path. 70 Acres above & below James M'Cracken's old place. 1240 Acres on the drains of Cross-Creek. 640 on the East side of the River, below Thomas Jones's. 250 on the back of Thomas Jones's land. 200 on Flat Swamp, near Nathaniel Horton's. 200 on the Brown Marsh in Bladen County. 200 on the Great marsh in Roberfon County. 200 on Waggon branch in Moore County. For particulars apply to JAMES HOGG. Fayetteville Nov. 10—202—6f.

WANTED IMMEDIATELY, An Overseer who understands making Naval Stores and Staves, to whom liberal wages will be given.—Enquire of the Printers. December 25.—2w.

ALMANACKS For the year 1801, for sale by the Printer. Blank Entries for sale at this Office,