

WILMINGTON GAZETTE.

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CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

January 23

On motion of Mr. Thomas it was resolved that the Secretary of State be directed to lay before the House a list of those persons who have obtained patents for new inventions or improvements in the arts and sciences, with a general description of the patent right and the date of the grant of the same.

A letter received from the Secretary of State was read, giving a statement of the American seamen impressed by the belligerent nations. The documents accompanying them were voluminous, and contained the names of fifteen hundred and thirty-eight seamen impressed since the commencement of the present war in Europe. It was moved to print the documents, with the letter from the Secretary of State; but the motion was withdrawn on the suggestion of a gentleman that it would be very expensive.

Mr. Huger called up the unfinished business of yesterday relative to calling on the Secretary of the Treasury for a return of foreign shipping paying additional duties, and the produce of the light money paid into the treasury. Agreed to.

A message from the Senate by Mr. Otis their secretary, informing that they had passed the bill for completing the south wing of the capital and other purposes with an amendment, which on motion of Mr. Thompson was concurred in by the house. The amendment was to strike out the words "for the accommodation of the house of representatives." The bill is consequently passed, and appropriates 130,000 dollars. Also a bill for carrying into more complete effect the 10th article of the treaty with Spain, with an amendment, which was on motion of Mr. Crowninshield, referred to the committee of commerce and manufactures. And the bill making an appropriation for the navy of the United States, during the year 1805, with an amendment which received the unanimous concurrence of the house.

Mr. Crowninshield observed, that he was not in his place at the time the letter of the Secretary of State was read; but he understood the report contained the names of more than 1500 seamen, impressed chiefly by the British. He hoped the house would not regard the expense of printing. The United States ought to know that a great number of its citizens were detained by a foreign government, and he had almost said in a state of slavery, certainly contrary to their inclination. We wanted the services of this useful body of men. No foreign government had a right to authorise the seizure of American citizens. We know that many outrages had been committed on their personal rights, and he wished Congress to point out a remedy adequate to correct the evil. The expense of printing the list was no consideration with him, and he trusted the house would agree to it.

Mr. Jackson supported the propriety of printing the whole documents, and the house accordingly agreed to it by a large majority.

Mr. Crowninshield said the house would recollect, that a list of impressed seamen was furnished this morning from the department of state, which exceeded in number any thing he had expected. He thought these impressions ought to be prevented, and that the subject demanded investigation. He had drafted a resolution which he would submit to the house having in view to connect this with another very important subject. Many gentlemen must have observed that some late proclamations had been issued by the governors of the several British West-India Islands, interdicting the American trade after May next. The proclamations bore date in October or November, and were to take effect in six months. It appeared to him that the British government were determined to exclude us from their islands; upon the expectation that their own vessels would be competent to carry the necessary supplies. Mr. C. said we had a right to carry the productions of the United States in American bottoms, and he hoped we should never permit foreign ships to come to our ports and carry on an exclusive trade with any country whatever, where our vessels were not allowed the same privilege. His intention was to prevent the American carrying trade to the West-Indies from falling into the hands of other nations. He would not exclude foreign vessels from our ports; but it was desirable that our own export trade should not be monopolised by foreigners. The subject was highly important to this country. Will the United States tamely submit to see some of its best citizens torn from their families and friends, without attempting something for their relief? Shall we see another country pursuing measures hostile to our commercial rights, and make no effort to correct the mischief? The West-India islands depended on the United States for their ordinary supplies, and our vessels had usually carried a large

proportion of their cargoes on American account; but it appeared now that we were to be shut out from this trade, and it was in future to be carried on its foreign vessels. An effectual remedy would be to prohibit the exportation of our productions in foreign bottoms to all ports or islands with which we were not permitted to have intercourse, and in order that the subject might undergo an examination which its importance demanded, he offered the following resolution:—"Resolved, That the committee of Commerce and Manufactures be instructed to enquire if any, and what further provision be necessary for the protection of the commerce and seamen of the United States; and to enquire whether any foreign country has made any late regulations with a view to monopolise any branch of the American carrying trade, to the exclusive benefit of such foreign country, or which in their operation may be injurious to the agricultural or commercial interest of the United States. And also to enquire into the expediency of prohibiting the exportation from the United States, of all goods and merchandise whatever, in foreign ships bound to any port with which the vessels of the United States are not allowed communication, or where a free unrestrained trade is not permitted in the productions of the U. States; and that the committee be authorised to report by bill or otherwise."

Mr. Randolph wished the resolution to lie for consideration a few days. He would mention Monday; the gentleman had said it was an important subject, and if he had no objection it would be as well to allow the resolution to remain unacted upon for a little time. It might be printed for the consideration of the house, and he rather supposed some alteration would be necessary in the form of the resolution.

Mr. Crowninshield replied that he was perfectly willing the resolution should remain for consideration agreeable to the desire of the gentleman from Virginia, and he would consent to any reasonable delay; but he would not consent to its remaining unacted upon till a period so late as to preclude any measures from being adopted this season because the proclamations would take effect in the month of May.—He was not tenacious of forms, it was the substance of things he looked to, and he would with great pleasure agree to modify the resolution to any shape which the gentleman from Virginia might suggest.

A motion was made to refer the resolution to a committee of the whole for Monday next, which was agreed to, and the resolution ordered to be printed.

January 24.

On motion of Mr. Nicholson, the house went into a committee of the whole on the bill for preserving peace in the ports and harbours of the United States and in the waters under their jurisdiction.—Mr. Gregg in the chair.—Mr. Nicholson introduced two amendments, one to supply the place of the 2d section of the bill, and the other as a substitute for the 5th section; they being lengthy and important clauses, he wished them to be printed before they were discussed; for which reason he wished the committee to rise, report progress, and ask leave to sit again.

Mr. R. Griswold had also prepared an amendment in the place of the 2d section, he wished it also to be read and printed; it was accordingly received, and the committee having risen and reported the amendments, they were all ordered to be printed.

Mr. Eustis called up the following resolution, offered by him on the 22d inst.

Resolved, That it is expedient to provide by law, for defraying the expence incident to fitting and preparing one of the navy-yards belonging to the U. States, and lying near the margin of the ocean, for the reception and repairing of such ships of war as are now at sea on their return to port, and such other ships or vessels of war as may hereafter return from their cruises or stations.

This motion occasioned considerable discussion, and was referred to a committee of the whole for Monday next.

Mr. Clark moved that the Secretary of the Treasury be directed to make a circumstantial report of all the claims standing upon the books of the treasury against the U. States, which are barred by the acts of limitation, upon what authority the settlements and liquidations were made, and the persons with whom they are made, and to whom they are now due, and the different circumstances which may exist in respect to the several classes of claims.

This motion after being some time under consideration, was postponed on motion of Mr. Thomas till Tuesday next.

Mr. Purriance laid on the table a resolution for referring to the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury and the Attorney General, the consideration of the constitutionality and expediency of granting to the inhabitants of the district of Columbia a Legislature chosen by themselves, with instructions, in case they deem it constitutional and expedient, to report a system to the next session of Congress.

January 25.

A message from the President of the United States was received containing the report

of the director of the Mint, of the operations of that institution for the last year.

Mr. Leib from the committee appointed on that subject, reported a bill making an appropriation for the completion of the Arsenal belonging to the U. States on the banks of the Schuylkill, to the amount of 18,900 dollars, which was committed.

Mr. Crowninshield moved that the committee of ways and means be directed to enquire what alterations are necessary in the laws fixing the salaries and emoluments of the collectors of duties on import and tonnage, which motion was carried in the affirmative.

On application of Mr. Nelson, he was excused from serving as a manager on Judge Chase's impeachment.

Mr. J. Randolph reported from the committee appointed on the petition of a number of the planters, merchants, and others of Louisiana, a report of considerable length concluding a resolution, that provision ought to be made by law, for extending to the people of Louisiana the right of self government. The report was referred to a committee of the whole.

January 28.

Mr. J. Clay presented a bill from the committee on that part of the President's message relating to our intercourse with the Indian tribes, which being read was committed.

The house on motion of Mr. J. Randolph, balloted for a manager instead of Mr. R. Nelson excused; on counting the ballots, amounting in the whole to 95, Mr. Clarke had 52 votes, Mr. Clarke was declared duly elected.

Mr. J. Clay moved that a committee be appointed to enquire whether any, and if any what alterations were necessary to the act to prescribe the mode of taking evidence in the case of contested elections of members in the House of Representatives of the U. States, & to compel the attendance of witnesses, and that the committee report by bill or otherwise.

On motion of Mr. J. Randolph the house went into a committee of the whole on the Louisiana memorial.

The following resolution, which concludes the report of the select committee, was agreed to without a division.

Resolved, that provision ought to be made by law, for extending to the inhabitants of Louisiana the right of self government.

The committee rose, and the House immediately concurred without a division in their report, and instructed the same committee that brought in the report to bring in the necessary bills.

Mr. J. Clay moved that a committee be appointed to enquire into the expediency of providing by law for the more effectual prevention of fraud and forgery on the bank of the U. States. The motion was carried, and referred to a committee of three.

The house went into a committee of the whole on Dr. Eustis's motion for fitting out and preparing one of the navy-yards on the margin of the ocean for the reception and repair of our vessels of war on their return to the U. States. A lengthy discussion took place on this motion, and several attempts were made to alter it; all of which having failed, the committee agreed to the original resolution and reported it to the house. The votes were 53 in its favour, and 51 against it.

January 29.

The motion of Dr. Eustis for preparing and fitting upon one of the Navy-Yards on the margin of the ocean for the reception and repair of the vessels of war now on cruise or foreign station, being the unfinished business of yesterday was taken up.

Mr. Nicholson moved to refer it to a select committee.

On this question, there were 47 ayes, and 62 noes, so it was lost.

Mr. Eustis moved to postpone the consideration of the same till Saturday next.—Agreed to.

Mr. Thomas reported from the committee for the purpose, a bill to authorise Joshua Sands and others to erect a bridge across the marsh and Woolcraught in the Navy-Yard on Long Island, which was read and committed.

On motion of Mr. Elliot the House resolved itself into a committee of the whole, on the Yazoo claims. General Varnum in the Chair.

After a short discussion, the committee rose and reported the resolution in favor of admitting the claim by way of compromise.

The votes were 61 in the affirmative and 50 against it.

The house took the report of the committee of the whole into consideration—and

Mr. Clark proposed to amend the resolution by adding a proviso. That no part of the five millions of acres reserved to compensate certain claims, should be applied to the benefit of the claimants under the act passed or pretended to be passed by the legislature of Georgia in the year 1795.

On this question Mr. J. Randolph called the yeas and nays, in which he was supported by the constitutional number.

Mr. J. Randolph went into an argument shewing the impropriety of the measure; and the sitting terminated some time after the usual hour by an adjournment.

FROM THE AMERICAN DAILY ADVERTISER.

EXTRACT FROM A SHORT ACCOUNT OF AFFAIRS IN ST. DOMINGO.

AS an instance of the splendid and extravagant style in which the nobility of Hayti live, I will give a description of an entertainment that was given by Lady Dessalines, on Sunday the 13th of February, at which I was present.

A few days previous to the appointed time invitations printed on fine paper, with gilt borders, of which the following is a translation were distributed.

The Cape, February 11, 1804.

LADY DESSALINES

Invites Monsieur _____ to a dinner and ball, which she gives to-morrow, precisely at seven o'clock in the evening; she hopes that he will do her the sweet and agreeable favor of being of the party.

It was also given out at the same time that in consequence of this entertainment, the performances at the theatre, (which is always open on Sunday) would commence sooner than common, that the guests might have an opportunity of assembling there, for the purpose of proceeding in a body to the house of festivity. The theatre opened at half past five, and was attended by a very respectable audience, including the greatest part of the quality. At the conclusion, we moved in a large crowd, and about 8 o'clock found ourselves before the government house. It is a grand and spacious building, situate a short distance from the street, having a gravel walk and green lawn in front of it. The avenue from the gate to the door of the house was brilliantly illuminated with about one thousand small lamps. We passed through the entry of the house into a large saloon, erected purposely for this occasion. It was about ten yards broad, and one hundred long, covered and entirely lined with canvass. It was elegantly ornamented inside with flowers, branches of trees, three hundred small lamps of coloured glass hung round the room, four large chandeliers over the table, twelve great looking glasses, and a marble statue at each end of the room in a recess. The table contained all the meats, fruits, vegetables, poultry, pastry, confectionary and liquors that could possibly be procured.—Among these were beef, mutton, turkeys, ducks, fowls, oranges, pine apples, alligator pears, apples, pies, puddings, jellies, sweetmeats, cakes, and Claret, Madeira and Champagne wines.

There were 250 guests at the table, besides many more who were obliged to stand. They consisted of general Christophe at the centre, Lady Dessalines on his right hand, and his wife on the left; six or eight black generals, as many colonels and others of high rank, besides all the other principal officers of the government and army then at the Cape; the captain and all the officers of a British man of war; about 30 Americans; a great number of white French inhabitants of the most respectable class, and an enormous crowd of mulatto and black wenches. The table was surrounded by soldiers to keep off the rabble, who had rushed in in shoals, to see this elegant sight, and a grand band of music played the whole time we were eating.—This dinner came nearer to the idea one would form of a feast of the gods of fabulous history, than any thing I have ever seen or heard of, and I am confident that nothing in America ever equalled it for splendor, variety or luxury. General Christophe was dressed in a scarlet coat, embroidered with gold lace, with two golden epaulets, a large cocked hat with gold lace border, boots with gold border and tassels, and an embroidered vest, and pantaloons of nankeen beautifully worked in front.

The other officers at the table were dressed in proportion, some however very little inferior to their generals. Lady Dessalines wore a plain dress, her hair or rather wool was ornamented with artificial flowers, beads and combs, her arms with golden bracelets, her ears with superb rings and bobs, and her finger with a ring containing a small gold watch, set in diamonds, valued at several thousand dollars. The other ladies of distinction were also encumbered with trinkets and beads, but none of them so extravagantly as the governor's lady.

At the conclusion of the feast several toasts were given out by Christophe and drank with loud expressions of applause; among these were, the General of Hayti, (Dessalines who was not present) his Britannic Majesty, and the President of the United States. The first was applauded by the negroes, the second by the English, and the third by the Americans. After this the company retired into various parts of the house and garden, to keep out of the way until the tables should be removed, and preparations made for the dance; when this was arranged, the music struck up, and the whole room was in motion.—As I declined dancing I had nothing to do but lounge about the room and be a silent spectator. Their chief dances were cotillions; most of them danced well, and some of them elegantly. In one place