

The Newbern Gazette.

NEWBERN, (NORTH-CAROLINA) PRINTED BY JOHN S. PASTEUR.

[Vol. II.]

FRIDAY, MAY 21, 1800.

[NUMB. 111.]

Congress of the United States.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

SATURDAY, April 26.

Mr. D. Foster, from the committee of claims, made two reports, one on the petition of the widow of Dr. Lynch, who died by a malignant fever, while in the service of the United States; and the other on the petition of the widow of Col. Robert Elliott, a contractor for supplying the army, who was killed by the Indians—both praying that grants may be made to them in consideration of the loss of their husbands.—The reports state that the principles on which these claims are founded have never been deemed admissible by Congress; that if provision be made for cases of this kind, it should extend to all which rest on the like principles and that special acts for granting relief to the petitioners ought not to pass.

The reports were committed to a Committee of the whole House, and made the order of the day for Monday.

The following bills were read a third time, and passed, viz.

A bill, directing the payment of a detachment of militia, under the command of major, Thomas Johnstone, 1794, and

A bill, to authorize the issuing of certain patents.

The bill to make further provision for the orphan children of Col. John Harding and Major Alexander Trueman, deceased was also read a third time when

Mr. D. Foster said, as there was a principle similar to the one contained in this bill, reported on this morning, (the case of Mrs. Elliott) he hoped the bill would be recommitted, for the purpose of inserting a clause for her relief.

Some debate arose upon this motion, which was carried—ayes 43, noes 37.

The bill to authorize the allowance of a credit to Wm. Tazewell was agreed to without amendment, and ordered to be engrossed for a third reading on Monday—ayes 44, noes 28; as was the bill providing for the disposition of the land between the Great and Little Miami rivers.

Mr. S. Smith brought in a bill supplementary to the act, entitled, an act to establish the compensation of the officers employed in the collection of the duties on imports and tonnage, and for other purposes; which was read and committed for Monday.

Mr. Edmond presented a petition of Nathan A. Stoddard, administrator of his father Nathan Stoddard, who was killed at Mud Fort during the revolutionary war; and stating, that by reason of his father not being returned as killed, he was deprived of the benefit of obtaining the warrants to which he was entitled.

Mr. E. moved that this petition be referred to the Committee of Claims; but on Mr. D. Foster assuring the House that if the facts were as stated, there was no need of Legislative interference, it was ordered to lie on the table.

The House went into Committee of the whole on the bill sent from the Senate, in addition to the act to prevent the carrying on the slave trade from the United States in any foreign place or country, Mr. Rutledge in the chair—when

Mr. J. Brown moved, that the committee rise, in order to have the bill postponed, and if it should be the sense of the House to repeal the law prohibiting the carrying on the slave trade, and dwell largely on the good policy of the measure.

Mr. Nicholas seconded this motion,

but not with the view intended by the gentleman from Rhode Island; and said, he did not believe that gentleman would find an advocate in this House, to take off the restriction; but hoped that it would be strengthened. As a Southern man he declared, that he did not believe one of his constituents would with it. The motion for rising was negatived. After proceeding in the bill, a motion was made and carried, that the committee rise, and the House adjourned.

April 28.

The bill to authorize the allowance of a credit to Wm. Tazewell; and the bill to provide for the sales of lands between the Miami rivers were passed.

The committee of the whole on the bill respecting the slave trade, was discharged, and the bill was referred to a select committee.

On motion of Mr. Bayard, the further consideration of the bill to establish a uniform militia throughout the U. States, was postponed till the first Monday in Dec. next. Agreed. Ayes 50.

On motion of Mr. Eggleston, the bill for establishing a military Academy, and for the better organization of the corps of Artillerists and Engineers, was also postponed, 64 to 23.

The house went again into a committee on the bill to provide for the execution of the 27th article of the British Treaty; when Mr. Nicholas's amendment, providing that no person shall be delivered up, where there is a concurrent jurisdiction, being under consideration, after a long debate, 45 to 42. The committee then rose, and had leave to sit again.

Monday, April 28.

Mr. Speaker laid before the House the following letter from Robert Morris Esq.

Philadelphia, April 26, 1800.

Sir,

"It would be an act of injustice to the officers of the Treasury, and to myself, was I to suffer a report made from the Committee of Claims on the petition of John Baptiste Verdier, to pass unnoted; beside, that silence on the occasion might be considered as highly improper, when Congress, having in view to do justice, ought to be truly informed, that it may be, known what justice requires. The only communication made to me upon this occasion, is by Mr. Claypoole, in his Daily Advertiser, of this day, wherein is printed, as part of the proceedings of the House of Representatives of the United States yesterday, what follows: Mr. D. Foster, from the Committee of Claims, made a report on the petition of John Baptiste Verdier, who prayed compensation for three certificates of registered debt, which he alleged were erroneously paid to Robert Morris, Esq. who gave his bond to indemnify the United States against the claim of the petitioner. The committee report, as their opinion, that relief in this case, ought to be granted; and to that effect submit a resolution, proposing that compensation should be made to the petitioner, and that an act should pass for that purpose." I cannot allow that the officers of the Treasury committed an error in paying to me the amount of the certificates alluded to.—Monsieur De Verdier had entrusted his certificates to a certain Mans. Augustine Briffault, who sold these & three others of his own, (he having also been a officer in our service) to a lady in Paris, and that Lady transmitted the whole to me, with a power of attorney duly authenticated, authorizing me to receive and apply the money according to her instructions. When Mons. Verdier applied to me, my answer was, that I could not know him in this business; I had received the money as the property of another person, to

whom I was accountable. He urged, that Monsieur Briffault had wrongfully sold his certificates, without authority, and had not accounted with him. He frequently repeated his applications to me, appeared much distressed, and as I knew him to have been an active and brave officer in the American service during the revolutionary war, my feelings were excited, and I advanced him on loan one hundred dollars, and consented that he should commence a suit against me.

Some time after this transaction, I was applied to by the Chevalier de Colbert, who claimed as heir to the purchaser, the amount resulting from the whole of the certificates. To whom I paid the amount of those about which there was no dispute and referred him to Mons. Verdier, to settle which of them had the right to the others.—they could not agree, and the suit which was instituted against me in the Supreme court of Pennsylvania, was finally decided against M. Verdier; whilst it was pending (as I considered the share I had in the business to be of the nature of a trust) I gave a security for the amount of the disputed certificates, to which the successful claimant might, and no doubt will have recourse.

"Having thus stated facts, which I am ready to prove, I must in justice to those whose reputations have been affected by the terms of the report made from the committee of claims, without having had any communication with me on the subject, altho' it appears therein that I am a party materially interested, request, that this letter may, under the sanction of the same authority, have an equal publicity with the report that has called it forth.

With great respect,

I have the honor to be, Sir,

hour, obedient humble servant,

ROBERT MORRIS.

The Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States."

On motion of Mr. D. Foster, this letter was committed to the committee of the whole house to whom was referred the report of the committee of claims, on the petition of J. B. Verdier, and was ordered to be printed.

The bill to authorize the allowance of a credit to William Tazewell; and the bill to provide for the sales of certain lands between the Great and Little Miami Rivers, were respectfully read a third time and passed.

Mr. Rutledge moved that the committee of the whole house to whom was referred the bill from the Senate in addition to the act to prohibit the carrying on the slave trade from the United States to any foreign place or country, be discharged from the further consideration thereof.

Mr. Bayard seconded this motion, with a hope that the bill would be recommitted; it was impossible as the bill now stood, to carry its provisions into execution; and he wished them to be so modified as to prevent our citizens from having any thing to do with so infamous a traffic.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Bayard then moved that it be referred to a select committee.

Mr. Rutledge opposed this motion, and Mr. Wain advocated it—the motion was agreed to and three members appointed.

The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the bill to promote the manufacture of sheet copper within the United States, by the incorporation of a company under the name of the Passayrick company.—Mr. Rutledge in the chair, when the bill was agreed to without amendment, and ordered to be read a third time to-morrow.

Mr. Stone from the committee to whom was referred the petitions of Justice Erd, and Samuel Selva, 2d, who pray to be released from imprisonment in which they are now held, for debts due to the United States. The committee report unfavourable to the petitioners; but in order to take the sense of the House, submitted the following resolution:

Resolved, That provision ought to be made by law for the personal discharge from prison of insolvent debtors to the United States.

The resolution was agreed to without debate, and a committee appointed to bring in a bill conformable thereto.

Mr. Rutledge made a motion that it be

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to enquire whether any, and if any, what alterations ought to be made in the act intitled "An act respecting fugitives from justice, and persons escaping from the service of their masters."

A short debate took place on this motion, which was negatived, ayes 34, noes 38.

On motion of Mr. Bayard, the further consideration of the bill to establish a uniform militia throughout the U. States, was postponed till the first Monday in December next—ayes 50.

Mr. Eggleston then moved that the bill for establishing a military academy, and for the better organizing the corps of artillerists and engineers, be also postponed till that day.

Mr. H. Lee called for the yeas and nays upon this question which was taken as follows: yeas 64 nays 23.

On motion of Mr. Dana, the House again went into committee of the whole on the bill to provide for the execution of the 27th article of the treaty of amity, commerce and navigation, made with Great Britain—Mr. Rutledge in the chair—and Mr. Nicholas' amendment, which provides that no person shall be delivered up, where there is a concurrent jurisdiction—being under consideration—a long debate took place, in which it was contended on one side, that this House had no right to put a construction on the treaty; and on the other, that no treaty could deprive a man of the right of trial by jury, nor wrest from our courts the absolute jurisdiction given by the constitution.—The question was negatived.—ayes 42—noes 45—and the committee rose and obtained leave to sit again.

A message was received from the Senate by Mr. Otis their Secretary, informing the house that the Senate ask a conference on their amendments to the bill supplementary to the act for an amicable settlement of limits with the state of Georgia, and for establishing a government in the Mississippi Territory—and also that the Senate insist on their amendments to the bill to divide the Territory N. W. of the Ohio into two separate governments.

Managers on the part of this House were appointed to confer with managers from the Senate on both the above bills.

Mr. Speaker laid before the House a letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, inclosing an account of the receipts and expenditures of the United States for the year 1798.

Mr. D. Foster, from the committee of claims made an unfavourable report on the petition of Mrs. Mary Wooster, widow of the deceased General Wooster.

This report was committed to the committee of the whole House to whom was re-committed the bill to make further provision for the orphan children of Col. John Harding, and Major Freeman, whom was referred the reports on the petitions of Mrs. Lynch and Mrs. Elliott.

Tuesday, April 29.

The bill to promote the manufacture of sheet Copper within the United States, by the incorporation of a company for carrying on the same was read a third time and passed—ayes 53.

Mr. New said, he had understood from the Clerk that several volumes of the Journal of the Old Congress, which he had been directed to subscribe for,