

NORTH-CAROLINAGAZETTE.

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CONGRESS. House of Representatives.

JAN. 25.

THE committee appointed to enquire into the business of the naval equipments ordered by former acts of Congress, and to report whether any and what further regulations were necessary, made a report. The whole amount of the expense of the frigates was estimated at 945,437 dollars, exclusive of manning and provisions. The expense of the galleys was estimated at 80,000 dollars. The annual expenditure, it was supposed would be 223,174 dollars. The money wanted for completing the frigates was, for that building at Philadelphia, named the *United States*, of 44 guns, 55,950 dollars; for that at Boston, named the *Constitution*, of 44 guns, 96,671 dollars; for that at Baltimore, named *Constellation*, of 36 guns, 47,275 dollars. The *United States*, it was estimated by the Secretary at War, would be completed in April, the *Constitution* in July, and the *Constellation* in May. But the committee were of opinion, owing to the frost, they would not be ready to soon.—The committee recommended that the vessels should be finished as soon as possible, and that dollars should be appropriated for the purpose; that there also be a sum appropriated for purchasing a proper place for a naval yard; and also that provisions should be made for obtaining a sufficiency of live oak and red cedar for naval purposes. The report was twice read and referred to a committee of the whole on Monday next.

The committee of claims reported on the petitions of Arnold Martin and his wife, and Jonathan Ames, which was against the petitioners. The report was twice read and the house concurred.

On motion, the unfinished business of yesterday was postponed, to take up the report of the committee of elections on the elections of Joseph Bradley Varnum, which was, as we have before stated, in favor of the sitting member. It was also stated not only that his conduct had been fair and regular throughout the whole business, but that the object of the petitioner was "rather the effect of malevolence than a wish of promoting the public good."

It was moved to strike out the words printed in Italics. The propriety of the house passing a censure as the kind proposed upon the petitioners and those who supported them was doubted.

This motion caused a debate, which occupied the remainder of this day's sitting.

The principal ground upon which the motion was supported was, that the committee of election had no business to scrutinize the motives of petitioners; that their motive had nothing to do with the legality or illegality of elections; that they ought to report that a petition had foundation, or it had not; that that house had no right to take upon them to judge upon motives and characters. It was said, on the other hand, that the charges in the petition were so notoriously false and malicious, as to call for some other notice than barely to say they were unfounded, and that it was necessary to put a check upon such outrageous attacks upon members of that house, by some such notice as was reported, in order to prevent them in future.

The yeas and nays were called for upon this question, and all the papers relative to the business were read. This took place towards the conclusion of the business, and, so exhausted was the patience of the house that four different motions were made and negatived for adjournment.

At length, Mr. Coit offered a substitute for his former motion, viz. to strike out the words in Italics, in order to insert these words,

"that the conduct of the sitting member has been fair and honorable thro'out the whole transaction." The motion was put and carried, 44 to 28.

A message was received from the Senate, informing the house, that they had disagreed to the amendment in the bill for enforcing the laws of the United States in the State of Tennessee. Adjourned.

Tuesday, Jan. 26.

The bill yesterday returned from the Senate, for enforcing the laws of the United States in the state of Tennessee, with their negative to the amendment of the House of Representatives, reducing the salary of the Judge from 1000 to 800 dollars per annum, was taken up. The motion was for concurring in the resolution of the Senate. This was supported by Messrs. A. Jackson, Sitgreaves, and S. Smith; and opposed by Messrs. Nicholas, Coit, and Gilbert. The motion for concurring with the Senate, was negatived 39 to 33. The house, therefore, insisted upon their amendment, and returned the bill to the Senate; it afterwards came from thence, with notice that they had receded from their amendment.

A report was received from the commissioners of the sinking fund, including a report from the Secretary of the treasury to them, giving an account of the sales of public property in consequence of the act passed last session for making provision for the payment of certain debts of the United States. By which it appears that 2160 shares of the stock of the bank of the United States, belonging to the United States, have been sold on a credit of 60 days, without interest, at the rate of 2500 dollars per share, or 25 per cent. above the original cost. That the money received had been placed to the credit of the United States with the bank; that there had been sold of the 6 per cent stock to the amount of 1,200,000 dollars, which had been applied to discharge sundry obligations of the United States therein specified. The report was referred to the committee of ways and means.

Mr. Dwight Foster, from the committee of claims, made reports on the petitions of Samuel Morrel and Myrtabel Baker, which were against the petitioners, and concurred in by the house.

Mr. Patten presented a petition from John Brown, a soldier in the late war, praying for relief.

Mr. Clopton presented a similar petition from John Valentine.

Mr. New presented the petition of Presley Thornton, a captain in the late war.

All which petitions were referred to the committee of claims.

Mr. Kitchell moved that the report of the committee of claims on the petition of Allida Bogart, not acted upon, might be referred back to that committee.

Mr. Dearborn moved the unfinished business to be postponed, to take up the Militia bill.

Mr. Thatcher wished the bill for regulating post-offices and post roads to be taken up.

Mr. W. Smith hoped the report on the subject of appropriations for the year 1797, would be entered upon.

Mr. Gallatin thought it would be best to take up the report of the committee on the subject of compensation.

It was at length agreed that the last subject should be taken up, and the house accordingly resolved itself into a committee of the whole upon that subject; when, after considerable debate, the proposed permanent advance of 500 dollars to the salary of the Secretary of War was negatived 47 to 42; a like advance on the Attorney General was agreed to, there being 48 votes in favour of it; the proposed advance of 25 per cent. for

the year 1797, on the salaries of the secretaries of state, treasury, and of war, the attorney-general, the post-master general, the treasurer, the comptroller of the treasury, the commissioner of the revenue, the auditor, the register, the assistant post-master general, and the keeper of military stores, was negatived, there being only 30 votes in favour of the advance; the act for regulating the compensation of clerks, passed last year, and recommended to be continued for 1797, was negatived, 42 to 40. The committee rose without deciding on the salaries of the loan officers. The debate to-morrow.

Adjourned.

PHILADELPHIA, JAN. 30.

It has been repeatedly said that the Spanish vessels take Americans. We do not believe it, Spain is on friendly terms with the United States. The truth doubtless is, that the French do much as they please in Spanish ports in the West-Indies, as they do in Italy. They take and condemn American vessels. It will be recollected that the treaty between France and Spain, tho' offensive and defensive, is so only in regard to certain powers—it does not require Spain to wage war, with every power at war with France. It does not require Spain to be at war with the United States, even though France should engage in hostilities with us. This, as far as our recollection extends, is the fact in regard to that treaty; and it precludes all doubt on the subject of a war with Spain.

Fifty-eight sail of American vessels are seized and carried into Gonaives by French cruisers.—We understand the British ships at Port-au-Prince protect the American trade, and often convoy American vessels out of the reach of the French cruisers.

The last sentence of the President's message to the house of representatives, accompanying the documents relative to French affairs, is remarkable and deserves notice. After assigning his motives for sending Mr. Pinckney minister to France, he says, "a government which required only a knowledge of the truth to justify its measures, could not but be anxious to have this fully and frankly displayed."

That cautious officer, the President, would not have let such an expression fall from his pen, without satisfactory evidence, that some persons, hostile to our government, have been attempting to mislead the French Directory.

The merchants in Philadelphia have petitioned the legislature for a law to make notes of hand negotiable. All the banks have also sent in petitions for the same purpose.

Mr. Leib moved in the legislature to introduce a clause into the bill for making notes negotiable, prohibiting the taking more than one half per cent. a month for discounting notes. Referred to a committee of five.

It is astonishing, at this period of the world that such prohibitions can have advocates. The way, and we assert, the only way to prevent the monstrous premiums now paid for money, and which actually draw all the spare money of the country from regular business into foolish projects, is to repeal all such prohibitions. Annual all restraints on the use of money, the common rate of interest will not remain eighteen months above 5 per cent. What did all America say of the folly of regulating prices during the war? Fortunately the laws were soon violated, or we should all have perished with cold and hunger. France had recourse to the same silly project in their law of maximum and that for enforcing the circulation of assignats. The consequence of these laws was universal want and distress. France was upon the verge of a famine. The cause was discovered, the regulating laws repealed, and France was abun-