

ship-building and the attendant arts, was ordered to be printed.

The house took up the amendments of the committee of the whole to the bill to prevent the importation of certain persons, &c.

Mr. Hill, in order to accommodate the bill to some gentlemen who had expressed their opinions, moved an amendment withholding its operation until the 1st day of May next.

Mr. Lowndes spoke against this amendment.

Mr. Hill withdrew it.

Mr. Wadsworth renewed it.

The amendment was supported by Messrs. Thatcher, Dennis, S. Smith, Flannendorf, Hastings, R. Williams, and Bacon, and opposed by Messrs. Rutledge, Lowndes, Claiborne, Holland and Randolph; on the question being taken, it was lost—Ayes 36—Noes 40.

Mr. R. Williams then moved to limit its operation from the 1st day of April. Carried—Ayes 46—Noes 37.

After a short debate, the bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading on Monday.

Monday, Feb. 7.

The speaker laid before the house a report from the commissioners of the Sinking Fund, stating the operations of the board for the last year.

Mr. Smilie presented a petition from a number of Aliens, residing in Chester county, in the state of Pennsylvania, praying a more easy admission to the rights of citizenship.

Mr. Smilie moved a reference of the petition to a select committee.

Mr. Davis observed that this description of persons had of late become extremely troublesome to the house. He was tired of their never ending petitions. He had thought, that during the last session they had obtained what they wanted. As he was persuaded their admission to citizenship, was now as easy as it ought to be, he hoped the house would turn a deaf ear to their requests, and in this way protect themselves from being further troubled.—He was therefore opposed to referring the petition; and the more so, as it was impossible from the press of other business, and the late period of the session, to pay it any effectual attention.

Mr. Smilie did not know whether there would be time conclusively to attend to the petition presented; but he considered it as of sufficient importance to refer it to a select committee. He believed this was only the beginning of many petitions that would be presented from the states of Pennsylvania and New-York.

Mr. Griswold called for the reading of the first part of the petition, which, if he heard correctly, contained expressions extremely disrespectful.

[The first part of the petition was read, which comments with severity on the principles and measures of the late administration.]

Mr. Bayard perfectly agreed with the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. Davis) that it would be treating the petition with sufficient attention during the present session to suffer it to lie on the table. He did not know that referring it to a select committee would be treating it with respect; if it were, he did not know that it would be disposed to vote for it. He was allowed that it was impossible to attend to it this session. During the first session the alien law had been revised by the friends of the petitioners, or by those, at least, who called themselves their friends. Their admission to citizenship had been facilitated by requiring a residence of only five years. What more do they wish? Do they wish to enjoy full political rights before they can even read the constitution? By going too far in making them citizens, we should take care lest we enslave ourselves. Already they enjoy the rights of property and every personal security, and the only and ulterior right remaining is the right of election. Mr. Bayard said he had no objection to extending this right after a certain period. But it was certainly unwise policy before they knew the principles of our government and laws to amalgamate them to the mass of society. To do this would be to introduce principles unfriendly to true republicanism. He hoped, therefore, the petition would be suffered to rest on the table.

Mr. Smilie said there was one part of the prayer of the petition which, he trusted, would be granted. The other probably would not be granted. He alluded to the prayer of those aliens, who were obliged to signify their intention of becoming citizens two years before hand. He thought these ought to be relieved. He hoped, therefore, the petition would be referred. And if there should not be time to act upon it this session, it might lay before the committee. Mr. Smilie did not think this a proper stage of the business to go into a discussion of the merits of the petition, or into the policy of complying with their request. The gentleman from Delaware appeared to have serious apprehensions respecting aliens. For his part he had none. He believed that in the state in which he resided there was as great a proportion of aliens as any other; and yet no inconvenience or evil had been experienced. The gentleman, perhaps, thinks the politics of his own state not sound from the admission of aliens.

Mr. Smilie concluded by observing that though he thought it probable the legislature would not shorten the probationary period for citizenship, yet he tho't it would be best to refer the petition. The question was then taken on referring it to a select committee, and lost—Ayes 33—Noes 49.

Mr. Helms reported from the committee to whom a similar bill had been recommended, a bill to make provision for persons who have received known wounds in the revolutionary war.

When the question was taken on recommitting the bill to a committee of the whole and lost—Ayes 42; Noes 46.

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

Carried, Ayes 47—Noes 42.

Mr. S. Smith moved that the house should resolve itself into a committee of the whole on the bill for the granting of clearances to the ships or vessels of the United States, lying in the river Mississippi, south of the northern boundary of the United States, and therein to amend an act entitled an act to regulate the collection of duties on imports & tonnage; and for other purposes.

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The mode of electing a president & vice-president. This motion according to the rules of the house, superseded Mr. Bacon's.

It was supported in a spirited debate by Messrs. Bayard, Huger, Griswold, Lowndes, and Morris; and opposed by Messrs. S. Smith, Bacon, Gregg, Nicholson, Smilie and Davis.

When the question was taken by yeas and nays, and lost—Yeas 37—Nays 61.

The house then took up Mr. Bacon's resolution to recede the district of Columbia, and went into a committee of the whole—Mr. John C. Smith in the chair.

Messrs. Bacon and Smilie spoke in favor, and Messrs. Huger and Dennis against agreeing to them, when, on motion of Mr. Randolph, the committee rose, reported progress, and obtained leave to sit again.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 5.

Report says, and we believe on good grounds, that the governor has ordered a draught from the militia of this state of 1800 infantry and 200 horse, for the settlement of the land business at Wyoming, Luzerne, &c.

NORFOLK, February 10.

Captain Beetle, of the brig Florida, in 15 days from Cape-Francis, has favoured us with the following list of American vessels at that port, taken from Beetle's mariner register of Jan. 17.

Schooners—Hiram, Chase, Charleston; Wm. Wright, Odlin, ditto; Nautilus, Bishop, Baltimore; Dianna, put in distress from Jamaica bound to Charleston (Captain Mad); Matthew, Crawley, Tate, Charleston; Two Sisters, Barnes, St. Simons; Lark, Briggs, Middleton; Dolphin, Briggs, Great-Egg Harbor; Sophia, Dinkell, Baltimore.

Briggs—Augustus, Joby, from N. Orleans, failed the 15th inst. for Jamaica; Sophia, Hayle, New-London; Nancy, Hopkins, Charleston; Vengeance, Howard; Kennebank; Frances & Eliza, Spague, Bolton; Sophia, McDonald, Philadelphia; Fox, Gardner, Beverly; Penelope, Douglas, Nixinton; Panther, Gould, Kennebank.

Sloop Jetty Blue, Kerns, Newbern.

The report states the system adopted by the act of 1792, to be in the opinion of the committee, founded on a correct construction of the constitution and well adapted to the circumstances of the United States; and concludes with a resolution requesting the President of the United States to address a letter to the executives of the several States urging a more vigorous execution of the laws.

The accompanying bill provides for some deficient details in the laws of 92.

Referred to the committee of the whole to-morrow.

Friday, February 3.

Mr. Leib presented a petition from sundry alien inhabitants of Carlisle, Pennsylvania of a similar tenor with the petition presented yesterday from aliens residing in Chester county Pennsylvania.

Mr. Leib moved to refer the petition to a select committee.

This motion occasioned a debate, and was supported by Messrs. Jones & Smilie, and opposed by Messrs. Nicholson, Claiborne, Randolph, Dennis & Bacon.

Mr. Leib called the yeas and nays, which were taken, and were on the rejection of the petition. Yeas 23—Nays 61.—Lost.

A petition was presented from sundry inhabitants of Alexandria, praying a reduction of legal fees paid to several officers of court.

Referred to the committee formed on memorials from citizens of Washington and Alexandria.

The speaker laid before the house a letter from the governor of the Indiana territory, enclosing certain propositions made by a convention of the Indiana territory for suspending for ten years the operation of some of the articles of the ordinance of that territory.

Mr. Randolph presented a petition from a number of citizens of the same territory on the same and other subjects.

Both communications were ordered to be printed.

Mr. Souhard, from the post-office committee, reported a bill further to alter and establish certain post-roads and for other purposes.

Which was read twice and referred to a committee of the whole on Friday.

An engrossed bill "for the granting of clearances to ships or vessels of the United States, lying in the river Mississippi, south of the northern boundary of the United States, and therein to amend an act, entitled an act to regulate the collection of duties on imports and tonnage; and for other purposes," was read a third time and passed.

A bill, from the senate, to provide for the execution of the laws of the United States, in the state of Ohio, was read twice and referred to a select committee of five.

The bill, for the relief of fugitives