

CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

February 7.

The following resolution was before the committee of the whole on a former day:

Resolved, That the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Attorney General for the time being, be authorized to receive propositions of compromise and settlements, from the several companies, or persons claiming public lands in the territory of the United States, lying south of the State of Tennessee, and west of the state of Georgia; and finally to adjust and settle the same in such manner as in their opinion, will conduce to the interest of the U. States.

An amendment limiting the powers of the commissioners to the limits prescribed by the convention between the United States and Georgia, had been adopted in the committee of the whole.

After some debate the house adjourned without deciding on the resolution reported by the committee.

Wednesday, Feb. 8.

Mr. John C. Smith from the committee of claims, presented a bill for the relief of certain military pensioners in the state of South-Carolina.—Referred.

A representation of Duncan M'Farland, accompanied with several documents, complaining of the undue election of Samuel D. Purviance, was presented, and referred to the committee of elections.

A message was received from the Senate stating that they had receded from their third amendment to the bill making military appropriations, which allowed a certain sum for the postage of letters sent from and received by certain officers of the war department; and that they had resolved that the bill "for the better direction of the collectors of the respective ports of the United States in granting to seamen certificates of citizenship," should not pass.

The house resumed the consideration of the resolution reported by the committee of the whole, submitting to the final decision of commissioners, the claims for lands ceded by Georgia to the United States; and after debate which occupied the whole day, adjourned without coming to any decision.

Thursday, February 9.

Mr. Thomas laid on the table the following resolution:

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to join with such committee as the Senate may appoint on their part to consider and report, what business is necessary to be done by Congress in the present session, and when it may be expedient to close the same.

The house resumed the consideration of the resolution reported from the committee of the whole to whom was referred the report of a select committee appointed to enquire into the expediency of amending the several acts providing for the sale of the public lands of the United States.

After some discussion on this subject, the house adjourned.

Friday, Feb. 10.

The house resumed the consideration of the unfinished business of yesterday. A long and interesting debate ensued on the circumstances attending the Yazoo speculation, and the consequences likely to ensue from the entire disallowance or compromise of the claims of individuals for compensation for lands purchased under the several acts of Georgia, and ceded to the United States; when about six o'clock the question was taken by yeas and nays on the following resolution and carried in the affirmative—Yeas 62—Nays 56.

Resolved that the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Attorney General for the time being, be authorized to receive propositions of compromise and settlement from the several companies or persons claiming public lands in the territory of the United States lying south of the state of Georgia, and finally to adjust and settle the same in such manner, as in their opinion, will conduce to the interests of the United States: Provided, that in such settlement, the said commissioners shall not exceed the limits prescribed by the convention with the state of Georgia.

After motion to adjourn and postpone the subject, were made and lost; and the proposition of an amendment of Mr. J. Randolph to modify the resolution so as to inhibit all compensation for land purchased under the act, of Georgia of 1793, was declared not in order, the following resolution was carried:

Resolved, that the time limited by law for filing claims in the office of the Secretary of State, ought to be extended to the first day of the next session.

Motion was then made to refer the two resolutions to a select committee to bring in a bill, which was superseded by an adjournment on Monday.

Monday, Feb. 13.

The House agreed to the modification of effect, the laws of the United States in Louisiana, as agreed to by the Senate.

Mr. Nicholson presented a memorial signed by Thomas Tingey, Robert Brent, Thomas Herby, and Augustus Woodward, in behalf of themselves and others, subscribers and members in the association in the city of Washington for the erection of a monument, praying for an act of incorporation.

On the reference of this memorial the house divided—Yeas 44—Nays 31.

The house referred the resolutions relating to claims to lands ceded by Georgia to the United States, arrived to on Friday, to a select committee to bring in a bill.

A bill for the relief of certain military pensioners in the state of South-Carolina was read in committee of the whole, and ordered by the house to a third reading to-morrow.

The house went into a committee of the whole; Mr. J. C. Smith in the chair, on the bill for the reduction of the marine corps.—The bill reduces the officers of the corps to 1 Captain and 12 Lieutenants, and empowers the President at any future period, when in his opinion it may be necessary, to augment the number of officers so as not to exceed those at present authorised by law.

Mr. Eppes moved to strike out from the word next in the 3d line of the 1st section and insert "The whole of the officers of the marine corps except such as are in actual service in the Mediterranean, shall be, and the same are hereby discharged from the service of the United States. Provided, however, that if the President of the United States shall deem it expedient to employ a greater naval force than is now in actual service, he shall be, and hereby is authorised to appoint such additional officers as may be necessary for the additional vessels called into service."

This motion occasioned considerable debate in the course of which it appeared that the Lieutenant Colonel received more than three thousand dollars a year; that there passed through his hands near 13,000 dollars a year; and that there were at present near 13,000 dollars unaccounted for. The amendment was objected to, and was negatived on the ground of its reducing the officers and not the men. The bill was agreed to. The reduction is to take place on the 1st of March.

On motion of Mr. Jackson the house took up the bill making provision for the application of money heretofore appropriated to the laying out and making public roads leading from the navigable waters emptying into the Atlantic to the Ohio river.

Mr. J. Clay moved to postpone the bill to the 1st Monday of December.

Lost—Yeas 40—Nays 41.

Mr. R. Griswold moved to amend the first section, as to vest the President with a general power to appoint three commissioners to designate a route, to be reported to Congress, for their ultimate decision, which motion after a short consideration, was agreed to by a considerable majority.

Mr. Lyon offered a motion for empowering the President to designate the route.

Lost—without a division.

The committee rose, and reported the bill with several amendments, in which the house concurred and ordered the bill to a third reading on Wednesday.

Tuesday, Feb. 14.

Mr. Rodney observed, that a subject had some time since been before Congress, in which the commercial world was considerably interested; he alluded to fixing a standard of weights and measures. Under an impression that this was a fit time to resume its consideration, he moved a resolution to instruct the committee of Commerce and Manufactures, to enquire into the expediency of fixing a standard of weights and measures.

Mr. Leib suggested the propriety of referring the subject to a select committee, in which idea Mr. Rodney acquiesced. When Dr. Mitchell after assigning a number of reasons which led him to be of opinion, that Congress would not during the present session, be enabled to arrive at any conclusive measures on the subject, moved to postpone the resolution until to-morrow.

The bill for the relief of certain military pensioners in South-Carolina; the bill for the reduction of the Marine Corps; and the bill for the relief of Samuel Corps, were read the third time and passed.

The motion for the appointment of a joint committee to report when it will be expedient to adjourn, and what business it will be proper previously to attend to, was agreed to.

Mr. Bard's motion for the imposition of a tax of ten dollars on every Negro imported into the United States, was taken up.

A debate arose which continued till 4 o'clock, when an adjournment took place without any decision.

Messrs. Bard, Findley, S. L. Mitchell, and Sloan, supported; and Messrs. Lowndes, Bedinger, Macon, Moore, and Huger, opposed the resolution.

WILMINGTON, N. C.

TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 1804.

DIED, on Friday morning last, of a lingering consumptive illness, Mr. JOHN JENNINGS, Et. 21, a native of Donnington, Yorkshire, (Eng.) and brother of Mr. George Jennings of this town.

WE have imposed upon us the painful duty of announcing the mournful intelligence of the death of JOSEPH PRIESTLEY, the favorite of science, the advocate of civil and religious liberty, the ornament of the land in which he lived, and the pride of the age, from which he received, and on which he reflected glory. As in the life of such a man the world was interested, so nothing short of the tributary regrets of a universe can duly commemorate such departed greatness.—For one, the Editor of this paper challenges from those who occupy the sphere of its circulation the solemn admiration merited by him whose career of terrestrial glory has drawn to a close without having been tarnished by the minutest reproach. It were vain to attempt, in this necessarily concise notice, to delineate a character so fertile of intellectual power, as that of PRIESTLEY. Few of the subjects, in which mankind are the most

interested, escaped the pen of a writer, the philanthropy of whose heart never slept.—There was scarcely a department of natural science not improved or enlightened by his research & the creative power of his genius; and politics & theology, in their widest range, seemed almost too limited for faculties at once patient and profound. His associates in science will seize the occasion to manifest that, whatever insensibility to merit may sometimes unfortunately attach to the political world, the warmest gratitude invariably embalms the memory of those who have eminently distinguished themselves in the walks of philosophy. To the American philosophical Society, whose annals are brightened by his labors, we look for the memorial of his greatness.

[Nat. Intel.]

DUEL.—A New-York paper mentions, that Dr. Center, who was wounded in a duel with Mr. Rutledge, had one leg amputated, and died two days afterwards.

It appears, by accounts from New-York, that Gov. CLINTON has come to a settled determination to resign all pretensions to be considered as a candidate at the ensuing election, for the Chief Magistracy of that State.—That our readers may form an idea who will be his successor, the following paragraph is inserted from the 'Evening Post,' of the 15th ult.—

'The next Governor.—We are this moment assured that a committee having waited on Mr. Chancellor Lansing, for the purpose of knowing from him whether he would permit himself to be held up as the candidate for Governor at the ensuing election, received an answer in the negative. The two competitors that now appear to urge their rival claims to the honor of starting against Mr. Burr, are, we understand, Mr. De Witt Clinton and Mr. Chancellor Livingston. Be it which it may, we think there will be sport on the turf.'

The Legislature of the State of New-York have assented to the amendment to the Constitution of the United States, respecting the election of President and Vice-President.—This is the eighth state which has approved of the amendment.

The Senate of the United States have passed the bill entitled, "An act erecting Louisiana into two territories, and making provision for the temporary government thereof."—Yeas 20, Nays 5.

The Senate have also passed the Salary bill, Yeas 20, Nays 7.

The Resolution for laying a tax of ten dollars on every slave imported has been postponed in Congress until the 2d Monday in March, in order to give time for the Legislature of South-Carolina to repeal the law for allowing the importation.

THE leisure hours of a candid man would be well employed in comparing Mr. Tracey's sentiments, so unexpectedly revealed, with the federal measures which ensued, from the time he uttered them.

These sentiments pourtrayed, with uncommon exactness, the outlines of "a plan, which he said was well understood and settled with many of the leading men in our government; particularly in the New-England States, and some at the Southward; and which was determined to be brought about in this country." We needed not this explanation to be convinced of the existence of such a plan; but many who have heretofore refused to credit what the republicans have said to this effect, may consider this precious confession of one of the chief-conspirators, (what else but conspirators shall we call those whose dark intrigues were undermining the Constitution, and establishing on its ruins a system abhorrent to the feelings of the people) as a conclusive proof of the evil designs of leading federalists.

If the clearness, candour, moderation and consistency of Mr. Griswold's Memoir are not sufficient to give every reader a strong impression of its truth, the character of its author ought to remove every doubt: in the sphere of his personal acquaintance, which is by no means small, he is admired for his talents, & for his veracity. Mr. Tracey himself will not, we think, deny that he esteems him. He probably considered, however, that the most perfect of human beings may be found vulnerable in some point or other, and that Mr. Griswold must be an exception to the human character in general, if he could withstand the glittering temptations which he intended to display. It appears, however, that he mistook his man; and was repulsed by a rigid integrity, which he had, perhaps, seldom found in his dealings with mankind.

Look back a moment, fellow-citizens, to the period when this plan was rapidly fulfilling; when a Sedition Law and a Standing Army were the natural offspring of Mr. Tracey's idea, "that the people had too much liberty!"—when the enormous growth of the Public Debt and the rapid increase of Taxes were beginning to operate as "convenient drains for your spare money!"—when the Stamp Act, evinced that "the leading men in our government laughed at the motives which induced you to take up arms for independence!"—when a horde of political fanatics, with the connivance of government, erecting their cockades in token of defiance; and numbers of beardless boys, of rich federal families, strutting in naval uniform, and flourishing their swords over the heads of plebeian veterans, shewed how ripe the government was for the establishment of "a Body of Noblemen!"—and when a strong hand of religious coercion in

this state, evinced that it was intended to bring about in due time, "an established religion, and an established clergy with good salaries, independent of the people!" Look back at those times, and if you are astonished at the rapid progress of the system, recollect that Mr. Tracey explains the business when he says it was "a plan well understood and settled," &c.

A few years more, and this plan, so well "understood," would have been put in execution. The materials for this uncouth fabric of despotism were fast finishing; and we should soon have seen the rising rapidly into system, and acquiring such strength as would bid defiance to the efforts of an enervated nation.

But the people who had "read newspapers, and become mighty politicians," as Mr. Tracey expresses it, could not be always deceived. They were willing to "plow and hoe, and go to meeting," but not to "let gentlemen go on and make laws" as they pleased, without exercising their constitutional authority over these gentlemen. They had "too much liberty" to be under the necessity of remaining idle spectators of their approaching ruin; they saw the iniquity of federal leaders; the "old whigs started at it," and this monster of despotism, the legitimate offspring of a federal parent, was stifled in embryo.

After this cutting disappointment of their most sanguine hopes, it is not surprising that they should become turbulent and unruly, and seek to destroy a government thus wrested from their hands; nor is it surprising that they should harbour this design under the cloak of regard for our Constitution, when it is remembered that our Constitution and our Liberty were constantly in their mouths, at the very time they were plotting the downfall of both!

If any one shall say that these are harsh assertions, let him look once more at Mr. Tracey's plan, expressed in Mr. Griswold's memoir; and let him observe, with attention the emphatical assertion of Mr. Tracey, that this "plan was well understood and settled with many of the leading men in our government; and was determined to be brought about in this country!"

Fellow-citizens, let these precious relics of federalism be preserved for future generations that your posterity may know what kind of men these are, who are crying out so vehemently that the democrats are heaving down the Constitution!

These same men, whose plans, so "well understood and settled," have been rooting up the foundation of those sacred rights and privileges, so dear to freemen, have been endeavouring to frighten the American people with the dismal chimeras of Barruel and Robinson, and with the visionary ideas, that the aim of republicanism was the overturn of Religion, Law, Government, and every thing which good men held sacred. Does not this conduct resemble the iniquity of the incendiary, who raises false alarms among the people, that his own dark schemes may escape their notice.

New-York, Feb. 13.

THE VICE-PRESIDENT.

The citizens of the Union in general, and of this state in particular, who regard with much interest the charges which have been published against Mr. Burr relative to the last Presidential election, will be gratified to learn, that he has put those allegations to that issue for which his enemies have expressed so much desire.

Daniel D. Tompkins, Esq. of this city, has we are informed, instituted a suit on the part of Mr. Burr, against James Cheetham, author of the publications alluded to; and which is brought in such a manner as will enable him to give the truth in evidence. The writ taken out mentions no specific amount of damages, of course the person prosecuted will be exposed to no embarrassment or difficulty with regard to bail. In other respects the suit is to be pushed with promptness and effect. The prosecution will comprise all the charges, principal and subordinate: Mr. Burr's accusers will of course have an opportunity of bringing into court all persons whether hostile or friendly to him by whose testimony they may hope to substantiate their charges.

We are happy in stating the above, to find that Mr. Burr has waved his own feelings, and his repugnance to prosecutions of this nature, in compliance with public sentiment which evidently expected this from him.—His forbearance has been ascribed by his enemies to motives injurious to his reputation; they have repeatedly vaunted that they only wished an opportunity to prove their charges in a court of justice. The opportunity will now be in the simplest manner afforded them.

February 14.

Capt. Pierce, of the ship Andromache from Amsterdam, informs us, that he left the Texel on the 4th December, at which time the most active preparations were continued in Holland, for the projected invasion. The Batavian Republic had been ordered to furnish 12,000 men as its quota, and a draft of that number was accordingly made about the 30th Nov.

He adds, that the French Government had hired many Dutch vessels, at a certain sum per ton, and a gratuity in proportion to the plunder, to transport the troops to England. Vessels pressed into the service were to receive no gratuity.

A report prevailed in Amsterdam that the Brest fleet, with 250 transports, had sailed on a secret expedition.

Captain Sharp, who arrived at this port yesterday from Naples, informs that 30,000 French troops were in the northern part of that kingdom at the time of his departure;