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CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

January 8.

The House went into a committee of the whole.

Mr. Teey in the chair,
On motion to recede to the state of Virginia and Maryland, respectively, the jurisdiction of such parts of territory of Columbia, are without the City of Washington; and after considerable debate thereon, the committee rose, reported progress, and obtained leave to sit again.

Several petitions were received of a private nature and referred.

January 9.

Mr. Thompson, from the committee appointed on the public buildings, at the City of Washington, presented a bill making an appropriation of \$100,000 dollars for completing the 5th wing of the Capital, and for other purposes, which was read the first and second times and committed.

The House went into a committee of the whole, on the motion to recede to the states of Virginia and Maryland the District of Columbia after considerable debate the committee rose, reported progress, and obtained leave to sit again.

January 10.

The House went again into a committee of the whole. On the motion to recede to the states of Virginia and Maryland respectively, the jurisdiction of such parts of the territory of Columbia, as are without the limits of the City of Washington; and after considerable debate the committee rose, and reported their disagreement to the said motion.

The House then took up the business,
When division of the question was called for, and the question being taken that the House concur with the committee of the whole in their disagreement to the first resolution, it was decided in the affirmative—Yeas 46.

Yeas—Messrs. Alexander, Baldwin, Blackledge, B. Brown, Bryan, G. W. Campbell, Casey, Chamberlin, Chittenden, Claggett, Claiborne, Clopton, Conrad, Crowninshield, Cutlar, Es, Dayenport, Dennis, Dickson, Dwight, Earle, Elliot, Eustis, Goddard, Gregg, Griswold, R. Griswold, Hastings, Helmes, Holmes, Hugh, Huger, Hunt, Jackson, Kerdy, Lewis, jun. Livingston, Lowndes, Lusk, Lyon, McCreery, Mitchell, T. Moore, Nelson, New, Newton, jun. Platter, Purvian, Sammons, Sanford, J. Smith, Southall, Stanton, Stedman, Stephenson, Tappan, Fallague, Tenny, Thomas, Thompson, Tag, Van Cortlandt, Van Horne, Wadsworth, Walton, L. Williams, M. Williams, Winn, Yinson, and Wynne—72.

Yeas—Messrs. Alston, jun. Anderson, Archer, Belanger, Bishop, Boyle, Butler, Clark, J. Clay, Dawson, Early, Elmer, Eppes, Hilder, Fowler, Gray, Hanna, Hosbrouck, Hater, Hoge, Holland, Jones, Larned, Lieb, Cord, Merriweather, N. R. Moore, Mott, Olin, Palmer, J. Randolph, J. Rhea, (Penn.) J. Rhea, (Tenn.) Richards, Root, Seavery, Sloan, Smilie, Stanford, Swart, Varnum, Verplanck, Whitehill, J. Wilson—46.

The second resolution contained in the motion being under debate,

Mr. Smilie moved to amend the same by striking out the words *without the limits of the City of Washington*.

And on the question to agree to the said amendment, it was decided in the negative.

The question was then taken to concur with the committee of the whole House in their disagreement to the second resolution, it was decided in the affirmative.—Yeas 69, Nays 39.

The committee to whom was referred a memorial and petition of the representatives of the freemen of the territory of Louisiana, was discharged from the farther consideration thereof, and the remonstrance and petition were referred to the committee appointed on that part of the President's message, relative to the amelioration of the form of government of the territory of Louisiana.

January 11.

Mr. Leib presented a bill to amend the charter of Georgetown; which was read the first and second times, and committed to a committee of the whole.

The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. Gregg in the Chair, on the report of the Post-Master General, concerning the memorial of Robert Henderson, of South-Carolina, and after some time spent therein, the committee rose, reported progress, and obtained leave to sit again.

January 14.

Mr. Nicholson presented a petition from A. Freeman, Major Butler, and other officers in the army of the United States, stationed at New-Orleans—stating that the subsistence money allowed them proportionally upon the ration, was inadequate to their diet and praying to have the same extended to a sum equal to meet their necessary subsistence.—Referred to the Secretary of War to report to the House thereon.

A bill was received from the Senate for imposing more specific duties on the importation of certain articles, and also for levying and collecting light money on foreign ships and vessels, and for other purposes, was read and referred to the committee of ways and means.

On the motion of Mr. Huger, the House resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the report of the Post-Master General, on the petition of Robert Henderson, complaining of his inability to execute his contract for carrying the mail in South-Carolina, and which recommended a further allowance to be made to him of \$4,200.

The report was agreed to and a committee of three was appointed to bring in a bill conformably thereto.

On motion of Mr. Thompson, the House went into a committee of the whole, on the bill making an appropriation for completing the South wing of the Capital and for other purposes. Mr. Dawson in the chair.

After some time spent in considering the same, the committee rose and reported that \$110,000 be appropriated for the purpose of completing the south wing of the Capital—and \$20,000 for other purposes, which was agreed to by the House, and the bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading to-morrow.

On motion of Mr. Lattimore, the House went into a committee of the whole, on the bill for regulating the grants of land and disposing of the lands of the United States. South of the state of Tennessee.—General Varnum in the Chair.—A small amendment was made thereto, authorising the registering of the Spanish titles to lands within that territory, and the committee rose and reported, and the House having agreed to the amendment, the bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

On motion of Mr. Newton, the House resolved itself into a committee of the whole, on the bill to prohibit the exaction of bail upon certain suits, brought within the district of Columbia.—After some time spent in considering the same, the committee rose and reported the bill with an amendment, which being agreed to by the House, the bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

The House went into a committee of the whole, on the report of the committee of claims on the memorial of Captain Alexander Murray; to which was added a report from the Secretary of the Navy, made to that committee on their special application. The report was favourable to Capt. Murray, admitting that his claim was reasonable and ought to be granted.—A discussion took place on this subject, and it was evinced that the law relating to the capture of French armed vessels in 1799, and of the re-capture of American vessels did not justify the proceeding of Captain Murray in the capture of a Danish neutral, although his instructions from the then Secretary of the navy, appeared to authorise it. The committee thereupon rose without coming to a determination, reported progress, and obtained leave to sit again.

Mr. Rhea called for the consideration of his motion, which had been some time laid upon the table, requesting the Secretary of War to lay before the House, a list of the officers and soldiers of the Army of the United States, during the years 1803 and 1804, and a statement of the Posts at which they were stationed, &c.

On the question to agree to the motion, the House divided, and were yeas 36, nays 32— which not being a quorum, the House adjourned.

January 15, 1805.

The Speaker laid before the House a letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, accompanied by a statement of the sums of money paid counsel for advice and assistance to the officers of that department from the establishment of the government down to the present year. Ordered to be printed.

The bill appropriating a sum of money for finishing the south wing of the Capital, in the City of Washington, and for other purposes, was read the third time and passed, as was likewise the bill regulating the grants of land and disposal of the land of the United States south of the state of Tennessee.

The bill to prohibit the exaction of bail upon certain suits within the district of Columbia, was read.

The final passage of the bill was opposed by Mr. Goddard, Mr. Root, and Mr. Nelson, and defended by Mr. Newton, as a proper measure to prevent the oppression of malignant creditors.

Mr. Eppes desired Mr. Beckley to read that part of the Constitution of the United States relative to the extent of the judiciary power, and that part of the law establishing the judiciary authority, of the district of Columbia, with a view of shewing that the bill was not essentially necessary.

Mr. Early moved a recommitment of the bill to a select committee.

Mr. Bedinger expressed his wish that the bill might go to a select committee, because he considered the principle a valuable one. He imagined, however, that the details were

not altogether perfect. He felt concerned on this subject, on account of several of his constituents, who had been tricked out of notes and bonds, for lands in Kentucky, which had been advertised, and were no longer available against the drawers in that state; but should it so happen that business called them to Washington, they might be extremely harrassed for want of bail.

The reference was opposed by Mr. R. Griswold, as he was against the principle of the bill altogether.

On the question to recommit, it passed in the negative.—Yeas 44, Nays 59.

The question was then taken on the passage of the bill, and it was lost, there being but thirty members in its favour.

Mr. Huger from the committee appointed for the purpose, reported the bill authorising the Post-Master General to make further provision for carrying the mail between Fayetteville, North-Carolina, and Charleston, South-Carolina, not exceeding 4200 dollars per annum. The bill was read twice and referred.

On motion of Mr. Thomas, a committee was appointed to enquire whether any, and if any what alterations are necessary in the laws regulating the grants of land, appropriated for the refugees from the British provinces of Canada and Nova-Scotia—with liberty to report by bill or otherwise.

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

January 14.

On motion of Mr. Ellery,

Resolved, That the members of the Senate, from a sincere desire of shewing every mark of respect due to the memory of the honourable Samuel J. Potter, deceased: late a member thereof, will go into mourning for him one month, by the usual mode of wearing a cape round the left arm.

SALISBURY, JANUARY 10.

The late troubles in Biscay, provoke our enquiries into the condition of this Northern part of Spain. It was not till commerce had given this province its blessings that it fell under the power of Spain. It had seen the flourishing state of Bilbao for nearly four centuries before it was in even nominal subjection. In 859 the Biscayans were governed by their own Counts. Under John the first, in 1579, they were united to the Crown of Castile. The singular manner in which they have preserved their language, indicates their independence of their neighbours. The changes they have felt from their subjection have been few, and their character has preserved the liberties which they have never accurately defined. John, not so happy in regard to Portugal, as he was in his neutrality in regard to the elections of the Church, was advanced to the throne while he had all the affections of the Northern parts of Spain. At Burgos he was crowned, a place memorable by the heroism of Eleanor of Castile, who sucked poison from the wound of the eldest son of Edward of England, and who was knighted by his wife in this city, and still more famously by the Hero called the Cid, who has given immortality to the genius of Corneille. Bilbao has 10,000 inhabitants, and according to Fischer is situated in a plain on the right bank of the river Ybelzabel, two leagues from the sea. The plain is so narrow above the city, that the passage appears closed by the mountains, and the plain is also contracted below, so that the city is upon an irregular and triangular spot, and in autumn and winter is preserved from the rains and north wind, and apparently surrounded by mountains. Fischer travelled in this country in 1797 and 1798, and we may from him, obtain an impartial outline of this Province. He observes that Biscay is a province under the protection, but not under the absolute dominion of Spain. It is a little republic united to a Monarchy and the authority of the Crown is not unlimited, but respected. No garrisons, customs, stamp office, excise, or donatives are to be found in Biscay. Under its own government, it has consented to admit a representative of the King, and a commissioner of marines; but no royal orders are Laws without the authority of their own magistrates. The privileges of the province and the acts of royal power are often in opposition, and in turn prevail.—The Biscayans assume the name of noblemen, and claim the pure blood of Cantabria. They admit no superiority from the high opinion of their pure descent, uncorrupted by the Moors or any foreign nation. The highest officers are electively the majority of their parishes, and are annually chosen. Every year, eight Regidores are chosen, and they elect the other officers. All those offices must be filled without compensation, though they have found out the method of rewarding their own services. The pleadings before the Alcades are by word of mouth, before the Corregidor only by writing, the latter try civil causes and the former criminal. Taxes are scarcely known. A moderate land tax, and a voluntary contribution to the hospitals are all they acknowledge, but they are free from

excise, poll-tax, and such impositions. The traveller still confesses that he owes little respect to the provincial manners which have little to recommend them to a cultivated mind.

It is in the competition between the two governments that the most serious evils can arise. As these evils are frequent, they can be judged of only by those who possess the history of them, and the exact temper with which they are conducted. It is the resentment which the Spanish government has shewn which is the cause of the continual disquiets. The extent of the province of Biscay, is given at 25 Spanish miles from south to north, and 29 from east to west. The Spanish mile equal to four English miles in the computation.

The European Gazettes furnish some circumstances respecting the disposition of France and Russia. In reply to the articles of charge against the French, the French impeach the Russians for shewing uncommon friendship to the political and domestic enemies of France, and for assuming threatening attitudes in the Venetian Islands. It is added, that Prussia is active to prevent a rupture between the two powers, and has hopes of profiting from the present disposition of the French in an acquisition of territory. In France nothing is more deserving of notice, than the continued endeavours to promote a pacific temper of the clergy in the church. The translation of the circular letter, signed Fouché, arrests attention. In this letter the alliance of Church and State is evidently abandoned. Many revolutions are named to justify submission to the new authority, and the submission which will be required, is expressly announced. The sentiment which is formed upon the new establishment, is thus expressed: "Freedom of religion is a law of the Empire, and one of the rights of man, and is at present established in every enlightened state. You are no longer at liberty to extend the conquests of religion, of which you are the chief ministers. Except by your talents and your evangelical virtues. In the age in which we live, that may be denominated the best religion which most forcibly inculcates the principles of morality and obedience to the laws."

In regard to Holland, many inconsistent reports are abroad. That a new domestic arrangement, is expected, may be believed, but time is to explain it. In Germany it is probable that greater changes will take place, and repeated exchanges of territory will be deemed convenient, but no serious evils disturb the Empire.

Respecting the Island of St. Domingo, various reports have currency. It is well known to those who have lately been in that Island, that Dessalines did actually threaten an invasion of that part of the Island now in possession of the French and Spaniards, and that he did consider the conquest as easy, to the troops under his command. That treasonable practices have been obtained may also be probable, and that while one party have consulted Dessalines, the other may have consulted the English, is to be conjectured from facts already known. But consequences from these measures, or from the disposition which led to them are not known. That Dessalines has soberly thought upon a new establishment of Church and State is known from his many attempts to continue the habits borrowed from the whites, which tend from the acquaintance the blacks have with them, more than any other, to promote the necessary civilization. And that circumstances truly ridiculous will arise in the imitation of European Governments will not be questioned. Still it must be considered that Dessalines has great power from the firm conviction of his troops that much still depends upon the preservation of his life for their prosperity. The restrictions on the Jamaica trade are announced, and must be expected.

Extract of a Letter from Captain JOHN H. ANDREW, of the brig Cynthia of this Port, to his owner, dated

"St. Pierre, (Mart.) Dec. 9, 1804.

"Nothing material occurred until the 3d December, being in lat. 15, long. 30, saw two sail, one of which proved to be his Britannic Majesty's brig Le Courier, of 16 guns, Captain Batsworth.—The first shot he fired I took in my sails—immediately hove to—he fired two more guns after I hove to. At 2 P. M. he came up and ordered me to hoist out my boat and come on board with my papers, which I complied with immediately.—In the time of my getting the boat out, he fired several small arms at me. When I got on board I delivered my papers to the officer of the deck; the first lieutenant ordered my men out of the boat, and sent other men in; he went on board of the Cynthia, drove my mate and all hands, the cook included, into the boat, without giving them time to get their protections. After being on board one hour, (the Captain sending his servant up repeatedly to interrogate me) he then ordered me down the cabin. After receiving insult upon insult, he sent my boat after the protections, and