

Congress,

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

MONDAY, APRIL 8.

Mr. Nelson of Va. from the committee on the judiciary, who were instructed to make enquiry into the official conduct of Judge Tallmadge of New York, made a partial report, concluding with a resolution to ask the Senate to permit Mr. Sanford, a member of the Senate, to appear before the committee to give evidence in the case; which was concurred in.

The engrossed bill to regulate the duties on imports and tonnage was read the third time; and the question stated, "shall the bill pass?"

Mr. Randolph moved that the bill be postponed to Dec. next. In making this motion, Mr. R. said, he was not actuated by the usual motives of similar motions. It proceeded from a belief that the subject had not been properly and maturely prepared by the Secretary of the Treasury. He wished the subject postponed to the next session, that the system might be printed collaterally with the present duties, that every member might take it home & consult his constituents—those whose opinions he ought to respect. The bill, Mr. R. said, had been precipitated through the House, & the discussion on it shewed a strange and mysterious connection between this measure and one (the Bank bill) which had just passed, and was now beyond the control of this house. Another reason for referring the subject to the next session, was, he said, the material injury it would produce on the revenue, if adopted now; and at this time the Secretary of the Treasury ought strictly to guard against any deficit in the revenue. He thought the reasons for postponement were imperious.

Mr. Smith of Ind. opposed the motion for postponement. Amongst other arguments, in reply to Mr. Randolph, he said, it was extremely necessary to adopt at once some permanent system on which commercial men, as well as others, might rely with confidence. If the tariff were not passed, the commercial community would have to look to the next session, without knowing how to shape their conduct, or form their calculations, uncertain of the policy which might be then adopted.

Mr. Lowndes also offered some remarks in reply to Mr. Randolph, and against postponing the bill. He denied the charge of precipitation in the Secretary of the Treasury in making his report; and referred to the circular letters, long since sent to various quarters in search of information, to shew that the Secretary had not acted prematurely, and that measures were long ago taken to gain all possible light on the subject. Mr. L. admitted that there were particular features in the bill about the passage of which he was not anxious; but in a system so extensive there must be particular parts on which members could not agree. As a whole, however, he had no doubt it would be beneficial to the revenue, &c. and to the general interests of the country.

Mr. Calhoun had no intention of entering in a discussion of the motion but wished merely to reply to the insinuation of a mysterious connection between this bill and that to establish the bank. He denied any improper or unfair understanding, and could challenge the House to support the charge. In fact, Mr. C. said, the most zealous friends of the bank were generally unfriendly to this tariff; & the warmest friends of either could not be found on the same side. The motion was negatived 95 to 47.

The question then recurred on the passage of the bill; when Mr. Randolph rose & spoke nearly three hours in opposition to the bill, and generally against the policy of encouraging manufacturing establishments at all especially against the propriety of affording a high bounty, by taxing the community, &c.

The question on the passage of the bill, was taken and carried 88 to 45. It is a little remarkable that none of the members from this State voted for the passage of this bill.

On motion of Mr. Johnson of Ky. the House then took up the resolution fixing the period of adjournment.

After some conversation on the propriety of various days, which were named, and the inexpediency of fixing at this time on any day for adjournment, a motion to postpone the resolution until Monday next, was made and carried.

TUESDAY, APRIL 9.

After the reference of several petitions, Mr. Robertson, from the committee

of Public Lands reported a bill authorising the survey of two millions of acres of public land in lieu of that quantity heretofore authorised in the territory of Michigan, as military bounty lands; which was twice read and committed.

Mr. Hopkinson, from the joint committee appointed on the subject of regulating the proceedings of Congress, reported two resolutions, providing that the business of all kinds which may remain unfinished at the close of the present session, shall be taken up at the next session at the precise point to which it shall have progressed during the present session; which resolutions were laid on the table.

The following bills passed through a committee of the whole, were reported to the House and severally ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, to wit: The bill to fix the commissions of the collectors of the direct tax and internal duties, &c. a bill to increase the compensation now allowed to gaugers, weighers, inspectors, &c. employed in customs; a bill declaring the consent of Congress to an act of the state of South Carolina, authorising the city of Charleston to lay a certain duty on vessels from foreign ports; and a bill for the relief of the widow and children of captain Z. Morgan.

A number of private bills passed through committees of the whole and were ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

Mr. Gaston having announced the decease of the Hon. Richard Stanford, a member of this House from North-Carolina.

The usual orders on such occasions were adopted—and it was voted to attend the funeral to-morrow at 12 o'clock; in which the Senate concurred.

Both Houses from respect to the memory of the deceased member of the House of Representatives, adjourned to Thursday.

THURSDAY, APRIL 11.

After the reception and reference of petitions.

Mr. Newton, from the committee of Commerce and Manufactures reported a bill making appropriations for re-building light-houses, and for completing the plan of lighting them on the plan of Winslow Lewis, for placing beacons, &c. to preserve Little Gull Island, and for saving the coast of the United States, which was twice read and committed.

Mr. Wilcox from the committee of pensions, &c. reported a bill concerning invalid pensioners; which was twice read and committed.

The bill which were on Tuesday ordered to be engrossed for a 3d reading were severally read the third time and passed accordingly.

The bill to reward with 100,000 dollars the captors of certain Algerine vessels, was called up by Mr. Forsyth, on whose motion it was amended, by striking out the words "in consideration of the valor and promptitude with which the capture was effected," and the bill was then ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

The bill reported by the currency committee to compel specie payments was on motion of Mr. Calhoun re-committed for the purpose of making some amendment in its details.

In moving the re-commitment, Mr. Calhoun remarked, that the modification intended, was to expunge a feature [the high duties] in the bill, which if retained would probably require more discussion than, at this late period the House would be willing to devote to it, and that it would perhaps be better not to agitate the question during the present session.

The bill respecting the Navy Pension fund, passed through a committee of the whole house, and was read a third time and passed.

Several private bills passed through committees of the whole house, and were ordered to be engrossed for a third reading to-morrow.

The House, in the course of the day, refused, on the call of Mr. Huger, to take up the report of the joint committee on the subject of the remains of Gen. Washington—ayes 43, noes 51.

A joint resolution, requiring the Secretary of State, once in every two years, to compile and print a register of all officers and agents, civil, military and naval in the service of the U. States, was read the third time and passed.

The House went into committee of the whole, on the bill making an appropriation for the improvement of the Capital Square. The blank was filled, on motion of Mr. Tucker, with the sum of 30,000 dollars; and Mr. Klay made a few remarks in support of the object of the bill; when the committee reported the

bill and amendments to the House.

The amendment and the bill itself were opposed by Mr. Wright and Mr. Nelson, the former of whom moved to lay it on the table; and were advocated by Messrs. Tucker, Calhoun, Jackson, and Robertson. Mr. Wright's motion was negatived, & he then demanded the yeas and nays on the question of engrossing the bill, which was refused by the House; and the bill was finally ordered to be engrossed for a third reading to-morrow.

The following Message was received from the President of the U. States:

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the U. States.

With a view to the more convenient management of the important and growing business connected with the grant of exclusive rights to Inventors and Authors, I recommend the establishment of a distinct office, within the Department of State, connected therewith under a Director, with a salary adequate to his services, and with the privilege of franking communications by mail from and to the office. I recommend also, that further restraints be imposed on the issue of patents to wrongful claimants, and further guards provided against fraudulent exactions of fees by persons possessed of patents.

JAS. MADISON.

April 11, 1816.

The message was ordered to lie on the table and be printed.

FRIDAY, APRIL 12.

Mr. Wright from the committee on the judiciary, reported a bill for the relief of the privateer Roger; which was twice read and committed.

Mr. Calhoun from the committee on an uniform national currency, reported in a modified shape, the bill to provide for the collecting the public revenue in the legal currency. The amendment made by the committee to the bill, consists in striking out the 3d section which imposed a stamp duty of 10 per cent. on the notes of those banks which shall not pay specie on the 31st of December next—leaving only the provision which excludes such notes from being received in payment of debts due the United States. The bill was committed to a committee of the whole house.

On motion of Mr. Grosvenor, a committee was appointed to enquire into the expediency of prohibiting by law, the exportation of bullion and specie from the U. States, for a limited time.

The bills which were ordered yesterday to be engrossed for a third reading, were severally read the third time and passed, with the exception which follows:

The engrossed bill making an appropriation for graduating, enclosing and improving the Capitol Square, was read the third time, and the question on its passage stated. This question gave rise to a short debate, in which Messrs. Smith of Md. Tucker, Reynolds and Calhoun advocated the bill; & Messrs. Root, Hardin, Wright, Pickens and Webster opposed it. The last named gentleman moved to lay the bill on the table, which motion finally prevailed—ayes 65, noes 51; and the bill lies on the table accordingly.

The House then went into committee of the whole on the amendments of the Senate, (increasing in a graduated amount from 10 to 25 per cent. the salaries of the clerks of the departments) to the general appropriation bill.

On motion of Mr. Clay, the clerks of congress were included in the amendment; after which the committee rose, and reported their concurrence in the amendment, and their own amendment thereto.

The House agreed to the amendment of the committee; and on the question of concurring with the Senate in their amendment as modified;

Mr. Yancey opposed the concurrence, and Mr. Lowndes and Mr. Culpepper supported it; after which the question of concurrence with the Senate was decided in the negative, 63 to 51.

The House then proceeded to the orders of the day. On calling the bill to authorize the appointment of Admirals in the naval service, Mr. Pleasants moved that the House go into committee of the whole on that bill; which mo-

tion was negatived—ayes 38, noes 54.

The bill to establish a National University was also called up by Mr. Wilde, but the House refused to consider it, by a large majority.

Several private bills passed through committees of the whole House, and were subsequently ordered to a third reading.

Saturday, April 13.

Mr. M'Lean, of Ohio, presented the petition of sundry inhabitants of Cincinnati and its vicinity, praying that some provision might be made for the support of Col. Zebulon Pike, father of the late Gen. Pike, whom the petitioners represent to be in reduced and needy circumstances; and was referred to the committee of Pensions.

The Speaker laid before the house a letter addressed to him from Col. James Thomas, respecting his accounts and the charges exhibited against him as Quarter-Master in the army; which was referred to the select committee on his accounts.

Mr. Calhoun, from the committee on the National Currency, who were instructed to enquire into the expediency of prohibiting for a limited time, the exportation of bullion and specie, reported a resolution that it is expedient at the present time to make the prohibition; which was read and ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Forsyth, from the committee of foreign relations, reported, without amendment, the bill from the Senate to establish a system of navigation for the United States; and the said bill was then committed to a committee of the whole house.

The Speaker laid before the house a letter from the Secretary of the Treasury enclosing a statement of the loans made to government by the several banks within the U. States since March 1, 1812; which was ordered to lie on the table.

The bill to improve the Capitol square, was re-committed to a committee of the whole house.

The engrossed bills yesterday ordered to a third reading were this day severally read a third time, passed and sent to the Senate.

The following bills passed through a committee of the whole, and were ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, to wit: A bill supplementary to the bill to regulate trade and intercourse with the Indian Tribes; and a bill to authorise the sale of certain lands in Ohio, formerly reserved for certain Nova Scotia refugees.

The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole, on the bill providing for the gradual increase of the navy of the United States. Some discussion took place on the details of this bill. It was reported to the house with an amendment, and ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, without a dissenting voice; and the House adjourned.

The House in committee of the whole, on the bill providing for the gradual increase of the Navy.

Mr. Pleasants (Chairman of the Naval committee) entered into a detailed statement of the considerations on which the committee had formed the bill, and their reasons for deviating from a precise adherence to the Secretary's recommendations. It was, he said, within the recollection of the committee, that in a report made the Senate in the earlier part of the session of Congress, the Secretary of the Navy recommended an annual addition to the present navy, of one ship of 74 guns, two of 44, and two sloops of war of the heaviest class. The committee, Mr. Pleasants said, had bestowed much consideration on the subject, and after obtaining all the information they could from the sources calculated in their judgments to furnish the best, they had determined to recommend to the House the provisions contained in the present bill. There would have been some difficulty in framing a law in such a way as to have provided for a certain annual addition to the navy. The timbers and other necessary materials could not have been procured in such a way as to ensure a punctual compliance with the law. The committee, therefore, determined to recommend an annual appropriation of one million of dollars for eight years; this would make an addition to their present naval force of nine 74 gun ships, 12 of 44 gun, and three steam batteries; two of the latter to be applied to the defence of the waters of the Chesapeake, and one to the defence of New-Orleans. The Secretary's plan of adding one 74 two 44's, and two sloops, annually, would have required an appropriation for that term upwards of a million of dollars. Mr. Pleasants observed that it was the opinion of the best informed of our naval officers that our funds had bet-

ter be applied towards procuring heavy ships immediately; That sloops of war, though of great use in time of war, might easily be procured in a very short time by the government, either by having them built at our own yards or by contract. Indeed, it was the opinion of one at least, a very intelligent officer, that sloops of war ought not to form a permanent part of our navy at all; but when it was found necessary to use them in time of war, they should be sold on the return of peace. According to an estimate, said Mr. P. made in the beginning of the session to the Senate by the Secretary of the Navy, and which is on the files of this House, it will be seen that to build & equip a 74 gun ship, will cost \$384,862—this sum, multiplied by nine, the number of 74's proposed to be built in eight years, will make \$3,468,758. The building and equipping a 44 gun frigate will cost 268,400 dollars—which sum, multiplied by twelve, the number of frigates proposed to be built in eight years, will make the sum 3,220,800 dollars. The three steam batteries they had allowed to take one million of dollars more. Thus the whole sum estimated by the committee, for building the proposed ships of the line heavy frigates and steam batteries, is 7,684,558 dollars. The committee took some pains to ascertain as far as such a thing could be ascertained with any thing like certainty, the capacity of the United States to man a fleet of such a description as the proposed addition will give us; from information received from the most intelligent sources, they have no doubt that such a fleet may be easily manned. The present number of seamen belonging to the U. States, is not ascertained with precision, but it is probable little or nothing short of 70, perhaps 80 thousand. One fourth of this number may be calculated on for public service.

The number of prime seamen allowed to a 74, is 200; ordinary seamen and boys, 300,—12 74's then require 2,400 prime, 3,000 in the whole—and so in proportion for frigates, sloops of war, &c.—It was well known also, that of the ordinary seamen and boys, landsmen may make up a part, men who can be taught to handle the guns. The whole expense of keeping a 74 in service for one year, is estimated at 189,740 dollars—of a 44, 135,210 dollars. The estimates here referred to, said Mr. Pleasants, are taken from the report of the Secretary of the Navy, before referred to; made out in detailed and minute statements, by the assistance of the Commissioners of the Navy, and may, it is believed, be confidently relied on. It was a remarkable fact, said Mr. P. that from the commencement of our revolutionary war, this nation had never been engaged in a war, but a navy had been popular. The revolutionary Congress, at a very early period of the war, authorized building, equipping and commissioning of 13 ships of war, 5 of them frigates. This, for their limited means, was a great deal. Mr. Jefferson, in his Notes on Virginia, written during the war, Mr. P. believed though not published till some time after, with full experience of the immense disadvantages to which we were subjected in a contest with a nation possessing a maritime superiority, gave it as his opinion, that Virginia ought to bend her exertions towards equipping a naval force. The amount of that force is not now particularly recollected, the passage in the Notes not having been lately read; but it was believed that the amount recommended by him, would have cost the state of Virginia as much at that time, as her proportion of the proposed increase now. But, said Mr. P. if any evidence were wanting to convince this nation of the great importance of a navy as a part of her national defensive means that evidence has been amply furnished by the events of the late war—events, thanks to the gallantry of those who achieved them, which have made an impression on the public mind so deep, that he hoped they would never be erased. Sir, said Mr. P. you have 70 or 80,000 seamen; unless you have heavy ships, this force, consisting of some of the most gallant men in the world, is lost to the public defence; they are not on your militia rolls—they will not enlist in your armies; they may be engaged in a predatory warfare as privateersmen; but, I say again, as a part of your defensive force, without heavy ships, they are lost