

Friday, December 24.

Mr. Moore presented the petition of Thomas Nelson, in behalf of the executors of sundry mariners who perished on board the frigate Randolph, which was blown up in an engagement the last war.

A committee was appointed to bring in a bill to determine how far the owners of ships or vessels, shall be liable to the freighters of goods on board thereof.

Mr. Burke gave notice that on Monday next he should move for leave to bring in a bill to alter the time of the meeting of congress.

The house then proceeded in the consideration of the amendments proposed by the committee of the whole, to the militia bill; the amendments were adopted by the house with some amendments.

The amendment proposed by Mr. Madison, to exempt persons conscientiously scrupulous of bearing arms, from militia duty, was after a long debate disagreed to, on the principle of the particular States being competent to making the exemptions in general.

The bill was then recommitted to the following committee; Mr. Giles, Mr. Wadsworth, and Mr. Tucker. Adj.

Monday, December 27.

Mr. Goodhue presented the petition of Isaac Oigood and others, praying the grant of a sum of money to enable him to carry on the brewery of malt liquors in an extensive manner; was read and referred to the secretary of the treasury.

Several other petitions praying compensation for services rendered during the late war, were read and referred to the secretary at war.

Mr. Fitzsimons from the committee appointed for that purpose, reported a bill, to ascertain how far the owners of ships or vessels shall be liable to the freighters; was read a first time.

On motion the house resolved itself into a committee of the whole house to take into consideration the report of the secretary of the treasury, on the bill making provision for the further support of public credit.

Mr. Livermore took the chair of the committee, after some time spent, the committee agreed to the following resolutions, viz.—That an additional duty of 8 cents per gallon, be laid and collected upon all distilled spirits of common proof, and in like proportion for all other distilled spirits which shall, after the day of _____ be imported into the United States.

Also, That from and after the day of _____ next, a duty of 11 cents per gallon be imposed upon all spirits of the first class of proof, distilled within the United States from sugar, molasses

or other foreign materials—Also a duty in like proportion on all other classes of proof.

Also a duty of nine cents upon all spirits of the first class of proof, distilled within any city, town or village within the United States, from materials of the growth or production, also a duty in like proportion on all other classes of proof.

That for each still employed in distilling spirits, in any other place than a city, town or village, there to be collected and paid, a yearly sum of _____ cents, for every gallon, English wine measure, of the capacity of each still, including its head.

After which the committee rose and the chairman reported the resolutions, which were read and agreed to by the house.

And a committee of five members was appointed to prepare and bring in a bill agreeably to said resolutions. The committee appointed, Messrs. Sedgwick, Trumbull, Lawrance, Wynkoop, and Smith, of Maryland.

On motion, the committee of the whole was discharged from further consideration of said report.

Mr. Fitzsimons then moved, That a committee be appointed to bring in a bill on the other parts of said report, for altering the mode of collecting the duty on wines and tea, and also to allow a longer time for collecting the same, which was referred to the foregoing committee.

On motion, the house resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the state of the Union Mr. Mivernore in the chair.

The committee took into consideration the report of the secretary of the treasury, for the establishment of land offices for the disposal of the vacant lands belonging to the United States—after some time spent in debate, the committee rose, reported progress, and asked leave to sit again.

A message was received from the senate, informing that the President of the United States had this day approved and signed an act, supplementary to an act, entitled, an act making further provision for the debt of the United States.

On motion of Mr. Fitzsimons, a committee of three was appointed to prepare and bring in a bill, to enable the collector of the district of Pennsylvania, to permit the landing of goods in other places within his district than the port of Philadelphia, as the river is obstructed by ice.

Tuesday, December 28.

A bill to ascertain how far the owners of ships or vessels shall be liable to the freighters, was read a second time, and referred to a committee of the whole

house, to be taken up on Friday next, and that 100 copies be printed.

A memorial and remonstrance of the public creditors of Burlington, Trenton, and other places in the state of New Jersey, expressing their disapprobation of part of the act making provision for the support of public credit, and praying alterations therein, was read and ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Lee from the committee appointed for that purpose, reported a bill directing the mode in which the evidences of the debt of the United States which may be lost or destroyed, shall be renewed; which was read the first time.

Mr. Tucker from the committee appointed to prepare and bring in a bill, further to provide for the national defence, by establishing a uniform militia throughout the United States—Moved, that the committee be instructed to prepare and bring in a clause to this effect. Be it enacted, that the militia of the several states of the Union, consisting of such persons as are or may be enrolled by them respectively, shall be organized, armed and disciplined in manner following, which was read, and ordered to lie on the table.

WAR DEPARTMENT,

September 9, 1796.

INFORMATION is hereby given to all the military invalids of the United States, that the sums to which they are annually entitled, and which will become due on the 4th day of March ensuing, will be paid on the said day by the Commissioners of Loans within the states respectively, under such regulations as the President of the United States may direct.

H. KNOX,

Secretary of the Department of War.

General Skinner is Commissioner of Loans for the state of North-Carolina.