

Congress of the United States.

IN SENATE,

November 11.

Mr. Leib asked and obtained leave to bring in a bill to authorize the transportation of certain documents by mail free of postage; which was read twice and ordered to a third reading.

The resolution offered by Mr. Giles on Thursday for referring so much of the President's message as relates to manufactures to a select committee, was agreed to, and Messrs. Vatnum, Worthington, Bradley, Condit and Dana appointed a committee accordingly.

The resolution offered by Mr. Worthington, for referring to a select committee so much of the message as relates to Indian affairs, was agreed to, and Messrs. Worthington, Pope, Campbell, (of Ten.) Crawford and Gregg appointed a committee thereon.

Mr. Bradley presented the petition of the Washington Canal Company, praying to be allowed to raise the sum of \$52,500 in small annual lotteries, as authorized by an act of the Maryland Legislature of November 1795, to enable them to complete the same and drain the ground through which it runs; which was read and ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Lloyd presented the petition of sundry inhabitants of Boston, Massachusetts, stating that they are interested in the importation of iron and other hardwares from England, and praying that provision may be made by law for the importation of such goods as were bona fide purchased on or before the 23d day of February last in the dominions of Great Britain, or such other equitable provisions as the wisdom and justice of Congress may devise; which was read and ordered to lie on the table.

November 12.

Alexander Campbell, from the state of Ohio, took his seat.

Mr. Giles presented the petition of Larkin Smith, collector of the district of Norfolk and Portsmouth, praying for additional compensation, for reasons therein stated. Referred to a select committee.

Pursuant to notice, Mr. Smith of Md. brought in a bill making further provision for the Corps of Engineers, which was read and passed to its second reading.

The petition of the Washington Canal Company, presented yesterday, was referred to a select committee, composed of Messrs. Bradley, Smith of Maryland, and Gaillard.

November 12.

The President communicated the memorial of Mathew Lyon, stating that he had been fined and imprisoned under the Sedition Law, and praying remuneration.

The bill making further provision for the Corps of Engineers, was read the second time & referred to a select committee consisting of Messrs. Smith, (Md.) Anderson, Bradley, Crawford and German.

The Senate then proceeded to the election of a Chaplain, when, on counting the ballots, it appeared John Breckenridge was elected.

Mr. Smith, (Md.) submitted the following motion for consideration:

Resolved, That the President of the United States be requested to cause to be laid before this house information, whether tobacco of the growth of the United States may be purchased by the Regie to the full extent of the consumption of France; if not, in what proportion may such tobacco be purchased by the Regie; whether the supplies of tobacco imported into France, (and which may be transported through France into Germany and other European States) is subject to a transit duty; and also to cause to be laid before this house, a tariff of the duties imposed by France on such of the produce & manufactures of the United States, the entry of which is permitted, and particularly of tobacco, cotton, fish oil and dried fish, and stating, if any, the difference of duty charged on such goods imported from the United States, and similar articles when introduced into France from other states, either overland or otherwise.

Mr. Worthington submitted the following resolution:

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to enquire if any, and if any, what further provisions or alterations are necessary for the dispositions of the public lands of the United States, and that they have leave to report by bill or otherwise.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

November 11.

The following members form the several Standing Committees, viz:

Committee of Ways and Means.

Messrs. Bacon, Cheves, Smilie, Bibb, Burwell, Johnson and Putkin.

Committee of Commerce and Manufactures.

Messrs. Newton, Lowndes, Mitchell, McKim, Tallmadge, Seybert and Tallman.

Committee of Claims.

Messrs. Bassett, Butler, Shaw, Brown, Mosely, Stanford and Archer.

Committee of Public Lands.

Messrs. Morrow, McKee, Gold, Breckenridge, Blackledge, Boyd, Smith, of Pen.

Committee for the District of Columbia.

Messrs. Lewis, Ringgold, Piper, Pearson, Baker, Stow and Ormsby.

Committee of Revised and Unfinished Business.

Messrs. Seybert, Jackson and Ely.

Committee of Accounts.

Messrs. Turner, Blount and Little.

Committee of the Apportionment of the Representation.

Messrs. Dawson, Williams, Grundy, Hill, (of N. Hampshire,) Quincy, Potter, Mosely, Strong, Porter, Condit, Milnor, Wright, Ridgeley, Alston, Bibb, Morrow and McKee.

Committee of Post Offices and Post-Roads.

Messrs. Rhea, Porter, Lyle, Dinsmoor, Taggart, Potter, Law, Chittenden, Hufty, Ridgeley, Kent, Shelby, King, Earle, Hill, (of Georgia) Desha and Morrow.

Petitions were presented from merchants of Philadelphia, New York, Boston, New Haven, &c. stating that they had ordered hardware and other

goods from Great Britain, a considerable part of which were wanted for our Domestic Manufactures, such as wire, &c. which had been got ready for exportation, but which could not be shipped on account of the president's proclamation; that these goods were stored in country in Canada, at their risk and expence, and praying for leave to import the same. The petitions were severally referred to the Committee of Commerce and Manufactures.

Mr. Poindexter presented the petition of W. and John Pearce, of Fort Stoddert, stating that they had paid heavy duties on goods at Mobile, while under the Spanish government, and praying relief. Referred to the Secretary of State.

Mr. P. also presented a petition from sundry persons of the Mississippi Territory on the subject of public lands, and another praying for an extension of the time for paying the last instalment on lands, which were referred to the committee on Public Lands.

Petitions were also presented from the state of Ohio on the subject of public lands, and for opening a new road.—Referred.

Mr. Reed presented the petition of the owners of the ship Mary and schooner Oceana, which had been taken under the Berlin and Milan decrees, since the issuing of the president's proclamation declaring those decrees to be repealed, praying for relief.—Referred to the committee of Commerce and Manufactures.

The petition of Samuel Hanson, of this city, praying for compensation for his services while employed in the Navy Department (presented at the last session) was, on motion, referred to the committee of Claims.

On motion of Mr. Rhea, the committee on post offices and post-roads were instructed to report a bill authorizing the members of the Senate and House of Representatives to frank the president's message with the accompanying documents, at the opening of the session, notwithstanding they may weigh more than two ounces.

A bill for this purpose was afterwards introduced, and passed its three readings.

Mr. Bacon called for the consideration of a resolution laid upon the table on Friday, to instruct the committee of Claims to enquire into the expediency of repealing or suspending the operation of the several acts of limitation, in certain cases; which was taken up and agreed to.

A committee was appointed to consider the expediency of altering the time of holding the district court for the district of Maine.

The Speaker laid before the house a communication from the comptroller of the Treasury, which was read and ordered to be printed.

A message was received from the Senate, proposing the appointment of a Chaplain, for each House; which being read and agreed to, to morrow at 12 o'clock was fixed for the ballot, on the part of this house.

On motion of Mr. Jennings, the memorial of the Legislative Council and House of Representatives of Indiana territory, praying for the people of that country, an extension of the time of payment of purchase money for the public lands, &c. was referred to the committee on Public Lands.

Adjourned.

November 12.

The following gentlemen have been named upon the select committees appointed yesterday:

Committee of Foreign Relations.—Messrs. Porter, Calhoun, Grundy, Smilie, Randolph, Harper, Key, Desha and Seaver.

On the Army, &c.—Messrs. Williams, Wright, Macon, Nelson, Stow, Maxwell and Tallmadge.

On the Naval Force, &c.—Messrs. Cheves, Newton, Milnor, Quincey, Cook, McKim, and Fisk.

On the Spanish American Colonies.—Messrs. Mitchell, Bibb, Blackledge, Taggart, Champion, Butler and Shaw.

On the manufacturing of Cannon, small Arms, &c.—Messrs. Seybert, Little, Goodwin, Tracy, and Sturges.

On Indian Affairs.—Messrs. McKee, Sevier, Morrow, Shelby and Brown.

A resolution was agreed to, instructing the committee of commerce and manufactures to enquire into the expediency of encouraging the manufacture of iron, either by imposing additional duties, or prohibiting the importation of certain kinds of iron.

After four ballots, the Rev. Mr. Sneethen, was appointed Chaplain on the part of this house for the present session.

EXPENDITURES OF MONIES.

Mr. Randolph said, the House having made a disposition of the Message of the President of the United States, he felt himself called upon to submit a motion to the consideration of the house. But as the house was then thin, he would only lay it on the table. It would have been submitted, he said, two years ago, but for the circumstances he should state to the house when more at leisure. The motion was as follows:

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to enquire and report whether monies drawn from treasury since the 3d of March, 1801, have been faithfully expended on the objects for which they were appropriated, and whether the same have been regularly accounted for?

A message was received from the President of the United States, by Mr. Coles, his Secretary, covering a correspondence between Mr. Foster, the minister of his Britannic majesty and our secretary of state, (which appears in this paper) and also a return of the late census of the United States, with 300 copies for the use of the members. The latter was referred, and the former ordered to be printed.

Wednesday, Nov. 21.

Mr. Poindexter moved that sundry petitions from the citizens and legislative council of the Mississippi territory, heretofore presented, praying to be erected into a state, be referred to a select committee. Agreed to.

Mr. Bacon asked to be excused from serving on the committee of foreign relations, being already a member of the committee of ways and means. Excused.

On motion of Mr. Morrow it was resolved that the committee on public lands be instructed to enquire into the expediency of suspending the operation of so much of the 6th section of the act for the sale of public land in the territories of Orleans

and Louisiana as directs the land offices to be opened in January, 1812, and to report by bill.

The Speaker communicated to the house a petition, from Mathew Lyon, of Kentucky, stating that he had been prosecuted and convicted under the sedition law; that one part of his punishment was the payment of a heavy fine, which he prays may be refunded, &c.

The petition being read, Mr. New moved that it be referred, with the accompanying documents, to the committee of claims.

Mr. Randolph moved to amend the reference by adding to it the following:

With instructions to enquire whether any and what prosecutions have been instituted before the courts of the United States for libels, under the sedition law or the common law, and by what authority; and to make such provisions as they may deem necessary for securing the freedom of speech and of the press.

The amendment was agreed to, and the petition referred.

November 14.

The following members form the committee to which Mathew Lyon's petition is referred, viz: Messrs. New, Troup, Cooke, Randolph, Whitehill, Wright and Mosely.

Mr. Pickins presented the petition of Michael Reap, of North Carolina, a wounded soldier in the revolutionary war, praying to be placed on the pension list, which was referred, as were several others presented of a similar kind.

Mr. Rhea, from the committee appointed on the subject, reported a bill providing for the government of the territory of Louisiana, which was twice read and committed. [This bill provides a government of the second territorial grade for Louisiana.]

Mr. Rhea moved the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the committee of commerce and manufactures be instructed to enquire into the expediency of laying additional duties on all coarse manufactures of flax and hemp.

Mr. Stanford observed that as this resolution contemplated a tax, it must, by an express rule of the House (which he read) lie one day upon the table. It was ordered to lie accordingly.

Mr. Condit laid the following resolution on the table:

Resolved, That the committee of commerce and manufactures, be instructed to enquire into the expediency of encouraging the manufacture of hempen goods, either by protecting import duties, or by prohibiting the importation of all hempen articles into the United States, with leave to report by bill.

Cheapeake Affair adjusted!

MESSAGE.

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

I communicate to Congress copies of a correspondence between the envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of Great Britain and the Secretary of State, relative to the aggression committed by a British ship of war on the United States frigate Chesapeake, by which it will be seen that that subject of difference between the two countries, is terminated by an offer of reparation which has been accepted.

JAMES MADISON.

Washington, November 13, 1811.

MR. FOSTER TO MR. MONROE.

Washington, October 30, 1811.

SIR,

I had already the honor to mention to you that I came to this country furnished with instructions from His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, in the name and on the behalf of his majesty, for the purpose of proceeding to a final adjustment of the differences which have arisen between Great Britain and the United States of America in the affair of the Chesapeake frigate, and I had also that of acquainting you with the necessity under which I found myself of suspending the execution of those instructions in consequence of my not having perceived that any steps whatever were taken by the American Government to clear up the circumstances of an event which threatened so materially to interrupt the harmony subsisting between our two countries, as that which occurred in the month of last May between the United States ship President and his majesty's ship Little Belt, when every evidence before his majesty's Government seemed to shew that a most evident and wanton outrage had been committed on a British sloop of war by an American Commodore.

A Court of Enquiry however, as you informed me in your letter of the 11th inst. has since been held by order of the President of the United States on the conduct of Commodore Rodgers, and this preliminary to further discussion on the subject being all that I asked in the first instance as due to the friendship subsisting between the two States, I have now the honor to acquaint you that I am ready to proceed in the truest spirit of conciliation to lay before you the terms of reparation which his royal highness has commanded me to propose to the United States Government, and only wait to know when it will suit your convenience to enter upon the discussion.

I have the honor to be, with the highest consideration and respect, sir, your most obedient humble servant.

AUG. J. FOSTER.

To the Hon. James Monroe, &c. &c. &c.

MR. MONROE TO MR. FOSTER.

Department of State Oct. 31, 1811.

SIR,

I have just had the honor to receive your letter of the 30th of this month.

I am glad to find that the communication which had the honor to make to you on the 11th inst. relative to the court of enquiry, which was the subject of it, is viewed by you in the favorable light which you have stated.

Although I regret that the proposition which you now make in consequence of that communication, has been delayed to the present moment, I am ready to receive the terms of it whenever you may think proper to communicate them. Permit me to add, that the pleasure of finding them

satisfactory will be duly augmented, if they should be introductory to a removal of all the differences depending between our two countries, the hope of which is so little encouraged by your part correspondence. A prospect of such a result will be embraced, on my part, with a spirit of conciliation, equal to that which has been expressed by you.

I have the honor to be, &c.

JAMES MONROE.

Aug. J. Foster, Esq. &c. &c.

MR. FOSTER TO MR. MONROE.

Washington, Nov. 11, 1811.

SIR,

In pursuance of the orders which I have received from his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, in the name and on the behalf of his Majesty, for the purpose of proceeding to a final adjustment of the differences which have arisen between Great Britain and the United States in the affair of the Chesapeake frigate, I have the honor to acquaint you—First, that I am instructed to repeat to the American government the prompt disavowal made by his majesty (and recited in Mr. Erskine's note of April 17, 1809, to Mr. Smith) on being apprized of the unauthorized act of the officer in command of his naval forces on the coast of America, whose recall from an highly important and honorable command immediately ensued as a mark of his majesty's disapprobation.

Secondly, that I am authorized to offer, in addition to that disavowal, on the part of his royal highness, the immediate restoration, as far as circumstances will admit, of the men who in consequence of Admirable Berkeley's orders were forcibly taken out of the Chesapeake to the vessel from which they were taken; or if that ship should be no longer in commission to such seaport of the United States as the American government may name for the purpose.

Thirdly, that I am also authorized to offer to the American government a suitable pecuniary provision for the sufferers in consequence of the attack on the Chesapeake, including the families of those seamen who unfortunately fell in the action, and of the wounded survivors.

These honorable propositions, I can assure you, sir, are made with the sincere desire that they may prove satisfactory to the government of the United States, and I trust will meet with that amicable reception which their conciliatory nature entitles them to. I need scarcely add how cordially I join with you in the wish that they might prove introductory to a removal of all the differences depending between our two countries.

I have the honor to be, with the greatest consideration and respect, sir, your most obedient humble servant.

AUG. J. FOSTER.

To the Honorable

James Monroe, &c. &c. &c.

MR. MONROE TO MR. FOSTER.

November 12, 1811.

SIR,

I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 1st November and lay it before the President.

It is much to be regretted that for such an aggression as that for which an American frigate was sent to sea, and which has been so long delayed, nor the offending officer from one of our ships, be regarded as constituting a reparation otherwise satisfactory; considering however the existing circumstances of the case, and the early and amicable attention paid to it by his royal highness the prince regent, the President accedes to the proposition contained in your letter, and in so doing government will, I am persuaded, see a proof of the conciliatory disposition by which the President has been actuated.

The officer commanding the Chesapeake now lying in the harbor of Boston, will be instructed to receive the men who are to be restored to that ship.

I have the honor, &c.

JAS. MONROE.

Augustus J. Foster, Esq. &c. &c. &c.

Legislature of North Carolina.

Monday, Nov. 13, 1811.

This being the regular day of meeting for the Legislature of North Carolina, at 3 o'clock each branch assembled in the State House and formed a quorum. General Riddick, of Gates, was re-appointed Speaker of the Senate; Gen. M. Stokes, clerk; and Maj. R. Williams, assistant clerk. Messrs. Murphey and Hartfield, doorkeepers.

In the commons, Wm. Hawkins, esq. of Granville, was re-appointed speaker; Major Pleasant Henderson, clerk; and Mr. Wm. B. Lockhart, assistant clerk. Messrs. Pounds and Lumsden were re-chosen doorkeepers.

Tuesday, Nov. 19.

Nothing but the usual business of the first of a session transacted.

Wednesday, Nov. 20.

Several committees were appointed. Mr. Benjamin H. Covington, was re-elected en-grossing clerk.

Mr. Cameron presented a bill to facilitate and open the navigation of Cape Fear River;

Mr. Steele a bill to establish courts of equity, separate and distinct from courts of law;

And Mr. J. J. Daniel, a bill to punish those who steal or rob persons of bank notes, bonds, &c. Which bills were severally read and sent to the senate.

Several petitions, &c. were presented and referred.

At 12 o'clock the following message from his Excellency the Governor, was communicated to both houses, by Mr. Glyn, the Private Secretary:

The Governor's Message.

TO THE HONORABLE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA.

Fellow Citizens of the Senate and of the House of Representatives,

The important period has once more arrived when by the wise provision of our well-tryed and highly approved constitution, those who are selected by the vote of a free people for their integrity and ability are convened for the purpose of con-