

It was opposed on the ground that these carriages were nevertheless used by those well able to pay the tax, which was by no means disproportionate to the other taxes proposed.

The question was then taken on the resolution as reported by the committee, and carried in the affirmative. Yeas 72, Nays 48.

The 10th resolution proposes a stamp tax on certain bank and other notes.

The question on the resolution was divided, on the suggestion of Mr. Little, so as to take a question, distinctly, on the two clauses of the resolution.

The question on that part which goes to tax bank notes at the rate of one dollar for every hundred dollars was carried, Yeas 74.

The other clause of the resolution proposes to lay a tax of five cents for every 100 dollars, on all endorsed notes of hand and bills of exchange.

This clause was objected to by Mr. Little on the ground of its oppressive nature and the odium which former experience had attached to it in the minds of the people.

Mr. Bacon replied that this tax was now so arranged as not to afford the same cause of complaint as former stamp taxes, because it would not operate on the poor, would subject the people in thinly settled countries to no difficulty in obtaining them, and would generally affect only large capitalists or extensive traders in the cities.

Mr. McKim said that, however oppressive he might deem this and perhaps all the other taxes, he felt in some degree pledged at present to vote for the whole report of the committee.

The question was taken on this clause and carried Yeas 65, Nays 53.

The next resolution embraces the direct tax of three millions, to be apportioned as provided by the constitution.

On this question a discussion took place, foreign to the question immediately before the house viz. on a doubt stated by Mr. Randolph, whether the tax was to be laid according to the present representation in Congress, or according to the number of the people of the United States as ascertained by the latest enumeration.

Messrs. Bacon, McKim, Lowndes and Widgery declared their opinion in favour of the latter mode; but Mr. Randolph declared it to be a question of insuperable difficulty, inasmuch as, if the taxation was apportioned by the present Congress according to the last enumeration (which has not yet affected the representation) it would be a violation of the vital principle of the constitution, that representation and taxation must go hand in hand.

The resolution was agreed to, on the question's being taken. Yeas 77, Nays 39.

The next resolution, that each state may pay the whole direct tax apportioned to its share, with a deduction of 15 per cent. was agreed to. Yeas 73, Nays 37.

Next came under consideration the resolution that the taxes thus laid shall not take effect until the commencement of the war, or until letters of marque and reprisal shall have been issued. This was agreed as follows: Yeas 80, Nays 26.

The next and last resolution reported by the committee of finance provides that these taxes shall continue no longer than one year after the conclusion of the war. Agreed to, Yeas, 72 Nays 27.

The question was then taken on all the resolutions, taken together, and agreed to. Yeas 56, Nays 34.

The resolutions were then referred to the committee of Ways and Means, with directions to report by bill.

STATE OF ORLEANS.

The following message was received from the President of the United States:

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

At the request of the Convention assembled in the territory of Orleans on the 22d day of November last, I transmit to Congress the proceedings of that body in pursuance of the act entitled "an act to enable the people of the territory of Orleans to form a constitution and state government and for the admission of the said state into the Union on an equal footing with the original states and for other purposes."

JAMES MADISON.

March, 3d 1812.

The message, &c. having been read, a proposition was made to refer it to a select committee; but, before it was decided, the House adjourned.

Stateigh:

FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 1812.

The House of Representatives have reconsidered their vote and reversed the decision against the Salt Tax, by a majority of twelve votes.

The Legislature of New York has rejected one of the applications from the city for a Bank of Five or Six Millions.

Col. William Polk, having been understood to decline the appointment in the new army, to which he had been recommended, we learn that James Welborn of Wilkes will be appointed colonel of the N. C. regiment. A. F. McNeill, of Wilmington, and Benajah White of Cranford, lieut. colonels; Thomas Taylor, of Granville, and Daniel M. Foitney of Rowan, majors.

The Columbian, a Clintonian paper, printed in New York, has at length boldly recommended De Witt Clinton as the next President of the U. States.—We have not seen the paper, but we have the information from a source that admits of no doubt. Mr. Madison seems somewhat in a tottering situation.

Never has it been our disposition to withhold credit where credit was justly due. Whatever may be the conduct of the conductors of Federal prints, and however far their conduct would go to compromise the character of the Federal Party, in justice to the Federal Representation in Congress it ought not to be concealed, that during the

present session their conduct has been highly decorous to the majority and honorable to themselves. However they may have disapproved of any measures which the present state of affairs has called for, it cannot be laid to their charge that they have impeded the execution of public measures by unreasonable debate; nor even that they are wilful in opposition. It is not for us to say how far this change may be traced to the absence of some of the most violent of the party from the Public Councils; whatever may be the cause, we have no doubt they now truly represent the mass of their constituents, whose sentiments are so much distorted and misrepresented in the prints whic receive their patronage.—Nat. Int.

The whole report of the Committee of Finance, on the subject of the War taxes, has been agreed to, and referred to that committee to bring in a bill or bills accordingly. Every resolution was decided by Yeas and Nays.—Ibid.

The Senate have refused to authorise the building of an additional number of frigates, and have reduced the appropriation made by the House of Representatives, for the repair of vessels, to 300,000 dollars.

That body also reduced from one million to 500,000 dollars the appropriation for the protection of our maritime frontier; in which reduction the House yesterday concurred.—Nat. Int.

On the 6th instant, in the house of Representatives, Mr. Grundy, of Tennessee, offered the following resolution which was agreed to:

Resolved, That the committee on Public Lands be directed to enquire, what further provisions are necessary to be made, for satisfying such claims to lands within the state of Tennessee, as are recognised by the act of cession, from the state of North Carolina to the United States, and are not yet located, and that they also enquire into the proper steps to be taken for perpetrating the testimony and establishing the claims to lands heretofore located (agreeably to the laws of North Carolina) in that part of the state of Tennessee to which the Indian title is not extinguished, & that they have leave to report by bill or otherwise."

RUMORS!

It is rumored, that another dispatch vessel is to be sent to France and England—that Col. MONROE is to have the chief command of the army against Canada, Gen. DEARBORN preferring to retain his collectorship—and that Gov. HARRISON is to be made a Brigadier General. We by no means vouch for the authenticity of these rumors; and we do not ardently hope they may not all prove true.—Ibid.

Extract from Washington to the Editor of the Virginia Patriot.

FRIDAY, Feb. 28.

The greater part of the war mongers in the house are in extreme distress. This was evidenced very plainly yesterday. As soon as the order of the day was taken, and the first resolution passed, 71 to 40, Mr. Fisk moved for an indefinite postponement. With all the hearts, with all the strength, might and mind, as the primer says, the greater part of them would willingly have acceded to the proposition; but the abandonment at once of all war measures would immediately have been known to be the necessary result. They cast about in their minds for plausible excuses for joining in the measure, but could find none that they believed would satisfy the people. They therefore wisely made a virtue of necessity, and urged the absurdity of the proposition.

Mr. Porter supported the motion. Smilie opposed it. What, said he, make yourselves the laughing stock of the world, the bye word of all nations? How often have these same gentlemen who are now desirous of postponement, told us that the spirit of the people was up to the war point; and that we were behind them.

Colonel Troup said he was quite tired of this temporising hesitating system which had been so long pursued by congress. What is, what can be, more injurious to our national character? Our national character is sunk already almost past redemption; and he feared no suitable efforts would be made for its exaltation. The Emperor of France has told us in so many words that we are a good for nothing, trifling sort of people, with neither spirit, honor nor policy, worthy neither his friendship nor hatred. And what does England declare to us by her actions? Fighting almost the whole world alone, and in her greatest distress, she cares nothing about our friendship, the friendship of eight millions of people. He begged there might be no more delay. He felt indignant, too much so to proceed and use decorous language.

Mr. Fisk was surprised to see the gentleman from Pennsylvania so earnest to day, who yesterday declared he would vote against the whole of the taxes unless that on whiskey was stricken out. The gentleman was now unwilling to postpone, yet yesterday would stop the whole war proceedings, if his particular property was taxed. We know not that these taxes will be wanted. He would be a strange physician, who when called to visit a patient, should feel of his pulse and prescribe, for the first thing, that he should send for an undertaker and procure his coffin. The moment you declare war the people will bear taxes with patience, but they will not otherwise.

Mr. Calhoun told them it was too late now to postpone; it should have been done, if at all before the taxes had been agreed to in committee of the whole. Such argument, in the eyes of the people, would certainly amount to a sanction of the taxes. If the people cannot bear the prospect of taxes, how can they bear war? There is no danger in exciting their prejudices, except by our dilatory conduct.

Mr. Widgery wished delay. He was not satisfied with all the taxes. The addition of 100 per cent duty he said would prevent any revenue instead of increasing it, for no merchant would give one third of his cargo for duties.

Mr. Cheves spoke against postponement. Smilie said he was not opposed to the tax on whiskey but to the manner of collecting it.

Fisk amended his motion by postponing to next Monday week instead of till All Fools day.

WAR

Is inevitable; and all classes of the community ought to be thoroughly persuaded of this truth: Congress will not retreat farther; we have endured war long enough; we must make it in return.—The recent proceedings of congress, though not marked by calm discrimination, are an earnest that they will not hesitate much longer. Certain we are, the people will not grudge them the means of making a necessary war—even if they act with spirit, the public will be loath to impeach their judgment—notwithstanding the adoption in gross of a gross budget.

Since the people will cheerfully contribute funds to regain our rights by war: since they will sacrifice much to obtain the great object other momentous considerations intrude upon us—

What sort of men have we at the helm, to conduct the important and multifarious operations preparatory to and necessary in war?

Is the president of the proper mould for managing them aright?

Were the dismissal of the volunteers on Erskine's arrangement, and that waiting, spy-glass, message sending and answer waiting policy, which have produced a paralysis in the military ardour of the country, evidences of his fitness?

Is the horrible treatment of general Wilkinson, or the unparalleled reprimand pronounced against an honorable court martial, calculated to fan the military flame in a generous breast?

And suppose the war commenced, is the retention in the treasury department of the known friend of unconstitutional banks,—who will lie in wait at the winding up or progress of events, for an occasion to favor speculators, and stab the constitution for sake of a particular monied interest—is such retention, we ask, a mark of respect for public opinion or devotion to the public good?

Of the secretary of war—but—

And, of the sending out the Hornet, now so eagerly looked for,—which probably enticed many a ship to sail abroad which the enemy will not suffer to return,—what shall we say?

—If the Hornet had not been dispatched, we presume that an embargo would have been laid long since by congress—and a wise measure it would have been. Now, our enemies are supplied with provision; and we retaliate their hostilities, just after having filled their store houses with food!

It is certainly painful to look back on what is done, and we cannot recal; but it is in order to direct closer attention to the great events at hand.

Of the result of the contest, we entertain no fear; whatever checks and interruptions we may suffer along our coast or at sea, the war will scarcely visit our territory—and its termination shall exhibit honour and justice triumphant beneath the protecting wing of the American Eagle; our rights acknowledged; our scamen redeemed; our manufactures deep rooted as the oak; our character respected; and the English lion sick to death, panting or expiring in his cave, with insurrection, tumult, bankruptcy, horror, woe and reproach; at once the mementoes and rewards of his crimes all strewn thick about him!—Yes; although Mr. Perceval has recently declared in parliament, that "America should not be the least sufferer in case of war," we do not believe him; indeed, we hardly think he believed himself.

But, in order to ensure the best result at the least expense, (of time, blood and treasure,) we must have intelligent and resolute men both for counsel and conduct, for the cabinet and the field. Whether our present executive officers (above mentioned) are of this description, let the present attitude and readiness of the country witness, and the people and their representatives judge.

Under all circumstances, war is desirable on several accounts—it would purify the moral and political body, and correct degeneracy of soul and habit; banish lethargy and dissolve intrigue; give talent and worth their merited station, and send incompetency, state quackery and egotism Coventry. The day that Congress magnanimously cross the Rubicon, should be reckoned a jubilee; and its annual return be celebrated thro' the country forever.—Dalt. Whig.

PLANS, PRO AND CONTRA;

(For Fudge Fables and for genuine State-men.)

We are disposed by the temper which (we presume) actuates congress, and its influence on others, to believe, that No. I. following applies only to what has been, not what is or will be, the policy of the executive: and that No. II. is in consent with the sentiments and determination of every true American and of his representative.

No. I. GRAND PROJECT.

As the administration are constantly straining their eye-strings and risking the dislocation of their necks by long looks towards Europe, and struggling to reach what they cannot discern; as it is desirable to see all that happens abroad; and, as the convexity of the globe (not to say a word about distance) presents impediments to the sight,—which impediment must be overcome: be it therefore

1. Resolved, That the Allegheny mountains be the base of a pyramid or mammoth watch-tower fifty thousand cubits and a span in height; that there be placed in said tower revolving on an axis and fulcrum a huge telescope one mile and three quarters long; that trusty and scientific watchman be stationed in the upper story of said tower to "keep a good look out," note what passes, when Philip nods, laughs, sneezes, or moves, rises up or sits down,—and communicate the tidings by signal to a gazebo which is to be erected on the top of the president's house at Washington.

2. Resolved, That a committee be appointed to carry this sublime suggestion into effect; to devise appropriate devices for the observatory, and secure its turrets against lightning; that if our committee be unable to discover funds sufficient, they be and are hereby authorized to borrow Mr. Gallatin's glasses.

3. Resolved, That the Tower of Babel, the Colossus at Rhodes, and pyramids of-Egypt, shall be and are hereby reckoned mere trembling atoms

(seen only in the sunbeam) compared with our Apalachian wonder of the world.

4. Resolved, That this invention will enable us to dispense with dispatch vessels at this critical moment when it is perilous to embark on salt water by reason of the sharks which infest it.

No II. COUNTER PROJECT.

As we have been kept awake for years by cares and anxieties about Philip; let Philip suffer inquietude in his turn: as we have been waiting to hear from Philip, let Philip be solicitous to hear from us: as Philip has cuffed us, let us kick Philip: as Philip plunders and murders on water, let us take vengeance of him on land: as Philip obstructs the great highway of nations and robs all the passengers who are not licensed by himself, let us confine him to that highway,—let him neither pillage for money nor forage for provisions beyond its margin; then, as he led the life, so shall he meet the end of an highwayman: as Philip lives by the sword; that peace and justice may revisit the earth and seas. "And let all the people say AMEN."—Whig.

*And at sea too, as much possible.

DEFENCE FOR CONGRESS.

They go into session a little after the snakes retire to winter quarters—they receive six dollars a-day; and as agriculture is not heeded for near six months, they are not wanted on their farms, not to mention that this class make more at Washington—As for the mercantile members, what can they do more profitable than to sit in congress and their lodgings "dum pelogo de savit hyems et aquosus Orion?" The avaricious lay up dollars; the duffers spend them; the gamblers play away; the talkers talk away; and the times passes away. How, then, can congress act; when by the badness of the system it is made their individual interest not to dispatch business? Reduce the per diem,—elect no man more than twice successively,—the evil shall disappear.—Ibid.

DEFENCE FOR MR. GALLATIN.

He knows, that the representatives of the people ought themselves to digest every great national measure. They are elected and paid for doing so. When, therefore, they ask him for a fish he is justifiable in giving them a scorpion; to prevent farther and improper importunity.—Ibid.

MARRIED.

In Granville on the 3rd inst. Doctor Archibald B. Ridley of Sparta, (Georgia) to Miss Henrietta M. A. Lewis, of the former place.

DIED.

In Wilmington on the 22d ult. in the 56th year of her age, Mrs. Mary Mabson, relict of the late Arthur Mabson, Esq.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, CUMBERLAND COUNTY.

March Term, 1812.

WE the GRAND JURORS of Cumberland County, in discharging the trust reposed in us by the Public, cannot forbear noticing an act of the last General Assembly, vesting in future Legislatures the right of choosing Electors to vote for President and Vice President of the United States. This right has heretofore been vested in and exercised by the People, the only legitimate source of all power, and never has been abused by them. We consider the act taking this right from the People as unwarranted by any existing necessity, as repugnant to the principles of our republican institutions, and as dangerous to the liberties of the people. No expression of the public will had ever been made, which called upon the Legislature for such a change; no necessity existed which can justify such a daring and dangerous assumption of power. We can view this act of the General Assembly in no other light than as a bold attempt to wrest from the people, a right which constitutionally belonged to them; as a stepping stone to bolder and more dangerous usurpations of power; as an entering wedge to other measures which will eventually overthrow our free institutions.

We the Grand Jury, do therefore present the said act as being unconstitutional, unnecessary and dangerous. And do further present that such usurpations of power ought not to be quietly endured, but resisted by all legitimate means; and for such purpose, we do hereby enter for ourselves and the body of our county, our hearty disapprobation of the said unconstitutional, unnecessary, dangerous and anti-republican act.

JOHN BLACK, FOREMAN.
WILLIAM AVERA,
HENRY MORGAN,
THOS. RICHARDSON,
HUGH McLEAN,
ROBERT HALLIDAY,
J. V. D. MATTHEWS,
DAVID RAY,
WELL. McNEEL,
WELL. SHAW,
ARCHIBALD BLACK,
ELISHA STEDMAN,
ANGUS RAY.

By the Court Ordered, That the Clerk transmit a copy of the said presentment to the Editors of the Minerva, to be inserted three weeks.

I certify that the foregoing is a true copy from the Minutes,
Test, ROBINSON MUMFORD, Clerk.
Cumberland County Court

Notice.

LOST, sometime in December last, 1811 (say about the 19th or 20th) a Note of fifteen hundred and ninety dollars and sixty-five cents, with interest thereon from the 29th of May 1810, which Note was made to me Willie Fort. Guardian to William Fort, by John Cotton and Henry Cotton, and witnessed by Benjamin Dickinson.—The above description is to the best of my knowledge; I therefore forwarn and caution any person against receiving or in any way or manner trading for the said Note, as it is my property and have renewed another for the same.

WILLIE FORT.
February 25th 1812.