

of his house. This is not the gentleman's language but it is clearly his meaning. I would not for worlds mistake it. Whence is this position derived? That the Speaker is not accountable to any other tribunal than his house for wrongs committed as Speaker, is indeed true. But where is the principle to be found, which reflects his accountability to wrongs committed by the members? If in the exercise of a discretionary authority conferred on him by the house, the Speaker errs, and the consequence is inconvenience or injury to any individual of the nation, sign or law, private or public, it is an obvious dictate of justice, that the house should hasten to redress the injury, to remove the inconvenience resulting from this error. The Speaker is their agent—their organ. His acts are to be deemed theirs. Whenever those acts are disapproved of, the house will, and ought, to disavow them. But how has it become necessary to enquire into this doctrine? There is nothing in the resolution now before us, and which the gentleman from Georgia proposes to amend that calls for such a discussion. Without enquiring whether the decision of the Speaker be right or wrong, without pronouncing an opinion on the individual case of Mr. Richards, it directs that arrangements shall be made for the accommodation of additional stenographers. By such a resolution the difficulties of the Speaker will be removed, and the case of Mr. Richards again submitted to him, after the removal of those difficulties.

But, says the hon. gentleman, this resolution growing out of the petition of Mr. Richards, is substantially a compliance with that petition, and an affirmation that the Speaker has done him wrong as he complains. Here, it seems to me, the gentleman errs in point of fact. Mr. Richards states the facts of his case, simply and truly, without the allegation of a wrong being committed by the Speaker. The mistake of the gentleman in this respect, seems to be entirely founded on an overstrained and erroneous construction of the word "excluded." Surely the gentleman has not exercised in this particular his usual critical acumen. Neither in common language, nor in strict etymology does the word exclude imply the idea of previous possession. Are not strangers excluded from the floor of this hall? Yet is it thence to be inferred that they ever had possession of it? No, sir, we exclude, when we inhibit entrance—when we shut out—when we refuse admittance. We expel when we drive out of possession. Nor does Mr. Richards represent the use of this floor as a right to which he is entitled but expressly as a privilege, which was accorded at the last session, and which he prays may be renewed at this. There is not, sir, to my apprehension, anything in the petition of Mr. Richards which can shock the most fastidious delicacy—the most scrupulous regard for the dignity of the chair.

These are the simple facts of the case. Under an order of the house directing stenographers to be admitted by the Speaker when it can be done without inconvenience the petitioner made application to be received as such. This application was rejected because, as the Speaker informs us, the boxes erected could accommodate but four, and the four admitted had prior claims. The committee of the whole recommend additional boxes that more may be accommodated; and for this we must not accede, because it will simulate a doubt whether the Speaker was right in the opinion that the boxes erected could accommodate but four! This inference may with some appear to be fairly deduced, but in my judgment it is any thing but logical.

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Tuesday, June 8.

A bill from the Senate supplemental to the naturalization laws, was committed to a committee of the whole.

On motion of Mr. Fisk of Vermont, Resolved, That the committee of foreign relations be instructed to inquire into the expediency of making further provision by law for prohibiting trade and intercourse between the citizens of the United States and the enemies thereof, & that they report by bill or otherwise.

On motion of Mr. McKim, Resolved, That the Secretary of the Treasury be directed to report to this House what progress has been made in preparing a digest of the acts and manufactures of the United States, from the returns reported to him by the marshals, as directed by a joint resolution of both Houses of Congress in February, 1812.

The Speaker laid before the House a resolution of the General Presbytery in Philadelphia, requesting that the government may set apart a day for general fasting, humiliation and prayer. Laid on the table.

The house again resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. Lewis in the chair, on the report of the committee of elections for allowing to Mr. Harris, of Tennessee, and Mr. Kelly, who contests his election, a further time of three months to procure evidence in relation to the same.

After considerable further debate, the report was adopted in committee, and confirmed by the house, where the vote was

For the report	192
Against it	35

The house then adjourned.

Wednesday, June 9.

Mr. Kennedy presented the petition of Samuel Ralston, a citizen of the United States, praying a remission of fines, penalties and forfeitures, incurred by an unintentional violation of the non-importation law. Referred.

Mr. Cheves presented the petition of Daniel Mackey, praying a remission of penalties incurred for the importation of goods from Great Britain, which was referred to the committee of Ways and Means.

Mr. McLean offered the following resolutions for consideration.

Resolved, That the committee on Military Affairs be instructed to enquire into the expediency of making some provision for the widows and orphans of the militia slain by the enemy, or who may hereafter be slain by them, during the present war, while in the actual service of the United

States, and for whose families no provision exists by law, and that they report by bill or otherwise.

Resolved, That the committee of Claims be instructed to enquire, whether any provision ought to be made for the indemnification of those persons who had property taken into the service of the North Western Army under the command of general Hull, and which in consequence of his surrender of the garrison at Detroit, fell into the hands of the enemy; and that they report by bill or otherwise.

Mr. McLean introduced these resolutions by observing that he had examined the existing provisions of the laws on the subject of the first resolution, and had not been able to find that they embraced the object therein contemplated. There was indeed, he said, a provision for volunteers for 12 months, but none for the families of those who volunteered for a shorter period. He trusted that on this subject there could exist no difference of opinion; but that the government would make such provision for the Representatives of the men who had fallen in service as might in some degree free them from the pressure of want. It appeared to him that the enquiry ought not to be made, whether or not an individual slain in battle had been regularly enlisted or had volunteered for twelve months. The only question ought to be—was he, when he fell, fighting under the eagle of his nation against the enemies of his country? No matter whether he came to his death in resisting the marauders of our coast, or the savage enemy—his family was entitled to relief. The latter part of the resolution, Mr. McLean said, was intended to institute an enquiry into the propriety of making provision for those persons, whose property was taken into public service by the detachment under the command of general Hull, who had assisted that army in its progress to Detroit, and, in consequence of the surrender of that place, fell into the hands of the enemy. Although that property had been generally valued, yet from the confusion which ensued on the surrender, many of those valuations had been lost. Mr. M. said he was informed that many applications had been made on this head to the Pay-master General, who could not pay the money, it appeared, without regular vouchers. Persons thus situated had a right to appeal to their country, and ask for remuneration; and he hoped they would not be refused.

The first proposition was agreed to. Mr. Seybert suggested the propriety of making the inquiry proposed in the second resolution more general; and

Mr. Grosvenor moved to strike out the latter part of the resolution, and in lieu of it insert, "those persons whose property has been captured or destroyed by the enemy during the present war." He did not propose a general provision for the relief of all who should come under this description; but there were an hundred cases, perhaps, to which relief ought to be extended, as well as to the sufferers at Detroit. The committee would, by having the whole subject before them, report generally, and save the House the trouble of distinct references.

Mr. Findley said that in all the revolutionary war, no provision had been made to compensate persons for property destroyed by the enemy. A distinction had always been taken in favor of property destroyed in the public service. The principle proposed in the amendment, which would include every vessel captured at sea, was not likely to be gone into. He wished the resolution to lie for further consideration. He was of opinion some further legal provision was necessary, but how far he was not prepared to say. The resolution was ordered to lie on the table.

### NATURALIZATION LAWS.

On motion of Mr. Fisk, of N. Y. the House resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. Desha in the chair, on the following bill:

A bill supplementary to the acts heretofore passed on the subject of an uniform rule of naturalization.

Be it enacted, &c. That all alien enemies resident in the United States or the territories thereof, on the eighteenth day of June, one thousand eight hundred and twelve, may be admitted citizens of the United States, at the times, and in the manner prescribed by the laws heretofore passed on that subject, any thing in any former law to the contrary notwithstanding: Provided, That no alien enemies shall be admitted citizens, who shall not, within nine months after the passage of this act, make such declaration of their intention as is required by law: And provided also, That nothing herein contained shall be taken or construed to interfere or prevent the apprehension and removal, agreeably to law, of any alien enemy, at any time previous to the actual naturalization of such alien.

The bill was read through, and no opposition being made to it, was reported to the House.

Mr. Burwell stated that he was not perfectly prepared at present to act on this bill, & was desirous to offer amendments—one of which he wished to propose for the purpose, if acceptable to the House, of confining the privilege of naturalized citizens to residents within the United States. He therefore moved that the bill lie on the table for the present.

After a few words from Mr. Deussen, who appeared to think that such a provision, if necessary, need not be incorporated in this bill; the bill was ordered to lie on the table.

Thursday, June 10.

### THE WAYS AND MEANS.

Mr. Eppes, from the committee of ways and means, made the following

### REPORT.

The committee of ways and means, to whom was referred so much of the message of the president of the United States as relates to the establishment of a well digested system of internal revenue, have had the same under consideration. They deem it unnecessary to say any thing as to the necessity of providing additional revenue at a time when the general rate of expenditure has been so much increased by measures necessarily connected with a state of war. A reference to the Report from the Treasury Department and from

the committee of ways and means, during the last and preceding years, will shew that a provision for additional revenue can no longer be delayed, without a violation of all those principles held sacred in every country where the value and importance of national credit have been justly estimated. They have reviewed the system heretofore presented, and taking into consideration its having been sanctioned in its principles by a vote of the house of representatives, have determined to recommend its adoption, with some modification, in preference to commencing a new system at a period when neither the principles or details could receive that mature consideration on which alone they could venture to recommend its adoption. The bills heretofore reported were founded on estimates which assumed for a basis the providing a revenue sufficient to meet the expenses of the peace establishment, the interest on the old debt, and on such new loans as have been or may hereafter be authorized. The several items for the year 1814, are estimated as follows:

The expenses of the peace establishment at	7,000,000
The interest on the Public Debt.	2,100,000
On the old Funded	
On six per cent. stock of 1812, including temporary loans received in part of the loan of eleven millions, which will remain unpaid in 1814	500,000
On six per cent. stock of 1813	1,000,000
On Treasury Notes which will be reimbursable in 1814, say on 5,000,000 at 5 2-5 per cent	270,000
	3,960,000
On the loan for 1814—interest payable within that year	440,000
	4,400,000
The revenue now established being estimated to produce	5,800,000
Leaves to be provided for	5,600,000
To meet which sum the committee propose	
A direct tax of	5,000,000
INTERNAL DUTIES, VIZ.	
Duties on stills, say	765,000
On refined sugar	200,000
On retail licences	50,000
On sales at auction	50,000
On carriages	150,000
On bank notes and negotiable paper	400,000
On salt at 20 cents	400,000
Additional duty on foreign tonnage	800,000
	3,665,000
Deduct for expenses of collection, assessment and losses	700,000
Leaves	5,615,000

The committee therefore ask leave to report the following bills:

1. A bill for the assessment and collection of direct taxes.
2. A bill to lay and collect a direct tax within the U States.
3. A bill laying a duty on imported salt.
4. A bill establishing the office of Commissioner of the Revenue.
5. A bill laying duties on licences to retailers of wines, spirituous liquors and foreign merchandise.
6. A bill laying duties on carriages for the conveyance of persons.
7. A bill laying duties on licences to distillers of spirituous liquors.
8. A bill laying duties on sales at auction of foreign merchandise and of ships and vessels.
9. A bill laying duties on sugars refined within the United States.
10. A bill laying duties on bank notes and on notes of hand and foreign bills of exchange of certain descriptions.
11. A bill making further provision for the collection of internal duties.
12. A bill laying an additional duty on foreign tonnage.

The several bills above recited were read a first and second time, referred to a committee of the whole, and made the order of the day for Monday.

Friday, June 11.

Mr. Aston, from the committee to whom the subject had been referred, reported, in part, the following resolution for the adoption of the House.

Resolved, That a sum not exceeding two hundred dollars be, and is hereby appropriated out of the contingent fund of this House, for the purpose of making provision for the accommodation of Stenographers in the galleries of the House; and that, whenever such provision shall have been made, no Stenographers shall be admitted on the floor of the House.

The latter clause of this resolution was opposed by Mr. Wright and Mr. Macon as being both unnecessary and inexpedient.—Mr. Macon moved to amend the resolution by striking out the words in Italics; but the motion was negatived; and the report was adopted as above.

### Domestic.

Copies of letters from Major General DEARBORN to the Secretary of War.

HEAD-QUARTERS.

Fort George, Upper Canada, May 27, 1813.

SIR—The light troops under the command of colonel Scott and major Forsyth, landed this morning at nine o'clock. Major-general Lewis's division, with colonel Porter's command of light artillery, supported them. Gen. Boyd's brigade landed immediately after the light troops, and generals Winder and Chandler followed in quick succession. The landing was warmly and obstinately disputed by the British forces; but the coolness and intrepidity of our troops soon compelled them to give ground in every direction. General Chandler, with the reserve (composed of his brigade and col. Macomb's artillery) covered the whole. Commodore Chauncey had made the most judicious arrangements for silencing the enemy's batteries, near the point of landing. The army is under the greatest obligations to that able naval commander for his co-operation in all its important movements, and especially in its operations this day. Our batteries succeeded in rendering Fort George untenable; and when the enemy had been beaten from his positions, and found it necessary to re-enter it, after firing a few guns and setting fire to the magazines, which soon exploded, he moved off rapidly by different routes. Our light troops pursued them several miles. The troops having been under arms from one o'clock in the morning, were too much exhausted for any further pursuit. We

now possess possession of Fort George and its immediate dependencies—to-morrow we shall proceed further on. The behaviour of our troops both officers and men, entitles them to the highest praise; and the difference in our loss and that of the enemy, when we consider the advantages his positions afforded him, is astonishing. We had 17 killed and 45 wounded. The enemy had 90 killed and 160 wounded of the regular troops. We have taken 100 prisoners, exclusive of the wounded. Col. Meyers of the 46th was wounded and taken prisoner. Of ours only one commissioned officer was killed—lieut. Hobart of the light artillery. Enclosed is the report of major-general Lewis.

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

H. DEARBORN.  
Hon. Gen. John Armstrong,  
Secretary at War.

On the field, 1 o'clock, 27th May, 1813.  
DEAR SIR—Fort George and its dependencies are ours. The enemy, beaten at all points, has blown up his magazines and retired. It is impossible at this moment to say any thing of his gallantry—there was no man who did not perform his duty, in a manner which did honor to himself and country. Scott's and Winder's commands, supported by Boyd's and Winder's brigades, sustained the brunt of the action. The loss is trifling, perhaps not more than 50 killed, and twice that number wounded. The enemy has left in the hospital 124, and I sent several aboard the fleet. We have also made about 100 prisoners of the regular forces.

I am, dear sir, most respectfully, your obedient servant,  
MORGAN LEWIS.

Major Gen. Dearborn,  
Com. in Chief of the Northern Army.

Head-Quarters, Fort George, May 29th, 1813.  
SIR—General Lewis was ordered to engage yesterday morning with Chandler's and Winder's brigades—the light artillery, dragoons and riflemen; in pursuit of the enemy by the way of Queenstown. I had received satisfactory information that the enemy had made a stand on the mountain at a place called the Beaver Dam, where he had a deposit of provision and stores, and that he had been joined by three hundred regulars from Kingston, landed from small vessels near the head of the lake. I had ascertained that he was calling in the militia, and had presumed that he would confide in the strength of his position and venture an action, by which an opportunity would be afforded to cut off his retreat. I have been disappointed—although the troops from my own and Chippewa had joined the main body at Beaver Dam, he broke up yesterday precipitately, continued his route along the mountains, and will reach the head of the lake by that route.

Lt. Col. Preston took possession of Fort Erie and its dependencies last evening; the post had been abandoned and the magazine blown up. I have ordered Gen. Lewis to return without delay to this place, and if the winds favor us we may yet cut off the enemy's retreat.

I was last evening honored with your despatch of the 15th inst. I have taken measures in relation to the 23 prisoners who are to be put in close confinement.

I have the honor to be, &c.  
A. DEARBORN.

Hon. John Armstrong,  
Secretary of War.

### THE FRIGATE CHESAPEAKE TAKEN.

Copy of a letter from Com. William Bainbridge, at Boston, to the Secretary of the Navy.

Navy Yard, Charleston, Mass.  
2d June, 1813.

SIR,

It has become my painful duty, as commanding officer on this station, to convey to you the pleasant intelligence of the capture of the frigate Chesapeake, by the British frigate Shannon. The particulars of this unfortunate occurrence are from what I have been able to collect, as follows:—

Yesterday forenoon, the frigate Shannon appeared in the bay, full in sight from the harbor. At meridian, the Chesapeake got under way for President Roads, and stood out with a fair wind. Mr. Knox, the pilot on board, left her at 5 P. M. the light house bearing W. half N. distance 10 leagues, the Shannon then in sight, and the Chesapeake, prepared for action, standing for her. At 6 P. M. Mr. Knox informs, the Chesapeake opened a fire, which was returned; and at 12 minutes past 6, both ships were laying along side of each other as if in the act of boarding; at that moment an explosion took place on board the Chesapeake, which spread a fire on her upper works from the foremast to the mizen-mast, appearing as high as her tops, and enveloped both ships in smoke for several minutes. After the smoke cleared away, they were seen separated, with British colors hoisted on board the Chesapeake over the American, both ships standing to the westward. The well proved courage and skill of Lawrence and the bravery of the officers and crew, justify a full belief that the loss of the Chesapeake has been entirely owing to some fortuitous happening on board of her, and not to any superiority of skill or bravery in the enemy. Should they improperly impute it to the latter, they will find it necessary to give more than solitary instance to convince our officers and tars that they are superior. We have lost the frigate, but, in losing her, I am confident we have lost no reputation.

I have the honor to be, Sir, with the greatest respect, your most obedient servant.

Wm. BAINBRIDGE.  
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

In addition to the above, we have several accounts from Boston of the details of the same, observed by persons who went out in boats to possess it; from which we select the following:—  
FROM BOSTON.  
Centinel Office, June 2, 7 A. M.  
We have just received the following particulars