

we. To their want of arms and ammunition we are indebted for their absence from our borders, and to such distress have they been driven that no doubt but the greatest part of the Potawatamies and Kickapoo nation would be now glad to receive any terms from the United States.

Letters just received from Upper Missouri, represent the country in the neighborhood of the river Plate as very insecure for the residence of the traders, in consequence of a fierce and bloody war having broke out between the Ojibos and Sioux. The contending parties had an action in the neighborhood of the trading houses, in which the Sioux left twenty one of their dead on the field.—The traders apprehended a visit from the Sioux of the river St. Peters, who are in the British interest.

Sketches of Debate.

(Continued.)

DEBATE ON MR. MURPHEY'S MOTION TO RECOMMEND THE REPORT ACCOMPANIED WITH A MEMORIAL TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, TO THE SELECT COMMITTEE.

(Continued.)

Mr. Murphey very much regretted that an attempt appeared to be made to render this a party question. There was certainly nothing in it calculated to call forth such feelings. It was a question with which the foolish altercations of the present times, about federalism and republicanism, had nothing to do. It regarded merely the interest and safety of the state; and should come home to the breast of every citizen. The question is simply one, said he, whether or not will you extend protection towards your wives and children? And is this an occasion on which it is proper that party should be attempted to be rallied? If every important question was to have the go-by given to it in this way, it would be in vain to endeavor at discussion in such a manner as was calculated to produce a wise decision. He trusted that, where so much was at stake, every prejudice and every angry passion would be laid aside. There was no reasonable ground for misunderstanding. It was alike important to a federalist and to a republican, that their property should be secured and their wives and children protected. He would ask, why the house had referred the subject to a committee, if it were not for the purpose of obtaining information thereon? If, in discharging their duty, then, the committee had fallen into errors, should they not have an opportunity of correcting them? Was that the first time mistakes had ever been committed? or were the committee the only men who were subject to error? If the object of the senate was to obtain the truth in relation to the question before them, they should certainly afford a full and fair opportunity to the committee entrusted with the enquiry. For himself he could say, that from the first moment this subject came before him, party feelings had no agency whatever in forming his opinions, nor should they have any in guiding him to a decision. However in other respects gentlemen might differ, he trusted that on all questions regarding the welfare and security of the state they would cordially unite. On such occasions there were no legitimate feelings to gratify but those that were perfectly North Carolinian, and none other should be entertained.

Mr. Holmes (of Sampson) did not rise to involve the question in any difficulties, nor to express party feelings, but merely to state his impressions respecting the motion before the house. When the gentleman from Orange first offered his motion for re-commitment, as he saw nothing improper in it, he had made up his mind to vote for it. But gentlemen had so reiterated party feelings, and talked about rallying party, he could not but presume there was something of those feelings concerned on their own side. It has been urged, said Mr. H. that it is inconsistent with parliamentary rules to amend the report of the committee, or to refuse a re-commitment. He was not very well acquainted with the practice in like cases, but he presumed that the Honorable Gentleman who had made, last session, in the commons, the motion alluded to by the gentleman from Edgecombe, was well acquainted with the rules of proceeding, and he presumed the course of striking out was not incorrect. He thought the parliamentary rule would be to adopt the motion of the gentleman from Edgecombe. He could not see why gentlemen had exclaimed against party feelings, as he had heard no member on the other side say a word about them.—He presumed that the motion of the gentleman from Orange, was equivalent to saying that the committee had found in their report, certain matters requiring correction, not to say mistakes of facts. Mr. H. thought it was erroneous in many particulars. True, said he, our sea-ports are exposed. Is there any gentleman that denies it? True, that they ought to be protected. Is there any gentleman that denies it? But can we know every thing that our rulers are about doing or intend to do? We cannot. No doubt they attempt every thing in their power for the general welfare and protection; and yet it is wished to embarrass them by expressing distrust and want of confidence. We hear in that report that the troops have been ordered away from North Carolina to the protection of other parts; but is there any thing in it stating that the general government has ever looked towards us; or that they have a wish to do any thing for us? No. It contains nothing but indirect censure, and that in pretty strong terms. We find it asserted that not a cent has been paid to the troops lately detached; and that those now on duty as well as those discharged have been kept destitute of food and other necessaries. Now had this report gone out in its present shape, what would have been the result? Why, that the state of North Carolina would have been made to assert that it had seen some of the men who were discharged and conversed with them. Ask any of those and they would tell you that the troops on the sea-board had plenty of food, some medicine, and were lodged in tents or huts. True, the

troops stationed below Wilmington, had been severely visited by diseases; some of them had died, and others had not every comfort which their situations required. They were unfortunately stationed at a place where noxious vapours, unfriendly to health, always prevailed in the summer season. But as to disease, the neighboring citizens shared the same fate, and it could not be called the fault of the general government. It was the act of Providence. It was impossible that the general government could provide for every thing. If it were believed that the state was not adequately protected, and they would come forward and address the President in decent terms, he would not object to it. But to use the terms contained in the report he could not consent.

Mr. H. thought the report incorrect in stating that we were without defence. There were certainly some forts how indifferent they might be; we had gotten two thousand stands of arms from the general government, and at Wilmington five gun boats were stationed. However triding these might appear, they were still something, and evinced the disposition of the government to do what was in its power. It could not attend to every minute point. He would ask, if it was possible, with the seven frigates and the few small vessels belonging to the United States, to afford adequate naval protection, against the superior naval force of the enemy, to every post and to all the extended coasts of the union? But much stress appeared to be laid on the circumstance of the gun-boats having been dismantled and laid up in ordinary. At the time that was done he presumed there was no expectation that these vessels would be wanted; and was it not as well to have them laid up in ordinary when there was no prospect of using them? Mr. H. would by no means assail the intention or characters of the committee, for he believed them to be both pure and honorable; but he was astonished when he saw things stated as facts, and coming from such noble authority, which he thought to be perfectly groundless and unjust. For his own part he felt no party spirit but the good of his country. That was what he went upon. If mistaken in his opinions he would cheerfully submit to what might be the sentiment of a majority of the people of N. Carolina, and he trusted, that whatever was done, might be done solely with a view to what the public good required.

Mr. Slade observed, that even were he gifted with the talents and eloquence of the worthy gentleman from Sampson, (Mr. Holmes) he could not have used more cogent arguments, than had just been advanced by him to prove the propriety of a re-commitment. Had he before entertained doubts of the propriety of this course, the arguments of the gentleman would have entirely removed them. The whole tendency of his remarks had been to shew that the report was incorrect, and that if it was adopted, the legislature of North Carolina would have been made to utter a false statement. Was it not proper, therefore to send back the report, thus unfounded and incorrect, to the gentlemen who had made it; that what was erroneous and improper, might be amended or expunged? This, he again contended, could be done in no other way than by pursuing the path pointed out by his friend from Orange. Mr. S. then alluded to the precedent alluded by the gentleman from Edgecombe (Clarke) respecting the point of order. He had a perfect recollection of that case. The circumstances were these. During the recess of the Legislature, a vacancy in the representation of N. Carolina to the congress of the U. States, occurred by the death of a member from an eastern district. The law by which the state had been divided into districts, having been repealed, the vacancy was not filled. It was the opinion of some that the governor should have issued writs for a new election. His excellency, however, conceived that he had no authority so to do; and laid the subject before the Legislature at its subsequent meeting. This part of his message was referred to a committee, who reported a bill authorising the governor to direct the holding of a new election. Accompanying this bill, was a statement, or expose, containing improper reflections as to the course pursued by the executive, and controverting the grounds on which it appeared the governor's decision had been founded. A motion was made to reject this part of the report; which was certainly in order, and was agreed to. This case, then, was not parallel with the motion of the gentleman from Edgecombe, to strike out the report for the purpose of inserting an amendment. It would be perfectly correct to reject a report; but not to make the committee assert as facts what they never had any intention of stating.—He would now have taken his seat, but for what was said by the worthy gentleman from Sampson, about party views. If Mr. S. had attempted to excite any spirit of that kind, or had said anything in regard to federalism or republicanism, it was certainly not within the scope of his intentions. No sooner had it been asserted on one side of the question, that this was a subject with which party feelings had nothing to do, than an echo was heard from the other side, accusing the friends of the report of party views. No such views entered into his mind. He regarded the question as one which had no bearing that way.—The citizens of North Carolina were all equally interested in the subject; and it concerned alike federalists and republicans to ascertain whether North Carolina was to receive, from the general government, that protection and respect to which she was entitled. This was certainly not a proper moment to raise the war-whoop of party, and he trusted it would not again be heard. As to what had been said by the gentleman from Sampson, about the impossibility of contending with the British naval superiority, Mr. S. admitted that government could not at every point have large vessels sufficient to cope with the enemy. But he insisted that it was practicable and important to have a quantity of small vessels within our sounds, rivers and harbors to repel or prevent marauding excursions from the

enemy's vessels off our coast. Had a few fortifications, on points judiciously selected, been erected by the general government in proper season, the entrances to the waters of the state would have been impracticable to the barges and other small craft of the enemy. Nature had in a great many instances provided us with defenses against larger ships. But under existing circumstances, it might be practicable for barges and boats to enter our waters, and lay under contribution, or devastate the eastern section of N. Carolina, which it was well known from the wealth of the inhabitants afforded strong temptations. This was the reason complaint was made, and that justly too, that small vessels of a suitable description, which might have been readily built or easily purchased with our waters were not furnished.—With regard to what was stated about the comfortable situation of the troops, he would not undertake to contradict it; but he would ask gentlemen to read the statement of his excellency the governor. And he would further enquire; from what source the Legislature was to derive its information? From the executive, whose constitutional duty it was to communicate information, or from the statements of any member, however respectable, who might raise in his place and detail to the house such facts as might have come to his knowledge? It was to be presumed the governor had the most certain means of obtaining correct statements, and that they were fairly made to the Legislature. At all events, said Mr. S. the report should be recommitted; and let us, in the name of God, have the whole truth, that we may act understandingly.

Mr. Branch merely rose to correct what he thought a misapprehension of the gentleman from Martin as to the question before the house. The motion was to strike out and not to insert. He would make one remark as to what had been said about party feelings. It was not his desire to excite any warmth on that score. But he could not consent, that North Carolina should be made to appear as having been degraded and denied protection by the general government. He thought this was sowing the seeds of distrust and disaffection; and would induce the enemy to believe we were a divided people, when it was essential we should present to him an undivided front.

Mr. Holmes made a few remarks in reply to the gentleman from Martin, (Mr. Slade.) The cry of party spirit, he observed, appeared to be catching. It passed from one to another like a yawn in company. When one yawned all yawned. Mr. H. repeated that the report was incorrect with regard to the troops. They had clothing, food and some hospital stores, and it was probable their situation would be improved. As to what was said about vessels, he must again remark, that it was impossible to provide an adequate force for every point; and he apprehended it would take a very large number to defend the coast of North Carolina from its junction with South Carolina to the Virginia line.

Mr. Murphey wished it to be understood by every gentleman, that it was far from his purpose to insinuate that party feelings would have any influence in inducing them to vote contrary to the dictates of their understandings. He meant only to caution them against permitting such feelings to warp and mislead their sounder judgments. He thought that all the observations touching the merits of the report, were out of order, as the motion before the Senate was simply for a re-commitment. If he had believed it to be in order to enter upon the main question, he would have read documents to prove that the spirit of the report was perfectly correct, however there might be an inaccuracy in a few trivial particulars. That all the facts, however, might be placed in such a form as could not possibly be doubted, he trusted the motion for re-commitment would prevail.

The question was then taken on his motion and agreed to.

MR. DREW'S RESOLUTIONS.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, November 20.

The motion of Mr. Cameron, indefinitely to postpone Mr. Drew's resolutions, was made while the reporter for this paper was engaged in taking notes of a debate in the Senate. Mr. Cameron, he understood, supported his motion on the ground that the Legislature, in its corporate capacity, had no right to pass a vote, either of censure or approbation, in regard to the conduct of any senator in Congress. He contended that such a vote would be an infringement of the constitution, and a direct attack upon the independence of the senate of the U. States.

Mr. Drew spoke in reply to Mr. Cameron and in defence of the resolutions. He had nearly concluded when the reporter entered the lobby. Only a sketch, therefore, can be given of his concluding observations. He was opposed to an indefinite postponement. He contended that the people had a right to approve or to censure the conduct of their public servants. As he had before argued, this was a government founded on public opinion, and this implied a right inherent in the community to arraign before the bar of their judgment, any of their officers who might be found guilty of improper acts. The votes of Mr. Stone, he maintained were in direct submission to the enemy and in countenance of those who fed the British ships on our coast. Mr. D. expatiated largely and warmly on the conduct of Great Britain towards the U. States, but maintained that we could yet, by proper efforts, succeed in forcing her to acknowledge our rights. They boast, said he, of their thousand ships of war, but I tell you Mr. Speaker, they can't get men to man half of them. That's the reason, they wish to seize our sailors, to steal them from our merchant vessels and place them on board of their own ships. I tell you, Sir, Great Britain can never hold out. She can't get the men; or if she can, she has not the means. What though she can subsidize half the nations

of Europe, her resources must soon be exhausted, and she must finally give up. And look at our victories over her. Mr. Speaker, are they not encouraging, are they not encouraging, are they not animating. Have we not gloriously triumphed over her? When I look at the victories of my brave countrymen, Sir, I stand a-tiptoe. I feel my bosom swell with pride and satisfaction. Yes, Sir, and had it not been for the conduct of the Senate, in holding back; when the president had recommended war, and the House of Representatives acted with so much promptitude, we should have had much greater success. But by such votes as those of Mr. Stone, the senate held back, sir, while the Jamaica fleet escaped capture by our frigates. Commodore Rodgers could have taken or destroyed nearly the whole of them if it had not been for the shilly-shally conduct of the senate.

Sir, Mr. Stone has done all he could to thwart and embarrass the views of government, in prosecuting this war with England; a war, which however it may be called a mad war and an unrighteous war by some, I maintain is a just and a necessary war. Why, Sir, what is England? Is she not the nation that has been for years availing the world in blood and slaughter. In the language of an eloquent countryman, England were to become a vast sand beach for the monsters of the deep to crawl upon and the waves of the ocean to overwhelm, I sir, would not say nay.—And all because she has injured us. When I speak of the injuries of this nation I feel my blood boil, and if I chose, I could unfold such a tale respecting them, as would make you, Mr. Speaker, shudder in every limb. Why, sir, there is George the third, and his minions, what can we expect from them? Nothing. George the Third has reigned now fifty two years, and in that time he has slaughtered six millions of human creatures. And when he dies he will be succeeded by George the fourth, just as profligate and abandoned. And can we expect any thing from such a government? No, sir; the only way to obtain justice from them, is by prosecuting the war; and this Mr. Stone has attempted to impede by voting against the taxes, to raise money, which is the sinew of war.

Mr. Drew said he should make no remarks on the subject of the vote respecting Mr. Gallatin, as that part had been moved to be struck out. He believed, however, Mr. Stone only opposed Gallatin because he wanted to get his place. Sir, said he, Mr. Stone has wriggled into every office he could get; and when he had other views he could wriggle out against Mr. D. then advanced to the vote relative to an embargo, and offered a number of remarks to shew that it would have forced the British vessels to leave our coasts for want of supplies, which it was morally impossible they could obtain from England, or any of her colonial possessions, in sufficient quantities. He had hoped to have seen some other member willing to take the floor in support of the resolutions; especially as he himself spoke with great difficulty, from having a severe cold sitting on his lungs. He could not, however, have reconciled it with a sense of duty to have kept his seat. Had he returned to his room without speaking, he should have expected to meet the frowning Genius of America, reproaching him for not discharging the trust reposed in him; and that the shade of Washington would have looked from the clouds with an aspect of anger and indignation.

Mr. Stanly said, that the few ideas he had intended to submit on the question under discussion, had been so scattered by the tempest and whirlwind of the eloquence of the gentleman who had just sat down (Mr. Drew) that he felt he should address the house under no ordinary disadvantage. In the maze of facts drawn from the history of countries, and from times the most remote; of precepts from holy writ, and principles from poetry, he acknowledged himself too far bewildered to follow the gentleman—he should not attempt it; neither should he say anything in justification or excuse of Mr. Stone. If after thirty years of public life, passed in the discharge of the highest offices of honor and confidence which his country could bestow, Mr. Stone could not rest upon his character to repel calumny, his was indeed an unfortunate case; but if armed with the justice of his cause, he could present the shield of conscious integrity to his assailants, such attacks as these resolutions would be but as peas cast against a rock. Mr. S. said he should oppose the resolutions upon the ground that the legislature had not the right, nor constitutionally the power, either by previous instructions or by subsequent censure, to control or to influence the conduct of a Senator of the United States. That the interference of this legislature in the way proposed by the resolutions went directly to impair the sacred reverence with which the constitution should be regarded, and was therefore both unwise & dangerous. Mr. S. said the view he intended to take of the constitution would be elucidated by some principles of government which he would beg leave to premise. He held it to be a maxim coeval with civilized society, that government is formed to restrain the passions of its members; to secure us against the dangers of our own imprudence; to guard us against our worst enemies—to guard us against ourselves. The convention which formed the federal constitution—a spectacle the most venerable the world could behold; the concentration of the wisdom and virtue of a free people into one body—were sensible of the principle he had stated, and had made it the foundation upon which they had erected their great work. They had divided the powers of government into different branches, all emanating from the people, and yet each so separate and independent of the other as to form its check and balance. To shew that such was the design of the framers of the constitution he would read some extracts from the letters of Publius, (the "Federalist.") It was not necessary to inform the house that those letters, the production of Alexander Hamilton, John Jay and James Madison, contained the object expre-