

Congress of the United States.

SUMMARY.

HOUSE OF REP. TUESDAY, OCT. 11.

The House, according to the order of the day, again resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. Mason in the chair, on the resolutions expressive of the sense entered into by Congress of the gallantry and good conduct with which the reputation of the arms of the U. States has been sustained by Major-General Brown, Scott and Gaines, and Brig. Gen. Macomb. These resolutions were yesterday amended in committee by the insertion of the names of Generals P. B. Porter, Ripley and Miller. These amendments were, after considerable debate, confirmed by the house. The resolution approbatory of the conduct of Brig. Gen. Macomb was also amended, on the motion of Mr. Shepherd of N. Y. by adding thereto the names of Major-General Moores, of the New-York militia, and Major-General Strong, of the militia of Vermont.

The resolutions, thus amended, were ordered to be engrossed for a third reading. Ayes 93.

The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. King of N. C. in the chair, on the resolution authorising the Library Committee of Congress to contract for the purchase of the Library of Mr. Jefferson.

The letter of Mr. Jefferson to Samuel H. Smith, Esq. offering the Library to Congress on their own terms and their own time of payment, to replace in some degree the loss sustained in this respect by the recent invasion, was read. The letter states that the collection has been the work of fifty years and of great care and attention (and said to consist of ten thousand volumes)—a collection which he had designed, at his death, to have offered the refusal of to Congress—but this intention, the letter states, is hastened by the recent events, as the few years yet left to him would afford him but a barren use of this extensive and valuable Library. The whole letter shall be published if we can obtain a copy of it.

After much desultory conversation, as to the value of this Library, the nature of the selection, &c. the committee rose (in order, apparently, to give further time to the Members to examine the catalogue) and obtained leave to sit again, and—The House adjourned.

HOUSE OF REP. WEDNESDAY, OCT. 12.

Mr. Pleasants of Virginia, from the committee of Naval Affairs, reported without amendment the resolutions from the Senate in honor of Capt. Macdonough, his officers and crew; and they were made the order of the day for to-morrow.

The house was then engaged for two hours in a debate on the resolutions expressing the thanks of Congress to Gen. Brown, &c. which were referred to the military committee.

The Order of the Day on Mr. Jackson's motion to amend the constitution having been called up, on motion of Mr. Jackson of Va. the further consideration of the same was postponed to and made the order of the day for the first Monday in December next.

And the House adjourned.

HOUSE OF REP. THURSDAY, OCT. 13.

The house was to-day engaged on the report of the military committee, to whom had been referred on yesterday the resolutions respecting Gen. Brown, &c. These resolutions were ordered to be read a third time; and the house then took up the resolutions respecting McDonough's victory, which were unanimously passed.

The committee to which had been referred the resolution for removing the seat of government reported a bill, in blank, for that purpose. This bill contemplates the removal of Congress within 20 days after its adoption, to such place as shall be agreed on, there to remain until the close of the first session after the termination of the war. Considerable debate took place on the bill, and several motions were before the house, when, on motion of Mr. Stanford, the subject was laid on the table.

On motion of Mr. COOPER of N. Y. a resolution was adopted, instructing the Secretary of War to make a report to the house of the claims of the several states and territories for monies advanced in paying the expenses of the militia of any state or territory, heretofore called out under the authority of such state or territory, for the purpose of repelling invasion or defending it from the incursions of the enemy; specifying what calls, if any, have not been sanctioned by the President of the United States, and distinguishing the items which under existing laws may be adjusted and settled, and such also as cannot be settled without legislative provision.

And the House adjourned.

HOUSE OF REP. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14.

Before much business was done, a message was received from the President of the U. States, transmitting a number of documents; on opening which the Speaker ordered strangers to be excluded the House. The doors remained closed until half past two o'clock. When they were again opened—

It appeared that the Message embraced the instructions to our Ministers now in Europe, which the President announced his intention to communicate to Congress. They were, with the exception of a few passages, deemed improper for publication, ordered to be printed.

The resolutions expressive of the sense of Congress in relation to the achievements of our military heroes in the Northern campaign of the present year, were read a third time, and PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Lewis of Va. having called up the bill for a temporary removal of the seat of government—

Mr. Grosvenor of N. Y. assigned the lateness of the hour as a reason for moving an adjournment.

Which motion was adopted by a vote of 79 to 69.

And, by adjournment, the subject was postponed until to-morrow.

HOUSE OF REP. SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15.

Mr. Grosvenor of N. Y. said it would be recollected the President in his message to Congress at the commencement of the last session, informed the House that the commanding General of the Canadas had selected a number of American prisoners of war, and sent them over to England in close confinement, and that on that act a system of retaliation had been commenced. It would be recollected, also, that towards the close of the session, in consequence of a resolution passed by the Senate, a statement was given of the situation of the prisoners sent to England, and of those who as hostages had been confined on either side. Many publications since made in the public prints tended to shew that the difficulty on this head had been settled—how, was not known. He deemed it all important that the public should know on what principles it had been settled. With that view he offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the President of the United States, be requested to lay before this House, if in his opinion it will not be inconsistent with the public welfare, all the communications to or from the government of England or her agents not heretofore communicated, relative to the commencement and progress of the acts of retaliation founded on or produced by the conduct of the British commander in Canada in selecting and sending to Great Britain for trial a number of individuals taken prisoners of war from the American army; and any information he may have in his possession relative to the present condition of such individuals.

The resolution was agreed to without debate or opposition, and a committee ordered to be appointed to present the same to the President of the United States.

Mr. Lewis of Va. called up for consideration the bill for the temporary removal of the seat of government from the city of Washington.

The question was put "Shall the bill be engrossed and read the third time?" and decided as follows, Yeas 74, Nays 83.

So the House determined that the bill should not be engrossed for a third reading; in other words, that it should be rejected.

And the House adjourned.

HOUSE OF REP. MONDAY, OCT. 17.

Mr. Jackson of Va. made a motion to print two thousand additional copies of the Instructions to our Ministers to treat of Peace in Europe.

Mr. Grosvenor of N. Y. moved to amend the said motion so as to print these instructions entire, as received from the President, (that is, including the few passages not deemed proper for publication.)

The Speaker feeling a difficulty in receiving this motion under present circumstances—

Mr. Grosvenor required the galleries to be cleared, and strangers were excluded accordingly.

The doors remained closed for two hours; when we were again admitted—

It appeared that the motion of Mr. Grosvenor was rejected, and that of Mr. Jackson was agreed to.

TUESDAY, OCT. 19.

Mr. Lewis of Va. presented the memorial of a number of inhabitants of Alexandria, stating their indignant surprize at the slanders in circulation respecting that city, and praying a full and fair examination by Congress of their conduct during the late visit of the enemy to that town. The memorial was read.

Mr. Lewis moved to refer the memorial to the committee of investigation appointed on the subject; which motion, after some desultory conversation, was agreed to.

This motion was agreed to, 70 to 75. Mr. Pleasants of Va. from the committee of Naval Affairs, reported a bill directing the Staff Officers of the Army to comply with the requisitions of Naval and Marine officers in certain cases; and a bill for the relief of the officers, petty officers, seamen and marines attached to the flotilla under the command of Joshua Barney, Esq. (for the loss of clothes and baggage by blowing up the flotilla.) The bills were twice read and committed.

The resolution authorising the Library Committee of Congress to contract for the purchase of the Library of Mr. Jefferson, was again resumed.

An amendment proposed yesterday going to limit the sum to be given for the Library to twenty-five thousand dollars, being yet under consideration—

The discussion which commenced yesterday was to-day continued with considerable vivacity.

The debate before its conclusion became rather too animated, and being checked by the speaker, the question was permitted to be taken. There appeared to be, on the Yeas and Nays,

For the amendment 37
Against it 103

So the amendment was lost.

Mr. Pickering moved an amendment in substance the same as that moved yesterday by Mr. Oakley and negatived—the object of which was a selection of part of the Library.

This amendment was negatived by Yeas and Nays.

An amendment was then adopted, on motion of Mr. Oakley, requiring the sanction of Congress to the agreement for the purchase of the Library, before it should become binding.

And, thus amended, the resolution was ordered to a third reading.

And the House adjourned.

HOUSE OF REP. WEDNESDAY, OCT. 19.

The joint resolution from the Senate, authorising the joint Library committee of Congress to contract for the purchase of the library of Mr. Jefferson, was read a third time as amended, and passed.

The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. Desha of Ky. in the chair, on the resolution from the Senate expressive of the sense of Congress relative to the victory of the Peacock over the Epervier. The resolution having been read—

Mr. Pleasants of Va. (the chairman of the Naval committee) said it was not his intention to detain the committee by any extended remarks on this subject. The action to which this resolution referred, more particularly, perhaps than any which preceded it demonstrated the superiority of American gunnery. To shew this, Mr. P. quoted Capt. Warrington's letter to the Secretary of the Navy announcing the victory—and inferred from it that no action had ever taken place, between vessels of any thing like equal force in which there had been so great a disparity of execution. He hoped the resolve would be unanimously adopted.

No objection being made or amendment proposed, the committee rose and reported their agreement to the resolve, which was ordered to a third reading; and was accordingly read a third time and unanimously passed.

HOUSE OF REP. THURSDAY, OCT. 20.

The Senate having returned the resolution from the House in honor of Generals Brown, Scott, Gaines, Macomb, Ripley, Miller and Porter, with sundry amendments (not affecting the object of the resolves)—the same were referred to the committee on Military affairs.

A resolution was also received from the Senate expressive of the sense of Congress relative to the capture of the British Reindeer by the American Wasp.—Referred to the committee on naval Affairs.

Mr. Lewis of Va. said the house having decided that Congress shall not remove from this place, he thought it proper some steps should immediately be taken towards making a provision for the better accommodation of the different departments of the government. With this opinion he moved the following resolution.

Resolved, That the committee of the District of Columbia, be instructed to enquire into the expediency of rebuilding or repairing the President's House, the capitol and Publick Offices, and into the expenses necessary for that purpose; and whether the public interest or convenience would be promoted by any change or alteration of the sites of said buildings.

Mr. Gholson of Va. said he saw no reason for stirring the question of changing the sites of these buildings at present, and hoping the gentleman would expunge that part of his motion.

After some further conversation, Mr. G's amendment was agreed to. Ayes 87.

And the resolution, as amended, was adopted.

The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. Lewis in the chair, on the bill for the relief of the officers, petty officers and seamen under the command of Commodore Joshua Barney.

A motion was made by Mr. Taylor of N. Y. to lay the bill on the table. There were for the motion, 66—against it, 59. So the bill was laid on the table.

The Military committee asked and obtained leave to sit for a week during the sittings of the House.

And the House adjourned.

American Intelligence.

WASHINGTON-CITY, OCT. 26.

Copy of a letter from Maj. Gen. Brown to Com. Chauncey, dated

Head-Quarters, Buffalo, September 4, 1814.

SIR—Your letter of the 10th ult. after going the rounds, was delivered to me a few days since, on my way to this place.

The exception you take at my letter to the secretary, would be very reasonable and proper, provided the fleet of Lake Ontario was your private property, over which the government had no control. But as I have been induced to believe that it was the property of the nation subject to the orders of the government; and as the government led me to believe that the fleet under your command would be upon Lake Ontario, to co-operate with my division of the army, the 1st week in July, I have deemed it fit and proper to let the nation know, that the support I had a right to expect was not afforded me.

I consider my conduct towards yourself and the navy, as not only honorable, but, sir, as being very liberal and friendly, from the date of my report of the battle at Sackett's Harbor to the present hour. The troops under my command have always been disposed of so as to meet your views to the extent of my power and authority; and as far as was consistent with the rights and the honor of the army.

Your information appears very incorrect as to the situation of the army previous to the arrival of reinforcements with Lieut. Gen. Drummond. From the ninth of July to the 24th the whole country was in our power from St. George to Burlington Heights, and could the army have been supplied with provisions from the depots provided on the shores of Lake Ontario, we should not have doubted our ability (without reinforcements or additional guns) to carry the heights; when we could have returned upon Forts George and Niagara, or advanced upon Kingston. (as might

have been thought most advisable) with the co-operation of the fleet.

You speak of responsibility. I do not desire you, or any man, to be responsible for me. I have endeavoured to execute the orders given me; success has not attended my endeavours; but I humbly trust in Heaven, that the honor of the brave men entrusted to my command has been and will be preserved, let what may happen.

It will be very difficult to retire from Fort Erie, pressed as the remains of my gallant little army are, by a superior force of the enemy. But no other alternative will be left us, unless reinforcements speedily arrive.

The militia are coming in in considerable numbers, but it is not yet ascertained how many of them will cross. The Secretary has given me to understand, that General Izard would move to the St. Lawrence, with a view to attacking Kingston, (should he and you deem that measure advisable.) Should you decide otherwise, that Gen. Izard would come with, or send to me a reinforcement of from 2 to 3000 men.

I have not heard from Gen. Izard, and begin to apprehend that something has occurred to retard or prevent his movement. I will thank you for any information you can give me on this subject.

I am, sir, with great consideration and respect, your most obedient servant,

JACOB BROWN.

Com. Isaac Chauncey.

NEWS INDEED!

Extract of a letter to a gentleman in Richmond dated

NASHVILLE, [TEN.] OCT. 12.

“Since I commenced writing news has arrived that a large portion of the inhabitants of Louisiana are prepared to embrace the invitation of Nicholas [treating them to join the British standard and throw off the American yoke.]—In consequence of which the wealthy who are well affected to the country are removing their property to this State and other places of safety.—A large invading army is hourly expected to land near New-Orleans—particularly in my next.”

Foreign.

We have been politely favored with the following extract of a letter to a gentleman in this city (Philadelphia) dated

LONDON, JUNE 28, 1814.

“The Emperor of Russia has endeared himself to all ranks, by an urbanity of manners, as unexpected as gratifying, nothing has escaped him or his amiable sister the Dutchesse of Oldenburgh.

“He has been particularly attentive to the Quakers, attended their public worship, appointed a deputation from them, who spent an hour with him, and made most liberal offers to any of the Society that might visit his kingdom. I am convinced his own country will benefit by his visit to this. All our rejoicings for Peace, have had a damp in my mind, that America is left out, and to fear that our swords will be again unsheathed on that country, though I hope it will end in the peace of war, and that we shall soon be friends again, or at least not open enemies. There is an originality in the Peace on the continent, which I trust will influence the American mind. It is not to be found in the pages of modern history, nor since the time of Queen Esther and her converted King, in his conduct towards the Jews whom he conquered and liberated.”

“Our government wanted 25 millions sterling as a loan this month, it was immediately subscribed, and I sold my shares the same day at 6 per cent. premium, it is now about 4 per cent premium, though the National Debt is near One Thousand Millions. It is incomprehensibly great, and sets calculation at defiance.

The people here cannot get rid of the impression that your President was the dupe of the Usurper, and thinking he must crush us, he was an abettor in the cause which we are bound now to resent. I sincerely pray that an overruling providence may guide you and us for our mutual good, and I may live to see a speedy and happy Peace.”

True American.

FRANKFORD, (GERMANY,) JULY 16.

The deputation sent by the Senate of St. Petersburg to his Majesty the Emperor of Russia, fulfilled its commission at Weimer. After presenting to the Monarch the homage and gratitude of the Senate and nation, they requested permission to give him the title of Blessed, and to erect a monument to his honour.—His Majesty replied, that “he had constantly endeavored to set the nation an example of simplicity and modesty, that he could not without a violation of his principles accept the proffered title. As to the monument, posterity might erect one for him, if they thought he deserved it.”

LONDON, AUG. 15.

Detachments of the following regiments embarked last week for America: 4th, 6th, 36th, 44th, 46th, 58th, 81st, 86th. Detachments of the following corps will also embark—1st, 3d, 9th, 31st, 39th, 41st, 57th, 76th, 100th. Transports will proceed to Cork to be joined by the others. The whole will rendezvous at Bermuda.

August 26.—The Duke of Wellington has had his first audience at Paris.

An order from lord Bathurst's office, prohibits all Americans from returning to that country in British packets without permission.