

that he had no doubt the minds of gentlemen were made up; but he thought it his duty, nevertheless, to advocate the amendment proposed by the gentleman from Pennsylvania. He regretted, he said, that in respect to this bill, the usual course had not been pursued, and that a blank had not been left in the bill, to be filled by such sum as the House should prefer; this course, he thought, would have comported more with the dignity of the House than that which had been pursued. When Mr. D. said, he had discovered who the members were who had composed the committee, he had anticipated what their report would be—[The chairman reminded Mr. Desha that it was not in order to make personal allusions to members]—Mr. D. submitted to the chair, but had not supposed any thing incorrect in his intention, which was to shew, that the committee who reported this bill being entirely composed of professional men, it was to have been expected that they would be in favor of high pay. When about to establish our own compensation, Mr. D. said it would be well if so much anxiety were not shown to come at a question, which would probably not be regarded in the same light by the people as it was on this floor. The honest industrious farmer, who lives on his own land, who rises early and works late, would think that nine dollars a day was extravagant pay for members of Congress. Mr. D. here complained of the want of order in the House, which at once embarrassed him, and rendered it useless for him to speak, as he could not be heard. In reply to the argument, which he had heard urged in favor of an increase, that money had depreciated within a few years past he asked, what was the cause of it? The chartering of so many banks, which had inundated the country with bank paper. In doing this, Congress had had no little instrumentality, particularly in chartering that great bank from which he yet apprehended much evil; and they ought to bear a part of the burthen. In reply to the argument which he had also heard, that if we do not bid high we cannot get men of talent to come to Congress, this, he said, was an open acknowledgement, by those who used it, that patriotism was not a prominent motive with them for coming to Congress. As for talents, Mr. D. said he drew a wide distinction between a sound judgment and a capacity to make speeches destitute of that quality. He wished rather to see this bill filed by the former than the latter; and such men could be had without bidding so high for them. The pay of six dollars per day, with a little allowance for patriotic motives, would fill the seats on this floor with proper characters; with men who would conduct the public business well; with men who would be the advocates of liberality without extravagance, and of economy without meanness, &c. Mr. D. said he found it so difficult to pursue his remarks, in consequence of the disorder in the House, he should cut short the observations he proposed. This interruption, he said, he took unawares, because it was not his habit to trouble the House, and on this occasion he ought to have been indulged. Mr. D. concluded by saying he should vote to amend the bill, and against any proposition to raise the per diem above six dollars.

Mr. Clay, (Speaker) said he felt constrained upon to make a single observation on a part of his colleague's remarks. He was quite sure, he said, it was not the intention of his colleague to suggest any thing like impropriety in the conduct of the presiding officer of the House in regard to the selection of the committee to whom this subject had been referred. But he rose to say that two principles only had guided the officer whose arduous and sometimes painful duty it was to select committees, in appointing the committee in question; the one was to select a majority of the committee from the new members, who, being fresh from the people, might be supposed best to understand their views; the other, to distribute the committee, as much as possible, through the various parts of the continent. The question of their professions he did not inquire into, nor till this moment did he know it, and, he assured the chair, he had not a knowledge of the views of a single member as to the compensation, except as to one member, (from Connecticut) who had expressed his views respecting it by a vote which he gave at the last session, &c. Regarding the subject of this bill, Mr. C. said he trusted he should not be found to occupy a single moment of the time of the House in discussing it. Every member had certainly by this time made up his mind on this subject, and he did not suppose that any argument here could have any effect on its decision. At the same time, he said, he should be sorry to see his worthy colleague, or any other member, restrained in the slightest degree from the exercise of the indubitable right he possesses, to offer his sentiments to the House.

Mr. Holmes, of Mass. said the gentleman ought not to attribute blame to him, if any there was, for urging the consideration of this bill. It was not taken up to day on the suggestion of his own mind, but at the instance of other gentlemen. Nothing, Mr. H. said, could induce him to enter into the debate on this subject, which he knew would be to no purpose.

Mr. Ogle of Penn. replied to a part of Mr. Desha's remarks. He too represented farmers, but not men who wished persons to labor for them at a certain loss. Would any respectable farmer, himself, Mr. O. asked, agree to leave his farm to manage itself, when he knew that if he did, he and his family would become beggars? Certainly he would not; he pays those who work for him, and would expect to be paid himself for his sacrifices and labor in the discharge of public duties; and it was a correct principle, he added, that public officers should be paid for their services. In

regard to the sort of talent necessary for Congress, Mr. O. suggested that a graduated scale of compensation might be made, if, by trepanning, the brains of all the members could be taken out, and their actual value ascertained by weight—in which case he did not know but he might himself come in for small pay. But nine dollars a day, he humbly thought, was a compensation small enough for a just recompense for attendance here; and though he represented farmers, he had never heard it suggested that that was too much. On this subject, Mr. O. said, he had no instructions from his constituents: he should vote, therefore, not for popularity, but for what he conscientiously believed was just. He most sincerely believed, he repeated, that men who served the public ought to be paid; and did not consider it a reasonable expectation that men were to devote their lives to this object purely from patriotism. He hoped, he said, putting these considerations out of view, that a majority of this committee would, on this occasion give correct votes—not with a view to re-election, but to justice.

The question was then taken on striking out nine and inserting six as the daily compensation, and negatived.

Mr. Linn, of New-Jersey, then moved to strike out nine and insert eight; which motion was negatived by a small majority.

Mr. Bassett, of Virginia, moved to strike out nine, and insert nothing; which would leave the bill open for any sum; which motion was negatived.

Mr. Southard, of New-Jersey, then moved to reduce the allowance for travelling expenses, from nine to six dollars for each twenty miles; which motion was also negatived.

Some merely verbal amendments were made to the bill, and the committee rose and reported the bill.

The bill being immediately taken up by the House—

Mr. Parris, of Mass. moved to strike out the word nine, as applying both to compensation and to mileage, and to insert six in lieu thereof.

Mr. Harrison, of Ohio, in explaining what would otherwise appear an inconsistency in the vote he was about to give, said that he was aware that, in order to preserve in Congress talents of a proper grade, and to enable men of moderate property to come to Congress without loss, a higher compensation was necessary than had heretofore been allowed to members of Congress. But, said he, holding, as we do, the key of the treasury, we ought not to do ourselves even justice before we do it to others, whose claims are stronger and of longer standing. Whenever justice was done to the sufferers in the war of the revolution, and not till then, he should be prepared to do justice to ourselves.

Mr. Ross required the yeas and nays on the question now pending.

On suggestion of Mr. Colston, of Va. the question was so divided, as to take it separately on the compensation and on the mileage.

Mr. Ogle said, he should still vote as he had done in committee, not allowing to the suggestion of the gentleman from Ohio the weight he had attached to it. Every man shewed his patriotism and generosity by personal acts; and to accomplish the object that gentleman had spoken of, said Mr. O. I would distribute among these sufferers one half of my pay—and whilst I have a loaf remaining, no poor distressed soldier shall want one half of it. But, Mr. O. said, he well knew government was able to pay all just claimants; and he would not, for his part, deny justice to one, because the country had hitherto neglected to do justice to others.

The question was then taken on striking out nine and inserting six, as the daily compensation of the members, and negatived. 60 yeas, 101 nays.

The question was then taken on striking out nine and inserting six as the allowance for every 20 miles travel to and from Congress; which motion was decided by yeas and nays, as follows:—For the amendment, 93, Against it, 76. So this amendment was carried.

Mr. Little, of Maryland, then moved to strike out nine, an insert in lieu thereof eight dollars as the daily pay.

Mr. Polk, of Mississippi, said, that, as the travelling allowance had been reduced to six, the pay ought to be reduced to the same rate; for that certainly the travelling was the most laborious part of the duty to perform for those who lived at any distance from the seat of government.

Mr. Johnson, of Kentucky, concurred entirely in the opinion, that the travelling was the hardest part of the Representative's duty, in a pecuniary view, and for which members had not heretofore been sufficiently paid. There were occasions on which we were under an obligation to perform gratuitous services for our country; but surely this was not one of them. He too, he said, should vote for the reduction of the pay, because he hoped the mileage and the pay, whatever they were fixed at, should be at the same rate.

The question on reducing the daily pay from nine to eight dollars, was then carried. 99 yeas, 70 nays.

So the daily pay was fixed at eight dollars.

Mr. Little then moved to reconsider the vote by which the travelling expenses had been reduced to six dollars, with a view to fix it at eight; which would make it stand on the same footing as heretofore, but at a little higher rate.

The question on reconsideration was then taken, and decided in the affirmative, and the allowance for mileage was fixed at eight dollars for every 20 miles, by a considerable majority.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a

third reading to-morrow, without a division; and  
The House adjourned.

**Additional to Tuesday's proceedings.**  
The Speaker laid before the House sundry depositions and documents on the subject of the contested election of Charles F. Mercer, a member of this House from the state of Virginia, which were referred to the committee of election.

**Wednesday, Jan. 7.**  
On motion of Mr. Mercer, it was Resolved, That a committee be appointed to inquire into the expediency of causing to be printed the first journals of the proceedings of the Congress of the United States, down to the treaty of peace in 1783, together with the correspondence of the government of the United States with the ministers and agents thereof in foreign countries, down to the same period of time. Resolved, That the same committee be also instructed to inquire into the expediency of causing to be printed the journal of the General Convention which framed the constitution of the United States; and that the committee have leave to report by bill or otherwise.

**Contempt of the House.**—Mr. Williams, of North Carolina, rose and addressed the house in the following words:  
“Mr. Speaker: I lay before the house a letter addressed to me by a person called Col. John Anderson. That man has mistaken me much. Wherever I am known, at this place, and in the country from whence I came, no attempt of the kind would have been made. I feel it a duty to lay the letter and the statement thereon, made by myself, before the house. My feelings are too much excited, no would it be my duty, to make any remarks of the subject. It is for the house to determine what shall be done.”

The papers handed by Mr. Williams to the clerk were then read as follows:  
WASHINGTON, Jan. 6, 1818.

**The hon. Lewis Williams.**  
I beg to say, Sir, I thank you for the attention I received to my claims to pass so soon. Mr. Linn had you some claims from the River Raisin, which will pass through your honorable committee; and I have a wish that the conduct of the British in that country may be related in full on the floor of Congress; which will give you some trouble in making out the report, and supporting the same. I have now to request of you, will you accept the small sum of five hundred dollars, as a gratuity, for extra trouble I give you; I will present it to you as soon as I receive a note from government. This is confidential, and you will not say any thing about it, or, in other words, I give it to you as a gratuity, and hope that you will keep it so. Sir, should it happen that you will not accept this small sum, I request that you will excuse me; if you accept I will not say a word. I beg to say, my view on this subject, that it is for extra trouble.

I will make one statement, and present it to the committee, which will be supported by Mr. Harrison, Col. Johnson, Mr. Hubert, Mr. Meigs, Postmaster-General, Governor Cass's report as commissioner, and others. Relying on your honor in keeping this secret, and your exertions in passing these bills as soon as possible. I need not inform you, that were as poor unfortunate orphan children, having no representative in Congress—so must look on your honorable body as guardians. Pardon this liberty from a stranger.

I am, with high esteem, your most obedient and humble servant,  
JOHN ANDERSON.

**MR. WILLIAMS'S STATEMENT.**  
After breakfast this morning, George a servant, came into the dining room, and told me that a gentleman was in my room, waiting to see me. I stepped into my room, and Col. John Anderson was there. He handed me a letter, observing at the same time, that he had prepared that letter for me, and that perhaps it would require some explanation. I read over the letter with attention; and, having done so, observed to Col. Anderson it was a very surprising communication. When I started to Mr. Wilson's room, immediately adjoining my own. When in the act of opening my own door, he begged I would not show the letter. I made no reply to this, but stepped into Mr. Wilson's room, and asked him to do me the favor to walk into my room. This Mr. Wilson did, following on immediately behind me. After we had got into my room, in the presence of Col. Anderson I handed the letter to Mr. Wilson, who observed that it was a very extraordinary communication, requested him to read it. When Mr. Wilson had read, or was nearly done reading the letter, I told Col. Anderson that I repelled with indignation and contempt the offer made to me in the letter. Col. Anderson said he asked my pardon; that it was designed only as a small compensation for the extra trouble he expected to give the committee of claims in examining the claims from the North Carolina territory, and exposing the conduct of the British during the war; that it was far from his intention to attempt any thing like a bribe, and requested me to burn the letter, or give it to him. I told him I should do neither; that his offense was unpardonable, such as I could not forgive, and ordered him to leave the room instantly. Col. Anderson begged pardon, and asked forgiveness with excessive earnestness. I told him I would listen to none of his apologies; that his offense was an attack upon the dignity of Congress generally, and upon mine personally, and no one should ever have my pardon or expect my forgiveness who should suppose me capable of such an offence as he attempted to practice upon me. Against Col. Anderson I leave my room. He advanced to the door, where he stood some time, endeavoring to obtain my pardon, as he said. I told him it was in vain to ask it; that as a member of Congress and of the committee of claims it was my duty to examine his claims, and, if just, support them; that his offer was an attempt at bribery; was an attempt to influence my mind in opposition to my duty, and as such could not be given. He then desired me either to burn the letter, or give it to him. I replied that I should do neither, and again ordered him to leave my room. Whereupon he did leave my room. Mr. Wilson after talking up the subject of the letter for some time, suggested the propriety of calling in Mr. Wm. P. Maclay, but, as Mr. Wm. P. Maclay was not in, I asked Mr. William Maclay the room-mate of Mr. Wm. P. Maclay to come to my room. He complied with my request, and shortly after he arrived in my room. Mr. W. P. Maclay also stepped in. These gentlemen, Mr. Wilson, Mr. William Maclay, and Mr. W. P. Maclay, were in my room at the time the servant called to Mr. Wilson, and said a gentleman was below waiting to see him. Mr. Wilson walked out of the room, and upon a few minutes. After he returned, he observed to Col. Anderson was the person who had sent for him; that Col. A's business was to obtain his interposition to put a stop to further proceedings on the subject of the letter to me. The precise conversation between Mr. Wilson and Col. Anderson can be related by the former in a few minutes.

LEWIS WILLIAMS.

January 1818.  
The papers having been read through Mr. W. W. of Pennsylvania referred to in the above narrative handed in a statement of the facts which fell under his observation, entirely

corroborating those stated by Mr. Williams as far as they came under the observation of the former.

Mr. Forsyth, of Georgia moved that the House do come to the following resolution: Resolved, That the Speaker do issue his warrant directed to the Sergeant at Arms attending the House commanding him to take into custody wherever to be found the body of John Anderson and the same in his custody to keep, subject to the further order and direction of this House.

Mr. Harrison of Ohio, rose in consequence of his name having been referred to in Col. Anderson's letter. He had met with Col. Anderson, he said, in the course of his military service and always heard him regarded as a highly respectable man; and, well knowing his services and the sufferings of his family during the war he had felt a warm interest in his favor. In the course of this morning Col. Anderson had sent for him and his friend Col. Johnson, out of the House, and, with all the agitation belonging to terror or to conscious guilt had informed them of his having done an act which he feared would be regarded, as Mr. H. was sure it would by every member, as calling for the severest animadversion. They had informed him, Mr. H. said that they would not justify his conduct; nor, were it brought before the house, could they say any thing in extenuation of it.

Mr. Johnson, of Kentucky expressed his sincere regret on account of the occurrence which had just taken place, not on account of the individual implicated—through surely he was to be pitied—but on account of the gentleman from North Carolina, who on this occasion had taken that course dictated by a just sense of his own honor and the dignity of his official station; and on account of the suffering inhabitants of Detroit and Michigan generally, that they should have misplaced their confidence in him whom, until this day, Mr. J. said, he had himself held in the highest estimation. It must have been infamy of motive or the grossest ignorance of the nature of the Representative character that could have produced this so wretched conduct.

Mr. Terry, of Connecticut, enquired whether according to our forms of procedure, and to our constitutional provisions a general warrant as proposed could be issued? Was it not opposed in its nature, to the principles of civil liberty?

The Speaker observed, that, in the practice of the house, happily, instances were extremely rare, where such a warrant became necessary; no such case had occurred within his observation: But there could be no doubt, when an offence was committed against the privilege or dignity of the House, it was perfectly in its power to issue a warrant to apprehend the party offending.

Mr. Forsyth turned to a case on record—and he was sorry there was such a case on record—where this proceeding had taken place in the year 1795, in which a bribe in kind had been offered to one or more members. Mr. F. then confirmed his motion to the terms of that precedent (as above stated) from which it had before a little varied.

Mr. Livermore, of New Hampshire asked for information merely whether the facts on which the warrant was to be issued should be first substantiated by oath. The statement came, he knew, from a most respectable source; but was not an oath necessary to justify such a warrant?

The Speaker said certainly not.

The question on Mr. Forsyth's motion was then taken, decided in the affirmative, and ordered to be entered unanimously.

The warrant was forthwith issued.

January 8.

The Speaker laid before the House petitions of sundry inhabitants of Missouri territory, praying that said territory may be admitted into the union as a free and independent state.

**Case of Col. John Anderson.**—The Speaker having stated to the House that the Sergeant at arms had returned on the warrant issued to him yesterday, that he had executed the same on the body of John Anderson, therein named—and that he now held him in his custody subject to the further order and direction of the House.

Mr. Forsyth offered the following resolution: Resolved, That a committee of Privileges to consist of seven members, be appointed, and that the said committee be instructed to report a mode of proceeding, in the case of John Anderson, who was taken into custody yesterday by order of the House; and the same committee have leave to sit immediately.

This motion gave rise to a debate of nearly two hours in length, not so much on the particular proceeding proposed, as on the legality of proceeding at all in the case. This debate is one too interesting to be omitted, and was too long to be compressed within our present limits. It shall be presented to-morrow if possible. Mr. Beecher, Mr. Livermore and Mr. Ball, took the ground that the proceeding of the house had been radically wrong, if not unconstitutional: Messrs. Forsyth, Tucker, Hopkinson, Pitkin, Sergeant and Comstock took the opposite ground.

The resolution was finally agreed to; and Messrs. Forsyth, Hopkinson, Tucker, Sergeant, Johnson, of Kentucky, Pitkin and Taylor, appointed a committee accordingly.

The House then proceeded to other business, though the case of Col. Anderson was subsequently resumed, as will be seen.

The engrossed bill, making a further appropriation (of 200 000 dollars) for repairing the Public Buildings, was read a third time, and passed and sent to the Senate.