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TERMS.

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AN ACT for the relief of Anthony Burk.

Be it enacted by the Senate & House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the heirs of Anthony Burk be authorized to enter, within twelve months from the passage of this act, with the Register of the Land Office at Chillicothe, without payment, two quarter sections, within the boundaries of the district of Chillicothe.

H. CLAY,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

JOHN GAILLARD,

President of the Senate, pro tempore.

February 10, 1820.—Approved:

JAMES MONROE.

AN ACT for the relief of Denton, Little & Co. and of Harman Hendrick, of New-York.

Be it enacted by the Senate & House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That there be refunded and paid, to Denton, Little, and Company, of the city of New-York, the sum of two hundred and seventy-one dollars, seven cents; and to Harman Hendrick, also of New-York, the sum of five thousand seven hundred and twenty-five dollars sixty-one cents; the said several sums having been paid, by the persons above named, to the collector of New-York, on the importation into the United States of sundry copper bottoms, bolts, or bars, the same not being liable to the payment of duties.

H. CLAY,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

JOHN GAILLARD,

President of the Senate, pro tempore.

February 10, 1820. Approved:

JAMES MONROE.

CONGRESS.

IN SENATE.

Thursday, Feb. 24.

Mr. Leake from the committee to whom had been referred the bill respecting Indian Trade, reported the same without amendment.

Several petitions were presented and referred.

The senate proceeded to the consideration of the report of the committee of finance, on the petitions of Andrew Low and others, merchants of Savannah, who pray for a remission of duties paid and secured to be paid on a large amount of imported goods which were consumed and destroyed by the late fire in that city. In general, the government has refused to remit the payment of duties in such cases. Relief has, however, in a very few such cases, been granted; but, in extraordinary cases—such, for example, as the goods being in the custody of the officers of the United States, to secure the payment of duties. The report concludes an argument of some length by recommending the adoption of a resolution "that it is expedient to grant the prayer of the petitioner."

Mr. Elliott, of Georgia, moved to amend the report by substituting the following resolution for that reported by the committee:

"Resolved, That the report be recommended to the committee on finance, with instructions to report a bill authorizing the remission of 25 per cent. on all bonds due, or becoming due, at the Custom House at Savannah, in Georgia, executed for the payment of duties on imported goods, wares, and merchandise, not insured against fire, and which have been destroyed by the late fire in that city—and extending the additional credit of two years on such bonds."

This amendment was earnestly supported by Mr. Elliott, and Mr. Walker, of Georgia.—The whole subject was then, on motion of Mr. Roberts, postponed to to-morrow.

The bill making further provision for

the sale of the Public Lands (changing the terms of sale from credit to cash) was taken up, and the amendment proposed yesterday by Mr. Walker, of Alabama, was, after some discussion, withdrawn by him, in order to be offered again on a future occasion.

Mr. Edwards offered the following amendment:

And be it further enacted, That every person who now is, or hereafter may be, an actual bona fide settler upon any quarter section of land which shall have been previously exposed to Public Sale, and remain unsold, shall be permitted to purchase such quarter section in the same manner and on such terms as are now authorized by law."

After considerable discussion on this and the preceding amendment in which Messrs. Walker, of Alabama, Otis, King, of New-York, Lowrie, Walker, of Georgia, King, of Alabama, Macon, Ruggles, Edwards, Leake, Smith and Johnson, of Louisiana, took part.

A motion was made by Mr. Smith to postpone the further consideration of it to Tuesday next; which motion was negatived, (ayes 15.)

The subject was then postponed to to-morrow.

Friday, Feb. 25.

The Senate resumed the consideration of the report of the committee of Finance, on the memorial of sundry sufferers by the late fire at Savannah, praying a remission of duties on goods destroyed, &c. and of the motion relative thereto, made by Mr. Elliot, of Georgia, as above stated.

This motion was further supported by Mr. Elliott and Mr. Walker, of Missouri, and opposed by Mr. Barbour and Mr. Macon.

The question thereon being taken, it was decided in the affirmative, by 21 votes to 18.

On motion of Mr. Burrill, the Senate then proceeded to the consideration of

THE MAINE BILL.

The question being on the motion of Mr. Burrill, (not Mr. Morrill, as heretofore stated,) to RECEDE from the amendments of the Senate, which embrace provisions for the admission of Missouri, and for excluding slaves from the Territories—

A discussion arose on a point of order, respecting the division of this question, (as yesterday directed,) so as to separate the question respecting Missouri from that respecting the Territories: it being contended by Mr. Burrill, that the whole amendment was an unit, the second part depending on the first, and therefore indivisible.

The President, (Mr. Gaillard,) availed himself of a rule of the Senate, to submit the question to the decision of the Senate. And, after debate, in which Messrs. Burrill, Otis, Barbour, Walker of Alabama, Lowrie, Macon, Roberts, King of New-York, Smith, and Morrill, took part, the question apparently becoming more difficult in the course of the discussion, it was at length determined, on the third trial, that the further consideration of the subject be postponed to to-morrow.

Saturday, Feb. 26.

THE MAINE BILL.

The Senate again proceeded to the consideration of the Message from the House of Representatives disagreeing to the amendment of this body to the bill for the admission of Maine into the Union. [This amendment embraces nine sections, the first eight of which contain provisions for the admission of Missouri into the Union; the ninth prohibits the further introduction of slavery into the Territories of the United States.]

The Question of Order on the susceptibility of division of a question on a motion to recede, so as to take it separately and successively on each part, being yet under consideration, Mr. W. S. Mr. Burrill, and Mr. Morrill, successively spoke briefly on the question; when,

On motion of Mr. Johnson, of Ky.

The Senate Adjourned.

Monday, Feb. 28.

THE MAINE BILL.

The Senate proceeded again to consider the question on receding from the amendments made by the Senate, and disagreed to by the House of Representatives, to the bill for the admission of Maine into the Union.

[These amendments embrace two distinct measures: the one admitting Missouri into the Union—the other prohibiting the future transportation of slaves into the Territories of the U. States.]

The Question of Order, depending on the last adjournment, was, after a few remarks on it by Mr. Wilson, by a vote of 22 to 17, decided in favor of the divisi-

bility of the question of receding from the amendments of the Senate.

The question was then taken, without debate, on receding from so much of the amendments of the Senate as provides for the admission of Missouri into the Union, and decided as follows.

FOR RECEDING.—Messrs. Burrill, Dana, Dickerson, Horsey, Hunter, King, of N. Y. Lanman, Lowrie, Mellen, Morrill, Noble, Otis, Palmer, Parrott, Roberts, Ruggles, Sanford, Tichenor, Trimble, Van Dyke, Wilson.—21.

AGAINST RECEDING.—Messrs. Barbour, Brown, Eaton, Edwards, Elliot, Gaillard, Johnson, of Ken. Johnson, of Lou. King, of Alab. Leake, Lloyd, Logan, Macon, Pinkney, Pleasants, Smith, Stokes, Taylor, Thomas, Walker, of Alab. Walker, of Geo. Williams, of Mis. Williams, of Tenn.—23.

So the Senate refused (every member of the Senate being in his seat) to recede from this part of its amendments.

The question was then taken, also without debate, on the receding from so much as regards the inhibition of slavery in the Territories of the United States north of 36 degrees 30 minutes north latitude and decided as follows:

YEAS.—Messrs. Barbour, Elliot, Gaillard, Macon, Noble, Pleasants, Sanford, Smith, Taylor, Walker, of Geo. Williams, of Miss.—11.

NAYS.—Messrs. Brown, Burrill, Dana, Dickerson, Eaton, Edwards, Horsey, Hunter, Johnson, of Ken. Johnson, of Lou. King, of Alab. King, of N. Y. Lanman, Leake, Lloyd, Logan, Lowrie, Morrill, Otis, Palmer, Parrott, Pinkney, Roberts, Ruggles, Stokes, Thomas, Tichenor, Trimble, Van Dyke, Walker, of Alab. Williams, of Tenn. Wilson.—33.

So the Senate refused to recede from this or any part of its amendments to the bill for the admission of Maine into the Union.

On motion of Mr. Barbour, the Senate then determined to insist on the first clause of its amendments; and, on motion of Mr. Roberts, it determined in like manner, to insist on the latter clause of its amendments. And the Secretary was instructed to inform the House of Representatives accordingly.

PUBLIC LANDS.

The Senate then resumed the consideration of the bill for changing the mode of disposing of the Public lands from credit to cash sales.

The amendment moved by Mr. Edwards on Thursday last being yet under consideration, in the following words: And be it further enacted, That any person who now is, or hereafter may be, an actual bona fide settler upon any quarter section of land which shall have been previously exposed to Public Sale, and remain unsold, shall be permitted to purchase such quarter section in the same manner and on such terms as are now authorized by law.

A Debate arose thereon, (hereafter to be noticed) in which Messrs. Otis, Noble, King of New-York, Edwards, Ruggles, Johnson of Kentucky, Lowrie, Johnson of Louisiana, Leake, and Eaton, took part.

The question on agreeing to the same was then decided by Yeas and Nays, as follows:

YEAS.—Messrs. Brown, Edwards, Johnson, of Lou. King, of Alab. Lloyd, Logan, Noble, Pinkney, Smith, Stokes, Thomas, Walker, of Alab.—12.

NAYS.—Messrs. Barbour, Burrill, Dana, Dickerson, Eaton, Elliot, Gaillard, Horsey, Hunter, King, of N. Y. Lanman, Leake, Lowrie, Macon, Mellen, Morrill, Otis, Palmer, Parrott, Pleasants, Roberts, Ruggles, Sanford, Taylor, Tichenor, Trimble, Van Dyke, Walker, of Geo. Williams, of Mis. Williams, of Tenn. Wilson.—31.

So the amendment was disagreed to.

Mr. Walker of Alabama then renewed the motion he made a few days ago to amend the bill by adding thereto the following:

"That purchasers of public lands, which shall have been sold prior to the day of — next, shall be permitted to forfeit and surrender the same before the day of final payment, by delivering their certificates to the Register, and endorsing thereon their consent that the land therein described shall be resold: whereupon the said certificates shall be considered as cancelled, and the lands shall be deemed and taken to have reverted to the United States, and shall be disposed of, in all respects, like other reverted or forfeited lands, according to the provisions of the fourth section of this act; but, if such lands should sell for more than one dollar and — cents per acre, the excess shall be paid over to the former certificate holders: Provided, That such excess shall not be greater than the

amount previously paid on such certificate."

When, on motion of Mr. Logan, (to give time for consideration of amendments to protect the actual settler, &c. which he thought might be made) to postpone the bill to Friday next, it was decided in the negative 20 to 19.

And then, without opposition, it was postponed, on motion of Mr. Logan, to Friday next, and made the order of the day for that day.

The Bill for the establishment of a Uniform System of Bankruptcy was taken up, and was postponed to and made the order of the day for Monday next.

The bill for the relief of the officers and volunteers engaged in the late campaign against the Seminole Indians was taken up. Mr. Eaton commenced some explanations respecting it: but the Senate appearing too much absorbed in the affair of the Maine and Missouri bill to give attention to it, on motion of Mr. Eaton, the further consideration of the subject was postponed.

The Senate was about to adjourn, when the Clerk of the House of Representatives presented himself at the door, with a Message, that the House of Representatives had insisted on their disagreement to the amendments of the Senate to the Maine bill. [See above.]

Mr. Thomas then moved that a committee of conference be appointed, to confer with the House of Representatives on the subject.

Hereupon commenced a Debate, characterized by some vehemence and warm feeling, which previous arrangements for the paper alone prevent being reported to-day.

Mr. King, of Alabama, Mr. Barbour, and Mr. Smith, were in favor of adherence, which forecloses conference: Mr. King, of New-York, spoke in explanation: and Messrs. Thomas, Johnson, of Kentucky, Lowrie, Morrill, Dana, Eaton, Macon, and Mellen, successively supported the conference.

The Debate resulted in this: that a motion for deferring the question was negatived, and the Senate voted, not without opposition, but without dividing, to request a conference with the House of Representatives.

The Senate then balloted for Managers thereof on their part; and Mr. Thomas, Mr. Pinkney, and Mr. Barbour, were duly elected:

And the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Thursday, Feb. 24.

Mr. Lowndes, from the committee on foreign relations, reported a bill designating the ports within which only foreign armed vessels shall be permitted to enter; which was twice read.

Friday, Feb. 25.

MISSOURI BILL.

The Speaker having announced the orders of the day,

Mr. Hill, of Massachusetts, rose, and said he did not now wish to consume the time of the House upon a subject, the progress of which seemed to be stamped with all the marks of eternity. But he rose merely to move that the committee of the whole be discharged from any further consideration of the Missouri bill.

Mr. Lowndes said, that if the gentleman from Massachusetts insisted upon his motion being put, he would cheerfully vote in favor of it; yet, if he would consent to withdraw his motion for the present, to give two or three gentlemen more an opportunity to speak to-day, he thought it might be a saving of time, and the motion could be renewed again, if necessary, to-morrow morning, which would then, he thought, receive a decided support.

Mr. Hill acquiesced in this suggestion, and withdrew his motion.

The House then again went into a committee of the whole, Mr. Cobb, in the Chair on this bill.

Mr. Ervin of S. C. took the floor, and spoke at considerable length against the restriction.

Mr. Scott, of Missouri, next rose and spoke more than an hour on the same side.

Mr. Meigs, of N. York, spoke some time also against the restriction.

Mr. Adams, of Massachusetts, made a few remarks in favor of the restriction; and

Mr. Tucker, of Virginia, spoke more than an hour against the amendment. When he had concluded; (about four o'clock.)

Mr. Smith, of Maryland, rose and observed, that a large number of his constituents had expressed their opinion in opposition to the opinion which he was known to entertain on this subject, and it might be presumed that he desired to de-

liver his reasons for the vote which he should give. But Mr. S. said the public business was suffering by the protraction of the debate; the members are weary of it; every one's opinion was made up on it; and he was unwilling to consume the time of the committee by any remarks on the question. He therefore forebore, and he hoped the question would be taken.

Mr. Walker of North-Carolina, moved that the committee rise.

The committee refused to rise, by almost a unanimous vote.

Mr. Beecher, of Ohio, then stated that it was his wish to be heard on the question; and, if not allowed an opportunity of speaking in committee, he should do so in the House, unless prevented by force; and he moved that the committee should then rise.

This motion was lost by a very large majority.

Mr. Smith, of North Carolina, said the course he was about to propose was unusual and perhaps without precedent—that was to call the previous question in committee of the whole; but, as he conceived the motion would be sustained by the rules and orders of the House, and to put an end to any further debate on the amendment, he moved for the previous question thereon.

The Chair conceived that the motion was not in order.

Mr. Randolph asked leave of the mover of this course, to suggest to him a less invidious mode of getting at his object. If the committee should consent to rise, and the House would refuse to leave to sit again, the question would then be in the House; and that was the only way, Mr. R. said, that the committee, worn down by what was called a discussion, could be relieved from it. He hoped however possible, that the previous question should be dispensed with; but if some mode were not devised of getting clear of this debate, he believed he should become reconciled to it—though a man convinced against his will was of the same opinion still, &c.

Mr. Clay (Speaker) observed that the previous question would not effect the object of the gentleman who moved it; because its effect would be to put aside the question on the amendment altogether; and though that might be a very happy effect, yet it was not, he presumed, desired by the committee, and he thought it fair to warn gentlemen of an effect that he supposed was not anticipated.

Mr. Smith of North Carolina, though he had felt himself at entire liberty to make a motion, intended to stop the debate, inasmuch as he had not troubled the committee with a speech on the subject: yet as the effect would be what had been stated by the speaker, he would withdraw his motion.

The question was then taken on Mr. Taylor's proposed Restriction, &c. agreed to, by from 12 to 18 votes, [The Reporter was not able to ascertain the precise number.]

Mr. Taylor then moved that the committee rise, as he presumed it was not prepared to go into the various details of the bill this evening, several of which were important, and would give rise to many questions.

This motion was opposed by Mr. Scott and Mr. Strother, and supported by Mr. Sergeant. It, however, finally prevailed, and

The committee obtained leave—ayes 90—to sit again; and, about 5 o'clock, The House adjourned.

Saturday, Feb. 26.

MISSOURI BILL.

The order of the day being announced from the Chair;—being the unfinished business of yesterday,

Mr. Hill renewed the motion which he made yesterday, that the committee of the whole House be discharged from the further consideration of the Missouri Bill; but the motion was not sustained by a majority of the House.

The House then resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. Cobb in the chair, on the said Bill.

Mr. Storrs, of New-York, moved to amend the bill, by inserting in the fourth section, (immediately preceding the Restrictive amendment adopted yesterday,) the following proviso:

That in all that tract of country ceded by France to the United States, under the name of Louisiana, which lies north of thirty-six degrees and thirty minutes north latitude, excepting only such part thereof as is included within the limits of the state contemplated by this act, there shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, otherwise than in the punishment of crimes whereof the party shall have been duly convicted: Provided, always, That any person escaping into the same, from whose labor or service is lawfully