

dians against certain lawless inhabitants of the frontier.

Resolved, as the opinion of this committee, that provision should be made for supplying the necessities of the Indians in time of peace.

Resolved, as the opinion of this committee, that enquiry ought to be made whether further means should be provided to reinforce the provisions heretofore made for the extinction of the public debt.

Resolved, as the opinion of this committee that an enquiry ought to be made into the state of the mint and whether any further provisions are necessary in that department.

After some conversation as to the propriety of taking up the resolutions generally or partially into immediate consideration, it was agreed that they should lie over. Before the committee rose, however, Mr. Swanwick presented one to the following effect, which all lies over for future consideration.

Resolved, as the opinion of this committee, that an enquiry ought to be made into the progress of the naval equipments, ordered, and whether any further provisions are necessary on this subject. Adjourned.

Friday, Dec. 11.

Two members, viz. Mr. Daniel Buck, from Vermont, and Mr. Thomas Henderson, from New-Jersey, were qualified and took their seats.

The petition of Jabez Barney was presented, read and referred to the committee of claims.

The petition of William Thomson, another continental soldier, residing in the same state, was likewise read. He had been in the continental army, and afterwards in Sullivan's expedition against the six nations. In the latter affair, he was, near Wicoming, cast from a waggon, had his leg broke, and his body bruised. His petition stated that his family were poor, and himself incapable of affording them assistance. He had never received any compensation for his sufferings in the service of America. He cast himself on the clemency of the House.

On a motion by Mr. Kitchell, these two petitions were referred to the committee of claims.

Mr. Muhlenburg gave in a report from the committee named to draw up standing rules and orders for the House. He observed that they differed in some respects from those of last Congress. He moved, that they should be printed with the new variations separately marked, for the consideration of members, and referred to a committee of the whole House. This was agreed to, and on another motion, Monday was appointed for taking them up.

Mr. John Nicholas, from Virginia, was qualified and took his seat.

It was next moved and resolved to proceed to the choice of a chaplain. The Speaker moved—the House to prepare their ballots. Mr. Hillhouse said that it would first be proper to make, as on former occasions, a nomination. The House consented, and Mr. Hillhouse named Dr. Green.—The Speaker then reminded the House, that any other gentleman was at liberty to make what other nomination he should think fit. Mr. Giles, and Mr. W. Smith, were appointed tellers. Sixty three votes were in favour of Dr. Green, besides seven scattering votes. He was declared duly elected.

The petition of John Porram was read, and on motion referred to a select committee of three members.

A petition was received from the town of Newbury; from its situation, &c. praying to be made a port of delivery; ordered to be laid on the table.

A petition was received from John Farrell, stating that his pay had been taken up by some person not properly authorised; he prayed redress.

Mr. Moore thought some method ought to be adopted to prevent such imposition in future, and moved that the petition of John Farrell be referred to a special committee, which was agreed to.

The House then adjourned till Monday next.

December 13.

A report was read from the committee of

claims respecting sundry petitions which were left in an undecided state by the last committee—A resolution was annexed for the new committee to take up the same and decide thereon—this resolution was agreed to.

In committee of the whole, on the standing rules and orders, Mr. Muhlenburg in the chair.—The rules were read. When the rules relative to papers introduced incidentally to the house, was read, Mr. Dayton objected to part of a sentence in these words, "which had before been read to the house"—the words, on motion of Mr. Dayton, were expunged—and the rule now reads thus—"When the reading of a paper is called for, and the same is objected to by any member, it shall be determined by a vote of the house."

The rule in the following words, "No committee shall sit, during the sitting of the house, without special leave," was objected to by Mr. W. Smith, as a rule which had not been complied with in times past, and which there was reason to suppose would not be adhered to in future—and the habitual breach of any particular rule had a tendency to impair the obligation to observe the rest.

Mr. Dayton stated several particulars to shew the necessity and importance of the rule—Mr. Smith waved his objections.

Mr. Giles rose for enquiry respecting a standing "Committee of Commerce," introduced as an article in one of the rules.—The establishment of such a committee, he observed, was an essential deviation from the usage of the house.

Mr. Murray and Mr. Baldwin rose to explain: The latter gentleman gave a brief statement of the advantages which had been derived from the appointment of the committee of claims—system and dispatch were the result in relation to the subjects submitted to their decision; and there could be no doubt of similar advantages being the effect of a standing committee to take into consideration the various objects which would come before the legislature, under the various heads of import, tonnage, &c. &c. Mr. Giles expressed himself satisfied with the reasons assigned for introducing such a committee into the rules and orders of the house.

Mr. W. Smith moved that the rule which appears to imply that the previous question may be put in committee of the whole house, might be made positive. He observed, that it had in times past been determined by the chair, that the previous question could not be taken in committee of the whole; the consequence was, that embarrassments had often incurred.—The discussions of a whole subject had been often interrupted by a motion for the rising of the committee of the whole, when such parts of a subject might have been got rid of by taking the previous question on a particular point. He moved to insert a positive declaration that the previous question might be taken in committee of the whole.

Mr. Baldwin and Mr. Giles objected, on the ground, that it would go to transforming the committee of the whole into the house, impede the freedom of discussion, and destroy the benefit of a committee of the whole altogether. Mr. Smith's motion was not agreed to.

The rules and orders being gone through with, the committee rose, and the chairman reported one amendment to the house, which was agreed to.

Mr. Giles moved, that the words *and manufactures*, should be added to the words "a committee of commerce." This motion was agreed to.

Other amendments were proposed, some of which were agreed to, others not.

The rule in the following words, on motion of Mr. Giles, was expunged, viz.

"No petition to controvert the election of a member returned to serve in this house shall be received, unless the same be presented within fifty days after the member petitioned against shall take his seat."

The question on the report as amended was then put and agreed to.

A Communication was read from the Secretary of the Treasury, informing the house that the annual accounts of receipts and ex-

penditures was ready to be laid before the house, and that 500 copies would be immediately deposited with the clerk.

A communication was read from the Secretary of State, containing two statements of the affairs of the mint—These statements were made to the President of the United States, one by Mr. De Sauffure, late director of that institution, the other by Mr. Boudinot, the present director: These being read, were referred to the committee of the whole on the state of the Union.

A letter was read from the Secretary of the Treasury, enclosing an estimate of the appropriations necessary for the services of the year 1796.

A letter from the late Secretary of War was read, enclosing sundry statements—referred to the committee of the whole.

It was ordered that the statements relative to the mint should be printed for the use of the members.

A committee of commerce and manufactures was appointed—consisting of Mr. Goodhue, Mr. S. Smith, Mr. Burr, Mr. Swanwick, Mr. W. Smith, Mr. Parker, and Mr. Livingston.

A memorial from the collector of Cedar Point was read and referred to the committee of commerce and manufactures.—It contains a recommendation of New-Jersey as a port of entry in preference to Cedar Point. Adjourned.

B O S T O N, December 10.

On Tuesday last Capt. Holland arrived at this port from London, in a passage of 35 days; the ship is owned by Mr. Stephen Higginson, which was carried into England for trial with a cargo of iron, duck, &c. from Russia. The ship is returned to the owner, but the cargo (which is the yolk of the egg) remains in possession of our amicable disposed allies the British. By this vessel the first information reported was, the capture of the principal part of the Mediterranean fleet by the French, which is considered nearly equal in value to the East India fleet.

"A large part of this fleet is captured by the French part of which is very valuable," says the Centinel, but the whole of which is known to be very valuable, and will occasion considerable embarrassments on the exchange of London. We should be happy to give further particulars by Mr. Higginson's vessel, but the captain has bro't no papers, and but nineteen letters; who the letters are to, we have not yet discovered.

It is said there was little probability of peace at present. The successes of the French it is probable, has reduced the British Ministry to their ultimatum, they are doubtless sensible that the terms of France for peace would endanger their heads, they are therefore obliged, like Sampson, to pull down the edifice and perish themselves in the ruins. Pitt knows that if he should now halt, his destruction is inevitable; like a desperate gambler, he is now reduced to stake the nation a hazardous throw.

As we are not within the focus of those who own the vessel, we cannot relieve the public from their anxiety, but we have every reason to suppose that the accounts from England are against that haughty monarchy and in favour of our allies the French; we therefore cheerfully wait to hear further before we give any particulars.

One thing however is a fact, that tranquility universally prevails in France, excepting among the Royal party, who had war been the cause of their internal troubles and that the accounts of the disturbances so readily published in the British papers in America, have been only the effusions of the English Gazettes, and tending to deceive the public in the same manner as the writers on the disturbances in Boston meant to deceive the citizens through the Commonwealth.

By Chron.

The British king, in his speech to parliament, intimates that the Austrians had gained a victory over the French. The London papers mentioned, they had been repulsed, and fell back to the Rhine.

England had not declared war against Spain.