

Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Monday, January 30.

Mr. Leib said he had heard much lately about the independence of the judges; that it had been a theme within the walls of this House, and the subject of animated discussion within them.

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to enquire into the expediency of providing by law against the appointment of Judges of the courts of the United States to other offices under the government.

The House went into a committee of the whole Mr. Tenny in the chair, on the report of a select committee allowing further time to the owners of military land warrants to obtain and locate the same.

The committee agreed to the report, and the House concurred, and appointed a committee to bring in a bill.

A message was received from the Senate desiring a conference on the amendments to the bill making military appropriations.

The House agreed to the conference and appointed a committee to conduct it.

The House took into consideration the resolution of Mr. Epps for the appointment of a committee to bring in a bill for the discontinuance of the office of commissioner of loans in the several States.

A short debate took place. Mr. Epps and Mr. Smith supported, and Messrs. J. Clay, Elliot and L. Randolph opposed the resolution, on which the yeas and nays were then taken—Yeas 52—Nays 59.

The House went into a committee of the whole, Mr. Varnum in the chair—on the bill supplementary to the act to incorporate the inhabitants of the city of Washington.

The first section of the bill made the incorporation perpetual.

Mr. J. Randolph moved to limit its duration to five years from the end of the next session of Congress.

Mr. Rodney supported and Messrs. Nicholson, J. Clay and Dennis opposed the motion, which was agreed to—Yeas 48—Nays 32.

On motion of Mr. Dennis a section was introduced declaring citizens competent witnesses in suits to which the corporation may be a party.

When the bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading to-morrow.

Mr. J. Randolph, in the name of the committee appointed to enquire into the conduct of Samuel Chase and Richard Peters, stated that documents had been received by them which occupied a considerable bulk, the printing of which would considerably afflict their investigation, by rendering them more convenient for perusal. He added that it would probably be necessary to print the papers for the information of the House when the report of the committee was made. He therefore moved the vesting in them authority to cause to be printed such papers as they might conceive proper.

Dr. Eufis suggested a doubt of the propriety of printing detached papers, which might produce an improper impression upon the public mind.

Mr. Nicholson observed that it would rest with the committee to preclude if they saw fit, a publication of the papers, though printed, until the report should be made, and remarked that this was the course pursued by the committee of investigation.

The motion was then carried—Yeas 50.

From the Gazette of the United States.

As the ladies and gentlemen of those seventeen or eighteen United States and the territories thereunto belonging, have an unalienable right to be informed of the disquisitions of our court and to manage their own affairs in the same way, we have thought proper to lay before them the following extract of a letter from the first of government communicated by an obliging friend. The treatise in which Mr. and Mrs. Merry received upon their introduction at court will probably remind some of our readers of the fact, that during the last session of Congress Mr. Thornton, now then represented the British government, was invited to dine with the president in company with Tom Paine on an outlaw for treaty against the very government of which Mr. Thornton was the representative. What can be Mr. Jefferson's motives for these outrageous insults?

Extract of a letter from a gentleman at Washington, dated 24 January, 1804.

Our great people are making great preparations for celebrating the acquisition of Louisiana. The millennium is expected certainly to commence this year. There is to be nothing but feasting and rejoicing; every fish is to be hulled and every tear dried, and plenty of every necessary of life is to be had, only for asking. We begin to look upon you as unimpaired and frozen greenlanders. Even we, who are so much clearer this sun, which is to dispense to us such a profusion of blessings, scarcely feel his genial rays; but how deplorable will be your situation, placed at so much greater distance. I cannot bear to think of my friends toiling for subsistence, whilst plenty and happiness may be procured on so much easier terms. I would therefore advise you to take Mrs. —, and the children, and make haste to enter this land of promise, flowing with milk and honey. You need take nothing more, with you than sufficient provisions, to bring you to the borders; where it is reported you may be supplied with a

ready furnished house and attendants, with every convenience and luxury of life. The very beasts and fowls are said to share in the honors and hospitalities done to strangers; insomuch that pigs, geese and turkeys, roast themselves with the utmost expedition, and then come and beg you to eat them. The strange and wonderful accounts which are daily arriving have so elevated the President, that we are constantly looking out, expecting to see him on the top of his house, to take an aerial flight to this region of felicity. He would probably before this have been in a balloon or on pinions, had not some ungrateful sensations reminded him of his mortality. He took it into his head, the beginning of the present session of Congress, and before the arrival of Mr. Merry, the British ambassador, that the secretaries and their wives, (and a pretty set of them there are) were the greatest people in the world, and that all others must do homage to them. Mr. Merry arrived, and was introduced to the President in form. He sent to Mr. Madison to know what was to be done towards them. Mr. M. was unacquainted with these things, but would enquire at head quarters. After the consultation of the council it was agreed, that Mr. Merry must wait on the Secretaries and they were to be exempt from visiting him. Mr. Merry bowed in submission, if such was the custom of the court. Then came on the female procession. Mr. Madison, without waiting for orders, waited on Mrs. Merry soon after her arrival. This threw them all into confusion. What was to be done? Could they commit their dignity so much as to wait on Mrs. Merry? After a great deal of parade, and bowing, and whispering, and consulting some of them came to Mrs. Secretary Smith paid her visit; a few days after, Mrs. Gallatin made her congee; and a few days after that Mrs. Dearborn squatted herself down in the middle of them. To give you some little idea of these manoeuvres, you should figure to yourself Gen. Dearborn and his lady; she is the very counter-part of Mrs. —, and he is a thick headed —, with all the pomposity of an acquaintance of ours. But to the point: After their visiting ceremonies were adjusted, the dinners came on. Mr. Jefferson began the first act, and gave an official dinner to the diplomatic pair; & how do you think our polite philosopher treated his guests? Having laid it down, that the secretaries and their wives were above every other person, although the dinner was given to Mr. and Mrs. Merry, the philosopher leads in Mrs. Madison, and seated her on his right; & the other secretary ladieships were led in, and seated according to their rank Mr. and Mrs. Merry were left to view the procession as it passed, and he was then under the necessity of leading in his own wife, and accommodating her at table as well as he could. The same conduct was repeated the next day at Mr. Madison's. This appeared to be so proved an insult, that Mrs. Merry has since refused dining with them, till she can be assured of better treatment. What steps the ambassador, Sir Merry, will take is not known. There will certainly be some representation on the subject. The motives for this unaccountable conduct cannot be discovered. It has been attributed to pride, whim, weakness and malignant revenge. I think, myself, that they have all had a share in it. He hoped with impunity to indulge his jaundiced hatred against a nation, which had covered him with disgrace, and at the same time gratify the feelings of many friends, who are constantly agitated by similar feelings.

By the last intelligence from London, no object appears to engage the attention of the British cabinet more than certain demands said to have been made by Mr. Monroe, relating to the extension of the American trade with the British West India Islands, and the expiration of the 12th article of our treaty with Great Britain. —Mr. Monroe, (say the London papers,) is reported to have received fresh instructions from his government, to press the point with every possible urgency; and that another negotiator, a Mr. Lane, was expected soon to arrive from the United States, in order to give additional force and activity to the pending negotiation. The comments of the London Editor, on this subject, appear equally acrimonious against Mr. Monroe, as those of Duane against the British ministry. The former accuses the Executive of America, as being languidly disposed to derive or extort advantage from the present perplexed and perilous posture of England; and all its that the American government at present hold most lofty and menacing language, respecting what they call their just pretensions. Duane, on the other hand, endeavors to throw every species of obloquy on Jay's treaty; and exerts all his faculties of which his venous capacity is possessed, to irritate the citizens of this country against the conduct of England. —He calls our treaty with Britain, a monument of former weakness and a cautionary lesson for future infirmities. This language from a printer who is known to receive the support and sanction of the executive of the United States, may be productive of the most serious consequences at the present critical moment; when every circumstance on the part either of our executive, or that of the British cabinet, is eyed with the most jealous suspicion. —It is well known that Mr. Jefferson and Mr. Merry are at present on the most friendly footing both from the calumnies and invectives which daily appear in the Aurora against his Britannic Majesty; also from the repeated marks of supposed disrespect which have been offered to the latter at the seat of the American government. At a public entertainment lately given at Washington by the President to the several foreign ambassadors and the heads of the several departments, Mr. Merry &

his lady were present—but Mr. Jefferson, neglectful of the etiquette of the European courts, paid the compliments of the day to the lady of the Secretary of State—Mr. Madison followed the courteous example of Mr. Jefferson, and displayed the usual mark of gallantry on such occasions with Mrs. Secretary Smith—Mr. Smith, not to be singular, became the attendant of Mrs. Dearborn—and as Mr. Dearborn was absent from the celebrated fête, it is probable the lady of the British ambassador would not have experienced American politeness had not Mr. L. Harvie interposed his good breeding and prevented Mr. Merry from necessarily becoming the sole attendant of Mrs. Merry.—Mr. Merry is said, at first to have attributed this unusual ceremony to some philosophic reverie that perhaps had engaged the attention of the President; and would not have deemed it as an intended neglect, had not the same fashionable leger been again repeated in proper style at the house of Mr. Madison—Upon a similar invitation afterwards from Mr. Secretary Smith, Mr. Merry declined the honor, and has since, we are well assured, not exchanged any complimentary visits with either Mr. Jefferson or the heads of department. We confess it is to be regretted if trifling circumstances of this nature, should be the means of exciting any animosity in the British ministry towards the citizens of this country. We trust not, although from various information we believe that the ambassador of his Britannic Majesty has made a very unfavorable report of his present situation at Washington. [Va. Gaz.]

FROM THE FREDERICKTOWN HERALD.

"Is he honest, is he capable, is he faithful to the Constitution."—Whether the Post Master General considers any or all of these qualities as unimportant in the candidate for office, or whether like his Majesty the King of Louisiana, he thinks the time not arrived, when it may be prudent to make the enquiries, we shall leave to the decision of those who have been honored with the confidence of Gideon Granger. But if he does think that "honesty, capability and fidelity to the constitution" are necessary in a deputy postmaster we should sincerely pity the numerous impositions he has been condemned to suffer, had not the bitterness of persecution which has uniformly marked his conduct forfeited all claim to commiseration. Among the innumerable instances of this intolerant spirit, furnished by that department over which he presides, we shall now select one which has terminated rather unfortunately, for the friends of the Post matter Gen. and ought to be a lesson to him. The facts we are at out to state, have come to us from a very respectable quarter, and we feel no doubt of their truth. We are well informed the statement will without doubt be corrected, and we should be among the first to do so.

It seems that when Mr. Granger became postmaster general, Mr. Brashear was deputy postmaster, at Upper Marlboro' in this State—Mr. Brashear is a native American, and was acknowledged on all hands to be "honest, capable, and faithful to the constitution;" and in discharging the duties of his office had given entire satisfaction to all parties. But there happened to be a certain citizen foreigner, whose name we do not now recollect, who was desirous of obtaining the office, merely we suppose for the pleasure of serving the people. The character of this citizen we are informed by no means blood-fair but he had clamoured very much in favour of Mr. Jefferson, was noisy and busy at elections, and therefore according to the usual cant of the day, he was "a good patriot, a good republican," and willing to sacrifice his all (which happened to be nothing) for the "good of the people." Of course his wishes were gratified. Mr. Brashear was turned out and the citizen appointed. It is said he obtained a recommendation from Richard Sprigg, Esq. lately a democratic representative in Congress, now one of the Judges of the General Court. If this is really the case, it removes a great portion of censure from the shoulders of Mr. Granger, and places it on those of Mr. Sprigg. It is also said, that Mr. Sprigg was one of the citizen's securities, and the late Mr. Clarke (father of our present delegate to the assembly) the other. And if this is the fact, Mr. Sprigg stands some chance of atoning for his fault. But however this may be, the citizen entered upon the duties of his office, and seemed to be every day improving in zeal for his party, and devotion to the interest of Mr. Jefferson. When last one morning the citizen was missing, and no one could tell what had become of him;

"Another came, nor yet beside the mill,
"Nor up the lawn, nor at the wood was he."

Day passed after day and yet he returned not to bless the longing eyes of his friends. At length it was ascertained that he was fairly run away and left his securities to answer his bond. And this has one of the luminaries of democracy disappeared in Prince George's county. But think not reader that a man so well skilled in the lore of modern philosophy, would be content to carry off nothing but the paltry gains of the post office. He contrived to get possession of a subscription paper for the Life of Washington, and under pretence of being authorized to receive the advance money, had collected a considerable sum, and thus added to the profits of his office.

Hodge & Boylan's NORTH-CAROLINA ALMANACK, FOR SALE. At this Office.

Raleigh,

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1804.

We are happy to find that the proposed plan of Insurance of Houses, &c. against Fire in this State, which promises to be so mutually advantageous to Insurers, will meet with such encouragement both from the towns and country, as to leave little doubt that the sums subscribed will be sufficient to carry the same into effect in June next, the time when the subscribers or their representatives are to meet at this place to form rules and regulations for the society.

Extract of a letter from the Post Master at Fayetteville to the Editor, dated the 8th instant.

"It would appear from a number of torn letters that have been found strewn along the Post road near the edge of South Carolina and this State, that the Mail coming from Augusta and Camden, about the 21st of last month, must have been Robbed of a part of its contents—and yet I am quite at a loss how to account for it—for the mail that arrived here at that time from there, appeared to be securely locked, and neither the Postmanteau, Chain, Lock, nor Papers bore any marks of violence or improper handling—so that if any papers were taken out, the person who took them must have been possessed of a key or ingenuity enough to pick the lock: And it is said that the Letters that were picked up in that mangled state, had on the post marks of Offices in Georgia, dated in January last, & addressed to persons in New York, &c. so that they must have been in the Mail. The Post Rider between this and Camden, appears to be, and I think is, a very sober, honest young man; I interrogated him strictly on the subject, but he could give no account of it whatever, nor had he any reason he said to ground his suspicions on any person, for he believed, as I did, until he heard of the papers being found, that the Mail had come safe, nor had it any marks to the contrary—he travelled two days with two men who said they were from the neighborhood of Augusta—and going some where northwardly—they put up at night at the same house—but whether they might have had a key, or could have picked the lock, or would have done so when the rider was asleep, I know not—but the mail coming uniformly safely locked & apparently in good order, leaves me entirely at a loss to account for it—but gives great reason to believe that whoever did it must have had a key.

"You will do well to mention the above circumstance in your paper, to caution the public against taking Bank Notes from suspicious persons—least the perpetrators of this crime may have gotten some."

Postmasters writing to the Editor of this paper, are requested to frank their letters, as without the word free write on letters, postage is charged.

Mr. Samuel Crook is appointed Postmaster at Newbern in the room of Mr. John S. Pateur dismissed.

General Joseph Jones is appointed Postmaster at Petersburg in the place of John Grammer, Esq. dismissed.

A Bill has passed the Legislature of Virginia establishing a Bank at Richmond, and Branch Banks at Petersburg, Norfolk & Fredericksburg. The whole capital stock is a million and a half of dollars—the State interested in one fifth.

Petersburg, Feb. 6, 1804.

Messrs. DICKSON & PASCO, GENTLEMEN,

The enclosed letter from the Post Master General, was handed me on Saturday evening last by General Jones—I have thought proper to request you to give it a place in your paper—And oblige

Your humble servant, J. GRAMMER.

General Post Offices, Jan 24, 1804.

SIR, Believing that the public interest will be promoted, by the appointment of a new Postmaster, at Petersburg, V. I have accordingly appointed Mr. Joseph Jones, postmaster at that place; to whom, on the receipt of this, you will please to deliver all the Post Office property in your possession, taking a Receipt therefor, if you desire it.

You will also forward your accounts up to the time, when you deliver over the Office.

Yours, GID'S GRANGER.

JOHN GRAMMER, Esq. Petersburg, Va.

COMMUNICATION.

The removal of Mr. Grammer from the Post Office of this place, and the manner in which that removal has been communicated, have excited the most lively feelings in the breasts of many, even of the warmest eulogists of the present administration. That the public interest has not been neglected, nor shamefully abused, by Mr. G. we appeal to every man, who has been in the habit of transacting business at the post-office. The only charge that we have ever heard against the ex-post-master, is, that he was rather slow in executing the duties of his office; but this crime has been amply recompensed by providing himself with a very active assistant. That the accounts of the post office under Mr. G. have been regular and correct, is a fact known to every individual—Why then dismiss him upon the principle, that the public interest would be advanced by his removal? Why tarnish his fair character with illiberal insinuations?—This is a circumstance in which the citizens of Petersburg feel deeply interested, as it tends to implicate the character