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Congress of the United States.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

MONDAY, November 13.

The petition of Charles Minnie, of Charles Hyde and of Ezekiel Harris were severally referred to the committee of claims.

Dr. Mitchell presented a petition from the state companies of New-York and Dutchess counties, praying an encouragement to their quarries that an additional duty may be laid upon that article when imported from Wales or other foreign parts.

The house resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the state of the Union.

Mr. Dawson in the chair.

Mr. J. Randolph submitted seven resolutions, which were agreed to, and afterwards adopted by the house, as follows:

1. Resolved, That so much of the message of the President of the United States as relates to the restraining of our merchant vessels arming themselves without authority, and attempting to force a commerce into certain ports and countries in defiance of the laws of those countries, be referred to a select committee.

2. Resolved, That so much, &c. as relates to an amelioration of the form of government of the territory of Louisiana, be referred to a select committee.

3. Resolved, That so much, &c. as recommends an enlargement of the capital employed in commerce with the Indian tribes, be referred to a select committee.

4. Resolved, That so much, &c. as relates to the defence and security of our ports and harbours, and supporting within our waters the authority of the laws, be referred to a select committee.

5. Resolved, That so much, &c. as relates to the improvements of the militia system of the United States, be referred to a select committee.

6. Resolved, That so much, &c. as relates to the inconvenience which arises from the distance to which, under existing laws prizes captured from the corsairs of Tripoli, must be brought for adjudication, be referred to a select committee.

7. Resolved, That so much, &c. as relates to the lead mines of Louisiana, be referred to the committee of commerce and manufactures.

Mr. Thompson presented a petition from Mr. Rowls, stating that he had purchased of the United States a tract of land in the state of Ohio, under an impression that a stream of water sufficient for a mill passed through the same, but on survey it appeared to pass thro' the adjoining tract; & he thereupon prays to be allowed to cut a canal from the same, to enable him to procure water for a mill; according to his original intention. Referred to a select committee.

The Speaker laid before the house a letter from Mr. Thomas Claxton, door keeper of the house of Representatives of the United States, written in his official capacity, stating that "at the request of one of the inhabitants of the city, the chaplain to the Senate, after he had performed divine service in the chamber of the house of Representatives in the forenoon, gave notice that in the afternoon a stranger would preach in the same room, which is a thing altogether unusual.—This notice was given without consulting the Speaker, or being mentioned to any other officer of the house. Believing it to be a precedent which might hereafter lead to many inconveniences, he opposed the measure, &c. In taking this step he unfortunately gave umbrage to some of the gentlemen belonging to the house. This circumstance induced him to hope that the Speaker would establish some regulation on this point, or bring the matter before the house for its decision.

Mr. Speaker observed that he had never exercised any authority on this subject.—Whenever he had been applied to for leave to preach in that room he had uniformly answered that he had no objection.

On motion, the letter was referred to a committee of three.

Mr. J. Clay reported that the committee appointed to wait upon the President on the subject of capt. Decatur and the ketch Intrepid, had performed that service, and received for answer that he would cause the request of the house to be complied with.

Mr. J. Randolph informed the House that the committee of Ways and Means had received a communication from the Treasury department, stating that the appropriation of \$0,000 dolls. for carrying into effect the seventh article of the British treaty had not been sufficient to discharge the second installment upon all the awards made in pursuance thereof, and suggesting the propriety of making as early as possible a further appropriation for that object. The secretary of state estimated the amount unpaid at 60,000 dolls. and that in order to prevent any disappointment it would be eligible to make the appropriation 70,000.—Mr. R. hereupon moved that the committee of Ways and Means have leave to report a bill on this subject—leave being granted.

Mr. J. R. reported a bill accordingly, which was read a first and second time, and referred to a committee of the whole tomorrow.

Mr. Griswold stated that some inconvenience had been felt by some of the merchants of the Atlantic ports in making shipments to New-Orleans, as they were not authorised to obtain drawbacks on a re-shipment from that port to a foreign country; heretofore New-Orleans had been a depot from which many foreign articles were shipped to the French, Spanish, and even British colonies and islands, a commerce that had been very productive. He wished if there was no solid objection to it that the usual course of trade might be continued. He therefore moved the following resolution.

Resolved, That the committee of Commerce and Manufactures be instructed to enquire into the expediency of allowing, under proper regulations, a drawback of duties on goods, wares and merchandise, imported into the port of New-Orleans from any port of the United States, and from thence exported to any foreign port or place, and that the committee report by bill or otherwise.

The resolution was carried nem. con. Adjourned.

TUESDAY, November 13.

A sufficient number of members not appearing to form a quorum, adjourned.

North-Carolina Legislature.

We mentioned in a part of our last week's impression the meeting of the members, and that Gen. Riddick was re-appointed Speaker of the Senate, and S. Cabarrus, esq. to that of the House of Commons, & that the Clerks, Engrossing Clerks and Door-keepers were also re-elected.

House of Commons, Tuesday, Nov. 20.

A joint committee was appointed to wait on his Excellency the Governor, to inform him that the two houses are formed, and ready to receive any communications he might have to make. Messrs. Hatch and Smith, of the Senate, and Messrs. Love and Hooks, of the Commons, were the committee.

The following standing Committees were appointed:

Committee of Claims.—Messrs. Stevelie, Caldwell, Gray, Marshall, Fulwood, Hatch, Jordan & Foster, of the Senate; & Messrs. Edmund Jones, Rabourn, Horn, Brasher, C. Campbell, J. Cochran, Whitaker, B. Harris, Hudgens, Perry, Fonville, May, Bloodworth, Moore, M'Lennan and Night of the Commons.

Committee of Finance.—Messrs. M'Caleb, Graham, Ray, M'Allister, Smith, Williams (of Pitt) Montgomery and Frear, of the Senate; Messrs. Love, Hulme, Pearson, Ogilby, Holt, Yancey, Whitaker, Hawkins, J. Jones, Sawyer, Grist, Rhodes, Hooks, Leonard, K. Cochran and Lanier, of the Commons.

Committee of Propositions & Grievances.—Messrs. Hampton, Martin, Person, Gastor, Kenan, Bryan, Cotter and Hyman, in the Senate; Messrs. J. Moore, Erwin, Lowrie, Young, Lea, Farrar, Cherry, Browning, Small, Morgap, Roberts, Bright, J. Foy, French, Lockhart and Brown, in the Commons.

Committee of Divorce & Alimony.—Messrs. M'Caleb, Eaton, Branley, Lee (Robeson) Bloodworth, M'Kinnic, Ferebee & Little, of the Senate; Messrs. Withrow, Callaway, Davidson, Parker, Hornbuckle, Stead, Moody, Turner, Johnson, Hudgens, Spencer, Smith, Molten, M'Canne, Mobley, and M'Neill, of the Commons.

Mr. R. Cochran, presented a bill to amend the act passed last session, for establishing a Mutual Insurance Society against Fire on buildings, goods and furniture in this State, which passed its first reading.—This bill fixes the board of direction in Raleigh, &c.

Mr. Love, from the committee appointed to prepare and report Rules for the government of the House, made a report, which was agreed to, and ordered to be printed.

Wednesday, Nov. 21.

Mr. M'Glennan, presented the following resolution, to wit: "On account of the scarcity of provisions in the city of Raleigh, Resolved, that the officers and Members of this General Assembly adjourn from this place, and meet at the town of Fayetteville on the day of _____ which was ordered to lie on the table.

Resolved, that all claims presented and to be acted on by this General Assembly, the rate of compensation being fixed by law, but the mode of payment, other than by application to the General Assembly, ascertained, shall be presented to the committee of claims in the first instance, without being previously read in either house.

Mr. Brownig presented a bill to divorce Samuel Easton, of Carteret county, from his wife Zilphia; and Mr. Hooks a bill to secure to Ann Raphael such estate as she may hereafter acquire.

The following Message from his Excellency Governor Turner, by his Secretary John W. Guion, Esquire, was received.

To the Honorable the General Assembly of North-Carolina.

GENTLEMEN,

Before I proceed to lay before you the several subjects, which I have it in contemplation to communicate, permit me to congratulate you as a body of agriculturalists, coming from all parts of the state; that notwithstanding the excessive and alarming drought which we experienced during the latter part of the past summer, our crops, though comparatively light, will be found sufficient, if used with economy, to furnish a comfortable support for the people at large; and though the increased price of the necessaries of life may fall heavy upon a few, that general distress which at one period was apprehended, will not I trust be felt.

In pursuance of the directions of the last General Assembly, I transmitted to His Excellency the Governor of South-Carolina, a copy of the act just then passed; entitled "An act appointing Commissioners to extend the boundary line of this state and the state of South-Carolina," the receipt of which was acknowledged by him the 17th March following; when it appeared that my communication was not received until after the Legislature of South-Carolina had risen.

In this letter his Excellency states his intention of laying our act before their Legislature at their extra session to be held in May; but not having been favoured with any communication from him since, it is presumed that the Legislature did not act on this subject at that session.

Soon after our last General Assembly rose, I received a letter from his Excellency the Governor of Georgia, enclosing an extract of an act passed by the Legislature of that state on the 15th December last, making provisions for the ascertaining, running and marking the boundary line between Georgia and North-Carolina. It appears that by the Convention entered into between the United States and Georgia on the 24th April, 1802, that that part of the Territory ceded by South-Carolina to the General Government, which lies west of the Blue-Ridge of mountains, and south of the southern boundaries of North-Carolina and Tennessee, was ceded to the state of Georgia. It is presumed this circumstance was not adverted to by the General Assembly of this state, when the above act was passed; and had the Legislature of South-Carolina, at their May session, have taken up the subject and made provisions for co-operating with our commissioners, and the boundary line between this state and South-Carolina, had been settled as far as her limits extend, I should have thought myself justified by the intention of the law in directing the commissioners appointed under it, to have proceeded with the commissioners which might have been appointed for the purpose by the state of Georgia, to have extended the line to the state of Tennessee.

But it appears from the letters which have passed between his Excellency the Governor of Georgia and myself on this subject, which with the extract of the law above alluded to, are herewith sent, that if our commissioners had have met, the commissioners appointed by that state, nothing could have been done on account of the Gov. of Georgia's objections to the proviso in our law; which states that the extension of the line shall not affect the titles of any person or persons to the lands entered in either of the said states, unless that proviso was agreed to by Georgia, I conceive no authority but the Legislature had a right to concede it. The Legislature will perceive the necessity of making provisions to adjust this matter with Georgia, as that harmony which ought to subsist between sister states cannot be maintained without their limits are accurately defined and marked.

A communication from his Excellency the Governor of Tennessee, dated the 10th of August last, enclosing the copy of an act of that state, ratifying and confirming the act of this state passed by the session of the General Assembly, authorising the state of Tennessee to perfect titles of laws reserved to this state by the cession act; and another letter dated the 8th of October, enclosing a copy of an act of that state, authorising the court of Sevier county to open a certain road therein mentioned, and to fix a turnpike or turpikes thereon, are laid before you. The law of this state to which the first mentioned act is confirmatory, did not receive the necessary assent of Congress at the last session; but it is probable that the subject will be again brought before Congress, and that a decision will be had thereon, in time to be laid before you during the present session.—In the law for opening a new road, it will be observed that a request is made, that the Legislature of N. Carolina will co-operate with the states of Tennessee & Georgia, in effecting that part of it which passes through this state; which is estimated at about fourteen miles.

A letter from his Excellency the Governor of Massachusetts, dated the 22d of June last, enclosing certain resolutions of the Legislature of that State, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the U. States, accompanies this. A proposition of this nature will be thought deserving of the most serious consideration of the Legislature, and I make no doubt will be acted on with that deliberation and caution its importance requires.

The Secretary of State of the U. States, by a letter dated the 24th Sept. last, certifies that the proposed amendment to the Constitution of the United States, respecting the election of President and Vice-President of the United States, has been duly ratified by three-fourths of the States, and that it is therefore become a part of the Constitution.

An extract of a letter from the Solicitor-General of this State, dated the 10th of October last, respecting the trial and punishment of slaves, and the present insufficiency of our jails, is submitted to your consideration.

A letter dated December 16, 1803, was received from Hodgen Holmes, of Georgia, immediately after the close of the last session of the Legislature, alledging himself to be the sole proprietor of the Cotton Gin; requesting that his letter might be laid before the General Assembly; and that the money payable by the State to Messrs. Miller & Whitney, might be suspended until the decision of a certain suit depending in the Federal Court respecting it.—This letter is now laid before the General Assembly, together with a copy of the patent granted to said Hodgen Holmes, which I have obtained by means of Mr. Macon, one of our Representatives in Congress, for your information; and from a perusal of which you will be able to form a correct opinion on the subject.

In the course of the summer, I received 780 copies of the laws of the first session of the seventh Congress of the United States, for the use of this State, and I am lately advised by the Secretary of State, that he has directed 670 copies of the laws of the second session of the seventh Congress, to be forwarded, as a part of those to which this State is entitled; which latter parcel I am informed, has arrived at Newbern; and directions have been given for them to be forwarded to this place, and the receipt of