

Mr. W. W. Jones law no reason why a man being out of the county who has his property here, should not pay a double tax, as well as those who lived in the county; because the law has wisely provided that he may deliver in his list by himself or by his agent. He hoped the amendment would not be agreed to.

Mr. F. Walker said, he must contend for the propriety of his motion. A man who lives in the county has it always in his power to enter his property; but he who lives at a distance must employ an agent for the purpose, and that agent may neglect to follow his directions, or some casualty might prevent the entry from being made. He did not think it right for the State to take advantage of these absences; if they paid a single tax, it was all that ought to be required of them.

Mr. W. W. Jones said, the reason why it was provided that a man who did not give up a list of his property should pay a double tax, was that the State should not be defrauded; without this provision, owners would not give in their property, and the State would lose two-thirds of its taxes, as it was notorious that in every county considerable quantities of land were at present unentered, and escaped taxation altogether.

Mr. Tatam observed, it was one of the purposes of this bill to make non-residents pay their taxes. At least one-sixth of the land in the State, had heretofore escaped taxation; but the proposed double tax, it is expected, would induce the owners of property, who live at a distance from it, to see that it is duly entered.

Mr. F. Walker said, that, at present, if land was not entered, the taxes upon it were not lost to the State. Gentlemen need only look into the State Gazette, and they would constantly see a long list of the advertisements of Sheriffs for the sale of unentered lands for the taxes due on them. He did not mean to exonerate any property from tax; what he wished, was, that the tax should be equal to all.

Mr. Alexander believed sufficient had been said, to convince the house that the bill was proper as it now stood. If an objection could be made to a double tax being laid in any instance, it would be in cases where owners were not resident within the State. There might be some reason in exempting from the double tax such persons as resided in another State, or in a foreign country; but surely it could be no hardship on any person residing within the State; because every citizen is supposed to be acquainted with the laws of the government under which he lives. If the gentleman from Rutherford would confine his amendment in this way, he should not object to it.

Mr. Erwin observed, that it was the intention of this bill to guard against that loss which was at present sustained by the revenue, owing to persons living out of the country where their property lay, not giving it in. It was well known, that in the western counties, not one half of the land would be given in, except this double tax was laid. Though the owners of land might not live in the State, they were doubtless acquainted with the laws in force where their property lay, and he hoped the amendment would not pass.

The motion was put and negatived.

The question was now on the bill passing its second reading, and the yeas and nays were called by Mr. F. Walker.

Mr. Bloodworth hoped the yeas and nays would be dispensed with on this reading, and taken on the final passage of the bill. During part of the discussion on this bill, he had been necessarily absent; and there were some parts of it which he thought needed amendment. The amendments might be introduced on the third reading, and the yeas and nays then properly taken; but if he were called upon for his vote, in the present stage of the bill, he should vote against it, though he might be for it ultimately.

not given in: If Gentlemen wished still to amend the bill, they might do so on the third reading, and not before it was not altogether what they wished it, vote against its passing a second reading.

Mr. Alexander was clearly in favour of the bill, and hoped if any Gentleman had objections to it he would now state them. He trusted, because Gentlemen could not have every amendment they proposed received, they would not vote against the present passage of the bill. If the principles of the bill were good, every member ought to support it; all must confess that there are great delinquencies in the present collection of the revenue. If nothing more was obtained by the bill than the establishment of an uniform time of taking the lists, it would be a desirable measure. At present, every County regulates its own time for appointing Justices to take the lists of taxable property, &c. By the time being uniform throughout the State, the attention of the people will be generally drawn to it, as the entries can be made at no other time. The provision for collecting the taxes of persons about to move away, he also thought a good regulation. Heretofore, Mr. A. observed, our Treasury had been filled from resources which were now nearly exhausted; and it was therefore necessary to introduce greater strictness into the collection of the Revenue, than had hitherto been observed; what one man pays, said he, every man who is equally liable, ought to pay.

Mr. Bloodworth added, all he had required was, the Gentleman who had called the Yeas and Nays, would withdraw his motion, and let them be taken on the last reading of the bill. He wished every necessary regulation to be adopted; but he did not wish to give his vote in the dark. He saw something in the bill which did not meet his approbation, and he thought it would be no disadvantage to it, to suffer it to pass at present in the usual way.

Mr. Walker observed, that it was not less his desire, than that of other Gentlemen, to have the Revenue duly collected. He was not a friend to the bill, nor should he vote for it; but if the Gentleman from New-Hanover wished further time to consider the bill, before he was called upon for his yeas or nays, he should not object it, and withdrew his motion.

Mr. Erwin hoped, though the bill might not be complete, that Gentlemen would not vote against its passing a second reading on this account. He trusted the bill would pass on its third reading, and that the Yeas and Nays would be now taken.

On putting the question, no objection to the passing appearing, Mr. E. withdrew his motion.

MINUTES.

Monday, Nov. 30.

Mr. J. G. Wright, from Wilmington, appeared, was qualified, and took his seat.

A message was sent to the Senate, informing that body, that General Davie, whom the Governor had appointed a Commissioner to adjust the contest respecting the boundary line between this State and S. Carol na, being present, and wishing to communicate with a confidential committee on this subject, a joint committee was proposed.

The Senate agreed to the appointment of a committee for this purpose; but not to its being called a confidential committee, or to its being invested with any power to withhold from either House any information that may be obtained on this subject; always relying on the prudence of the members of any committee not unnecessarily divulging to the public, matters proper only for the investigation of the legislature.

Received from the Senate, a resolution requiring the Governor to demand from the Executives of the Mississippi Territory, and of the State of Tennessee, the surrender of Wm. Tyrrel and Stokely Donaldson, to the end that they may be brought to trial for frauds.

fix the prices for importing and exporting tobacco passed in 1794.

The committee of propositions, &c. reported a bill to authorize David Dickey to collect the arrears of taxes due him as treasurer for the county of Rutherford; also a bill to establish two separate elections and a general muster in Bladen county.

Resolved, that no bill of a private nature be introduced after Saturday.

The house went into a committee on the bill to amend the penal laws, as stated in the debates.

The Senate informed the house that they had rejected the bill to amend an act to prevent frauds in the sale of property therein mentioned, passed in 1794.

The Senate proposed that a bill which they sent to establish a Superior Court of Law and Equity at Smithfield, in Johnston county, be referred to a committee of the members from the districts of Newbern, Hillsborough and Halifax. Agreed.

Tuesday, Dec. 1.

The following bills were presented and read, viz. by Mr. M'Lennan, a bill to authorize the administrators of Malcolm M'Niell, late Sheriff of Moore county, to collect the taxes due; by Mr. B. Smith, a bill to alter the mode of raising money to defray the expence of the jurors from Burke county, to the courts, &c.

The question on the second reading of the divorce bill was taken by yeas and nays, and lost, as already stated.

Received from the Senate, a report of the select committee appointed to confer with Gen. Davie on the subject of the boundary line, which was concurred with.

Received also, a bill to repeal the 1st section of an act for appointing commissioners to extend the boundary line of this State passed in '96.

Wednesday, Dec. 2.

Bills presented and read, viz. by Mr. Banner, a bill to establish an inspection on Dan River, on the land of Absolom Bostick, in Stokes county; by Mr. Clarke, a bill to repeal part of an act passed last session, to prevent the working two mines at the same place on the Pee-dee, &c. so far as relates to a certain land therein mentioned; by Mr. Tatam, a bill respecting retailing spirituous liquors in the counties therein mentioned; by Mr. Knight, a bill to secure to Hannah Mason, such estate as she may hereafter acquire; Mr. Small, a bill to empower the county court of Chowan to appoint the duties of the Inspector, &c. by Mr. Garroy, a bill to alter the place of holding the separate election in the county of Currituck; by Mr. Kennedy, a bill confirming the title to lands entered in Beaufort and Martin counties, and to ascertain the boundaries of said counties; and by Mr. Fisher, a bill directing the manner in which confiscated lands shall in future be disposed of.

The following message was received from the Governor: To the Hon. the General Assembly of North Carolina.

Gentlemen, I have held a Talk with the reputation from the Tuscorora Indians, the result of which, perhaps, may be unnecessary to be detailed to your Honorable Body. I would however, submit to the Legislature, the propriety of appointing a Commissioner or Commissioners, to treat with them respecting the objects explained in the letter of the Secretary of War, which a few days past I had the honor of laying before the General Assembly.

Dec. 2.

A message was sent to the Senate, proposing that a special joint committee be appointed to confer with the Indian Chief of the Tuscorora Tribe, on the nature and extent of their claim to lands in this State.

The Senate proposed balloting tomorrow for field officers of the cavalry of the 9th brigade, nominating for Lieut. Col. Commandant Daniel Smith, for first Major, Major Wm. Tate, and for 2d Major And. Band. This house added to the nomination Edw. Jones and John Davidson, the former for 1st Major, the latter for 2d. Davidson's name was afterwards withdrawn.

Received from the Senate, a bill to alter the time of holding the elections in the county of Halifax; a bill to grant a separate election to Sampson; a bill to repeal part of the insolvency laws of this State; a bill to empower Wm. Goodman, late Sheriff of Lenoir, to collect arrears of taxes; a bill to regulate the town of Wm. Taylor; a bill to establish a town or near Wm. Taylor's ferry, on the river; and a bill to quiet in possession of Mary Young the right of certain lands therein mentioned.

A joint committee was appointed to take into consideration the several laws which relate to monies remaining in the hands of Executors and Administrators, after the time mentioned by law, &c.

The Senate rejected the bill for the relief of James Dean, and the bill preventing any person from holding more than one office.

The committee of propositions reported a bill to annex part of Pitt county to Edgecomb.

Friday, Dec. 4.

The Governor laid before the House a General Return of the Militia of the State.

Bills presented and read, viz. by Mr. Bloodworth, a bill to alter the mode of appointing certain officers, &c. by Mr. Lanier, a bill to regulate the town of Smeedborough; by Mr. Fisher, a bill to repeal an act passed last session, making compensation to county court jurors, so far as relates to Chowan; by Mr. Brownrigg, a bill to amend the law fixing the days of holding the elections in Edgecomb; by Mr. B. Smith, a bill to amend an act to secure the impartiality of trial by jury, &c. by Mr. Johnston, a bill confirming the last wills of lunatics; by Mr. W. Jones, a bill to prevent frauds in the sale of leather; by Mr. Franklin, a bill to compel the clerk of Surry county to keep his office at the court house, or at the law office thereof; by Mr. Rivers, a bill to confirm the name of Wm. Watson; by Mr. J. G. Wright, a bill to repeal part of an act to prevent the several species of hunting therein mentioned; a bill to the further regulation of the town of Edenton; and by Mr. Cotton, a bill to emancipate a negro girl by the name of Eliza.

The Senate rejected, on its first reading, the bill to amend the laws respecting the Murrain distemper among cattle.

Saturday, December 5.

Bills presented and read, viz. by Mr. Banner, a bill to erect the counties of Stokes, Surry, Guilford, and Rockingham into one district, and appointing a Superior Court of law for the same; by Mr. Brown, a bill to annex part of Richmond to Robeson county; by Mr. Small, a bill making compensation to jurors of Chowan county, and one to empower Chowan court to lay a tax for building a poor house; by Mr. Love, a bill to direct the manner in which the Sheriffs of Buncombe and Wilkes shall hereafter collect and pay over the taxes of said counties; by Mr. Griffith, a bill to alter the name of Judkins, in several persons, to that of Hodges, and a bill to confirm the emancipation of a certain negro girl called Phillis; by Mr. Harvey, a bill to empower Edmund Waddle, of Randolph, to erect a gate or gates on his own plantation; and a bill to establish two separate General Mullers in Surry; by Mr. J. Seawall, a bill to empower Jenkins Devany and Thomas Sherrod, late Sheriffs of Franklin, to collect arrears of taxes; by Mr. Rivers, a bill to authorize the securities of Henry Gray former Sheriff of Johnston, to collect arrears of taxes for the year 1795; by Mr. Baird, a bill for the better regulation of the town of Asheville; by Mr. Kennedy, a bill to amend an act for facilitating navigation, and regulating pilotage, so far as respects the port of Washington; by Mr. H. Seawall, a bill to revive an act passed in 1794, for the regulation of the city of Raleigh, and to amend the same; by Mr. Bloodworth, a bill to establish a company for the purpose of facilitating the navigation of Neuse River, from Smithfield to the mouth of Crabtree creek; by Mr. Lanier, a bill to secure to Mary Bostick, such estate as she may hereafter acquire; by Mr. Ward, a bill to authorize John Harrison, deputy Sheriff, to collect arrears of goal tax due for 1795, and Jesse Sanders the parish tax due for last year; by Mr. Hinton, a bill to alter the name of Elizabeth-town, to that of Elizabeth city, and a bill to regulate the town of Nixonton; by Mr. S. Parker, a bill to prevent the fatal effects of the Murrain distemper, so far as relates to Granville, and by Mr. Guyther, a bill to amend an act to regulate and ascertain the several officers' fees therein mentioned, &c.

Received from the Senate, a bill to amend an act to amend the several laws respecting the Murrain distemper among cattle, passed in 1795; a bill to amend an act for the more

regular collecting of public taxes, passed in 1784; a bill to exempt the clerks employed in military services, except in case of suspension; a bill to empower the wardens of the poor of Franklin to lay an additional tax, a county of Lincoln; a bill to authorize the court to lay a poor-tax; and a bill to authorize the Trustees of Newbern Academy to raise money to build an Academy by a lottery.

The committee of propositions reported a bill to revive an act for running the boundary line between the counties of Montgomery and Moore, passed in 1801; and a bill to certain real estate therein mentioned.

The Senate rejected the bill to prevent frauds in the sale of leather.

The bill to confirm the wills of idiots, and that for the relief of persons owning mills, were rejected on the second reading.

The committee of propositions reported in favour of relieving William Hill and John Porter, from forfeited recognizances, in being bound for the appearance of Stokely Donaldson, which was concurred in.

A message was sent to the Senate, proposing to ballot on Monday morning for Brigadier-Generals for the 7th and 11th brigades; nominating for the 7th, Montfort Stokes, Alexander Worke, and Richmond Pearson; for the 11th, George Graham and Colonel Thomas Childs.

Intelligence from Europe.

ENGLAND.

LONDON, SEPT. 29.

The most material intelligence bro't by the Ham'burgh mail relates to Holland. A total change or revolution has taken place in the government. The Dutch legisla-ture has been dissolved by the directory, and a new plan of a constitution has been submitted to the people. On the 16th inst. a message was sent to the first chamber, with the new constitution. The directory did not ask advice of the chamber, but merely notified what they had done. Violent debates took place. Upon a division there was a majority against the directory of 28 to 26. A committee was appointed to report upon the message. Their report was favourable to the principle of the new constitution's being submitted to the people. But when the report was taken into consideration, it was negatived by 27 to 25, and the measure was agreed to be deferred. In this state of affairs, the directory published a proclamation dissolving the legislative body, and requiring the people to give their votes upon the new constitution on the 1st of October. The members of the legislature who oppose the directory were arrested.

The new constitution consists of 108 articles. The directory were to be abolished and the executive power is to be vested in a State directory of 12 persons, one of whom is to go out yearly. The legislature is to consist of 35 members and the republic is to be divided into eight departments.

OCT. 1.

It appears that Sir J. B. Warren, on the 14th September, embarked on the island of Elba, from his squadron, a body of 2,500 men, of the Sw. Isrigement of Wadville, together with sailors and marines. This detachment acting in concert with the garrison made a sally, and took a French battery, which commanded the port. Our frigates then stood in and the corps we had landed advanced to attack the French. The Monsieur says, that our troops were completely repulsed and intercepted in their retreat: that two hundred English were taken prisoners, and upwards of one thousand of the French troops killed. One frigate is said to have been disabled, and ten gun boats taken. This account is in all probability exaggerated.

OCTOBER 8.

Much has been said of the secrecy observed during the progress of the negotiation—a secrecy profound, that but one day before, nay on the very day Peace was signed, there was a very general expectation that the negotiation would immediately break off. It has been said, that Buonaparte would not determine finally, until the fate of Egypt was decided; and it is supposed, that he received an account of the surrender of Alexandria, before he dispatched a messenger, notifying the acceptance of the ultimatum.

Yesterday Mr. Melville arrived in town from Constantinople, and brought the account of the surrender of Alexandria. On the 17th of August, Gen. Hutchinson invested the fort with the large force under his command. The co-operation of Sir S. Sney Smith assisted him materially, by the destruction of the French gun boats and some batteries between Lake Mareotis and the shore, which took place on the 21st of last month. After the accomplishment of this, Gen. Menou sent a flag on the 27th of August, to demand an armistice for three days, which was granted him. The French General finding all means of defence destroyed, acceded to the capitulation concluded by Gen. Billaud.

Mr. Otto is said to have had an account of the surrender of Alexandria, on Thursday night, before he sailed on the 1st of September.