

Congress. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Wednesday, February 15.

Mr. Nicholson reported a bill for incorporating the Theatre association in the city of Washington. Referred.

Mr. Nicholson reported a bill providing for a settlement of sundry claims to public lands lying South of the state of Tennessee, which was referred.

Mr. Leib observed that an account of the extraordinary nature had been recently published before the House by the Navy department respecting the expenses of the Marine Corps. It was indeed a phenomenon in accounts. It was of such a nature as required the interposition of the House either to annihilate or reform the office of accountant of the navy. The statement was a species of non descript never before in the United States. From it, it appeared that the public money had been expended in a most extravagant way, without any efficient check. From it, it likewise appeared that the lieutenant colonel commandant had united in his person the office of quartermaster, forage master, commissary and pay-master without check or control. There was a high necessity, Dr. Leib said, when the government was looking to economical reforms, to attempt some reform in this department of expenses. It was his opinion that the office of the accountant of the navy ought to be abolished, or, at any rate, some salutary reform effected. He, therefore, moved a resolution,

That the committee of ways and means be instructed to enquire into the expediency of abolishing the office of accountant of the navy, to report by bill or otherwise.

Mr. J. Clay said he had no objection to the passage of the resolution; but he would state, for the information of the House, that the committee of ways and means had the subject, together with that presented by an enquiry into the expediency of abolishing the office of the accountant of the War department, before them, for some weeks past.

Mr. Leib replied that he was aware that the subject was generally before the committee of ways and means; but the House had been in session four months without any report being made on it. His object was that this resolution should be passed as an instruction to the committee to pay a particular and early attention to the subject.

Mr. Nicholson moved to amend the motion by adding to it, "and the office of the accountant of the war department." His reason for this motion was that a bill to that effect was introduced into the House two years ago. Mr. N. added that he was of the opinion, that an infinitely better arrangement could be made at the treasury if these offices were abolished than if they were retained.

Dr. Leib acquiesced in the amendment, and the resolution was then agreed to.

The bill making provision for the application of the moneys heretofore appropriated to the laying out and making public roads leading from the navigable waters emptying into the Atlantic to the Ohio river, was read the third time and passed.

The House again resolved itself into a committee of the whole.—Mr. Varnum in the chair.—On Mr. Bard's resolution to impose a tax of ten dollars on every slave imported into the United States; (the debate on which occupied the remainder of the sitting.

Mr. Lucas supported, and Mr. Holland opposed the resolution.

Mr. Earle moved that the committee should rise. His object was, that having risen, they should be refused leave to sit again, and that the resolution should be postponed to the first day of May next. He declared his expectation from information recently received, that the legislature of South-Carolina would, at their session, expected to be holden in April, repeal the law allowing the importation of slaves.

This motion was supported by Messrs. Gregg, Lyon, Huger, and Claiborne; and opposed by Messrs. Smilie, Stanton, Southard, Sloan, and Lucas; and on the question was negatived, Ayes 54, Noes 60.

The resolution was then agreed to, Ayes 69.

When the committee rose, and reported their agreement to the resolution; On the suggestion of Mr. R. Grifwold, that the amendment proposed to the resolution, to add "and their territories," might imply that it was contemplated to revoke the existing prohibition to import slaves into them, it was, with the assent of the mover, negatived.

The question recurring on the original resolution, Mr. Winn moved a postponement of it to the first Monday of January.

Mr. J. Clay supported, and Messrs. Lucas, Sloan, and Stanton opposed this motion, which was negatived. The Yeas and Nays were called, and were, Yeas 54, Nays 62.

When the final question was taken on the resolution, and carried in the affirmative, Yeas 71.

Thursday, February 16.

The House went into a committee of the whole. Mr. Dawson in the chair, on the bill to amend the charter of Alexandria. After undergoing several amendments the bill was reported to the House.

Mr. J. Randolph, from the committee of Ways and Means, reported a bill laying a duty of ten dollars upon every slave imported into the United States.

Mr. J. Randolph moved that it be made the order of the day for to-morrow.

Dr. Leib moved that it be made the order for a more distant day.

When an adjournment was called for, and carried without any question being put on the previous motion.

Friday, February 17.

Bills were reported more effectually to secure the independence of the judges of the courts in the United States; and for making further provision for extinguishing debts due from the United States. Referred.

On motion of Mr. Dana, the committee of Commerce and Manufactures were instructed to enquire into the expediency of amending the several acts fixing the compensations of officers of the customs.

A message was received from the President of the United States, giving certain information respecting the situation of the lands of the United States in the vicinity of Detroit. Referred.

Mr. Nicholson reported a bill supplementary to the act providing for a navy peace establishment. The bill provides for the appointment of sundry agents to superintend the ships laid up in ordinary. Referred.

Mr. Nicholson made report on the petition of ——— Martellar, &c. praying for divorces. The report states that the committee have not thought it necessary to enquire into the merits of the individual cases, under the conviction that a general power to grant divorces should be vested in some tribunal. For this purpose the report concludes with a resolution to invest the circuit courts with power to allow divorces. Resolution agreed to. Ayes 75, and referred to a select committee to bring in a bill.

The bill to amend the charter of Alexandria was read the third time and passed.

The House resumed the consideration of the unfinished business of yesterday, viz. "what day should be made the order for the committee of the whole to consider the bill laying a tax of ten dollars upon every slave imported into the United States," when after a considerable debate, and motions made and lost, by a vote 56 to 50, it was postponed to the 21 Monday in March.

[To prevent an erroneous impression being made on the public by the above proceedings, it is proper to remark that, during the whole discussion, not a single voice was raised in defence of the act of the legislature of South-Carolina allowing the importation of slaves; but that, on the contrary, while by some of the speakers its immorality and impolicy were severely censured, by all its existence was deprecated. A large number of those who voted for the postponement, advocated on the express and sole ground that it would give the legislature of South-Carolina an opportunity, which they believed would be embraced, to repeal the act.]

Saturday, Feb. 18.

Mr. Epes offered the following resolution: Resolved, That a committee be appointed to enquire whether the moneys drawn from the Treasury of the United States on account of the marine corps from the year 1798 to the end of the year 1801 have been faithfully applied to the public service in conformity to existing laws, which was immediately taken up, agreed to, and referred to Messrs. Epes, Sande, McCreery, Leib and Boyle.

On motion of Dr. Leib the committee of Ways and Means were instructed to enquire into the expediency of abolishing the office of Lieutenant Colonel Commandant of the Marine Corps.

Mr. Moore offered a resolution, instructing the Committee of Commerce and Manufactures to enquire into the expediency of authorizing the President of the United States to employ persons to explore such parts of the Province of Louisiana, as he may think proper, and report their opinion thereupon to the House. Mr. Moore said it was scarcely necessary to make any remarks on the object of this resolution. The government was not in possession of a good geographical description of Louisiana which it was very desirable that they should possess, inasmuch as its limits were not completely defined in the articles of cession; and as the time might not, perhaps be distant, when its boundaries may be a subject of negotiation between the former owners of the province and the United States.

The resolution was agreed to—Ayes 53.

Dr. Mitchell from the committee of Commerce and Manufactures, made a report on the subject of laying duties for the support of light houses. The report is accompanied with several documents, and concludes with a resolution that a duty of 40 cents a ton be laid on foreign vessels entering the ports of the United States for the support of light houses.

The House took up the report of the committee of the whole on the bill making provision for persons disabled by known wounds received during the revolutionary war. After several amendments being made, the further consideration was postponed to Tuesday next.

Monday February 20.

A bill for erecting Louisiana into two territories, and making provision for the temporary Government thereof, was received from the Senate, and referred.

Mr. J. Randolph said the House would recollect that he had on a former day offered a resolution barring any claims derived under any act of the State of Georgia passed in the year 1795, in relation to lands ceded to the United States. It was not his purpose in rising at this time to trespass on the patience of the House—Nor did he know that he should in future offer any remarks additional to those he had already made. But he conceived it his duty to place the subject in such a point of light that every eye, however dim, might distinctly see its true merits. For this purpose he withdrew the resolution which he had before offered, and move a more particular one, which was agreed to and referred.

Mr. Leib reported a bill to repeal the act fixing the rank and pay of the commanding officer of the corps of marines.

The House went into a committee of the whole, Mr. Varnum in the chair, on the report of a select committee on the bill from the Senate, to divide the Indiana territory in two separate governments. The report, for reasons assigned, recommends a rejection of the bill.

The question being put on agreeing to the report, it passed in the negative, Yeas 24.

When the bill, from the Senate, was read, and so amended as to designate the new territory by the name of Michigan, instead of North Western Territory; and the committee rose and reported the bill.

Mr. Thomas, from the joint committee of the two Houses, made a report, specifying the business, in their opinion, necessary to be transacted the present session, and concluding with a resolution that it be closed the 12th of March. Its consideration postponed till Friday.

Dr. Mitchell reported a bill to provide for light houses and buoys &c. Referred.

Tuesday, Feb. 21.

A bill to authorize the courts of the United States to appoint commissioners to take depositions of witnesses out of court, &c. was read the third time and passed.

A bill to divide the Indiana territory into two separate governments was read the 2d time.

A motion was made by Mr. Holland to postpone the consideration to distant day, which being negatived, the bill was put on its passage and lost 59 to 58.

The House went into a committee of the whole on the bill making appropriations for the support of government which was gone through.

NOTICE.

THERE are two Notes of mine in the Possession of Andrew Paddy or Lewis Barker; they were given to them in Co dated the last of March, 1803, or thereabout; one Note is for a new Waggon and hind Gears, supposed to be worth one hundred Dollars; the other is for three hundred and nine dollars. I do hereby forwarn all Persons from trading for such Notes of that description, upon the Expectation of my paying them, as I do not intend paying them, the consideration that these Notes were given for having failed, as has been ascertained by the last Superior Court held in Hillsborough; and it would be advisable if any Person has traded for such Notes, to return them to them who assigned them.

JOHN O'DANIEL.

Orange County, Feb. 22, 1804.

Hillsborough District, In Equity. State of North-Carolina, O.R. Term 1803.

James Elliot,

Henry Thompson,

James Baldrige, &

Nathaniel Christmas.

A Bill for revivor being at this Term filed as to Henry Thompson, sen. and Nathaniel Christmas. It is ordered by the Court, that a Copy and Subpoena to revive, issue against Henry Thompson, sen. and that publication be made three weeks successively in Gale's Gazette, as to Nathaniel Christmas to appear, within the 3 first Days of next Term and then cause, if any he has, why the Bill should not stand, be revived against him.

True copy from the minutes, Teste, ROBERT BELL, C. M.

SALES AT VENDUE

Without reserve. THE remaining Stock of Goods belonging to the Estate of Robert Adam, dec. a part of which are of late Importations, and consisting of a Variety of Articles well worth the Attention of Country Merchants, will be offered for Sale on the 25th day of April next, and continue from day to day until the whole are sold, on a Credit of 6 months giving bond and security to the EXECUTORS.

N. B. Those indebted or having Accounts unsettled with said Estate, will be pleased to call on R. RAIFORD, Agent for the Executors of R. Adam. Fayetteville, Feb. 29, 1804.



Raleigh,

MONDAY, MARCH, 5, 1804.

J. GALEX has the pleasure to inform his friends that his new Type is shipped from Philadelphia.

We hear with regret, that by reason of bad health, Alfred Moore, Esq. of this state, has been induced to resign his office of Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. We lament that the community are to be deprived of the future service of so able, independent, and upright a Judge.

New-York is now to be added to the number of States which have ratified the proposed amendment to the Constitution of the U. States. Every thing now depends on Rhode Island, whose legislature has just met. If that State ratifies (and it is confidently expected) there is no doubt of the amendment being made.

Governor Clinton, of N. York, Mr. Langdon, of N. Hampshire, and Mr. Breckenridge of Kentucky, are each spoken of as Republican candidates for the Vice-Presidency.—The first gentleman has declined a re-election as Governor, and Mr. Burr is mentioned as a candidate for that appointment.

D. Giffon offers his services in the Wilmington paper to the citizens of that district as Elektor, and pledges himself, if elected, to vote for Mr. Jefferson; but the same paper states, that the Repub-

licans have, by a committee, solicited Governor Althe to offer for that appointment; and that he has consented.

The Vice President of the United States, has instituted a suit for a libel against James Cheatham, Editor of the "American Citizen," New-York. The prosecution, it is said, will comprise all the charges which have been published against Mr. Burr, relative to the late Presidential election, principal and subordinate.

It appears by recent accounts from Louisiana, that fraudulent surreys and sales, are making of large tracts of lands in that country by Spanish officers who set up claims to it which they have, in fact, no foundation.

A most dreadful Fire took place at Norfolk in the night of the 22d ult. No newspaper has since been received from thence. The following is a letter received at Petersburg giving some account of its ravages.

Portsmouth, February 23.

About eleven o'clock last night a fire broke out in Norfolk at the lower end of Maxwell's wharf, which soon spread all over that valuable square, and now there only remain three or four houses standing from Market square until the vacant space where Francis Taylor's shed is, a square rich in commercial commodities beyond any in Norfolk. Commerce-street, Water-street, &c. &c. are completely swept; and the calculation is, that upwards of three hundred houses have been destroyed, one ship, two brigs, and several smaller vessels. To particularize the sufferers would be impossible.

A fire has also lately taken place at the village of Utica, in the State of New-York, which destroyed property to the amount of 15,000 dollars; and another at Newhaven which has been equally serious.

The City Council of Charleston have resolved to raise a fund by subscription for the relief of the French Emigrants from the West-Indies, who have lately arrived there in distress.

The legislature of New-Jersey, on the 15th ult. passed a law for the gradual abolition of slavery. It enacts that every child born of a slave after the 4th day of July next shall be free, but shall remain the servant of the owner of the mother, in the same manner as if such child had been bound to service by the overseers of the poor, males until the age of 25, and females until the age of 21.

On the 10th ult. that immense pile, the New-York Theatre, was brought under the hammer, and struck off to J. C. Shaw, Esq. for 43,000 dollars.

A letter from Port Republican, dated the 4th January last, says,

"The times here are truly distressing to the inhabitants. There are 100,000 dollars to be raised this week in the following manner: 1,200 dollars from each merchant of the first class; 500 from the second; 120 from the third; 40 from the fourth; and all deficiencies of persons 4 dollars. Those who do not pay are immediately sent to prison."

A London paper of Nov. 29th says "The Commissioners appointed by act of parliament, under the convention with the United States of America, have given notice, that in estimating under the convention the loss sustained by claimants, they will in no case allow compound interest, for the time subsequent to the period wherein lawful impediments had existed, it might reasonably be held that such claimants would have recovered their debts."

The twelve Judges of England assembled in the Exchequer Chamber, London, on Saturday the 19th November, to hear arguments in support of the objections taken by counsel in the case of Robert Ast-

lett, who had been convicted of embezzling the property of the Bank of England. The point of discussion was, whether the Exchequer bills stolen, being invalid in themselves, could be considered as securities and effects of the bank of England within the statute of the 15th of George II. The point was most luminously argued by Mr. Erskine and Mr. Garrow, but their Lordships' judgment stands over.

A person who had been convicted of an offence for which he was sentenced for perpetual imprisonment at hard labour in the New-York state-prison, broke goal about six years since, and effected escape. His friends were respectable; and, in the interim between that time and the present, frequently applied to the Governor for a remission of his punishment. Their solicitations were unattended to, on the ground that the culprit was not then undergoing the sentence of the law. Seeing no prospect of obtaining a pardon whilst at liberty, he formed the resolution of returning to the state-prison; and accordingly a few days ago he voluntarily surrendered himself to the keeper.

A most atrocious murder was committed in Pendleton district S. C. on the 27th of Jan. Miss Polly Young, a fine amiable young woman, on the morning of the above day, had left her father's house, to go to a mill two miles distant, and was killed on her return about 10 o'clock, by her father's negro fellow, in a manner too barbarous and indecent to relate. It is however certain it was one of the foulest murders ever known in this country. This monster of inhumanity and bloodshed was fairly convicted of the crimes he had committed, and was executed.

The Chief of a party of the Chaclaw Tribe of Indians having been introduced, at Washington city to Bonaparte's brother, and learning that the First Consul was actually engaged in a war with the King of England, observed to young Bonaparte, that under such circumstances, a warrior's brother, in his nation, would be deemed a coward, if he were to absent himself from his country.—We presume Citizen Bonaparte did not feel himself much flattered with this Chaclaw compliment.

Married,

At Wilmington, Mr. Samuel Swan to Miss Sarah Scott, and Mr. Edward St. George, to Miss Mildred Spier. At Salisbury, Mr. Jesse Pearson, to Miss Ann N Steele, daughter of General Steele.

Died,

At Northumberland, Pennsylvania, on the 6th ult. Dr. Joseph Priestly, without the slightest appearance of expression of pain. His passage from life to death was imperceptible. He had for some time been aware of his approaching dissolution, but he preserved his habitual cheerfulness, his habitual cheerfulness, and habitual kindness to the last. He lived to the 24th of this month, he would have been 71 years of age.

His principal occupation through life was to propagate the evidence of the truth of christianity, and the belief of the one true God, as revealed by the divine mission of the man Jesus Christ; from a full persuasion that the corruptions of christianity were the great obstacle to its universal reception. Whatever may be the various denominations of Christians, all must allow that in our day, he has been the most able, the most industrious, and perhaps the most successful promoter of rational christianity. Those who disbelieve in the christian system of theology must subvert his arguments, before they can succeed in their own.

As a metaphysician, he stood foremost among those who have attempted the investigation of the abstract controversies in this department of literature. His question of Liberty and Necessity, imperfectly understood by the ancients, and on which Bradwardine first threw a ray of philosophical light, was hardly understood by Hobbes and Leibnitz, and Zanchius and Jackson and Clark. Priestly was the first man who introduced into practice the immortal Hartley, and reduced the question itself within the comprehension of common understandings. When his publications on matter and spirit, he ranks beyond controversy as the first metaphysician of the present age.

As a politician he assiduously and successfully laboured not merely to prepare the minds of his former countrymen of Great-Britain, to adopt those gradual and salutary reforms in their own system of government, which the democratic part of it so obviously required, but to extend and illustrate those general principles of civil liberty which are happily the foundation of the constitution of his adopted country.

His profound attention to the belles lettres and to the other departments of general literature, has been successfully exemplified among his other writings, by his lectures on oratory and criticism, and on general history and policy.

Of the most important and fashionable study of pneumatic Chemistry, he may be fairly said to be the father. His discoveries of the various gazetes, which his writings first announced to the world, exceed not merely in number but in importance, even those of the illustrious Scheele of Sweden, and the French Lavoisier.

He has contributed to make the present generation of his readers, think and investigate, beyond any writer of his day. He has left in the press and ready for publication, a comparison between the system of the ancient heathen philosophers and the doctrine of Jesus Christ. His useful life is closed. He has lived and died an example of the sublime simplicity of character, which has never been attendant but on the first rate abilities uniformly exerted for the benefit of mankind.

The Doctor was certainly one of the most voluminous writers of the age. His works are about ninety in number, many of them in several volumes with numerous engravings!