## hutit Keposttory of Centus

 Ni. RANS DES FICHES Ou Himers in pieant and gays,

 Niv when wint hed day come argand
 Abp when wini he dedy come a round debate
On receding the District of Columbia,
 (4. Wrations.
 discussing the reedataios noiv under
consideratien, woild have prevented

 given up the constitutional oojection
therefore they couid see no solid rea-
son why
 tion was abandoned and for my yown
part, sonsider, tat it he resilu-
tions op
 I shatil beindidiged whilist
the conmittee some rema


## The sis arriciele, and sth section of

 the constitution declaring the powersof Congress,in the last classe, whieh says Congress hadileeecrisee exclusite legishation in all cases whatsoever over
such district (notexceeding tenniles

 are nove told by those who wish to recede this district, that although
tie states of Virginia and Maryland have ceted to the Gongress of the

 coostruction of that secion of the
constithon. The pores which are
tutition


 if they cann it it would be a usless in-
strument.
But
gentlemen it woind be erery absurd if Congress




 ciple, that is it cannot he recedec

 should be batief it in the power
Congress to carry that elause iniot peration. This has been done by
cession fion the state of $V$ irginia and Miary hand, and accepted by Congress,
hiat clause therefore being now made comptete is ang of the ppececding
clansespin that section, it is equally lindirig on us, as much so, as if the
district badbeen laid off by the con-
ention-
Bet we are told that fhis district has
formed by an act of Congress,
course they can dispose of ital course hey can dispose of it
asure. It aticit it Tequired tegis
potwers, which yere contempla-
under that clause beion 15 vested in Congresss they are boound to consticulton, Wis any other part of inf intentied by that sestion, beeause $\leftarrow$ Butver to execesisececlusive lectic
 such ya district, not exceeding ten miles square, would be laid off for
the seat of government. Itherefore the seat of government. Itherefore
think that Congress have no more think that Congress have of tore
power to recede or dispose of it, than
any oneof the states which have been power to recte or spose have been
any one of the tates which her
formed and addpitted into the union by an act of Congress, agreable to the fourth article, and third section
of the constitution. If thien this disof the constitution. If thien this dips
trict stand upon the same principle
sit as the nefrw states, gentemen will no
contend that they can dispose of those states at pleasure, for havina been
admited into the coofederation, Hey Hey stand upon the same footing with
pect to being transferred as any pect to being transferred as any
the states, which were in existenc
at the adoption of the constitution. at the adoption of the constitution-
If therefore Congress haves po power Itherefore congress have po pows
to dispose of one of the staies be
longing to the union, except in case
of extreme necessity, for the safet of extreme necessity, for the safety both beint formed agreea:ly to the Gentlemen who suppert these reso-
lutions have endeaverred to shew us that the power to dispose of this dis-
trict is given to Congress by the
constitution. To prove this they have referred to the fourth arti.le. Congress shall have power to dis
pose of, and make all needful rules
and regulations respicling the terriand regulations respecting the tert
thy or other property belonging
the United States. But, My. Chair

federal censtitution and it was went sive continually selling, and extending our territoly by extinguishinz the In
dian claims, and that is the true rea son why we see th
in our constitution.
Gentlemen have contended that the
receding the jurisdiction of this district has no connection with the r
moval of the seat of government, an moval of the seat of government, an
they have no such intention. I hav
no reason to doubt the declarations gentlemen, but if the resolation
which they are in favour of should adopted, if will have the same effect.
Becauseif we can dispose of ?hedistrict at pleasure, our seat of government not be a majority of the there muy not be a majority of the members
now in Congress who wish to remove hence there may be; and if the col stitution has no control nver us, tifal clause is useless, and our seat of go-
vernment will be moved at the will and pleasure of Congress. We are
further told that the jurisdiction of this Congress reinoved in the year 1801 but gentlemen certainly have not ex-
amined the laws, by which Congres were invested with the jurisdiction of candistrict, and 1 ain conficlent they cannot shew any act of Congress a
suming the jurisdiction except the of Congress in 1790. It appears that
after the state of Virginia and Mary land had made provision agreeable to
the constitution for the cession of this disfrict, that by an act of Congress
passed it the year 1790 , a district passed to the year 1790, a distric
not exceeding ten miles square, to be and the same is hereioy accepted for the permanent seat of government of
the United States. And, Sir, moment Congress passed that law,
their jurisdiction was compleat. For although thcy did not exercise the ju
risdiction, the power was vested them and provision was made for the trict by enforcing the laws of Virginia and Maryland, until Congress should The reasons which the friends of we ought to recede the jurisdiction
are, that these people in this district have no rights secured to them under the constitution, and that it is too
troublesome and expensive to legislate for them-let us examine and see Whether there are sufficient reasons
for Congress to recede the district. Gentlemen have asserted that Copi-
gress are the absolute masters over these people, possessing powers more
despote despotic than any of the monarchs in Europe, and in order to relieve
them from their degraded situation, which is so repugnant to the principles of our ree government, they
vish to restore them to their forme state of liberty and independence., If gentemen had examined the consti-
tution, they would not have made

## chese cannot tain riu the pe constit mire rights ral st

 ral states.In the first article and ninth sec? the phe constitution, it declares that Corpus shall of the right of Habeas the public safety
no bill of attainder
law shall be passed and can gentle
men dety men deny that these rights are ex-
teinded to the people tenced to the people in this district,
cerlainly not, because cerlainly not, because the limitation
of the powers of Congress is genera and not confined to any particutar state or district in the union--further, in the articles in addition to, and a mendment of the constitution, there law respecting the establishment 0 religion, or abridge the freedom of
speech, or of the Press-in fact. their persons and property, by a fail and impartial trial by jury under th trict. But great stress has been lard on the clause givitg exclusive
legrislation to Congress-and I can not for $m y$ part see that teecause con-
geess have a right to exclusive legislation over a district, they can exceed the express limitation of their power
-I think not-and the mighty cry
we have heard about the diegrade situation of these people, is mereiy
ideal, they are secure under ou constitution, and perfectly conten
with their situation-and 1 conside that because these peqise are trou-
bleome, and it costs the Unite
Statcs something to States something to legislate for
them, is no reason for ns to recede
this distiet; for the same migite
apply to any other part of the union. apply to any other part of the union,
and fis district is such a monstruens
evil, which exiss in our government. and a nuisance, we ought to get rid
of it in a different manner than is now

## that instrument: and believing as

do, that our seat of government is
permanently fixed by ourconstitution go imm diately to the removal of th seat of government, they settle the
generai principle, whether the confore hope they will be rejected

Mr. Alston said, he did not is
for the purpose of entering into lengthy discussion of a subject whict had already occupied so much time
in his opinion much more had bee consumed, than the
the subject merited
Although in committee of th
be a considerable majority against the resolutions for receding the dis trict of Columbia, to the states o
Virginia and Máryland, yet he had a hope, that the fouse would not con of the whole, on the first resolution which only went to the recession thatpart which lay on the other side Most of the reasons whirh gentl - men had urged against the recession
fiad been bottomed upon an idea tha stone to a removalaf the seat of go vernment from this place altogether
These objections could not hav any weight, provided that part which formerly was a part of the state of
Maryland was retained ; he believed Maryland was retained; he believe
some gentemen had voted agains the resolutions, under an impression that the friends to the recession ha in contemplasion to remove the se
of government
would only answer for h. saimself, th no such riea had entered his hea ved from this place, and was remo called upon to give a vote for a perma nent seat of the governmint of the United Stateg, it woold be for this place, in preference of any other;
remove it from this place would b one of the last votes be should think of giving.
He felt a
the second resolution which was as to cede to the state of Maryland, that part of the district which was taken from that state; he hoped, that genteme before they decided finally upon thi question, would take into view th real situation of the people and th of a people, who had was compose governed by laws passed by twe diff rent states, they were separated b the river Potomac, their manner habits, intercourse and trade were very different,their interests and wants were as different as those of alnos any two states in the union, that no one uniform system of laws would sa-
tisfy them, that so ang as they under the immediate control and go-

