

Washington City, April 2.
On Monday the House of Representatives were exclusively engaged until 5 o'clock, with closed doors, in discussing the propriety of taking off the injunction of secrecy relative to the measures taken on Spanish affairs, which issued in taking off the injunction of secrecy. The following is the journal of these proceedings. Long as it is, it is but a skeleton. Such, however, as it is, it will be read with a deep interest. We have not time to accompany these proceedings with any elucidating remarks. We shall merely say that there appears to have been on this subject an honest diversity of opinion, which resulted in the adoption of measures of a pacific complexion by a large majority. On the final passage of the bill, the whole votes were 150, of which 76 republican votes were in favor of the bill, and 27 republican and 27 federal (including every federal member that voted) against it. *Nat. In.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Friday, December 6, 1805.
The Speaker laid before the house a letter and communication from the President of the United States, which were read.
Ordered, that the said letter and communication, together with the documents accompanying the same, be referred to Messrs. J. Randolph, Nicholson, J. C. Smith, Mumford, Williams of South-Carolina, Bidwell and Brown.

Friday, Jan. 3, 1806.

Mr. John Randolph, from the committee to whom referred the message and communication from the President of the United States of the 6th of December last, together with the documents accompanying the same, made a report thereon as followeth:

"The committee have beheld with indignation the hostile spirit manifested by the Court of Madrid towards the government of the United States, in withholding the ratification of its convention with us, although signed by its own minister under the eye of his sovereign, unless with alterations of its terms, affecting claims of the United States, which by the express condition of the instrument itself, were reserved for future discussion; in piratical depredations on our fair commerce; in obstructing the navigation of the Mobile in refusing to come to any fair and amicable adjustment of the boundaries of Louisiana, and in a daring violation, by persons acting under the authority of Spain, and no doubt apprized of her sentiments and views, of our undisputed limits which she had solemnly recognized by treaty.

To a government having interests distinct from those of its people, and regarding their welfare, here is ample cause for a formal declaration of war, on the part of the United States, and such, did they obey the impulse of their feelings alone, is the course which the committee could not hesitate to recommend; but to a government identified with its citizens, too far removed from the powerful nations of the earth for its safety to be endangered by their hostility, peace must always be desirable, so long as it is compatible with the honor and interests of the community.

Whilst the United States continue burdened with a debt which annually absorbs two-thirds of their revenue, and duties upon imports constitute the only source from which that revenue can be raised, without resorting to systems of taxation, not more ruinous and oppressive than they are uncertain and precarious, the best interests of the union cry aloud for peace. When that debt shall have been discharged, and the resources of the nation thereby liberated, then may we rationally expect to raise, even in time of war, the supplies which our frugal institutions require, without recurring to the hateful and destructive expedient of loans; then, and not till then, may we bid defiance to the world. The present moment is peculiarly auspicious for this great and desirable work. Now, if ever, the national debt is to be paid, by such financial arrangements as will accelerate its extinction, by reaping the rich harvest of neutrality, and thus providing for that diminution of revenue, which experience teaches us to expect on the general pacification of Europe. And the committee indulge a hope, that, in the changed aspect of affairs in that quarter, Spain will find motives for a just fulfilment of her stipulations with us, and an amicable settlement of limits, upon terms not more beneficial to the United States, than useful and advantageous to herself, securing to her an ample barrier on the side of Mexico, and to the eastward of it. But whilst the committee perceive, in the general aspect of Europe, a state of things peculiarly favorable to the peaceable pursuit of our best interests, they are neither insensible to the indignity which has been offered on the part of Spain, nor unwilling to repel similar outrage. On the subject of self defence, when the territory of the U. States is invaded, there can be but one opinion; whatever difference may exist on the question, whether that protection which a vessel finds in our harbours, shall be extended to her, by the nation, in the Indian or Chinese seas? Under this impression, the committee submit the following resolution, the annexed letter from the Secretary of War will explain why it is not more explicit.

Resolved, That such number of troops not exceeding _____ as the President of the United States shall deem sufficient to protect the Southern Frontiers of the United States from Spanish inroad and insult, and to chastise the same, be immediately raised."

The said report was read and ordered to be referred to the consideration of a committee of the whole House on Monday next.
On motion made and seconded, that the House do come to the following resolutions:
Resolved, That _____ dollars be appropriated by law for the purpose of defraying any extraordinary expenses which may be incurred in the intercourse between the United States and foreign nations, to be paid out of any monies in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, and to be applied under the direction of the President of the United States, who shall have authority to borrow the said sum or any part thereof, in behalf of the United States, at a rate of interest not exceeding six per centum per annum, and shall cause an account of the expenditure thereof to be laid before Congress as soon as may be.
Resolved, That the additional duty of two and a half per centum ad valorem, imposed by an act entitled "An act further to protect the commerce and seamen of the United States against the Barbary powers," be continued for _____ years.
They were referred to the committee of the whole to whom was referred the foregoing report.

Monday, Jan. 6.
The house, according to the order of the day, resolved itself into a committee of the whole house on the report of the committee to whom had been referred the message and communication from the President of the U. States of the 6th December last, and the documents accompanying the same, as also on the resolutions referred to the said committee of the whole on Friday last; and after some time spent therein, the committee reported progress, and obtained leave to sit again.

Tuesday, Jan. 7.

On a motion made and seconded, that the House do come to the following resolution:
Resolved, That any arrangement of limits between the United States and Spain, which shall secure to her an ample barrier on the side of Mexico, and to the United States the countries and waters by the Mississippi, and to the eastward of it, will meet the approbation and support of this house.
Ordered, that the said resolution be committed to the committee of the whole house, to whom is referred the former resolutions. The house then resolved itself into a committee on the foregoing report and resolutions; and after some time spent therein, the committee rose, reported progress, and obtained leave to sit again.

Wednesday, Jan. 8.

The House according to the order of the day, again resolved itself into a committee of the whole house on this subject, and after some time spent therein, the committee rose and obtained leave to sit again.

Thursday, Jan. 9.

The house, according to the order of the day, again resolved itself into a committee of the whole on this subject; and after some time spent therein, the committee rose and obtained leave to sit again.

Friday, Jan. 10.

The house, according to the order of the day, again resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the same subject; and after some time spent therein, Mr. Speaker resumed the chair, and Mr. Gregg reported, that the committee had, according to order, had the said report and resolutions under consideration, and directed him to report to the house their disagreement to the resolution contained in the report of the committee aforesaid, also their agreement to the first of the two resolutions referred to them on Friday last; and that the committee of the whole asked leave to sit again.
On the question whether the committee have leave to sit again, it passed in the negative.

Ordered, that the report of the committee of the whole house do lie on the table.

Saturday, January 11.

The House proceeded to consider the report of the committee of the whole House made yesterday on the report of the committee to whom was referred the message and communication of the President of the U. States of the 6th of December last and sundry resolutions of the 3d and 7th instant—whereupon:
The resolution contained in the report of the committee on the President's message aforesaid being read in the words following, viz.
Resolved, That such number of troops not exceeding _____ as the President of the United States shall deem sufficient to protect the southern frontiers of the United States from Spanish inroad and insult, and to chastise the same, be immediately raised."

The question was taken that the House do agree with the committee of the whole House in their disagreement to the same,
And resolved in the affirmative, Yeas 72, Nays 15, as follow:
Yeas. Messrs. Alston, jun. Anderson, Bard, Barber, Bedenger, Bidwell, Bishop,

Blaise, Blount, Brown, Boyle, Butler, C. W. Campbell, Casey, Chandler, M. Clay, Clifton, Conrad, Cook, Crowninghill, Curtis, Darby, Dickson, Earle, Elliot, Elmer, Epes, Findley, Fox, Gray, Gregg, Green, Halsey, Hamilton, Holland, Holmes, Jackson, Kenan, Knight, Lambert, Leib, Marston, Masters, Meliwether, N. R. Moore, T. Moore, J. Morrow, V. J. Morrow, Ohio, Olin, Pugh, T. M. Randolph, Rea, Penn, Rhea, Tenn, Richards, Russell, Shuneman, Seaver, Sloan, Smilie, O. B. Smith, Southard, Stanford, Stanton, Thomas, Tracy, Varnum, J. Whitehill, R. Whitehill, D. R. Williams, M. Williams, N. Williams and Wynne—22.

Nays—Messrs. Archer, Bassett, Betton, Broom, Bryan, J. Campbell, Chittenden, Claiborne, Clark, J. Clay, Clinton, Jun. Dana, Davenport, Jun. Early, Ellis, Ely, Fowler, Garnett, Goldborough, Hastings, Hough, Jones, Kelly, Lewis, Jun. Livingston, Lyon, Magruder, M'Creary, Mostely, J. Nelson, R. Nelson, Newton, Jun. Nicholson, Pitkin, Jun. Quincy, J. Randolph, Sully, Sandford, J. Smith, J. C. Smith, S. Smith, Spalding, Steadman, Sturgess, Taggart, Talmadge, Tenney, P. R. Thompson, T. W. Thompson, Trigg, Van Cortlandt, Van Rensselaer, Verplanck, Wadsworth, Walton, Wickes, Wilson, and Winston—38.

The House proceeded to consider the amendments reported by the committee of the whole House to the first resolution referred to them on the 3rd inst. which resolution and amendments being read at the clerk's table, as follows:
Resolved, That _____ dollars be appropriated by law for the purpose of defraying any extraordinary expenses which may be incurred in the intercourse between the U. S. and foreign nations, to be paid out of any monies in the treasury not otherwise appropriated and to be applied under the direction of the President of the United States, who shall have authority to borrow the said sum or any part thereof on behalf of the U. States at a rate of interest not exceeding six per centum, or shall cause an account of the expenditure thereof, to be laid before Congress as soon as may be."

Amendments.

1st. Prefix a preamble in the words following, to wit: "Whereas in the settlement of our differences with Spain, it may be for the interest of the U. States, to procure a cession of the Spanish territories eastward of the river Mississippi by purchase to enable the President in effecting such purchase, to secure to the U. States, the most advantageous terms."
2d. Strike out the words, "any extraordinary expenses which may be incurred in the intercourse between the U. States and foreign nations" and insert "the expense which may be incurred in the purchase of the Spanish territories lying on the Atlantic ocean and Gulf of Mexico, and eastward of the Mississippi."

3d. After the words "per annum," insert "redeemable at will."

The first of the said amendments to prefix a preamble to the resolution being again read, it was moved to amend the said preamble by preceding it with the following words.
"France having transferred to the U. States, the sovereignty of Louisiana, embracing extensive but underlaid countries contiguous to the Spanish provinces of New-Mexico, and Spain, retaining the sovereignty of territories on the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico, detached from her other American possessions, but whose local position rendered them desirable to the United States.
And on the question thereupon.
It was resolved in the affirmative, Yeas 74, Nays 57.

The members from this State, voted, Messrs Kenan, Stauffer, Williams, Winston, and Wynne, yeas, Messrs. Alston, Blount and Holland, nays.
It will be recollected that our members, Messrs. Alexander, Blackledge, and M'Farland, had not arrived.
And the said preamble as amended being under consideration, it was, on a motion made and seconded, ordered to lie on the table.

Monday, Jan. 13.

The House resumed the consideration of the report of the committee of the whole House of Friday last. Whereupon a motion was made and the question being put that the said report be recommended to the committee of the whole House, it passed in the negative; and then the second amendment reported by the said committee to the first resolution referred to them, being again read, as follows, strike out the words "any extraordinary expenses which may be incurred in the intercourse between the U. States and foreign nations" and insert "the expense which may be incurred in the purchase of the Spanish territories lying on the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico, and Eastward of the Mississippi."

The question was then taken that the House do concur with the committee of the whole House in their agreement to the said amendment and resolved in affirmative, Yeas 74, Nays 58.

Our members voted, Messrs. Kenan, Stauffer, Williams, and Winston, yeas; Messrs. Alston, Blount, Holland, and Wynne, nays.
The third and last amendment reported by the committee of the whole House to the said first resolution to insert after the words "per annum" the words "redeemable at will" was, on the question put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

Tuesday, Jan. 14.

The House resumed the consideration of the report of the committee of the whole House of Friday last. Whereupon:
The first resolution reported by the said committee as amended being again read, a motion was made and the question being put further to amend the same by striking out in the first line thereof the words "for the purpose of," and inserting in lieu thereof, the word "toward," it was resolved in the affirmative, Yeas 62, Nays 44.

Another motion was made and the question being put, further to amend the said resolution by adding to the end thereof the following proviso.
"Provided that the sum stipulated to be paid shall not exceed _____ dollars." It passed in the negative, Yeas 57, Nays 92.
Our members voted, Messrs. Kenan, Stauffer and Williams, yeas; and Messrs. Alston, Blount, Holland, Winston and Wynne, nays.

And then the main question being put that the House do agree to the said first resolution, amended to read as follows:
Resolved, that _____ dollars be appropriated by law toward defraying the expense which may be incurred in the purchase of the Spanish territories lying on the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico, and Eastward of the Mississippi, to be paid out of any money in the Treasury, not otherwise appropriated, and to be applied under the direction of the President of the U. States, who shall have authority if necessary, to borrow the said sum, or any part thereof, in behalf of the U. States at a rate of interest not exceeding six per centum per annum, redeemable at will, and shall cause an account thereof to be laid before Congress, as soon as may be.

It was resolved in the affirmative Yeas 77, Nays 54.

Our members voted, Messrs. Alston, Blount, Holland, Winston, and Wynne, yeas, and Messrs. Kenan, Stauffer, and Williams, nays.
A motion was then made, and the question being put that the House do come to the following resolution:
Resolved, that an exchange of territory between the United States, and Spain is deemed by this House to be the most advantageous mode of settlement of existing differences respecting limits between the U. States, and the court of Madrid, and that any arrangements which shall secure to Spain an ample barrier on the side of Mexico and to the U. States the countries watered by the Mississippi and to the Eastward of it will meet the approbation of this House.
It was resolved in the affirmative, Yeas 80, Nays 52.

The members from this State voted, Messrs. Blount, Kenan, Stauffer, Williams, Winston and Wynne, yeas; Messrs. Alston and Holland, nays.
Ordered, that a bill be brought in conformable to the first resolution, and a committee appointed.
A motion was then made that a committee be appointed to present to the President the resolution last agreed to. Debate arising upon which, it was moved to postpone the consideration thereof till Monday next, and agreed to.

Wednesday, Jan. 15.

Mr. Bidwell, from the committee appointed yesterday, reported a bill making provision for defraying the expense which may be incurred in the purchase of the Spanish territories, lying on the Atlantic ocean and Gulf of Mexico and eastward of the Mississippi, which was read and committed.
A motion was then made, and the question being put, that the injunction of secrecy, so far as respects the proceedings of this house on the said bill, be taken off, it was negatived 78 to 49.
Our members voted, Messrs. Stauffer, and Williams, yeas; and Messrs. Alston, Blount, Holland, Kenan, Winston and Wynne, nays.

The house then resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the said bill, and after some time spent therein, the committee rose and reported the bill with sundry amendments, which the house proceeded to consider.
The first amendment to the first section, for filling up the blank therein with the words "two millions of," was, on the question put thereupon, agreed to.
The second amendment to the same section, to strike out the words "the expense which may be incurred in the purchase of the Spanish territories lying on the Atlantic Ocean &

Gulf of Mexico, and eastward of the Mississippi," and to insert in lieu thereof, the words "any extraordinary expenses which may be incurred in the intercourse between the U. S. and foreign nations," was on the question put thereupon, agreed to, 71 to 57.
Our members voted, Messrs. Alston, Blount, Holland and Wynne, yeas; Messrs. Kenan, Stauffer, Williams & Winston, nays.

The last amendment to the same section, to strike out at the end thereof the words "as soon as may be," and to insert in lieu thereof, the words "at or before the next session of Congress," was disagreed to by the house.
The amendment to the second section, to add to the end thereof, the words "and it shall be lawful for the Bank of the U. S. to lend the whole, or any part of the same," was agreed to.

The last amendment to the said bill, to add to the end thereof a new section, in the words following:
"Sec. 3. That so much as may be necessary of the surplus of the duties on imports and tonnage, beyond the permanent appropriation heretofore charged upon them by law, shall be, and hereby is pledged and appropriated for the payment of the interest and reimbursement of the principal, of all such monies as may be borrowed in pursuance of this act, according to the terms & conditions on which the loan or loans may be effected."
Was, on the question being put thereupon, agreed to, 74 to 53.

Our members voted, Messrs. Alston, Blount, Holland, Winston and Wynne, yeas; Messrs. Stauffer and Williams, nays. Mr. Kenan did not vote.

Thursday, Jan. 16.

A bill making provision for defraying the expenses which may be incurred in the purchase of the Spanish territories lying on the Atlantic Ocean & Gulf of Mexico, and eastward of the Mississippi, was read the third time, and passed 76 to 54. Yeas & nays follow:
YEAS, Messrs. Alston, Anderson, Archer, Barker, Bassett, Bedenger, Bidwell, Bishop, Blake, Blount, Brown, Boyle, Bryan, C. W. Campbell, Chandler, J. Clay, Clifton, Clotson, Conrad, Cook, Crowninghill, Curtis, Darby, Dickson, Earle, Early, Elliott, Elmer, Epes, Findley, Fisk, Fowler, Gregg, Green, Halsey, Hamilton, H. J. Holland, Jackson, Jones, Knight, Lambert, Leib, Magruder, Marston, Masters, N. R. Moore, Jeremiah Morrow, R. Nelson, Newton, Nicholson, Olin, Pugh, T. M. Randolph, Rhea (Tan) Richards, Russell, Sully, Sandford, Schuneman, Seaver, Sloan, Smilie, O. B. Smith, Southard, Stanton, Thomas, Tracey, Varnum, Walton, J. Whitehill, R. Whitehill, Wickes, N. Williams, Winston, Wynne.

NAYS—Messrs. Betton, Broom, Butler, J. Campbell, Casey, Chittenden, Claiborne, Clark, Covington, Dana, Davenport, Ellis, Ely, Garnett, Goldborough, Gray, Hastings, Holmes, Hough, Kelly, Kenan, Lewis, Livingston, Lyon, M'Creary, Meriwether, T. Moore, Mostely, J. Nelson, Pitkin, Quincy, J. Randolph, Rea (Pen) Sammons, J. C. Smith, J. Smith, S. Smith, Spalding, Stauffer, Steadman, Sturgess, Taggart, Talmadge, Tenney, P. R. Thompson, T. W. Thompson, Trigg, Van Cortlandt, Van Rensselaer, Verplanck, Wadsworth, D. R. Williams, M. Williams, Wilson—54.

The title of the bill was amended, "An act making provision for defraying any extraordinary expenses attending the intercourse between the U. S. & foreign nations."
A motion was then made that a committee be appointed to carry to the Senate the following message:
"Gentlemen of the Senate,
We transmit you a bill which has passed this house, entitled "An act making provision for defraying any extraordinary expenses attending the intercourse between the U. S. and foreign nations," and in which we request your concurrence. This bill has been passed by us to enable the President of the U. S. to commence with more effect a negotiation for the purchase of the Spanish territories lying on the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico, and eastward of the river Mississippi. The nature and importance of the measure contemplated, have induced us to act upon the subject with closed doors. You will, of consequence, consider this communication as confidential."

To which motion an amendment was moved, to strike out in the proposed message, the words "river Mississippi," and to insert in lieu thereof, the words "bay of Perdido," which was negatived, 68 to 59.
Our members voted, Messrs. Kenan, Stauffer, Williams and Winston, yeas; Messrs. Alston, Blount, Holland and Wynne, nays.

The message was then agreed to as first proposed.
Another motion was then made, and the question being put, to remove the injunction of secrecy, so far as respects the report of the select committee made on the 3d inst. which was negatived 71 to 46.
Our members all voted in the negative, except Messrs. Blount & Winston, the former of whom did not vote, and the latter voted in the affirmative.

Friday, Jan. 17.
On a motion that the resolutions agreed to on the 14th inst. recommending an exchange of territory as the most advantageous mode of settlement with Spain, be now made public, it was lost, 64 to 46.