

Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Monday, January 20.

Mr. Bacon observed that the committee of Ways and Means had received a letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, in answer to an enquiry addressed to him by the committee, which they deemed of public importance; and therefore, contrary to their usual practice, the committee had directed him to communicate it to the house, in order that it might be printed for the use of the members, as it might be some time before the committee would be able to make their reports, and by having the letter of the Secretary of the Treasury before them, and their attention drawn to the subject, the house would be better able to meet the consideration of it, when it shall be brought before them by the committee. Mr. B. then laid the letter of the chairman of the committee to the Secretary of the Treasury with his answer (containing his budget of proposed taxes for meeting the expenses of war) before the house; which being read, was ordered to be printed.

The house then resolved itself into a committee of the whole, on the bill concerning the naval establishment, when Messrs. Bassett & Mitchell, each spoke at considerable length in favor of the bill. After which, the committee rose, and had leave to sit again.

Tuesday, January 21.

Several petitions were read and referred, and some other local business acted on.

The house then resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the bill concerning the Navy, when Messrs. Johnson and Roberts spoke against the bill, and Messrs. Lowndes and Law in favor of it: after which, the committee rose, and had leave to sit again.

Wednesday, January 22.

Several petitions of a private nature were presented and referred. A message was received from the President of the U. States, inclosing a communication from the Governor of New Jersey, with certain resolutions of the Legislature of that state approbatory of the measures of the general government.

The House again went into a committee of the whole on the bill concerning the Navy. The question on filling up the blank in the section, which provides for repairing the vessels on hand, with four hundred and eighty thousand dollars, was carried by a large majority.

The next section provides for the building of additional frigates.

Mr. Cheves proposed to fill the blank with the word *ten*.

Mr. Rhea moved to strike out this section from the bill. After some debate, in which Messrs. Rhea, Smilie, Blackledge and Boyd spoke in favor of the motion, and Messrs. Cheves, Newton, Clay (the Speaker) and Mitchell a gainst it, the motion was negatived 52 to 47. The committee then rose and obtained leave to sit again.

Thursday, January 23.

The Speaker laid before the House, a report from the Secretary of the Treasury, exhibiting a statement of our exports, for the past year, which was ordered to be printed.

Mr. Macon presented to the House, a copy of an act passed by the General Assembly of North-Carolina, at their late session (communicated to him by the Governor of that state) ratifying the proposed amendment of the Constitution of the United States, forbidding citizens of the United States, from accepting titles of nobility, &c. from foreign princes, &c.

The House again resolved itself into a committee of the whole, on the bill concerning the Navy; when, after some debate, the question was taken on filling the blank for the number of additional frigates proposed to be built, with the number *ten*, which was negatived by a large majority.

Mr. Wright then moved to fill the blank with *six*. This motion was negatived 30 votes only being in favor of it.

The question was next successively taken on filling the blank with *five*, *four* and *three*, and negatived 52 to 43, 51 to 44 and 49 to 45.

Mr. Bassett moved to amend the section by striking out what related to frigates, in order to insert, "four 74 gun ships." This motion was negatived 54 to 39.

A motion was then made to reconsider the vote of yesterday for striking out the whole section, which being agreed to, the section was struck out, 51 votes being in favor of it.

Mr. Cheves moved to fill the blank in the section providing for the purchase of timber & other materials, with 200,000 dollars annually for the years, 1812, 1813 and 1814.

Mr. Rhea moved to strike out the whole section, but, after some debate, this motion was negatived, there being only 27 votes in favor of it, and the question for filling the blank as moved, was carried, 61 votes being in favor of it.

The next section relates to a dock yard. The committee rose, without taking a question upon it, and had leave to sit again.

Friday, January 24.

The House again resolved itself into a committee of the whole, on the bill concerning the Naval Establishment; and after a speech from Mr. Gold in favor of the bill, the blank in the section for providing a Dock-Yard, was filled with one hundred thousand dollars.

Mr. Rhea moved so to amend the bill, as to fix the dock-yard in the Navy-Yard at Washington City; but this motion was negatived by a large majority.

On motion of Mr. Cheves, the words "central land," were struck out, so as to leave the site of the Dock-Yard to be determined by the Executive.

The committee having gone through the bill, rose and reported it to the house with the amendments. The House took up the bill; and on the question of filling up the blank for repairing the vessels on hand with four hundred and eighty thousand dollars, it was carried by Yeas and Nays as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Alston, Anderson, Archer, Baker, Bard, Bassett, Bigelow, Blackledge, Blacketer, Breckenridge, Brigham, Burwell, Butler, Calhoun, Champion, Cheves, Chittenden, Clay, Clifton, Condit, Crawford, Davenport, Dawson, Desha, Dinsmoor, Earle, Ely, Emmott, Fisk, Fitch, Gholson, Gold, Green, Grundy, Harper, Hawes, Hufny, Hyneman, Jackson, Johnson, Kent, King, Law, Little, Livingston, Lowndes, Maxwell, M'Brine, M'Kim, Milnor, Mitchell, Morgan, Morrow, Moseley, Nelson, New, Newton, Ormsby, Pearson, Pickens, Pitkin, Pleasants, Pond, Potter, Quincy, Reed, Richardson, Ridgely, Rhea, Roane, Roberts, Sage, Sammons, Sevier, Sheffield, J. Smith, Stewart, Sturges, Taggart, Tracy, Troup, Turner, Wheaton, White, Wilson, Winn, Wright—90.

NAYS—Messrs. Bibb, Boyd, Brown, Cochran, Franklin, Gray, B. Hall, O. Hall, Lacoçk, Lyle, Macon, M'Kee, Metcalf, Piper, Rodman, Seaver, Shaw, Smilie, G. Smith, Stanford, Whitehill, Williams—22.

The question was next put upon agreeing to the report of the committee to strike out the second section of the bill, which contemplated the building of new frigates; when Mr. D. R. Williams spoke at length against the bill, and was replied to by Mr. Cheves. The house adjourned without taking the question.

Saturday, January 25.

Mr. D. R. Williams gave notice that he should, the first opportunity which he could get, call up the bill for classifying and arming the Militia of the U. States.

The House then took up the order of the day, which was the bill concerning the Naval Establishment. And the question on agreeing to the report of the committee of the whole to strike out the second section of the bill, which provided for the building of a number of new frigates, being under consideration, Mr. Wright and Mr. Quincy spoke against striking out the section, and Mr. Fisk and Mr. M'Kee in favor of the motion. The House adjourned without taking the question.

Monday, January 27.

Mr. Bacon, from the Committee of Ways and Means, reported a bill making appropriations for the service of the government for the year 1812, which was committed.

The House then took up the order of the day, viz. the bill concerning the Navy; the question of agreement to the report of the committee of the whole to strike out the section for building new frigates being still under consideration, Mr. Bibb spoke at some length against the Navy Establishment, and Mr. Nelson in favor of it: when

Mr. Burwell moved to postpone the subject until the 4th of February. As the decision of this question had nothing to do with the preparatory measures for war, he supposed no inconvenience would be experienced from this postponement. As there were, no doubt, many gentlemen who still wished to be heard on this subject, they would have time to prepare themselves; for as this debate had continued little more than three weeks, they could scarcely be expected now to be prepared; besides their arguments would then be new, whereas if they were now delivered they would appear a mere repetition.—If he had thought there were any chance of getting the question in ten or twelve days, he would not have made the motion; but at present he saw no end to the debate.

Some gentlemen appearing willing to debate this motion, Mr. B. withdrew it; and after a few remarks from Mr. Smilie against the Navy, and from Mr. Widgery in favor of it, the question on agreeing to strike out the section for building the frigates, was carried 62 to 59. The Yeas and Nays as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Anderson, Archer, Bacon, Bard, Bibb, Boyd, Brown, Burwell, Butler, Cochran, Clifton, Crawford, Davis, Desha, Dinsmoor, Earle, Findley, Fisk, Franklin, Gholson, Goodwin, Gray, Grundy, Hyneman, B. Hall, O. Hall, Harper, Hufny, Johnson, Kent, King, Lacoçk, Lefever, Lyle, Macon, M'Kim, M'Kee, Metcalf, Morgan, Morrow, Newbold, New, Ormsby, Pickens, Piper, Rhea, Roberts, Roane, Rodman, Sage, Seaver, Sevier, Shaw, Seybert, Sheffield, Smilie, G. Smith, Stanford, Strong, Talliaferro, Whitehill, Williams—62.

NAYS—Messrs. Alston, Baker, Bigelow, Bassett, Blacketer, Breckenridge, Brigham, Calhoun, Champion, Cheves, Chittenden, Condit, Davenport, Dawson, Ely, Emmott, Fisk, Goli Green, Hawes, Jackson, Key, Law, Livingston, Little, Lowndes, Maxwell, M'Brine, M'Kim, Milnor, Mitchell, Moseley, Nelson, Newton, Pearson, Pickin, Pleasants, Porter, Potter, Pond, Quincy, Reed, Richardson, Ringgold, Sammons, J. Smith, Stow, Sturges, Taggart, Tracy, Troup, Turner, Wheaton, Widgery, White, Wilson, Winn, Wright—59.

The next question was, on agreeing with the committee of the whole to fill the blank for providing ship timber and

other perishable materials, with the words *two hundred thousand dollars*, which was carried 92 to 37.

Another question was on agreeing with the committee of the whole to make the above appropriation for *three years*, viz. for the years 1812, 1813 and 1814. This motion was carried 67 to 52.

The next question was on agreeing with the committee of the whole to appropriate *one hundred thousand dollars* for providing a Dock-Yard.

Mr. Rhea moved to strike out the section; but this motion being decided to be out of order, Mr. D. R. Williams spoke against the propriety of appropriating money without estimate, for an object not wanted until we went about building 74's. The House adjourned without taking the question.

Tuesday, January 28.

Mr. Jackson presented a memorial and remonstrance from certain inhabitants of East Greenwich, Rhode-Island, condemning, in strong terms, a resolution some time ago introduced by a member from New-York, offering a bounty to American seamen, on board British vessels, who should bring in any such vessel into the ports of the U. States. This remonstrance was very long, and contained a number of severe reflections upon the measures of government. After the reading had progressed for some time, the further reading of the paper was objected to, on the ground of its being indecorous. This producing some debate, Mr. J. withdrew the memorial.

The Speaker declared, that in future, when he discovered that any paper presented to the House was couched in disrespectful and improper language, he should consider it his duty to take the sense of the House on the propriety of suffering the reading to progress.

Mr. Archer wished to offer a resolution to the House, calling upon the Secretary of the Treasury to give such information to this House as he may possess, relative to the practicability of obtaining such loans as government may require, and at what rate of interest. As this body has determined upon raising a large army, and large appropriations, will, of course, be necessary for their support, and to carry on the war in which we expect to be engaged, it becomes necessary that Congress should devise the means by which this war can be carried on with effect. The Secretary of the Treasury has written a letter to the Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means, which that committee has laid before this House, enumerating the taxes to which it may be necessary to resort for this purpose. And by offering the present resolution, he wished not to be considered as encroaching upon the duties of that committee. He confessed he was not prepared to say, that he could swallow the bitter pill presented in this letter of the Secretary. He had always entertained a great abhorrence for stamp and excise laws; and he could scarcely conceive any consideration which would induce him to vote for taxes of this description. We ought, said Mr. A. to be careful, in entering upon this war, not to run foul of the prejudices of the people, prejudices highly laudable from the causes which produced them. Let it not be supposed, said he, I am not disposed to go as far as any person in supporting the rights of the country, and in voting for the means to enforce their protection; but I wish those means to be such as will be palatable to the people; and, if practicable, it would, in his opinion, be much better that this war, for the first year, should be carried on by means of loans. And for this purpose, he proposed the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Treasury be directed to give this House such information as he may possess relative to the practicability of effecting loans for the government of the U. States, to what amount such loans may be obtained, and at what rate of interest.

The order of the day, viz. the bill concerning the Naval Establishment, was then taken up; and the question on agreeing to the report of the committee of the whole to fill up the blank in the section providing a Dock Yard, with one hundred thousand dollars, being under consideration, Mr. Cheves stated the grounds upon which the committee had recommended this provision of the bill, and replied to some remarks of his colleague (Mr. Williams) made yesterday.

Mr. Rhea then moved to strike out the whole section in relation to the Dock-Yard, which, after some little debate, was carried 56 votes to 52.

Mr. Blackledge moved a new section to the bill, providing for the building of four seventy-four gun ships. As an inducement to the House to adopt this new section, he stated there were sufficient timber and guns on hand; that the whole expence would not exceed 1,300,000 dollars, and the guns and timber being already provided, an appropriation of 824,000 dollars only, would be necessary to complete them.

The question was negatived 76 to 33.

The bill was then ordered to be engrossed for a third reading to-morrow.

On motion of Mr. D. R. Williams, the House resolved itself into a committee of the whole, on the bill supplementary to an act more effectually to provide for the national defence, by establishing a uniform militia throughout the U. States; and to an act making provision for arming and equipping the whole body of the militia of the U. States. The bill having been gone through, without amendment,

Mr. Williams said, it might be expected from him, as a duty, to state what were the reasons which induced the committee to bring forward this bill. As the day was far spent, however, and as this could be as well done in the House, as in the committee of the whole, he would move that the committee rise and report the bill. The committee rose accordingly.

[This bill proposes the division of the militia into three classes. The first, is to consist of such persons as are over 18 and under 21 years of age, to be called the *Minor Class*, to be ordered out whenever detachments of the militia are authorized, but are not to do duty out of the state or territory in which they reside, nor continue in service more than three months at a time.

The second class, is to consist of persons over 21 and under 31 years of age, to be called the *Junior Class of Militia*, and may be ordered to any part of the U. States, or their territories, but not be compelled to serve more than twelve months at a time.

The third class, is to consist of persons over 31 and under 45 years of age, to be called the *Senior Class of Militia*, subject to do duty in the state or territory in which they reside, and may be called into an adjoining state or territory, but not be compelled to serve more than six months at a time.

Every free, able bodied white male citizen upon his arrival at the age of eighteen years, and being enrolled in the militia, is to receive a stand of arms, the right to which is to be assignably invested in him.

Four hundred thousand dollars are proposed to be appropriated annually in addition to the sum formerly appropriated, for the purchase of arms.]

Wednesday, Jan. 29.

The engrossed bill concerning the Naval Establishment, was read the third time and passed. The Yeas and Nays on its passage were as follow:

YEAS—Messrs. Alston, Anderson, Bassett, Blackledge, Breckenridge, Burwell, Butler, Calhoun, Cheves, Chittenden, Condit, Davenport, Davis, Dinsmoor, Ely, Emmott, Findley, Fisk, Fitch, Franklin, Gholson, Goodwyn, Green, Harper, Hawes, Hyneman, King, Little, Livingston, Lowndes, Maxwell, Milnor, Moore, M'Brine, M'Kim, M'Kim, Mitchell, Nelson, Newton, Pitkin, Pleasants, Porter, Pond, Potter, Richardson, Ringgold, Rhea, Seybert, Sheffield, G. Smith, J. Smith, Stewart, Stow, Sturges, Taggart, Talliaferro, Tracy, Troup, Turner, Van Cortlandt, Wheaton, Wilson, White, Winn, Wright—65.

NAYS—Messrs. Bacon, Bibb, Boyd, Brown, Cochran, Crawford, Desha, O. Hall, Hufny, Johnson, Lacoçk, Lyle, Macon, M'Kee, Metcalf, Morgan, New, Newbold, Piper, Roane, Roberts, Rodman, Sage, Seaver, Shaw, Smilie, Stanford, Strong, Whitehill, Williams—30.

The House then took up the bill for classifying and arming the Militia; when Mr. D. R. Williams spoke at considerable length in its favor, explaining the objects of the bill, and Mr. Mitchell against it, who concluded his observations by a motion to strike out the first section of the bill. He was followed by Mr. Wright in favor of the bill. After Mr. W. had been speaking a considerable time, the Speaker observed that there was not a quorum of members present. A motion was made to adjourn, and carried.

Thursday, January 30.

Mr. Bigelow offered the following resolution.

Resolved, That the President of the United States, be requested to cause to be laid before this House, such information as he may possess relative to the captures, seizures and condemnations of the ships and cargoes of citizens of the U. States, under the authority of the governments of Europe, or either of them, not heretofore communicated.

Messrs. Bigelow, Bacon, Milnor, Pitkin and Smilie were in favor of the call on the President—Messrs. Wright, Little and others, were opposed to it; a number of attempts were made to amend, and to postpone the consideration of the resolution, which after considerable debate, passed with the following amendment:—And accompanying the same with a reference to the regulations, orders or decrees, under which the respective classes of capture have been made, and information how far these captures have been made are abandoned, or persevered in by the nation making such captures—Ayes 101—Noes 6.

The House then proceeded to the consideration of the bill for the classification of the militia of the U. States, reported by Mr. D. R. Williams—the motion of Dr. Mitchell to strike out the first section under consideration. The bill was opposed by Messrs. Widgery, Boyd and Lacoçk, and advocated by Messrs. Wright, Macon and Williams. Adjourned without taking the question.

FROM THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

MR. GALLATIN'S REPORT.

Congress having entered upon a course of measures leading to War, and of course to an increased national expenditure, it had become a subject of interesting speculation, in what manner the necessary funds should be provided to meet the augmented disbursement. The attention of the Committee of Ways & Means, who in our House of Representatives perform the duties assigned in the British House of Commons to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, was accordingly attracted to the subject: and their call upon the Secretary of the Treasury for his opinion, &c. produced the Report which we a few days ago presented to the public. It appears to have been the sentiment of the Committee, as well as of the Head of the Treasury Department, that for the expenses of a War, reliance should be placed on loans, redeemable in a period of anticipated Peace. But as universal experience has proved it to be essential to a maintenance of public credit that the interest falling due, on loans should be punctually paid, it becomes necessary to provide a gradually increasing fund, which besides supplying what is deficient for the support of the ordinary Peace Establishment, should be adequate to the payment of the interest on the debt incurred in the prosecution of the War. For this purpose, of course, additional revenue becomes necessary. The Report of the Secretary, in a lucid manner, expresses his opinion, as required by the committee, in what manner the deficiency of revenue thus created can be most readily and least oppressively supplied. Of the merits of the proposed system, as to its designation of objects for taxation, it is for Congress to judge; our intention is not now to enter into that question, but to notice some vague intimations thrown out in the public prints that really it is altogether unnecessary and impolitic (and if it be one it is certainly the other) to lay any additional taxes on the People.—Our attention is particularly called to the subject by a letter from Washington, published in the Sun, of Friday, which says, in speaking of the proposition to print an extra number of the Report in question, "The committee had made no report, and this was merely the Secretary's budget. It was very improper to alarm the people (in advance) with a frightful list of taxes that are altogether unnecessary, and will not seriously be thought of by any one."

We have ever entertained the opinion that War, as the scourge of mankind, as peculiarly pregnant with difficulty and danger to a young republic, ought sedulously to be avoided, so long as its avoidance is consistent with the honor and permanent interests of the nation. But when, as at this moment, they imperiously point to the last resort—when, in fact the first step is taken—we discard from consideration all minor objections, and without claiming any share of the eulogium arising from war, shall not, whilst we advocate it, decline our share of responsibility for the measures necessary to support it.

Among the various evils attendant upon War, reflecting men have never thought it the least important one, that it must stop up in a great degree the channel through which our revenue was drawn from its source.

—at the same time opening additional drains which instead of accommodating our expenditure to the diminished receipt, require the construction of other channels to that source. The People, from whom all revenue is immediately or remotely derived. But, in deciding on war, its various disadvantages could not but have been taken into calculation by its advocates, who must have made up their minds to meet them. No rational man, it appears to us, could have overlooked them—and we have therefore been not a little astonished at those, whom personal enmity towards Mr. Gallatin, or an indisposition to "alarm the people with a frightful list of taxes," have induced to declare that they are altogether unnecessary. Money is proverbially said to be the life-blood of war—taxes follow necessarily in its train. Of the description of politicians who advocate war, and deny the necessity for an increased revenue to meet it, we would say, did we not feel assured to the contrary, that they must have calculated on a bloodless war, to be waged by a nerveless force.

But it is said the people will be alarmed at the prospect of taxation. How? Do the people call loudly for war, and will they withhold the supply by the aid of which alone it can be conducted? Are they to be frightened with shadows? The mass of the people, at least, are endowed with common sense enough not to be ignorant that they must furnish the means for the support of the war which they demand to be undertaken. The history of the war of '98 has been introduced to prove that the people will not consent to be taxed for the support of an army, which has been said to have been as necessary then as now. The cases are in no wise analogous.

Were an attempt to be made, as it was during the Federal administration, to support an army without any possible laudable object, the people would now, as they did then, withdraw their confidence from those who raised it, whose views might be reasonably concluded to be hostile to the liberties of their country. But when, on the one hand, the great commercial interest of the country is threatened with annihilation; and on the other, agriculture, from her intimate connection with commerce, partakes of the danger; the people will cheerfully contribute, each his proportion, to assert the violated rights and honor of the nation. If this government be founded in the virtue and intelligence of the people, why shall we fear to alarm them by laying before them the true state of our finances, and the measures deemed necessary to enable the Public Treasury to minister to the national wants? We cannot see a reason for it; and, in our view, the idea of alarming the people by the diffusion of this document conveys an unjustifiable insult to the understandings of the community.

For our part, we feel much obliged, as one of the people, to the Secretary of the Treasury for the candor and perspicuity with which he has unfolded to Congress his views of our resources, and of the relative expediency of the different modes of raising a revenue. The enquiry, what are the first objects for taxation is a distinct question, and foreign to our present purpose. Having heretofore witnessed the extraordinary spectacle of an officer of the Republic persecuted for refusing to withhold the truth, it is possible we may again; for we have already seen Albert Gallatin, for his late report, and other similar offences, accused of *Apostasy* and *Treachery*. The object of all this contumely has one consideration, however, which to a virtuous mind cannot but be most dear: that he who suffers in the support of Truth has no reason for regret—it is a cause in which martyrdom would be glorious.

Domestic Intelligence.

BRITISH IMPRISMENTS.

It will be seen by the letters below, that Henry Stone, an American seaman, was impressed by the British in the year 1802, and has been compelled to remain in their service ever since; a period of ten years! Cold indeed must that man's blood be, whose bosom is not pained, and whose indignant feelings are not excited, on the contemplation of a hoary revolutionary soldier, who had fought for the freedom of his country and his posterity, bemoaning the hapless lot of a son, for ten years a slave in the English navy. In the language of an elegant writer, we ask—"When, my countrymen, shall this stain upon our national honor be wiped away—this foul disgrace to our national reputation, which withers the laurels acquired in the war of our revolution, and almost effaces the glory of its triumphs?"

See Chron.

Scituate, R. I. Jan 5, 1812.

Messrs. Printers—I pray you to publish this letter from my son—it is the voice of distress, and pierces my heart like the spear of death. Had heaven's thunder smitten my child to the ground, or had the earth opened and swallowed him up alive—submission to the destinies of nature, acquiescence in the will of heaven, would have mitigated my grief.—But I suffer under the protracted agonies of a living death; I suffer from man—from the tyrants of the ocean—the plunderers of the world.—It is too much for a poor worn-out soldier of the war, which we hoped would make our children free, to bear in his old age.

ANDREW STONE.

"Invincible, Minorca, Aug. 21st, 1814, "Dear Father—I have now taken the opportunity to inclose this letter in one for the American Consul, hoping it will reach you, as I am fearful the others have miscarried. I have been on board a man of war since the year 1802, at which time I was impressed out of the brig Tabor. I wish you to apply to the Collector of Providence for my protection, as I cannot recollect the person's name who granted me my last, when I sailed from Providence to the East-Indies; and if you should be so fortunate as to obtain one, be kind enough to direct it to the American Consul, in Birch-Lane, London.—Since I left home I have seen a great deal of trouble; and particularly wish