

turned by the most despicable petty pecuniary motives to prolong the sessions of Congress and promote the public business? Had gentlemen any right to complain? Could they feel any surprise that governed by a similar mode of reasoning, their own conduct should be assailed by the people, and the vilest motives imputed to them? Mr. F. said, he was very far from justifying the popular clamor on this subject; it had been excited to an unarrantable height, not justified by the occasion, and on a point not sufficiently important to make it worthy of the sensation that had been produced. But he was desirous to shew gentlemen that the fault lay, in some measure, at their own doors. In common with other members from Georgia, he had been assailed by those who had resentments to satiate, or friendship to gratify. The attacks on him, from accidental causes, had not been successful. When it should be his misfortune, (if indeed it could be called a misfortune to be divorced from public life) of being no longer an acceptable representative of the people of Georgia, he should endeavour to forget every thing but the confidence which had been reposed in him, and settle his eyes upon the unkindness of a sentence, which, like that passed upon his colleagues, he trusted he should not deserve. But, Mr. F. said, he was wandering from the point.— He certainly did not, and could not believe, that any member of that House was so destitute of common decency and common honesty as to delay public business from a paltry pecuniary motive. Admitting, however, the argument to be justly found, it affords a powerful reason against the new mode; for if a trifling & insufficient per diem affords temptation to a dereliction of duty, too strong to be withstood by all, and leads to an unnecessary delay of business, an annual compensation, which, diminished by the duration of the session, will produce the opposite effect—the curtailment of the sessions, and the neglect of public business. Mr. F. said he left it to gentlemen to estimate the difference between the lengthened session with the enactment, and the shortened session with the neglect, of necessary laws. He had already seen much evil growing out of the change. He desired to be understood, that he did not impute to gentlemen a motive more unworthy than the one he distinctly announced. It seemed to him, that in order to accomplish their prediction on this point; an order to make the fact correspond with the prophecy, the last session of Congress had been hurried to its close. Many laws of general and vital importance had been left unconsidered, and the table of the Speaker had been crowded with the private acts. If his memory was accurate, forty had been passed in one day.— Mr. F. said, he did not object to the relief of individuals when entitled to the interference of the House, but he had always supposed that the general, ought always to have precedence of partial relief, however meritorious the object, and just the tide to favor—he apprehended similar evils from a continuance of the present law; if not in the indifference to general laws, at least from the wholesale dealing in private acts. It had been asked, very triumphantly, why these arguments were not urged at the last session of Congress; how it happened that this burning zeal against the act, had not blazed out at the time of its adoption? Mr. F. asked, if they had not been urged; were they not remembered? That the usual length and labor of investigation had not been devoted to this subject, was true, for the reasons he would remind gentlemen of certain facts which seem to have been forgotten. The compensation bill was the only bill of any interest pushed through the committee of the whole house and ordered to a third reading in a single day; all motions to amend were rejected; for the committee to rise and report progress and ask leave to sit again, met with the same fate. The banking, ricketty, as it is, was not suffered to receive a corset to press it into a decent shape. The House refused repeated propositions to adjourn, and continued its sittings until the bill was ordered to be engrossed. The whole day on which it passed, was occupied in the discussion of its merits, and although the debate was but partially sketched in the public prints, and none of the proceedings in committee of the whole ever appeared before the public, there was quite as much said against it, as in favor of the measure. Mr. F. did not speak of the quantity of words spoken, or to the wit, railery and allusion used, but simply of the arguments which had been advanced by those favorable and hostile to the measure. He thought he had some reason to complain, not of the cause, but of the effect of the partial report of the proceedings on this subject. What he had said or proposed was in itself of very little consequence, and certainly he felt no particular interest in having it laid before the people; but it had been made a source of animadversion and calumny in the states of whose representation he formed a part. And it was the sole circumstance he had to regret.— Could he have foreseen all the clamor and excitement which had been produced, he would have acted and spoken precisely as he had done, taking care that what had been said by him, should have found its way in the ordinary channel to the people. He had received a very good hint that he had not fulfilled the duties and expectations of his constituents; but he could not help himself with the idea of conduct had not been properly attended to. The people of Georgia had no instructions, for which he was thankful. He trusted that they would leave him unshackled to do as he thought fit, and that he should certainly should pursue, in the discharge of his duty, the desire of honorable employment; the hope of being useful; and the anxiety for those distinctions conferred ever by a successful exertion to promote the prosperity of a free people; to preserve and to maintain the character of the government of this country. To the gentlemen who had expressed, or who had entertained any opinions unfavorable to those who had taken part against the act, and yet received

him again to say any thing on this subject; but his chief object in rising, was to reply to some remarks of the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. Parris) on the Grand Jury of Georgia. Mr. F. said he was not the advocate of the Grand Jury, or the justifier of their opinions. He could not believe that their opinions were either liberal or just, without admitting that he himself was censurable, since the same Grand Jury had found fault of him, among others. But this was a matter of local concern, and he had hoped that each state would have furnished all their representatives sufficient employment at home, to render it unnecessary for any of them to travel a great distance in search of Quixotic adventures. Did not, then, all the state of Massachusetts, with its district of Maine, furnish one foe, upon whose recreant hide the honorable gentleman could gain the spurs of knight-hood or break his ponderous lance? Sir, the gentleman mistake entirely the nature of the presentment of which he complains. The Grand Jury never entertained an idea that he would be arraigned and tried upon their information. They believed, however, erroneously. There was a matter of great public interest, on which they chose to express their opinions. Certainly their right is as undoubted to find fault with the gentleman from Massachusetts, (who by the way they do not name) as the Legislature of Massachusetts has to censure the members of any other state, either by the tale or the gross. But the honorable gentleman took occasion to say that he knew nothing of the political character of that state, but from one remarkable and corrupt act which his constituents will always have occasion to recollect. Mr. F. said he could say nothing of the value of that judgment of the policy of a state, which was formed upon the examination of a particular fact in her history. This much, however, he could proudly say, that although her system was defective, and she had committed a multitude of faults, she had virtues to redeem them all. She would not shrink from a comparison with any state in the union. If the honorable gentleman was disposed to make an examination of the merits of their respective states, Mr. F. would demonstrate that the one was still an angel of light, the other less than an arch angel rascal. The constituents of the honorable gentleman have good reason to remember the act to which he alludes. The general government by the terms of the Yazoo compromise, have paid them well to recollect it. They have received the value of the property they purchased from the original holders in Georgia, and have not paid the purchase money. If they have any moral sense, they must unwillingly recollect this circumstance, from "certain computation visitings," which even successful fraud cannot elude. Mr. F. said he had no doubt the obnoxious law would be repealed. The anxiety he felt, was that it should be done in such a manner as become the honor and dignity of the body. Whatever was done, should be done in the same spirit, and in the same manner, in which the act was originally passed. If a per diem was substituted, and he hoped it would be, it ought to be calculated as compensating with the present session, both as a matter of principle and policy. It was right in itself, that the house should apply the same rule to the settlement of its accounts as were to be applied hereafter. It was due to a sense of decorum, that no person should be able to mistake or misrepresent the motive of the delay which had taken place in acting upon this business. The honorable gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Randolph) had supposed it necessary to go still further back, and embrace the receipts and settlements of last session.— This was altogether impracticable, and incorrect in principle. The house had as much right to go back to the 13th, 12th and 11th Congress, as to the last session of Congress. The accounts were adjusted, and the money not only vested, but received. It had been said on this floor, very much to his surprise, for although very much out of the house, he had not expected to meet with such an opinion here, that restitution of the extra pay of the last session was necessary to reinstate the house in the good opinion of the people; that it was improper or indelicate, in those who voted against the act, to receive the compensation fixed by it. Mr. F. could not understand how it should be necessary to confess the corrupt motive, in order to escape the effect of such an imputation.— Certainly if fraud had been committed, restitution was the best proof of sincere repentance; but until this was admitted, the strong expression of inclination to restore, was rather suspicious than satisfactory. The people would not expect the House to violate principle, out of an affection of purity. The charge of indelicacy on those who had received the increased compensation, has been made, but it did not deserve a reply; and he should not have noticed it, had it not been occasionally spoken of in the state of Georgia. As he had not replied to it then, he hoped to be forgiven for replying to it now. Mr. F. said he knew no difference between a law fixing a salary, and other laws. All affected by it, were entitled to its benefits, or obliged to bear the burthens it might impose. In whatever station he had been or should be placed, he should consider himself bound to perform all its duties, and to receive all its emoluments and its honors. He did not pretend to more patriotism, or less selfishness, than fell to the lot of most men; but he had not as yet taken money into the calculation of the inducements to enter or continue in public life. He had motives of a higher character, although certainly personal motives—the desire of honorable employment; the hope of being useful; and the anxiety for those distinctions conferred ever by a successful exertion to promote the prosperity of a free people; to preserve and to maintain the character of the government of this country. To the gentlemen who had expressed, or who had entertained any opinions unfavorable to those who had taken part against the act, and yet received

its benefits, he would ask was it not ours by the law of the land, constitutionally and honestly passed? Did our opinions of the sufficiency or insufficiency of the amount, of the policy or impolicy of the change, affect our rights more than your claims? Are you willing to acknowledge yourselves guilty of corruption, in order to fix upon us the charge of indelicacy?— To admit that you have committed a felony, to make us chargeable as accessories after the fact? It is upon these grounds alone the charge is defensible; and unless it is defended with these principles, it is as ridiculous as it is unjust. [To be concluded in our next.]

## CONGRESS.

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

MONDAY, FEB. 17.

Mr. Lowndes, from the committee of Ways and Means, reported a Bill supplementary to an Act entitled "An Act further to amend the several Acts for the establishment and regulation of the Treasury, War and Navy Departments," which was twice read and committed.

The engrossed bill making appropriations for the support of the Military Establishment for the year 1817; the engrossed bill making additional appropriations to defray the expenses of the army & militia during the late war with Great-Britain; the engrossed bill making appropriations for the support of the Navy of the United States for the year 1817, were severally read the third time and passed.

The House then proceeded to consider the proposition, submitted by Mr. Williams a few days ago, that it is expedient to repeal the internal duties.

This subject occupied the remainder of the day, in the manner stated below.

Mr. Johnson of Virginia, commenced the debate by an animated argument in support of the proposition, on the ground of the entire adequacy of the revenue from the indirect taxes and other sources to defray the expenses of the government, without the aid of the internal taxes, which therefore, and for their own objectionable character, ought to be repealed.

Mr. Smith, of Maryland, entered into an examination of the fiscal part of this question, with a view to show that, if the report of the committee of finance on the Sinking Fund should receive the sanction of the House, these taxes could not be dispensed with.

Mr. Cannon, of Tennessee, followed, on the same side of the question, and advocated, as connected with the repeal of the internal taxes, the reduction of the army, which he considered desirable, independently of the question of reducing the taxes necessary to support it.

Mr. Williams of North-Carolina, spoke in large support of his proposition on its own merits, and on the demerits of some of the national expenditures, particularly those on account of the Army, which he wished to see reduced, as well because of its unnecessary extent, as because standing armies are obnoxious to our free institutions. Mr. W. replied with some point to the observations made by Mr. Calhoun on his motion the other day.

Mr. Calhoun of South-Carolina, spoke in reply to the gentlemen from Virginia, Tennessee, and North-Carolina, particularly condemning the unseasonableness of the hour at which this question had been introduced into discussion, and showing the improbability of acting conclusively on the subject at the present session.

Mr. Gold, of New-York, moved to lay the resolution on the table.

This motion was opposed by Mr. Cannon, Mr. Ship, and Mr. Hardin, and supported by Mr. Robertson, Mr. Sheffield, Mr. Smith, of Maryland, and Lowndes, on various grounds and at some length.

The question was at length decided by yeas and nays against postponement, by a majority of about 20 votes.

Mr. Lowndes of South-Carolina, replied very fully to the arguments of gentlemen who supported this resolution, in principle as well as in detail, vindicating the reports of the committee of ways and means, and showed how inconvenient a moment this was to agitate this question, &c.

Mr. Webster, of New-Hampshire, was also opposed to what he termed a wholesale repeal of the internal taxes. He was willing to reduce the expenditures of the government in any practical way; which was a question, however, that ought to have been settled before the present question was agitated.

Mr. Johnson, of Virginia, spoke in reply to Mr. Lowndes and others; taking occasion to express his regret that the question of a reduction of the army had been connected in the debate with this proposition, with which in his view it was wholly unconnected in fact, &c.

The question was loudly called for, it being about four o'clock, and the House refused a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Ingham, of Penn. moved to amend the resolution, in order to save future trouble, and make it more specific, so as to specify the repeal of each of the Internal Taxes distinctly. [This will bring before the House separately the question of repealing each tax.]

After some conversation, arising from the new shape now given to the proposition, a motion to adjourn prevailed by a small majority.

TUESDAY, FEB. 18.

Mr. H. Nelson, from the committee on the Judiciary, to whom an enquiry on the subject had been referred, reported that it is inexpedient to multiply the newspapers in which the acts of Congress are published. This report was agreed to.

Mr. Condit, from the committee on the expenditures for the public buildings, made a report containing estimates of expenses to be incurred in finishing the public buildings, which was read and ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Ingham, from the committee on Post Roads, reported a bill allowing the privilege of franking to James Madison

during the remainder of his life, which was twice read and ordered to a third reading to-morrow.

On motion of Mr. King, of Mass. the committee on Foreign Relations was instructed to report to the House such measures as they may judge necessary, to regulate the importation of Plaister of Paris, and to countervail the regulations of any other nation, injurious to our own, relating to that trade.

The House then resumed the consideration of the resolution moved by Mr. Williams, to repeal the Internal Duties; when the question recurred on Mr. Ingham's proposed amendment, noticed in the proceedings of yesterday.

Mr. Root moved to amend the amendment, so as to confine the repeal of the duty on carriages, to those "not exceeding one hundred dollars in value;" and spoke at some length in support of his proposition.

Mr. Bateman spoke against the repeal of the duties, and concluded his speech by a motion to postpone indefinitely the resolution and proposed amendments.

Mr. Harrison also insisted on the propriety of postponement, chiefly on the ground of the impolicy of reducing the Army, which proposition had been considered as connected with that now under consideration.

Mr. Hardin spoke against the postponement, endeavoring to convince the House that these taxes might be repealed without a reduction of the Army, but in favor of reducing the army if necessary to authorize a repeal of the Internal Taxes.

Mr. Wilde spoke at considerable length in opposition to the proposed repeal, arguing negatively, and on various grounds.

Mr. Root and Mr. Robertson next spoke in favor of a repeal of the taxes; the former in favor of the immediate repeal, and the latter in favor of a repeal prospectively.

Mr. Calhoun and Mr. Lowndes, in short speeches, supported the motion to postpone the subject indefinitely.

Mr. Johnson of Virginia, and Mr. Randolph, also spoke in favor of the repeal of the taxes; and Mr. Smith of Maryland, again spoke in favor of the postponement.

The question was at length taken on indefinite postponement, and decided in the negative—94 to 59.

The question then recurred on Mr. Root's proposed amendment, which he then withdrew.

The question was then taken on Mr. Ingham's motion, and decided in the negative.

The question having been stated on the original resolution proposed by Mr. Williams, a division of the question was called for—And before taking the question thereon, the House adjourned at a late hour.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 19.

The bill supplementary to the act further to amend the several acts for the establishment and regulation of the Treasury, War, and Navy Departments, (for prohibiting transfers of appropriations in future)—and the bill repealing the act "for the safe keeping and accommodation of prisoners of war," were read a second time and committed.

On motion of Mr. Atherton, the House proceeded to consider the proposition to amend the rules and orders of the House submitted by him on the 8th inst.; and the same being amended was agreed to by the House, as follows:

"It shall be the duty of the several committees on public expenditure, to enquire whether any offices belonging to the branches or departments, respectively concerning whose expenditures it is their duty to enquire, have become useless, or unnecessary, and to report from time to time of the expediency of modifying or abolishing the same; also, to examine into the pay and emoluments of all officers under the laws of the United States, and to report from time to time such a reduction or increase thereof, as a just economy and the public service may require."

The House proceeded to the consideration of the resolution for the repeal of the Internal Duties.

Mr. Webster spoke at large against a general repeal of the Internal Duties, on general principles; particularly on comparing them with duties on articles imported, some of which, he contended, particularly those on salt, sugar, and coffee, were much more grievous impositions on the people, than the Internal duties.— Mr. W. spent some time in examining the bearings of the various taxes on different interests of the government, deducing the inference that the navigating was the interest most severely taxed at present, &c.

Mr. Alexander expressed his decided opinion in favor of a repeal of the taxes; but said he did not wish to give a vote, which, from the course the business and debate was taking, would be a pretension merely to do that which he was convinced could not be consummated at the present session.

Mr. Smith of Md. explained his views, as being in favor of a repeal, if the report in favor of a large sinking fund should not be agreed to; but opposed to it if that proposition should succeed.

Mr. Sheffield spoke in favor of a reduction of the Army; and expressed his willingness, if the army should be reduced, to vote for a repeal of the Internal duties, but not on any other ground. He was under present circumstances, opposed to the repeal, and condemned the precipitancy with which the House had appeared to pass at once from excess to parsimony.

Mr. Randolph spoke in explanation, and in reply to Mr. Sheffield.

Mr. Johnson of Va. also spoke in explanation and reply.

Mr. Sheffield replied to the remarks of the two latter gentlemen.

Mr. Randolph rejoined, and at some length maintained his opinions.

Mr. King then rose, and spoke in favor of the repeal with great zeal and at some length; and then the House adjourned.

THURSDAY, FEB. 20.

Mr. T. Wilson, from the committee on Roads and Canals, made a further report, which was read; and Mr. W. reported a

bill to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to subscribe, in behalf of the United States, for shares in the capital stock of certain canal companies therein mentioned.

The Speaker laid before the House a letter from the acting Secretary of War, transmitting information relative to the claims of the State of Massachusetts, for the payment of the expenses of the militia that State during the late war; which was ordered to lie on the table.

On motion of Mr. Goldborough,

Resolved, That the committee on Commerce and Manufactures be instructed to enquire whether any, and, if any, what measures are necessary to be adopted in consequence of the great failure of the Corn crop in the past year.

Resolved, That the President of the United States be requested to cause to be reported at the next session of Congress, such measures as he may deem most effectual for the security of the country watered by the Chesapeake Bay and its tributary streams, against the maritime force of an enemy.

The House then proceeded to the order of the day, on the resolution to repeal the Internal Duties.

Mr. Sheffield withdrew a motion he had previously made to amend the resolve, so as to read nearly as follows: "Resolved, That the Army shall be reduced to six thousand men, and the acts laying Internal Duties, &c. be repealed."

Mr. Jackson made a motion, which he said he felt constrained by imperious necessity to offer, to prevent a further waste of the time of the House on a proposition which could lead to no result, to lay the resolution on the table.

This motion was opposed by Messrs. Desha, Hardin, and King, and supported by Mr. Hulbert. On the one hand it was said the proposition was one of great importance; on which every one had made up their minds, and were probably ready to decide. On the other hand, the importance of the subject was admitted, but the possibility of deciding it definitively at the present session, either one way or the other, was denied.

The question on laying the resolution on the table, was then taken, and negatived 78 to 77.

Mr. Forsyth, conceiving that it must now be obvious to every gentleman, that no result could flow from this proposition, at the present session, moved to try the sense of the House, to postpone the resolution to a day beyond the session.—Negatived 83 to 77.

Mr. Pickens moved to amend the resolution, by adding to the end of it these words—"and the duty on salt," so as to repeal that duty also.

This proposition gave rise to much debate, in which Mr. Kilbourn particularly spoke at considerable length, in opposition to the amendment, but in favor of the main proposition.

The question on the proposed amendment was carried 91 to 67.

After some further discussion the House adjourned.

FRIDAY, FEB. 21.

Mr. Hulbert, from the select committee to whom the petition of the Berkshire Agricultural Association had been referred, reported a bill to establish a National Board of Agriculture; which was twice read and committed.

Mr. Forsyth, from the committee of Foreign Relations, reported a bill to regulate the trade in Plaister of Paris; which was twice read and committed and (after an unsuccessful motion by Mr. F. that the bill be ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, and not to take the usual course of going through a committee of the whole House, which motion was opposed by Messrs. Little, Smith of Maryland, Burwell and Ross, as being too summary a course for the great importance of the subject, and supported by Messrs. Forsyth and King,) the bill was committed to a committee of the whole House.

The House proceeded to the order of the day, being, the proposition to repeal the internal taxes. The question first under consideration was the motion made by Mr. Mills yesterday, and pending when the House adjourned, to reduce the duty on brown sugar, coffee, bolca and souchong teas, imported spirits and one or two other articles, one half.

Mr. Mills opposed the general repeal contemplated by the original resolution, and advocated his amendment; expressing his reasons at large for approving a steady but moderate system of internal taxation, as well a direct tax on lands, &c. as others, and particularly on ardent spirits and articles of luxury. When he had concluded,

Mr. Thomas, of Tenn. for the purpose of coming to a decision on the question, and foreseeing no termination to the present discussion, demanded the previous question on the resolution.

The question was then put "Shall the main question be now taken?" and decided in the negative—ayes 36.

Mr. Thomas then moved that the resolution be postponed to the 2d of March—which was decided in the affirmative, 82 to 73.

Messrs. Clark, Farney, Gaston and Yancey, from this State, voted in favor of the postponement; and Messrs. Bryan, Culppeper, Dickens, Edwards, Hooks, Love, Pickens and Williams, against it.—Mr. Murfree was absent.

So the subject was laid on the table for this session.

The following bills from the Senate, viz. the bill to establish a separate territorial government for the eastern part of the Mississippi territory; the bill to provide for reporting the decisions of the Supreme Court; the bill respecting the transportation of persons of color, for sale, or to be held to labor; and the bill to set apart and dispose of certain public lands for the encouragement of the cultivation of the Vine and the Olive; were severally twice read and referred; and

The amendment of the Senate to the bill concerning the navigation of the United States, were read and referred.

The following engrossed bills were sent