

territories with slaves from the Coast of Africa. That was a part of the trade which in fact could hardly now be said to exist, and the main object of his motion was that it should not be revived; and therefore it was unnecessary for him to argue the point at length, he should wait to hear what was to be urged against his motion, rather than labor to establish the propriety of it, as the subject had been amply discussed and the argument long ago exhausted. He therefore moved that leave be given to bring in a Bill for preventing the supply of Foreign territories with slaves from the Coast of Africa, and that this motion be referred to a Committee of the whole House.

This motion was opposed.  
Mr. Wilberforce replied to all the arguments against his motion.  
The House divided, for the motion - 63  
Against it - 40  
The bill was then ordered to be brought in.

*Congress of the United States.*  
*IN SENATE,*

Thursday, April 24.  
The honorable James Rofs from the state of Pennsylvania attended and took his seat in the Senate.

The oath was by the Vice-President administered to Mr. Rofs as the law provides.

The bill, sent from the House of Representatives for concurrence, entitled, "an act providing for raising and organizing a corps of artificers and engineers," was read the second time.

Ordered, That this bill be referred to Mr. Gunn, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Bradley, Mr. King and Mr. Langdon, to consider and report thereon to the Senate.

The bill, sent from the House of Representatives for concurrence, entitled, "an act directing a detachment from the militia of the United States," was read the second time.

Ordered, That this bill also be referred to the committee last named, to consider and report thereon to the Senate.

A message from the House of Representatives by Mr. Beckley their clerk:

Mr. President—The House of Representatives agree to the proposed conference, on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses, on the bill, entitled, "an act to establish the post-office and post-roads within the United States; and have appointed managers at the said conference on their part"—And he withdrew.

The Senate resumed the consideration of the letter yesterday laid before the Senate, from the committee of public safety of the French Republic.

A motion was made that it be "Ordered, That the letter of the committee of public safety, of the French Republic, addressed to Congress, be transmitted to the President, and that he be requested to cause the same to be answered, on behalf of the United States, in such manner as shall manifest their sincere friendship and good will for the French Republic."

On which it was moved that this motion be referred to a committee, to consider and report thereon; and

It passed in the negative—Yeas 13—Nays 15.

The yeas and nays being required by one-fifth of the Senators present.

Those who voted in the affirmative, are, Messrs. Bradford, Brown, Burr, Butler, Edwards, Gunn, Hawkins, Jackson, Langdon, Martin, Monroe, Robinson and Taylor.

Those who voted in the negative, are, Messrs. Bradford, Cabot, Ellsworth, Foster, Frelinghuysen, Henry, Izard, King, Livermore, Morris, Potts, Rofs, Rutherford, Strong, and Vining.

A motion was made by Mr. Martin to postpone the consideration of the motion before the Senate for the purpose of considering the following motion:

"Resolved, by the Senate and House of Representatives in Congress assembled; that the letter of the committee of public safety of the French Republic, addressed to Congress, be transmitted to the President, and that he be requested to cause the same to be answered in behalf of the United States, in such manner as shall manifest their friendship and good will for the French nation, with their sincere wishes for the prosperity of that Republic."

On motion, It was agreed to amend the original

motion by inserting these words, "Senate of the;" before the word "United."

On motion, To amend the motion by adding these words, after the word "States."

"Congratulating them upon the late brilliant successes of the arms of the Republic, and the establishment of liberty and order, and the progress of industry;"

It passed in the negative.

On the question to agree to the motion amended as follows:

"Ordered, That the letter of the committee of public safety of the French Republic, addressed to Congress, be transmitted to the President, and that he be requested to cause the same to be answered on behalf of the Senate of the United States, in such manner as shall manifest their sincere friendship and good will for the French Republic."

It passed in the affirmative—Yeas 28.  
The yeas and nays being required by one-fifth of the Senators present.

Those who voted in the affirmative, are, Messrs. Bradford, Bradley, Brown, Burr, Butler, Cabot, Edwards, Ellsworth, Foster, Frelinghuysen, Gunn, Hawkins, Henry, Jackson, Izard, King, Langdon, Livermore, Martin, Monroe, Morris, Potts, Robinson, Rofs, Rutherford, Strong, Taylor and Vining.

Ordered, That the Secretary lay a copy of this vote of Senate before the President of the United States.

Mr. Ellsworth from the committee to whom was referred the bill, entitled, "an act to encourage the recruiting service," reported amendments.

Ordered, That the amendments be printed for the use of the Senate.

On motion, Ordered, That Robert Connelly have leave to withdraw his petition.

The Senate adjourned to 11 o'clock tomorrow morning.

Friday, April 25th, 1794.  
The Vice-President laid before the Senate a report from the Secretary for the department of War, respecting invalid pensioners, which was read.

Ordered, That this report be referred to Mr. Taylor, Mr. Ellsworth, Mr. Brown, Mr. Jackson, and Mr. Livermore, to consider and report thereon to the Senate.

The amendments reported by the committee to the bill, entitled, "An act to encourage the recruiting service," were considered, adopted and the bill amended accordingly.

On motion, It was agreed that the rule be so far dispensed with, as that this bill be now read the third time.

Resolved, That this bill pass with amendments.

Ordered, That the Secretary desire the concurrence of the House of Representatives in the amendments to this bill.

A message from the House of Representatives by Mr. Beckley their Clerk:

Mr. President—The House of Representatives agree to the amendment of the Senate to the bill, entitled, "An act allowing Lieutenant-Colonel Toussard, an equivalent for his pension for life." They have passed a bill, entitled, "An act to suspend the importation of certain goods, wares and merchandize," in which they desire the concurrence of the Senate."

And he withdrew.  
The bill last mentioned was read the first time.

Ordered, That this bill pass to the second reading.

The Senate adjourned until 11 o'clock on Monday morning.

*House of Representatives.*  
*Ways and means under consideration.*

On Friday last in committee, Mr. Dexter observed, that very few of the objections were confined to the question. Some were arguments against all excises; some against all public contributions; some against the nature and administration of our government; and some against all government. The statement of the gentleman from Maryland, (Mr. Smith) that the duty would make three times the capital necessary, he said could not be accurate. He had reckoned the cost of the raw material employed; if this be true, as he states tobacco at 4 cents per pound, and snuff is worth 30 cents per pound, it follows that the manufacturer makes 750 per cent. net profit. This cannot be true; the principal capital must be employed in preparatory works and labor of

manufacturing. He added that our having formerly protected the manufacture, is no reason against now taxing it. It would rather be a reason for calling on it to contribute to the public burthens. He said the same gentleman asked, why there is no excise on beer manufactured in New-England, as well as on southern whiskey? I answer, beer is not manufactured there in any considerable quantity; if it were, it ought not to be taxed. New-England rum is taxed enormously. The duty on this and whiskey, are protecting duties to good morals. The use of snuff and tobacco is certainly a mere luxury, or rather folly, and all who use and of course pay the duty, are volunteers. A land tax, which is named as a substitute for this and every thing else, is a tax very unequal, and laid on all the necessaries of life, and oppressive to the laborious poor. It looks like governmental rapacity, which is so deprecated by the gentleman from Pennsylvania, (Mr. Smilie.) He has more than once told us that indirect taxation is dangerous; and that we should make the people feel the taxes they pay. The way to make them feel taxes, is to lay those which will be most inconvenient; the argument then is that the most inconvenient tax is the best. The very fact stated to reason from is the strongest reason in favor of indirect taxation, viz. the burthen is so small that the people do not feel it. What the gentleman's meaning is, unless it be that measures ought to be taken, which may make the people dissatisfied with the government, is difficult to say. The same gentleman has said, that all excises are against the spirit of a republican government like ours. It is strange, said Mr. Dexter, that the spirit and letter of our government should be so contradictory; for by the constitution, excises are expressly provided. The man who buys his food and clothing in small quantities, as he can obtain the means, does it much more easily than he could purchase a stock for a year at one time; and he who buys dutied articles, and regulates his consumption by the price, pays his tax in small portions, with ease, when he would be distressed by being called to pay the whole sum in gross annually.—Mr. D. proceeded to say, that as to the fears of the gentleman abovementioned from Pennsylvania, and also of the gentleman from Virginia, (Mr. Nicholas) he had heard them too often to be alarmed at them: They seemed like a false coat, made for any subject. He said that a fact satisfied his mind on the subject. Connecticut is a land of equality beyond any on earth. Scarcely a man among them is rich enough to keep a coach, and scarcely one so poor as not to keep a horse; learning is more equally diffused there than in any part of America; their morals are so pure that crimes hardly have names; yet this happy race of equal republicans never since the institution of our government, have sent one member here to whine or thunder about the aristocracy of our constitution. He said he would not compare this state with others in the union; one man was not there disposed of at the will of another. As to the fear of the gentleman from Virginia, that excises would destroy American liberty, Mr. D. said there was no danger of it. The characters of individuals form the character of the government. A people are never enslaved until they need a master. The American habits exclude all danger. That excises and slavery exist together in some parts of Europe, is true; but it remains to be proved that one is the cause of the other. If we have the benefits of government we must pay for them. There was a time, said Mr. D. when laboring under the debility of disunion and the distresses of anarchy, we rejoiced that the people had instituted this government. It is now represented not as the guardian of liberty and innocence; but as the assassin of both. What has happened to change our opinion? Under its auspices we have increased in strength and riches; we are now free and happy when the world is in confusion. The gentleman from Virginia seems to despise our present happiness, unless it can be eternal. Why, sir, should we expect this? Nations, like men, come to maturity, they grow old and perish. The sun must go out in darkness: the earth must be burnt up; nature must expire in agonies. What right have we to claim to be an exception from general rules? All nature is in perpetual revolution; we are a part, and must revolve with the whole. The system suffers, and probably requires constant renovation.

Succession appears to be a law of nature as universal as her works, and as immutable as her author.

*PHILADELPHIA,*  
*MAY 7.*

*Extract of a letter from Edinburgh, received by the late arrival at New-York—dated 22d Jan. 1794.*

"The state of my dear native country appears to me more dark and gloomy than I ever knew it. In the rebellion of 1745, the country in general was warmly attached to the revolution settlement, and looked with horror on a change of government. If France had invaded us in the time of the American war, those who most disapproved the measures against America, would have been as zealous as those who approved them, in repelling an invasion. But though I believe a great majority in Britain with the preserving our present happy constitution, I am afraid there are many in some parts, especially of those employed in manufactures, who, if there was a landing of our enemies, from the hope of levelling all ranks and fortunes, would be tempted to join them, and who have so far shaken off the principles of religion and justice, that they would scruple no act of violence or cruelty by which they might better their circumstances. There are, indeed, men of fortune and virtue, who, from real principle, wish a reform in our constitution, and have countenanced societies for endeavouring to procure it—but many of the meetings of Societies for Reform, or Friends of the People, consist of persons of broken fortunes, who never had any character to lose; nor is it improbable, that those of them who would spurn with abhorrence, the idea of practising such cruelties as take place in France, by joining with those furious men, might learn their ways. I cannot but approve your sound policy in America, in endeavoring to keep clear of the war. It would have been wise in our administration also, if they were not forced into the measure by discoveries of secret negotiations between France and people at home who wished to overturn our constitution: The pacific conduct of Mr. Pitt, in other instances, and his zeal for diminishing the national debt makes this the more probable, though he might have good reasons for not disclosing the extent of his information, nor the channel through which it was conveyed."

*Letter from Barcelona February 15, 1794.*

Lord Hood sailed from the Islands of Hieres with chief part of his Squadron the 23 January, leaving Sir Hyde Parker to keep the station from Marseilles to Nice. His lordship went directly over to Corfica, and was close in with Caliz, but a violent gale of wind came on and prevented any landing being made there; the day before they ran in so close the Leda chased and engaged a large 40 gun frigate, which by dint of sailing and boats that came out escaped into Caliz, where the and another frigate were seen the next day.

The Leda lost ten men in the engagement, and was very much cut up in her rigging. Lord Hood arrived at Port Ferraro on Elba the 28th January, and there is reason to suppose he failed again with the greater part of the Squadron about the 5th of this month for Corfica. While they were at Elba an officer from General Paoli joined them, and he represented that nearly all the inhabitants of the Island were anxiously waiting for the English as their deliverers, but were under the greatest terror that the French might push over the reinforcement with which they threatened the Island. It was known in reality that the French since the reduction of Toulon, had prepared 7000 men at Nice to watch the first opportunity of being able to slip over to Corfica; and the frigates seen at Caliz had been cruising to favor the passage. We are anxious of course to hear news from that quarter. The L'Aigle did not go into Toulon, as it was feared she might have done; but the Amphitrite was lost on a reef of rocks near Leghorn, the crew were all saved, the purser came to Port Ferraro with the account the 29th January.

Before the Squadron left the Bay of Hieres, the 18th January, seven men who escaped from Marseilles in a Genoese boat came on board the Victory; they came out of Marseilles in the night of the 17th. The account they gave respecting that place, Toulon and Lyons, was extremely shocking—Instead of 400 people having been put to death at Toulon, they asserted that upwards of 5000 had been shot. That all the priests without exception were destroyed, every where; and every person related in the most distant manner to any of the wretched fugitives, were hunted out, arrested, and generally put to death. At Marseilles not a day passed with-