

257

he had surrendered the whole of his property among his general creditor, and had petitioned for his discharge, supposing his case to come within the act for the relief of persons imprisoned for debt; but finding it did not, he had no other resource than to petition Congress for relief.

Mr. Swanwick presented also a petition from Bartholomew Sarazen, praying for relief on account of loss sustained by the capture of his property by an armed vessel of the French republic, restitution for which he had not been able to obtain.

The first of these petitions was referred to the committee of commerce and manufactures, and the two last to select committees of three members each.

Mr. Jackson, from Virginia, presented a petition for opening a new road in the vicinity of Mornington in Virginia. Referred to the post office and post road committee.

Mr. Bailey presented a petition for Rich. Champillon and Daniel Mattock, of Duches, for a new licence, to a schooner, which had been forfeited.— Referred to the committee of commerce and manufactures.

Mr. Williams moved that that part of the report of the committee of revisal and unfinished business which respected refugees from Nova-Scotia and Canada, should be referred to a committee of the whole house; which being agreed to, and made the order of the day for Thursday, he presented a petition from James Crawford, of Cambridge, a sufferer in Nova-Scotia during the war, for relief, which was referred to the same committee.

Mr. Williams moved that the house should proceed to the election of a chaplain; which being agreed to, Mr. Williams, nominated Dr. Green, and Mr. Jackson (V.) Dr. Priestley.

The ballot was proceeded upon, and being finished, Mr. Williams and Mr. Greenup were appointed a committee to count the ballots, which being done, Mr. Williams reported that the votes were

For Dr. Green,	35
Dr. Priestley,	27
Mr. Blair,	6

Whereupon Dr. Green was declared duly elected.

Mr. Griswold moved the order of the day on the bill for amending the act for a more general promulgation of the laws of the United States; which being agreed to, the house resolved itself into a committee of the whole thereon, Mr. Muhlenberg in the chair, and having read the same, rose and reported the bill without amendment. The house took it up, agreed to it, and ordered the bill to be engrossed for a third reading to-morrow.

Mr. Coit moved the order of the day on the report of the committee of claims on the petition of Henry Hill. The house formed itself into a committee of the whole, and the report was read. As this case is somewhat complex, to give the public as clear an idea of it as we are able, we give the report of the committee at length. It was in these words:

“ That on the 15th of February, 1783, a contract was made under the authority of the superintendent of finance, with John Banks, for supplying the southern army—and it was stipulated, among other things, that payment should be made in gold or silver, at Philadelphia. Banks's accounts were settled in 1783 and 1784, to the mutual satisfaction of him and the public officers; excepting so much as was contained in a charge of 9,768 81 90 dollars, including principal and interest, against Banks. This charge was made, and the sum retained, on the ground, that 8,612 24 90 principal, and 1,156 57 90 interest, was in Mr. Charles Pettit's hands, which he claimed on account of a claim he, as quarter-master, had against the United States, and the treasury officers claimed as monies deposited for John Banks, on account of the above contract, and that Mr. Pettit held the said sum for Banks