

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

BRITISH PARLIAMENT.
HOUSE OF COMMONS.
FRIDAY—DECEMBER 22.

ASSESSED TAXES.

Previous to the house going into a committee, Sir E. Knatchbull moved, that there be laid before the house an account of the number of houses under 81. assessed taxes and upwards; specifying the number of each class, from 81. to 500. and so on to 2200. The house in a committee.

Mr. Pitt moved a clause, which was adopted, fixing those who kept horses, carriages, and male servants, at the higher rate (as already printed.)

Sir C. Bunbury moved that taxed carts be exempted from any additional tax.

Mr. Pitt said, as the law now stood, there was a great deal of evasion in the payment of this tax; he could not consent to the insertion of such an exempting clause; but the amount of the tax might be a subject of future consideration.

Mr. Wilberforce wished to raise the tax on such as kept men servants, &c. one rate higher than was proposed.

Mr. Addington (the speaker) explained, that no augmentation of a tax could be proposed in a committee, although a reduction might.

Mr. Pitt brought up a clause to lessen the proportion of rates upon shops and lodging-houses.

Upon the clause for imposing a double rate upon horses used in husbandry, Mr. Pitt stated, that it was proposed to exempt those whose farm rents were under 70l. per annum.

Mr. H. Browne proposed, that from 70l. and under 100l. only a single rate should be imposed.

After some conversation upon this proposition, the committee divided,
For the original clause, 94
For the amendment, 6

Mr. Pitt brought up the clause requiring the statement of property to be upon oath; he said, that he conceived the oath to be necessary to give complete effect to the statement; but as many gentlemen had signified their intention of opposing this part, he begged to submit to the committee whether it would not be better to reserve the consideration of that point until the report, and in the mean time first to go through with the schedule of the mode of stating income which would have a considerable influence upon the operation of the other clause, and would narrow it so much as to require the intervention of an oath but in few cases. Upon the report they objected to the clause, if they retained their opinion of the impropriety of an oath.

Mr. Pitt brought up another clause, that persons having more than four lawful children under sixteen years of age should be entitled to abatement—from four to eight, 10 per cent abatement—from eight to ten 15 per cent—above ten, 20 per cent.

Mr. Wilberforce thought that the abatement should be farther extended, as the expenses of children were greater from the age of sixteen to twenty-one than at any other period of their lives.

Mr. Pitt observed, that in all former acts, where the distinction of ages had been introduced, the age of sixteen was the usual line of demarcation—it was so in the poll-tax.

After some further consideration, the clause was brought up.

Another clause was proposed for exempting boarding-schools and public houses, making them subject to the same rates of assessments as shops and lodging-houses.

Mr. Baker thought they would be able, by raising their prices, to throw the burthen upon those persons who sent their scholars; and, therefore, ought to pay their full proportion.

Mr. Pitt and Sir J. Adair were of a contrary opinion; and after some further conversation, it was agreed to where the boarders were not less than 100.

Mr. Pitt next presented the clause containing the schedule, specifying the rules. It was a subject, he said, which required great deliberation. He thought the best way would be now to bring it up, have it printed, and go into the discussion upon the report.

An exemption was moved in favor of medical gentlemen, allowing them to keep a coach and horses in town, and two horses in the country. This clause produced a conversation of some length.

Sir E. Knatchbull thought there was no difference between town and country practitioners, and that the exemption ought to extend to them both.

The Attorney General was not favorable to the principle of general exemptions, but thought that the carriage of the physician required indulgence. It was an introduction to practice: at the same time, there were few carriages kept by country physicians, that the diminution of the produce of the tax would be very inconsiderable if the indulgence was extended to all of them.

Mr. Pitt thought the abatement of the duty in town would be very proper, as, perhaps, there was no person would suffer more by a discovery of income than the candidate for medical practice. But he conceived that a carriage kept in the country was a proof of opulence. The same reason did not apply to the profession of the law, for it was of little consequence whether the Barrister walked down to Westminster-Hall, or carried his blue bag in a hackney-coach.

The committee divided on an amendment proposed by Sir E. Knatchbull, for extending the abatement to all physicians, both in country and town—which was negatived by 59 against 42.

The committee then divided on the original clause—for it, 59, against it, 39.

Mr. D. P. Coke proposed a clause, to prohibit any fees from being taken by the tellers of the exchequer on the money raised by this act. In making this motion, he declared that he was not actuated by any hostile motives against the two noble persons who held this office; he was attached to the present ministry, and the more so, because those who stood forward to succeed them had declared for a radical reform, which, in his opinion, was other terms for radical ruin: reform in parliament, he believed, must be the forerunner of a revolution. But at a time when the country were called upon for such great exertions, and were to contribute so largely, he thought the noble persons who held the office could have no objection to subscribe their profits; he was in hopes that a noble lord, son of one of them, who was in his place, would rise and second his motion. In the present emergency, he believed the noble marquis (Buckingham) would have no objection to sacrifice that additional income for the service of his country.

Mr. Pitt said, he did not suppose that the hon. gentleman could act hostilely against noblemen who had given him no provocation. He gave the hon. gentleman credit for that sentiment, and hoped that he also should be believed that his opposition to the clause was not founded in motives of private partiality. It became the house ferociously to consider whether they would attack a freehold right vested in the noblemen, and given, as the reward of services, to their fathers, and which had descended to them as absolute property. And this too was moved just after a clause empowering any one to subscribe voluntarily; the reason assigned that the hon. gentleman believed they could have no objection, if they had not, surely it would be fully as agreeable to them to leave them to exert that intention of their own free will. He must complain also of the manner in which the son of one of the noble lords was called upon to second the motion. It was dealing unfairly by him, and placing him in a very unpleasant situation. It was calling him to speak for his father without consulting him, inducing him either to oppose the motion, or support it for another, without authority.

Sir Wm. Pulteney supported the motion; he thought it perfectly fair, that in times of such public distress, persons holding such lucrative offices should not benefit by the increased burthens laid upon the people.

Mr. Pitt replied, that the hon. Baronet was mistaken in the idea that the tellers of the Exchequer would derive any benefit from the imposition of this tax. They would not receive any fees in consequence of it; and, therefore, upon no principle of justice could this motion be supported.

The Solicitor General said, the object of the learned Gentleman's motion was unattainable, because it was not possible in the issuing of the public money from the Exchequer to ascertain whether it was money arising from this tax, or whether it was the other revenue of the country.

Sir William Pulteney said, as this was a completely new measure, he saw no reason why the money raised by this tax should not be paid into the Bank, instead of the Exchequer.

Mr. Coke said, he would persist in bringing up this clause, and would take the sense of the committee upon it. He was convinced, that if this bill should ever pass the Legislature, it could not be carried into execution.

Mr. Pitt, in reply to what had fallen from Sir W. Pulteney, said, that if the money was paid into the Bank, it would set aside all the checks and guards which the Constitution had set over the expenditure of the public money.

Mr. Dundas said, the language which had fallen from the hon. gentleman who had proposed this clause, was highly unparliamentary. He wished him to explain what he meant by saying, "the bill could not be carried into execution if it was passed by the Legislature." Did he mean, that there was any force from one corner of the kingdom to the other that would resist the Legislature? If he did not mean that, he ought not to use general expressions, which were capable of such dangerous constructions.

Mr. Addington spoke against the clause.

Mr. Coke said, he did not mean that anybody would resist the law, but he meant that he believed there were numbers who would not be able to comply with it.

The committee then divided:
For bringing up the clause, 6
Against it, 75
Majority, 69

There being no more clauses to be brought up,

Mr. Pitt stated, that it was his intention that the report should be brought up, *pro forma*, to-morrow, and to propose that the report should be taken into consideration on Thursday next.

The House was then refused, and the report was ordered to be received to-morrow.

The other orders of the day were disposed of, and at 12 o'clock the House adjourned.

LONDON, Jan. 12.

It is reported at Plymouth, that the preparations going on in the Dock-yard there have for their object the expediting of the expedition now the subject of conversation, and which is to be commanded by Sir Horatio Nelson. From the various rumours afloat on the occasion, there is great reason to think that the armament is for the destruction of some one or other of the flotillas of gun-boats, &c. collecting in the French ports A letter from Gibraltar, dated Nov. 30, says, "The Spanish gun-boats lately approached so near as to fire several shots into the town, one of which struck two Emigrant Noblemen (father and son) walking arm and

arm together; one of them was killed, and the other severely wounded."

British Peerages.—There are eleven Marquesses, ten of whom have been advanced to that dignity during the Ministry of Mr. Pitt.—Of eighty-nine Earls, twenty have been made since Mr. Pitt came into office. There are sixteen Viscounts, four of whom have been made by Mr. Pitt.—Of one hundred and twenty Barons sixty seven are the recommendation of Mr. Pitt; and almost all the Bishops owe their mitres to him.

Morton's new Comedy attracted, for the third time, a brilliant bumper on Saturday evening at Covent-Garden. The house literally overflowed in many parts at an early hour.

Knight, in the new Comedy, is the best figure of modern *Tonism* ever exhibited: he appears "a neat bit o' blood." To modern Duffers, it may be said—

"*His Knight o' the fair, and represents you all.*"

The splendid Drama of the French Theatre, "Barbe Bleue," is to be given at New-Drury with decorations most superb. The powers of the Enchanter *Blue Beard* are exemplified by the finest powers of mechanism. Mr. Colman seems to have taken the hint from Shakespeare,

"His verse distill'd by magic flights,
"Shall raise such artificial trights,"

The Gleec Club held their monthly meeting on Saturday evening, at the Crown and Anchor in the Strand, which was numerously attended by Amateurs, as well as Musical Professors. After dinner "Non nobis" was sung by near four score of the best voices the capital affords, in a manner which no recital can describe. Afterwards three new Glees, by Mr. Cook, Mr. Linley, and Mr. Webb, jun. were performed for the first time, and received with great applause. Dignum gave his celebrated naval song of *Camperdown* with rapturous effect: that was succeeded by various Glees of established celebrity, &c. In a word, the entertainment of the day went off conformably to the spirit of this respectable institution.

"The feast of reason, and the flow of soul"

Account of the quantity of Wine exported from Oporto from the first of January 1797, to the 30th November 1797, and which was the whole quantity exported from Oporto within that year.

To Great Britain and Ireland,	19,500 Pipes.
To America,	1,800
To Hamburgh,	337
To various parts of the Baltic,	135
To Russia,	190

Of the 19,500 pipes sent to Great-Britain and Ireland, the proportion of pipes sent to Ireland is about 5000. Perhaps 1000 are sent from Oporto to Guernsey and Jersey. At any rate the largest quantity exported from Oporto and imported into Great-Britain, does not exceed 14,000 pipes during the year 1797.—In the years 1794 and 1795, that is, before Mr. Pitt had laid on his enormous and intolerable duties, there were imported into Great-Britain 45,000 pipes each year! [Jacobin Print.]

PRESENT EFFECTIVE FORCE IN GREAT-BRITAIN.

2 regts. of life guards,	8 troops of 80 priv & 98 officers & non-commissioned officers,	16,164
1 ditto horse guards,		
3 ditto dragoon ditto		
15 ditto light dragoon		
26 regiments fencible cavalry, each comprising 8 troops of 18 officers and 45 privates and non-commissioned officers.		13,104
32 regiments infantry (regulars); of these many are skeletons, but including the military depot at Chatham, may be estimated at 20 effective regiments of 600 rank and file, and 77 officers & non-commissioned officers.		13,540
12 Skeleton regiments, including officers,		2,124
18 regiments of fencible infantry each 600 rank and file, and 69 officers and non-commissioned officers,		11,042
69 regiments of militia		45,000
252 troops of gentlemen and yeomanry cavalry,		15,120
856 companies volunteers,		51,360
Supplementary militia,		60,000
Making in the whole		227,450
Effective men,		227,450
To this force are to be added, 117 companies of artillery, 10 ditto of invalids ditto, and 59 independent companies of invalids.		

IN IRELAND.

Exclusive of its own militia and yeomanry, which comprise upwards of 90,000 men Ireland has received from Britain the 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th regiments of dragoon guards.

5th, 9th, 22d, 23d and 24th regiments of light dragoons.

6th, 13th, 30th, 41st, 54th, 64th, 68th and 89th regiments of foot.

FENCIBLE CAVALRY.
The Ancient British,—Cambridgehire—New Romney.

FENCIBLE INFANTRY.

Aberdeen	Argyleshire 2 bat.
Breadalbane, 1st and 2nd battalions	Caithness Legion
Devon & Cornwall	Dunbartonshire
Durham	Lord Elgin's
Loyal Effex	Fifehire
Frazer's	Inverness Highlanders
Leicester	North Lowland
Maux, 2d battalion	Northampton
Northumberland	Perthshire
Reay	Rosslyn & Caithness
Somersetshire	Suffolk [2d bat. York
Loyal Tay	

With five independent companies of invalids—making in the whole a force of upwards of one hundred and twenty thousand effective men.

LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES.

By Authority.

Fifth Congress of the United States: AT THE SECOND SESSION, BEGUN AND HELD AT THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, IN THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA, ON MONDAY, THE THIRTEENTH OF NOVEMBER, ONE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED AND NINETY SEVEN.

AN ACT
For the relief of Sylvanus Crowell.

BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That if it shall be proved to the satisfaction of the collector of the port of Barnstable, in the state of Massachusetts, that agreements were made according to the direction of the act, intitled "An act concerning certain fisheries of the United States; and for the regulation and government of the fishermen employed therein," between the masters and fishermen employed on board, the schooners Jerusha, Phoebe and Ruth, belonging to Yarmouth, in the state aforesaid, countersigned by the owners, or their agent, for a fishing voyage, in the year one thousand seven hundred and ninety-six; and that the said agreements were casually destroyed by fire, then, and in such case, the said collector is authorized and directed to make and pay to the said Sylvanus Crowell, or other agent of the owners of the said schooners, such allowance as they would have been entitled to, under the act aforesaid, provided the said agreements had been produced to said collector.

JONATHAN DAYTON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.
TH: JEFFERSON,
Vice President of the United States and President of the Senate.
UNITED STATES,
Approved, March 19, 1798.

JOHN ADAMS,
President of the United States.

AN ACT
To amend the Act, intitled "An act laying duties on Stamped Vellum, Parchment and Paper."

BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That whenever any person, other than officers employed in collecting the revenue of the United States, shall apply to any supervisor or inspector of the said revenue, at the office of such supervisor or inspector, for the purchase, at one time, of any quantity of vellum, parchment, or paper, stamped and marked in the manner directed by the act, intitled "An act laying duties on stamped vellum, parchment and paper," the whole amount of the duties on which quantity shall be ten dollars, or upwards, such supervisor or inspector shall be, and hereby is authorized and required to deliver to such person, such quantity of vellum, parchment or paper, stamped, as aforesaid; the said person paying down the amount of the said duties, after deducting therefrom, seven and one half per centum on such amount; which deduction the said supervisor or inspector is hereby authorized and required to allow.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That whenever any stamped vellum, or parchment shall be applied for, and delivered, in the manner aforesaid, the said purchaser, in order to become entitled to the aforesaid deduction, shall pay to the said supervisor, or inspector, in addition to the amount of the said duties, a reasonable rate for and on account of the price of the said vellum, or parchment; which rate, the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized and required to fix, as nearly as may be, according to the actual cost of those articles.

Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That whenever any person, other than officers employed in the collection of the revenue of the United States, shall bring any vellum, parchment or paper, to be stamped, in the manner directed by the aforesaid act, in any quantity, at one time, the whole amount of the duties for stamping which, shall be ten dollars, or upwards, the officer stamping such vellum, parchment or paper, pursuant to the directions of the said act, shall be, & hereby is authorized & required to make to such person, the same allowance and deduction on the amount of the said duties, as is directed by the first section of this act, to be made in the cases therein mentioned.

Sec. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That the stamped paper, required by the aforesaid act to be furnished to the citizens of the United States, by the Treasury Department, shall be furnished at the rate of duty provided by that act, without any additional charge on account of the price of paper, or any other expense, any thing in the said act to the contrary, notwithstanding, and that all paper, for the purposes aforesaid, shall be furnished at the expense of the United States, by the Secretary of the Treasury Department, who is hereby authorized to employ annually, a sufficient sum for that purpose, and for the necessary purchase of vellum and parchment, out of any monies in the Treasury of the United States, not otherwise appropriated: *Pro voided always,* That nothing herein contained, shall be construed, as to require the treasury department to furnish any stamped vellum, or parchment without an additional charge for the price of those materials, over & above the

duty on the stamp; which shall be all cases where stamped vellum, or parchment shall be furnished, the Secretary of that Department is hereby authorized and required to fix, as nearly as may be, according to the actual cost of those articles, respectively.

Sec. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That so much of the aforesaid act, as relates to stamp duties on "any certificate or debenture for drawbacks of customs or duties," shall be and the same is hereby repealed; and that in lieu of the said stamp duties, one fourth per cent, on the amount of all drawbacks, allowed by law, on the exportation of goods, wares, and merchandise imported, shall be retained for the use of the United States, by the collectors paying such drawbacks; and in addition to the sum of one per cent, directed to be retained by the act, intitled "An act to provide more effectually for the collection of the duties imposed by law on goods, wares, and merchandizes imported into the United States, and on the tonnage of ships or vessels."

JONATHAN DAYTON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.
TH: JEFFERSON,
Vice President of the United States, and President of the Senate.
UNITED STATES,
Approved, March 19, 1798.

JOHN ADAMS,
President of the United States.
Deposited among the Rolls in the office of the Department of State.
TIMOTHY PICKERING,
Secretary of State.

C O N G R E S S .
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FRIDAY—MARCH 23.

The bill making an appropriation for the balance found due to the legal representatives of William Carmichael deceased, was read a third time and passed.

Mr. Otis presented the petition of the widow of Josiah Flagg, a colonel in the State troops of Rhode Island, praying for compensation, for the services of her late husband, which being read, he moved to have committed to the committee of claims.

This reference was opposed by the chairman of the committee of claims (Mr. D. Foster.) He stated, that colonel Flagg ought to have been, if he was not paid by the state of Rhode Island; that a number of applications of this kind had been made to Congress, and uniformly rejected; the amount of these claims, he believed, would not be less than several thousand dollars; and the accounts of the several states who employed these troops had already been adjusted between the general government and the state governments—Ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Otis from the committee to whom was referred to much of the President's speech as related to consuls, reported a bill, which was read and committed for Tuesday.

Mr. D. Foster proposed the following resolution for the adoption of the house, which was agreed to:

"Resolved, That the committee of claims be instructed to enquire whether any, and what further provision ought to be made relative to the payment or reimbursement of the unfunded or registered debts, now credited in the books of the treasury, and relative to loan office and final settlement certificates: and that the said committee be empowered to report by bill or otherwise."

Mr. Sewall, from the committee for the protection of commerce, and the defence of the country, reported the bill from the Senate authorizing the President to purchase one or more foundries, with an opinion that it ought to be adopted without amendment.

The bill was passed in the following manner: The amendment of the Senate to the bill for declaring the assent of Congress to an act of the state of Maryland for the appointment of a health-officer, was concurred in.

Mr. Pinckney moved that the petition of Stephen Drayton, presented in June last, and upon which no reference was made, be referred to the committee of claims.—Agreed.

A message was received from the President of the United States, informing the house that he had approved and signed the act for relief of Sylvanus Crowell, and the act for amending the act for laying a duty on stamped vellum, parchment and paper.

Mr. J. Williams called for the order of the day on the bill for organizing and disciplining the militia of the United States.

Mr. Gallatin thought it better that the house should again go into a committee of the whole on the bill for an amicable settlement of limits with Georgia, and for the erection of a government in the Mississippi Territory, as that subject had already undergone some discussion and the bill had been reported with the information to obtain which it had been committed.

The latter business was preferred, and the house accordingly went into a committee of the whole on the subject; when Mr. Millidge's amendment being under consideration, for adding to the section for appointing a provisional government in the Natchez country, "after the consent of the legislature of Georgia shall have been obtained," a considerable discussion took place. The amendment was at length negatived 46 to 34.

Mr. Thatcher then moved to strike out the following words in the 3d section, "excepting and excluding the last article of the ordinance." [This last article prohibited slavery in the north-western territory; which by this bill is not intended to be prohibited in the Mississippi territory. The object of the amendment was to make the same prohibition with respect to slavery in this territory that was made in the north-western territory.] The motion was supported by Messrs. Thatcher, Varnum and Gallatin, and opposed by Messrs. Rutledge, Otis, Giles, Nicholas and Gordon. It was negatived, there being only twelve members in favor of it.—A sketch of this debate will be given.