

C O N G R E S S .
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.
DEBATE ON SLAVERY.
Friday, March 23.

The house being in a committee of the whole on the bill for the amicable settlement of limits with the state of Georgia, and for providing a temporary Government in the Mississippi Territory:

Mr. THATCHER rose, and said he should make a motion touching the rights of man, by moving to strike out the excepting clause in the 3d section of the bill—[It appears that in the ordinance establishing a government in the North-western Territory, Slavery is expressly forbidden, and this section of the bill directs that a government similar in all respects to that established in the North-western Territory shall be established in the Mississippi Territory, except that Slavery shall not be forbidden.]

Mr. HARPER did not believe his friend's motion would be a proper mode of supporting the rights of man. In the North-western Territory the regulation forbidding Slavery was a very proper one, as the people inhabiting that part of the country were from parts where Slavery did not prevail, and they had course no slaves amongst them; but in the Mississippi Territory it would be very improper to make such a regulation, as that species of property already exists, and persons emigrating there from the Southern States, would carry with them property of this kind. To agree to such a proposition would, therefore, be a decree of banishment to all the persons intending to go there. He believed it could not, therefore, be carried into effect, as it struck at the habits and customs of the people.

Mr. VARNUM did not know that the gentleman from S. Carolina wished to promote the rights of man. His observations showed, at least, that he did not wish to support the rights of all men; for where there was a disposition to retain a part of our species in Slavery, there could not be a proper respect for the rights of mankind. It was true that this kind of property is held in the Southern States—because they cannot, consistent with the safety of the people of those States, liberate them, on account of their very great numbers. But they considered it as a great burden to be obliged to hold them. He hoped, therefore, Congress would have so much respect for the rights of humanity, as not to legalize the existence of Slavery, any farther than it at present exists. He believed the gentleman from S. Carolina was mistaken, in saying that such a regulation would oblige all the inhabitants settled in this territory to remove. The provision need only extend to the forbidding of slaves being taken there.—What, said he, is the situation of the North-western Territory at this time? Land there is worth more than in some of the old settled States; and he believed this high price of land, and prosperous condition of the country, was entirely owing to the absence of Slavery. And if the Southern States could get clear of their slaves, the price of their land would immediately double. At any rate, he hoped the United States would prevent an increase of this calamity; for he looked upon the practice of holding Blacks in Slavery, in this country, to be equally criminal with that of the Algerines carrying our citizens into Slavery.

Mr. RUTLEDGE wished the gentleman from Massachusetts would withdraw his motion, not from any apprehension he had that it would obtain; but he hoped he would not indulge himself and others in uttering philippics against a practice with which his and their philosophy is at war. He submitted to the gentleman's candour whether it was proper, on every occasion, to do this—to bring forward the Southern States in an odious light, or to give his neighbour and colleague an opportunity of bringing them forward, and comparing them with Algerines! He thought propriety and decency toward other members required that such language should be checked. He believed, if his friend from Massachusetts had recollecting, that the most angry debate which had taken place during this session was occasioned by a motion on this subject, he would not have brought forward the present question. One gentleman says, you call these men property; another, you hold these men in chains; a third, you violate the rights of man! And are not these men property? Do not the people in this territory hold them as such? Did they not hold them under the Spanish government? And must we thus address these people? We have made a treaty which puts you under the mild government of the United States; but we must take from you your property; or rather, we must fetter your blacks at liberty to cut your throats. The rights of man was the watch-word of the day, and Congress have determined that you shall not possess this property. They cannot, as yet, do Slavery away altogether—the day is not yet arrived; but they have determined it shall not exist in the Mississippi Territory.

These, said Mr. R., are not mere speculative opinions. They lead to more mischief than gentlemen are aware of; and he trusted if the gentleman from Massachusetts could be convinced that the discussion of such questions as the present did much mischief in certain parts of the Union, he would not bring them forward. He hoped he would withdraw the present motion.

Mr. GORDON thought, when the gentleman from Massachusetts recollected, that by the establishment of this government, the United States do not establish their exclusive right to this territory, he would consent to withdraw his amendment, as that went to say that we had the absolute right of jurisdiction, and were determined to exercise it; and in making a difference betwixt the ground on which property was held there from that on which it was held in Georgia, they would militate against the 9th section of the bill.

Mr. OTIS hoped his colleague would not withdraw his motion; and the reason why he wished this was, that an opportunity might be given to gentlemen who came from the same part of the Union with him, to manifest that it is not their disposition to interfere with the Southern States, as to the species of property in question. With respect to the existence of Slavery, the House had often heard gentlemen, who are owners of slaves, declare that it is not their fortune, but their misfortune that they possess them, but who still keep them, and claim the right of managing them as they think proper. He thought it was not the business of those who had nothing to do with that kind of property to interfere with that right; and he really wished that gentlemen who held slaves might not be deprived of the means of keeping them in order.

If the amendment prevailed, it would declare that no Slavery should exist in the Native country. This would not only be a sentence of banishment, but of war. An immediate insurrection would probably take place, and the inhabitants would not be suffered to retire in peace, but be massacred on the spot.

By permitting Slavery in this district of country, the number of slaves would not be increased—as if emigrants from South Carolina or Georgia were to remove to this country, they would take their slaves with them; and he could see nothing in this which could affect the philanthropy of his friend. The North-western Territory is inhabited by a description of persons who have not been accustomed to hold slaves, and therefore the restriction is agreeable to them; but the territory in question will be settled by people from the Southern States, who cannot cultivate the ground without slaves. He hoped, however, the motion would be persisted in, and negatived by a large majority.

Mr. D. FOSTER hoped, if the motion was not withdrawn, that a long debate might not be had upon it.

Mr. THATCHER said he should not withdraw his motion, and the more it was opposed, believing his cause to be good, the more obstinate he should be in its support.

Mr. GILES wished to suggest a single idea. The present motion was brought forward from the avowed motive of furthering the rights of man. He did not know whether the tendency of it was calculated to ameliorate the condition of the class of man alluded to; he believed not. On the contrary, it was his opinion, that if the slaves in the Southern States were permitted to go into this Western country, by lessening the number in those States, and spreading them over a large surface of country, there would be a greater probability of ameliorating their condition, which could never be done whilst they were crowded together as they now are in the Southern States.

Mr. HARTLEY said, he had himself intended to have brought forward an amendment similar to the present; but on enquiry, he found so many difficulties in the way, that he was obliged to abandon it. He found it would interfere with, and be a serious attack upon the property of that country. He was sorry it was not in the power of Congress to gratify the wishes of philanthropists in this respect, by doing away Slavery altogether; but this could not be done at present, and as he believed the present amendment, if carried, would be attended with bad effects, he should vote against it.

Mr. GALLATIN. If he saw any of the great inconveniences which were foretold as likely to arise from this amendment, he should certainly vote against it. He should be extremely averse to the adoption of any principle, which should either directly or indirectly, lead to the production of any commotion or insurrection in any State where there is a great number of slaves. He did not see how any such effect could be produced by the present motion; for, notwithstanding what had fallen from the gentleman from S. Carolina, it did not appear to him how a regulation with respect to another territory, can affect the peace, tranquility, or property of any other State. How the forbidding of slavery in the Mississippi territory, could produce a worse effect than the same regulation in the north-western territory, or in Pennsylvania, or in several other States? The amendment, therefore, could not be opposed on that ground; it must be upon some other. Ought it to be rejected on the ground of jurisdiction? Certainly not. The United States intend to exercise jurisdiction over that territory, and was there any more reason for excepting this jurisdiction than any other? If we establish this government, we expect it to be permanent; and if we believe it is not conducive to the happiness of any people, but the contrary, to legalize Slavery, when we are about to form a constitution for a territory, its establishment ought to be prevented. But, if this amendment is rejected, we establish Slavery for the country, not only during its temporary government, but for all the time it is a State; for, by the constant admission of slaves, the number will increase to a certain degree, and when the territory shall become a State, the interest of the holders will be such, as to procure a constitution which shall admit of Slavery, and it will be thereby made permanent. Having determined Slavery was bad policy for the north-western territory, he saw no reason for a contrary determination with respect to this territory.

There was, then, only one solitary objection to the amendment, and that might easily be obviated. It was with respect to the situation of people already settled there who are possessed of slaves. It would be extremely impolitic and unjust to declare by ordinance that the people settled there, either under the British, Spanish, or Georgia governments, should be deprived of this kind of property; and if this was the effect of the amendment, he would vote against it. Such a regulation would be attended with the worst of consequences; but other words may be easily introduced to guarantee the property of the persons already settled there. By the laws of the different States, Mr. G. said, the importation of slaves is forbidden; but if this amendment does not obtain, he knew not how slaves could be prevented from being introduced by way of New Orleans, by persons who are not citizens of the United States. He hoped, therefore, the amendment would be agreed to.

Mr. NICHOLAS believed it not only to be the interest of the Southern States, but of the United States, that this motion should be rejected. They were to legislate for the whole of the Union, and ought to consult the happiness of the whole. It was not for them to attempt to make a particular spot of country more happy than all the rest. It was a misfortune to the Southern States to be overwhelmed with this kind of property, he asked if it would not be doing service, not only to them, but to the whole Union, to open this Western country, and by that means spread the blacks over a large space, so that in time, it might be safe to carry into effect the plan which certain philanthropists have so much at heart, and to which he had no objection, if it could be effected, viz. the emancipation of this class of men. And when this country shall have become sufficiently populous to become a State, and the Legislature wishes to discountenance Slavery, the increase of slaves may be prevented, and such means taken to get rid of Slavery altogether, perhaps in conjunction with other parts of the United States, who by that time may be in such a situation as to admit of it, as shall appear prudent and proper.

Mr. THATCHER was of opinion directly opposite to the gentleman just fall down. Indeed they seldom did agree in sentiment: to-day they differed very widely. He believed the true interest and happiness of the United States would be promoted by agreeing to this amendment; because its tendency was to prevent the increase of an evil which was acknowledged by the very gentlemen themselves who are owners of slaves. Indeed the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Nicholas) had frequently declared in that House, that Slavery was an evil of great magnitude. In this respect they agreed in opinion; for he considered the existence of Slavery in the United States, as the greatest of evils—an evil in direct hostility to the principles of our government; and he believed the government had a right to take all due measures to diminish and destroy the evil,

although, in doing it, they might injure the property of some individuals; for he never could be brought to believe that an individual can have a right in any thing which goes to the destruction of our government, viz. that he can have a right in a wrong. A property in slaves is founded in wrong, and never can be right. He believed government must of necessity put a stop to this evil, and the sooner they entered upon the business, the better.

Mr. T. said, he honestly confessed, he did not like to hear much said in that House about the rights of man; because, of late, there had been much quackery as to these rights. But because these rights have been abused, it did not follow that man has no rights. Where legislators are freely chosen by the people, and frequently renewed; where a law cannot be passed without affecting the interests of the persons who pass it, these rights cannot greatly be abused; but, when we take upon us to legislate for men against their will, it is proper enough to say something about the rights of man, and to remind others, who are frequently heard speaking of these rights, that by nature these enslaved men are entitled to rights; and on that account it was, when he made this motion, that he said he would make a motion touching the rights of man.

The reasons offered against the amendment by the gentleman from Virginia, were a little singular. He contended that certain States were overflowing with slaves, and if not colonized, by opening this wide tract of country to them, they would not be able to keep or manage them. He himself always thought that colonizing these people tended to increase the race, far beyond what it would be when penned closely together.

Mr. GILES explained, by saying, that he had said nothing about decreasing the number of blacks, but of spreading them over a larger surface of country.

Mr. T. said, he understood the gentleman's argument perfectly, though he did not seem to understand it himself. The gentlemen wished to take the blacks away from places where they are huddled up together, and spread them over this territory; they wished to get rid of them, and to plague others with them. But they had them, and if they determined to keep them, he wished only they should be plagued with them.

We are, said Mr. T., about to establish a government for a new country. Ours originated from, and was founded on the rights of man, upon which ground we mean to protect it, and could there be any propriety in emanating a government from ours, in which Slavery is not only tolerated, but sanctioned by law? Certainly not.

It was used as an argument against this amendment, that this territory would be peopled by emigrants from the Southern States, who cannot work for themselves; and on that account they must have slaves to work for them. If this be true, it makes the people of the Southern States only fit to superintend slaves. The language of this is, that these people cannot subsist, except they have slaves to work for them. For the reasons he had stated, he hoped the amendment would be agreed to; but if gentlemen thought those who at present hold slaves in the territory should be protected in them, he should not be opposed to their holding them for a limited period.

The question was put and negatived, there being only 12 votes in its favour.

Monday, March 26.
The SPEAKER laid before the house a communication from the General Post Office, containing a statement of the compensations allowed to deputy post masters for the year past, which was referred to the committee on post offices and post roads.

He also laid before the house a communication from the Treasury Department, including an account of the receipts and expenditures of the United States for the year 1796, five hundred copies of which the communication stated would be deposited with the Clerk of the house.—Ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. BAER presented the petition of Lawrence Averiard, a sergeant in the horse, during the war, praying for compensation;

Mr. GORDON also presented the petition of Preferred Clapp, for compensation for services, during the war;

Both of which were referred to the committee of claims.

Mr. BROOKE presented the Memorial of the New York Chamber of Commerce, stating that the present critical and inauspicious state of this country had excited general concern, which concern had been much increased by the late official communication from the President of the United States; that this state of things called for the best measures of defence which could be taken; that the present defenceless state of the harbour of New York is such as to invite hostility, and that a place of such consequence to the Union ought to be put into a strong posture of defence; they, therefore, pray that their fortifications may be completed, and furnished with artillery and military stores.—Referred to the committee for the protection of commerce and defence of the country.

Mr. KITTERA presented a petition from inhabitants of the county of Huntingdon, in this State, stating, that they viewed with concern a defect in the laws of the United States, which suffered persons employed by the United States, after they were discharged from office, to publish with impunity the secrets of Government, and praying that measures may be adopted to prevent this evil in future.—Referred to a select committee of three members. This reference was carried 39 to 37.

Mr. D. FOSTER, from the committee of claims, to whom was referred a motion to enquire whether any, and if any, what alterations are necessary in the act for the relief of Invalid Pensioners, made a report on the subject, containing a variety of reasons to show, that on the ground of justice and policy, it is not expedient to make any alterations in the existing laws on that subject. The report was committed.

Mr. SEWALL, from the committee on commerce and protection, to whom was referred the message of the President of the United States relative to the depredations committed upon a vessel in the harbour of Charleston, reported that there could be no doubt of the facts being as stated, and that it was another instance to prove the necessity of taking measures for the protection of our coast. They, therefore, report a resolution authorizing the President to build and equip galleys, or floating batteries, for that purpose; which was referred to the committee of the whole on the state of the Union.

The House again resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the bill for the amicable settlement of limits with the State of Georgia; when, after striking out the words claiming under it, in the 5th section, and adding two new sections, the committee rose, and the House concurred in the amendments, and the bill was ordered to be read a third time tomorrow.

One of the sections was moved by Mr. Milledge, and was in the following words: "That from and after the establishment of the said government, the people of the aforesaid territory, shall be entitled to, and enjoy, all and singular the rights, privileges, and advantages granted to the people of the territory of the United States, north west of the river Ohio, in and by the aforesaid ordinance of the 13th day of July, in the year 1787, in as full and ample manner as the same are possessed and enjoyed by the people of the said last mentioned territory."

The other, moved by Mr. Harper, was to the following effect: "That from and after the establishment of the said government, it shall not be lawful for any person to import, or bring into the said territory, from any part or place without the limits of the United States, any slave or slaves, on pain of forfeiting 500 dollars for every slave so brought, one half to the United States, and the other half to the person who shall sue for the same, and every slave so imported shall be entitled to and receive his or her freedom."

When this section was proposed, Mr. THATCHER moved to strike out the words without the limits of the United States, so as to have made it unlawful to have brought any slave there, but the motion was not seconded. Mr. SEWALL wished the House to go into a committee of the whole on the bill from the Senate to authorize the President to purchase one or more foundries. It was well known the United States were very deficient in cannon, which could not be got, he believed in a better way than by giving the President the power proposed.

Mr. HARPER wished the gentleman from Massachusetts to suffer his motion to give way to one which he proposed to make for going into a committee of the whole on the report of the committee of ways and means, relative to the appropriations for the military establishment, as there was at present a number of officers in the city waiting for their pay, which they could not receive, until the appropriations were made, as the 100,000 dollars which were appropriated on account, had been already expended.

Mr. GILES hoped the House would go into a committee of the whole on the state of the Union generally. The House had received a message from the President a week ago of a very alarming nature, which he thought it was time to notice. He was himself extremely anxious to know what it was the object of gentlemen to do in this business.

Mr. GALLATIN said, if there was an immediate occasion for making appropriations for the military establishment, he should not oppose the motion of the gentleman from S. Carolina; but on the first of January there was a very considerable balance unexpended, and therefore he believed it was not necessary to take up this subject at present.

Mr. SEWALL thought, that if there was no balance in hand, their could be no difficulty in paying the officers, in confidence that an appropriation would be made. It was immediately necessary to attend the subject of procuring cannon, as the frigates could not go to sea until they were got. He did not know that they could immediately be furnished by the means proposed, but he supposed it would be necessary to adopt such a measure in order to secure, not only the present but future supplies. As to going into a committee of the whole on the state of the Union, he did not know that there was any immediate necessity for that. He did not know that it was intended, to take up any particular subject which had been referred to that committee. He hoped they should first take up one proposition, and then another, until the whole were agreed to; but he thought it first proper to take up the bill from the Senate, which was referred to a separate committee.

Mr. T. CLAIBORNE said, if a number of officers were waiting in the city for their pay, he hoped the business of appropriation would be gone into, as to keep them in the city on expences was to diminish their pay. As to the Foundries, he thought it was time enough to take up that subject; he himself should be decidedly opposed to the measure.

Mr. BALDWIN understood that a motion to go into a committee of the whole on the state of the Union had preceded; every other.

The SPEAKER laid it had; but he did not hear the motion seconded.

Mr. B. said he seconded the motion. He thought the House had acted very properly on this occasion. He was pleased that they did not, immediately upon receiving the President's message, hurry into the subject, but that they had taken time to reflect upon it. He was sure, however nothing that he could say could flow, more forcibly than the message itself, its importance to the interests and happiness of the United States. He thought it was now desirable to go into the business as calmly as possible, and begin to exchange their sentiments upon it. It is a subject on which the citizens of the United States are at this time deeply engaged, but they justly look up to their Representatives as having the best information on the subject, to learn what is to be the issue of their deliberations. He wished their anxiety to be in some measure relieved by an entrance being made upon the discussion. He confessed he had never witnessed a period which called so loudly for attention, as the present. He could not remove the subject from his mind; he not only thought of it when in that house; but when he lay on his bed, his thoughts were still engaged upon it. Indeed, no man who had the good of his country at heart, could help being deeply affected by the present situation of things. He hoped, therefore, the House would resolve itself into a committee of the whole on the state of the Union.

Mr. OTIS. It was well known that he had been uniformly of opinion, that the House ought, from day to day, to go into a committee of the whole on the state of the Union, and he was gratified in hearing the same sentiments from others. He thought the subject ought not to be delayed. The motion was, however, unexpected from the gentleman who brought it forward. He could not say that he was prepared to go into the subject to-day. As there seemed, however, a great desire, from what had fallen from the gentleman from Georgia (every sentiment of which he concurred in) to go into this business, he should be willing to-morrow to enter upon it, when he hoped they should go into it with one heart and one consent. As the appropriations for the military department were pretty much a matter of course, he hoped that business would be got through to-day. With respect to the motion of his colleague (Mr. Sewall) to go into the subject which he proposes, would be in substance to go into a committee of the whole on the state of the Union, as it is intimately connected with subjects referred to that committee.

Mr. HARPER trusted the gentleman from Georgia would give him credit, when he assured the House he had as great a desire to go into a committee of the whole on the state of the Union, as that gentleman, or any other; but whilst he felt this desire, he also knew that it was necessary to pass the annual and usual appropriations for the military establishment. As to the surplus which the gentleman from Pennsylvania had mentioned as unexpended on the first of January, that had been paid for the services of 1797. He hoped, therefore, the motion for going into a committee of the

whole on the state of the Union would be withdrawn, until this business was gone through; afterwards, he should be one of the last persons to object to it. Indeed, he rejoiced to find that gentlemen now felt that anxiety on account of the situation of this country, which every good citizen could not help feeling.

Mr. J. PARKER hoped the military appropriations would be proceeded with, otherwise it would be impossible to comply with that law which says the pay of the army shall never be two months in arrears. Nobody would be more ready than he to go into a committee of the whole on the state of the Union; he hoped the House might do this to-morrow.

Mr. MACON concurred in opinion with the gentleman just fall down.

Mr. GILES had no particular objection to the business lying over till to-morrow. But when the President sent his message, it was to be expected some notice would be taken of it. From the best judgment he could give it, it involved the question of peace of war to this country; and he thought gentlemen must be prepared to say which of the two states they wished. With respect to the congratulations of gentlemen that others seemed not sensible of the perilous situation of our country. He confessed his fears had long been awakened in this respect; all he believed were impressed with the critical situation in which we stand, but there is a difference of opinion as to the means of extricating ourselves. He had always been in favour of every necessary measure for the defence of the country; but opposed to all extravagant measures. He should still act in the same way.

The other motions being withdrawn, the House resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the report of the Committee of Ways and Means on the appropriations necessary for the present year; when the blanks were filled with the sums estimated to be necessary by the Secretary of War, until the article of subsistence came under consideration; when

Mr. GALLATIN moved to strike out 25 cents per ration, for the purpose of inserting 20 cents, which was the price charged last year, and provisions were rather fallen than risen in price. Indeed, it was observable, that the rations had every year been advanced a few cents; in 1795, they were charged only 15 cents, last year 20 cents, and now 25.

Mr. HARPER believed it might be got at 20 cents; but it was necessary for the contractors to deposit six months provisions in advance in the different posts, which occasioned a considerable expence; and besides this, it was customary for friendly Indians to visit all the posts, and whenever they did so, it was necessary to entertain them. He supposed the additional five cents were to make up for these two circumstances. It would remain with the committee whether they would allow the additional five cents, or hereafter make good deficiencies, as they found it necessary to do for last year.

Mr. GALLATIN said, that there would be no need to take into account the six months advance of provisions, as that was included in the deficiencies which were now to be provided for; and if a greater number of rations was wanted, it should be so expressed, and not add to the price of the rations. And if rations were to be provided for the Indians, they ought to be put under a distinct head, and not under the head of subsistence for the officers of the army. In 1797, indeed, there was under the head of the Indian Department, 100,000 rations at 20 cents, which was the proper way of placing the business. If rations could be got at 20 cents, and they were charged 25, the surplus would not go to the purposes which had been mentioned; but the officers, who received money, instead of rations, would receive 25 cents, instead of 20.

Mr. HARPER consented to the price being fixed at 20 cents, and after a few observations from Mr. J. WILLIAMS in favour of 20 cents, and of having the allowance for the Indians mentioned separately, the motion was put and carried.

It was proposed to appropriate 3,000 dollars for three additional temporary agents, to trade with the Indians.

Mr. GALLATIN moved to strike out this article. He thought there was as many agents already as were useful; besides the law confined the expence in this respect to 15,000 dollars, so that if these additional agents were to be provided, it must be by a supplementary law.

Mr. HARPER said, whether two additional agents are necessary or not, is mere matter of opinion, and he was inclined to take the opinion of the President and Secretary of War, before that of the gentleman from Pennsylvania. Mr. H. insisted upon the President's right to appoint more agents, if he thought them necessary.

The motion to strike out was carried 34 to 29.

Mr. HARPER moved an additional item of 100,000 rations at 20 cents, under the head of the Indian department, for the use of the Indians who visit the posts, which was negatived 28 to 27.

The item of 169,000 dollars for cannon and arms, was agreed to be omitted, and considered in the bill which relates to the purchasing of foundries.

Mr. HARPER then proposed two additional items to make good the deficiencies of last year, which were agreed to in blank.

The committee then rose; and the House took up the amendments reported by the committee. All were agreed to until the Quarter Master's Department came under consideration, when

Mr. GALLATIN moved to strike out 200,000 dollars, for the purpose of inserting 150,000. A great part of this expence, he said, was incurred in transporting our troops from one place to another, and now they were stationed, he thought the sum he had mentioned would be very ample. Indeed, he should not have been in favour of so large a sum, only that some vessels would be necessary to be built on the Lakes.

Mr. HARPER said, this appropriation was included last year along with the Indian Department, Defensive Protection, Bounties, &c. for which 300,000 dollars were appropriated, and they found there was a deficiency of 50,000 dollars. He could not say under what head this deficiency arose, but it was chiefly under that of Quarter Master's Department. As the estimate was 200,000 dollars, he hoped that sum would be agreed to, as the Secretary of War was more likely to know what was necessary than any gentleman in that house could be.

Mr. GALLATIN contended, that on a comparison with the expences of former years, the sum he proposed, was quite large enough. The deficiency of last year of 50,000 dollars, which the gentleman had mentioned, ought not to have taken place. The Secretary of War was not justified in expending more in these contingencies than was appropriated (except in case of necessity) otherwise the Secretary of War, and not Congress regulated the expence of money. It would be necessary to enquire into this business, and except some pressing necessity could be shown for going beyond the appropriation, he