

separate department to our government, not contemplated by the constitution, he owned he was alarmed. Whenever he saw the business of the navy to be extended, as to require a separate department, he should vote for it; but he thought it would not be wise to go on to the establishment of new departments, before there was business for them to do; because, whenever such a department was constituted, he had no doubt business would be found for it to do, as the officer at the head of it would be continually drawing out, and laying before Congress plans for its increase.

As to what had been said about the line of conduct adopted by gentlemen in this House, he should say nothing of it. He thought too much had already been said on that subject, and he believed it would be best to suffer such reflections to refute themselves.

Mr. J. WILLIAMS said, the only point in dispute was, whether a separate office should be established for the business of the navy, or whether it should be put under the care of a Superintendent in the War Department. He wished the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. Otis) had spared his observations, until he had heard those of the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. S. Smith). It had appeared to him that a Superintendent in the War Department would have been sufficient, and he yet thought so. He did not think the business of the navy was so great as to require a separate establishment. There was more business in the War Department in 1794 than at present, and nothing was then heard of a new department. He should not have opposed this measure if he had not been convinced that every measure taken to increase the navy beyond its present establishment, would have a bad effect on this country. It had been proposed last Winter to purchase all the live-oak timber in the Southern States; afterwards a proposition was brought forward for the establishment of Naval Yards. Those measures had been defeated, and they were now called upon to establish a new department for this favorite object. He was not willing to do it.

The gentleman from Massachusetts said there would only be a difference betwixt making a new office and continuing to do the business in the War Department, of the salary of the chief officer; but if he looked at the second clause of the bill, he would find himself mistaken, as there was in that provision for a principal clerk, and such other clerks as he shall judge necessary. So that he may have a clerk for every port in the Union, if he pleases. If he represented, as the gentleman from Massachusetts does, a commercial interest, he might be as favorable to a navy as him; but as that was not the case, he was opposed to it. He gave his approbation to such appropriations as he thought necessary; and if, in this instance, he differed in opinion from the gentleman from Massachusetts, he should stand excused. He believed with that gentleman, that the commercial and agricultural interests were closely connected; they differed only as to the extent to which it was proper to carry our naval defence. He did not wish, however, at present, to reject the bill. He believed it might be amended, and he had no objection to the question being postponed for that purpose.

Mr. LIVINGSTON said, he was almost tempted to smile at the arrogant pretensions of some gentlemen in this House, in their treatment of others, at least their equals on this floor, whatever they might be out of doors, being equally with them Representatives of the People. They were told by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. Otis) that opposition was expected, was looked for from certain gentlemen; that no argument was necessary on the occasion, because those members who were opposed to all measures of defence, would oppose this measure also; but that those who had originated the measure would carry it into effect. This simple declaration of a strength of party was also attended with a very handsome rebuke of one of his colleagues (Mr. J. Williams) for having dared to doubt the propriety of the measure before the committee. He was happy to find this rebuke had produced its effect, and that though his colleague was at first very decidedly against the bill, he was now disposed to doubt; and the effect of another rebuke, he supposed, would obtain his vote in favour of the new establishment. For his own part, neither the rebuke, nor the preliminary observations with which it was accompanied, had produced any effect upon him. He did very much doubt the propriety of the measure; for although there was a great deal of business in the war office, and the same person could not be supposed to be acquainted with military and naval affairs, if a ship builder was to have the appointment, he could not think such a person fit to be one of the great council of the nation; and it must be recollected that the person who holds this office will become one of the counsellors of the President on all great concerns.

But if the idea was adopted, that no person in the government was to have business under his direction which he does not perfectly understand, this division must not stop here. Could it be said that the Secretary of War had a perfect knowledge of every thing under his direction, except what related to the navy? Certainly not. To be so, he must not only be a perfect engineer, but be acquainted with the construction of arms. To carry this idea to its full extent, it would not only be necessary to have separate departments, but also a great variety of subdivisions; they must have, he supposed, commissioners of gun barrels and of ramrods.

But it was said, that the establishment of this new office would be the means of saving money, and the excess of expenditure on the frigates was pointed at as a proof of the want of an officer of this kind; but he believed if other business was looked at which had been immediately under the direction of the Secretary of War—the frigate for the Dey of Algiers for instance—it would be found to have been well and speedily done, which was a proof that the Secretary of War could attend to that business.

It was said that this establishment was necessary, in order to give an appearance of defence to Europe, as if the establishment of a Department of the Navy was to have the effect to do away all our past and to prevent future injuries. But our appearance to Europe was not all; the example of European countries was mentioned. All were said to have a Marine Department. The practice of Europe, Mr. L. said, had proved itself to be a bad one, as the Navies of those countries, had proved the ruin of them.

Mr. L. would make no reply to the insinuations, thrown out against gentlemen, which represented them as being opposed to every measure of defence, as not a question came before the house in which the same unfounded charge had not been repeated; and he supposed by and by, that a new Post Office could not be proposed, or the most trifling business done, without a repetition of those charges.

The Yeas and Nays were taken upon this bill going to its third reading, as follows:

YEAS. Messrs. Allen, Bartlett, Bayard, Messrs. Machir, Matthews, Morgan,

Champlin, Chapin, Cochran, Coit, Craik, Dana, Dennis, Evans, A. Foster, D. Foster, J. Freeman, Glen, Goodrich, Griswold, Grove, Harper, Hindman, Hofner, Lmly, Lyman, Morris, Oris, J. Parker, Pinckney, Reed, Rutledge, Schureman, Dent, Shepard, Sinnickson, Skinner, N. Smith, S. Smith, Sprague, Thatcher, Thomson, Thomas, Tillinghast, Van Alen, Wadsworth,

Messrs. Baldwin, Bard, Benton, Blount, Brent, Bryan, Bullock, T. Claiborne, W. Claiborne, Clay, Davis, Dawson, Elmondorf, Findley, Fowler, Gallatin, Gillespie, Harrison, Hofner, Holmes, Messrs. Jones, Livingston, Locke, Lyon, Macon, M'Clenachan, M'Dowell, Milledge, New, W. Smith, Sprigg, Sumner, Stanford, A. Trigg, J. Trigg, Van Cortlandt, Varnum, Venable, J. Williams, R. Williams,

On motion of Mr. HARPER, the house then took up the amendments of the Senate to the bill respecting the compensation of Clerks.

Mr. HARPER stated the effect of these amendments to be, to give to the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of that house, an addition of 250 dollars each to their present salaries. He recommended an agreement to these amendments as reasonable, as the salaries of these officers were fixed at the same time at which the salaries of the Clerks and inferior officers were fixed, which had been advanced.

Mr. GALLATIN enquired what the present salaries of these officers were. It was answered 1500 dollars a year, and two dollars a day during the session of Congress. Mr. G. thought this sufficient, and that since their salaries had not been increased at a time when living was much dearer than it is at present, or likely to be, he could not consent to the proposed advance.

The question was taken by Yeas and Nays, and negatived 36 to 28.

The following, being part of the proceedings of Monday, April 23, were accidentally omitted in their proper course.

On motion of Mr. J. WILLIAMS, the house went into a committee of the whole on the bill for organizing, arming, and disciplining the militia of the United States. Very soon after the committee was formed.

Mr. OTIS wished the committee to rise, in order to move in the house, a postponement of the consideration of this bill till the next session of Congress. He was convinced that the principle in the bill which went to divide the militia into a select and reserved corps, was a good one; but he did not think this was a proper moment to make the new arrangement. The bill contained, he said, a great variety of detail, which would consume considerable time to discuss, and after all, he did not believe it would be got through this session. It was probable, he said, that a provisional army, or some other arrangement, would be necessary for the present, in order to prepare for any attack that may be made upon us; and he thought it would be very wrong to disorganize the present system of militia at this time, since he saw no good effect that could be immediately produced by the change.

This motion was supported by Messrs. Skinner, Varnum, and T. Claiborne; and opposed by Messrs. Shepard, S. Smith, R. Williams, Nicholas, M'Dowell, and Macon. It was negatived 38 to 37.

The consideration of the bill was then resumed and some progress made on it, when the committee rose, and the house adjourned.

Thursday, April 26. Mr. D. POSTER, from the committee of claims, made an unfavourable report on the petition of Alexander Power, attorney in fact for Edward Bryan, and others, soldiers in the Pennsylvania line, which was concurred in.

The bill for establishing an executive department, to be denominated the department of the navy, was read the third time, and passed, 42 to 27.

On motion, the house again resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the bill appropriating for the military establishment for the year 1798; when the question for filling the blank in the quarter master department with 200,000 dollars again recurring.

Mr. HARPER said, it would be recollected that when the house last rose, it was for the purpose of affording time to make some discrimination in the appropriations. The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Gallatin) had done this, and it appeared to him correctly. Mr. H. enumerated the different items, and the sums calculated for each. The vessels on the Lakes he had no doubt would be a useful object, and ought to be provided for, but not under the quarter master department. He would introduce it as a distinct item; but he did not know under what authority the vessels on the Ohio and Mississippi were constructed, or for what purpose they were wanted. Perhaps it might have been for the lower part of the Mississippi, from the idea of a rupture in that quarter; but though this might have been the case, he was far from admitting the principle that the war department had a right to determine the propriety of such a measure. He believed, if such an expence was necessary an appropriation ought to have been made by Congress. He was therefore willing to drop this item altogether. It was stated that the construction of these vessels was commenced; he was notwithstanding willing that it should be suspended, until some enquiry was made into the business, and Congress shall pass a law to authorize the expenditure. He could not say these vessels were not necessary; but he was willing to say they should not be provided for at present. Mr. H. again objected to the expence of 34,000 dollars for the transportation of ordnance and stores from this city to Pittsburgh. As Congress had no assurances of these being wanted, he should be willing to omit this item also. He wished likewise to enquire whether ordnance could not be procured in that country, without being at so great an expence in transporting them from this city.

Mr. H. still wished the blank to be filled with 200,000 dollars. The former estimate was 188,000 dollars, but he believed it would

be well to appropriate the even sum he had named, as the average of the expence of the five last years in this department (as he had already stated) had been 250,000 dollars.

Mr. SEWELL wished to know whether the gentleman from S. Carolina had had any conversation with the Secretary of War respecting the vessels constructing on the Lakes and the Ohio? He supposed it was not expected that an act should be passed to enable the President to replace vessels used as transports, when worn out. Perhaps it might be necessary to arm these transports occasionally, as they were subject to the attacks of the Indians.

Mr. HARPER said, he did not object to the vessels on the Lakes; he meant to propose a separate appropriation for them. It was to the vessels on the Ohio and Mississippi that he objected, which were not wanted for transportation.

Mr. CRAIK did not think the committee were prepared to say these vessels were not wanted. He had full confidence in the Secretary of War, that he was ready to vote for all the items which he had recommended. He wished, therefore, that the decision upon this question might be postponed, until further information was received on the subject.

The rising of the committee was advocated by Messrs. Craik, Dayton and Rutledge, and opposed by Messrs. Harper, S. Smith and Gallatin. The question for rising was negatived.

Mr. MACON said, he was at a loss how to vote on this subject. Whatever sum was appropriated for this department, there was always a deficiency; it was not, therefore, worth while to be very particular.

Mr. GALLATIN moved to fill the blank with 150,000 dollars, which was the sum he had proposed on a former day, since which, he said, the house had received a number of statements from the Secretary of War, in order to induce a larger appropriation. As there seemed to be a general concurrence of opinion to restrict the expences of the war department, he wished some gentleman better able to do it than himself, would compare the number of troops in service with the sums there required. Mr. G. noticed a number of items which appeared to him unaccountably extravagant, and contrasted the very great expence incurred on the north western frontier with that of the troops employed on the seaboard. Mr. G. also took a view of the expences under this head from the year 1789 to the present time, in order to show that 150,000 dollars would be a sufficient appropriation.

After commenting pretty freely and at large on the estimates from the War Office, Mr. G. said, he believed there was some radical defect with respect to the connection subsisting betwixt the Accountant's Department, the Treasury and War Departments, which prevented a proper investigation of accounts. So far as relates to the Treasury Department, the accounts were always very clear, and there was no ground of complaint; but from the connection which subsists betwixt the War Department and the Accountant's Department, there seemed to be a want of responsibility.

In the details which had been laid before the house, Mr. G. said, he found items under the head of contingencies, which he should never have expected to have found there; one was for the pay of an Inspector of the troops and garrisons of the United States at a salary of 60 dollars a month. He could not say such an officer was not necessary; but if he was, he would say he ought to have been provided for by law. The other item was for a much larger sum, viz. for the pay of an Engineer of the fortifications of the United States at a salary of 3,000 dollars a year, which was a salary greater than that of the Secretary of War. It appears this Engineer was engaged for three years; but after he had been some time in the service, 2,000 dollars were given him over and above his pay to relinquish his contract.

After a few observations from M. DANA in favour of the Secretary of War, Mr. SHEPARD rose and went over the different items contained in the statement read yesterday, particularly the boatmen, 13,000 dollars, the packhorsemen 5,000, the wagoners 7,000, the labourers 3,000, the armourers 6,000, the artificers 14,000, hire of expresses 6,000, and fuel 8,000 dollars.

He could not tell how so many boatmen, packhorsemen and wagoners could be employed (for it was not for boats, packhorses and wagons, but for the men alone); and what so many labourers could be employed in he could not imagine. He did not see why the soldiers could not do all the labour the army had to do themselves. When he was in the army, he was at no expence like this. And how the repairing of the arms for 3000 men could cost 6,000 dollars, he could not tell. Nor could he see how 14,000 dollars could be expended on artificers. If we were to be involved in war, it would not do to expend money in this manner. It was very easy to write down 30, 50 or 100,000 dollars for this or that, but when the taxes came to be laid, the money would not be so easily raised. Mr. S. passed over a number of articles, till he came to the fuel. He thought 8,000 dollars a year for fuel, in a country where the trees were ready to fall upon them, was a very exorbitant charge. Whilst he was in the army, it never cost him expence for fuel. The United States had better purchase the land upon which the timber grows at once; they would be able to get it for a much less sum. If these expences were to be incurred for 5,000 men, what, he asked, would be the expence of an army of 30,000 men? This estimate, he was sure, must be much too large; and it became Congress to be careful how they gave encouragement to such charges as these; for the country would scarcely be able to support the expence of any considerable establishment, if more economy was not used.

The question on filling the blank with 200,000 dollars was put and negatived, without a division.

Mr. CRAIK moved to fill the blank with 224,000 dollars, in order to take in an item recommended by the Secretary of War. Mr. C. thought the character of this officer had been very illiberally and very unfairly attacked by the gentleman from Pennsylvania. If this gentleman had acted improperly he might be called to account, when he would have an opportunity of speaking for himself. [The Chairman said these remarks were not in order: no such charges had been made.] Mr. C. thought the observations of the gentleman to whom he alluded, must have been understood.

The motion of Mr. Craik not being seconded, it fell to the ground.

Mr. GALLATIN moved to fill the blank with 150,000 dollars. He said, that with respect to the integrity the Secretary of War, he did not doubt it in the least; as to his talents he had had no opportunity of forming a correct judgment of them; he was however, some judge of accounts, and he saw enough of them, to authorize the declaration which he had made, as to the improper connection of the different departments. He had spoken of facts only.

The question for filling the blank with

150,000 dollars, was put and carried, without a division.

After agreeing to several other items, amongst which was one for the vessels on the Lakes, the committee rose, and the bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

Mr. CRAIK presented a set of resolutions which had been agreed to at a public meeting at Georgetown, approving the measures of the Executive with respect to France, and expressing the firmest reliance on the councils of the nation.

Mr. THOMAS presented an address from upwards of 4000 citizens of Philadelphia and the liberties, approbatory of the measures of the Executive (mentioned in a former paper). These resolutions and address had the usual reference.

The SPEAKER then laid before the house Mr. Pinckney's letter on the subject of the presents offered to him by the courts of Spain and Great Britain (which has already been mentioned) asking the decision of Congress whether he should be allowed to receive them or not, which, after some few observations, was referred to a select committee of three members. Adjourned.

FOREIGN ARTICLES.

RASTATT, March 4.

The following is the answer of the French minister Treillard and Bonnier, to the note landed them by Count Metternich, by order of the Congress, relative to the cession of the left Bank of the Rhine to the French Republic:—

"The undersigned have received the note transmitted to them by Count Metternich, and beg leave to return the following answer:—The French republic, in the beginning of the session of this Congress, has immediately and frankly declared the basis upon which peace can be concluded; it is therefore determined not to vary from it. The justice and necessity of ceding the left bank of the Rhine to the French republic has been candidly set forth in the notes heretofore transmitted by the undersigned, in which, they trust, they have also fully shown that it will be for the mutual advantage of all parties concerned. The French republic did not expect that so much artifice would be made use of in order to delay the determination of this article. It is now insisted on to make an immediate declaration on this head.—The Ministers of the French republic, therefore demand of the congress, to declare, whether they agree to this article of not, without loss of time.

"Rastatt, 14th Ventose, 6th year of the French republic (4th March, 1798.)"

Yesterday, in the sitting of this Congress, the answer of the French minister of the 4th inst. was read, and debated. This is the 32d day's sitting of this body. It is not certain, that the French will have ceded to them, the whole of the left bank of the Rhine. The advantages obtained over the Swiss have much contributed to facilitate the proceedings of the congress in this business.

STOCKHOLM, March 2.

The couriers between the place and Paris are very frequent. There are also several arrived from St. Petersburg, which give rise to many conjectures.

The elegant and precious monument in honor of the immortal LINNAEUS, is completed and publicly erected.

PARIS, March 5.

On opening the papers arrived from Rome, a small iron chest was found, which contained a number of important correspondences.

The famous Gregoire has addressed the Grand Inquisitor of Spain on the subject of the Spanish Inquisition. He recommends its annihilation.

The Commissioner of government at Calais has thus written to the minister of the Interior. "I hold it sufficiently important to give to you the information that the Citoyenne Lournier, on the 12th ult. was delivered of six living children, three boys and three girls, but which died soon after they were born."

HAGUE, March 6.

A new man of war, of 68 guns, called the Dogger Bank, was yesterday launched at Rotterdam, in the presence of a number of the representatives of the people, the French minister Delacroix, Admiral De Winter, general Soubert, &c. a grand salute was fired on the occasion, and the master builder was honored with the fraternal kiss by the French minister.

Since the month of November last there have been built at Rotterdam, two ships of 68, and a frigate of 32 guns. In eight days a keel will be laid for another 68.

The vessels damaged in the late engagement are repairing with the greatest expedition.

FRANKFORT, March 10.

We have news of importance from Bâle (Switzerland) The French and the troops of Berne and Solothurn have had three bloody battles near Niddau, Lengnau and Dornbach. Most of the families of consequence have left Berne for Luzerne. The Swissers fought courageously, but were overcome by the French. At Lengnau, they lost 8 cannon, and had 200 prisoners made, many of whom were officers. In another battle, they lost upwards of 1000 men, and some hundreds sprang into the sea.

It has been said here that Solothurn was given into the hands of the French through treachery of the commandant.

BRUSSELS, Feb. 20.

At a dinner lately given by citizens Vicconti, one of the Cisalpine ambassadors gave the following toast: The six directories of the six sister-Republics, one and indivisible, viz. the Batavian, Cisalpine, French, Helvetian, Ligurian and Roman.

ARAU, February 24.

A message from the government of Berne

was the day before yesterday received at Lutern, wherein the former claimed the assistance stipulated in former treaties from the latter canton. But the democrats of Luterne sent the following answer: As soon as you shall allow equal rights to your subjects we shall be ready to unite with you and sacrifice, our property and lives in support of the Helvetic independence. If you hesitate to do this, you need not expect any assistance

CONSTANTINOPLE, January 30.

Besides the numerous land forces preparing against the rebel Pauvan Ogin, the Porte has ordered the whole fleet to be fitted out, and manned. 12,000 sailors are to be enlisted in the harbours of the Black sea, and the Islands of the Archipelago. The fleet will be ready to sail the middle of March, declined, it is supposed, for the Archipelago.

PERSIA, October 26.

The disturbances which arose on account of the secession to the throne were of but short duration, and Persia again appears to enjoy the blessings of peace. Baba-Chan, nephew of the late Enuch, whose memory is devoted to everlasting execration, met but few obstacles in ascending the throne. Supported by an army of 60,000 men, and master of immense riches, which he inherited from his uncle, he has hitherto triumphed over all his rivals: Sadi-Chan, the most formidable among them, laid down his arms, having been twice defeated, and submitted. Baba-Chan made him governor of an important province. All unite in commending Baba-Chan our new sovereign.

ROME, February 13.

General Beaubien previous to his entrance into this City, published; that, as divers Proclamations were forged here under his signature, whoever should undertake to publish such again, and be convicted thereof, should instantly be shot. The two Cardinals Albani and Buschi from York got off in good time to Terracina. His Holiness the Pope is in the meantime guarded in his Palace by 500 soldiers—divers other palaces and likewise those belonging to absent Cardinals, are sealed up with the French seal.

The French immediately after their arrival here laid the City under contribution in the sum of four millions in cash, two millions in provisions and 3,000 horses. The several Cardinals, Sonnaglia, Roverella, Carrafia, Trajeto, and Carandina, as likewise the Princes Gouffinaia, Gabrieli, Calano, the arch-duc Braschi, besides two Prelates were all taken as hostages, and the Fiscal Barbari was arrested, and all suspicious civil officers were sent away. The murderers of General Duphot are escaped. Our Republic will include those provinces, which were left to the Pope in the treaty of Peace at Tolentino. The civil military is dismissed, and the Popish troops were all disbanded. The French have requested of the Neapolitan Court, 40,000 measures of grain and other provisions. The number of French troops which by degrees entered the City is 12,000 men. Gen. Massena who will command them is hourly expected—he passed the 16th inst. thro' Bologna. Gen. Ertzier is destined to the expedition against England, others say he is to go on some other important expedition.

From the Western Telegrapher,

HISTORY is a narrative of divine Providence or God's government of the world—and the Jewish history as contained in the bible is the more instructive as the finger of God is there constantly pointed out. We read other histories as men see a puppet show at a distance. But in the bible we are brought near and as it were let behind the scene and see the wires and springs by which all the motions are directed. If we read the history or attend to the transactions of any nation, we shall find that all nations, like the Jews, are under the immediate government of God; that their fate is generally according to their conduct; that righteousness exalteth a nation; but sin is the reproach of any people; that when corrupted by prosperity, they forget God, he forsakes them to misfortune; and that when awakened by distress they return to him, he comforts and raises them up.

It is true he sometimes gives prosperity to one guilty nation, merely to use it as a scourge on the sins of others. The wicked in great power spread for a while like a green bay-tree. But it is soon cut off and forgotten. It may always be distinguished, whether prosperity is given by God to any nation as a blessing or a curse, by their spirit, temper, and conduct under it. If they are humble, just, and reverential of God, we may expect their greatness will be stable. If they are insolent, oppressive and irreligious, depend upon it, they are raised not for their own benefit, but for the calamity of others; and their destruction will be sudden.

France seems now to be in this state. She is Babylon, a golden cup in the Lord's hand, that hath made all the earth drunken of her wine, therefore the nations are mad. A fire is kindled in his anger and shall burn into the lowest Hell, and shall consume the earth with her increase, and seton fire the foundation of the mountains. For they are a nation void of counsel, neither is there any understanding in them. Their wine is the vine of Sodom and of the field of Gomorrah: their grapes are of gall, their clusters are bitter. Their wine is the poison of dragons, & the cruel venom of asps. Is not this laid up in store with me and sealed up among my treasures? To me belongeth vengeance and recompence their foot shall slide in due time: for the day of their calamity is at hand and the things that shall come upon them make haste. For the Lord shall judge his people, and repent himself for his servants; when he seeth that their power is gone, and there is none shut up or left.

After spreading calamity over the half of Europe, France comes now to disturb the peace of America. As Alexander was never satisfied while there was any power to subdue France, is never satisfied while there