

[FROM THE TRUE AMERICAN.]

CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 24.

Mr. Randolph's Motion for discharging the Supernumerary Officers, in the additional Army.

[CONCLUDED.]
House in Committee.

Mr. Gallatin did not conceive it would be necessary to remove the regiments from where they now are; and consequently no new expense would be incurred by consolidating the men already raised into regiments. Suppose they would make four regiments complete, as he supposed they were now nearly equally divided into four different stations, each of them could have one regiment and if any companies remained as a surplus they could stay where they now are. Thus the supposed expense of removal would be saved. It was also thought that three or four months would be necessary to execute this measure. Mr. G. thought it might be done in two or three weeks by the mode above proposed. If this could be done, of which he had no doubt, those objections must fall.

If this amendment did not obtain, a number of officers, three times more than was requisite would be detained in pay, for a considerable length of time, without any service for them to perform. The officers perhaps were the most expensive part of the establishment, and if that part could be dispensed with, it would certainly be an object meriting attention; it would be a duty incumbent on the house to dispense with that expenditure.

Some gentleman had said, if this measure was adopted it would be a dereliction of the defensive system, and that the arguments used the other day operated with equal force against this measure as that for disbanding the army already raised. Certainly it was not so, although it was conformable to the same principles; and on that account he approved of it. Mr. Gallatin acknowledged himself to be against the whole establishment, and the more it was reduced, the more he should be gratified; but he trusted it would not be thought that this was part of the same question which was negated the other day. This was rather a middle ground, and such an one as he hoped gentlemen who professed to desire a medium would approve of.

This was not a question which had already been decided. If it was proper that the establishment should be so far reduced as to prevent the completion of the twelve regiments ordered by the act, a bill founded on that position ought to include a principle like the one now proposed, or it would not be complete in itself.

If gentlemen would revive the arguments on which the former motion was opposed, it would be evident that they did not apply to the amendment now before the house. Among other arguments against disbanding the army, a principal one was, its effect on the negotiation. Surely the reduction of the officers could not be opposed upon that ground, even when added to the other part of the bill, for preventing further enlistments, because another argument then used would not even effect it. That of receding from our defensive position; the present situation was maintained the same by this bill; it was not thought prudent to progress, but no part of this bill can be construed to be receding.

Mr. Gallatin did not think the measure would have any injurious effects by preventing officers being procured when wanted. As many of these gentlemen, he believed, entered the army from the love of their pay as from the love of their country, and between both there never could be a deficiency of officers. He thought it perfectly easy for the secretary of war to learn the individual circumstances of every gentleman in the army, so that none might be injured by the discharge, if a proper selection was made.

He did not know whether the construction put in the power of the President to appoint officers if there should be occasion for the men, by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Marshall) was correct or not, but Mr. Gallatin did know one thing—that if it was necessary, and a doubt existed upon it, an amendment could be made to the bill to remove that doubt, and therefore that was no objection against the motion now under consideration.

From the return, it would appear that at present there was about one officer to seven or eight non-commissioned officers and privates upon the average. From this estimate it must appear that great numbers of these supernumeraries were useless, and if useless they ought not to be kept, especially since their places could be filled at any period when it might become necessary, and as they could have no claim beyond the period when their services became useful.

Mr. Smith said, when the subject was before the house a few days past, some gentlemen talked about a middle ground he then thought one might be taken, he thought that the supernumerary officers might be sent home on furlough, but from a farther reflection, he perceived that measure would be attended with considerable inconvenience, and but little convenience or saving. He thought it was best to let them remain at present with the army.

He had obtained information from the proper officers, and learnt, that by the middle of February some answer would most probably be received from France respecting the prospect of our negotiations. It would therefore be advisable to wait that issue. Mr. Smith said he recollected that in the

revolutionary war, it took two months before the supernumerary officers got to their corps after they were called for, and as this must be attended with difficulty in urgent circumstances, it ought to be avoided, even at a trifling expense, for trifling would it be if they should afterwards be called upon.

The gentleman last up had not talked like a military man when he proposed the regiments to be concentrated at their several posts. This could not be done, but the trouble and expense of marching (which was very considerable) must occur, if the motion were to pass. He feared if this amendment was introduced it would be worse than economy; he feared that a majority of the house would reject the bill, and he should regret that event, and on that account he was sorry the section was ever proposed.

Mr. Randolph declared that if it had been his opinion, the amendment would endanger the bill, he should not have offered it, or he would even now withdraw it. He professed himself a friend to the bill in its present shape, and if he could not get it amended in such a manner as to his ideas would be right, he would vote for it without; but he hoped gentlemen would see the amendment as proper, as he was sure it would be experienced a saving measure.

In the event of invasion (which gentlemen must mean when they talk about wanting those officers) will not the United States not only require these, but more? Nothing can be more clear. Then certainly while the selection would be making for others, it could also be for these.

It did not surprise him, Mr. R. said, that gentlemen who were inimical to the bill should also be to the amendment, but it did surprise him that the friends of the bill were, because it appeared to him to be a part of the same measure. If the amendment was not to pass, there would be more officers than could be necessary for organizing the army. If the period should arrive, and events occur, by which they ought to be discharged agreeable to the former bill, prior to this consolidation, they could as well be immediately discharged as though this provision had not been introduced, because there would be no more occasion for them, and therefore it was impossible this section could increase the expense.

Mr. Harper said, there had been a mistaken opinion suggested—that the executive had a considerable number of applications, and therefore could easily appoint any additional number of officers.

That there were numerous applications was true, but the Secretary of War only made it his business to enquire respecting those gentlemen who were actually appointed; therefore if new appointments were to be made, new enquiries must be entered into as to character and a variety of circumstances necessary to make a judicious appointment. This must necessarily cause a very considerable delay, especially when it was considered that these appointments must precede the enlistments, which the pre-emptory necessity of the circumstances ought to hasten as much as possible. Mr. Harper could not see the ground of the gentleman's surprise who was last up. A man might be willing to do something, but he might be very unwilling to go farther; he might be willing to go a mile, but might not wish to go four or five. But this appeared to surprise the honorable gentleman.

Mr. Jones said he thought the other day that the twelve regiments were unnecessary and therefore voted that they might be disbanded; he thought for the same reasons that the supernumerary officers were unnecessary, and that to discharge them would be a saving to the United States, which was a circumstance every gentleman ought look to and endeavor to effect.

His suspicions, he said, were more founded by the conduct and declarations of gentlemen who were generally hostile to measures, which they supposed would cramp the government. He feared the other day that these men were rather attached to a standing force than raised for a particular occasion. They were admitted not to be the provisional army: what were they then? Let gentlemen answer.

It was farther stated to be necessary to keep up a regular force in order that the officers should acquire the art of war. How by this establishment would gentlemen expect this point could be effected? In some regiments there were not more than 20 or 30 men. What knowledge of military tactics or discipline could be acquired by exercising this very small number? There were more officers than men.

He feared these were not the true reasons why the officers were preserved. There could be no want of them: no good could accrue from keeping them in pay, but much evil might. He therefore hoped the amendment would prevail.

Mr. Smilie never apprehended invasion, but if such a thing was to occur, what effect would these officers have? He thought a good answer had been given to that question. As to the effects of this measure on the negotiation, it was a folly to talk about it. Would the French be terrified from the attempt on account of these officers? Surely such an idea must be absurd, and yet, the arguments of gentlemen went that length. He hoped the amendment and the bill would pass.

On the question the amendment was negatived. The motion was again renewed when the bill was taken up in the House, and the yeas and nays taken thereupon as follows:

Y E A S.

Messrs. Bailey, Bishop, R. Brown, Cabell, Christie, Claiborne, Condit, Davis, Dawson, Eggleston, Elmendorf, Fowler, Gallatin, Goode, Gregg, Hanna, Heister, Holmes, Jackson, Jones, Kitchell, Leib, Lynn, Mason, Muhlenberg, New, Nicholas, Nicholson, Randolph, Smilie, Stanford, Sumter,

Thomson, A. Trigg, J. Trigg, Van Cortlandt, Varnum, R. Williams.—38.

N A Y S.

Messrs. Alston, Baer, Bartlett, Bayard, Bird, Brice, J. Brown, Champlin, Cooper, Craik, Dana, J. Davenport, F. Davenport, Dennis, Dent, Dickson, Edmond, Evans, A. Feller, Freeman, Glen, C. Goodrich, E. Goodrich, Gordon, Gray, Griswold, Harper, Hartley, Hill, Hugar, Inlay, Kittera, H. Lee, S. Lee, Lyman, Marshall, Morris, Nott, Otis, Page, Parker, Platt, Powell, Reed, Rutledge, S. Wall, Sheafe, Shepard, Smith, Talliferro, Thatcher, J. L. Thomas, R. Thomas, Wadsworth, Waln, L. Williams, Woods.—57.

FOR CAPE FRANCOIS,

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GEORGE
WILLIAM BELL, MASTER:
To sail when the navigation will permit. She is a good strong vessel, and just out of the Carpenters hands.

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February 6.

HENRY BENBRIDGE

DEGS leave to inform his friends and the public, that he has commenced the business of a BROKER, at his Office No. 33 Dock Street, near the Bank of the United States, where he buys and sells on Commission all kinds of Public Securities, Stocks, Notes, &c. &c. and offers his services in any business in his line.

Jan 14.

Military Land Warrants.

THE UNDERSIGNED

OFFERS his services to the holders of Military Land Warrants, to make Locations on the 17th instant; he will receive a less quantity than 4000 acres, and arrange them with others, so as to make a Quarter Township.

Having surveyed a district of the military tract, and since the completion of the surveys, taken great pains to explore the interior parts of the townships and sections so as to be able, with precision, to designate the most valuable entries throughout the whole survey;

He offers himself his information will be satisfactory to Gentlemen wishing to employ him—the tenth acre will be demanded for any less quantity than 1000 acres, furnished by one person—from one to four thousand acres, the twelfth—and for any greater quantity, the fifteenth.

For further information apply at No. 67 north Second Street.

JOHN G. JACKSON.

N. B. He will also act as agent for any person holding lands in the western part of Virginia, and give good security (if required) for his integrity and attendance.

February 6.

A valuable Estate for sale, IN VIRGINIA.

THE NORWICH LANDS, MILLS, AND APPENDAGES.

THIS ESTATE

IS situated in the county of Henrico, on Four 1/2 Mile Creek, near its junction with James River, about 12 miles from the city of Richmond, and nearly the same distance from Petersburg.

There is about 150 acres of land, and the whole of it good soil for agriculture, and a full proportion of it very suitable for grass; about one half of it is cleared and in a state fit for immediate cultivation; the rest is in woods and well covered with useful timber of different kinds. As to the improvements on the farm, there is a decent dwelling house with the usual out houses, a good brick spring house, and a large new excellent barn, one story of brick, and the other framed work, two orchards of apples and of peaches, in full perfection and good fruit.

The mills consist of three pair of bur stones for the grinding of wheat, and one pair of stones for grinding of corn, all of proved good quality, worked by overhead water wheels and double gears, with all the late improvements for screening, cleaning, bolting and elevating the wheat and flour, all executed in the best manner and of the best materials and quite new.—The mill house is large and convenient, being 46 feet by 72 feet with five floors, the two lower stories are brick, the rest framed work executed in the most substantial manner; the house and machinery of the mills will be found unexceptionable, and they are so situated as to be free from all risk from the freshes or inundation of the water courses.—There is a very convenient brick bake house two stories high, with two large ovens; a very good house for the proprietor or manager, a store room, counting room, kitchen, &c. also suitable houses for millers, coopers, and bakers.—The tide water from James River flows to the walls of the mill, where boats of three to four hundred bushels barthen can receive their loads out of the mill, and in one mile distance, ships of any size that navigate James River, can load in great safety.

The neighborhood is healthy—very respectable as to inhabitants, being mostly independent farmers, and the soil is in general very justly esteemed equal to any on James River, for the growing of wheat; upon a moderate calculation, the average annual crops of the neighborhood equally convenient if not more so, to the Norwich Mills, than to any other market, amount to between thirty and forty thousand bushels of wheat. Mr. John P. Gordon who lives on the premises at present, will show the whole to those who may incline to view it.

I would prefer a purchaser who could pay down the principal part of the purchase money, and would give a very advantageous bargain—or I will sell on a credit convenient to the purchaser, the interest being paid annually. I will wait for a purchaser till the 15th day of March next, and if not then sold, I will be glad to treat with a tenant for a lease, on terms which may be mutually agreeable. I have offered the whole of this estate for sale, on a presumption that the purchaser of the mills would incline to have the land also, for a supply of building timber, oven wood and hoop poles; but if it be more agreeable to him to take the mills and a few acres of land, he shall be accommodated accordingly.

DAVID ROSS.

Richmond, February 5.

Foreign Intelligence.

TERESPOL, October 22.

About eight days since, the Imperial General commanding the corps in Lithuania, consisting of 47,000 men, received orders, by a courier from St. Petersburg, to keep himself in readiness, as soon as field marshal Suwarow should require it, to break up, with the whole of the troops under his command, to join his army, as Prince Suwarow might think it necessary, either in the usual manner or by forced marches. The courier soon afterwards continued his journey for the Russian army, by way of Vienna, with dispatches for field marshal Suwarow. Probably this corps may march through here towards the end of next month, and to know whether there will be a winter campaign, we expect Suwarow's orders whether that corps is to proceed by forced marches, or not.

STUTTGARD, November 12.

According to accounts received from the district between the Rhine and the Neckar, nothing took place on the 7th, except some trifling skirmishes. On the 3d, however, very severe actions were fought, during the whole day, in the neighbourhood of Heidelberg and Bruchsal, as well as near Odenheim, in which the French defended themselves with the greatest obstinacy—the firing of cannon and small arms continued till late in the evening. The Austrians are said to have succeeded in driving the French behind Langenbruck, and in re-establishing the communication with Philipburg on that side.

PARIS, November 14.

Previous to the late happy revolution, the Jacobins had made an arrangement for putting in execution the following measures, had they succeeded.

The two Councils were to meet in, and form a Convention.—They were then to decree, as follows:

- 1st Decree.—Sentence of death against two members of the Directory.
- 2d Decree.—Buonaparte outlawed.
- 3d Decree.—All the members of the two Commissions of the Inspectors of the councils guillotined.
- 4th Decree.—Garreau to be Commander of Paris, Jordan of one half of the suburbs and Sarrasin of the other half.
- 5th Decree.—Parification of the representation. All the Aristocrats excluded from the Councils.

The order given by them to one another, at parting, was—The union of the Deputies at Toulouse, and of the brethren able to bear arms in the Vendee.—A protestation against the late acts, with an invitation to the departments to federalize.

They relied upon the majority of the Directory: Sohier put them in the secret.—Buonaparte having promised to deliver up Sieyes to them (they thought themselves to sure of the success of their plans, that they would not even receive Sieyes from the hands of Barras) a great number of Russians had arrived, and were still arriving from the departments.

Gen. Marmont, authorized by Gen. Buonaparte, concluded at Alexandria, on the 18th Thermidor last, (August 5) with Patrona Bey, the commander of the Turkish Squadron, a cartel for the exchange of prisoners. The conditions are, that the prisoners shall be exchanged man for man, and rank for rank. The wounded and surgeons shall not be considered as prisoners of war. It was agreed, that all the French prisoners detained at Constantinople and in the different places of the Turkish Empire, should be conveyed, within the term of three months, in vessels, before the port of Alexandria, where, at the same period the like number of Turkish prisoners should be assembled, to be exchanged for the French. It was further agreed, that whenever vessels, having French prisoners on board, should arrive before Alexandria, and should make known, to the commandant of that place, the number of prisoners they should have to exchange, the French commandant should produce the same number of Turkish prisoners within the space of 72 hours, in order that the exchange might be proceeded on without delay.

November 15.

Letter from General Vanbois, Commander in Chief in the Islands of Malta and Gozo, to the War Minister.

Malta, Oct. 20.

We are blocked up by sea by four Portuguese and three English ships of the line, two frigates, two corvettes, and two brigs; some English troops, and the inhabitants besiege us by land. They have greatly slackened their fire; now and then however, they throw bombs and howitzers, which are chiefly directed against the ships, which they endeavor to destroy, but which, by the precautions we have taken, have not, hitherto, been injured. We have rendered the works of the fortifications easy for the service. The general of artillery, d'Hennezel, and Capt. Bollot, have performed surprising works in the arsenal, in reparations and new constructions.

The cessation of sickness has produced a most striking effect on the soldiers; their ardor and desire to preserve Malta are at their height. The garrison, I dare assure you, is incalculable. M. de Nazza, the chief of the Portuguese Squadron, and Alex. Ball, a captain of a ship, who commands the English, has furnished me repeatedly. I answered like a republican. At length they demanded an interview with me: I reflected; I saw on their part only a mark of weakness, a desire to reduce

me, and to tell a thousand absurdities about the war in Italy. I thought that to make this circumstance turn to their confusion, I might consent to it, receive them in the midst of my staff, in a fort where they would see nothing, with the gate open, and fling their ears with the acclamation of the soldiers, crying: "Malta or death! We will rather perish all on the ramparts than capitulate!" In short, I succeeded to my wish; they were not able to utter a word of what they intended to say; we overloaded them with politeness. However, to return they were obliged to go through a double line of soldiers, crying out, as loud as they could, and inviting them to attempt the assault. The garrison of the town echoed these cries, the drums beating Ca ira, and the whole without being arranged, and through enthusiasm.

We shuddered on hearing of the disasters in Italy, but it only excited our patriotism. The disposition of the people is improving here; I shall employ all my efforts to keep it up. The service is extremely fatiguing; but no volunteer has made the least complaint. The importance of Malta is felt; and I hope that this place will continue to be defended with the greatest courage.

DARMSTADT, November 19.

Our hopes, that the change in the government of France would speedily have produced an armistice, are vanishing. On the 15th, General Lecourbe, having received dispatches by a courier from Paris, informed the army of the Rhine of the events that had taken place there, of the dissolution of the Directory, and of the appointment of three Consuls, and called upon them to continue their unanimity, bravery, and love for their country. Soon after this had been announced to them, they were ordered to march against the enemy, and early on the 16th an attack was made on the whole line, from Neckargemund as far as Langenbrucken. General Ney made only a feint attack; but more serious was that on the position of the Austrians, near Bretten, behind Bruchsal. General Lecourbe surrounded a whole battalion of Imperialists, part of whom he made prisoners. The posts of Philipburg were either driven into the fortresses, or made prisoners. That fortress will now again be blockaded. It is said to be the intention of the enemy to attack, but General Lecourbe was beforehand with them. The latter returned yesterday from Bruchsal, where the French head quarters at present are, to Mannheim, but his stay at that place will be short.

LOWER ELBE, November 21.

The Vienna Court Gazette, of the 15th of November, contains a supplement extraordinary, dated the 11th, which gives an official relation of the affair in Italy, of the 31st October, some particulars of which appeared in our last number, in a communication from Milan. Notwithstanding the Austrians had every disadvantage of ground, they fought with such bravery as to defeat the French on all sides, and had it not been for a most precipitate retreat, the enemy would have been completely routed. The French left 1,000 killed and wounded on the field of battle, and 600 of their troops, with four pieces of cannon, fell into the hands of the victorious Austrians.

Direct accounts from Italy reports a victory still more complete than that above mentioned, to have been gained by the Austrians on the 2d inst. when Gen. Kray drove the French as far as the Barchetta, with the loss of 3000 men.

The latest accounts from the armies in Germany near the Rhine, and Necker, bring nothing of importance. It appears, however, that the Austrian troops continue to obtain some advantages, and have pursued the French in a late action, from Neckargemund, as far as Heidelberg. The French appear likewise to have been forced to abandon all their positions in the neighbourhood of Bruchsal, and in the Duchy of Wirtemberg.

In the Grison country, the Austrians have been forced to give way, and cross the Rhine near Reichenau.

Apprehensions being entertained in Tyrol of the French penetrating once more into that country from the Grisons, the brave inhabitants have again been called upon by a proclamation of the Government, to rise with their wonted courage and patriotism in the defence of their frontiers.

The Archduke's head quarters were still at Donaueschingen on the 6th. The French remained quiet on the left banks of the Rhine and the idea of an approaching armistice is not yet given up.—The Austrians still continue to occupy the positions, which the Russians have lately quitted, on the frontiers of Switzerland.

BANKRUPT OFFICE.

A SECOND Dividend of the Estate of George and Robert Gray, Bankrupts, will be paid to the creditors who have proved their debts under the commission, at any time when called for, at No. 109 Arch Street.

JOHN JENNINGS, Clerk.
January 20, 1800.

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Philadelphia, Feb. 4.