

Mr. Boudinot followed Mr. Hartley in repro-
bating the object of the present amendment—He
said that if he could conceive with the hon. gen-
tleman from Pennsylvania, that the public securi-
ties had been received by the creditors of the U-
nited States as being worth no more than $\frac{2}{6}$ in
the pound, he should most cordially acquiesce in
the inference he deduced from such a position—
he should be for considering them in the same
light as he did the bills of credit, or old continen-
tal money; as the circumstance of its being under-
stood that they were worth no more at the time,
would render it just and equitable to determine
their value accordingly—but a recurrence to the
resolutions of Congress under which the eviden-
ces of the debt now under consideration were is-
sued, will sufficiently explode such a supposition.
No idea of payment's being made, by those securi-
ties, was ever entertained—they were in fact, and
were so considered, evidences of the liquidated
and specific sums due to the creditors of the U-
nited States, hence it is incontestibly evident, that
the securities were not considered as payment, any
more than the settlement of any private account
can be considered as a discharge of such account.
The first evidences of the debt were not transfer-
able, and had not Congress afterwards made those
certificates or evidences of the debt transferable,
they must have remained in the hands of original
holders; but for the particular accommodation
and advantage of the original holders, Congress
afterwards made them transferable—and this step
so far from benefiting the creditors, would have
proved a real injury to them, if the assignee could
have been supposed to stand in a less eligible sit-
uation than the assignor. Upon every principle
of assignation of debts and contracts, such an idea
ought to be reprobated. He adduced several in-
stances of the disadvantageous circumstances under
which the creditors of the United States had
been paid—from which it appeared that manifest
injustice would be done to many persons in the
payments they had received, should the full amount
of their securities be paid them in specie—
from all which, and many other considerations
which he added, he inferred, that no idea exist-
ed in the mind of any person, either soldier or
citizen, that the securities were considered or re-
ceived as a full discharge of the demands against
the public. Mr. Boudinot founded many of his
observations on resolves of the late Congress which
he read, on his own knowledge of the particular
circumstances under which the public paper of the
United States had been issued, as he was in Con-
gress at the periods referred to.

Mr. Scot observed, in answer to Mr. Boudinot,
that other resolutions of the late Congress might
be adduced which held a different language—and
the conduct of government in regard to the pa-
per money at different periods, plainly proved
that it was considered as just and proper for them
to interfere and determine the value of those evi-
dences of debt. Mr. Scot then referred to the
observation of Mr. Sedgwick, in which he had said
that the most alarming consequences were to be
apprehended from not coming to a decision upon
this important business the present session. He
wished that gentleman would point out the evils
which were to be apprehended—for his own part
he did not suppose that the holders of public securi-
ties would cut the throats of Congress, for a
necessary delay in funding the debt.

Mr. Sedgwick replied to the enquiry, and point-
ed out a great variety of considerations which
must appear weighty and important if justly con-
sidered by the committee. A great and respect-
able body of our citizens are creditors of the U-
nion—their expectations are on the decisions of the
present session of Congress.

There are various opinions prevailing respect-
ing the debt in regard to discrimination, inter-
est, and funding—On these points there appears
to be a great diversity of opinion—Heats and an-
imosities will grow out of this opposition of sen-
timent, and a spirit of party will probably termi-
nate in forming factions among the people, that
may be pitted against each other, and may destroy
the public tranquility and blast the hopes and
prospects of the people under the government
now so happily established.—These are among
the many consequences to be apprehended—but
the reputation, the credit of the States, are at
stake.—The circumstances that affect these are
often in themselves of small importance—at the
present moment the public expectation is alive to
the measures of government—it lays with the
legislature to realize this expectation, so far as jus-
tice, equity and the abilities of our country de-
mand. If Congress pursue the present enquiry
and come to a determination, the general senti-
ment will be brought to a point and a probable
acquiescence in what is done—and all the evils
of faction, disunion and disappointed expectations
prevented.

Mr. Stone was opposed to a postponement of
the business, as it involves a relinquishment of all
consideration of the subject the present session.

Mr. Stone reprobated all funding systems, as
productive of mischief and poverty—factitious
credit was but a mode of acquiring the means of
shedding the blood and cutting the throats of our
neighbors.—The credit of this country, he said,

does not depend on any paper schemes of credit.
It cannot be established suddenly, in a day, or a
year.—It depends on the evidence we give of an
honesty of principle. He observed that the situ-
ation of the United States is so different from those
of the countries who are proposed as models of
imitation in our financial arrangements, that
such systems are no ways applicable.

Mr. Smith (S. C.) made a few remarks on Mr.
Scot's amendment—And in a short reply to some
of Mr. Jackson's observations, quoted Blackstone
against Blackstone.

Mr. Gerry after touching upon Mr. Scot's am-
endment turned his attention to an observation
which was made by Mr. Jackson, viz. that *America
owed her independence principally to her foreign loans.*
Mr. Gerry in contrasting the foreign and domes-
tic debts, exhibited in a striking point of light,
the injustice of this observation—and from accu-
rate details from the public accounts, shewed
that the domestic debt is in fact as sixteen to one
compared to the foreign debt: He reprobated
the suggestion that the citizens of the United
States were principally indebted to foreigners
for their liberties—the reverse appeared to be
evidently the case, from their immense exertions
and annual expences during the war, which he
stated at five millions sterling.—So that the debt
of the United States bears no proportion to the
actual expences and sacrifices of the citizens for
the acquisition of their independence—A question
here arises, what has become of the residue of
the debt? To this it may be answered, that the
great mass of the difference has been sunk by de-
preciation on the paper money, which can be
considered in no other light than a tax upon the
people—and which has operated perhaps as e-
qually as any that might have been assessed. Mr.
Gerry contrasted the foreign and domestic debts
in various points of view—by which it appeared
that if any discrimination should be made be-
tween them, it ought to be in favor of the latter.

He then adverted to the circumstances under
which the domestic debts were contracted, and
from these, deduced the injustice and ill policy
of a re-liquidation—he reprobated giving the
preference to our foreign creditors in the provi-
sion to be made for payment of the interest.

He replied to the several objections against
funding the debt and procrastinating the business,
and by several familiar instances in common life,
enforced the absolute necessity of the measure, as
the only possible expedient of doing justice which
presented.

He added many other observations upon the
subject—and concluded with this striking obser-
vation, that if the United States while they
make provision for their foreign creditors should
at the same time abandon their domestic—it will
give occasion to say, that the ultima rex regum,
and not a principle of honor and justice, was the
influencing cause.

Mr. Tucker observed, that he was in favor of
a discrimination among the creditors of the U-
nited States—he did not however entirely agree
in the motion now before the committee—He
then divided the public creditors into three classes
—the holders of old continental bills of credit or
paper money—the original holders of liquidated
securities—and those who held the latter by pur-
chase—the old paper money he said should be con-
solidated at forty for one, principal—with inter-
est at six per cent.—for these, and the second class
of creditors provision ought to be made without
delay to pay them their interest at six per cent.
—with respect to the third class, they are en-
titled by the engagements of the country to an
interest of six per cent.—this he said they ought
to receive when the country shall be in circum-
stances to pay—he therefore proposed that this
class should be referred to a future period for
payment—he thought that the second resolution
in the report would in some measure preclude a
discussion of the subsequent ones—he therefore
proposed an amendment by adding these words,
“ as shall appear consistent with equity and the
improving resources of the country.”

The question being taken on Mr. Scot's motion,
it passed in the negative by a great majority.

Mr. Burke then moved the following amend-
ment “ provided a discrimination be made be-
tween the original holders and their assignees,
and that a scale of depreciation be prepared ac-
cordingly,”—This being seconded, was laid on
the table. Adjourned.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11.

A memorial from the annual meeting of Friends
at Philadelphia, respecting the Slave Trade, and
praying the interposition of Congress for the mi-
tigation of the evils, and final abolition of that
pernicious traffic, was presented by Mr. Fitzsimons.
Another memorial on the same subject,
from the meeting of Friends in New-York, was
presented by Mr. Lawrance. These were both
read, and on motion that they should be read a
second time, in order to their being committed—
a warm debate ensued, which ended this day in
withdrawing the motion for a second reading.—
The order of the day was then taken up, and the
House went into a committee of the whole on the
report of the Secretary of the Treasury.

Mr. Burke's amendment to the second resolu-
tion, which was laid on the table yesterday, was
read, viz. Provided nevertheless that a discrimi-
nation ought to be made between the original
holders of public securities and assignees, and that
a scale of depreciation be prepared accordingly.

After a few observations on this proposition, by
Mr. Smith, S. C. it was withdrawn by Mr. Burke.

A message was received from the Senate by
their Secretary, informing the House, that they
have passed a resolve, empowering the President of
the United States to appoint three commissioners
to enquire into the receipts and expenditures of
public monies by, and to examine and adjust the
accounts of, the late Superintendent of Finance,
and requesting the concurrence of the House in
said resolve.

Mr. Burke's amendment being withdrawn, Mr.
Madison entered into a lengthy discussion of the
subject of the public debt—towards the close of
his speech he proposed that a discrimination should
be made between the original holders of public
securities, and those who hold them by purchase.
His plan is that the first should be paid the full
sum promised, with interest at 6 pr. cent. The
assignees or purchasers, to be paid the highest av-
erage sum they have been sold at, and to those
who have alienated them, the residue, and both
to receive interest at 6 pr. cent. Government not
to avail itself of the least advantage in the trans-
action.

Mr. Livermore moved that the resolution should
be amended by inserting after the word *interest*,
“ at a certain rate”—this motion was negatived.

Mr. Madison proposed an amendment to the
resolution, agreeable to the principles of his
speech. This proposition remains to be discussed.
Adjourned.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12.

A memorial from the Pennsylvania Society, for
the abolition of slavery, signed by Benja. Frank-
lin, President, was read.

Mr. Hartley moved that the memorials present-
ed yesterday should be read the second time, which
was agreed to by a large majority. He then mo-
ved that they should be referred to a select com-
mittee—which motion brought on a debate which
lasted till near three o'clock.

The question being called for, Mr. Smith, S. C.
moved that it be determined by Ayes and Noes,
a sufficient number of members appearing in fa-
vor of this motion, it was thus determined.

AYES—Messrs Ames, Benson, Boudinot, Brown,
Cadwallader, Clymer, Fitzsimons, Floyd, Foster,
Gale, Gerry, Gilman, Goodhue, Griffin, Grout,
Hartley, Hathorne, Heister, Huntington, Law-
rance, Lee, Leonard, Livermore, Madison, Moore,
P. Muhlenberg, Page, Parker, Partridge, Ranfel-
laer, Schureman, Scot, Sedgwick, Seney, Sher-
man, Sinnickson, Smith M. Sturgis, Thatcher,
Trumbull, Wadsworth, White, Wynkoop. 43.

NOES—Messrs Baldwin, Bland, Burke, Coles,
Huger, Jackson, Matthews, Sylvester, Smith, S. C.
Stone, Tucker. 11.

The memorials were referred to a committee
of seven members.

On motion of Mr. Lawrance, the petition of
George Bowne, of the society for the abolition
of slavery in this city, on the same subject, was
read, and referred to the same committee.

The House then adjourned till Monday.

We have prepared a sketch of the Debates of Thursday
and yesterday, which want of room obliges us to defer till Wed-
nesday.

NEW-YORK, FEBRUARY 13.

Extract of a letter, dated Paris, Nov. the 3d. 1789.

[The Editor, fearing it would not be in his power to introduce
into the translation the peculiar elegance of the extract, flatters him-
self the perusal of it in the original language will not be unaccept-
able to a considerable number of his readers.]

“ Votre héros devenu le notre, est comme vous le scavez a la
tête de la milice de cette capitale, ainsy que des troupes de son
nécessité a obligé le gouvernement d'y faire venir; vous scavez sans
doute tout ce qui c'est passé icy depuis la premiere époque, lorsque
deux cents mille hommes ayant résolu d'acquérir leur liberté, pron-
oncèrent son nom par acclamation & le nommèrent leur chef;
quelle destinée! quelle gloire! Espérons que le généreux défen-
seur de la liberté, n'aura pas inutilement soutenu sa noble cause,
que ses talens et ses vertus si digne ment reconnues en Amérique,
vont recevoir une nouvelle récompense dans son propre pays:—
il se montre de plus en plus digne des postes éminents, ou son destin
l'appelle; le GENERAL WASHINGTON, devenu supreme
Magistrat des états nouvellement réunis n'apprendra pas sans plaisir
que son fils adoptif, son élève, son émule, marche dans la carrière
de la vraie gloire, en imitant les vertus ainsy que les succès de
son illustre & respectable maître.

“ Le fils du Marquis que je vois souvent GEORGE WASHING-
TON LA FAYETTE continue de mériter toute la tendresse de son
Pere; il est sous Lieutenant dans notre milice; ah jeune homme
quels noms vous portés! quelle gloire! mais quelle tâche d'avoir
de tels parents & de tels exemples a suivre! &c. &c.

Extract of a letter from Boston, Feb. 3.

You have obliged me by the copy of Mr. Hamilton's system of
finance—he has so well digested and explained his plan, that I
am of opinion the opposition to it must be feeble, and cannot pre-
vail so far as to effect any material alterations—the creditors in
Massachusetts will cheerfully accede to his propositions; but will
universally revolt at a reduction of the interest below four pr. cent.

They are confident Mr. Hamilton's abilities are adequate to
carrying his ideas into effect, with advantage to the community;
and in particular that they will serve to create a beneficial me-
dium, very much wanted, to put in motion the industry of the
country—the constitution of this State was preserved in the late
rebellion, through the exertions of the public creditors.—and they
contributed most essentially to the establishment of the general
government—in this view, it appears of the last importance to the
liberties of the people, which are inseparably connected with the
constitution, to consolidate and secure the attachment of so influ-
ential a part of the community.