

appeared to him a much fitter officer to fill that station—He was originally chosen by the people into the senate.

When amendments to the Constitution came to be thought of, perhaps it would be proper, he said, to provide for this case by a special clause in it, empowering the electors, who had chosen the President and Vice-President, in case of vacancy, to meet again, and make another choice, only, however, for the remainder of the four years; because at the end of that time the power of choosing the electors should return to, and be exercised by the several states.

If the motion before the committee was negatived, he gave notice, that he would bring in his, viz. to fill up the blank with the person last antecedently chosen President of the Senate.

Mr. Baldwin said that he should vote for the present motion, because he conceived that the constitution is express, that an officer of the government, designated either by the law or the Constitution, should be appointed to fill this vacancy.

He stated some objections against the Chief Justice: He is an officer who ought to be entirely detached from all political agitations whatever: His mind ought to be kept calm, and as unembarrassed as possible: He quoted the precedent established in the law, instituting the governor of the Western Territory—there the secretary is to succeed the governor. The secretary of state is an executive officer, an assistant to the President, and must be supposed, from his situation, to be the most proper person to supply the vacancy.

Mr. Sherman was of opinion, that putting the chief magistracy into the hands of a subordinate officer was by no means proper. As to the observations made by the gentleman last up on the arrangements in the government of the Western Territory, he did not think they could be applied to the present case: That government was a subordinate one, and a kind of legislative power was vested in the governor, of selecting from the laws, and regulations of the different States such as he thought requisite for the government of those he had under his care.

He was in favor of giving the supreme executive in case of accident, to the President of the Senate: The government would certainly suffer fewer inconveniences by that arrangement than if the head of a department was put in. The Vice-President, by the constitution succeeds to the President; the President of the Senate to the office of the first, it is therefore very natural that he should also exercise the duties of the second in case of vacancy.

To designate any officer, as possible successor to the President, he said, would be giving him too much dignity, and raising him in a manner even above the legislature.

Mr. Carroll observed that the vacancy might happen in the recess of the legislature, or in the absence of the President of the Senate: the Secretary of State would always be at the seat of government. Besides the constitution declared the vacancy should be filled by an officer of the government; the President of the Senate was on ly an officer *pro tem*. If the framers of the constitution had intended the vacancy should be filled by an officer named in it, they could have designated him; but this they had not done; he therefore supposed they had in view some officer then not in existence.

Mr. Gerry regretted that the subject should have been taken up at this moment, when so much important business is before Congress. He adverted to the motion, and said, that the character which now fills the office of Secretary of State, undoubtedly possessed the confidence of the legislature in the fullest manner—and very justly—but when the exigency shall arrive for which we now are about to provide, a character may fill that office, who would be a scourge to the Union. Besides said he, if the office of Vice-President was now to be filled, the Secretary of State would be ineligible, coming from the same State with the President. He stated other objections from the Constitution: He thought the nomination should not be confined to officers of the U.S. He supposed the views of government may be extended even to officers of the several States—He however wished the whole business postponed; but if this idea is over ruled, he suggested the propriety of filling the blank with the constitutional clause respecting the highest candidates who are primarily voted for as President and Vice-President.

(To be continued.)

SATURDAY, January 22.

Mr. Lawrance, from the committee to whom was referred the petition of Seth Harding, made a report, which was read, and ordered to lie on the table.

Agreeable to the order of the day, the house proceeded in the further consideration of the new revenue bill.

An additional section was proposed, pointing out the purposes to which the revenue, raised by the act should be applied. This was superceded by a motion to re-commit the bill, which was lost.

Several amendments were offered to that section, which underwent some discussion, but were postponed for further consideration.

Adjourned.

MONDAY, Jan. 24.

Mr. Livermore presented the petition of Peter Johnson, praying to be placed on the pension list. Referred to the Secretary of War.

Mr. Muhlenberg presented the petition of William Lane, praying compensation for losses sustained by him during the late war. Referred to the Secretary of the Treasury.

Mr. Madison presented the petition of George Gibson—which was read, and referred to a select committee, consisting of Messrs. Giles, Vining, Muhlenberg, Mathews, and Wadsworth.

Mr. Benson presented the petition of John Cockran, which was read, and referred to the Secretary of War.

Mr. Heister presented a memorial and remonstrance, from a number of the citizens of Philadelphia, against Excise Laws, and particularly against the bill now pending in the House, laying duties on distilled spirits.—Read and laid on the table.

The following Messages were received from the President of the United States:

UNITED STATES, JANUARY 24, 1791.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and House of Representatives,

I LAY before you a statement, relative to the frontiers of the United States, which has been submitted to me, by the Secretary for the Department of War.

I rely upon your wisdom, to make such arrangements, as may be essential for the preservation of good order, and the effectual protection of the frontiers. G. WASHINGTON.

UNITED STATES, JANUARY 24, 1791.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and House of Representatives,

IN execution of the powers with which Congress were pleased to invest me, by their act, entitled, "An act for establishing the temporary and permanent seat of the government of the United States," and on mature consideration of the advantages and disadvantages of the several positions, within the limits prescribed by the said act, I have, by a Proclamation, bearing date this day, a copy of which is herewith transmitted, directed Commissioners, appointed in pursuance of the act, to survey and limit a part of the territory of ten miles square, on both sides the river Potowmac, so as to comprehend Georgetown in Maryland, and to extend to the Eastern Branch.

I have not, by this first act, given to the said territory the whole extent, of which it is susceptible, in the direction of the river; because I thought it important, that Congress should have an opportunity of considering, whether, by an amendatory law, they would authorize the location of the residue at the lower end of the present, so as to comprehend the eastern branch itself, and some of the country on its lower side in the state of Maryland, and the town of Alexandria in Virginia. If however they are of opinion, that the federal territory should be bounded by the water-edge of the Eastern Branch, the location of the residue will be to be made at the upper end of what is now directed.

I have thought best to await a survey of the territory, before it is decided, on what particular spot, on the north-eastern side of the river, the public buildings shall be erected. G. WASHINGTON.

The house then resumed the consideration of amendments proposed to the new revenue bill.

Three additional sections respecting the appropriation of the revenue to be derived from the bill, which were offered on Saturday, after some alteration, were agreed to.

Mr. Tucker proposed a clause to limit the duration of the bill: This occasioned a debate, which continued till near the time of adjournment. The motion was finally negatived. The Ayes and Noes being called for by Mr. Jackson, are as follow:

AYES.

Messrs Ashe, Baldwin, Bloodworth, Brown, Burke, Giles, Hartley, Heister, Jackson, Mathews, Moore, P. Muhlenberg, Parker, Scott, Seney, Sevier, Steele, Tucker, Williamson. 19.

NOES.

Messrs Ames, Benson, Boudinot, Bourne, Cadwallader, Clymer, Fitzsimons, Floyd, Foster, Gale, Gerry, Gilman, Goodhue, Griffin, Grout, Hathorne, Huntington, Lawrance, Lee, Livermore, Leonard, Madison, Partridge, Ransfellaer, Schureman, Sedgwick, Sherman, Sylvester, Sinnickson, Smith (M.) Smith (S.C.) Stone, Sturges, Thatcher, Trumbull, Vining, Wadsworth, White, Wynkoop. 39.

A motion by Mr. Jackson to expunge a clause respecting the Certificates' accompanying the dutied article, was negatived. Adjourned.

TUESDAY, Jan. 25.

Mr. Heister presented the petition of a number of the inhabitants of Pennsylvania, praying for compensation for losses sustained during the late war; referred to the Secretary of the Treasury.

Mr. Carrol presented the petition of two orphan children, whose father was killed in the late war, praying that the half pay which would have been received by their father, may be extended to them; referred to the Secretary of War.

A petition from the inhabitants of the county of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, against certain parts of the bill laying additional duties on distilled spirits.

Mr. Jackson of the committee on the petition of the merchants and inhabitants of Fayetteville respecting the judiciary law, reported that a committee ought to be appointed to bring in a bill pursuant to the said petition.

Mr. Ames presented the petition of Abiel Smith, praying compensation for a quantity of flour supplied the late continental army; referred to the Secretary of the Treasury.

Mr. Williamson presented the memorial of William Poultney, praying compensation for losses sustained during the late war; referred to the Secretary of the Treasury.

Mr. Lawrance of the committee appointed for the purpose reported a bill, directing the mode in which the evidences of the debt of the United States which have been, or may be destroyed, shall be renewed; read the first time.

The house resumed the consideration of the new revenue bill—undry amendments proposed by Mr. Jackson, by striking out certain clauses in the bill—were negatived; other amendments were agreed to—after considerable debate, at half after three, the question for engrossing the bill was carried in the affirmative—the ayes and noes being as follow:

AYES.

Messrs Ames, Benson, Boudinot, Bourne, Cadwallader, Carrol, Clymer, Fitzsimons, Floyd, Foster, Gale, Gerry, Gilman, Goodhue, Grout, Huntington, Lawrance, Lee, Leonard, Livermore, Madison, Partridge, Schureman, Scott, Sedgwick, Sherman, Sylvester, Sinnickson, Sturges, Thatcher, Trumbull, Vining, Wadsworth, White, Wynkoop. 35.

NOES.

Messrs Ashe, Baldwin, Bloodworth, Brown, Burke, Griffin, Giles, Hathorne, Hartley, Heister, Jackson, Mathews, Muhlenberg, Parker, Ransfellaer, Seney, Sevier, Steele, Stone, Tucker. 20.

Mr. Tucker, of the joint committee appointed to consider and report the time for the commencement of the next Congress, brought in a report, which is in substance, that the business now before Congress may be finished by the 4th March, and that it will not be necessary for the new Congress to commence immediately after; but the joint committee could not agree as to the precise time, when their first session should begin.

Philadelphia, Jan. 26.

It is to be remarked that the opposers of the revenue bill now before Congress, have never come forward with a competent substitute—Something has been said about a tax on law proceedings, by which it is supposed a stamp duty was intended, and a direct tax has been faintly whispered—but both these are found to shrink from the touchstone of popularity.

The symptoms of aristocracy in the Eastern States, are—agrarian laws—simplicity of manners—equality of circumstances—a universal diffusion of the means of knowledge—public schools being established by law, and supported by a general tax throughout the country—elections by ballot, and consequently free, being held on one, and the same day in small districts, throughout the respective governments—the soil cultivated by its independent owners—reverence for the laws—and respect to their magistrates—the federal government venerated—and the statutes of Congress obeyed—happy and tranquil because they are informed and free—and because they possess the means of preserving their freedom, by making every man, from sixteen to forty, a soldier-citizen:—But the most alarming of all their symptoms of Aristocracy is, the silence of their representatives in Congress, in respect to the jealous, uneasy, turbulent spirit of their constituents, as to any law that the general government may, in their wisdom, enact.

It is a trite observation, that anticipation of evil, is often the forerunner of mischief: We have, however, been happily disappointed in times past—No thanks to the dismal cacklers of the capitol. As the good sense of the people has hitherto prevented them from imbibing a restless spirit of complaint, from the oft repeated, tho groundless jealousies and apprehensions of more than eagle-eyed politicians, so it is to be hoped they will not in future be seduced to change the solid blessings of the government, for the positive miseries of discord and sedition, because some persons say, they are averse to measures that have never been tried.

Extract of a letter from Boston, Jan. 15.

Such a December has not been experienced here for many years—Wood rose to twenty shillings a cord! But since this year came in, the weather has moderated—provisions have been very plenty, and very cheap—the sleying excellent—Pot and Pearl-ashes, Hemp, Flax, &c. &c. have been brought in from the back country which have generally commanded good prices, and sent much money to enliven the interior parts of this state, Vermont and New-Hampshire. The attachment of the people of this Commonwealth to the general government daily encreases; and in the rise of the public credit—the demand for produce &c. they feel its superiority over that of the late untied system.

PRICE CURRENT.—PUBLIC SECURITIES.

FUNDED DEBT.			
6 pr. Cents	16/6.	16/9.	pr. £ 83½ pr. cent.
3 pr. Cents	8/9	9/.	45 do.
Deferred 6 pr. Cents		9/.	45 do.
UNFUNDED DEBT.			
Final Sett. and other Certificates	15/6	15/9	78½ do.
Indents	8/9	9/.	45 do.
N. and S. Carolina, debts,	11/.	11/6.	57½ do.

INFORMATION WANTED.

THE Subscriber requests, if any gentleman can give him information of a purchase of Lands made by a Mr. Daniel Richardet, in the year 1781 and 1782, in some part of the United States, he will be so kind as to inform his Brother, by directing a line to him, at the Printer's office. S. RICHARDET.

January, 1791.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, JANUARY 25, 1791.

THE Public Creditors are reminded that, in order to the proper dispositions for paying the Interest in the several States, it is necessary that the amount to be paid in each should be previously known at the Treasury. And as the expiration of the first quarter is not far distant, it is wished that those who have not yet done it, may be expeditious in making and signifying their election, pursuant to the act making provision for the debt of the United States.