

excises; he said he should continue his opposition to the last.

Mr. Moore offered another modification of the section.

The question on adding the words, was put and negatived.

Mr. Boudinot called the attention of the house to the fourth section, which authorizes the President of the United States, by the advice and consent of the Senate, to appoint such a number of officers, as he may think necessary—he thought that the most, if not the only exceptionable clause of the bill; his opinion was, that the number of officers should be limited. He moved this addition to the section—“*provided the number do not exceed in any county, city, town or village.*” He objected to the clause as establishing a dangerous precedent.

Mr. Bloodworth seconded this motion.

Mr. Parker said he was in favor of this motion, because he wished to have the number of these officers as small as possible.

Mr. Boudinot's motion occasioned considerable debate, it was said that the number of officers is virtually restricted by the compensation to be received, this allowance cannot be exceeded, so that the number of officers cannot be increased beyond what may be necessary—if they are, the President of the United States must pay them out of his own pocket, or they must receive a less sum.

It was said in answer to this, that experience shews when once the object is obtained in the appointment of these officers, ways and means will be found to pay them—in confirmation of this idea it was said, there are already two motions on the table for enhancing the compensations to the officers of the revenue.

Mr. Boudinot's motion was negatived.

Several other amendments were proposed by different members, and rejected. Adjourned.

THURSDAY, Jan. 20.

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

An amendment was proposed by Mr. Sedgwick, to strike out part of the 4th section, which respects the compensations to the inspectors, and to introduce a substitute, to limit their compensations to a certain sum.

Mr. Sherman said he should prefer striking out the whole clause, and passing the bill without it—and leave the compensations to be provided for in a separate bill.

Mr. Gerry proposed an amendment, which he conceived was not liable to the objections which apply to the original clause, and to the amendment at present under consideration, and which arise from their giving The President the power of establishing offices.

Mr. Sedgwick stated certain principles of conciliation which had induced him to move the amendment now under consideration. He shewed by a variety of particulars, that the services will be various, and merit in some cases a much greater compensation than in others.

Mr. Ames objected to the amendment proposed, on principles of economy, both of time and money. The time is already so exhausted that there will be scarcely sufficient in the present session, to finish the bill—and if the amendment is adopted, it will follow, that in order to make adequate provision in all cases, you must, in many instances, make that compensation too much. He urged the importance of passing the law with such a power as would enable the Executive to apportion the compensations in proportion to the merits and services of the respective officers. This law is said to be obnoxious to the disapprobation of the people: It therefore becomes our duty to make the compensations such, as may command the services of men of responsibility, in point of property and character—men of prudence and judgment. He conceived the power of apportioning the salaries might be left with the Supreme Executive: Nor did he conceive there was any thing in the Constitution contrary to this idea. Gentlemen have cautioned the house against exceeding the powers of the Constitution by implication; he supposed that it was equally reprehensible to refrain from exercising the full powers, indisputably vested in the legislature by the constitution.

Mr. Boudinot, agreeable to the idea of Mr. Sherman, moved that the clause should be struck out, and leave the compensations to be provided for in a subsequent bill.

This motion was seconded from various quarters, and occasioned a considerable debate.

Mr. Burke said he was sorry to see such a disposition in many of the members of this house to extend the powers of the executive. The excise bill is universally odious—and gentlemen seem to be trying to render this more odious, by urging one exceptionable clause after another: He hoped this clause would be struck out, and that the legislature would retain the power of disposing of their own money. He said that his ideas on the subject had been called chimeras—but this was a stale trick, which has been long practised by those who are in favor of strengthening the arm of the executive—it was always made

use of in that country whose precedents we often recur to; but, for his part, no such observations should deter him from placing every possible guard round the liberties of the people, and checking the undue extension of the executive arm.

The motion for striking out was carried—29 to 27.

A motion from Mr. Clymer, as a substitute for the 4th section, was then read. This proposed an inspector for each state, at a salary of dollars per annum, with power to appoint such number of deputy inspectors as they may think proper—these deputy inspectors to receive per cent. on the gross amount of the sums by them respectively collected.

Mr. Sedgwick proposed that this motion should be referred to a select committee, with other motions now on the table.

Mr. Vining was opposed to referring it to a select committee. He said the consequence of a reference would be an unnecessary prolongation of the business. He thought it might as well be taken up and decided upon at the present time as any.

Mr. Lawrence was in favor of referring this motion to a select committee.

The Speaker observing that it would not be in order to commit this motion, except in connection with the whole clause, Mr. Clymer withdrew it for the present.

Mr. Lee then moved, that the bill should be recommitted for the purpose of bringing in a clause devising a proper mode of collecting the revenue.

Mr. Livermore seconded the motion, and in a few general remarks condemned the bill altogether.

Mr. Stone also spoke against the bill, and in support of the motion for a recommitment.

Mr. Gerry objected to the motion, especially as it was contemplated to make an arrangement by which the duties of the officers of the revenue, already established, are to be blended with those of the officers to be appointed by this law—this would deprive the government of that check which it has in view by this bill.

Mr. Livermore said, that he did not conceive there was any thing like an excise contemplated by the bill. The duty proposed on spirits is a mere duty of impost. As to checks, he did not think any additional ones were necessary. If the officers already appointed to collect the revenue are not sufficient for the purpose, let them be increased—but as to any further checks, he considered them altogether superfluous. It is acknowledged, said he, on all hands, that the patriotism and punctuality of the importers has been such as to produce a very strict compliance with the revenue laws.

Mr. Gerry read several clauses in the bill, to shew that it was something more than a mere impost law.

Mr. Giles said he hoped the bill would not be precipitated, there are a number of propositions on the table calculated to amend the several defects it contains, he therefore hoped the bill would be recommitted for the purpose of amending those defects; he fully objected to sending the bill up to the Senate in a confessedly imperfect state, and hoped no such precedent would ever receive the sanction of the house, especially in a money bill.

Mr. Sedgwick called the attention of the house to the process of this business; much time was spent in the discussion of it last session—we are now past the middle of the present; more than three weeks have already been spent in the business, and now at this late period, gentlemen come forward with propositions that strike at the very principles of the bill. He hoped no such motion would take place.

Mr. Vining objected to a recommitment for general purposes.

The question on recommitting generally was lost, 30 to 37.

A motion was then made for recommitting for a particular purpose, which was lost, 24 to 33.

Adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 2.

The bill making appropriations for the support of government, for the year 1791; and for other purposes, was brought in, engrossed, read the time and passed.

Sundry petitions were read, and referred to the heads of departments.

A message was received from the Senate, by Mr. Otis their Secretary, informing the house, that they have passed the bill declaring the assent of Congress to a certain act of the state of Maryland.

The bill to incorporate the subscribers to the National Bank, was taken into consideration—a lengthy and interesting debate took place.

Messrs. Jackson, Lee, Giles and Madison supported the argument against the bill, principally, as being unconstitutional—Messrs. Lawrence, Sherman, and Gerry severally in favor of its passing:—no vote was taken this day on the subject.

Mr. Floyd of the committee of enrolment, informed the house that the Kentucky bill was presented to the President for his assent.

Mr. Ames presented the petition of Daniel Loller, praying to be placed on the pension list—referred to the Secretary of the Treasury.

Adjourned.

THURSDAY, Feb. 3.

Sundry petitions were read and referred to the heads of departments.

Mr. Clymer presented the memorial of sundry Widows, creditors of the United States—remonstrating against the funding system—and praying that they may receive six per cent. on the whole amount of the demands against the United States—referred to the Secretary of the Treasury.

A memorial of sundry merchants of Philadelphia, respecting the erection of piers, at New-Castle in the Delaware, for the security of the navigation, was read and referred to the Secretary of the Treasury.

A committee consisting of Messrs. Sedgwick, Sturges, and Contee was appointed to report a bill making a temporary provision for the clerks and other officers of the federal courts—also compensation to the jurors attending said courts.

The Bank-bill was further discussed this day. A motion was made by Mr. Williamson to recommend the bill, for the purpose of amending the first section by prolonging the time for receiving subscriptions from October to April—this motion occasioned some debate, and was determined in the negative—the Ayes and Noes being as follow:

AYES.

Messrs. Baldwin, Bloodworth, Brown, Burke, Carroll, Contee, Gale, Giles, Grout, Jackson, Lee, Madison, Matthews, Moore, Sevier, Smith (S. C.) Steele, Stone, Tucker, White, Williamson. 21.

NOES.

Messrs. Ames, Benson, Boudinot, Bourne, Cadwallader, Clymer, Fitzsimons, Floyd, Foster, Gerry, Gilman, Goodhue, Griffin, Hartley, Hathorne, Heister, Huntington, Lawrence, Leonard, Livermore, Muhlenberg, Parker, Partridge, Rensselaer, Schureman, Scott, Sedgwick, Seney, Sherman, Smith (M.) Sylvester, Sinnickson, Sturges, Thatcher, Trumbull, Vining, Wadsworth, Wynkoop. 33.

Mr. Ames, in a lengthy speech, supported the constitutionality of the bill—the further consideration of which was postponed. Adjourned.

FRIDAY, Feb. 4.

Mr. Heister presented the petition of Andrew Holmes: Referred to the Secretary of the Treasury.

The petition of John Hollins was read, praying an abatement of the additional duties on Imposts, which took place the first January last, arising on a cargo, which, tho it had arrived before, could not be entered till subsequent to that period. Referred to the Secretary of State.

A report of the Secretary of State, on the subject of the Fisheries, was laid before the House by the Speaker, and read by the Clerk—and on motion, it was voted, that this Report, with a letter from the French Chargé des Affaires, which accompanied the same, be sent to the Senate.

The order of the day was called for—which being the Bank-Bill, the Speaker proposed the following question: *Shall this bill pass?*

A lengthy debate then ensued on the general principles of the bill—which continued until the time of adjournment.

PARIS, October 14.

A NEW order of Knighthood is certainly forming in France, with a view to overturn the new French Constitution. The star ends in eight points, with four fleurs de lis in the spaces, surmounted with the Crown of France! In the centre is a medallion representing on one side the Marquis de Favras rising from his tomb, on the other a cross potentee. There are three ranks of dignity in this order. The cross stars of the first and second differ from that of the third, for instead of the cross potentee on the reverse of a medallion, there are the words—“Alpha and Omega.” Many silver-smiths are employed at Paris, Strasburgh, and Milan, in making these stars. The Grand Master is at Turin; the Treasurer, M. H. a near relation of M. Barentin, late Keeper of the Seals; the Cashier, an ancient Advocate in Council; and the Secretary in Chief, an Abbe of great repute. The ribbon is black. The Knights Commanders are to wear the star at the breast; the Masters and Apprentices at the button holes. At present the Society wear them in their pockets (I have seen two of them) because the hour is not yet come.

This order goes under three or four different names—it is called the order of Resurrection—of the Counter Revolution—of the Holy Sepulchre—or, simply of Jerusalem, a denomination that assimilates it, together with the black ribbon, to that of Malta. The Cavaliers have proper signs and contracts, like the Free Masons, and many Members of the National Assembly have been already admitted into it.

LONDON, Dec. 3.

The Count de Merici Argenteau, the imperial Ambassador at the Hague, has written a letter to the Marechal Baron de Bender, dated the 22d of November, which does him infinite credit.

It breathes throughout the noblest sentiments of genuine patriotism, and is written with firmness, tempered by mercy, and may, therefore, be justly supposed to have been dictated by the humane Leopold, who is infinitely greater as a man, than as an Emperor, though an excellent sovereign.

The poor Belgic multitude are mentioned as, “sheep who have gone astray,” and who are to be treated with the utmost mildness. To spare, to protect, to forgive, these are the orders given to the Austrian General.

The members of the parliament of Toulouse, overcome by the earnest entreaties of their friends, are gone to St. Sebastian, in Spain, where they have been received most politely and cordially.

By this timely precaution they have, for the present, avoided the chains with which they were threatened to be loaded, and the