

PHILADELPHIA, MAY 5.

The Pittsburgh Gazette by the last post, contains account of recent depredations, burning of buildings, stealing of horses and killing and capturing of the inhabitants on the frontiers of this State, by the Indians—several parties had been out in pursuit of the savages, but without killing or taking any of them; some horses and provisions had been recovered—but the accounts state that the people are in the greatest consternation.

Where one sentence is published in favor or support of those measures of government which have raised this country to its present enviable situation, whole columns appear to persuade the people that their senses deceive them, and that the men who saved their country in war, are contriving the destruction of its liberties in peace—With what face then is it said that attempts are made to muzzle the press?

What chance would the people have for freedom, if the friends of that government whose basis is liberty, should by the arts of its enemies, be precluded from exposing their misrepresentations by shackling the press?—There are more ways than one of doing this.

THE STATUE.

WHAT, raise a Statue to his glory!  
In fact a most preposterous story!  
By patriots in and out doors scouted,  
Its policy by shrewd ones doubted—  
Old Congress, when it pass'd the vote,  
Were poor as death, without a coat—  
But glowing with celestial zeal,  
To speak what grateful bosoms feel,  
Refolv'd the Sculptor's hands should show  
What virtues can exist below—  
They pledg'd their Country's faith and fame,  
T' immortalize its Hero's name—  
But those who on a Coin can trace  
The features of a Tyrant's face,  
To save the credit of the nation,  
Evade the sacred obligation!

SHIP NEWS.

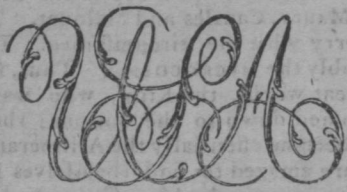
ARRIVALS AT THE PORT OF PHILADELPHIA.

Brig Cleopatra,	Mead,	Savannah
Alfouier,	Darolio,	St. Marks
Schooner John,	Post,	C. Francois
Isabella,	Green,	ditto
Lively,	Marble,	North-Carolina
Mary,	Smith,	ditto

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LEONARD BLEECKER.  
(t.f.)



CONGRESS.

PHILADELPHIA.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
TUESDAY, MARCH 27.

Sketch of the debate on Mr. Giles' motion, that the President of the United States be requested to order an enquiry into the causes of the defeat of the army under General St. Clair, &c.

MR. VINING enquired what was the object of the resolution—in what way was it to be carried into execution? for if the House is not furnished with some answer to these enquiries, he did not see how gentlemen could vote for it.—He conceived that this indefinite mode of procedure would only embarrass the President, without producing the desired effect—He was in favor of a full and complete investigation of the business; and if there has been any deficiency, let those who are to blame be impeached; he was not disposed to screen any officer from justice, let him be of what rank he may—but he was not satisfied with the mode now proposed; he did not consider it as constitutional or practicable.

Mr. Boudinot said he was surprised to hear the gentleman from Delaware express a doubt of the practicability of instituting an enquiry into the late unfortunate business in the mode proposed—for his part, he saw no such difficulties in the way, as appeared to the gentleman. Mr. Boudinot then stated certain complaints which existed, and were currently reported—such as a failure of the contracts, and for aught that appeared to the contrary, the misfortunes of the army may be traced to that cause—other complaints are circulated, respecting which the public have a right to be satisfied.—The present proposition goes no further than a simple request—Having signified the wish of the House, the President may adopt such measures in relation to the subject, as he may see proper.

Mr. Giles supported his motion—He conceived that the enquiry was indispensable, and the mode proposed strictly proper—The business must begin some where—this House is the proper source, as the immediate guardians of the public interest.

Mr. Vining rose to explain—he stated various difficulties which would impede the progress of the business in the informal mode proposed—these, he observed, were so great, as to involve an impossibility of prosecuting the investigation to any purpose.

He supposed that a more proper and constitutional way, would be to call on the heads of departments to give an account of their conduct.

Mr. Clark observed, that it was evident the public mind was greatly agitated—an enquiry was necessary—If the mode proposed should not prove agreeable or convenient to the President, he will let us know it.

Mr. W. Smith observed, that this was the first instance of a proposition on the part of this House to enquire into the conduct of officers who are immediately under the controul of the executive—In this view of the subject, the resolution proposed could not but be considered as an impeachment of the conduct of the first magistrate.—Mr. Smith then adverted to the division of the powers of the government, expressly provided for in the constitution—Gentlemen, said he, have discovered great solicitude to keep the branches separate and distinct; but on this occasion, from the consideration that this House is the grand inquest of the nation, they seem to discover a disposition to go into a similar mode of conduct with the National Assembly of France, who spent a whole night in examining a Drum Major—He would not say that they had not a right so to do, but he believed no gentleman would justify such a line of conduct on the part of this House.

He then particularized the several objects of enquiry in relation to the present business—He shewed that the constitution had made provision in all the several cases—And as it was the duty of the President of the United States to carry the laws into execution, it ought to be shewn that he has been remiss in his duty, before he is called on in this way—He noted the account published by the Secretary of War, by direction of the President, and considered as his act—After several other remarks, Mr. Smith concluded by saying, that in any case where it shall appear that the Supreme Executive has not done his duty, he should be fully in favor of an enquiry—but till that was done, he trusted the measure would not be adopted, without at least a previous and full discussion.

Mr. Williamson said he doubted the propriety of the resolution in its present form; but was fully of opinion that an enquiry into the expenditure of all public money, was the indispensable duty of this House—He proposed the appointment of a select committee to enquire and report.

Mr. Kittera moved to amend the resolution, by substituting a select committee.

Mr. Venable was in favor of the original motion—He conceived that it was the only proper mode of proceeding—nor had he any apprehension that the President would consider it as encroaching in the smallest degree.

Mr. Giles contended that his motion was so far from tending to blend the several branches of government, that its effect would be the reverse.

Mr. Steele said he was indifferent as to the mode, provided the business was fully gone into. The gentleman from South-Carolina has mentioned the report of the Secretary of War, and has said that it is considered as the act of the President of the United States. Mr. Steele denied that it was the President's act—it was not satisfactory—will any gentleman on this floor, said he, say it is satisfactory to him? He enumerated several articles of complaint, and observed that he had no great doubt that an enquiry would lead to an impeachment—Justice to the public, and the officers particularly concerned, loudly demands an enquiry.

Mr. Vining here moved that the resolution should be committed to a select committee.

Mr. Boudinot objected to the idea of a committee—He said the time would not admit of it—witnesses, said he, are perhaps 800 miles off—what progress can a committee make in such a business? He denied that it was the duty of the President to institute the enquiry unless he was requested to do it—The magnitude of the objects of enquiry would involve such an expense, that the President would not be justified in incurring it, unless he was authorised by the House.—He then stated some particulars to shew the practicability of the measure—among others, that there were a sufficient number of officers present, to form what is denominated a court of enquiry.

Mr. Barnwell was opposed to the original motion—he considered it as informal, and suggested what he considered as the proper mode of procedure, which was to call on the several officers of government for such information in the business as may be necessary—He was against the commitment.

The motion for a select committee was negatived.

The question then was on agreeing to the resolution.

Mr. Hillhouse said he believed this was the first time that it was ever contemplated to appoint a Court Martial to enquire into the expenditure of public money.

Mr. Fitzsimons said he conceived that several parts of the resolution were improper—He thought that it was entirely out of order to request the President of the United States to institute a Court Martial or a Court of Enquiry—The reasons and propriety of such courts are better and more fully known to the President than to the members of the House—He was in favor of a committee to enquire relative to such objects as come properly under the cognizance of this House—particularly respecting the expenditures of public money—and if the resolution should be disagreed to, as he hoped it would, he should then move for such a committee.

Mr. Baldwin said he had made up his mind on the subject—He was convinced the House could not proceed but by a committee of their own—such a committee would be able to throw more light on the subject, and then the House would be able to determine how to proceed; and if any failure had taken place on the part of the executive officers, he should then be prepared to address the President, and to request him to take the proper steps in the case.

Mr. Seney advocated the resolution, and urged several objections against a committee.

Mr. Hartley said as it was probable some degree of odium would fall on those who might vote against this resolution—he thought proper to give some reasons why he should vote against it—These were similar to what had been offered by several other gentlemen against the resolution, as improper and informal.

Mr. Madison started some difficulties in the business—He said the House ought to deliberate well, before they requested the President to do a thing which he had it not in his power to do—It was evident that the object of a court-martial or court of enquiry, must be to elucidate facts which would require the presence of officers, who could not possibly give their attendance in season to meet the object of the resolution—He added some further remarks, and then the question on the resolution being put, it was negatived.

A committee was afterwards appointed.

MONDAY, APRIL 30.

The duties on spirits distilled from domestic produce, were reduced from 8, 9, 10, 12, 15, and 20 cents (as reported by the committee) to 7, 8, 9, 11, 13, and 18 cents.

The ayes and noes on the question for agreeing to the duty of 8 cents, reported by the committee, were as follow:

A Y E S.

Messrs. Ames, Barnwell, Benson, Bondinot, S. Bourne, B. Bourne, Clarke, Fitzsimons, Gerry, Gilman, Goodhue, Gordon, Hillhouse, Kitchell, Lawrance, Learned, Lee, J. Smith, W. Smith, Sterrett, Sturges, Sylvester, Thatcher, Treadwell, Wadsworth, Ward—26.

N O E S.

Messrs. Alhe, Baldwin, Brown, Findley, Gregg, Grove, Heister, Huger, Jacobs, Key, Livermore, Macon, Madison, Moore, Murray, Niles, Page, Parker, Seney, Sheredine, I. Smith, Steele, Sumpter, Tucker, White, Williamson, Willis—27.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 2.

An engrossed bill concerning the duties on spirits distilled within the United States, was read the third time, and passed.

A message from the Senate, by Mr. Otis, informed the House, that they have appointed a committee on their part, to join with such committee as the House shall appoint, to wait on the President of the United States, and notify him of the proposed recess of Congress.

An engrossed bill to confirm an award of referees between the United States and certain contractors for furnishing supplies of provisions to the army during the late war, was read the third time, and on the question, shall this bill pass? it was negatived, ayes 25, noes 27.

A Y E S.

Messrs. Ames, Barnwell, Benson, S. Bourne, B. Bourne, Fitzsimons, Goodhue, Gordon, Hillhouse, Lawrance, Learned, Livermore, Page, Schoonmaker, J. Smith, I. Smith, W. Smith, Sterrett, Sturges, Sylvester, Thatcher, Tucker, Vining, Wadsworth, Ward—25.

N O E S.

Messrs. Alhe, Baldwin, Brown, Clark, Dayton, Giles, Gilman, Gregg, Grove, Heister, Key, Kitchell, Lee, Macon, Madison, Moore, Muhlenberg, Murray, Niles, Parker, Seney, Sheredine, Steele, Sumpter, Venable, White, Williamson—27.

A message from the President of the United States, by Mr. Lear, informed the House that the President did this day approve and sign two acts—one entitled, "An act for raising a farther sum of money for the protection of the frontiers, and for other purposes therein mentioned;" the other, "An act to provide for calling forth the militia to execute the laws of the union, suppress insurrections, and repel invasions."

An engrossed bill relative to the compensations to certain officers employed in the collection of the duties of impost and tonnage, was read the third time, and passed.

In committee of the whole, on the bill supplemental to the act making provision for the debt of the United States—the committee discussed the first section, rose and reported progress.

A second message from the Senate informed the House, that the Senate have passed the bill, entitled, "An act authorizing the grant and conveyance of certain lands to John Cleves Symmes and his associates," with several amendments; also, that they agree to some and disagree to others of the amendments proposed by the House, to the bill entitled, "An act for the relief of persons imprisoned for debt;" and that they agree to some and disagree to others of the amendments proposed by the House, to the bill entitled "An act for regulating processes in the courts of the United States, and providing compensations for the officers of the said courts, and for jurors and witnesses." Adjourned.

THURSDAY, MAY 3.

Mr. Sheredine had leave of absence for the residue of the session.

The amendments of the Senate to the bill authorizing the grant and conveyance of certain lands to John Cleves Symmes—were taken into consideration and agreed to.

The amendments of the House to the bill for the relief of persons imprisoned for debt, disagreed to by the Senate, as by their message of yesterday, were receded from on the part of the House.

The message of the Senate respecting the amendments of the House to the bill regulating processes in the courts of the United States, was taken into consideration—to some of these amendments the Senate agreed, to others they agreed with amendments, and to others disagreed.—The Senate disagreed to the amendment to the second section, which was to strike out these words, "and be at liberty to pursue the same,