



CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. WEDNESDAY, Dec. 19.

A letter was read from the Secretary of War, communicating, pursuant to orders from the President of the United States, dispatches from Brigadier General Wilkinson, containing an account of a recent attack from a party of Western Indians, on an encampment of American troops under the command of Major Adair, near Fort St. Clair, in which the Indians were repulsed;—and a letter from James Seagrave, Superintendent of Indian affairs to the Creek nation, giving an account of a favorable termination to a treaty or interview held with the Chiefs of that nation.

Mr. Sedgwick called up his motion, laid on the table yesterday, for discharging the committee of the whole on that part of the report of the Secretary of the Treasury which relates to reimbursing the loan made of the Bank of the United States, and to appoint a select committee who should report a bill making provision in the case.

This motion was agreed to, and a committee consisting of Messrs. Sedgwick, Lawrence and Murray, were appointed.

In committee of the whole on the bill to regulate trade and intercourse with the Indian tribes. Mr. Dayton in the chair.

The bill was read through, and then considered by paragraphs. Sundry amendments were made. The committee proceeded through the discussion; they then rose and reported the bill with those amendments, which were laid on the table, and the house adjourned.

THURSDAY, Dec. 20.

A Report of the Secretary of the Treasury on the petition of Ludwic Kuhn, was read. This report was against the prayer of the petition.

Mr. Murray presented a memorial of sundry of the Officers of the late Maryland line of the Army, in behalf of themselves and the privates of the said army. The object of this memorial is similar to those from the Officers of the Pennsylvania and New-York lines, which is, compensation for the depreciation and loss sustained by them on the certificates received for their services. This memorial was read and laid on the table, with the others.

Mr. Steele laid a resolution on the table, to the following purport, viz.

That a committee be appointed to prepare and bring in a bill to reduce the military establishment of the United States to regiments or corps, consisting each of non-commissioned officers, privates and musicians, with such proportion of commissioned officers as the President may think proper to continue in service.—And to repeal so much of an act passed the 5th March, 1792, entitled, "An act for making further and more effectual provision for the protection of the Frontiers of the United States," as may contravene this intention.

This motion, Mr. Steele said, he was influenced to bring forward, from two motives. The first was to afford more effectual protection to the frontiers—the other was, that by this reduction a sum of money might be drawn from the War Department, to be applied to the reduction of the public debt, so that a necessity for new taxes, to effect that object, may be superceded.

The select committee, to whom the coasting bill had been re-committed, reported sundry amendments, which were taken into consideration by the House, and all of them agreed to.

Mr. Clark objected to a clause in the 12th section, which enjoins that every change of the master of every packet or ferry-boat, shall be reported at the custom-house the first opportunity. Mr. Dayton stated the inconveniencies to which the masters and owners of the small coasting craft and packet boats belonging to the state of New-Jersey would be particularly exposed by this injunction, where the masters are very frequently changed. To remove this objection Mr. Goodhue proposed to insert these words, ferry-boats excepted. This motion was adopted.

It was then ordered that the bill be engrossed for a third reading.

The amendments reported by the committee of the whole to the bill to regulate trade and intercourse with the Indian tribes were taken into consideration.

Objections were made to the fifth section, which contemplates legislating, and punishing crimes committed within the boundaries of the Indian countries—it was contended that the cases mentioned were fully provided for by treaties, or by the laws of the respective states; the whole ground, it was said, is covered by these provisions; and therefore there appears an impropriety, if not an absurdity, in enacting, in a subsequent law, that certain punishments shall be inflicted for certain crimes, which are sufficiently recognized by the several treaties already formed; that the attempt would operate unjustly, the provisions may reach our own citizens, but cannot affect so fully as they ought the Savages. It was moved that the whole section should be struck out.

In opposition to this motion, it was said, that the power of the general government to legislate in all the territory belonging to the Union, not within the limits of any particular state, can not be doubted; if the government cannot make laws to restrain persons from going out

the limits of any of the states, and commit murders and depredations, it would be in vain to expect any peace with the Indian tribes. The power of Congress to legislate, independent of treaties, it was also said, must be admitted—for it is impossible, that every case should be provided for by those treaties.

The question being called for, Mr. Clark rose and observed, that he conceived it was of importance that the house should vote with their eyes open; and to enable them to do this, he said he should read the ordinance of the late Congress passed in 1787, respecting the settlement of the western country. He observed that he believed very few of the members had turned their attention to it. He accordingly read such parts of the ordinance as he thought essential to the point, which was to shew that the clause of the bill now under consideration, would in its operation violate the solemn stipulations with the settlers contained in the ordinance, as full provision is contained in the ordinance to institute all civil and criminal processes.—The motion for striking out the section was negatived. The amendments of the committee of the whole were agreed to with some amendments.—Various subsequent amendments were moved with various success, some being agreed to and others rejected. Without finishing the discussion of the bill the house adjourned.

FRIDAY, Dec. 21.

Mr. Hartley called up the petition of Capt. William Mackay, for a second reading—it was accordingly read, and on motion of that gentleman, referred to the Secretary of War, to report thereon.

A bill making appropriations for the support of government for the year 1793, which was reported yesterday, was this day read twice, and referred to a committee of the whole House.—Mr. Steele proposed that the bill should be postponed to the first Monday in January.—He observed that he had laid a motion on the table for a committee to report a bill to reduce the military establishment of the United States.—This appropriation bill makes provision for the present establishment, and if it is acted upon, and passed immediately, it will preclude an opportunity for discussing the merits of the proposition contained in the motion which he had made.

The motion for the first Monday in January, was negatived.—Mr. Steele then moved, the last Monday in December, which being put was carried.

Mr. Heister and Mr. Moore were appointed as the joint committee on enrolled bills, on the part of the House.

A message was afterwards received from the Senate informing the House of their concurrence in the resolution for the appointment of a joint committee on enrolled bills, and that they had appointed Mr. Brown on their part.

Mr. Sedgwick reported a bill providing for a re-imburement of a loan made of the bank of the United States, which was twice read, and committed for Monday next.

The House resumed the consideration of the bill to regulate trade and intercourse with the Indian Tribes; a motion to amend the fifth section by altering the clause which makes it felony for any citizen, or citizens of the United States unlawfully to invade any Indian settlement, to fine and imprisonment for that crime—occasioned considerable debate.—This motion was finally superceded by one to recommit the bill—which being carried—it was recommitted to the select committee which reported it; on motion, Mr. Baldwin and Mr. Murray were added to the committee.

Mr. Gerry moved the following in substance.—That the committee be instructed to report a clause making additional provision for the establishment of permanent agents to reside among the Indians which now are, or may hereafter be at peace with the United States; also for carrying on trade with such Indians, under the direction of the President of the United States—and for an adequate supply of necessary articles on just and reasonable terms; and under such regulations as to guard them against imposition and extortion. This motion was laid on the table.—Mr. Gerry gave notice that he should call it up on Monday next.

A petition was read from Robert Ralston, assignee of Thomas Barclay—and referred to the Secretary of the Treasury.

In committee of the whole on the bill to ascertain the fees demandable in cases of admiralty proceedings in the courts of the United States, and for other purposes.—Mr. Dayton in the chair.—The Committee made further progress in the discussion of the bill, but rose without finishing it, and had leave to sit again. Adjourned.

Philadelphia, Dec. 22.

Extract of a letter from Mr. Fenwick, Consul of the United States at Bordeaux, to the Secretary of State, dated Bordeaux, 11th Sept. 1792.

"It was decreed the 6th inst. that, after the first day of October, all Tobaccos that were subject to a duty of 18liv. 15s. per cent. should pay 10li. per cent. and such as paid 25li. per cent. duty, should pay 12li. All other Tobaccos of whatever country, should be admitted on paying a duty of 15 liv per quintal.—Thus American Tobacco stands favored in the duty 5li. per cent. imported in French vessels, and 3 livres if imported in American bottoms direct from America.

"The administrators of the impost have given general orders to the Directors of the Custom-houses, to admit no merchandize or productions whatever, to the payment of the duties, without a certificate of their origin. This certificate must be from the French Consul in the port of the expedition; or in case there should be no Consul, by a Notary or Justice of the Peace.

"This information is interesting to the Merchants throughout the United States."

By accounts from Pittsburgh, it appears that the Indians with whom General Putnam had made a treaty, had arrived at Legionville, the winter quarters of the army under the command of Gen. Wayne.

The subscription for the Bank of Alexandria, in Virginia, was filled in less than two hours.

We hear that the electors of President and Vice-President for the State of North-Carolina, gave a unanimous vote for GEORGE WASHINGTON and GEORGE CLINTON.

An account from Cape-Francois, of Nov. 15, says—Yesterday two whites, one a deserter of the Cape regiment, and ten negroes taken prisoners in the attack of Ouaniithe, arrived here at about four in the afternoon, guarded by a company of horse guards. They were conducted to the national commissioner, who ordered them to prison. An immense crowd accompanied these twelve unfortunate people, and notwithstanding the efforts of the guard, they had scarcely turned the first corner, when a band of soldiery enraged by the sight of the deserters, struck them with their swords—these blows were the signal of death for all the others, who were butchered on the spot.

A Connecticut paper says—A person lately from Canada, informs, that a few nights previous to his leaving that colony, three British soldiers deserted their post, and took with them their fire-arms, &c. that they were pursued by four Indians, who overtook them the next day, when the deserters firing on the Indians and killing three of them, continued their route. The Indian who escaped, we learn, is a Chieftain.

Drury-Lane New Theatre measures 198 feet in length by near 150 in width. It is to be finished in September 1793—and the first performance will be there the last day of that year.

A writer in a New-York paper, addressing himself to Mr. W. Willcocks, a writer of a number of political essays, supposed to be levelled at Governor Clinton, and the antifederal party, politely advises Mr. Willcocks to "extract the political louse from his ear," which makes such a scratching on the tympanum, as leads the patient to suppose all the world to be in arms, and every one a rogue that does not believe as he does.

The audience at the Theatre in Boston, being enraged at the unseasonable interruption of the entertainment by the Sheriff's arresting Mr. Harper, broke the Arms of the Governor's to pieces, which had been fixed on one of the side boxes.

COMMUNICATIONS.

There are some of our party writers who appear to have very short memories—the men in Congress who have formed the majority on all the great questions, are called speculators—but these writers forget that these speculators have repeatedly received the suffrages of the people; they forget that all their slanderous epithets bestowed on the majority of both houses of Congress, and on the administration, headed by the President of the United States, fall ultimately on the people; they forget that while they pretend to be republicans, and yet revile the organs of the public-will, they expose the most detestable of aristocratical sentiments; they forget, that while they profess to be superior to the influence of avarice, by maligning those who possess more property than themselves, they discover more than one bad passion—Envy and Avarice united; in short, they forget that, this one opinion is deeply rooted in the mind of every consistent republican—That the leaders of parties, are in general, Tyrants in disposition.

The National Gazette gives us to understand that the mask to a party, is lost in the late contest for the office of Vice-President.—The fact is agreed, and it is not hard to guess who the losers are. A mask is certainly a convenient thing and contributes not a little to the free enjoyment of liberty of speech.—For instance, how could any man without a mask say Governor Clinton is a good federalist, and on that account to be preferred to Mr. Adams. If a physician should recommend ratf-bane to a sick man he would have need of a mask. A man that has occasion to say—Do not trust the constitution to its friends, its enemies will serve our turn better, would find his utterance greatly assisted by a mask; But if his argument should take another turn he might get along without a mask.—There is for example, no propriety in using any disguise when a man would insist that the body politic is a monster, and it is proper to cut off an arm or a leg or even an head, if it has more than one—or that it is lethargic and a little ratf-bane would give the nerves a gentle twinge. That would be speaking out plainly and with a becoming boldness.—They might even go farther and urge that for such an operation on the Constitution no friend or admirer of it would be a safe performer or surgeon. A false tenderness might prevent the proper measures of decision. Where then was the wisdom in this known desperate state of the constitution in turning our eyes to one who could be relied on to do the needful—who like Hannibal has vowed eternal hatred to Rome, and who is of a temper that neither time nor concession can change.

A certain sort of people, if old sayings are true, should have good memories. The writers for the faction are afraid of a monarchy and nobility, and a despotism—Liberty is going to suffer robbery, and maiming and rape. They hear the poor virgin's cries, and turn out very punctually like a watch to keep the peace when it is not broke, and bestow no small praise on them-

selves for making so much disturbance to keep order. They tell us too they have found out and charged the offenders—and who are they? The federalists, the idolaters of the constitution, the believers in its absolute perfection.

These idolaters, it seems, are lying in ambush for an opportunity to throw down and destroy their own idol, and to commit what they deem sacrilege—While the unbelieving anti's, who say that this idol is not divine, but mere wood and clay, are shocked at the very thought of this intended impiety. It is to be hoped for the sake of our country, that its frame of government is better put together than this story.

There is perhaps no opinion in which mankind are more generally agreed than this, that knowledge and virtue are the only durable basis of a free government. An ignorant and ferocious people, from a strong sense of personal or general injury, will often be induced to rouse from a stupid apathy under the power of despotism, and in a paroxysm of their frenzy may hur their oppressors to perdition—but like men in a storm who have thrown their compass overboard after effecting the destruction of their oppressors they are perfectly at a loss what course to steer next—the consequence has been, almost invariably, that those who have distinguished themselves the most in the work of destruction, however incompetent to contrive a system for the security of the freedom thus acquired, are vested with powers, which they seldom fail to exercise for their own particular advantage, and in the end establish a worse despotism than the people have just demolished.—These reflections may enable us to account for the unhappy issue of many of the revolutions which have taken place in the world—Ignorance can destroy what is bad, but it can never effect what is good.

The general light and information of the people of the United States enabled them justly to estimate the privileges they enjoyed previous to the late revolution—these made them alive to every attempt on the part of Great Britain to abridge and destroy those privileges. The patriots and sages of our country set before the people life and death, blessing and cursing—but their labours would have been in vain, their writings a dead letter, if the public mind had not been properly prepared to receive and justly to appreciate the words of truth and sound reasoning—had the people been ignorant, they would never have conquered their local prejudices, their almost inveterate habits, and by a singular magnanimity, which nothing but superior wisdom could have inspired, have formed that bond of union, which proved the rock of their safety, enabled them to brave the storms that beat against their freedom, and finally carried them to independence, peace, liberty and safety.

On knowledge and virtue then are raised the pillars of this rising republic—these must support the edifice—and it is the first of legislative duties to make provision to encrease, as our numbers encrease, and to perpetuate the means of knowledge among the people; and he is unworthy the name of patriot, let his pretensions be what they will, who discovers a luke-warmness on this subject.—It ought to be a perpetual object of attention to our civil fathers—and till the business is began in earnest there will remain a most unpardonable deficiency in the discharge of legislative duty—Let a beginning be made, if it is on the smallest scale it will be a beginning—and the seed once sown it will take root; the blessings of knowledge once enjoyed, become as necessary to human happiness as the light and heat of the sun are to human existence.

LOCAL PREJUDICES.

Some years ago a gentleman who came from the highlands of Scotland, was invited to dine with Mr. —, in the environs of New-York—every thing, as a stranger, was shewn to him; a pear tree on which there was some remarkable large fruit, seemed to attract his notice; Mr. — asked him if ever he had seen any of that size before, he answered decidedly that they were nothing like equal to what grew in the Duke of Argyle's garden at Inverary. Nettled with this reply he went out after dinner, while the bottle was fast plying round the table, and desired his gardener to cut some of the largest gourds or pumpkins, which he could find, and to tie them neatly with packthread, upon the branches of a tree which he pointed out; this done, when twilight approached, he told his guest, that he had forgot to shew him some pears that were certainly larger than any in Scotland—he looked up at them with astonishment, and exclaimed, I dinna doubt but what they are nearly as big as the Duke's.

A Londoner being lately at Bristol, was shewn every thing remarkable there, whether the production of nature or art. But as every thing in that city was, in his estimation unequal to any of a similar nature in London, he was at length led to St. Vincent's rocks; being asked what he thought of these stupendous monuments of natural magnificence? he replied, "they was diawting enough—but they were nothing to the London rocks."

SHIP NEWS.

ARRIVED AT THE PORT OF PHILADELPHIA. Sch'r. Weymouth, Lemedau, N. York. Isabella, M'Keever, C. Francois. Sully, Lovring, do.

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6 per Cents, 80/ 3 per Cents, 11/10 Declined, 12/4 Full shares Bank U. S. 35 per cent. prem.

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