

could mention others, if he was at liberty to do so. Under such circumstances, success is hardly to be expected;—but he knew that the merits of the motion deserved it.

He could not get down, without making one remark upon the calculations and statement of expenses in the war department, offered to the Committee by Mr. Wadsworth last Wednesday; and though the gentleman then spoke unguardedly of my calculations, I feel too much delicacy to retort. I stated at the commencement of this debate, that in 1792 there was appropriated by law for the Quarter-Master's Department,

50,000 dollars; Mr. Wadsworth states to have been in that year appropriated by law,

120,000

Difference, 70,000

I have re-examined my statement, compared it with the law, find it was correct; and there is no document in possession of the House to prove, either that his statement is so, or that mine is not so.

Indeed, the inaccuracy of his statement is explained and proved by this single circumstance: In 1792 the law appropriated 50,000 for that department, on an estimate of 2128 non-commissioned officers and privates, and in 1793, which is the most extravagant estimate we have ever had, the Secretary at war only demands for the Quarter-Master's Department, on an establishment of 5120 non-commissioned officers and privates, the sum of 100,000 dollars. Is it reasonable to suppose, that an army of 2000 men, would require more stores, than an army of 5000? Or has it been customary for that officer to lessen the demands, as the establishment encreased? The appropriation laws, and the Treasury of the United States, can answer this question. The gentleman's statement is inaccurate in more instances than this—but one is enough for my purpose. Having made this appear, Mr. Steele said he would not speak again, nor would he hold himself bound to reply to any observations that might be made, either in regard to his motion or his calculations.

Mr. Hillhouse observed, that nothing had been advanced in the whole course of this long debate, but what he had heard mentioned last winter in the house. He was then opposed in principle to a war establishment and he still retained the same opinion; but from the present complexion of affairs, it appeared to him, that he ought to submit, and give up his own opinion to the general sense of the legislature, which at present seemed to be, for persevering in the system already adopted, and which, as it had scarcely had time for a fair trial, he thought, ought not to be arrested, perhaps in the very instant when its efficacy was to be expected. If peace should not be established during the next summer, he would then join with such members as would propose a better system—but as the law provides for exercising the discretionary powers of the executive, it would be best to rely on them—a standing army he said was a thing impossible to be established in the United States whilst the House of Representatives have the power of granting money only for two years at any time; he therefore had no fears on that score. An army existing in time of peace, was the idea he had of a standing army; and not an army embodied for only a year or two; upon the whole, it would be as expensive to disband the present force, and institute another of militia, &c. as it will be to keep up the existing establishment for a little longer time; it was therefore his advice, to let the matter rest where it was, with the executive for the present. But in case of a peace not being accomplished within a reasonable period, he would join those who would be for a change in the system; and he was clearly of opinion, that a system might easily be adopted, not only to protect our frontiers by repelling the Savages, but to exterminate them altogether.

(Debate to be continued.)

SATURDAY, January 12.

Mr. Benson presented a petition from Robert Eden, a Yorkshire (England) farmer, stating that he has emigrated to the United States, and brought with him to New-York, a stock of horses and cattle of the first quality; for which he was charged 7 1/2 per cent. import, and for which he has been obliged to give security. The prayer of the petition is for an exemption of duty, and to extend a similar benefit to such of his countrymen as may emigrate to the United States; many of whom, he intimates, are inclined to come hither, and to import part of their most valuable stock. Ordered, that Mr. Eden's petition be referred to a select committee, Messrs. Benson, Madison, and Sedgwick.

Two petitions from the files of the last house were referred to select committees, viz. of Abraham Kimberly, and of Francis Keller; each praying a grant of land on the river Ohio.

The Secretary of the Treasury's report on the petition of Griffith Jones, was referred to a select committee.

The petitions of Ludwig Kuhn, and Ebenezer Foster, were referred to the Treasury Department.

The House took into consideration the subject of the resolutions for loaning the balances which may appear to be due from the United States to the individual States. On this a lengthy debate took place.

The resolutions were finally amended to read thus—

Resolved, That a loan to the amount of the balance which (upon a final settlement of accounts) shall be found due from the United States to the individual States, be opened at the Loan Offices in the respective States, to commence within months after the said balances shall be reported at the Treasury, and to continue open for the term of months from the time of its commencement: Provided that no such loan shall be opened in any State without the assent of the Legislature thereof, by an act approving of the measure.

Resolved, That the sums to be subscribed to such loans, be payable in the principal or interest of the certificates or notes issued by any such of the said States, as (upon the final settlement of accounts) shall have a balance due to them from the United States, and which shall have

been liquidated to specie value, prior to the day of last.

Resolved, That every subscriber to the said loan, shall be entitled to certificates, according to the sum subscribed, of the like tenor and descriptions, in the like proportions, and upon the like terms, as are specified and directed by the fifteenth and sixteenth sections of act the aintituled, "An act making provision for the debt of the United States," except, that interest on such of the certificates, subscribed to the said loan, as bear interest, shall be computed to the last day of the year one thousand seven hundred and ninety-three, inclusively, and that interest shall not begin to accrue upon any of the certificates which shall be issued in lieu thereof till the first day of January, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-four.

Resolved, That in all cases, where the sum subscribed in the evidence of the debt of any State, shall exceed the balance due to such State, the same shall be reduced (in equal proportions) to the sum actually due to such State.

The resolutions as thus amended, being adopted by the House, a committee consisting of the following members, viz. Messrs. Fitzsimons, Sedgwick, and Smith, S. C. was appointed to report a bill. Adjourned.

MONDAY, JANUARY 14.

A report was read on the petition of Elijah Bostwick, which was in favour of the petitioner.

Mr. Lawrence presented the petition of the officers of the Delaware line of the late continental army. Read and referred to the committee of the whole.

Mr. Parker presented the petition of Thomas Wihart, a serjeant in the Virginia line of the late army. Read and referred to the Secretary of War.

The bill for settling the claims of persons not barred by any act of limitation, and which have not been heretofore adjusted, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

The House proceeded in the discussion of the bill to regulate trade and intercourse with the Indian tribes. Several amendments were proposed and discussed. Some of these were agreed to, and then, by general consent, the bill was laid on the table till to-morrow.

Mr. Hartley laid the following motion on the table, That a committee be appointed to prepare and report a bill to make provision of half pay for the widows and orphans of such officers of the army of the United States who may have been killed since the third day of June, 1784, or who may be hereafter killed in the service of the United States.

A message was received from the President of the U. S. by Mr. Lear, his Secretary, informing the House that he has approved and signed two acts which originated in the House, viz. an act to amend the act for establishing a mint, and to regulate the coins of the United States, so far as respects the coinage of copper—and an act for granting interest on a claim allowed by a resolution of the late Congress, as an indemnification to the persons therein mentioned.

Mr. Boudinot moved for the order of the day, on the Bankrupt Law—The importance of this subject to the general interest, and that of a number of individuals in several of the states, who, by reason of the state governments being precluded from passing bankrupt laws, are in a very distressed situation, was urged by several of the members. It was further observed, that it had long been before Congress, and if it was not taken up at the present session, it was very problematical whether it would be completed at the next session.

In opposition to the motion it was observed, that though the business has been a long time on the carpet, yet it had not been reduced to any specific form till very lately—that the bill had been laid before the public for the express purpose of collecting the general sense of the people on the subject—sufficient time has not elapsed for this purpose, and therefore it was not possible for the legislature to proceed in the business, aided by the general sense of their constituents relative thereto.

The motion was at length withdrawn, and, on motion of Mr. Gerry, the House resolved itself into a committee of the whole (Mr. Dayton in the chair) and took into consideration the memorials of the officers of the several lines of the late army, on the subject of a deficiency of their pay. The several memorials were, from the N. Hampshire, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland lines. The New Hampshire and Pennsylvania Memorials being read,

Mr. Gerry said, in order to bring the subject before the committee, he should move the following resolution, viz. Resolved, as the opinion of this committee, that the contract between Congress and a part of the officers and soldiers of the armies raised for the establishment of the Independence of the United States, has not been fulfilled on the part of Congress.

This motion, was seconded by Mr. Parker. Mr. Gerry accompanied his motion by several observations, in which he shewed that a depreciated medium could never be considered as an equivalent for services and supplies which were contracted to be paid for in specie.

Several members objected to the indefiniteness of this resolution. They suggested the propriety of the mover's bringing forward a sketch of the plan for which he intended the resolution as a basis.

Mr. Madison suggested a variation of the proposition to the simple question on the propriety of granting the prayer of the petitions.

After several observations from other members, and the Chairman had remarked that the resolution of Mr. Gerry was not in order, as referring to a part of the officers, whereas the memorials made no distinction.

Mr. Clark moved, in order to take the sense of the committee, the following, Resolved, as the opinion of this committee, that the prayer of the petitions of officers of several lines of the

late American army, cannot be granted, and that the petitioners have leave to withdraw their petitions.

This motion occasioned a debate. Mr. Madison, Mr. Baldwin and Mr. Mercer, sustained the general prayer of the petitions. Mr. Clark opposed it. Some gentlemen opposed the form of the motion, as tending to cramp the discussion of the business. It was suggested to the mover, the eligibility of suspending it.

After some further remarks, Mr. Clark moved that the committee should rise. The committee accordingly rose, and had leave to sit again. Adjourned.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 15.

An engrossed bill, relative to claims against the United States, not barred by any act of limitation, and which have not heretofore been adjusted, was read the third time and passed.

Mr. Fitzsimons reported a bill to authorize a loan, payable in the certificates or notes of such states, as shall have balances due to them on a final settlement of accounts with the United States—read twice, and committed for Monday next.

A report in favor of William Seymour was read, and laid on the table.

Mr. Greenup called up his motion for a committee to report a bill, for placing on the pension list such officers and soldiers of the militia as have been, or may be wounded or disabled in the service of the United States, and who are not provided for by law—this motion was referred to a committee of the whole House, for Thursday next.

The bill to regulate trade and intercourse with the Indian tribes, was again taken into consideration—Mr. Madison read an amendment, which he proposed as a substitute for the 8th section, which refers to purchases of lands from the Indians—this, with a proviso to another section, moved by Mr. Greenup, was laid on the table.

Mr. Smith called up the memorial of sundry merchants of South-Carolina, stating the losses they sustained by the depreciation of paper money, and the peculiar hardships they are exposed to in consequence thereof, by the 4th article of the treaty of peace with Great-Britain—and praying relief in the premises.—This memorial being read, Mr. Smith moved that it should be referred to the committee of the whole

on the petitions of the officers of the late army.—This motion occasioned a debate; those who opposed it, contended that it was a distinct and different case from that of the officers—that it involved a very different investigation and could not therefore be connected with it—it appeared to be designed to embarrass and perplex the application of the officers.

In support of the motion, a variety of reasons were adduced to shew that the cases were parallel—and that there was no propriety in making a distinction between different classes of citizens in their applications for relief in similar cases.—After considerable debate, it was moved that the ayes and noes should be called on the motion: This motion was arrested by the previous question being moved, in the following words—'Shall the main question be now put?'—this was determined in the affirmative, yeas 30, nays 24. The main question for the reference was then put, and negative—ayes 24, noes 30.

The house then went into a committee of the whole on the petitions of the Officers.

Mr. Dayton in the chair.

Mr. Clark withdrew his motion for a rejection of the prayer of the petitions, laid on the table yesterday—Mr. Gerry then offered another proposition in lieu of the resolution he moved yesterday, which is to the following purport—

That provision ought to be made for the petitioners to the amount of the difference between the value in the market, of funded and unfunded debt; an amendment was moved by Mr. Clark to incorporate in the proposition these words—'all such citizens who have received liquidated certificates for services performed and supplies furnished on account of the United States.'—This amendment was agreed to—the committee then rose, and had leave to sit again—and the House adjourned.

Foreign Affairs.

P A R I S, November 2.

M. PETION has just published an able letter to the Society of Jacobins, in which among other paragraphs, the following are very remarkable.

"I saved the club at the time of the famous schism.—Roberpierre, who then had the reputation of being a patriot, did not however enjoy that kind of weight which confidence gives a man in the conduct of political affairs. I have seen Roberpierre tremble, wanting to get away, and afraid to shew himself in the Assembly. Ask him if ever I trembled. I have saved Roberpierre himself from destruction by sticking by him, when every body else had deserted him.

"I declare that I know not a faction called Brissot's: that faction is a chimera, and there is not a man less fit to be at the head of a party than Brissot. I declare that the Jacobin Club has done great service, that it can still render more important ones, and that I will support it with all my might, but without prejudice; that I will adopt its opinions when I think them good, and will combat them when I think them bad."

Two deputies from Frankfort have appeared at the bar of the Convention, presenting a petition from that city to be released from the fine imposed upon them by M. de Custine. Their memorial was referred to the Diplomatic Committee.

M. de Custine had ordered the horses and equipage of the Elector of Mentz, found by him in that city, to be publicly sold, on the 10th instant.

The advanced guard of the central army, now to be commanded by M. Bournonville, marched the 6th instant from Mentz to reinforce M. de Custine. The main body followed on the 7th and 8th.

The artillery found at Mons consisted of 97 brass cannon, 19 brass mortars and 14 howitzers; 107 iron cannon. There were also 3000 bombs, 300,000 bullets, and 1500 muskets.

The emigrants were all executed yesterday in the Place de Caroussel, excepting four servants, who were not taken with arms in their hands, and were therefore acquitted. They all shewed the utmost fortitude; some of them declared they died with pleasure for their King, yet these men declared on their trials, that they never intended to bear arms against the Republic. Their execution did not occasion any commotion, as was dreaded.

To-day we expect the report of the committee on the Decree of Accusation against Marat. The cause of France will not only be avenged without, but some reparation of the national honor is about to be made within. More blood may be shed in Paris, but it will be that of the murderers of the 2d and 3d of September.

H A G U E, October 23.

The Austrian Generals have had the prudence to take care of their troops, who were never suffered to be in want of any thing, whilst the Prussians experienced the utmost want, both for themselves and their horses. This appears to have been the principal cause of that coolness which has taken place between the commanders of the allied armies. In vain did the Prussians implore assistance from their allies; the latter lent a deaf ear to their entreaties, and extricated themselves from that mire in which the others perished. Of 80,000 men whom the King of Prussia furnished, not more than 20,000 men will return to that country. His cavalry are quite ruined. This is an absolute fact, which may be relied upon.

L E W E S, November 5.

Apartments have been engaged in the Brighton packets for the conveyance of Ninety more Nuns from France, and for whose arrival curiosity is daily on the look out. They are not turned adrift without any provision, an annuity of 25 pounds each being allowed them by the French.

C A L A I S.

The ardour of Patriotism, for which Calais has been so properly celebrated, continues with improving zeal!—If there ever was a community of men unanimous, it is in this populous town. Paine, our deputy, in all his intercourse with our municipality carries it on in English.

M R. PAINE'S LETTER.

The following is the letter which Mr. Paine, being ignorant of the French language, transmitted on Saturday last, to the National Convention of France.

"Citizen President, I have the happiness of transmitting to the National Convention, the testimonies of gratitude of the department of Pays du Calais, for the decree which abolishes Royalty in France.

"In the midst of the satisfaction, which the regeneration of France inspires, they cannot withhold from lamenting the folly of their ancestors, which made it necessary for them ferociously to combat a phantom.

(Signed,) THOMAS PAINE."

L O N D O N, November 5.

General Anselm's sister commands a body of 1500 men. The gallantry of the army files her an impersonification of Liberty.

Church Lands in France.—Disney Fitch, a Lincolnshire gentleman, has laid out upwards of 100,000l. and Sir John Gallini has stepped into a purchase of 30,000l.

The Parisians are about to give a grand triumphal Fete, upon account of the evacuation of the French Territories, by the combined armies. All the Sections are to be advisers in the business.

The accounts received from Sierra-Leone by the Duke of Savoy, Capt. Hoffman, are of a very favorable nature.