

CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Monday, December 15.

Mr. New, of the committee on enrolled bills, reported, that the bill entitled "An act to explain and amend the twenty-second section of the act establishing the judicial courts of the United States," was on Friday, laid before the President for his approbation.

Mr. Nicholas brought in a report on the measures taken for the defence of the frontier, and what further steps are necessary for supporting the military establishment of the United States.—Read a first and second time, ordered to be printed, and referred to a committee of the whole house to-morrow.

In committee of the whole on Mr. Blount's motion for a reduction of the pay of the officers of militia.

This motion occasioned a short debate. It was opposed on the ground of policy, and as creating a disagreeable distinction between the officers of the militia and the officers of the regular troops. The arguments in favour of the motion were derived from the inequality between the pay of the officers and privates. The proposition being reduced to these words—"Resolved, as the opinion of this committee, that the pay of the militia officers ought to be reduced"—after a few additional observations pro and con, the committee disagreed to the resolution, and reported accordingly. In the house the yeas and nays were called on the question for agreeing to the report of the committee of the whole—and was determined in the affirmative—Yeas 50.

Nays 29. The resolution for reducing the pay was consequently lost.

In committee of the whole on the estimates of appropriation; the estimate for payment of the militia on the late expedition was considered; this part of the estimate being gone through with, a resolution was proposed, for appropriating the sums stated therein—the sum was on further consideration left blank; the resolution being reported to the house and agreed to, a bill was ordered to be brought in.

Mr. W. Smith, of the committee appointed for the purpose, brought in a report on the means proper to be adopted, for accelerating the discharge of the public debt—this was twice read, and referred to the committee of the whole on Thursday—interim, to be printed for the use of the house.

A bill to amend the naturalization law, was brought in, twice read, and committed for Monday next.

In committee of the whole on the report of the Secretary of State, to whom had been referred during the last session the petition of Stephen Sayre.—This petition is for compensation for services rendered the United States in various parts of Europe during the late war.—Many objections were urged against the prayer of this petition or memorial. The petitioner brought forward claims for services on different occasions—as being influential in producing the armed neutrality, &c.—this was controverted; and the petitioner's silence during the life time of Dr. Franklin and Mr. Arthur Lee, who would have been the best evidences in support of his claims, was objected to as an essential deficiency.—Mr. Parker, who supported the petition, said that the petitioner's absence from this country precluded the opportunity of making use of the testimony alluded to. After some further remarks the committee rose, and on putting the question for leave to sit again, it was carried in the affirmative—37 to 33. Adjourned.

Tuesday, December 16.

The house resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. Cobb in the chair, and took up the bill for the relief of Tobias Rudolph.

This bill was founded on a report in favour of his petition, as legal representative of his brother, for payment of money advanced on public account.—After some debate, the committee rose, reported progress, and asked leave to sit again; this request was negatived, and the petition, on motion, was referred to the committee of claims.

A message was received from the President of the United States by Mr. Dandridge, with sundry communications relative to the intercourse of the United States with foreign nations.

A message from the Senate by Mr. Otis informed the House, that the Senate concur in passing the bill, authorizing the President to borrow two millions of dollars.

A number of petitions were read and referred to the committee of claims.

On motion, a committee consisting of Mr. Gilman and Mr. Preston were appointed to wait on the President of the United States, to request information respecting the progress made in building the frigates.

In committee of the whole on the report of the Secretary of State, to whom had been referred the petition of Stephen Sayre, after some remarks on the subject, on motion, the committee of the whole was discharged from any further proceedings in the business. The report on the petition being taken up in the house was disagreed to, and leave given to withdraw the petition.

In committee of the whole on the reported resolution, for indemnification to the sufferers by the western insurrection, after some debate the resolution was agreed to; and the same reported to the house.

A bill was brought in, making an appropriation for payment of the militia employed in the late expedition to Fort Pitt—this was read twice, and referred to the committee of the whole on Monday next.

Legislature of Pennsylvania.

IN SENATE, December 10.

THE report of the committee, as amended, was agreed to, and so it was Resolved, That, for carrying into execution the ninth section of the first article of the constitution of this commonwealth, the Senate shall, in the first instance, be formed into divisions to be composed of four Members each; that the first of these divisions shall consist of the Senators representing the city and county of Philadelphia and the county of Delaware; the second division of the Senators from the counties of Bucks, Montgomery and Chester; the third of the Senators from the counties of Northampton, Berks, Dauphin and Cumberland; the fourth of the Senators from the counties of Lancaster and York; the fifth of the Senators from the counties of Luzerne, Northumberland, Mifflin, Franklin, Huntingdon and Bedford; and the sixth of the Senators from the counties of Westmoreland, Fayette, Washington and Allegheny. That the Senators composing each of these divisions, shall then proceed to draw lots successively in the following manner: Four tickets, on one of which shall be written First class, on another Second class, on another Third class, on another Fourth class, shall, in the presence of the Senate, be folded, put into a box and shaken together; immediately after which the Senators composing the first division shall proceed in the order in which their names stand in the roll, to draw out of the box one of the said tickets, and shall be ranked in the first, second, third, or fourth class, according to the inscription on the tickets drawn by them respectively, which shall be duly noted by the Clerk, and by Tellers appointed for that purpose; the Senators composing the second division shall proceed, after the same form, to draw other tickets, inscribed in like manner, and so on with the other divisions.

The Clerk shall then proceed to declare aloud, and afterwards to record on the Journal, which Senators have respectively drawn tickets of the first, second, third and fourth classes. After which, agreeably to the constitution, the Senators of the first class will be considered as holding their places for one year from the time of their election; those of the second class for two years; those of the third for three years; and those of the fourth for four years; and if, hereafter, any Senator, by death, resignation, or otherwise, shall vacate his seat before the expiration of the term of the class to which he belongs, his successor shall be considered as taking his place in his class, and shall accordingly hold his seat until the seats of the other Senators of that class shall become vacant.

If all, or any, of the Senators belonging to either of the said divisions, shall be absent at the time appointed by the Senate for proceeding to draw lots, as aforesaid, such absent Senators shall draw their respective lots, as soon as may be after they shall attend to take their places in the Senate; for the accomplishment of which, copies of the undrawn tickets of their respective divisions shall be put into a box, in manner aforesaid, which shall be repeated as often as may be necessary, until all the Senators shall be classed.

Thursday, Dec. 11.

The Senate met according to adjournment.

According to the order of the day, the Senate proceeded to class the Senators; & Mr. Brown and Mr. Newlin having been appointed Tellers, the Senators composing the several classes, now present, respectively

draw tickets, according to the regulation adopted by the Senate, as follow, to wit.

First Division. William Bingham drew Fourth Class Robert Hare First Class Nathaniel Newlin Second Class Joseph Thomas Third Class

Second Division. Lindlay Coats Third Class Thomas Jenks Second Class Zebulon Potts First Class Dennis Whelen Fourth Class

Third Division. Robert Brown First Class Gabriel Heister Second Class John Kean Fourth Class

Samuel Postlethwaite, named in the return for the county of Cumberland, not being present, one ticket in the third division remained in the box undrawn, to wit, Third Class.

Fourth Division. Nathaniel Ellmaker drew Second Class Thomas Lilly Third Class Michael Schmyser First Class

John Miller, named in the return of the county for Lancaster, not being present, one ticket in the fourth division remained in the box undrawn, to wit, Fourth class

Fifth Division. William Hepburn drew Second Class Thomas Johnston First Class George Willson Fourth Class

The return of the district of the counties of Huntingdon and Bedford not having been received, one ticket in the fifth division remained in the box undrawn, to wit, Third Class.

Sixth Division. John Moore drew Fourth Class William Todd First Class

The return for the district of the counties of Washington and Allegheny not having been received, two tickets in the sixth division remained in the box undrawn to wit, Second Class and Third Class.

The clerk then proceeded to declare aloud which Senators have respectively, drawn tickets of the first, second, third & fourth classes, and to record the same on the Journal as follow, to wit.

1 Robert Brown, 2 Robert Hare, 3 Thomas Johnston, 4 Zebulon Potts, 5 Michael Schmyser, & 6 William Todd, } Drew the First Class.

1 Nathaniel Ellmaker, 2 William Hepburn, 3 Gabriel Heister, 4 Thomas Jenks, & 5 Nathaniel Newlin, } Drew the Second Class

1 Lindlay Coats, 2 Thomas Lilly, & 3 Joseph Thomas, } Drew the Third Class.

1 William Bingham, 2 John Kean, 3 John Moore, 4 Dennis Whelen, & 5 George Willson, } Drew the Fourth Class.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Thursday, 11th December.

On motion of Mr. Evans and seconded by Mr. M'Murtrie—

Resolved, That an enquiry be instituted into the cause which prevented a prompt and effectual compliance with the requisition of the President of the United States, for a certain number of the militia of this commonwealth to suppress an insurrection in the four western counties of this state; and also to ascertain as nearly as possible how far the provisions of the militia law operated oppressively, and require the interference of the legislature to mitigate its unequal hardships on the poor.

Friday, 12th December.

A committee was appointed to take into consideration the propriety of a new organization of the Treasury department of this state. The committee are Messrs. Wain, Forrest, Christie, Ritchie and Evans.

THIS DAY, 16th December.

A Committee waited on the Governor with the following address. TO THOMAS MIFFLIN Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

SIR, IMPRESSED with sentiments of gratitude and exultation, as the Representatives of a free people, and as friends to the happiness of mankind, we congratulate you on the triumph of order, and the return of peace.

The spectacle exhibited by our fellow-citizens, in their zealous and patriotic exertions to support a government erected by their own will, shews at once their just sense of the blessings it has conferred on them, and affords a practical refutation to the theories of those who have considered requisite energy incompatible with the freedom of a republican government.

To perpetuate the blessings we at present enjoy, it is essentially necessary that the people should know their rights, and be able justly to appreciate the extent of their happiness—ignorance having been found the usual basis of error, and the growth of knowledge being

that alone on which truth cannot be shaken. Induced by this belief, the framers of our constitution have wisely directed the Legislature to provide for public instruction, so that the paths of useful science might be alike open to the indigent and the wealthy. It has thus become our constitutional duty to undertake this great work, and we flatter ourselves we shall not want either zeal or perseverance in endeavouring to place it on a broad and permanent foundation.

We are sensible, that although the occasions of resorting from the political to the physical strength of society must be diminished by diffusing of knowledge yet from the passions and imperfections of our nature, cases may arise, in which such a resort will be inevitable. It therefore becomes incumbent on us to place the military arrangements of Pennsylvania on a footing as efficient as a due regard to the convenience of our constituents, and a just conformity to the laws of the United States, will permit.

The rapid progress of population, and the numerous settlements making in the hitherto uncultivated parts of our state, must evince to the Legislature the policy of continuing to facilitate the means of intercourse, by making of roads, and by a judicious and liberal improvement of the numerous waters, with which nature has so bountifully invited Pennsylvania to enjoy the benefits of inland navigation.

In pursuing as well these as the less important objects of the present session, many obstacles will be removed, and our progress facilitated, by the abundant state of the Treasury. This pleasing evidence of public prosperity, as it affords the means, ought, and we trust will help, to excite in all invested with the sacred character of Guardians to the People, a laudable emulation and strenuous endeavour to increase and confirm their happiness.

Foreign Intelligence.

MADRID, Aug. 20.

The progress of the French arms having rendered the levy of National Militia a measure of absolute necessity, general Colomera, commander in chief of the armies of Navarre and Guipuzcoa, has published the following address to the General Assembly of the States of Biscay:

"The enemy having received large reinforcements, and having penetrated to Trun; I was obliged to retire with the troops under my orders as far as the village of Hernani, and thence to Tortosa, where I received the news that Fontarabia and St. Sebastian had surrendered without making any resistance. I am assured that the Alcaides (baillifs), and the inhabitants of these places even contributed to the success of the enemy, and I even entertain the same suspicions of the deputies of the provinces of Guipuzcoa, since there are proofs that they drew off such of the inhabitants as were armed, and besides furnished no intelligence of the movements of the enemy; but if it be true that they have submitted to them, they cannot fail of experiencing the destruction of their property, and the ranks which they enjoy, but also the destruction of the wisest laws and of the religion of their ancestors.

"These circumstances which are in truth of the greatest import, require a speedy remedy and extraordinary exertions.

"Loyalty and love for our august and beneficent sovereign are equally interested, and on that account I have no doubt that you will, with your accustomed fidelity, remedy such great evils by uniting all your force for the defence of the frontiers, and by succouring me with such troops as you can send (mine not exceeding 4000 men) in order to enable me to maintain my present position, to check the enemy, and to prevent them from any further progress.

(Signed) The Count de Colomera. Tortosa, Aug. 6.

Reply of the General Assembly of the States of Biscay,

"The States, animated with a determination to shed the last drop of their blood in defence of religion, of his majesty, and of the noble and faithful provinces of Biscay, decree, That the inhabitants requested for the military service, shall be divided into three corps. The first shall assemble at Tortosa, and join the troops under the command of general Colomera; and the troops which the province of Alaba has destined for the same place, in order to prevent the progress of the enemy, and to repulse them in such a manner as shall be agreed upon by the general and commissioners appointed for this purpose.

"The second corps shall be stationed on the frontier of Biscay, and the third shall remain as a corps de reserves, in order to watch the current of events. The States observe, that the corps which shall be at Tortosa shall be relieved after a month's effective service. The corps de reserve shall then take the place of the first corps, and in like manner shall be relieved after a month's service. The recruits shall consist of persons between the age of 17

and 20.—The States have determined that the service shall be personal, and that every person on whom the lot may fall, shall be required to attend without being permitted to send a substitute.

"They have also determined that they will take the most efficacious measures for procuring the return of such of the natives of the provinces as are now absent, by levying in case of necessity, upon their property, the expenses of the necessary requisitions in order to oblige them to return. In future no person will be permitted to leave the province under the penalty established by the General Assembly of the 6th May of this year.

"Finally they have resolved, that as far as relates to sea-ports, an exception shall be made in favor of persons employed in the marine service, according to the enumeration made last in the General Assembly."

UNITED STATES.

NEW-YORK Dec. 13.

MARINE INTELLIGENCE.

ARRIVED,

Brig Peru, O'Brien Teneriffe

Extract from the Log-Book of the Brig Peru, Captain O'Brien, in 37 days from Teneriffe.

Dec. 6. 3 P. M. saw a sail a head with her starboard tacks on board, close hauled; at half past 5 came up and spoke her; she was an English ship from St. Augustine in Florida, bound to Hamburg; she mounted 10 guns; the Capt. of which informed us there were a number of French privateers on the coast, and said he had a severe engagement the night before with one of them, and beat her off.

8th. At 4 o'clock P. M. saw a scho. to leeward; bore away for her, at 6 spoke her—she was bound from Port-au-Prince to Philadelphia, 6 days from the Keys: she informed us, that the French had got the entire possession of Guadaloupe, and had also taken Port Paix on Hispaniola; he likewise said, they hourly expected in the West-Indies a formidable French fleet, for the purpose of subduing the West-Indies.

When the Capt. was at Teneriffe, a Spanish ship of 120 guns put into Lazareto, who had an engagement with a French 74—and had her masts and rigging so disabled that she could with difficulty get into port.

PHILADELPHIA,

DECEMBER 17.

Says a Correspondent,

There is no doubt the people wish to support their own Government. Their own understandings and the experience of a million spent for an insurrection ought to teach them that the way, the only way, to have it maintained is to choose members of Congress of such as had rather hold it up than pull it down.

Human nature has not ceased to be human nature since the Roman times. Crassus, Pompey and Cæsar combined together, as our leaders of parties have done. Their united influence silenced the laws, brow-beat the Senate, and the best men in Rome such as Cato, Cicero, Lucullus, and ruled the assemblies of the people by violence and mobs. Cæsar was the fiercest Democrat—the friend of the people, their champion against the Senate, the contriver and public orator for every rash decree of the assembly of the people. He squandered his money in public shows and bribes, till he was bankrupt. Crassus who was immensely rich, stood bound for him two hundred thousand pounds sterling. So much do I want, said Cæsar, to be worth nothing. The whole power of the Republic fell into the hands of this self-created combination. Powerful men, seeing what they could do by thus joining together, followed the example, and Roman liberty fell to rise no more. Americans should draw security from the fate of others. The Romans were as much attached to liberty, as proud and stiff-necked as any people ever were. Liberty never had and perhaps never will have better nor wiser defenders than Cato and Cicero, and that crowd of worthies whose blood was shed for it. Yet all was in vain. Combinations of men become stronger than the laws. The stiff Roman neck bore a yoke—that sovereign people as they were called, became slaves.

Citizens, demagogues are tyrants in masks—The enemies of the laws are the assassins of liberty.

Extract from a French publication, entitled, "The Last Shift of the Jacobins who have not a Son?" which throws some light on their proceedings.

From the time that the society saw the truth about to be divulged, and the