

PHILADELPHIA.
CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

SATURDAY, March 24.

An engrossed "bill, for ascertaining the bounds of a tract of land purchased by J. C. Simms," was read a third time, passed, and sent to the Senate for their concurrence.

An engrossed "bill for finishing a light-house on Bald-Head, at the mouth of Cape Fear-river, in the state of N. Carolina," was also read a third time, passed, and sent to the Senate for their concurrence,—the blank, for the sum appropriated, being filled with *four thousand dollars*.

A "bill (from the Senate) to alter the times of holding the Circuit Courts in certain districts of the United States, and for other purposes," was read a second time, and ordered for commitment on Monday next.

In committee of the whole House (Mr. Seney in the chair) the "bill supplemental to the act for making further and more effectual provision for the protection of the United States," was considered and amended.

The House adopted the amendment, and passed the bill, as follows:

"Be it enacted, &c. That it shall be lawful for the President of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to appoint such number of brigadier generals, as may be conducive to the good of the public service: Provided the whole number appointed, or to be appointed, shall not exceed four."

A memorial from sundry merchants of the city of Philadelphia, importers of dry goods, petitioning against an increase of the import duties, and praying that a longer term may be allowed for the payment of the duties,—was referred to the committee of the whole on the Secretary's report of ways and means.

A "bill to extend the time heretofore granted for the payment of the duties on certain teas imported after the 3d day of March, 1791"—was twice read and ordered for commitment on Wednesday next.

The House again resolved itself into a committee of the whole—[Mr. Seney in the chair]—on the bill, sent from the Senate, to establish a mint and regulate the coins of the United States; and having made one amendment, rose and reported the bill, as amended.

The House immediately proceeding to consider the report of the committee, and having amended the amendment, on the question for adopting it as amended, a division was called for; and

The question being first taken on striking out a clause directing the gold and silver coins to be impressed on one side with a "Representation of the head of the President of the United States for the time being, with an inscription expressing the initial or first letter of his Christian or first name, and his surname at length, the succession of the Presidency numerically, and the year of the coinage,"—it passed in the affirmative—yeas 26, nays 22.

Yeas—Messrs. Baldwin, Clark, Fitzsimons, Giles, Gregg, Heister, Key, Kitchell, Kittera, Lorraine, Lee, Macon, Madison, Moore, Niles, Page, Seney, J. Smith, Sterrett, Sumpter, Tredwell, Tucker, Venable, White, Williamson, Willis.

Nays—Messrs. Barnwell, Benson, Boudinot, S. Bourne, B. Bourne, Brown, Gilman, Goodhue, Hartley, Hillhouse, Huger, Jacobs, Learned, Livermore, Schoonmaker, Sedgwick, W. Smith, Sturges, Sylvester, Thatcher, Wadsworth, Ward.

The question was then taken on substituting an emblematic figure of liberty, with an inscription of the word 'LIBERTY,'—and passed also in the affirmative; yeas 42, nays 6.

Yeas—Messrs. Baldwin, Barnwell, B. Bourne, Brown, Clark, Fitzsimons, Giles, Gilman, Goodhue, Gregg, Hartley, Heister, Hillhouse, Huger, Jacobs, Key, Kitchell, Kittera, Lorraine, Lee, Madison, Macon, Moore, Niles, Page, Schoonmaker, Sedgwick, Seney, J. Smith, W. Smith, Sterrett, Sturges, Sumpter, Sylvester, Tredwell, Tucker, Venable, Wadsworth, Ward, White, Williamson, Willis.

Nays—Messrs. Benson, Boudinot, S. Bourne, Learned, Livermore, Thatcher.

The bill was then ordered for a third reading on Monday next.

The chief objection to having the coins marked with the head of the President for the time being, was, that it favors too much of monarchy, and would ill become the majesty of an independent people enjoying a free republican government, thus to idolize the features of an individual; and would besides be holding out an additional temptation to ambitious men, whose pride might be flattered by the prospect of having their faces consigned to immortality, in gold and silver.

Those gentlemen, on the other hand, who coincided in opinion with the Senate, thought it by no means derogatory to a republic, to have their money stamped with

the likeness of their chief magistrate:—that by agreeing with the Senate, they would give our President, as well as our coin, a greater degree of respectability in foreign countries, and would pay him a compliment which could not give umbrage to any citizen of the United States.

Our present chief-magistrate (it was answered) has indeed a just title to every mark of respect; nor would any objection be made to stamping his image, as the mark of respectability, on our coins, provided his features were forever to be retained. But the framers of the bill intended no such compliment; on the contrary, they had expressly provided, that his head should, in the common course of events, make room in a short time, for that of—no body knows whom—a Nero perhaps, a Caligula, or a Heliogabalus.

Mr. S. Bourne, from the committee of enrollment, presented the Representation bill duly enrolled, and Mr. Speaker signed the same. Adjourned.

MONDAY, March 26.

Mr. Giles laid on the table the following resolution, declaring at the same time, that it was far from his intention to criminate or reflect upon the character of any person concerned:—

"Resolved, That the President of the United States be requested to institute an enquiry into the causes of the late defeat of the army under the command of Major General St. Clair; and also into the causes of the detentions or delays, which attended the money, cloathing, provisions, and military stores for the use of the said army; and into such other causes, as may in any manner have been productive of the said defeat."

The "bill (from the Senate) establishing a mint, and regulating the coins of the United States," was read a third time, and passed, with the amendments, substituting an emblematic figure of LIBERTY, as the device on one side of the gold and silver coins.

On the passage of the bill, the yeas were 32, nays 22.

Yeas—Messrs. Ames, Ashe, Baldwin, Barnwell, Benson, Boudinot, S. Bourne, B. Bourne, Brown, Gerry, Gilman, Goodhue, Hartley, Heister, Huger, Key, Kittera, Lorraine, Learned, Livermore, Mercer, Muhlenberg, Page, Sedgwick, W. Smith, Sterrett, Sturges, Sylvester, Vining, Wadsworth, Ward, Williamson.

Nays—Messrs. Clarke, Findley, Giles, Gordon, Grove, Hillhouse, Jacobs, Kitchell, Lee, Macon, Madison, Moore, Niles, Parker, Schoonmaker, Seney, J. Smith, Sumpter, Thatcher, Tredwell, Venable, White.

The bill and the amendments were then sent to the Senate, and, in some time after,

A message from the Senate was delivered by Mr. Secretary Otis, notifying that they had considered the said amendment, and disagreed to it.

The House proceeding to consider the said message,

A motion was made to recede from the amendment.

Hereupon ensued a debate of considerable length, in which the advocates of the President's Head used a variety of arguments, some of a serious nature, others altogether ludicrous; and took much pains to convince gentlemen of opposite sentiments, that the point in dispute was a mere bagatelle, and hardly worth contending about:—while, on the other hand, it was strenuously maintained, that trifling as the matter might be in appearance, it was nevertheless worthy of serious attention, being an insidious attack on Republicanism, calculated to sap the principles of the people, and gradually to reconcile them to monarchy.

On the question for receding, the Yeas 24, the Nays 32.

Yeas—Messrs. Ames, Barnwell, Benson, Boudinot, S. Bourne, B. Bourne, Fitzsimons, Gerry, Gilman, Goodhue, Hartley, Huger, Hillhouse, Jacobs, Kittera, Learned, Livermore, Sedgwick, W. Smith, Sturges, Sylvester, Thatcher, Wadsworth, Ward—24.

Nays—Messrs. Ashe, Baldwin, Brown, Clarke, Giles, Gordon, Gregg, Griffin, Grove, Heister, Key, Kitchell, Lee, Macon, Madison, Mercer, Moore, Murray, Niles, Page, Parker, Seney, J. Smith, I. Smith, Steele, Sumpter, Tredwell, Tucker, Venable, Vining, White, Williamson—32.

A motion being then made, that the House should adhere to their amendment, the question was carried in the affirmative.

Mr. Secretary Otis informed the House that the Senate had agreed to the proposed amendment to the Bill respecting the Brigadier Generals.

The committee of enrollment reported, that they had this day presented the Representation Bill to the President of the United States, for his approbation.

Pursuant to the order of the day, the House again resolved itself into a committee of the whole, (Mr. Seney in the chair) on the report of the select committee, on the Memorial of the Directors of the Ohio Company; and after some debate, the committee rose, and reported sundry resolutions,

one of which was rejected by the House, and the others adopted, as follows:

"Resolved, That a title ought to be made to the Ohio Company, for so much of the lands in their contracts, as they have actually paid for:—"

"That in addition to the above quantity of land, there be also granted to the said Company 214,285 acres (being the proportion, they were, by a resolve of Congress, authorized to pay in army rights) upon their delivering to the Secretary of the Treasury, army rights sufficient for the purpose:—"

"That there be also granted to the said Company, in addition to the aforementioned tracts, 100000 acres, to make good 1000 lots of 100 acres each, appropriated by the Company as bounties to such as might become settlers within the said purchase; upon condition nevertheless, that the said company shall make good such bounties as well to future settlers, as to those already settled:—"

"That a title be made to the said company, for the remainder of the said 1500000 acres contracted for, upon their paying into the treasury of the United States, a sum not exceeding * * * Cents per acre for the same, with interest from the passing of an act for that purpose."

A select committee was appointed to bring in a bill or bills, in conformity to these resolutions.

Adjourned.

The following resolutions were proposed by Mr. Fitzsimons on Thursday last:

Resolved, That it is the opinion of this committee,

1st. THAT the term for receiving on loan, that part of the domestic debt of the United States which yet remains unsubscribed, be extended to the first day of September next, on the same terms as was provided by the act making provision for the public debt of the United States.

2d. That provision ought to be made for payment of the interest on the unsubscribed part of the domestic debt of the United States, to the first day of January, 1793, on like terms as was provided by the act aforesaid.

3d. That the holders of loan-office certificates, issued between the first day of September, 1777, and first day of March, 1778, be entitled to receive interest thereon, at the same rate as other non-subscribing creditors of the United States without being obliged to exchange such certificates.

4th. That the term for receiving on loan part of the debt of the individual states, assumed by the United States, yet unsubscribed, be extended to the first day of September next, on the same terms as provided by the act making provision for the public debt.

5th. That a subscription for a farther loan in the debts of the individual states, be opened and continued to the first day of September next, not to exceed in the whole millions of dollars, in the proportions following, that is to say:

- In the debt of New Hampshire,
- Massachusetts,
- Rhode Island,
- Connecticut,
- New York,
- New Jersey,
- Virginia,
- North Carolina,
- South Carolina,
- Georgia.

Provided, That the interest on such loan shall not be payable before the — day of —: And provided, That when the sum, to be assumed for any state, shall not be subscribed by the holders of any of the evidences in which the same is made receivable, the state shall not be entitled to receive interest on the residue.

6th. That the subscriptions to the aforesaid loans in state debt, be payable in such certificates, bills, notes, and evidences of debt whatsoever, as shall have been issued by the respective states and by the several commissioners of loans of the United States, on account of the excesses of the sums subscribed in certain states beyond the sums heretofore assumed for such states. Provided, That no such certificates, bills, notes or evidences of debts of the respective states shall be receivable upon the said loan which, from the tenor thereof, from any public record, act or document, shall appear or can be ascertained to have been issued for purposes irrelative to compensations and expenditures for services or supplies towards the prosecution of the late war and the defence of the United States, or of some part thereof during the same; but this shall not be construed to exclude any certificate, bill, note or evidence of debt which shall have been issued in lieu or on account of any other certificate, bill, note or evidence of debt which was itself issued, in relation to such compensations and expenditures.

7th. That the debt due to certain foreign officers, the interest whereon is payable at the house of Grand, in Paris, be discharged out of any monies obtained on loan, by the President of the United States, in virtue of the act making provision for the public debt;—which may now be unappropriated.

8th. That the interest on so much of the domestic debt as has been or may be purchased for the United States, or as shall be paid into the treasury, and so much of the sum appropriated for the payment of the interest on the foreign and domestic debt as shall be over and above what may be sufficient for the payment of such interest, shall be appropriated in the first place, to the purchase of the part of the public debt, which bears an interest of 3 per cent, per ann. And the part of the said debt, the interest whereof is deferred until the said fund, with such additions as may be made to it, shall amount to two per centum of the public debt, bearing a present interest of six per cent, per ann. until the whole shall be redeemed. And thenceforth to be applied to the purchase or redemption of whatever part of the public debt may remain undischarged, until the whole shall be extinguished. The said funds to be applied to the purposes aforesaid, by the commissioners hereafter mentioned, under the approbation of the President of the United States.

9th. That — be commissioners for the purposes aforesaid; and that a precise account of all the debts redeemed, and of all purchases by them made, be laid before the legislature within — months after its first meeting in every year.

For the NATIONAL GAZETTE.

PROPERTY.

THIS term in its particular application means "that dominion which one man claims and exercises over the external things of the world, in exclusion of every other individual."

In its larger and juster meaning, it embraces every thing to which a man may attach a value, and have a right; and which leaves to every one else the like advantage.

In the former sense, a man's land, or merchandize, or money is called his property.

In the latter sense, a man has a property in his opinions and the free communication of them.

He has a property of peculiar value in his religious opinions, and in the profession and practice dictated by them.

He has a property very dear to him in the safety and liberty of his person.

He has an equal property in the free use of his faculties and free choice of the objects on which to employ them.

In a word, as a man is said to have a right to his property, he may be equally said to have a property in his rights.

Where an excess of power prevails, property of no sort is duly respected. No man is safe in his opinions, his person, his faculties, or his possessions.

Where there is an excess of liberty, the effect is the same, tho' from an opposite cause.

Government is instituted to protect property of every sort; as well that which lies in the various rights of individuals, as that which the term particularly expresses. This being the end of government, that alone is a just government, which impartially secures to every man, whatever is his own.

According to this standard of merit, the praise of affording a just security to property, should be sparingly bestowed on a government which, however scrupulously guarding the possessions of individuals, does not protect them in the enjoyment and communication of their opinions, in which they have an equal, and in the estimation of some, a more valuable property.

More sparingly should this praise be allowed to a government, where a man's religious rights are violated by penalties, or fettered by tests, or taxed by a hierarchy. Conscience is the most sacred of all property; other property depending in part on positive law, the exercise of that, being a natural and unalienable right. To guard a man's house as his castle, to pay public and enforce private debts with the most exact faith, can give no title to invade a man's conscience which is more sacred than his castle, or to withhold from it that debt of protection, for which the public faith is pledged, by the very nature and original conditions of the social pact.

That is not a just government, nor is property secure under it, where the property which a man has in his personal safety and personal liberty, is violated by arbitrary seizures of one class of citizens for the service of the rest. A magistrate issuing his warrants to a press gang, would be in his proper functions in Turkey or Indostan, under appellations proverbial of the most compleat despotism.

That is not a just government, nor is property secure under it, where arbitrary restrictions, exemptions, and monopolies deny to part of its citizens that free use of their faculties, and free choice of their occupations, which not only constitute their property in the general sense of the word; but are the means of acquiring property strictly so called. What must be the spirit of legislation where a manufacturer of linen cloth is forbidden to bury his own child in a linen shroud, in order to favour his