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CONGRESS. DEBATE ON THE ARMY BILLS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVS.

MONDAY, JAN. 17, Mr. Stockton's answer to Mr. Ingersoll. Mr. Chairman-It was not my intention to have added any thing to the observations which I made on Saturday against the bill on the table-And if the committee had seen fit to have permitted me on that evening to have made a short reply to the very extraordinary attack made upon me by the honorable gentleman from Philadelphia, I should have rested contented-But as that privilege was denied me by the majority, I am under the necessity of doing a service now which I ardently wished tohave performed then. I was accused by that gentleman, in terms not to be misunderstood, of the "monstrous" crime of rejoicing at the he, I shall change mine. calamities of my country. I deny the accusation. I have neither the heart to conceive nor

a tongue to utter such a sentiment. What I said, was not hastily-but on full advisement, and now on mature consideration I still adhere to it. I said that the administration meant to abandon the ostensible grounds on which the war is continued—and therefore that the enormous expenses about to be incurred would be an useless waste of public money .-This was no vissionary conceit of mine-but an | irressistable conclasion to be extracted from the public documents, and the conduct of the government. I relied on the fact that the basis of negotiation offered by England had been acceeded to here, and England having caused us disfinctly to know that she would negotiate now on no terms other than those she had always offered-One of two conclusions presented itself and was irresistable—either the questions of "free trade & sailors rights" were given up ar the intended mission was deceptive-intended only to delude the people and squander their money. Not feeling myself authorised to assert the last I adopted the first, I retract not a word, I am willing to place it upon the record—There let it remain and be remembered-time will test it. Not a letter in any treaty of peace to grow out of this negotiation will be found impairing maritime rights as claimed by Great Britain—the subject will either never be mentioned or put upon the shelf ad | self to the waves; and the wind and the tide | rejoice at. the administration had struck its flag and that I without the benefit of his political creed, made first dawning of the day-star of peace-some | the points to be gained by the pen or the sword; prospect, however faint and distant, that an | and intimated that if this President did not se-

But the gentleman made me to say I rejoiced that my country's flag was struck-I deny the assertion and can safely appeal to every honor- | ly settled before and since the Orders in Counable man who heard me.

my country is struck—the national flag—that | until it was made a matter of moment by flag of my country which was painted by the immortal! Washington on the rampart of independence—those stripes which yet wave tri- blockade can exist without a complete force to lyte on the convenant. umphant on the ocean are most dear to me__ this was not the flag I alluded to—the flag of and substitute perhaps the new code in its place his fine comparison of Cymon and Lucullus, which I spoke is the flag of the ministry—that I Hag of error and misrule—the false, alien party | would next reduce; this list settled by treaties | tho' he erred in his youth, he improved as he flag which has beguiled and deluded the people and the usage of nations for half a century he grew older, and lived to become right; whereand conducted us from peace and happiness, to wills to be curtailed and cut up, and last of all as Lucullus, who was unexceptionable in his war and misery. No, sir-the good old flag of | there must be no search for " persons," of any | younger days, deteriorated in his old age. tion—and for reasons as powerful as can oper- all this must be accomplished or the war must of attaching the latter part of it to the hono- had no objection for his part, if blue lights inate on man. My stake in this community cov- rage, or the President go out. If these are the rable gentleman from New Jersey: but mereered as it is by this flag is great and interesting | terms imposed on the President his lease must | ly that I may strengthen myself by the recol--not in money and goods, fleeting and worthless, but in children and in lands. I have one as his talents are he will never accomplish one ton college, I learned to value the private gallant son now on the ocean fighting under | solitary article on the list. The gentleman had | worth, the professional eminence, the excelthat flag-who would prefer it as a shroud, ra- better lose no time in providing a successor. lent character of the member from New Jersey ther than witness its base surrender. I have | Who can tell on whom the choice may fall! A | -his connection with one of the most resother sons equally gallant who will defend it few more exhibitions of patriotic paroxisms pectable families there—his being himself the with their lives whenever it shall be unfurled may point out the man—then indeed would the head of that connection. At that time I did in the cause of justice or the libecties of this na- country rejoice—then again this stricken, false not believe that even his politics were wrong; tion. And I, sir, old as I am compared with and alien flag might be unfurled from the top and I have always since been satisfied that, the gentleman from Philadelphia—although the of the palace, and free trade and sailor's rights | except in his politics, he is unceptionable. frost of fifty years is now pressing over my become once more the order of the day. head; even I, sir, am yet able to defend it, I shred of it remains.

Doomed we may be to sit here and attend | shall extort a reply. to lectures learnedly prepared to graduate the rights of majorities and minorities—to determine what is rightful—what a factious opposition-but such schemes are visionary and fantastic. The case admits of no limit but the ately after Mr. Shipherd, (who followed Mr. particular. constitution. No remedy even for abuses but Stockton) Mr. Ingersoll of Pa. asked M. M. In the personal invasion he has permitted the minority to protest. The constitution is proceeded: the only limit of action or obstruction. What majority (its members being the Judges) was factious in the opinion of the majority? would recommend it to gentlemen to leave this matter as they found it.

Thus much, sir, for explanation. tence. Them he exhorted, or seemed disposed | due to him and to myself. heresy. I hope, sir, that I am not entirely ig- | day with an angry attack on my person and | morant of the ties which bind me to my con. | public character, letting loose upon me a strain stituents. I know that they are not ignorant of of sarcasm which-if I were inclined to retort, and will be watchful of their rights-neither | as I might-I should pronounce to be the rethe constituents or the member stood in need | sult of a Sabbath's vindicative lucubrations of the advice of that gentleman-he will nei | which I should find no difficulty perhaps in ther receive their hanks or mine for the trouble | turning with greater severity on himself. But he has taken. The obligations which the con I have no such disposition. I did not before fidence of my fellow citizens have imposed betray a temper of that sort; nor shall I be upon me I shall never overlook. The trust provoked to it now by any thing he has said. negociate treaties of peace and commerce with shall never be betrayed. I will defend what I Though the hon, gentleman concluded his in- G. Britain and a treaty of commerce with Rufconscientionly believe to be their right and vective with a declaration that he should ne- fia. interest at all hazards. My constituents shall ver again notice what I might say, I shall not never be misrepresented by me_they knew me follow his example, either in recrimination or Gallatin departed from the U.S. in the month

concealed my opinions or made false preten- | preserving that regard for his person and insions to cheat them of their suffrage. They dividual feelings which I did not depart from departure and absence from the U.S. of the knew (I repeat it) when they elected me_they on Saturday. knew that I was no Court Sycophant—no The point between us, as he states it, is a Ghangeling—that I had never been up at the point of consistency; and I cannot forbear market—they elected me without solicitation. reminding him that on this discussion of na-Had I solicited them they had rejected me ___ | tional hostilities, offensive or defensive, he him They have consided in me and shall not be de- self assumes the attitude of offence, and resceived-and however the gentleman may sup- tricts me to merely defensive considerations. pose that he is in their secrets, I can tell him | He assails me, as he says himself, after consihat I yet speak their sentiments—yes, sir, the | deration and reconsideration, when, where and district which I together with my venerable how he choses-leaving me no opinion but colleague represent, yet contains a majority of | that of defensive resistance, suddenly resorted true patriots of the Washington School. To to without the opportunity of reflection, and represent such a district is no common honor sustained against all the advantages which in times like these. I cherish it as such; and greater talents and preparation afford. The it shall console me under every occurrence. | means of annoyance and of victory are thus But, sir, he judged me by himself, if he sup- | altogether in his hands; and might be employposes; as he seemed to suppose, that I am anxi- ed, I should think, without the ungenerous reous to retain my seat here. He is greatly mis- inforcement of abuse. taken. Highly as I estimate the honor confer- With this inconsistency in his own conduct in circulation, and had received countenance vent or arrest proper enquiry elsewhere. red upon me, the acceptance of it was a sa- the honorable gentleman accuses me of a by the publication of on official letter from one Mr. Calhoun of S. C. said this was not an crifice of interest, of habit and of seeling. I change of politics : and not very gentle lan- of our naval officers to the Head of a Depart- object worthy the attention of the House, becan lay my hand upon my heart, and in all sin- guage is exercised in the animated—to use no ment—and which was calculated to draw | cause it was too diminutive. The object avowcerity say, that the day which shall finish my stronger an expression—the animated appeal down odium on a part of the state which he ed by the mover, that is, to defend the characpolitical course and restore me to my family and of my accuser. friends, I shall hail as the happiest of the year. | Mr. Chairman, to this charge I plead guilty; The hon, gentleman, after satisfying himself and, as I have said already, put myself on the with New Jersey and its Representatives, re- | country for trial and judgment. curred to objects vastly more important-He | It was my fortune-good or bad as it may be returned to himself and Pennsylvania. He told | considered—to be placed at a seminary for eduyou that he was in favor of the war—that the cation in the village inhabited by the honorapeople of Pennsylvsnia were in favor of the | ble gentlemen from New Jersey; where, duwar—and that he should remain in its favor | ring the memorable yeas '96, 7 and 8, I was unless indeed, (recollecting himself) the peo- | impressed with opinions which on better and

of the people by changing-and he will most | which also he has been pleased to allude. Then | ing the last summer, precluded the suspicion of | sideunquestionably change again when the like it was that I was enabled to survey, with bet. fuch a charge being correct as to them. Mr. The Speaker here interposed and required temptation is presented. If, Mr. Chairman, ter means of observation than can be enjoyed taken you to the great city of Philadelphia, | taught to regard as a model of political perfecpolitical hemisphere, perhaps a youth might | that I learned, from the dictates of my on humhave been pointed out to your notice, a youth of | ble capacity, to look upon that constitution as stored with all the treasures of classic love, an | congruity and human absurdity. Thence it was exterior adorned by all the accomplishments of | that I returned to my own country, convinced this stripling in the present honorable mem- | macies may have been, may politic creed was | lieve, under these circumstances, that these a federalist, or pretended to be one, but the rectitude, I have no hesitation in avowing it. some delusion must have existed on the subject. perceived in good season the road the mighty | tleman from New Jersey may have flattered crowd had taken, he saw the course the current would pursue, he seized the happy moment, launched his little bark on the boisterous ele- | tification of asserting what I have no wish to referendum. I added (and this it was that ex- have wasted him into his seat. But the gencited the gentleman's patriotic warmth) that | tleman from Philadelphia could not leave us end will be put to the evils which afflict my cure them, another must be found who would. Precious legacy! full of practical wisdom!

He would first cause to be altered the British doctrine of blockade, a doctrine perfect. cil, resting on the public law of Europe, and No sir, I gan never rejoice that the flag of | not even complained of by this government France. The doctrine of the English admiral ty courts the gentleman knows to be, that no lyte, I do not stop at the gate, but am a proseenforce it. But this doctrine he will abolish -the enormous list of contraband of war he | Plutarch awards the palm to Cymon, because, expire. He should receive notice to quit. Great | lection of the former. While I lived at Prince-

should hope with at least as much firmness | gentleman from Philadelphia—our account is | though, as regards those domestic pledges and constancy as that gentleman. Why, then, settled. If I have in repelling a most improper of patriotic affections, which he has mentionwere my evident meaning and expressions per- attack uttered an expression unworthy the dig- ed in his own instance, though so much verted ?- Was it part of a plan which seems to | nity of this place, I hope to find my excuse in | younger than the honorable gentlemen, I am be maturing to put down opposition. Vain and | the occasion. I hope I shall be pardoned. I almost as powerfully attached probably as he hopeless project! Opposition, sir, can never | promise never again to trouble you on such a | is himself. be put down whilst the constitution or one subject. The gentleman may seek me out again if he pleases - nothing which he shall say | designedly I have never treated him with dis-

> MR. INGERSOLL'S REPLY TO MR. STOCKTON.

and put myself on my country for trial. It will be recollected, sir, that on Saturday, I shall now claim a few moments to reply to | when one of the army bills was in a stage to be other remarks in which the gentlemen from | reported as agreed to, that gentleman arose, and | Philadelphia thought proper to indulge him- taking a lead in opposition to it, declared his self. That honorable member thought it ne- | hostility to the measure, for reasons which cessary to take me and my constituents into his he then assigned—which he has now reiterated important keeping. From the exalted eminence | and acknowl dged, though with some attempt which he occupies in the great metropolis of at qualification—and of which, actuated by the Pennsylvania, he cast his eye over the small and | feeling of the moment, I expressed my disaphumble state of New Jersey. He was pleased to | probation. It was however the principles I survey both the people and their member. Me attacked, not the person of that honorable memthe unworthy faithless representative of the ber. I am much mistaken if I uttered a word sentiments of the people, be reminded of my | incompatible with his personal privileges, or | important; that at the present time when plans dependance on that people for political exis- that regard for decorum which I hold equally

before they elected me—they took me as I was. silence; but continue to combat his principles of May last, and hath ever since been and still

ple should change their opinion, and then, said | riper investigation, I have deliberately rejected | rect; for he could not believe that his native | prise which was not lessened by a recollection and publickly disavowed. After receiving an | town contained in its bosom men so abandoned of the sensibility displayed in that quarter the To the latter part of the gentleman's pro- education, of which that honorable gentleman as to light those torches. The conduct of other day, when a motion for enquiry of a nearposition I heartily subscribe-it is doubtless has spoken, perhaps ironically, without cen- those people in protecting the ships of war of ly similar nature, into the conduct of Govercorrect—he has once before obeyed the voice sure, I was sent on those travels in Europe, to the United States from those of the enemy dur- nor Chittenden, had been proposed from this some ten years ago curiosity or accident had at this distance—what I had previously been and you had cast an inquisitive eye over its | tion-the British constitution. Thereit was small stature but gigantic talents, with a mind | the most stupendous monument extant of inforeign travel, had you enquired what was the of the errors of early education and habit. The a sufficient force to answer the purpose. political character and conduct of that youth. | member from New Jersey is mistaken when | you would have been informed that he was a he draws (in the ludicsous colors he thought it was presumed the commander of that force ber from Philadelphia. Yes, sir he was once settled in Europe. Abundantly satisfied of its lights were exhibited as represented, but that storm came and he changed his garments; he Instead of the pain which the honorable genhimself he would inflict on me by this explanation, he has afforded me a pleasure—the grament of popular opinion; he committed him- | deny or conceal-what I am proud to avow &

> plain away such a declaration by referring the flag to the administration, instead of the country. Whatever that gentleman may think of it, it is still the flag of the country.

> Be it my satisfaction, Mr. Chairman, that I am one of the least important asssertors of our great maritime rights—that if I ever swerved I am true to them at last; that if I am a prose-

Sir, (magnos componere parvis) in finishing feel also the difference in our ages to which he Mr. Chairman I have now done with the has alluded-feel it to my disadvantage,-

I can assure him, sir, and the House, that repect; that as I trust I never have, so I never will be guilty of invading the personal feelings of any member on this floor; and that I am not at all disposed to detract from whatever " Mr. M'Leanlof Ohio having risen immedi- may belong to his dignity and priveleges in

that to be found in the people. It is the prero- Lean to indulge him with the floor for a few | himself of my feelings, he has not altered these gative of the majority to act—the privilege of minutes, to which Mr. M.L. assenting, Mr. I. sentiments on my part. He has given me no pain. In that aim he has been disappointed. The gentleman from Ohio has the goodness | He has made an occasion I wished for. He to give me the floor.—I rise, Mr. Chairman, has made it exactly to my wishes. I avail ever in the wrong? What minority other than | to rejoin to a part of the replication of the ho- | myself of it to repeat once more that I have norable gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. | changed my views, and that I am not without Stockton) and to plead guilty to the residue - | hopes of improving in the alteration.

CONGRESS. IN SENATE.

MONDAY, JANUARY, 24. Mr. Mason submitted the following resolution for confideration:

Resolved, That the Department of the Treafury is a principal and indispensable office in the administration of the government of the United States.

That the duties of this office are at all times of finance are to be devised, taxes to be imposed, loans to be obtained and large sums of moduties have become more arduous, and that the talents, integrity and diligence of a competent and responsible officer are alone sufficient to discharge them.

That by his message of the 7th of June last, the President of the U.S. informed the Senate that he had commissioned Albert Gallatin, then Secretary of the Department of the Treasury, to proceed to Russia, and there with others to

That pursuant to such commission Albert Such as I was I still remain. I have never | whenever he may render it necessary, always | remains without the limits of the U. States.

That by reason of the said commissioning, of the Treasury became vacant, and is now

That such vacancy in the office of the Secretary of the Treasury affects the public credit, retards the current service, endangers the general welfare, and ought no longer to exist.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

MONDAY, JAN. 24. After the presentation and reference of few petitions of a private nature— THE BLUE LIGHTS.

of those lights, which had the effect of aiding | table. the enemy in their operations. The motion Mr. Wright of Md. expressed his surprize at Mr. L. was about to make, was not, he said, the proposition of this enquiry from the side induced by any belief that the report was cor- of the House in which it originated—a sur-L. took a brief view of the manner in which the state of Connecticut had patriotically defended the U. States' squadron when the general goevrnment was unable to defend it from the blockading fquadron of the enemy. that service the state troops or militia had remained until November, at which time the United States had collected, as was supposed, It was proper, he conceived, that the fact should be enquired into, and placed on its proper footing, as it had been alluded to frequently in this House. With this view he offered the following resolution:

"Resolved, That a committee be appointed I leave without reluctance to that honorable to enquire whether any treasonable correspon- solve was amended, by a vote of 76 to 48, so as gentleman all the pride of consistency—all the | dence has been held, or information by means | to substitute a select committee for the "commitmerit of adhering to established errors—of be. of blue lights or figuals by fire given from the tee of foreign ralations." rejoiced at it. Sir, I do rejoice at it. I rejoice up in the form of instructions to the present ing the advocate of vigorous offensive war in shores at or near the harbor of New London in at it because, as I then stated I see in it the and all future chief magistrates: he gave us time of peace, and of peace in time of war ___ the stated I see in it the land all future chief magistrates: he gave us time of peace in time of peace, and of peace in time of peace in all the honor of expressing his pleasure at the squadron off that harbor, whereby the enemy ceedings on this famous letter. To institute a surrender of his country's flag. His attempt | might learn the state, condition or movements | this morning is a most insufficient one to ex- of the American ships under the command of Commodore Decatur now in that port; and wasting the time of the house on a subject not that the committee be authorised to take evidence by deposition or otherwise as they may deem necessary, and report thereon to this

had been some criminal deficiency in their duty | wish any enquiry into the matter. on the part of the officers commanding at N. London, these lights could not have been exhi- house would adopt the resolution, with an abited by any private citizen on shore. He adverted to the addition which this story had af- to be added to the end of it: 'and also when forded to the stock of epithets about British gold, old torries, &c. of which some gentle-America is cherished by me with tender affect description, "and a very limited one for goads;" do not refer to this subject, sir, with any idea men in this House were so fond; though he State.' He said he was glad that the gentleman terspersed in a speech were conceived to render it more lucid or brilliant, that they should be introduced, whether true or false. He hoped | also wished to clothe it with power to correct it would be ascertained, under the authority of | the recollections of Mr. Graham, which that the House, whether these blue lights ever have gentleman had stated to be extremely faint on been made, and if so, by whom and in what | these points.

> played by the gentlemen from Connecticut on and in what manner, for what cause, by whom this subject was most honorable to themselves; and he certainly concurred with them in the hope that upon examination it would appear that motion. no portion of the people of that state were capable of an act so base and dishonorable. So far, however, as his mind had been impressed, he It ought to be recollected that the commander from him in politics, narrating the circumstance for the enquiry, but he did not wish to see a departure from the regular course. The enquiry belonged properly to the Naval committee, he conceived-because it was the navy which was intended to have been particularly injured by the exhibition of those lights. H moved to amend the resolution so as to refer the subject to that committee.

> Mr. Fisk of N. Y. said he was sorry to hear a wish expressed by the gentleman from Tennessee for the proposed enquiry. When he looked at the principle of this motion, he trem- object of his motion. bled at the consequences of its adoption. What was the principle? It was nothing more than a proposition to exercise, through a committee of this house, the inquisitorial power to inquire whether treason has been committed in a par ticular instance. He hoped no such precedent | ject was worthy of enquiry. If worthy of enwould receive the sanction of the house.

tion of such a resolution as this would place the | tisfactory as to the principal points. The Se-House of Representatives in an awkward situa- cretary himself knew nothing of it, as it took tion. It was unquestionably the right of the place before he came into office; his Chief to exhort, to punish me (as they had already In reply to such observations, the member ney to be expended and accounted for, these subjects of legislation; but, to justify this en- the subject. Now, Mr. G. said, the Chief quiry, it ought to be for some specific object. | Clerk could not know the material fact of one He therefore proposed to amend the motion so of the Heads of Department having been sent as to constitute a committee to enquire into the to Baltimore to ask this Frenchman to take expediency of providing by law for the punish- | back his saucy letter. As to the withdrawal ment of persons who hold out blue lights to of the letter, it might have been taken back the enemy, or commit other acts of a like ua. ture not amounting to the crime of treas on.

house appeared to be embarrassed by the nature of this question, and not prepared to decide on it, moved, that it lie on the table.

Mr. Law explained his motive for submitting the motion. It was not on account of its intrinsic importance, but from the importance which he had attached to it by its frequent introduction and assertion on the floor of this & house.

Mr. Jackson of Va. said he was not prepared, nor did he know that he ever should be said Albert Gallatin, the office of the Secretary | to act on this subject, and therefore he wished the motion to be laid on the table.—Was the House, he asked to be erected, into a court of enquiry or judicature for criminal offences? Notwithstanding in this case an offence had been committed, as was proved by testimony the most irrefragable—an offence which he hoped the Attorney of the District would, as was his duty, direct an enquiry into-Yet this House were to be called upon to travel out of their duty to enquire into it. He hoped time would at least be given for deciding on the propriety of the proposed enquiry.

Mr. Rhea of Ten. opposed the motion to Mr. Law, of Con. after some remarks, in lay the resolution on the table, because he too low a voice to be heard by the reporter, wished it to be decided by a direct negative called the attention of the House to the story vote. The pendency of such a motion here, about certain blue lights which had been put he apprehended would have the effect to pre-

represented. That letter to which he had al- | ter of the state of Connecticut from an injury luded contained a charge against certain per- on this head, was not a sufficient one for this sons in Connecticut, not exactly of their hav- | House to proceed upon. No one had been ing afforded aid and comfort to the enemy, but the citizens of New London, or on the state of of having afforded them intelligence, by means | Connecticut. He hoped it would lie on the

the confinement of debate to the motion pending, viz. To lay the subject of debate on the

And the question was taken to lay the resolution on the table, and decided thus: For laying it on the table Against it

So Mr. Law's motion was laid on the table. TURREAU'S LETTER ONCE MORE. Mr. Roberts of Pen. offered for considera-The U. S. then having a garrison in the fort, | tion, without preface, the sollowing resolution: Resolved, That the message of the President, Federalist, a federalist warm, intemperate and it becoming to employ) a youth to be seen in had kept up proper guards and patroles about communicating a Report of the Secretary of imprudent, exerting from time to time his far | Philadelphia, after his return from Europe, | the points in the neighborhood; and yet, in the | State, respecting the translation of a letter adfamed literary talents to write down old and | wielding the pen of federalism, and writing | month of December, on these very points these | dressed by the late Minister of France to the early members of the republican party; what, down the strongest of its antagonists. What | wicked lights, these torches of treason were | Secretary of State, bearing date on or about the sir, would be your surprize now to recognize | ever my personal attachments and social inti- faid to have been exhibited. He could not be- fourteenth of June, 1809, which it appears from said report has been irregularly withdrawn from the Department of State, be referred to the committee of Foreign Relations, to investigate when, by whom, and in what manner the said translation of a letter was so withdrawn. and when and in what manner it came into the possession of Alexander C. Hanson, a member of this Howse, and that the said committee be

authorised to send for persons and papers. On motion of Mr. Calhoun, of S. C. the re-

Mr. Fisk of N. Y. said he had hoped he committee to enquire by what means this letter got into the possession of any person, would be worthy of its attention. What was to grow out of the enquiry? Was it pretended that the bureau of state had been rifled of its regular files? No such allegation had been made, nor was any such inference deducible from the report. For Mr. Moseley, of Con. spoke in support of his own part, Mr. F. said he was free to declare, this motion, which embraced an enquiry that I that he did not care how the letter came into he conceived to be due to the character of the | the possession of the hon, member who was state. It was clear, he said, that unless there | named in the motion, and therefore he did not

Mr. Grosvenor of N. Y. said he hoped the mendment he moved in the following words. and in what manner the original of such translation was withdrawn from the Department of from Pennsylvania, according to his promise, was pursuing the enquiry-which Mr. G. said he was desirous to have pursued thoroughly and entirely. When this committee was raised, he

Mr. King of Mass. moved to amend the a. Mr. Grundy, of Ten. said the sensibility dis- mendment so as to authorise the enquiry when and at whose request' the paper was withdrawn. Mr. Grosvenor accepted this as a part of his

Mr. Roberts said he was as much disposed as the gentlemen from New York and Massachusetts could be, to prosecute this enquiry to differed from the gentleman who appeared to that the information afforded by the report some practical result; but it appeared to him think there was no foundation for the report. was perfectly satisfactory on the points on which the gentlemen wished an inquiry. It of the American squadron, whose authority distinctly stated that the letter was withdrawn could not be questioned, had stated what was | by a member of the French legation; and as to his impression, derived from the information of | the time, that it was previously to the rupture the officers, and men under his command. The of the negotiation with Mr. Jackson. Now, same impression was consirmed in the mind of Mr. R. said he had understood, when an enof Mr. G. by the statements of newspapers | quiry on this subject was first proposed, that on the spot conducted by those who differed the most particular allegation, in relation to it, and which was, asserted and reiterated with which had been alluded to. He should vote great positiveness, was, that the letter had not been withdaawn until after the dismission of Mr. Jackson. Sufficient was now known to prove that not to be correct; and the probability was, that other assertions were alike incorrect. Though the letter was withdrawn, the translation ought to have remained in the office-and it ought to be known how it found its way thence into the possession of a meniber of this house; so that, if the department was not under proper regulations as to the preservation of its papers, some provision ought to be adopted in that respect. Such was the

Mr. Grosvenor spoke in support of his amendment, and in reply to Mr. Roberts .- He said the gentleman ought not to hesitate to ac. cept his amendment as a part of his motion .-The basis of the resolution was, that the subquiry at all it was worthy of a full and effectual Mr. Eppes of Va. remarked that the adop- | examination. As to the Report, it was unsaafter Jackson's dismission, before Mr. Smith's conversation with Mr. Graham on the subject; Mr. Roberts of Pa. on the ground that the on these points, the enquiry ought to be efficient, with which view Mr. Smith himself

might be summoned before the committee, &c. Mr. Farrow of S. C. was opposed to the amendment and to the resolution. He said it put him in mind of a play, the performance of which never paid for the candles burnt during its performance; and in like manner the sub. ject of this discussion was not worth the precious time consumed in it, &c.