

Congress of the United States.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Saturday, February 28.

[TAKEN FOR THE FEDERAL GAZETTE.]

On reading the journal this morning, it appeared that before the house adjourned last night an order passed the house that the roll should be called over, when it was found that seventy-three members were absent (some with leave) whose names were accordingly entered on the journal.

Mr. Eppes moved to amend the journal by inserting the hour of adjournment. This was agreed to, and it was mentioned "half after 7 o'clock."

A committee of three members was ordered to be appointed, to bring in a bill, pursuant to the resolution last night agreed to (respecting the repeal of the salt-tax, &c.)

The speaker laid on the table a letter from the secretary of the treasury, transmitting a statement of the public debt, and of the payments made thereon for the last 5 years.—Ordered to lie on the table.

The bill making appropriations for the support of government during the year 1807, was read a third time, and passed: as was also the bill for the relief of Oliver Pollock.

The house went into committee of the whole on the bill making compensation to Messrs. Lewis and Clark and their companions.

Mr. Hastings moved to insert the names of Wm. Eaton, O'Bannon, and G. W. Mann (so as to allow them the same quantity of land as is granted to captains Lewis and Clark, viz. 1600 acres.)—Carried, ayes 47, noes 43.

Mr. Hastings moved to insert several other names, which was lost.

The committee rose and reported the bill with amendments, which the house proceeded immediately to consider.

Mr. Nelson hoped the house would not agree to the first amendment (respecting general Eaton, O'Bannon and G. W. Mann). It would be recollected, he said, that a proposition had been brought forward last session, to remunerate these men; why it had not been acted upon, he did not know; but if it was again brought forward he should vote for it, if he thought their services deserved remuneration; at present he had no documents to enable him to judge. He hoped, however, their names would not be inserted in this bill; there might be many members in the house who thought that the services of gen. Eaton and his associates deserved a handsome compensation, and that those of captains Lewis and Clark and their companions did not; and so vice versa. He wished their respective merits to stand on its own ground. He therefore hoped they would be separated.

The question was then taken by ayes and noes, and the amendment was disagreed to (that is, the names of the above-mentioned persons were struck out—ayes 47—noes 61. The bill was then ordered to be read a third time.

Mr. Fisk, from the committee this day appointed, presented a bill to repeal the duty on salt, and continuing in force for a further time the Mediterranean fund. Read twice and referred to a committee of the whole to-day.

The house then went into a committee of the whole on the bill for the relief of invalid pensioners.

Mr. Randolph offered a new section, (providing that the old soldiers of the revolution should receive a pension from the time they had received their wounds) and spoke at length on the subject.

This occasioned considerable debate; and before the question was taken, Mr. Randolph (at about 5 o'clock) moved that the house adjourn for one hour.

Mr. Gregg moved that the house adjourn for two hours.

Mr. Thomas moved that a call of the Acaus should take place at seven o'clock, on the supposition that if the house adjourned till that hour, there would not be a quorum.

Mr. R. Nelson moved that the call of the house should take place at 12 o'clock!

Several motions were then made that the house adjourn till Monday morning, till tomorrow morning, &c. all of which were lost; when, on motion of Mr. Findley, the house adjourned for two hours.

The house again met a little before eight o'clock, and continued sitting until after twelve: They were principally occupied with the bill this day brought in by Mr. Fisk, to repeal the duty on salt and to continue in force for a further time the Mediterranean fund, which, however, was at length passed.

Monday, March 2.

As soon as the journal of Saturday night was read, Mr. Dana inquired whether it would not be proper to mention in the journal at what hour the bill (respecting the duties on salt and continuing the Mediterranean fund) passed. He said that it was 12 o'clock before he left the house, and that he had not passed then; and observed, that by recurring to the journal of the second session of the sixth congress, the hour of "one o'clock" would be found inserted in it.

The speaker said he did not know at what time the bill passed; but that it was in the power of the gentleman to make a motion to amend the journal.

Several orders of the day were called for; when the house went into committee of the whole on the bill for the relief of invalid pensioners being made on lands ceded to the United States, unless authorised by law.

Considerable debate arose on this bill—Messrs. Quincey, Hastings, Williams, (N. Y.) Lyon and Fisk, spoke against it; and Messrs. Bppee, Alexander and Williams, (S. C.) in favor of it; when the question was taken on engrossing it for a third reading to-day, and it passed in the affirmative—ayes 57, noes 44.

The bill respecting invalid pensioners was read the third time and passed.

At half-past 4 o'clock, the house adjourned till half-past 6; and they will probably again sit till midnight; but as the mail closes at 8 o'clock, no account of their proceedings can be forwarded until to-morrow evening.

BOSTON, February 24.

From the river Plata.

By Mr. Wells, who arrived in town last evening from the river Plata, by the way of the Vineyard, we have the following particulars:—

After the re-capture of Buenos Ayres, commodore Popham came with his squadron before Monte Viedo. About the 5th of October there arrived from the cape of Good-Hope, the Lancaster 64, Medina frigate, and a number of transports, with about 1800 troops.

On the 28th of Oct. an attack was made by the squadron against the town of Monte Viedo. But for want of water for the large ships, the attempt was relinquished. But the next day, the town of Maldonada, was taken by the sail troops, and remained in their possession Nov. 25, when Mr. W. sailed.

It appears it was the object of com. Popham to keep possession of Maldonada, and remain in the river until he had accounts from home. If re-inforced it was believed he would make a serious attack on Monte Viedo; but if otherwise, it was supposed he would leave the county, directing a few ships to remain to blockade the river.

Considerable distress and discontent seems to exist in the Province of La Plata, which may lead to consequences not generally expected.

Vessels left at the River Plata by the Bellisarius, November 28.

Bashaw, Peterkin, bound in, papers endorsed; Superb, Lombard, do. do.; Perseverance, Brown, do. do.; Truth, Waldo, detained coming out; Margaret, Milberry, do.; Eugene, Hixon, do.; Hollis, Coffin, do.; Venelia, Walsh, do.; Swift, do.; Tyler, Webb, do.; (all lying at Maldonada). Brig Bounty, Dutton, of Portland, was sent November 20, to the Cape for condemnation, having naval stores.

The Columbia, Hudson; and Mentor, Fitch, were permitted to pass; but were not allowed to enter by the Spaniards, and returned. The American Eagle, King; Resource, Magee; Mary, Banbury; Whampoa, Bourne; Minerva, Gernon; Trial, Malborn; were at Monte Viedo, and probably would be detained coming out. The embargo at Monte Viedo, was raised November 3, and all neutrals ordered away in 20 days.

NEW-YORK, February 28.

POSTSCRIPT.

Captain Davis, of the Manchester Packet, arrived in town last evening with the January mail, having left the Packet at Gravesend bay. She sailed from Falmouth on the 13th ult. and left Bermuda 12 days since.

The editors of the New-York Gazette have received London papers to the 11th of January, six days later than those by the Oliver Elsworth. The complexion of these papers is much more lively than our last—the gloomy state of the French army, and the brilliant prospects of their opponents, gave new life to the enemies of the powerful Napoleon.

It will be seen by the subsequent extracts, that the French head-quarters were at Warsaw, and that nothing had prevented offensive and decisive operations in that quarter, but the extremely distressed situation of the French army.

It also appears that the Russian army were profiting by the distresses of their enemy—their strength and hopes were daily increasing.

These papers contain two very important state papers. One is the proclamation of the king of Prussia, stating the reasons of his refusing to ratify the armistice. The other is a note of Talleyrand (prince of Benevento) presented to the Prussian plenipotentiaries on signing the armistice.

The king of Prussia states, that previous to the conclusion of the armistice, a basis of peace had actually been agreed upon, but from which the continued successes of the French led Bonaparte to depart—and on account of his growing demands, no hopes of peace could be entertained. As to the armistice, his majesty states that it was impossible for him to comply with the conditions of it, as the Russians were advancing not only to his aid, but to defend their own frontiers, which the French armies menaced.

On the 9th January the American ship Diana, Noble, arrived at Falmouth in 7 days from Rochefort. It was currently reported when he sailed, that the Russians had been defeated by the French in a battle that had taken place on the banks of the Vistula—but the time was not mentioned, nor any circumstances to enable us to decide whether the report is entitled to any credit.

The re-capture of Buenos-Ayres was generally discredited.

The West-India fleet sailed from Falmouth the 6th, under convoy.

A copy of the treaty with Great-Britain has come out in the packet; and a London paper states that a duplicate was going by the enterprise direct for New-York.

Price of stocks at London, Jan. 10.—Bank stock 211 1-2; 3 per cent. consols 59 3-4 5-8 1-2; omnium 3-2 3-4; consols for account 61 3-8 1-8.

LONDON, Jan. 6.

Sir Harford Jones has brought the latest accounts to government from the Russian head-quarters. He had a full opportunity of seeing them with his own eyes, and we have his authority to say, that he never saw an army in a higher state of discipline, or more eager to meet the enemy *Parmelance*. The two columns of the Russians, under general Benningsen and Buxhovden, amount to 150,000 men, which must have joined by the 9th.

January 8.

The mails from Denmark bring news to the 30th ult. All accounts agree in this, that the French army are in a most direful state by dysentery and other infectious disorders, produced by the severity of the weather and the want of proper food—nearly the whole of the army being disabled.

The Danes, apprehensive of French attempts to violate their neutrality, and force them into measures inconsistent with their interests, are making preparations to vindicate their rights, and have equipped several ships of the line for the protection of their coast and trade.

January 9.

The king of Prussia's head-quarters have been transferred from Konigsberg to Wehlau. His army combined with the Russian division under general Tolstoy, amounts to 100,000 men. The Prussians are commanded by general Kalk euth.

It is stated in a private letter that two regiments of French cavalry were cut to pieces by two Prussian regiments, the former having been drawn into an ambush near Dautzic. An application has been made to the emperor of Austria on the part of France, desiring that she should surrender Galicia, if this should be rendered necessary by any arrangement in Poland. To this demand the emperor Francis is said to have replied by a decided negative. There are several rumors of a general engagement, about the 25th ult. and of a pacification between Prussia and France. Both these reports we are strongly inclined to discredit.

It now appears that general Benningsen, after laying waste the country, has taken up his position at Pultusk, a town situated near the confluence of the Narew and the little river Mossoka. It is said to be a very strong position, for all the country between the Narew and the Bug is extremely difficult, full of woods and marshes, whilst the open country between Pultusk and the Vistula has been ravaged and laid waste.

SLAWSICK, December 30.

We learn that Napoleon arrived at Warsaw on the 19th instant, where prince Murat was confined to his bed. Scurrishes daily take place between the Russian & French out-posts.

Five hospitals have been erected at Warsaw. Kosciuszko who left Paris the 13th, was expected at Warsaw, to put himself at the head of the Polish confederation.

Gen. Benningsen, with 73,000 men, retreating before the French to Narew, destroyed all the provisions, and took with him all the Poles who were able to serve in the army.

TONNINGEN, December 30.

All accounts agree that the French army are much reduced by sickness and scarcity. The empress Josephine and the queen of Holland have fled from the contagion.

Gen. Benningsen, with 60,000 men is near Warsaw, harassing the French, whose misery and distress give them no stomach for fighting. In truth, we are assured, that the affairs of Napoleon are desperate.

PRESBURG, December 30.

We learn that the Russians, 60,000 strong are posted in Moldavia & Wallachia, as friends and allies of the Sublime Porte; that they have advanced as far as Widden, and united with 40,000 Servians, commanded by Czorni George.

Accounts from Berlin of the 10th state, the hospitals there and at Magdeburg, are full of sick and wounded French, who arrive nightly by wagons full. Contagious fevers and flux prevail to an alarming degree. The physicians are put in requisition.

The Russian army on the frontiers of Poland amount to 350,000 men, and will be enlarged by January.

DENMARK, December 30.

Accounts from Berlin of the 28th say, that the French army in Poland has suffered so much from disease, occasioned by a constant fall of rain, as not to be able to act in the offensive with safety.

Arrived, the Manchester Packet, Davies, 45 days from Falmouth and 12 from Bermuda, with the January mail. Four days ago, saw a large red-sided ship with a white head standing in.

Below, a brig and schooner. Wind to the southward and eastward.

Cleared, ship Mandarin, Baily, Cape of Good Hope and Canton; Devotion, Noble, Amsterdam; brig Eliza & Mary, Riddell, Londonderry; sch'r Friends, Evans, Havana.

The Diana, Noble, at Falmouth from Rochefort.

TRENTON, February 23.

Jersey Beef and Pork.

We mentioned some weeks since a pair of oxen, fattened by Mr. James Hunt, of Hopewell, in this county. One of these oxen has since been killed—its weight was as follows:

Weight alive, 2120 lbs  
Weight of the beef, 1280  
of the tallow rough, 214  
of the hide, 121

COMMUNICATION.

The Industrious farmer Rewarded.

Raised and butchered within the vicinity of New-Egypt by Mr. Francis Shinn, farmer, and bought by Mr. Barzillai Hopkins,

merchant of said place, thirty-six hogs, weighing in the whole twelve thousand, six hundred and twenty-seven pounds—the largest hog weighed 474 lbs. and the smallest 297 pounds—they averaged more than 360 3-4 pounds. The oldest hog did not exceed 18 months, and the youngest 10 months. The amount of this crop of pork, according to our market amounts to eleven hundred and thirty-six dollars and forty-three cents—a handsome compensation to industry.

New-Egypt, Feb. 2, 1807.

PHILADELPHIA, March 2.

Arrived, ship Rebecca, Barry, Liverpool via Cork, 36 days; Amiable, Rinker, Dublin, 56; brig Aurora, Pickle, St. Pierre, 32; Hetty, Belows, Guadeloupe via Montserrat, 39.

Cleared, ship Horace, Turner, Marseilles; Union, Jacobs, Liverpool; Brothers, Bray, Lucea, Jamaica; brig South-Carolina, Serril, Charleston; sch'r Thetis, Graisbury, Leghorn; Favorite, Gamble, St. Jago de Cuba; Swedish sch'r Polly, Gambrell, St. Bartholomews.

The brig Hetty, Bellows, from Point Petre, was sent into Montserrat and liberated after a detention of 6 days.

Captain Barry, spoke British sch'r Sally, Delano, from Placentia, for Bristol, and brig Polly, 3 days from New-York for Cayenne, all well.

Captain Barry, of the Rebecca, left at Cork the 20th January, ships Rising States, for Boston, from Russia, in distress; Atlantic, of New-Castle, (Mass.) for St. Ubes; brig Commerce, Egery, of New-Bedford, repairing; brig Mary, McConnell, of N. York, for Spain. The ship Active, King, of this port sailed for Liverpool the 11th January.

NORFOLK, Feb. 24.

Arrived, brig Sally and Jenny, Rings, 6 days from Charleston.

Brig Fame, Stone, 15 days from St. Thomas.—The barque Petersburg, Davis, sailed the same day for this port; sch'r Richmond, Williams, 3 days previous to that of the Fame; sch'r Swift, Seward, to sail in one day.—Left there the 7th instant, the ship William and Mary, Tiplin, of Norfolk, to sail in 7 days for Turks-Island. Ship Governor Hodgson, Steel, 12 days from Bermuda.

Ship Betsy, Tredwell, 47 days from Liverpool.—On the 18th ult. in lat. 40, N. long, 18, W. spoke the ship Sally, of and from New-York bound for Liverpool. On the 16th instant, in lat. 38, 24, N. long, 63, W. spoke the brig Georgia, of and from Boston, bound to St. Croix, out 3 days, all well.

Ship Reward, Flere, 53 days from Guernsey. On the 31st ult. in lat. 35, 30, N. long, 65, W. spoke the schooner Maria, Chase, from Saco bound for Barbados, out 6 days, all well.

Ship Rodman, Wood, put back in distress. On Sunday the 15th instant, in lat. 37, N. long, 75, W. lying in a gale of wind from the north, shifted her cargo & sprung a leak, the ship Julia, Dogget, being then in sight, broached to at the same time, but righted shortly again.

The Franklin, Diana, from this port for Antwerp, is ashore near the Isle of Rhea; part of the cargo expected to be saved.

Cleared, ship Jane, Evans, Isle of Rhea; sch'r Rhea, Tice, Philadelphia; Norfolk, Deagle, Baltimore; Phoenix, Sesson, St. Bartholomews.

FRENCH SPOILIATIONS.

REPORT

Of the committee to whom was referred on the 26th December last, the petition of sundry merchants of Charleston, South-Carolina.

The committee to whom was referred the memorial of sundry merchants, residing in Charleston, in the state of South-Carolina, complaining of spoliations committed on their lawful commerce by the cruizers and other armed vessels of France, during the late European war, and praying compensation therefor,

REPORT.

That during the first session of the seventh congress, memorials were presented to this house by the present memorialists, and from the merchants in most of the commercial towns in the United States, complaining of the spoliations and depredations which their lawful commerce in the late European war, had sustained from the French armed vessels, and praying for compensation from this government.—These memorials were referred to a select committee, who, on 22d April, 1802, made a long and full report of the public acts of the French republic, and of this government, and of the facts relative to this case; to which report your committee beg leave to refer, and request that it may be taken and considered as part of their present report.

From a mature consideration of the subject, and from the best judgment your committee have been able to form on the case, they are of opinion, that this government, by expunging the second article of our convention with France, of the 30th September, 1800, became bound to indemnify the memorialists for those just claims, which they otherwise would rightfully have had on the government of France, for the spoliations committed on their commerce by the illegal captures made by the cruizers and other armed vessels of that power, in violation of the law of nations and in breach of treaties then existing between the two nations; which claims they were, by the rejection of the said article of the convention, forever barred from preferring to the government of France for compensation. Your committee beg leave to de-

cline giving an opinion on the precise time when those claims ought to commence, or in the period for captures after which the memorialists would not have been entitled to compensation from France; and of course cannot be entitled to indemnity from the United States.

The committee to whom were referred, the memorials of sundry merchants and traders of the United States, complaining of spoliations and depredations committed on their lawful commerce by French cruizers, during the late European war, and praying compensation therefor, have considered the subject, and conceive it their duty to report the following state of facts:

On the 6th day of February, 1778, a treaty of amity and commerce was concluded between the United States and France, containing a variety of reciprocal commercial stipulations and regulations between the two countries, which are deemed by both nations to be in force at the time of the commencement of the late European war, and to continue so for some time hereafter. On the 9th of May, 1793, after Great-Britain had become a party in the war, and whilst the treaty between the U. States and France was considered to be in force by both nations, the national convention passed a decree relative to the commerce of neutrals, the first article of which is in the following words: "The French ships of war and privateers may stop and bring into the ports of the republic, such neutral vessels as are loaded, in whole, or in part, either with provisions belonging to neutrals, and destined for enemy's ports, or with merchandize belonging to enemies."

This decree after being severally repealed, and re-enacted was finally repealed on the 7th of July following. On the 2d of July 1796, the executive directory made the following decree: "That all neutral or allied powers shall, without delay, be notified that the flag of the French republic will treat neutral vessels, either as to confiscation, as to searches or captures, in the same manner as they shall suffer the English to treat them." On the 1st of August, seventeen hundred and ninety-six, the special agents of the executive directory to the windward islands, made a decree to the following effect: "That all vessels loaded with contraband, should be seized and confiscated for the benefit of the captors."

On the 27th of November, 1796, the commission delegated by the French republic to the windward islands, made a resolve to the following effect: "That the captains of French national vessels and privateers are authorized to stop and bring into the ports of the colony, American vessels bound to English ports, or coming from the said ports." On the 1st of February, 1797, the special agents of the French directory to the windward islands, made a decree to the following effect: "subjecting to capture and confiscation neutral vessels destined for the windward and leeward islands of America, delivered up to the English, and occupied and defended by the emigrants. These ports are said to be, Martinico, St. Lucie, Tobago, Demerara, Berbice, Essequibo, Port-au-Prince, St. Mark's, L'Archaye, and Jeremie. The decree also subjects to capture all vessels which have cleared out for the West-Indies, generally."

On the 2d of March, 1797, the executive directory made the following decree: "After the article 17 of the treaty of London, of the 19th of November, 1794, all merchandise of the enemy's or merchandise not sufficiently ascertained to be neutral, conveyed under American flags, shall be confiscated; but the ship, on board of which such merchandise shall be found, shall be released and given to the proprietor. The commissaries of the directory are enjoined to accelerate, by all the means in their power, the decision of the contests which shall arise, either upon the validity of the captures of the cargoes, or upon freights and insurances."

"According to the 15th article of the treaty of London, dated the 19th of November, 1794, relative to articles declared contraband by the 24th article of the treaty dated February the 6th, 1778, are added the following: "Ship timber oakum, pitch, and rosin; copper for sheathing vessels, sails, hemp and cordage, and every thing which serves directly or indirectly to the arming and equipping of vessels, excepting bar iron, and fir in planks. These articles shall be confiscated as often as they shall be destined, or attempted to be carried to the enemy."

"According to the 21st article of the treaty of London, of the above date, every American who shall hold a commission from the enemies of France, as well as every seaman of that nation composing the crew of the ships and vessels, shall, by this fact alone, be declared piratical, and treated as such, without suffering the party to establish that the act was the consequence of threats and violence."

"In pursuance of the law of the 14th of February, 1793, the regulations of the 21st of October, 1794, and of the 26th of July shall be complied with, according to their form and tenor."

"Every American ship shall therefore be deemed a lawful prize, which shall not have on board a bill of lading in due form, according to the plan annexed to the treaty of the 6th February, 1778, the execution of which is enjoined by the 25th and 27th articles of that treaty."

"The commissioners of the executive directory are required to carry into effect the penalties that attach on all clandestine attempts that may be made by American, or vessels belonging to any other nation, to pass as neutral, on board the vessel where