The Senate then again resumed the consideration of Executive business; after which

The Senate adjourned.

Thursday, Jan. 22.

The President communicated to the Senate a report from the Secretary of Treasury, made in obedience to a resolution of the Senate, respecting the progress made in settling the public accounts under the act of last session, for the more prompt settlement of the public accounts.

Mr. *Tichenor* moved two resolutions, referring to the military committee an enquiry into the expediency of repealing or modifying so much of the act establishing the military staff, as relates to hospital surgeons mates, and to the appointment of judge advocates; and an enquiry into the expediency of a *reform* in the provisions of the law respecting the emoluments to the military and staff officers of the army, in order to place them on a more economical establishment.

The bill from the House of Representatives, making appropriations for the payment of arrearages incurred for the military establishment, previous to the year 1817; and the bill making appropriations for the military establishment for the year 1818, were severally read & referred

Several bills were further postponed; and

The Senate adjourned.

Friday, January 23.

Mr. *Roberts*, from the committee of claims, made unfavorable reports on the petitions of Joseph Forrest and of Joseph Cumming.

Mr. *Roberts*, from the same committee, reported a bill for the relief of Isaac Briggs; which was read, & passed to a second reading.

Various reports, bills and resolutions were in part considered and postponed to Monday next; to which day

The Senate adjourned.

Monday, January 26.

The President communicated to the Senate a report from the Secretary of War, of contracts made by that Department, and those made by the purchasing and ordnance departments, in the year 1817.

The following resolutions, submitted by Mr *Tichenor* on the 22d were considered and agreed to:

Resolved, That the military committee be instructed to enquire into the expediency of repealing or modifying so much of the second section of the act, establishing the military staff, as relates to hospital surgeons and hospital surgeon's mates, and to the appointment of judge advocates.

Resolved, That the military committee be instructed to enquire into the expediency of a *reform* in the provisions of the laws respecting the emoluments and allowances to the military and staff officers of the army, in order to place them on a more economical establishment.

Various reports, bills, &c. were postponed in the course of the day; and

The Senate adjourned.

Wednesday, January 28.

Mr. *Dickerson* from the committee to whom was referred the joint resolution proposing an amendment to the constitution in regard to the election of representatives to congress, electors of president and vice-president, &c. reported the resolution with some verbal amendments.

The motion made yesterday by Mr. *Otis*, for an enquiry into the expediency of an examination and allowance of moneys paid by the state of Massachusetts, for the services and supplies of the militia of that state, employed during the late war, was postponed to Friday

The bill providing for surviving revolutionary officers, soldiers, &c. was postponed to to-morrow, as were also several other subjects.

The Senate resumed the consideration of executive business, which occupied it until the adjournment.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19.

The following Message received from the President of the United States, was read as follows, viz.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States:

The claim of the representatives of Caron de Beaumarchais, having been recommended to the favorable consideration of the Legislature by my predecessor in his message to Congress of the 31st of January last; and concurring in the sentiments therein expressed, I now transmit copies of a representation relative to it, received by the Secretary of State from the Minister of France, and of correspondence on the subject, between the Minister of the United States at Paris and the Duke of Richelieu enclosed with that representation.

JAMES MONROE.

Washington, January 12, 1818.

This Message, together with the petitions of J. A. Chevallie, attorney for the heirs of Caron de Beaumarchais and the documents on file in the Clerk's office, relating thereto, were referred to the committee of ways and means.

Mr. Holmes, of Mass. offered for consideration the following resolution:

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to enquire whether any and what Clerks, or other officers in either of the Departments or in any office at the seat of the general government, have conducted improperly in their official duties; and that the committee have power to send for persons and papers.

The question was, after considerable debate, taken on the resolution, which was agreed to by a large majority. The House adjourned to Monday.

Monday, January 19.

On motion of Mr. Hopkinson, it was

Resolved, That the committee on the Judiciary be instructed to enquire what fees have been charged and received by the District Attorney of the Southern District of the State of New York, in prosecutions brought by him against retailers of spirits, for vending them without license; and also, what fees have been received and charged in the same cases, by the other officers of the United States in the courts of the United States, in the said Southern District of the state of New York, and that the said committee have power to send for persons and papers.

The amendments of the Senate to the bill fixing the compensation of the Senators, Representatives, and Delegates in the Congress of the United States, were read and agreed to.

MILITARY APPROPRIATIONS.

On motion of Mr. Lowndes the House having resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the bill making appropriations for the support of the military establishment for 1818: the several appropriations passed without opposition, except one which provides for the appropriation of 35,000 dollars to compensate such brevet officers as may be placed in service in such situations as to entitle them to pay according to their brevet rank.

This provision Mr. Lowndes moved to strike out of the bill.

The motion to strike out this clause prevailed by a large majority.

The remainder of the bill having been gone through, the bill was reported to the House and was ordered to be engrossed.

And the House adjourned.

Tuesday, Jan. 20.

Mr. *Bassett*, from a select committee, reported a bill for the relief of Commodore John Rodgers, (reimbursing to him money recovered by action by John Donnell, of Baltimore.]

Mr. *Sergeant*, having obtained leave, reported a bill to amend the act incorporating the United States' Bank, [authorizing the Company to dispense with the signatures of the President and Cashier of the principal bank from all notes issued from the several branches and authorising the President and Cashier of the branches to sign and countersign the bills issued from their respective offices, &c.]

The speaker presented a letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, in obedience to a resolution of the House of February, 1817, a report on such measure as may be necessary for the more effectual execution of the laws for the collection of the duties on imports.

On motion of Mr. *Basset*, the message of the President, transmitting the claim of the representatives of garon de Beaumarchais, which had been referred to the committee of ways and means in the first instance, and afterwards transferred to the committee of claims, was now referred to a select committee.

In the conversation which took place respecting the reference of this claim, one gentlemen estimated its amount at four or five thousand dollars, and another at near a million.

The bill making appropriations for the arrearages of military supplies, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

BREVET RANK.

The House then resumed the consideration of the report of yesterday's committee of the whole, on the military appropriation bill for the year 1818.

The question to concur in the amendment which strikes out the allowance of 35,000 dollars to defray the expence of extra pay to brevet officers, who hold seperate commands of districts or posts according to their brevet rank—gave rise to much debate, of considerable interest, and was at length decided by yeas and nays.

The bill was then ordered to be engrossed and read a third time.

Mr. *Johnson*, of Kentucky, called up the commutation bill; but a motion to adjourn was made and carried.

Wednesday, Jan. 21.

The engrossed bills making apropriations for the military service, were read a third time, passed, and sent to the Senate for concurrence.

JUDICIAL RECORDS.

The remainder of the day was spent in committee of the whole, Mr *Smith*, of Maryland in the chair, in debating the bill prescribing the effect of certain judicial records.

The committee having risen, and the bill being before the House—

Mr. *Forsyth*, to try the principle of the bill, which, having been so largely debated, must by this time be perfectly understood, moved to postpone the bill indefinitely.

The question on this motion was taken without debate, and decided in the affirmative by a large majority.

So the bill, after so much learning, labor, and ability displayed upon it, was finally rejected; and

The House adjourned.

Thursday, Jan. 22.

Two hundred copies of the Naval Register were received from the Navy Department.

DISCIPLINE OF THE NAVY.

Mr. *Johnson*, of Va. after an introductory explanation of his views, introduced a resolution, which after being subsequently modified, was agreed to, in the following words:

"*Resolved*, That the committee on naval affairs be instructed to enquire whether any, and if any what alterations are proper to be made in the several laws for the government of the navy."

Connected with this motion, Mr. *Johnson* submitted the following, which was also agreed to:

"*Resolved* That the Secretary of the Navy be directed to report to this House the proceedings of a certain court martial, ordered by Commodore Isaac Chauncey, on the Mediterranean station, for the trial of Captain Oliver H. Perry; also the proceedings of a court martial, on the same station, ordered by the same officer, for the trial of Capt. John Heath, of the marine corps."

COMMUTATION BILL.

On motion of Mr. *Johnson*, of Ky. the House proceeded to the consideration of the bill, now lying on the table for the commutation of soldiers' bounty lands, with the amendments proposed thereto.

Mr. *Garnett*, of Va. moved to *postpone indefinitely* the whole subject, believing that it had been so widely debated as to make further debate thereon not necessary to ascertain the sense of the House.

Mr. *Johnson*, of Ky. said he did not, after all that had been said, intend to enter into the debate; but contented himself with calling the Yees and Nays on the question.

The question was at length taken on the proposition to postpone indefinitely; and the vote thereon stood as follows:

For the indefinite postponement 77
Against it 77

The House being thus equally divided, the Speaker, declaring the pleasure it gave him to give his vote to preserve in existence a measure which he believed to be fraught with the greatest benefit to the soldiers and to the nation, voted against the proposed indefinite postponement. So the motion was *rejected*.

The question then recurred on the amendment moved by Mr. *Robertson*, which proposed to substitute stock of a certain discription in lieu of money, as commutation of the soldiers' right to bounty lands.

Mr *Johnson*, of Kentucky, Mr *Smyth* of Virginia, Mr. *Butler*, of New-Hampshire, and Mr. *Peter* of Maryland, expressed their views on the subject, the two former at greater length, and the latter incidentally.

Mr. *Robertson's* proposition was eventually negatived, 79 to 95.

Mr. *Smyth*, of Virginia then moved to change the amount of commutation to be given for each 160 acres, by adding the word "*sixty*" to one hundred and sixty dollars.

The question on this motion was decided without debate in the *affirmative*, ayes 79.

Further Debate ensued on amendments to the detail of the bill; in the consideration of which Mr. *Taylor*, Mr. *Holmes* of M. Mr. *Baldwin*, and Mr. *Edwards* took part.

Before the House got through the subject, a motion was made to adjourn, which prevailed.

Friday, Jan. 23.

Mr. *Pope*, from a select committee, to whom were referred certain memorials on the subject, reported a bill to enable the people of Illinois territory to form a constitution and state government, and for the admission of the same into the Union on an equal footing with the original states, which bill was twice read and committed.

A Message was received from the President of the United States, by the hands of Mr. J. J. Monroe, his Secretary, transmitting the information required by a resolution of this House, calling for an account of all roads made or marked out under the authority of the United States.

On motion of Mr. *Ingham*, it was

Resolved, That a select committee be appointed to enquire what alterations are necessary to be made in the act entitled "An act to regulate and fix the compensation of clerks, and to authorize the laying out of certain public roads, and for other purposes."

COMMUTATION BILL.

The House resumed the consideration of the bill to provide for the commutation of soldiers bounty lands. An amendment of some importance, moved by Mr. *Taylor* yesterday, was agreed to yeas 78: noes 45. No other amendment having been offered—

The question was stated, on ordering the bill to be engrossed for a third reading.

Mr. *Hopkinson*, succinctly delivered the reasons for his opinion against the passage of the bill.

Mr. *Robertson* replied to Mr. Hopkinson, and defended the bill.

Mr. *Hopkinson* rejoined:

The question was then taken on the passage of the bill to a third reading, by the following vote: Yeas 80, Nays 82.

So the bill was *rejected*, by a majority of two votes

CLAIMS FOR HOUSES BURNT IN WAR.

On motion of Mr. *Williams*, of North-Carolina, the house resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. *Pleasants* in the chair, on the report of the committee of Claims on the claim of J. Patterson, and several other claims of a like nature, referred to the same committee.

[The claim is for a house, situated on the banks of the Patuxent, destroyed by the enemy during the late war, on account of previous occupation by provisions and by supplies issued therefrom to a detachment of Militia in the service of the United States, and for other similar reasons, as the petitioner desires to establish by the testimony of two or three witnesses. The claim is one of those laid before the Commissioner of Claims, and by him, according to the provisions of the law of the last session, transmitted to the House of Representatives for their decision on the fact.]

After some conversation on the question of proceeding in consideration of this subject on this or at a future day—

Mr. *Williams*, of North Carolina, delivered at considerable length, and with much perspicuity, the views of the committee on the general principles on which these cases rest, and also on the evidence in this particular case.

After a few observations from Mr. *Smith* of Maryland and Mr. *Forsyth*, the committee rose, and reported their concurrence not only in the case of Mr. Pattieson, but also in several other cases, which rest on the same principle, and on nearly the same description of evidence.

The question on concurrence with the committee of claims in rejeting the petition of Mr. Pattieson, was agreed to

The question being next proposed on the claim of John Ireland, for a house destroyed because occupied by a part of Com. Barney's men, his rigging, &c. and the report recommending its rejection having been read—

A Debate arose on the merits of the claim, and the amount of the testimony, in the course of which Messrs. *Smith* of Md. *Harrison*, *Reed*, *Robertson* of L. *Peter*, *Bayly* and *Palmer* opposed the report adverse to the claim, and Mr. *Williams* and Mr. *Forsyth* supported it.

At length, this and the other reports were laid on the table, the hour grew unusually late. And

The House adjourned to Monday.

Monday, Jan. 26.

Mr. *Johnson*, of Kentucky, from the military committee, reported a bill respecting the organization of the army of the United States, and for other purposes; which was twice read and committed.

Mr. *Sergeant*, from the committee to whom was referred the petition of the American Bible Society, reported (in part) a bill for the remission of duties upon stereotype plates and upon Bibles and Testaments in foreign languages, imported by societies or associations for the gratuitous distribution of the Holy Scriptures

Mr. *Parris* of Massachusetts, from the committee on expenditures expecting the Public Buildings reported a bill to provide for erecting additional buildings for the accommodations of the respective departments.

The bill was twice read and committed.

The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. *H. Nelson* in the chair, on the bill "to amend an act respecting fugitives from justice, and persons escaping from the service of their masters."

The bill is one of considerable importance to the holders of slave property particularly, as going to make that law efficacious, which is at present little better than nominal.

Much discussion took place on the detailes of this bill, which were explained and illustrated by Mr. *Pindall*, of Virginia, and be several other gentlemen. Some amendments were made to the bill, the discussion of which occupied the whole of the day's sitting, and was not concluded when

The committee rose, and obtained leave to sit again; and

The House adjourned.

Tuesday, January 27.

On motion of Mr. MASON of Mass.

Resolved, That the claim of the state of Massachusetts for expenditures to their militia for their services during the late war, together with the documents on the files of this House, be referred to a select committee to consider and report thereon.

On motion of Mr. BURWELL,

Resolved, That the Secretary of War be directed to lay before this House a statement of the claim of the state of Massachsuetts for the expences of calling out the militia of that state during the late war, and the reasons why those claims have not been settled by that Department.

The engrossed bill to remit the duties on stereotype plates and bibles, in foreign languages, imported for the use of the American Bible Society, was read the third time, & the question stated, "Shall the bill pass?"

Mr. INGHAM moved that it now be laid on the table, with the view, if it should afterwards be called up, to move for its commitment.

The question on laying the bill on the table was then decided in the affirmative—ayes 84 noes 62.

The House then proceeded to the consideration of the bill respecting fugitive slaves, &c. the consideration of which occupied the remainder of the day; and the committee rose before the subject was completed. The House adj'd.

Wednesday, Jan. 28.

The order of the day on the bill "respecting fugitives from justice, and persons escaping from the service of their masters," having been announced—

Mr. *Rich* moved to commit the bill to a different committee, with a view of considering the propriety of certain amendments. After some little discussion, the motion was negatived.

The House then resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the bill.

Further debate took place on the bill, and on an amendment proposed to it by *Mr. Baldwin*.

Mr. Fuller, after an ingenious speech of some length, moved to strike out the first section of the bill, with a view to destroy it entirely, on the ground that it transcended the constitutional provisions on the subject.

After debate, the motion to strike out the first section was negatived by a large majority.

Some further amendment having been made to the bill—

The committee rose and reported the bill as amended,

And the House adjourned at half past 4 o'clock.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

LONDON, Dec. 4.

A solemn requiem, or funeral anthem, to the memory of the late princess Charlotte, has been performed at Liverpool by the pupils of the *Blind Asylum*. The music was executed with admirable precision, and sublime effect.

On the 1st of December, a public meeting was held at Liverpool and addresses of condolence transmitted to the Prince Regent and Prince Leopold.

The several coffins in which the princess Charlottee was interred, weighed between five and six hundred pounds. At Clarmont, they were borne into the hearse by sixteen men.

The Leeds Mercury of Dec. 6 contains an address of condolence of the inhabitants of Huddenfield, to the Prince Regent.

The London Courier of Dec. 4, observes, that private letters by the Dutch mail, state the failure of a very respectable house at Hamburgh, to the amount of 400,000 marks.

Las Casas, the private secretary of Bonaparte, stated some time ago to have been sent from St. Helena, arrived in the river Thames from the Cape of Good Hope, in the Brilliant, merchantman. Upon his arrival at Gravesend, he was taken to the alien office, in that town, where his person being identified he was forthwith embarked in another vessel, and sent off to Dover; while all his effects, trunks, and papers were left on board the Brilliant, no doubt to undergo examination. On his arrival at Dover on Saturday night, he was put on board the Lord Duncan packet, for Ostend!

A person intimate with Las Casas mentions that he acquainted him that previous to his leaving St. Helena, his baggage was strictly examined by order of the governor, and that a packet, containing the history of Bonaparte, written by Las Casas at the immediate desire of Bonaparte, and under his direction was taken from him He made pressing applications that it might be returned, which the governor pointedly refused—at length it was agreed that this most extraordinary document should remain in the posession of general Lowe, and with his sanction Las Casas affixed his seal, that the packet should not be opened without his consent.

Las Casas states, that he knows more of the history of Bonaparte than any other person, being for a series of years his private secretary—and to no other person did Bonaparte ever disclose his mind. Las Casas is a middle-aged man; his son a youth of 12 or 13 years of age, accompanies him.

PARIS, Nov. 29.

General baren de Tuyll, the Russian ambassador to the United States of America, and M. de Gallatin, minister plenipotentiary from Wirtemberg arrived this morning, in Paris, with their suites.

Nov. 28.—The king yesterday gave a private audience before mass to baron Vincent, who notified the death of the princess Hermenie, of Anhalt, consort of his royal and imperial highness the archduke Joseph, Palatin of Hungry, and brother of the emperor of Germany.

The court will go into mourning next Saturday for eleven days, on account of the death of the archduchess Hermenie, of Anhalt, consort of the Archduke Joseph. The mourning will be for the first six days in black, and the remaining five in white.

Dec 3.—It is expected that the budget will be presented to the chamber of deputies on the 15th of this month.

According to the last census, the present population of France is 29,045,099 inhabitants.

A letter from Cogniac, of the 22d of November, says—"Never has there been such an astonishing rise in the price of our brandies as we have recently experienced.

An Extraordinary Courier arrived from London in 80 hours, with very considerable orders, has produced this effect. Notwithstanding the scarcity of spirits, he has been able to purchase from 11 to 1,200 pipes in an interval of between eight and ten days. There is not as much more in the whole country."

The marshal duke of Ragusa is nominated a minister of state.

Dec 4.—The king, on the proposition of his minister, secretary at war, has ac-

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