Eastern Shore General Advertiser.

EASTON—(MARYLAND) Printed and Published every *Tuesday Morng*, by THOMAS PERRIN SMITH, near the Court House.

[VOL. I....4.] TUESDAY MORNING, JANARY 4, 1803. [NO. 18....174.]

THE TERMS OF THE STAR

ARE TWO DOLLARS and FIFTY CENTS per annum—payable half yearly, in advance.——No paper discontinued until the same is paid for.

Advertisements inserted three weeks for ONE DOLLAR a square, and TWENTY-FIVE CENTS per week for continuance.

SEVENTH CONGRESS,
OF THE
United States of America.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Friday, December 17.

The Committee of Claims reported on the petition of Joseph Ward, and others, whereupon resolved that the prayer of the petition ought not to be granted.

The house resolved itself into a Committee of the whole on the state of the union, *Mr. John C. Smith* in the chair.

On the President's Message.

1. Resolved, as the opinion of this committee, that so much of the Message of the President of the United States as relates to our navigation and the protection of our commerce ought to be referred to the Committee of Commerce and Manufactures.

This resolution was objected to by Messrs. Dana, Nicholson, Griswold, Dennis, Rutledge and Mitchell; on the ground that it was too extensive for reference to a single committee. To overcome this difficulty, Mr. Dennis moved to amend the resolution offered, so as to read, that so much of the message of the president as relates to discriminating and countervailing duties, and the act of the British parliament on that subject ought to be referred to the committee of Commerce and Manufactures.

Carried without a division.

The following further resolutions, offered by Mr. Dawson, were then agreed to without a division.

2. Resolved, as the opinion of this committee, that so much of the message as relates to our finances ought to be referred to the Committee of Ways and Means.

3. That so much as relates to our concerns with the Indian tribes and the establishment of a new settlement ought to be referred to a select Committee.

4. That so much as relates to our Navy Yards, and the building of docks ought to be referred to a select Committee.

Mr. Mitchell offered the following resolution:

5. Resolved, That so much as relates to providing for the return of American seamen discharged in foreign ports and left abroad, ought to be referred to a select Committee.

Agreed to.

Mr. Mitchell offered the following resolution:

6. Resolved, That so much as relates to the warfare with Tripoli and to our relation to the other Barbary powers, ought to be referred to a select Committee.

Agreed to.

Mr. Nicholson offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the laws for regulating the militia of the United States ought to be revised and amended.

Mr. Griswold suggested the propriety of referring the subject generally to a committee without any opinion being expressed by the House.

Mr. Gregg said a long bill respecting the militia had been introduced last session, which had not been acted upon. This was noticed in the report of the commmittee of Revisal and Unfinished business. The most regular disposition of the subject was, therefore, to act upon that report.

Mr. Nicholson withdrew his resolution.

7. Mr. Varnum renewed it somewhat modified, so as to read, that so much of the president's message as relates to the militia institutions of the United States ought to be referred to a select Committee.

Agreed to.

Mr. Griswold offered the following resolution:

8 That so much of the president's message as relates to the fostering the fisheries of the United States ought to be referred to a select committee.

Agreed to.

The committee then rose, and reported the foregoing eight resolutions, which were immediately agreed to in the house, and committees accordingly appointed.

Mr. Randolph observed that there had been a recent occurrence, in which every member of the house was interested, tho' every member might not perhaps, possess competent information respecting it.—He said it would be useless in him to impress the magnitude of a subject, that related to the free navigation of the Mississippi, which materially affected a district of country growing every day in wealth and importance, and which it behoved the whole United States to cherish and protect. He moved, therefore, the following resolution:

Resolved, that the president of the United States be requested to cause to be laid before the house such papers as are in the possession of the department of state, as relate to the violation on the part of Spain, of the treaty of friendship, limits and navigation between the United States of America and the king of Spain.

This resolution was immediately agreed to unanimously, and Messrs. Randolph and Huger appointed the committee.

Mr. Randolph moved the following resolution:

Resolved, that the committee of Ways and Means be instructed to enquire whether any and what alterations are necessary in the laws imposing duties on tonnage, and on goods, wares and merchandize imported into the United States.

Ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Randolph offered a resolution for repealing so much of certain specified laws as related to the establishment of the mint.

Referred to a committee of the whole house on Monday.

Monday, December 20.

The speaker laid before the house a letter from the secretary of the treasury, inclosing a report made in pursuance of an act establishing the treasury department.

Ordered to be printed—and referred to a committee of Ways and Means.

The speaker laid before the house a letter from the secretary of the navy, enclosing a report from the commissioners of navy pensions.

Ordered to be printed.

Mr. Mitchell presented a petition from sundry manufactures of cork, praying that instead of an ad valorem duty, at present laid on imported corks, there should be a specific duty imposed.

Referred to the committee of commerce and manufactures.

The house resolved itself into a committee of the whole, *Mr. Varnum* in the chair, on the report on the petition of Samuel Corp.

The following is the Report of the Committee of Commerce and Manufactures.

"That it apperrs to the committee, that the petitioner was interested in a ship which sailed for London early in the year 1799, for the purpose of purchasing a cargo proper for the New Orleans market—that the ship arrived in the month of August following at New York, having on board a cargo agreeably to order, none of which was intended to be landed within the United States—that the captain's manifest, which he presented to the collector, declared his cargo for exportation; but not having made the same declaration on the copy of the manifest which he had delivered to the first boarding officer, the owners were compelled to enter the cargo, and give bond for the duties of the same—that no part of the cargo was landed except some bird shot—it appears also, that the collector granted a clearance for New Orleans, and issued debentures of drawback on the cargo; but on application for payment, the petitioner was informed that the law of 2d March, 1799, precluded him from being paid: the petitioner, therefore, prays relief from congress.

"This case having been fully understood at the last session, the committee consider it unnecessary to go into any reasoning thereon. They submit the following resolution:

"*Resolved*, that the prayer of the petitioner ought to be granted, and that the committee of commerce and manufactures be directed to bring in a bill conformable thereto."

Mr. S. Smith advocated the report.

Mr. Griswold, though inclined to allow the prayer of the petition, thought a general provision ought to be made for all similar cases. With this view, it was moved that the committee rise.

Carried;—when the committee was discharged, and the petition of Samuel Corp, and the report thereon, were recommitted to the committee of commerce and manufactures, with instructions to enquire into the propry of providing by law for the payme of debentures that have been issued for drawback of duty on goods, wares and merchandises exported to New Orleans.

Mr. Randolph, fro the committee appointed on Friday, present to the president of the United States, a resolution of the house, touching the violation on the part of Spain of the treaty of friendship, limits and navigation between the United States of America and the king of Spain, reported that the committee had performed the duty assigned them, and had receive for answer from the president that he would cause the proper information to be laid before the house.

Mr. Nicholson, from the committee appointed on the petions of Richard Wilson and Nathanie Seager, with instructions to enquire into the expediency of making a general provision for the relief of insolvent debtors, within the district of Columbia, reported a bill for the relief of *insolvent debtors* in the district of Columbia, which was twice read, and referred to a committee of the whole on Thursday next.

On motion of Mr. Mattoon, a resolution was passed requesting the president to direct the proper officer to lay before the house a statement of the militia returns last received from the several states; and Messrs. Mattoon and Jackson, appointed a committee.

On motion of Mr. Eutis, the petition of John Holland, presented last session, was referred to the committee of commerce and manufactures.

The following are the committees appointed on the resolutions entered into on Friday in the house of representatives.

On that part of the president's message that relates to our concerns with the Indian tribes and the establishment of a new settlement—Messrs. Dawson, T. Morris, Hoge, Hastings and Merriwether.

On that part which relates to our navy yards and the building of docks—Messrs. Mitchell, Rutledge, Hanna, Wadsworth and Mott.

On that part which relates to the providing for the return of American seamen discharged in foreign ports, and left abroad—Messrs. S. Smith, Goddard, Josiah Smith, Woods and Gray.

On that part which refers to the warfare with Tripoli, and to the relation with the other Barbary powers—Messrs. Eustis, Perkins, Elmendorf, Tillinghast and Taliaferro.

On that part, which relates to the militia institution of the United States,—Messrs. Varnum, Upham, J. Smith, of Virginia, Holmes, Brown, Butler, D. Heister, Stanton and Stanford.

On that part, which relates to the fostering of the fisheries of the United States—Messrs. Huger, Bishop, J. Heister, J. Trigg and Van Ness.

Tuesday, December 21.

Mr. Rutledge observed that the state of South Carolina had lately taken measures for a supply of arms for her militia. He thought that an object so great and desirable ought to be encouraged by the general government, by exempting arms imported under such circumstances from duty. He therefore offered a resolution, purporting that any state, importing pieces of ordnance, fire or fire arms for their militia, should be exempted from the payment of duties.

Mr. Randolph said the resolution proposed contained some important principles. Its adoption would affect the revenue in some degree; and would, in a still greater degree, affect home manufactures, especially those the most esential to the good of the community. It did appear to him, that if any manufacture required the aid of protecting duties, it was the manufacture of arms in preference to all others. The resolution embraced not only ordnance, but fire arms also. He was not prepared to say that a distinction ought not to be made between these two descriptions of arms. For these reasons he wished the resolution to lie on the table.

Mr. Rutledge said he had no objection to its resting for a day or two; when on motion of Mr. Randolph, it was referred to a committee of the whole, and made the order of the day for Monday.

Leave of absence was granted to Mr. Nicholson for four days.

Mr. Van Ness presented a memorial from the City Council of Washington, desiring certain alterations in their act of incorporation.

Referred to Messrs. Van Ness, Thompson, Plater, Campbell and Jackson.

[This memorial was also presented in the senate, by General Mason, and referred to Messrs. Mason, Howard and Baldwin.]

Mr. Dennis presented the petition of William Taylor, of this city, praying for an act of insolvency.

Referred to the committee of the whole, to whom had been referred the reported bill for the relief of insolvent debtors in the district of Columbia.

Mr. Brent presented the petition of sundry inhabitants of Alexandria, Columbia, members of a mutual assurance company against fire—Referred to a select committee of three.

Mr. Moore presented the petition of Bernard Glen. Referred to the committee of claims.

A short debate took place on a letter received from the clerk on the subject of Newspapers delivered to members at the public expence. The letter stated that application, having been made by some members to receive a number of copies of papers (not daily) equivalent to a daily print, the clerk desired the instructions of the house how to act.

The speaker, on being appealed to as to the practice of the house, said he understood the practice to have been, that members had taken a number of copies equivalent to a daily paper.

After some conversation, Mr. Mitchell said as a diversity of opinion existed, he would submit a resolution to try the sense of the house. He, therefore, moved a resolution, purporting that a member may take such a number of copies of a paper not printed daily as amount to the price of a daily paper.

This resolution was opposed by Messrs. Smilie and Elmer, and supported by Messrs. Dana, Stanley and Rutledge.

Carried—Ayes 50.

Mr. S. Smith, from the committee of commerce and manufactures, reported a bill to allow a drawback of duties on goods exported to New Orleans, &c. which was referred to a committee of the whole, and made the order of the day for to-morrow.

Mr. Randolph moved that the house resolve itself into a committee of the whole on the subject of the *mint*.

Mr. Griswold said the house had not yet received the report of the director of the mint. He thought it better to wait till it was received, as they would then better understand the state of the mint, and the expences attending it. The report might be sent in within the course of a week.

Motion of Mr. Randolph lost, Ayes 25.

Wednesday, December 22.

THE MINT.

Mr. Randolph rose in order to renew a motion which he had made yesterday, and on which, [being called to the door when some objections were urged against it,] he was surprised to find himself in a small minority. Understanding that a refusal to resolve itself into a committee of the whole on his motion for abolishing the mint, was the effect of a desire on the part of the house to receive the report of the director of that institution, for the past year, he would endeavor to shew that the house were already in possession of competent information, and that it could not be effected by any communication which the head of that department might make. If this were a subject novel to the house and of an undigested nature, he should readily acknowledge his motion to have been premature; nor would it, under those circumstances, have been submitted to the house. But on examination it would appear that the subject had been matured during the last session;—that information of the most satisfactory nature had been received from the director; and a bill actually passed the house. *That* information, if it were not in the recollection of every member of the house, was accessible to all of them. It stated explicitly, that the machinery would not last, without repair, longer than another year:—this he presumed had not renewed itself; that, the horses were so old that it would be necessary at the end of the year to replace them by others; these had not, he supposed, grown younger; that the lot was too circumscribed, and this, he imagined, had not enlarged its limits; that the expence of the institution could not by any new arrangements be reduced below 20,000 dollars. The director had not only recommended a change of the site, but of the *modus operandi* of the machinery of the mint, by supplying the labor of horses by steam. Upon this information the house had acted last session.—No general election having intervened, he must presume that no change of sentiment had taken place—He therefore thought he had a right to consider this subject as perfectly matured, and there being no other business before the house, hoped it would be taken up; although he was not surprised at the reluctance of those gentlemen who cherished the institution as one of the insignia of sovereignty, to act upon it.—This aspect of the subject could not, however, be changed by any report of the detailed operations of the mint. He, therefore, moved that the house agreeably to the order of the day, resolve itself into a committee of the whole on the resolution to repeal so much of the laws on the subject of the mint as relate to the *establishing* of a mint.

Mr. Gregg considered the motion to go into the discussion of the subject at this time premature. He was among those members who were not present at the late period of the last session when the repealing act passed, having previously retired from the house. It would be recollected that the appointed time for the director of the mint to make his annual report was the first Monday of January. That period is so near, that he thought it most advisable not to proceed to act on the subject, until possessed of the information that document might furnish. Though the institution had not been considered, as having operated much to the public good, yet the operation of it during the last year may perhaps change their opinions respecting it. He, therefore, moved to postpone the consideration of the motion to the second Monday in January.

Mr. Smilie said he did not concur in opinion with his colleague. If members were absent when this subject was acted upon, it was their own faults; and that circumstance was certainly no argument for delay. Did he, however, believe that any new information could rationally be expected from the report of the director of the mint, he should not be for taking up the subject now. But of this he had no expectation. At present there was no business before the house. The committees appointed would soon make their reports, and then the house would be engaged with other subjects, to the neglect of this. Let us then, said he take up this subject now, enter upon its discussion, and if in the progress of our inquiries we want information, it will be then time enough to postpone it.

Mr. Southard was in favor of the postponement. There we now present a number of gentlemen not members at the period of discussion last session. They have no documents, and cannot be correctly informed. He saw no advantage in entering upon the discussion at this time, as new and additional information may be received from the report of the director. It had been said there was no business before the house; but there was business; there was a bill upon their table; why not take up that and act upon it?

Mr. Randolph called for the reading of a document that would throw clear and full light upon the subject; not light of that fleeting kind that may be derived from an annual report. From this document sufficient information could be had to convince any member that we might act as well now as at any other time.

The clerk read a report from the director of the mint, received during the last session, stating the real and personal property attached to the mint, that the machinery might last for one year, that the horses may last a year; that to conduct the operations of the mint to advantage steam should be used instead of horses; that the lot on which the mint erected was too small; and that a less annual sum than seventeen or eighteen thousand dollars would not provide for the establishment.

Mr. Griswold observed that he was informed yesterday by a gentlemen from Massachusetts, not now in this place, that the coins issued the current year would exceed in value 500,000 dollars. He did not state this from his own knowledge. But if it should appear, from the report of the director, to be the fact, he thought it would satisfy every member, that though the establishment was an expence to the treasury, yet it was no expence to the nation; for the exportation of bullion, to that amount, to be coined, and the importation of it thereafter would cost at least 5 per cent.

Mr. Randolph said he would state a fact, which was, that notwithstanding all the issues from the mint, no member sees a coin. For his part he had not seen a piece of gold coined in the mint for two years. This, he consi dered,

(Continued in last page)