(XLVth YEAR.) THE (No. 2256.)

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 1790.

Proceedings of Congreſs.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES.

WEDNESDAY, *March* 17.

REPORTS from the ſecretary at war, and the ſecretary of the treaſury, were read, on ſundry petitions.

The ratification of the ſtate of Pennſylvania of the 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 articles of amendments propoſed by congreſs to the onſtitution was read.

In committee of the whole on the report of the elect committee, to whom was referred the memorials f the people called Quakers, on the ſubject of the ave trade.

The queſtion of order was put, when it was deter-ined that Mr. Tucker's laſt amendment was not in rder.

The report was then taken up by paragraphs. The rſt propoſition being read Mr. White moved that it ſtruck out. He did this he ſaid, becauſe he was ainſt entering into a conſideration at this time of the wers of congreſs, he thought it would be time enough this when the powers are called in queſtion. He n read the next, which he ſaid was entirely un-ceſſary as it contains nothing more than what is con-ed in expreſs terms in the conſtitution.

He paſſed on to the third, which he ſaid was equal-nneceſſary; and ſo the fourth, which was provided by the conſtitution. He ſaid that he ſhould agree the fifth, and ſixth, with certain modifications. reeable to this idea he offered thoſe two in a dif-nt form. He diſagreed to the ſeventh propoſition, nneceſſary and improper. He concluded by ob-ing, that his wiſh was to promote the happineſs of mankind—and among the reſt thoſe who are the ects of preſent conſideration—but this he wiſhed to in conformity to the principles of juſtice and with ue regard to the peace and happineſs of others; he ould contribute all in his power to their comfort and ell being while in a ſtate of ſlavery; but he was fully opinion that congreſs has no right to interfere in buſineſs, any further than he propoſed by the two opoſitions as modified. He did not however anti-te the difficulties from a total prohibition which gentlemen ſeem to apprehend—and if congreſs it in their power to interdict this buſineſs at the ent moment, he did not think the eſſential intereſts he ſouthern ſtates would ſuffer. Twenty years ago, uppoſed the idea he now ſuggeſted, would have d univerſal alarm. Virginia however about twelve ſince, prohibited the importation of negroes from ca, and the conſequences apprehended never were zed; on the contrary the agriculture of that ſtate never in a more flouriſhing ſituation.

Mr. Hartley.—I have the honour to be one of the mittee on the memorials, and will with the leave this committee mention ſome particulars which took ce in the courſe of the inveſtigation of the buſineſs; premiſed that he was ſorry that the queſtion of right been brought forward yeſterday—and was not a e ſurpriſed to hear the cauſe of ſlavery advocated hat houſe, and language held towards the petition-which his experience he ſaid, had never ſhewn to parliamentary—he read ſome memorandums taken committee, and had particular reference to a law ed in Grenada which he applauded for its humanity, truly benevolent ſpirit.

He reprobated the illiberal treatment which the me-ialiſts had received, and aſſerted that they were ds to the conſtitution, and that on the preſent oc-n they came forward from the moſt laudable mo-, from a wiſh to promote the happineſs of man-, that their conduct ſo far from meriting cenſure, rved, and would receive the applauſe of the civi-world.

Mr. Brown in a conſiderable ſpeech advocated the on of Mr. White, he enlarged on the pernicious equences that may be expected to flow from the erence of congreſs; he pointed out the effects h had reſulted from the interpoſition of the kers, by which the proſpects of the ſouthern ſtates laves had been rendered very precarious—and if greſs ſhould adopt the report as it is, the conſe-nces will be pernicious in the higheſt degree. The property will be annihilated. The emancipation laves will be effected in time, it ought to be a gra-buſineſs—but he hoped that congreſs would not, ratify people who never had been friendly to the pendence of America, precipitate the buſineſs to great injury of the ſouthern ſtates.

Mr. Burke entered into a very extenſive conſide-on of the ſubject; he gave an account of the humane tment which the ſlaves of the ſouthern ſtates re-ed, their habitations, families, children, privileges, He then ſhewed that their emancipation would tend to make them wretched in the higheſt degree—he animadverted with great freedom on the paſt and preſent conduct of the Quakers—he denied that they were the friends of freedom—he ſaid that during the late war, they were for bringing this country under a foreign yoke, they deſcended to the characters of ſpies—they ſupplied the enemy with proviſions, they were guides and conductors to their armies—and whenever the American army came into their neighbourhood they formed themſelves in an enemy's country. Mr. Burke was proceeding in this ſtrain when he was interrupted by its being ſaid he was not in order; a warm altercation enſued, and, in the midſt of it, a motion was made that the committee ſhould riſe: this motion was negatived; and Mr. Burke added a few more obſervations on the injuſtice of the meaſure of interference, as it reſpected the property of the ſouthern ſtates.

Mr. Smith (S. C.) followed Mr. Burke in a ſpeech or eſſay, in defence of the ſlave trade, of nearly two hours length—the committee roſe without a deciſion.

THURSDAY, *March* 18.

Sundry memorials and petitions were read and referred—The report of the committee on the memorials reſpecting the ſlave trade being the order of the day,

Mr. Benſon, after premiſing that any further diſcuſſion of the ſubject in the line it was now in, would be a uſeleſs expence of time—moved that the committee of the whole ſhould be diſcharged from any further attention to the report, and that the memorials be again referred to a ſelect committee; he offered a variety of reaſons on which he founded this motion. This was ſeconded by Mr. Baldwin, who, at the ſame time, entered into a lengthy diſcuſſion of the ſubject. Mr. Baldwin was followed by many other gentlemen, which gave the buſineſs a totally different direction from what appeared to be the object of the motion.

The queſtion being taken, Mr. Benſon's motion was loſt. The houſe then went into a committee of the whole on the report: the debate was continued with ardour, and the ſpeakers on both ſides were numerous; ſeveral alterations in the report were agreed to; but the committee roſe without finiſhing the buſineſs, and the houſe adjourned.

FRIDAY, *March* 19.

Honourable Hugh Williamſon, member from the ſtate of North-Carolina, appeared, was qualified, and took his ſeat this day.

A meſſage was received from the ſenate, with two bills which they have paſſed with amendments, viz. An act to provide for the remiſſion or mitigation of fines, forfeitures and penalties, in certain caſes, and An act to eſtabliſh a uniform rule of naturalization.

Sundry reports from the heads of departments, on memorials and petitions, were read.

On motion of Mr. Sherman, the report of the committee on the memorial of Robert Morris, Eſq; was read the ſecond time; the report reſpecting the ſettlement of his accounts only.

Mr. Sherman moved that a committee of five members be appointed to inquire into the receipts and expenditures of public monies during the adminiſtration of Robert Morris, Eſq; late ſuperintendent of finance, and to report to the houſe a ſtate of the accounts reſpecting the ſame. This motion, after ſome debate, was agreed to, and Mr. Sherman, Mr. Madiſon, Mr. Lawrence, Mr. Sedgwick and Mr. Smith, (S. C.) appointed.

In committee of the whole, the report of the committee on the ſlave trade under conſideration. The fourth propoſition reſpecting a duty of ten dollars on ſlaves imported, being read, it was moved that it be ſtruck out, which motion after much debate was adopted. Several modifications of the fifth propoſition were offered, but the following in ſubſtance, offered by Mr. Madiſon, was agreed to, viz. Congreſs have authority to reſtrain the citizens of the United States, who are concerned in the African trade, from ſupplying foreigners with ſlaves; and to provide for their humane treatment while on their paſſages to the United States.

The committee then roſe, and the houſe adjourned till Monday next.

MONDAY, *March* 22.

The amendments propoſed by the ſenate to the bill for eſtabliſhing an uniform rule of naturalization, and to the bill to provide for the mitigation or remiſſion of fines, forfeitures and penalties, in certain caſes, were taken into conſideration. To the firſt bill one amendment only was propoſed, which was agreed to by the houſe. The amendment to the other, it was ſaid, involved an alteration of the principle on which the bill was founded; other objections were made, and, on motion, it was voted that the amendment ſhould lie on the table.

In committee of the whole; the report of the ſelect committee on the memorials on the ſlave trade under conſideration. The ſixth article was further diſcuſſed.

Mr. Scott commenced the debate this day in advocating the prayer of the memorialiſts, he was replied to by ſeveral of the ſouthern gentlemen. It was moved that the clauſe ſhould be ſtruck out, this motion being put, it paſſed in the negative.

The committee then agreed to the propoſition.

The ſeventh article was ſtruck out of the report.

The committee then roſe, and the report, as amended and agreed to, was laid on the table.

A meſſage was received from the ſenate, with the bill making appropriations for the ſupport of government for the year 1790, concurred in with amendments.

Adjourned.

TUESDAY, *March* 23.

Sundry memorials and petitions were preſented and read.—The amendments of the ſenate to the appropriation bill were taken into conſideration—the firſt was agreed to.

The ſum allowed by the houſe to Gifford Dally, Eſquire, for ſervices performed during the receſs, it was propoſed by the ſenate ſhould be divided between him and Mr. Mathers, the door-keeper of the ſenate; this amendment was objected to; after ſome converſation the amendment was concurred in with an amendment.

The committee to whom was referred the petition of Richard Wells and John Hart, brought in the following report:

RESOLVED, That the poſſeſſors of the continental bills of credit, emitted by the authority of congreſs, before the 18th day of March, 1780, on bringing the ſame into the treaſury of the United States, ſhall receive certificates for the ſame, at the rate of one dollar ſpecie value for one hundred dollars of the ſaid bills; and the ſame ſhall be funded on intereſt in the ſame manner as the other debts of the United States. The intereſt to commence on the day the ſaid bills ſhall be lodged in ſaid treaſury; and all ſuch bills in the treaſury of any ſtate exceeding its quota required by the acts of congreſs of the 7th day of October, 1779, and the 18th day of March, 1780, on being brought into the treaſury of the United States ſhall be credited to the account of ſuch ſtate at the rate aforeſaid, on intereſt of ſix per cent. per annum, from the time it was received into the treaſury of the reſpective ſtates; laid on the table.

It was then moved, that the houſe ſhould take up the report of the committee of the whole on the memorials of the people called Quakers. This motion was oppoſed by Mr. Jackſon, Mr. Smith, Mr. Burke and Mr. Bland: They ſeverally obſerved, that the diſcuſſion of the ſubject has already excited a ſpirit of diſſention among the members of the houſe, and that every principle of policy and concern for the dignity of the houſe, and the peace and tranquillity of the United States, concur to ſhew the propriety of dropping the ſubject, and letting it ſleep where it is. On the other hand Mr. Vining, Mr. Hartley and Mr. Page, obſerved, that there was the ſame propriety in taking up the ſubject at the preſent moment, and bringing it to a concluſion as there was for firſt taking it up; that it has been ſo fully diſcuſſed, that it cannot be ſuppoſed gentlemen will go over the ſame ground again; it may ſoon be determined, to paſs it over will be unprecedented, and will leave the public mind in the ſame ſtate of uncertainty from which ſo much danger is apprehended.

The motion for taking up the report was warmly conteſted, in a lengthy debate, and finally paſſed in the affirmative by a majority of one. This was followed by a motion for entering the report of the ſelect committee, and the report of the committee of the whole on the journals of the houſe. This motion called up the ſpeakers from all ſides of the houſe, and was at laſt determined, by ayes and noes as follow:

	A Y E S.		
Meſſieurs	Boudinot,	Hartley,	Partridge,
	Brown,	Hathorn,	Schureman,
	Cadwalader,	Heeſter,	Scott,
	Contee,	Huntington,	Sedgwick,
	Floyd,	Lawrence,	Sherman,
	Foſter,	Lee,	Sylveſter,
	Gerry,	Leonard,	Sinnickſon,
	Gilman,	Madiſon,	Vining,
	Goodhue,	P. Muhlenberg,	Wynkoop. 29.
	Griffin,	Parker,	

	N A Y S.		
Meſſieurs	Ames,	Jackſon,	Sturges,
	Baldwin,	Livermore,	Sumpter,
	Benſon,	Matthews,	Thatcher,
	Bland,	Moore,	Trumbull,
	Burke,	Page,	Tucker,
	Carroll,	Van Renſallaer,	White,
	Coles,	Smith, (M.)	Williamſon. 25.
	Gale,	Smith, (S. C.)	
	Grout,	Stone,	

The ſubſtance of the 1ſt, 3d, 5th, and 6th propoſitions of this report were agreed to by the committee of the whole.

The amendment propoſed by the houſe to the appropriation bill was non-curred by the ſenate.

Adjourned.