(XLVth YEAR.) THE (No. 2257.)

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 1790.

Proceedings of Congreſs.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES.

WEDNESDAY, *March* 24.

SUNDRY petitions were read, and laid on the table.

The ſecretary for the department of war laid before the houſe ſundry reports on memorials and petitions from officers of the late army, which had been referred to him.

Honourable J. B. Aſhe, member from the ſtate of orth-Carolina, appeared, was qualifiſd, and took his t this day.

The houſe receded from their amendment to the nendment propoſed by the ſenate to the appropriation ll, and concurred with the ſenate.

The amendment propoſed by the ſenate to the bill oviding for the remiſſion of fines, forfeitures and pelties, in certain caſes, was read, and taken into conderation.

This amendment provides, that judgment on fortures incurred in particular caſes above a certain n, ſhould be ultimately referred to the ſecretary of treaſury, the ſecretary of ſtate, and the attorneyneral of the United States: With a proviſo grantfull relief in caſes of ſeizure in future not juſtly nded.

Mr. Smith, (S. C.) ſtated ſome objections to this endment.

Mr. Livermore was alſo oppoſed to it, as changing principal of the bill altogether, and introducing an ire new act, very different from that paſſed by the uſe.

Mr. Sherman obſerved, that it was true the propoſiof the ſenate materially altered the bill; ſtill he ught it a real amendment: it will lengthen the proc; but it will eventually produce ſtrict juſtice, and d more effectually to ſecure the revenue, and guard ainſt impoſitions.

Mr. Goodhue objected to the propoſition, and obved, that ſo far from affording any relief, as conplated in the bill, we ſhould be juſt as well of with any bill at all. He inſtanced the caſe of a perſon o ſhould happen to incur, unintentionally, a penalin the ſtate of Georgia, he muſt ſend to the ſeat of vernment to obtain a deciſion on his caſe; meantime, m the periſhable nature of his cargo as may happen, property at all events is ſacrificed. He hoped the endment would not be acceded to.

Mr. Jackſon was oppoſed to it on ſimilar principles, obſerved, that he ſhould prefer that the judge of diſtrict court ſhould be empowered to give a final ermination; he conſidered the judge as competent the officers of ſtate at the ſeat of government, and a more reſponſible ſituation.

Mr. Smith, (S. C.) ſpoke largely on the ſubject, and oppoſition to the amendment.

Mr. Gerry objected to the propoſition as unconſtitunal, as the appointing the heads of departments as dges in this caſe, is to all intents and purpoſes eſtaſhing a board of commiſſioners with judiciary pow; and is an indirect and not very delicate attack on power of the preſident and the ſenate of the United tes.

Mr. Sedgwick was oppoſed to the former part of the endment, but wiſhed that the latter part might be opted. He diſſented from Mr. Gerry by obſerving, t he conceived there was propriety in referring matrs of this nature to officers already appointed.

Mr. Sherman propoſed a committee of conference.

Mr. Burke was in favour of the motion.

Mr. Lawrence entered into a general conſideration the ſubject of fines and forfeitures. Theſe, he obved, were originally deſigned as guards to the ſafe effectual collection of the revenue; and in this w they ought to be as nearly inevitable as is any ys conſiſtent with mercy to individuals, and juſtice the public at large. The contemplation of a mitiion of theſe fines and forfeitures ought to be maed with a great deal of circumſpection—that ſuch iculties may be thrown in the way of getting rid of ſe forfeitures, as may prevent careleſs and incautis violations of the law; he added many more obſerions; and concluded by ſaying, that he could wiſh laſt part of the propoſition ſhould be adopted, but th reſpect to the former, he had not ſo fully digeſted ſubject as to be able at the preſent time, to give his inion; he wiſhed therefore that the bill might lay the table for a few days.

Mr. Huntington ſaid, he had always been oppoſed the bill as abſurd and improper; for if a law is neſſary in the preſent caſe to mitigate fines, &c. inrred for breaches of the revenue law, we ſhall act conſiſtently with ourſelves, if we do not paſs laws to ate puniſhments in other caſes. He believed no paſſel can be produced in any country of laws ſimilar to the one propoſed; it is referring matters of judicial determination to a chancellorate unknown to the conſtitution. He wiſhed therefore that the bill might be ſuffered to lie on the table, never more to be taken up: if a committee of conference is appointed, he had no doubt this would be the iſſue of the buſineſs.

On the queſtion being taken, the amendment of the ſenate was diſagreed to.

A committee of conference was then appointed, conſiſting of Mr. Ames, Mr. Huntington and Mr. Jackſon.

Mr. Sedgwick moved that a committee be appointed to conſider and report what proviſion ſhall be made for the ſupport of the officers of the ſupreme judicial court.

The motion was ordered to be laid on the table.

Mr. Lee moved for leave to bring in a bill further to ſuſpend the operation of part of the collection and tunnage laws: The motion was laid on the table.

On motion of Mr. Lawrence, the engroſſed bill making proviſion for perſons employed in the intercourſe between the United States and foreign nations, was recommitted to a ſelect committee.

Adjourned.

THURSDAY, *March* 25.

Sundry petitions were read.

Mr. Gilman, of the committee of enrolment, brought in the bill making appropriations for the ſupport of government for the year 1790, and the bill for eſtabliſhing an uniform rule of naturalization, enrolled, which had been examined by the committee, and found correct; the ſpeaker then ſigned the ſame.

A motion was then made that the houſe ſhould go into a committee of the whole on the bill reſpecting the ſouth-weſtern frontiers. Some objection was made to the immediate adoption of the motion, as intereſting and important intelligence was daily expected from governor St. Clair.

The motion being put was carried in the affirmative, and the galleries were thereupon ſhut.

FRIDAY, *March* 26.

Mr. Livermore preſented a petition from the inhabitants of Portſmouth, (N. H.) reſpecting certain duties on tunnage; and alſo praying that the diſtrict court may be holden in that place only.

In committee of the whole houſe—Mr. Boudinot in the chair.

The bill to prevent the exportation of goods, not duly inſpected according to the laws of the ſeveral ſtates, was taken into conſideration.

Mr. Livermore objected to the bill, as an unconſtitutional interference on the part of congreſs with the powers of the reſpective ſtates. The conſtitution, ſaid he, has expreſsly reſerved to the ſeveral ſtates the power of making their own inſpection laws, and the power of executing them is inſeparably connected: Thoſe laws will doubtleſs be executed without an interference on our part.

Mr. Smith, (S. C.) obſerved, that the object of the bill is to make it the duty of the collectors to attend to the execution of the ſtate inſpection laws, it having formerly been the duty of the ſtate collectors: Since the appointments were made by the United States, the officers did not conceive themſelves bound to pay particular attention to thoſe laws.

Several other gentlemen ſpoke on the ſubject, and the great importance of ſuch laws, and their punctual execution were enlarged on.

The committee finally agreed to ſome amendments, which were adopted by the houſe; and the bill was ordered to be engroſſed for a third reading on Monday next.

In committee of the whole on the bill for accepting the ceſſion made by the ſtate of North-Carolina of certain lands therein deſcribed.

In the preamble to the bill, the words "the honourable," were prefixed to the names of the ſenators from North-Carolina.

Mr. Page moved that thoſe words ſhould be ſtruck out. He obſerved, that, however honourable the gentlemen might be, and he was ready to acknowledge they were truly ſo, yet, agreeable to the uſage of the houſe, he conceived there was an impropriety in giving any titles. He hoped never to ſee the time when a legiſlative ſanction ſhould be given to ſuch diſtinctions. If a permanent ariſtocracy was ever eſtabliſhed among us, it would be through this medium: Such titles have been productive of infinite miſchief in other countries. They are anti-republican, and as ſuch cannot be conferred with any propriety by this houſe.

Mr. Sedgwick obſerved, that if the honourable gentleman was ready to acknowledge the ſenators from the ſtate of North-Carolina were truly honourable characters, he could ſee no miſchief or impropriety in ſaying ſo; it comports with the uſage of the ſeveral ſtates: but he conſidered it as a matter of trifling conſequence, and hoped the committee would not ſpend time in altercating the ſubject.

Mr. Page made ſome reply to Mr. Sedgwick, and the vote being taken, it paſſed in the affirmative by a great majority, and the words were ſtruck out.

A condition in the act of ceſſion, relative to the emancipation of ſlaves, that congreſs ſhould not (as in the act for the government of the Weſtern Territory) provide for their freedom, occaſioned ſome debate, an amendment was propoſed and debated, but not adopted.

The committee reported the bill with the above amendment only, which was agreed to by the houſe.

Mr. Gilman, of the committee of enrolment, informed the houſe that the appropriation and naturalization bills were preſented to the preſident of the United States, for his approbation, the 25th inſtant.

Adjourned to Monday.

The committee of the whole houſe, to whom was referred the report of the committee on the memorial of the people called quakers, and of the Pennſylvania and New-York ſocieties for promoting the abolition of ſlavery, agreed to the following, which was entered on the journals:—

That the migration or importation of ſuch perſons as any of the ſtates now exiſting ſhall think proper to admit, cannot be prohibited by congreſs prior to the year 1808.

That congreſs have no authority to interfere in the emancipation of ſlaves, or in the treatment of them, within any of the ſtates, it remaining with the ſeveral ſtates alone to provide any regulation therein which humanity and true policy may require.

That congreſs have authority to reſtrain the citizens of the United States from carrying on the African trade for the purpoſe of ſupplying foreigners with ſlaves, and of providing by proper regulations for their humane treatment, during the paſſage of ſlaves imported by the citizens into the ſaid ſtates admitting ſuch importation.

MONDAY, *March* 29.

Several bills and petitions were read.

The chairman from a committee of the whole on the report of the ſecretary of the treaſury, relative to a proviſion for the ſupport of public credit, reported.

The houſe then agreed to the firſt, ſecond and third reſolutions, reported by the committee; but a debate took place on the fourth, viz. "for aſſuming the ſtate debts"—and Mr. Carroll moved to recommit the ſaid reſolution to a committee of the whole houſe; which motion was conteſted for a conſiderable time and at length carried in the affirmative, 29 appearing for the motion, and 27 againſt it.

The houſe then adjourned.

TUESDAY, *March* 30.

The bill for accepting the ceſſion of certain lands therein deſcribed, made by the ſtate of North-Carolina, having been amended by the houſe, as ſtated in our laſt, and returned to the ſenate—the amendment was concurred in by the ſenate, with an amendment—this additional amendment was to ſtrike out the names of the ſenators of North-Carolina from the preamble, and was agreed to by the houſe.

The order of the day being called for, the ſpeaker read the fifth reſolution of the report of the committee of the whole houſe, on the report of the ſecretary of the treaſury.

Mr. Gerry moved that all the propoſitions ſubſequent to that for aſſuming the ſtate debt ſhould be recommitted to a committee of the whole—He obſerved that theſe are ſo inſeparably connected with the foregoing, that thoſe who conſider the aſſumption as an object of importance, have aſſociated the ſubſequent propoſitions with it, and cannot conſiſtently vote for the latter, but in reference to the former.

This motion occaſioned debate.

It was oppoſed by Mr. Carroll, Mr. Stone, Mr. Seney, Mr. Jackſon and Mr. Williamſon; and ſupported by Mr. Bland, Mr. Vining, Mr. Lawrence, Mr. Burke and Mr. Wadſworth.

The motion being put, it paſſed in the affirmative—31 members voting in favour of it.

The houſe then went into a committee of the whole—Mr. Livermore in the chair.

The propoſition for the aſſumption of the ſtate debts being read, the debate on the ſubject was renewed, and continued until near three o'clock, when the committee roſe, without coming to a deciſion.

A meſſage was received from the preſident of the United States by his ſecretary, informing the houſe, that the act for eſtabliſhing an uniform rule of naturalization, and the act making appropriations for the ſervices of government for the year 1790, have received his approbation and ſignature.

A meſſage was received from the ſenate, informing the houſe they have paſſed the bill for promoting the progreſs of uſeful arts, with ſundry amendments, in which they requeſt the concurrence of the houſe.—

Adjourned.

NEW-BRUNSWICK, *March* 30.

LAST Sunday captain Hodge, in the ſloop Jerſey, arrived here from 'Statia, by whom we have the following information, that on the ſecond of March, the inhabitants of Martinique roſe againſt the king's