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MARYLAND GAZETTE

Proceedings of Congress. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

UNITED STATES.

[This debate concluded from our last.]

R. SEDGWICK hoped that the motion of Mr. Lee would not obtain the control of the M the other day to have this business brought on this session, could not fail and intreated to defer this business. They were told that this was not the time, consistentwith the real good of the country, to determine the

permanent residence of congress. They were told that the government was not yet in operation--that the union was not yet complete—yet that gentleman in particular, and the majority of the house, supposed that suspending it would occasion so much dissatisfaction and agitation, that the peace and happiness of the country required a speedy decision.—As his and other gentlemen's remonstrances proved ineffectual, and it was refolved to bring the business on immediately, he came now ready to meet the gentlemen prepared to decide upon the important subject. He should oppose the motion of Mr. Lee, because it involved unnecessary delay.

Mr. Tucker reprobated the motion of Mr. Lee. He wished to know what gentlemen were going about.— It seemed to him that the proposition was a preamble: Was it customary to agree to a preamble before the subfance of the resolution was determined on? No.-The regular way was first to agree to the substance then the preamble. This mode of settling the preamble tended to lead members hood-winked to something they were not aware of. He wished something more candid might be brought forward; something that might be understood. He was not disposed to agree to principles which may lead to consequences of which he was not apprized.—This, he said, was an irregular mode of proceeding—He was not fond of being led to truth blindfolded. This was like Socratic reasoning, first to admit certain principles, then others, till we found ourselves involved irresistibly in conclusions which we were utterly unaware of. Gentlemen seemed to him disposed to make laws syllogistically.

Mr. Lee assured Mr. Tucker that fair dealing was his object. He wished to bring forward those considerations which ought to guide their judgment. A question was to be decided which involved present and suture interests, and extended to remote generations. The question was to be settled, which must determine whether the government was to exist for ages, or be dispersed among the contending winds -- Would gentlemen by that these principles ought not to be recognied? Would gentlemen fay that the centre of government should not be the centre of the union? Should it not be in a fituation which would admit of an easy communication with the ocean? -- Would they lay that our western brethren are to be disregarded?— These were the momentous considerations which should lead the house to a conclusion. If they were difregarded, it would be an alarming circumstance to the people of the southern states. They had felt these alarms already. It was with difficulty on another occafion that their apprehensions on this score were silenced, and their difficulties surmounted. If this question was decided without regarding these interests, it would be faid that a congress was found, who were not disposed to recognise the general principles of the government. He had come forward, he said, with such explicit propolitions as the interest of his country dictated. Some principles ought to be previously established as a guide, as a polar star to direct the house to just conclusions.

Mr. Thatcher said, the motion was certainly not in order. This was a preamble, and it was improper to ha the preamble before the substance of the law was

Mr. Sherman thought it best to let the preamble lie on the table—pass a resolution to fix on the place, and then adapt the preamble to that resolution.

Mr. Vining did not consider this resolution as a preamble. It was only, settling some general principles, by which the house were to be governed in coming to a final determination. Was there a sentence of the propositions which could be denied? Was it not proper and expedient that the government should be fixed at tome central place? If that was proper why not forms of legislation? What would be the operation of these principles? Every gentleman would have an eye to some fixed and leading maxims. It would regulate and facilitate his conclusions. On these accounts he was in favour of the motion. He agreed that this was a matter of the highest importance. He wish-Which could preferve and add strength to it. While ciple might now be fixed, it might be entirely inapplicated but pliance he could depend. we had a Washington and his virtues to cement and ble in future. The centre of territory was fixed, but pliance he could depend.

guard the union, it might be safe; but, when he shall leave us, who would inherit his virtues, and possess his influence? Who would remain to embrace and draw to a centre those hearts which the authority of his virtues alone kept in union?

Mr. Stone opposed Mr. Lee's motion, as he considered the resolution a preamble, which it was improper to settle previous to the substantial resolution.

Mr. Seney also objected to it, because the principles of it were sufficiently provided and recognised in the resolution of Mr. Scott, to which it seemed to be a preamble. He was not impressed with the necessity of any preamble at all. But if it was necessary he submitted it, whether the resolution on the table did not fully express that the seat of government ought to be as near the centre of extent, population, &c. as the Atlantic and western interests should permit.

Mr. Smith (S. C.) observed, that it was a preamble to a preamble, and therefore improper. He did not believe that the event of fixing the feat of government could have the dangerous consequence which alarmed the gentleman, of rending the union in pieces. Nor did he think that it was an interest to be contended for

with so much zeal and violence. Mr. Lee said, that gentlemen pretended that this was a preamble to a preamble—he denied it. It was no more than ascertaining certain principles, which lead to a conclusion in the substantial resolution. That the principles preceded declaring the defign of the government, and was followed by a resolution in exercise of these principles.

Mr. Madison asked, if the motion of his colleague could be supposed out of order. He submitted that to the chair. Did it contain any thing which was not true? He appealed to the candid judgment of the committee. Were the truths contained in the proposition inapplicable to the subject? He appealed to the justice and policy of the people of the United States. The position, he said, was strictly in order. Was it improper or inapplicable to declare the principles which ought to govern on this question, and which were properly prefixed to the motion that lay on the table.

The gentleman from South-Carolina (Mr. Tucker) had talked of these propositions leading him blindfolded into embarrassments. But they were in fact the luminous truths which should guide him tafely to a just

Mr. Ames was at a loss to conceive why the gentlemen from Virginia were so agitated, and anxious to press the subject of these resolutions. The gentleman had asked, was there any thing contained in the proposition which was not true? Was there any thing not applicable to the subject? And, by way of conclusiasks, whether the resolution shall not therefore pass? But was such a conclusion necessary to these premises? If they were true, why be so solicitous? Did truth acquire any new authority by being frequently voted? If they were truths, would not those truths guide us? But he had, he said, another difficulty. If the house should vote these propositions, the gentleman might bring forward other abstract questions without limitation, and supported by the same arguments; and might then alk, Were not these things true? Were not these things applicable? And in this way the house would have upon their journals all the arguments which could rife out of this multifarious subject.-But was there any necessity for it? Would it not embarrass the committee? It was not their business, he said, to syllogise upon abstract principles, like school logicians, but to settle facts. He insisted, that if the principles were incontrovertibly true, there was no use in inserting them.

The question was then taken on Mr. Lee's motion,

and negatived-34 against 18.

Mr. Scott. Mr. Tucker was opposed to settling any principles whatever. He declared, that the majority for fixing on any set of principles could not govern his mind with regard to the fact. If, on the whole, he did not think that place the best which the principles adopted by the committee should seem to lead to, he certainly could not vote for it-With what view then would gentlemen establish principles if they could not govern the conduct of the house?—But the principles themselves were vague, and led to no certain conclusion. What was the centre of wealth, population and extent of territory? Was there a common centre? Territory had one centre, wealth another, and population another.-He begged to know if a centre was to be determined express it? Was it unusual? Was it repugnant to the from those three centres. It was not proper to settle principles, but fix the place. Gentlemen would in argument bring every principle into view that was necesfary. Some would be for one place, some for another,

Mr. Tucker dwelt some time longer on the absurdity of this arrangement. He doubted whether the centre of wealth ought in any form to be confidered. The of the government, and every principle attended to centre of population was variable. Though the principle and every principle attended to centre of population was variable in application.

that alone would probably lead the government to a fituation entirely ineligible. Indeed, whether principles of population, wealth and territory, were confidered separately, or in combination, they furnished no certain direction, no possible guide to the committee, in fixing on the proper place of the feat of government.

The question was then taken on the original resolution of Mr. Scott, and carried-Ayes 35-Noes 14.

KINGSTON, (Jamaica) July 14.

REPORT was current in town yesterday, that derable damage in the parish of St. Thomas in the east -We fincerely hope the report is premature.

July 29. The schooner Loyalist, Sweeting, had a passage of 17 days from New-Providence; and has brought dispatches from the governor of the Bahama Islands to rear admiral Afflect.—The following is an extract of a letter received by the above vessel:-

"I have also to inform you of a Spanish pirate, of the name of Gregorio, in a ichooner of fix guns, with two other armed vessels, (one of which is a sloop taken from one of his majesty's subjects of this island) attending him, that have been for some time cruizing off the island of Heneaga and other islands, within this government, and has committed various acts of piracy upon his majesty's subjects, by robbing them of their negroes, provisions, stores, &c. and even put some of them in irons; I fitted out an armed vessel and sent in quest of him, which is returned without falling in with him.

JAS. CULFORTH, Sec'ry. (Signed,) In consequence of the above letter, rear admiral Afflect, has ordered one of his majesty's ships to go in quest of the pirate.

PHILADELPHIA, September 16.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman of veracity in Madeira, to his correspondents in Boston, dated July 27, 1789.

The following is a copy or extract taken from an original letter received here a few days ago, which may probably ferve for your government, and convey. interesting intelligence to my fellow-citizens in Boston, if made public. Marseilles, June 30, 1789.

"The Algerines have committed recently hostilities against the French flag:-The ship Bienfasant, captain Mersumes, from Cape François, has been conducted to Algiers, under precext of the pass not being exact, and the cargo declared a good prize, and fold.

"The L'Desire from Cape François, has already been taken; but happily the Portuguese squadron retook her from the Algerines, under Turkish colours: his fate is not known here.

"A Tartarree, laden with timber, for ship-building, for the king of France's arfenal at Toulon, failed from Naples under French colours, and has also been taken and conducted to Algiers.

"It is not yet known what measures our government will take to stop these hostilities.

"Our underwriters are all alarmed—they ask 10 per cent. for insurance to Madeira and back again, for what they would have done before at 2 and 3 per cent."

ANNAPOLIS, September 24.

The president of the United States has been pleased to nominate, and by and with the advice and consent of the senate to appoint the honourable Alexander Hamilton, of New-York, secretary of the treasury, and the honourable Nicholas Eveleigh, of South-Carolina, comptroller of the treasury.

Died, last night, much lamented, the honourable JOHN ROGERS, Esquire, chancellor of this state.

The next question was on the original motion of The following intelligence is taken from late London

LONDON, July 15.

Yesterday morning a courier arrived at the duke of Leeds's office, with dispatches from his excellency the duke of Dorset, the most recent of which were dated Paris, the 12th of July, and contained particulars of

the most important nature! Similar advices were also received by Monsieur Colonne; and from these sources, we are enabled to state, that the dismission of Monsieur Neckar, and the other officer of state, mentioned in the Gazette of last night, was affected by the intervention of the French queen, and the compte D'Artois: That the restoration of the baron de Bretuel was owing to the same interference: and that the doctrine of his councils was the coercion

of the people. That the late concessions of the court to the just claims of the tiers etat, appear to have been a diffembled acquiescence!-For while they thus temporized, troops to the amount of thirty-fix thousand, had been secretly drawn to the neighbourhood of Paris !- And that several new appointments had been made in the

and the advantages of all would be calculated.

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