THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18 1790.

Proceedings of Congress.

OF THE THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF TH

THURSDAY, January 28. HE bill for making compensation to between the United States and fogroffed, and read the third time. Mr. Sherman moved, that the bill

should lie on the table. He thought n of forty thousand dollars too much for the purpecified in the bill, and that the house had no are at present whereby they could ascertain the necessary to be appropriated.

is motion was carried in the affirmative. is being the day affigned by the house for taking e report of the secretary of the treasury relative ovision for the support of the public credit-Mr. ntroduced the business by saying, that he appreflicient time had not yet been allowed for the

on between the original creditors, and the speculain securities—the other is to make a general provifor the state debts. I was formerly in the same nion with the secretary respecting the first-but I now almost a convert to a contrary opinion; and in consequence of the speculations I have seen caron fince the report made its appearance, which are April. so extended as would make even a Hastings blush. e the publication of this report, three vessels have d from this place for the fouthward, with large in specie, to purchase up the public securities ne states of North-Carolina, South-Carolina and orgia. With respect to the consolidation of the state , some of the states may be against it—at least I ak it necessary that we should know the sentiments the state legislatures, as well as those of the indivi-I citizens on the subject. Without this information shall be going on in the dark—and as this informa-

our obtaining some degree of information. r. Boudinot acknowledged that a great number of ulators were injurious to the community. But the ect of the report is to lessen the number, by appreting and fixing the value of the public debt; theree the sooner that is accomplished, the better. He

s much in the dark as at present. I therefore wish

the confideration of the business may be put off to

first of May, by which time there is a probability

s not for deferring it to a distant day. Ar. Stone faid the business was entirely new, and the success of it would much depend upon unani-He confessed he wanted to know the opinion of continent upon it. If it would bring money, he into the treasury, he should be for adopting it nediately; but as he did not expect that, he should postponing it for some time.

he states, and of the United States—as for collectpably be, he faid, as many opinions as persons.wished to take up the matter as speedily as possi-

. Hartley was against postponing Sedgwick said, that some delay was necessary understanding the subject properly. But to prevent culation and a corruption of morals, he wished to r upon it speedily.

ir. Gerry said he was in favour of a postponement, th not for so long a time as the gentleman from rgia proposed-but as the subject was of such magse, and all the states now in the union were so ply interested, he supposed it best to wait for the th-Carolina delegation

With respect to preventing speculations in the funds, cannot be supposed, said he, that taking up the busis at the prefent moment will cor ot conceive that specuin the funds ought to be considered in an unfaurable point of light.-While the country has a debt will be speculated in-I believe there never we untry which had a debt, in which speculation e obtain-and indeed they are so far from being ious, that they prove a great convenience--by give currency to property which would otherwise lay dorthe No debte in short can be contracted, but upon erms that must prove ruinous to the debtors, except a principle of negotiation-In this view it may be

faid, that the evils which would have been derived to this suggestion, proposed that the resolution should from the great debt of this country, have been in a be amended to as to comprile this idea. great measure alleviated. He then adverted to the spe- Mr. Livermore objected to the resolution in its preculations of foreigners—and, referring to the debt of fent form; he conceived, that a strict adherence to any Great-Britain, said, that in the last war the Dutch such rule could not be maintained, as a great variety of were supposed to be proprietors in the English funds to matters must necessarily be continued from one session the amount of forty millions sterling—this was not to another; he instanced petitions, and business referconsidered as a disadvantage, on the other hand it was red to special committees, which might require a supposed to be a great source of emolument to the na-, whole recess for its consideration. He adverted to the persons employed in the intercourse tion—and at the moment of peace, the enormous debt of the nation, which had increased an hundred milreign nations, was brought in, en- lions-was one cause of the greatest influx of specie that had ever been known. He concluded his observa tions by wishing the consideration of the report might be postponed till the representation from North-Carolina should arrive.

Mr. Jackson, in support of the motion for postponement, enlarged fully on the pernicious consequences of the speculation in the public securities-and traced those consequences through a variety of channels, he pathetically described the situation of the officers and foldiers of the late army, who had been obliged through deration. He lamented the speculations that had taken place in consequence of the promulgation of the secreto prepare themselves for the discussion of a tary's plan, and regretted that congress was not now f fuch intricacy and magnitude—he therefore fituated on the Susquehanna or Patowmack, where the that the order of the day be postponed to next deliberations on the subject might have been kept secret, as he thought that the evils of speculation owed.

Jackson—This report, Sir, refers to matters of their rise in a great measure from congress's holding highest importance, which ought not to be hastily their sessions in a populous city-He thought that conup.—There appears to be two great objects in gress should suspend all consideration of an assumption One of them is to destroy all idea of discrimi- of the state debts, till the sense of the several legislatures on the subject-was known-and at any rate he hoped that congress would at present confine their deliberations to that part of the debt called final settlements, or the domestic debt of the United States .- He concluded by moving, that the confideration of the report of the fecretary of the treasury be postponed to

Mr. Boudinot reprobated the idea of a postponement to so distant a day. He touched on the subject of speculation, and said, that it might be carried too far, and it might be confined to too narrow limits—but with respect to the idea at large, it was impossible to prevent it—that the only way to restrain, or bring within proper bounds, this spirit, is, for congress to come to some determination respecting the debt, by which means it will acquire a permanency. The house, by their re-folution the last session, have solemnly pledged themselves to pay early attention to the business, and to do cannot be mined by Monday week, we shall then fomething for the public creditors.

Mr. Page was for taking up the business immediately, and reminded the house of that part of the president's speech which related to public credit. As for fecrecy, with regard to the report, he had no idea of it. He was for openness and decision. He said, that if so distant a day should be fixed on, he should move that the house adjourn, and the members go home. It is an illusive idea to think of deferring it-we are bound to begin the business immediately. Would the gentleman from Georgia consult his constituents upon every bill that is about to be passed?

Mr. Seney moved, that the confideration of the report should be postponed to the first Monday in March. The subject, said he, is of great magnitude—it requires time to make up a judgment upon it.—The legislature may derive information from the discussion it may receive in conversation, and in the public printsr. Sherman made some observations on the debts The gentleman's idea of an adjournment appears quite unnecessary—there is a great variety of business before the opinions of the people at large, there would the house, to employ their attention-mean time the public expectation will suffer no disappointment, as the business will be in train agreeable to the resolution of the house the last session, on which the report of the secretary of the treasury is founded-Nor do I conceive that any time will be loft, as the members will be more fully prepared to meet the business.

The question was now put on the first Monday in March, and loft. Monday week was then proposed, which was car-

A message from the president of the United States, by his secretary, communicating the act of Rhode-Island for calling a convention; also a letter from the governor of that state to the president, respecting a further suspension of the collection act, &c.

These papers were referred to a committee consisting luce to that object of Messieurs Benson, Brown and Cole. Mr. Burke, from the committee appointed, brought

in a bill for securing to authors and proprietors the exclusive right to their writings. Mr. Burke also presented to the house a motion, that

it be an instruction to the committee appointed to bri in a bill for encouraging manufactures, to add a el respecting the securing to inventors the right to discoveries. This was agreed to... ction, which was under confideration Mr. Smith's

yesterday, was i Some observata were made relative to its joint business of both houses. Mr. Smith, agre

practice of congress, and other legislative bodies which he thought was defenfible.

On the 21st of September last, the present congress passed a resolution, by virtue of which the secretary of the treasury had laid before the house a plan, pursuant to that vote. If such a rule as that, now proposed, had existed, the house could not take that report into consideration; but we have taken it up agreeable to customary usage. He concluded by observing, that if a rule must be adopted, the one proposed is not competent to the defign, but must be enlarged, and proper exceptions made.

Mr. White proposed, that proper exceptions might necessity to part with the certificates for a trisling con- be made, but contended there is a necessity for adopting some rule.

Mr. Hartley said, that as the house could not be supposed to be prepared to make the necessary exceptions, he moved that the resolution should lie on the

Mr. Sedgwick seconded the motion, which being put, it was carried in the affirmative.

Mr. White moved, that a committee be appointed to inquire into the measures taken by congress in the state of Virginia, respecting the lands reserved for the use of the officers and soldiers of the faid state on continental and state establishments, in the cession made by the faid state to the United States, of the territory north-west of the river Ohio, and to report the same to this house.

Messieurs White, Muhlenberg and Seney, were appointed.

The report of the secretary at war, on the petition of captain Charles Markley, was taken into confidera-

This report flates, that he was entitled to half pay for life, agreeable to the time of his leaving the public service; but that there are two resolves of congress which appear to contravene his claim.

It was moved that the house should accept this re-

This motion was opposed, as it would be informal to accept specifically the report of an executive officer. Such reports are considered as matter of information to the house, on which they are to ground a subsequent act or resolution.

Mr. Gerry observed, that it appeared to him from the secretary's report, that this officer is entitled to his half pay. He therefore moved, that the report should be accepted; and that the house should come to a resolution, that the two resolves of congress referred to in the report do not apply to the case of the petiti-

The resolves were then read. Mr. Sedgwick suggested the propriety of appointing a committee to report a system for ascertaining the claims of individuals against the United States, and of the United States against individuals. He proposed, that this committee should consist of ten members .--The adoption of fuch a system might save a great deal of time and public expence.

Some observations were made on this proposition.-It was then ordered, that the report of the secretary at war should lie on the table.

FRIDAY, January 29.

Adjourned.

The speaker laid before the house a letter from the treasurer of the United States, enclosing accounts of expenditures and disbursements, pursuant to orders of congress, to the 31st of December last, which were read, and referred to a select committee consisting of Mr. Smith (S. C.) Mr. Moore, Mr. Smith (M.) Mr. Clymer and Mr. Van Renfallaer.

A message from the senate was received by their secretary, informing the house, that the senate had passed a bill for the punishment of certain crimes against the United States-in which they request the concurrence of the house. He then delivered in the bill, and withdrew

Mr. Gerry presented a petition of Aaron Putnam, of Medford, in the state of Massachusetts, stating, that he had invented a mode of distilling spirits, which is different from any that had come to his knowledge, and he prefumed is entirely new; and praying that the benesit of his discovery may be secured to him.--Referred to the committee appointed to bring in a bill for securing to inventors the right of their discoveries.

A memorial of Roger Alden was read, and referred to a committee confishing of Messrs. Trumbull, Baldwin and Benfon.

On motion of Mr. Thatcher, the petition from the inhabitants of e town of Portland was read a fecond time, and referred to the fecretary of the treasury, for