

have been induced to give up their commutation, to entitle themselves to half-pay, would perhaps have been in a worse situation, as the States were directed to proportion their advances to the different degrees of disability.

The situation of these officers, and all the circumstances attending it, were fully and ably stated in their representation, and it is impossible for me to conceive any idea that could be suggested against them.

A considerable length of time was necessarily taken up, in framing an act to regulate the inspection and exportation of tobacco.

The manner in which this valuable branch of our commerce had been hitherto conducted, certainly called aloud for the assistance of the Legislature: Several difficulties however, arose in the discussion of this subject.—One cause of complaint was, that tobacco of an unmerchantable quality, had been exported, for which various causes might be assigned.—The consequence was obvious and natural.—A reduction of the price in Europe; but unfortunately this consequence was in some measure felt, as well by those, whose tobacco was properly prepared, as by those, who from an endeavour to impose on the buyers, merited the return they met with.

That tobacco of this kind was sold and exported will not admit of a doubt, but it may perhaps appear surprising that it should pass inspection, and thereby carry with it an appearance of goodness sufficient to deceive an unwary purchaser.

The fact, I believe, is, that tobacco was frequently put up in such a manner that an inspector could not refuse to pass it, when there was notwithstanding, a moral certainty that in the course of a voyage it would be totally spoiled.

A provision is made against this species of fraud by the act passed this session, which directs, that if the tobacco upon re-inspection within a limited time, is found to be of an inferior quality to that expressed in the note, the inspectors shall become liable for the loss that may be sustained.

It appeared to be the desire of several members, to make very considerable alterations in the mode of inspecting, and to this purpose attempts were made to have the different qualities of the tobacco particularly expressed in the notes:—These were to have been branched out to a very great extent,