from us those very vessels with which we now carry our own produce for the purpose of carrying it for us. Hence it was desirable that an early decision should be had. If delayed till the next session of Congress, or even for six months, great mischief might be done, as he presumed the laying up our merchant vessels for six months will be nearly equivalent to a destruction of them.

Mr. Griswold offered some additional remarks, when, on motion of Mr. Randolph, the committee rose, leaving the question undecided.

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Wednesday, Dec. 16.

Benjamin Huger, a member from South Carolina, appeared, was qualified, and took his seat.

The Speaker laid before the house a letter from the Secretary of State, accompanying an annual return, ending the 9th ult. containing an abstract of all the returns made to him by the Collectors for the different ports in the United States, pursuant to the act for the relief and protection of American seamen; also extracts from the communications received from the agents in foreign countries for the relief of American seamen.

Ordered to lie on the table.

The committee of Elections made a further report, stating certain members to be duly elected; and further stated, that in consequence of the erection of the Mississippi Territory, under the ordinance of Congress, that Territory was entitled to a Delegate, when the Territory was entitled to a Legislature. This period having arrived, the committee report an opinion that Narsworthy Hunter be considered as a Delegate, with the right of deliberating, but not of voting.

Mr. Milledge could not agree to the report, as by so doing he would vote for a measure that would affect the sovereignty of Georgia. He therefore moved a reference to a committee of the whole, in order to have the subject discussed. Agreed to, and made the order for Friday.

RATIO OF REPRESENTATION.

The house then took up the following resolution, reported by the committee of the whole on the state of the union.

Resolved, That the apportionment of Representatives amongst the several states, according to the second enumeration of the people, ought to be in a ratio of one representative for every thirty-three thousand persons in each state.

Mr. Griswold remarked that the effect of adopting this resolution would be an increase of members in that house; that the number would amount to nearly 150. He was of opinion that the present house was sufficiently numerous for every correct purpose, as well of legislation, as for obtaining all desirable information from the people. Should an augmentation be made, the consequences would be an increase of expence, and business would inevitably be protracted. He moved therefore, to strike out the words "thirty three," meaning if they were stricken out, to propose the substitution of a larger number. [illegible] ensued, [illegible] Messrs. Griswold, S. Smith, [illegible] Giles, Bayard, Alston, Elme[illegible] Sprigg, and other gentlemen [illegible].

Mr. Griswold [illegible] advocating an apportionmen[illegible] member, to every 40,000 perso[illegible].

Messrs. Giles, and [illegible] were for one member for every [illegible].

Messrs. S. Smith, [illegible] and Eustis, were for one [illegible].

Mr. Alston was [illegible] of one representative for every [illegible].

The preferences [illegible] several speakers, appeared [illegible] application of that [illegible] to the state from which each [illegible], which left the least fraction.

Some gentlemen, however, declared, and particularly Mr. [illegible], that he had made no calculation, and that his preference of the smallest ratio proposed was the preference of principle.

Those in favor of a small ratio argued that, though the expence attending the compensation of the members might be somewhat increased; yet that it would be trifling compared with the great advantages that would result from a larger representation: that such a representation would be conducive of true economy as it would oppose all extravagant expenditure of money; that the weight of expence incurred by the government did not arise from the expence of the civil list, which formed but a speck in the mass of expenditure. That it was important to this government to adopt those measures which would insure the respect and the confidence of the people; that this end would be best attained by each representative being familiarly acquainted with the interests of his constituents; and that this could only be the case, when the number of his constituents was limited within certain bounds. It was true that it had been said that a body of more than one hundred, even though composed of philosophers, was a mob; but it was replied that the long experience of this country had proved the reverse, for that many of the state legislatures consisted of more members.

These ideas were but feebly opposed. The diversity of opinion expressed chiefly arose from a division of the house on the ratios of 30,000, & 33,000. The former was advocated principally from a regard to Delaware and Rhode Island, which by its adoption would have each two representatives instead of one, if a higher ratio were preferred.

During the discussion, it was moved to strike out the word "three;" leaving *thirty* thousand as the ratio. This motion was lost—Ayes 43—Noes 46.

Mr. Bayard then moved to strike out "*thirty three*," leaving the resolution blank, in order that it might be filled up with such number as should be agreeable to the house.

This motion was opposed chiefly by Mr. Nicholson and Dr. Eustis, who were of opinion that the progressive increase of the members would be sufficiently large on the ratio of 33,000 persons to a member. They were also further in favor of this number as it left the fewest fractions. The only two states much injured by it would be Delaware and North-Carolina; whereas if the ratio were increased to 35,000, New Jersey would have a fraction of 31,000; Delaware of 26,000; Maryland of 30,000; Georgia of 23,000; and Kentucky of 25,000.

On the *question* being taken for striking out "thirty three," there rose only 31 members. It was therefore declared to be lost.

The question was then taken on the original motion, and carried without a division, and a committee of three members appointed to bring in a bill conformably thereto.

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Thursday, Dec. 17, 1801.

A letter was received from the Secretary of the Treasury, stating, in obedience to the order of the House, the importations made into the United States, in American, and foreign vessels, from October 1, 1798, to October 1, '99.

A letter was received from the commissioners of the Sinking Fund, with an accompanying report made to them by the Secretary of the Treasury, stating in detail the amount of stock redeemed, which in the aggregate amounted to 14,753,357 dollars 83 cents; & stating that on the 12th of December last there remained in the hands of the Treasurer 449,069 dolls. 31 cents; subject to the disposition of the commissioners of the Sinking Fund, which, with the growing resources of that fund, would be equal to meeting the 7th instalment of 6 per cent: the 1st instalment of deferred stock, and the 10th of a loan becoming due.

The Speaker informed the House that he deemed it his duty to state that he had made yesterday an erroneous decision on order, and that he took this immediate occasion to acknowledge it.—As the point does not materally affect the proceedings of the House, it is unnecessary to notice it minutely.

The committee, to whom was referred the resolution for a new apportionment of Representatives among the several states, reported a bill, which gives to the states the following members, viz. New-Hampshire 5; Massachusetts 17; Vermont 4; Rhode-Island 2; Connecticut 7; New-York 17; New-Jersey 6; Pennsylvania 18; Delaware 1; Maryland 8; Virginia 22; North-Carolina 12; South-Carolina 8; Georgia 4; Kentucky 6; Tennessee 3.—The bill was read a second time, and referred to a committee of the whole, this day.

Mr. Randolph, a member of the committee of ways and means, informed the House that certain documents just directed to be printed, owing to the state of the manufacture in this place, could not be printed in less than 20 days; during which time the proceedings of the committee would be arrested. He, therefore, moved that a committee be appointed to devise a plan for expediting the printing work of the house.

A committee of 3, viz. Messrs. Randolph, Nicholson, and L. R. Morris, was appointed.

It was moved that the house do go into a Committee of the whole on the *Apportionment bill.*

Mr. Bayard moved to postpone its consideration till Monday.

After a short debate, the question of postponement was lost.—Ayes 39—Noes 45.

The motion to go into a committee of the whole on the above bill was then withdrawn, under the understanding that it would be renewed to-morrow. The bill was ordered to be printed.

Burnett & Rigden,

Jewellers & Watchmakers,
Have just received and for sale, a handsome assortment of
PLATED WARE,
And have on hand a variety of the most fashionable

Silver Plate,
An elegant assortment of Jewelry,
Gold and silver Watches,
Gold, gilt and steel chains, seals and keys,
Spring and common 8 day clocks,
Ladies' and gentlemen's pocket books,
A collection of elegant Prints, superbly framed and glazed, with a variety of Fancy articles.

George-Town Dec. 16. eptf

N. B. Miniatures set in the neatest manner, watches and clocks of every description carefully cleaned and repaired.

No. I.—
Of Documents accompanying the President's Communications to Congress, the 8th day of December, 1801.

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Copy of a Letter from Benjamin Hawkins.

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A Sketch of the present state of the objects under the charge of the principal agent for Indian affairs, south of the Ohio.

The NATIONAL COUNCIL.

The Indians of the Creek agency have been prevailed on by the agent, to conform in a considerable degree to his ideas on this subject. Once a year, and generally in the month of May, the towns are invited by the agent to send a deputation to meet on a given day, to compose a National Council. To this council the agent makes a report of the state of the nation; suggests his ideas of what is proper for them to do, and applies for compensation and satisfaction, for offences committed in violation of their treaty stipulations with us.

The number of deputies who attend cannot hitherto be restrained to a given number, but they seldom exceed 5 or 6 from a town; at first it required a continued attention to the Chiefs, to make them comprehend the utility of such a plan, and the necessity of carrying its decisions into effect.

Heretofore, every town, tribe or family, provided its own regulations, and those of a general tendency were left to the management of public agents, who used temporary expedients only, among the most powerful & persuasive of which were the pressure of fear from without, and presents.

The council appoint a speaker, who remains in office without limitation as to time; all propositions are debated until they are agreed to, or postponed; the agreement is called the will of the nation, and is expressed by the speaker publicly to all the Chiefs, and to the agent for Indian affairs, who records such parts as interest any of their neighbours, red or white.

The council, when convened, sit night and day; the public buildings is the place of lodging as well as business, and they debate as much in the night as in the day; they lay down when they are sleepy, when hungry they eat, and when any thing important is under debate they attend to it.

The agent furnishes beef, corn, beans and salt, and the town where the council meet, furnishes butchers, cooks and waiters. The expence of a meeting is something less than 400 dollars. I doubt not, in a few years, it will be a useful instrument to approximate them to a more civilized state, and give the United States a more commanding influence over them. One of the interpreters, and assistants to the agent, a half breed, and chief of the land, remains constantly in the council, during their sitting; and the agent has a right to enter and speak when he pleases.

RAISING of STOCK.

This is more relished by the Creeks than any part of the plan devised for their civilization. They are now eagerly acquiring cattle by every means in their power. The country is a fine range for them, summer and winter; every town has some, acquired mostly during the revolution war between the United States and Great-Britain, by the traders, tories, here a banditti of plunderers, or by the war-parties of Indians.

Cattle, till lately, were not held in much estimation; but since the failure of supplies from hunting, they are resorted to as the substitute, and bear a pretty good price; cows and calves are rated at 10 dollars, and steers, for beef, by age, at 2 dollars and 50 cents per year. The country is fine for hogs; but the want of fences, scarcity of corn, from the present state of agriculture, and inattention of the Indians, both of which is necessary to keep them from running wild, and being too much infested with wolves, tygers and wild-cats, is for the present a bar to their increase. Horses are in general use, but small, liable within a few years to a distemper called here the yellow-water. The agent has the last winter introduced some sheep; they are in the care of an assistant interpreter, a half breed, and promise to do well. There is another flock, the property of Mr. Barnard, an assistant interpreter among the Lower Creeks, of several years standing, which increases fast and have fine wool. He has goats also, which do well. Stock of all kinds require salt, except where they have moss or cypress ponds, or are within sixty miles of the sea coast.

AGRICULTURE.

The improvements in this are slowly progressive. The agent has prevailed on several of the towns, who had exhausted the lands in their neighbourhood by culture, to settle out in villages; this practice is increasing, and all of them fence their fields. There has been a demand this season for ploughs, and 70 have been issued out of those sent by the Secretary of War, and 50 of them are in use by Indians.

There is a nursery of peach trees in the Lower Creeks, & one has been lately established among the Upper Creeks, and the Indians begin to accept of and to plant them. Nearly 5000 have been raised and distributed since the arrival of the agent.

The nurseries are increased, and will be kept up to the demand; they are hitherto raised by the agent and his assistants, without any expence to the agency. Cotton is raised in several places, but in small quantities, by Indians; it does well throughout the agency. The green seed is in general use, and well suited to the northern half of the agency; and the sea-island cotton, from two successive experiments, promises to do well on the southern half; some cotton has been sent to market. Flax does well; the next season will be cultivated in several places —There is much rich swamp land fine for it, and sufficiently dry in the season for its growth. Wheat, barley, rye and oats, have been introduced and fairly tried; the three first do well, but the springs being generally dry, oats have failed. The early white and brown wheat is ripe by the middle of May. Apple trees, grape-vines, rasberries, and the roots, herbs and vegetables usually cultivated in good gardens, have lately been introduced, & they all thrive well.

MANUFACTURES.

The present spring the agent has delivered to Indian women 100 pair cotton cards, and 80 spinning wheels; there is eight looms in the nation, four of them wrought by Indian or half breed women, and the remainder by white women. There is a woman employed as an assistant, to teach Indian women to spin and weave; and the agent has appointed, as a temporary assistant, a young Englishman, from a manufactory in Stockport, in England, who can make looms and spinning wheels, and every thing appertaining to them, and he understands weaving. He will, in a few days, have a ninth loom set up at the residence of the agent. The women have this spring adopted this part of the plan with spirit, and have promised to follow the directions of the agent with exactitude. Three Indian women, of one family, who have been spinning for two years only, have clothed themselves well, and have acquired some hogs and cattle, are proud of the exertions they have made, and are, by their conduct, a stimulus to their country-women. One of the looms and two of the spinning wheels in use were made by an Indian chief, for his own family.

The chiefs, who were apprehensive at first that if their women could clothe and find themselves by their own exertions, would become independent of the degraded state of connexion between them, have had proofs that the link is more firm, in proportion as the women are more useful, and occupied in domestic concerns.

Oil of hickory nut and acorns was in use, in small quantities, among the Indians, as an article of food. In the year 1797, the agent finding that the hickory trees were mixed through the waving land, and abounded on the flats, made an effort to encourage this manufacture; he offered three-fourths of a dollar a quart for the oil that should be made that year of hickory nut, and could procure a few bottles only. In 1798 he received 8 gallons; in 1799 he purchased 30 gallons, and the last winter he fixed the price at one dollar per gallon, and the manufacture has been increased to 300 gallons, actually delivered for market. Some has been sent to Mobile, and sold at two dollars, and a trader is now descending the Alabama, on his way to New-Orleans, with a pass from the agent, with 240 gallons of the oil.

The process of making this oil is simple, and susceptible of improvement. The nuts are dried and pounded, then the shells sifted out, the remains kneaded up, then put into boiling water, stirred up for a while, set by from fire; the oil rises to the top, is brushed off with feathers, and then boiled. The black-jack acorn is the best of the acorn oil, and in more estimation among the Indians than the hickory nut oil. Coarse earthen pots and pans, garters ornamented with beads, baskets, sifters, and fanners ingeniously made of split cane, mocasins, closes the list of their manufactures.

Precautions preventative of the commission of crimes in aid of the exertions of the old Chiefs.

In the fall season, every hunting party, in going out, report themselves to the head men of the town, and one of them is appointed the chief, to be answerable for the conduct of his companions. In all practicable cases the chief applies to the agent, states the intention of his party, and receives a certificate of the fact, recommending him to the friendly attention of such white people as he may meet; and on the return of the party in the spring a report is made to the agent by all these chiefs, in person, by some of their companions, or by some of their town's people, stating where they have been, what they have seen, and what they have done. This is a very important regulation; it gives the agent a correct view of occurrences throughout the extended range of the hunters, and enables him, with inconceivable speed, to prevent or correct crimes or abuses. In further aid, the sale of horses has an additional corrective to the special licence to buy. All Indians having horses to sell are now bound to report them to the agent, and receive from him a certificate, describing the horse, naming the owner, and that the property is good. So far this regulation seems infallible on the Indian side, and would be so, but on the white side the practice does not correspond with the law. The people on the frontiers purchase horses from Indians, without special licence, and without asking any thing about the true owner.—Horses found on the Indian lands, near the plantations of their owners, are frequently taken up by the Indians, carried across the river, and sold for a small part of their value only, and the Indians frequently report those sales to the agent, describing the horse, where taken up, and where sold; and this has, in several instances, enabled the agent to give information which has directed the true owner to the discovery of his horse. As no aid has hitherto been furnished by my fellow citizens on the North-Eastern frontier to correct this abuse, no prosecutions have taken place, for the want of that proof which they could give.

TRADE.

Since the death of Mr. Price, pro agent of war, there has been no licence renewed, as from my instructions, the agent of war in Georgia, was to grant them. All the licences granted by Mr. Price have long since expired, and this has been thrice repeated by me to the Secretary of War, without receiving any directions. As soon as the licences expired, the agent passed a general regulation for the traders to continue their trade notwithstanding until further advised by him.

As the factor of the United States at Fort Wilkinson was not authorised to trade in cattle and hogs, the agent has given permits to people, recommended to him to be of good character, to trade for cattle and hogs only, and these permits are limited to the annual season for beef and pork. This regulation was deemed indispensable, as the want of dealers in cattle and hogs, and of course, a market for them, deranged our plan of civilization in one of the most important parts of it.

PUBLIC ESTABLISHMENTS.

There are two, one among the Lower, and the other among the Upper Creeks. The two blacksmiths, promised under the 8th article of the treaty of Colerain, reside at them. The smiths are instructed to mend only, and not to make any thing but by order of the agent. In the spring they are restricted to implements of husbandry, and at other seasons they attend equally to any work brought them. White people pay for their work, and this constitutes a small fund for coal, wood, and small articles wanted in the shops, and is reserved for that purpose. The smiths receive each 25 dollars per month, and the value of one ration a day, at the contract price on the frontiers, and the strikers 10 dollars per month, and the value of a ration per day, paid quarterly.

The manner of Administering Justice.

When the national Council are convened, all the white people are ordered to attend on a given day; three of the most respectable are appointed by the agent to hear and decide on all cases between white people, with the right of appeal to him. In all cases between a white man and an Indian, the agent hears and decides himself. The judgements have hitherto been carried into effect without doing more than giving them to the parties, and without costs. But to render this mode complete, there must be an officer appointed to carry the judgments into effect; and provision must be made to punish thefts, &c. all of which should proceed from the legislative provision of our government.

Expenditures on the Creek Agency.

The pay of the agent is fixed by the Secretary of War, and a sum limited for the assistants, which is assigned to them by the agent. The limitation has in no instance been exceeded. Quarterly an estimate is made, specifying the precise objects of expenditure; the contingencies certified by a gentleman who pays them on the order of the agent, and duplicates of the whole signed by the agent; one of which is sent on to the Secretary of War, on whom a bill is drawn as heretofore advised, at ten days sight, in favor of the United States factor for the amount.

In some cases, and not unfrequent, the principal part of contingencies is paid by the agent out of the stipend allowed by the United States, to the Creeks; such as the keeping of warriors among the Siminolies, to watch their movements; the apprehending and punishing horse thieves, and in some instances the premium of 2 dollars and 50 cents, allowed for all horses delivered to the agent, where it is ascertained that they were stolen by Indians (except the thief informs against himself) 12 dollars and 50 cents allowed for the delivery of runaway negroes, where it has been ascertained that they have been induced to do so by Indians, and the sending runners to the neighboring Indians, on affairs relating solely to Indians.

(Signed)
BENJAMIN HAWKINS.