keep in repair suitable buildings for the accommodation of government: But he would allow it every advantage, every encouragement to be derived, from an *explicit, unequivocal and decided assurance, that it should for ever remain the seat of the government of the United States.*

With this view of the subject, said Mr. Gregg, and under these impressions I shall give my decided negative to the propositions now on the table, and to all others of a similar nature and tendency.

Mr. Smilie could not agree either with the gentleman from Delaware or with his colleague (Mr. Gregg) on the constitutional question. We had a power to accept the cession, or not to accept it; from which necessarily resulted the power of recession. Instead of arguing as the gentleman from Delaware, he would call on him to point out in the constitution the prohibition. His colleague talked of a moral obligation to keep the territory. This might exist, if it were proposed to force this territory on the states without their consent. The gentleman seems to have taken offence at the expression which had fallen from him of *slaves*. For his part he had never been accustomed to courtly language, but to the expression of his ideas plainly and openly as he conceived them. He certainly had not used the expression with any intention to treat the people of this territory with disrespect; but to express his regret at the degraded situation of those who were formerly in possession of the full rights of citizenship. The gentleman seems also offended at the epithet of *tyrants* applied to us.

Mr. Smilie would ask the gentleman from Delaware, if ever he knew a government possessed of unlimited power, who had not abused it. This was the condition of this government, which, he however, hoped, if continued, would be moderate.

He had expected that gentlemen opposed to the recession would have shewn the benefit derived to the United States from retaining the jurisdiction.

If there were none, it was useless, and dangerous, inasmuch as it could only be done at the expence of the rights of the people. He was surprised yesterday at the remarks of the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. Dennis) that this measure would deprive 20,000 people of their rights. How could this be when they had no right to be deprived of? You may give them a charter. But of what avail will this be, when Congress may take it away at any moment? They would continue forever to be ultimately governed by a body over which they had no control. Mr. Smilie concluded by again observing that he had always thought the assumption wrong; but that he had no idea of connecting that consideration with the removal of the government. It could have no influence on his mind. He would go further, and say he had no idea of removing; nor did he believe they could remove.

Mr. Bacon said he was the more confirmed in the propriety of bringing forward his resolutions, by the remarks which had been made by gentlemen opposed to them. The question to day has turned on the constitutional power of Congress to recede. Gentlemen say there is no power given to Congress to recede. He would allow there were no express words in the constitution; but he considered the general powers given as fully competent without any such particular expressions. The words in the constitution are:—"The Congress shall have power to exercise exclusive legislation in all cases whatsoever, over such district (not exceeding ten miles square) as may, by cession of particular states, and the acceptance of Congress, become the seat of the government of the United States, and to exercise like authority over all places purchased by the consent of the legislature of the state in which the same shall be, for the erection of forts, magazines, arsenals, dock yards, and other needful buildings."—Now, he took it that the power of Congress extended equally and alike to all these places accepted in consequence of the cession of particular states, and it was equally absolute upon Congress to retain all, the one as well as the other. He was apprehensive that the argument of gentlemen, if it proved any thing, proved too much. He doubted whether gentlemen would contend that when Congress once accept a piece of ground for an arsenal or a dock yard, they thereby oblige themselves to retain the exclusive jurisdiction forever. The practise of the House this very session disproved it; for they had very lately passed an act giving away the corner of a Navy Yard.

But the words of the Constitution are not imperative. They do not say that Congress shall exercise exclusive jurisdiction over the places thus ceded by the states. What is the situation of the territory at present? The laws of the states from which it was ceded are still in force in some instances.

It is said to day that this district was ceded to Congress under a contract. But this contract was not made by the individual citizens, but by the states. If then by this contract between Congress and the states, Congress have obtained their jurisdiction, by the common consent of the parties it may be done away; and this is all that is proposed by the resolutions.

Gentlemen have observed that this and every other similar motion have the effect of depreciating property in this place. This Mr. B. very much doubted. If he were a citizen, he would consider his property more valuable under the jurisdiction of laws in the formation of which he participated, than when he had no participation. He thought, therefore, that the adoption of his resolutions would rather appreciate property, by placing those who held it on the same broad basis as to the possession of political rights with the other citizens of the United States.

The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Gregg) conceives that the decision of this question will affect the permanent seat of government. But it could have no such effect. The continuance of this place as the seat of government was connected with a contract made with individuals, which was binding on the government to remain. The government had received from the individuals a valuable consideration, and had in return given the individuals the consideration attached to their remaining here. and the government could not remove without a violation of this contract. This was his idea. The government could not remove without the consent of these individuals.

The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. Dennis), has observed that all the advantages contemplated by Congress from an exclusive jurisdiction would be frustrated by the adoption of these resolutions. But he has not named a single one of these contemplated advantages. Though called upon to name them, he had not named one. He must, therefore, conclude no one had occurred to him; and until they were named, he must doubt whether the United States derived any benefit from the exclusive jurisdiction.

The same gentleman has expressed his astonishment that these resolutions should come from this quarter of the house. He has intimated that he (Mr. Bacon) predicated his ideas on the broad basis of the rights of man. Mr. Bacon believed this would be the effect of his resolutions. One view he had was to revest the citizens of this district with the rights of suffrage, and how they would be made slaves by a restoration to the rights of suffrage, and the common rights of their fellow citizens, he could not conceive.

Mr. Bacon terminated his remarks by observing, that as he had heard of no advantages derived to the United States from retaining exclusive jurisdiction, as there was nothing in the Constitution repugnant to a recession, as it was clearly authorised with the consent of the contracting parties, as it would not in the least affect the question of removal, as the citizens of the territory would be benefitted by it, and as a great expence of time and treasure would be saved, he considered it expedient to make the recession, provided it received the consent of the contracting parties.

(To be Continued.)

SATURDAY, Feb. 12, 1803.

Report on Discriminating Duties.

Mr. Dana enquired whether it was intended to take up the report of the committee of commerce and manufactures on the repeal of discriminating and countervailing duties.

General S. Smith replied that he considered the subject of great importance, and had been extremely anxious to have it discussed and decided upon during the present session. But as the consideration of it had been protracted to so late a period, as to render it impracticable to carry into effect the necessary provisions in case the report should be adopted, he was willing to discharge the committee of the whole from a further consideration of it.

Mr. Mitchill observed that he was considerably disappointed at hearing the motion to discharge the committee. He had hoped that the projected repeal of the discriminating and countervailing duties between the United States and Great Britain, would have been the subject of a public discussion. Much benefit might be expected from a debate in this house, and he therefore had hoped that the merits of the resolution contemplated, would have been debated. Much light had been shed on this complicated enquiry already. Ever since the first motion made during the last session by the gentleman from Maryland (Gen. S. Smith) great attention had been given to the subject, by almost all classes of people. Merchants and legislators had particularly studied its details, and he thought it was much better understood now by all parties than it was a twelvemonth ago; and by a further examination in the committee of the whole, he hoped much greater advances would still be made. He, however, was inclined to think that public opinion was not yet ripe for an ultimate decision in favour of the repeal. There was no probability of adopting it, even if it should be argued. The discussion would merely end in a postponement, indefinitely to some future day. There being then no chance of carrying it into operation, and the house being much pressed with more urgent business that ought to be acted upon with all dispatch, he felt willing to let the project drop in this way. However speculative men might think on the point, the great body of practical men bore strong testimony against it. He therefore, on considering the circumstances, should favour the motion though it met him unexpectedly, and vote for discharging the committee of the whole from all further consideration of the meditated repeal of the discriminating and countervailing duties.

The discharge of the committee of the whole was carried without a division.

MONDAY, Feb. 14, 1803.

Mr. Leib presented sundry memorials from aliens of Pennsylvania, praying a modification of the naturalization act. The clerk began the reading of the memorials.

Mr. Smilie doubted the necessity of reading the memorials, which he believed were the same verbatim, with those already presented, and which the house had refused to refer.

Mr. Leib replied that the exceptionable expressions contained in those memorials were not in these.

The reading of the memorials was finished.

Mr. Goddard thought, as these memorials were of a similar nature with those presented the last session, on which the house had acted, it would be unnecessary to take any order on them.

Mr. Leib said this was not the case. The prayer of the memorials, and their contents were very different from those offered the last session. He trusted, therefore, they would be treated in the same manner with other petitions, and be referred.

Mr. Bacon hoped they would be referred, especially as the reference of these petitions which were respectfully drawn, would be the strongest indication of the displeasure of the house as to the other petitions couched in different terms.

Mr. Goddard withdrew his opposition, when the reference obtained.

A bill supplementary to the act providing passports for the ships and vessels of the United States was read a third time, and passed.

On motion of Mr. Helms, the house took up the amendments of the committee of the whole to the bill for the relief of persons who have received known wounds in the revolutionary war, and agreed to them, with amendments.

On the question of engrossing the bill for a third reading, Mr. Griswold and Mr. Varnum opposed, and Mr. Randolph and Mr. S. Smith supported the question; when the question was taken, and carried in the affirmative, Ayes 51.

Mr. Thomson reported a bill more effectually to provide for the organization of the militia of the district of Columbia.

Referred to a committee of the whole on Thursday.

Mr. Varnum called up the report of a select committee, to whom was referred so much of the message of the President as relates to the militia.

Mr. John C. Smith in the chair.

The report of the committee was agreed to with sundry amendments, when the committee rose, and the house took up the report of the committee.

The house concurred in the resolution, which, in connection with the report of the select committee, is as follows:

The Committee to whom was referred that part of the President's Message of the 15th day of December last, which relates to the Militia institution of the United States, and a bill which was reported to the House at the last session of Congress, on the same subject.

REPORT—

"THAT after a full investigation of the subject, they are of opinion, that a law which passed the eighth day of May, 1792, intituled "An Act more effectually to provide for the national defence, by establishing an uniform militia throughout the United States," embraceth all the objects of a militia institution, delegated to congress: the principles of that law, lay the foundation of a militia system, on the broad basis prescribed by the constitution, and are well calculated to ensure a complete national defence, if carried into effect by the state governments, agreeably to the power reserved to the states respectively, by the constitution, and therefore ought not to be altered. But, although the committee are of opinion, that the principles of the system established on the part of the United States, ought to be adhered to, yet they believe that some small alterations in the details of these principles, would render that system still more efficacious, and have reported a bill for that purpose.

"In those states which have taken energetic measures for carrying into effect the system adopted by congress, agreeably to the power constitutionally vested in them, the militia are making great proficiency in military discipline, and in the knowledge of tactics, which evinceth, that the deficiency in organization, arming and discipline of the militia, which is too apparent in some of the states, does not arise from any defect in that part of the system which is under the control of congress; but from omission on the part of the state governments.

"In order therefore, to impress the state governments with the importance of the subject, and the indispensible necessity of their vigorous co-operation with the general government, to complete the militia institution, so as to ensure from that source, a permanent national defence, they submit the following resolution.

"*Resolved,* that the President of the United States, be requested to write to the executive of each state, urging the importance and indispensible necessity of vigorous exertions, on the part of the state governments, to carry into effect the militia system adopted by the national legislature, agreeably to the powers reserved to the states respectively, by the constitution of the United States, and in a manner the best calculated to ensure such a degree of military discipline and knowledge of tactics, as will under the auspices of a benign providence, render the militia a sure and permanent bulwark of national defence."

Messrs. Varnum and Butler were appointed a committee to wait on the President with the resolution.

Several amendments made in the bill above alluded to were agreed to, and others made; when the bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading to-morrow—Ayes 50.

A message was received from the President, transmitting a copy of the laws of the Indiana territory from January, 1801 to February 1802.

Ordered to be printed.

A message was received from the senate, advising the house that they had passed the act to provide for the granting of clearances to ships or vessels of the United States lying in the Mississippi, south of the southern boundary of the United States, and therein to amend an act entituled an act to regulate the collection of duties on imports and tonnage, and for other purposes.

And that the senate had considered a bill for the relief of Hugh Alexander and others, and had determined that the bill do not pass.

At about half past two o'clock, Mr. Nicholson called for the unfinished business of Saturday, on which the galleries were cleared.

TUESDAY, Feb. 16, 1803.

As soon as the journal of the proceedings of yesterday was read, on motion of Mr. Nicholson the galleries were cleared.

THEO. HOLT

Has for sale, at his Nursery Garden, Eastern Branch,

A LARGE ASSORTMENT OF

FRESH GARDEN SEEDS,

Which he has imported from London, per ship Sheppardeis, to Norfolk, and others of his own saving—consisting of

FRAME Peas, very early,	Deptford do.
Early Charlton do.	White Spanish do.
Dwarf Marrowfat do.	Early Scarlet Radish,
Large Marrowfat do.	Mixed do.
Dwarf Prussian do.	Spanish do.
Dwarf Union do.	White Turnip do.
Dwarf Prolific do.	Long Prickly Cucumber,
Large Windsor Beans,	Green Turkey do.
Turkey Longpod do.	Nasturtion,
Dwarf Bunch do.	Parsley,
Lima do.	Spinage,
Saddlestrap do.	Red Beet,
Early York Cabbage,	Early Horn Carrot,
Early Battersea do.	Long Orange do.
Early Sugarloaf do.	Large Parsnip,
Large Drumhead do.	Loaf Lettuce,
Green Savoy do.	Brown Dutch do.
Red Pickling do.	Mixed do. many sorts,
Scotch Kale,	Solid Celery,
Brocoli sorts mixed	Endive,
Early Cauliflower,	White Asparagrass,
Late do.	Common,
Early Dutch Turnip,	Sallosie, &c. &c. &c.
Large Tripoli Onion,	

A variety of different kinds of Fruit Trees, Flowering Shrubs, Flower Seeds, Garden Hoes and Rakes, various sizes; imported Roots of fine Mixed Tulips, Double Hyacinths, Double Jonquils, Crown Imperials, Double Snow Drops, Anemonies, Persian Ranunculus, Persian Iris, Crocuses, &c. A quantity of Lombardy Poplars, proper size for planting.

Washington, Jan. 21, 1803. 2wtf

IRON WORKS.

THE subscriber would rent a set of works, situated within twenty miles of the boatable waters of James River; consisting of Furnace, Forge, Mill, Saw-mill, and every necessary appendage, all new and finished in the completest manner of any in America; having abundance of water, wood, and ore of the best quality, and lying in a healthy country where provisions also are abundant and cheap. Fifteen or twenty able negroes may be rented with the works, if speedily applied for.

FERDINANDO FAIRFAX.

Shann. Hill, near Charleston, Virginia.

N. B. Applications by letter must be post-paid.

January 28. 12w6w

Notice is hereby given.

I FORWARN any person or persons from buying a Note, signed by me to THOMAS M'NALLY, for I have a claim against the Note.

RICHD. DELPHEY.

Feb. 11. 3t.

A B I L L

For establishing the Government of the Territory of Columbia.

(Now before the House of Representatives.)

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the government of the Territory of Columbia (with a reservation of the constitutional authority of congress over the same) shall be exercised in manner following:

The powers of legislation shall be vested in a house of representatives, to be chosen annually, and a senate to be chosen biennially by ballot, by the freemen, citizens of the said territory, in the separate divisions into which it hereby is, or hereafter shall be laid off, for that purpose, each division electing a number of representatives and senators, proportioned to the number of inhabitants therein, according to the ratio to be established by the legislature from time to time, for which purpose a census shall be taken every fourth year at least; and whenever by an increase or decrease of the number of inhabitants, the whole number of the representatives shall exceed   or fall below the number of   or the whole number of senators shall exceed   or fall below the number of   the existing ratio shall be altered by the legislature, so as to bring their respective numbers within those limits.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That no person shall be eligible as a member of either house of the legislature of Columbia, who shall not have been in the quiet possession of an estate of freehold, for three years at least next before his election, or who shall not have been a resident of the territory for at least three years, nor shall any person be eligible to the senate of the said territory, whose freehold estate does not amount to five hundred dollars.

Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That every free white male citizen of the United States, of the age of twenty one years, residing within the territory and paying a tax to the same, shall be a freeman of the territory, and having resided twelve calender months in his electoral division, next preceding an election of representatives, and having paid taxes in the territory within that time, shall be capable of electing representatives and senators of his said electoral division.

Sec. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That each house shall choose its own speaker and other officers, and the legislative when convened, shall by law prescribe the time, places, and manner of holding elections. The first meeting shall be on   and thereafter on   in every year, and at other times on its own adjournment, or the call of the President of the United States. Each house shall be the judge of the qualifications and due election of its own members, and a majority of each house shall constitute a quorum to do business, but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day, and may be authorized to compel the attendance of absent members, in such manner and under such penalties as the respective houses may have provided.—Each house may determine the rules of its proceedings, punish its members for disorderly behaviour, and with the concurrence of two-thirds, expel a member, but not a second time for the same cause. Each house shall keep a journal of its proceedings, and from time to time publish the same; and the yeas and nays of the members on every question, shall at the desire of one fifth of those present, be entered on the journal.

Sec. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That no compensation shall be allowed to the members of the house of representatives, or of the senate, for their services, until it shall have been enacted into a law by a legislature, and re-enacted by a second legislature, after the intervention of an election, which compensation so allowed, shall be payable out of the treasury of the territory.—They shall in all cases, except treason, felony, or breach of the peace, be privileged from arrest, during their attendance at the session of the legislature, and in going to and returning from the same, and for any speech or debate therein, they shall not be questioned in any other place. No member of either house shall, during the time for which he was elected, be appointed to any civil office under the territory, other than that of justice of the peace, and no person holding any office under the United States, or any office under the territory, other than that of justice of the peace, or in the militia thereof, shall be a member of either house during his continuance in office.

Sec. 6. *And be it further enacted,* That every bill shall, before it becomes a law, have passed both houses, and have had three several readings in each, on three several days. Every bill or resolution (except decisions or votes which respect the members, or officers of the house, and those only) shall also before