engines to enslave the rest of the nation; he was sorry such an alarm was founded at this time, when, he presumed, there was so little cause for it. Did gentlemen judge from the present state of those people, or did they look forward to a time, when this place was to become a second Rome, prostituted and corrupted by luxury and vice, the grave of liberty and the scourge of the rest of mankind? He trusted those days that produced such events were long since passed, and in the present enlightened age, not likely to return. But whence, he asked, can proceed the danger from the inhabitants of Columbia? are they more corrupt than the rest of the union? are they more ignorant, or less alive to their rights and liberties? He had no reason to believe that this was the case—Is there any reason to suppose they will be come enslaved under the government of Congress? Will those to whom are confided the rights and liberties of the whole nation, sacrifice the people of Columbia, by degrading them to a state of vassalage? Will not the members of the national legislature bring with them the feelings of the people in the different parts of the union from which they came? He presumed they would, and legislate for this district in the same manner as far as circumstances would permit, that they would for their constituents. If therefore the people at large enjoyed liberty and equal rights, so would the inhabitants of Columbia; they had their rights and liberty guaranteed to them by the representatives of the whole nation.

Mr. Campbell concluded by observing, that the framers of the constitution, and the state conventions, that adopted it, who spoke the sentiments of the great body of the people of the union, must have intended that there should be established a permanent seat for the national government; and being convinced of this, from such high authorities, he would, by no act of his, countenance a measure that would be likely to shake the confidence of the people in the public faith, give the appearance of instability to our national acts, and finally tend to loosen the bonds by which the seat of government was bound to this district. Believing the proposed resolution calculated to produce such effects, he had determined to vote against it, and he trusted that a large and decided majority of the House would coincide with him in opinion, and by rejecting the measure quiet the alarms it had occasioned, and evince to the public that some reliance, at least, may be placed in the stability of government.

(To be continued.)

THURSDAY, January 24.

A message was received from the President of the United States informing that he had approved and signed an act for the relief of Charlotte Hazen, widow and relict of the late Brigadier General Moses Hazen, and had directed it to be deposited in the office of the secretary of State.

Mr. Dana reported from the committee of claims, on the petition of Elisha Winters, that he had not supported his petition with the proper certificates of the court, and even if he had, the committee did not think the claim required any additional legislative aid. Whereupon it was resolved that the petitioner have leave to withdraw his petition.

Another report from the same committee on the petition of Bathsheba Newcomb and other legal representatives of colonel Preston of the Jersey militia who died in March 1777 of the hardships and fatigue he had undergone, praying commutation for his half pay. The committee state as their opinion that this case is not included in the resolutions of the Old Congress; but if it had been it was now barred by the statutes of limitation.

Whereupon it was resolved that the petitioners have leave to withdraw their petitions.

Likewise a report on the petition of P. Pettigaw who held several offices at New Orleans by right of purchase from Spain, praying them to be continued or his purchase money reimbursed; with a resolution that he have leave to withdraw his petition.

On motion of Mr. *Lucas*, the report was postponed till Monday next.

Mr. *Speaker* laid before the House a letter & statement and documents relative to the claim of Alexander Scott against the Cherokee Indians, for 38 negroes plundered in 1794.

Mr. *Huger* moved to refer the same to the committee of the whole appointed on the petition of Alexander Scott.

Agreed to.

Mr. *Richards* from the committee of enrollment, reported that the committee had examined the two following bills and found them to be duly enrolled, viz. The act for completing the South wing of the Capitol, and for other purposes; and the Act for the support of the Naval establishment of the U. States for the year 1805.

The engrossed bill for the relief of captain Alexander Murray was read a third time—and on the question, shall the bill pass?

Mr. *Conrad* could not agree to a measure of the kind. The conduct of captain Murray had been decided illegal in every court in the U. States into which it had been carried; he did not approve of a legislative body re-examining decisions of courts of justice, as they were totally unqualified for the object. He therefore could not be content to give a silent vote; for which reason he called the Yeas and Nays.

The Yeas and Nays were taken on the passage of the bill, and were, Yeas 66; noes 37.

Mr. M'Creery moved that a committee be appointed to enquire into the expediency of continuing in force the act declaring the assent of Congress to an act passed by the state of Maryland 28th Dec. 1793 for the establishment of an Health Office at the port of Baltimore, and that the committee have leave to report by bill or otherwise—agreed to, and a committee of three appointed for the purpose.

Mr. *Nicholson* moved for the House to go into committee of the whole on the bill for preserving peace in the ports and harbors of the U. States and in the waters under their jurisdiction.

The House agreed to the same.

Mr. GREGG in the chair.

Mr. *Nicholson* introduced two amendments, one to supply the place of the 2d section of the bill, and the other as a substitute for the 5th section; they being lengthy and important clauses, he wished them to be printed before they were discussed; for which reason he wished the committee to rise, report progress, and ask leave to sit again.

Mr. *R. Griswold* had also prepared an amendment in the place of the 2nd section, which he wished also to be read and printed; it was accordingly received, and the committee having risen and reported, the amendments were all ordered to be printed.

On motion of Mr. *Crowninshield* the House resolved itself into a committee of whole, on the bill for the relief of the sufferers by fire in the city of New York, in the state of New York.

Mr. *Tenny* in the Chair.

Mr. *Early* proposed a new section providing for the cases of those who suffered losses by the hurricane of the 8th of September last, at Savannah in Georgia, Beaufort, Charleston, and George Town, South Carolina.

The committee having agreed thereto, rose and reported the same, and the bill and amendment were postponed until to-morrow.

Mr. *M'Creery* presented a petition from P. A. Gustee praying to be reimbursed certain duties irregularly paid to the Collector of Baltimore.

Referred to the committee of claims.

Mr. *Eustis* called up the following resolution, offered by him on the 22d instant.

Resolved, That it is expedient to provide, by law, for defraying the expense incident to fitting and preparing one of the navy yards belonging to the United States, and lying near the margin of the ocean, for the reception and repairing of such ships of war as are now at sea on their return to port, and such other ships or vessels of war as may hereafter return from their cruises or stations.

This motion occasioned considerable discussion, and was referred to the committee of the whole for Monday next.

Mr. *Clark* moved that the secretary of the Treasury be directed to make a circumstantial report of all the claims standing upon the books of the treasury against the United States which are barred by the acts of limitation, upon what authority the settlements, and liquidations were made, and the persons with whom they are made, & to whom they are now due, and the different circumstances which may exist in respect to the several classes of claims.

This motion after being some time under consideration was postponed on motion of *Mr. Thomas* till Tuesday next.

Mr Purviance laid on the table a resolution for referring to the secretary of state, the secretary of the treasury and the attorney general, the consideration of the constitutionality and expediency of granting to the inhabitants of the district of Columbia a legislature chosen by themselves, with instructions, in case they deem it constitutional and expedient, to report a system to the next session of Congress.

FRIDAY, January 25.

A message in writing from the President of the United States was received and read as follows:

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States.

I communicate for the information of Congress, the report of the director of the Mint, of the operations of that institution for the last year.

(Signed) TH: JEFFERSON.

The letter and report were ordered to be printed.

Mr. Leib from the committee appointed on that subject, reported a bill making an appropriation for the completion of the Arsenal belonging to the United States on the banks of the Schuylkill to the amount of 18,900 dollars, which was read twice and referred to the committee of the whole for Monday.

Mr. Crowninshield moved that the Committee of Ways and Means be directed to enquire what alterations are necessary in the laws fixing the salaries and emolument of the collectors of duties on impost and tonnage, which motion was carried in the affirmative.

Mr. Southard presented the petition of Cuthbert Simms of the 1st Regiment of the Virginia line commanded by Col. Grayson, and who was disabled from doing duty for a considerable time, by a strain he got on his marching from the southward to the northward in 1776, which strain has rendered him incapable of procuring support for himself, his wife, and children, praying relief. Referred to the committee of the whole, who have that subject before them.

Mr. Findley presented a memorial from a number of the inhabitants of the counties of Jefferson and Belmont in the state of Ohio and of Ohio county in Virginia, recommending a particular route for the road intended to be laid out from the district of Columbia through the state of Ohio. On motion the memorial was referred to the committee of the whole, who have that subject before them.

Mr. Lattimore presented a memorial from the Legislative Council and the House of Representatives of the Mississippi territory, stating sundry grievances to which they were exposed by the act of Congress for the government of the same. They complain that a man is not qualified to vote unless he possess fifty acres of land, whereby those who hold houses and town lots as well as respectable citizens of considerable personal estate are disfranchised—The inequality of representation in the several counties to the number of inhabitants in each—The necessity of extending the powers and authorities of an additional judge lately furnished the territory—The inconveniencies arising from the prescribed mode of the disposal of lands—The necessity of establishing an Hospital at the Natchez, and lastly an increase of the salaries of the judges. On motion the memorial was referred to a select committee of five members.

Mr. Macon (Speaker) presented a petition which had been inclosed to him from Edwin Lewis, the legal representative of Henry Mail, complaining of certain acts of the Commissioners of the Mississippi Territory with which he was dissatisfied. On motion this petition was referred to the last mentioned committee.

A message from the Senate by Mr. Otis their Secretary informing that the Senate had passed an act concerning the mode of surveying the public lands of the United States to which they request the concurrence of the House. The act was read twice and referred to a committee of 5.

Mr. Smilie presented a petition from a number of purchasers of the public lands of the United States in the state of Ohio, under the laws of Congress. Referred to the committee appointed on the sale of public lands of the United States in the state of Ohio.

Mr. R. Griswold after stating at some length the provision made by the several laws of the United States, respecting the duties on the importation of goods wares and merchandize into the United States, and endeavoring to shew that Saltpetre had been particularly exempted from the payment of duties, under most of them, but that lately the Comptroller of the Treasury had directed the like duties to be taken upon the importation as upon other ad valorem goods—He regretted that a difference existed on this point—his own opinion as well as that of several eminent civilians being the reverse, he moved that the Committee of ways and means be instructed to enquire whether salt-petre is at this time liable by law to a duty on the importation thereof into the United States. If liable to a duty what is the rate thereof, and whether it is not expedient to define by law the duty to be paid hereafter on that article.

After some conversation on the subject—The motion was agreed to.

A message from the Senate by Mr. Otis their Secretary was received, informing that the Senate had agreed to the bill relating to the valuation of houses, lands, and slaves in South Carolina, under the United States direct tax. Also to the act supplementary to an act entitled an act to regulate the collection of duties on imports and tonnage, with an amendment to which they request the concurrence of the House.

On motion of Mr. J. Clay the amendment of the Senate to the last mentioned bill was referred to the Committee of the whole on Monday next.

Mr. Crowninshield called for the order of the day on the bill for the relief of the sufferers by the late fire in New-York. The motion being agreed to, the house took into consideration the amendment proposed by Mr. Early and agreed to in committee of the whole, for extending the like relief to those who suffered by the storm of the 8th September last, in the ports Savanna, Beaufort, Charleston and George-Town in Georgia and South Carolina.

The motion being expressly to strike out Georgia and South Carolina, for the purpose of particularizing the ports intended to be relieved, viz. Savanna, Beaufort, Charleston and George-town, a division of the question was called for, and the question being put on striking out it was carried in the affirmative. The remainder of the motion, viz. shall the above mentioned ports be inserted passed in the negative, so there stood a blank in the bill without connection. It was then suggested that it would be proper to extend this relief all along the coast where sufferings had taken place. But this being opposed as too extensive and likely to defeat the bill altogether,

On motion of Mr. Early the amendment was referred to a committee of the whole for the purpose of restoring it to the state it was in before it was thus mangled. The motion of reference was carried for Monday next.

Mr. G. W. Campbell called for the order of the day on the resolution authorising the establishment of a Post road from Knoxville in Tennessee to the settlements on the Tombigbee river, and so on to New Orleans.

On the question, will the House resolve itself into a committee accordingly.—It passed in the negative.

Mr. Stanford moved to discharge the committee of the whole, with a view of referring the subject to the committee on Post offices and Post roads.

Mr. Newton wished the subject to remain in its present state, until the information, which the House had requested of the President was received.

Mr. G. W. Campbell thought the subject not a proper one for the committee on Post offices, and Post roads, and gentlemen might recollect that such a motion had been made when the business was first introduced, and it then failed of success; he hoped the like fate would attend the present motion. It would be recollected that the information alluded to by his friend from Virginia, had been requested seven weeks since, and he presumed was not yet to be procured, nor perhaps might it be during the session; he hoped however the House would agree to proceed to the examination of the subject.

Mr. Gregg thought it would be as well to refer it to the committee of the whole on the bill directing the application of a certain sum of money out of the proceeds of the sale of western lands for opening certain roads.

Mr. Stanford observed the subjects were not similar, as there was a material difference between the useful roads through a county for carrying its produce to market—and a main Post road like the one under contemplation.

The question on the motion to discharge the committee of the whole, was lost without a division.

Mr. Nelson reminded the House that they had done him the honor of electing him one of the managers for conducting the trial of Judge Chase, and asked permission to inform them, that his private business, and domestic affairs were so circumstanced, that he should be forced to be absent from next Saturday or Sunday was a week, during at least the ensuing fortnight. Under this peculiar pressure, he begged leave to decline his appointment as a manager. He mentioned this subject in order to apprise the House that if they considered another Member necessary, by excusing him, now upon his request, they might have sufficient time to appoint another.

On motion to excuse *Mr. Nelson* from serving as a manager it was agreed to.

Mr. Dana called for the order of the day, on the report of the committee of claims, respecting the Yazoo claims to lands. He did this, that at the time of adjournment, it might be considered as the unfinished business, and might have the preference over every other order of Monday. It would be recollected, that the report was made last week, and fixed as the order of the day for Monday last, but he had forborne to call it up till this time, in order that gentlemen, after having had the printed report, so long in their hands, might be prepared to meet the discussion, if not the decision.

Mr. Newton was about observing that the subject was too important to be taken up in a thin House, and if gentlemen looked round they would perceive most of the seats vacant.

He was here reminded by the Speaker that no debate could take place on the priority of business. If gentlemen were not prepared to go into committee of the whole, they would vote against the present motion.

Mr. Newton said since that was the case he would move to adjourn.

The motion to adjourn being decided in the negative.

The Speaker put the question on going into committee of the whole on the report.

On a division, there were 47 in the affirmative, and 42 in the negative, the motion was of course carried.

Mr. *Varnum* in the Chair.

The Chairman proceeded to read the report, and when he had gone through a small part of it,

Mr. Clarke moved that the committee should rise.

On the question for the committee rising there were 50 in the affirmative, and 43 against it, it was carried.

The committee hereupon rose, and reported progress, and asked leave to sit again.

On granting leave to sit again, there was 53 in the affirmative, and the speaker declared that in his opinion, the question was carried.

Mr. Claiborne suggested the propriety of proceeding to ballot for a manager in the place of Mr. Nelson, excused.

Mr. J. Randolph thought it would take up too much time at this late hour, and might as well be done to morrow, or on Monday.

Mr. Claiborne, supposing some other business was about to be introduced by his colleague Mr. J. Randolph, withdrew his motion.

Mr. J. Randolph reported from the committee appointed on the petition of a number of the planters, merchants and others of Louisiana, a report of considerable length concluding with a resolution that provision ought to be made by law for extending to the people of Louisiana the right of self government.

On motion of Mr. J. R. the report was referred to a committee of the whole, and made the order of the day for Monday next.

Mr. Morrow presented two petitions, one from Thomas Orr, the other from Jos. Walker, praying Congress to allow them certain sections of land, they had settled upon and improved. Referred to the committee on the subject of the disposal of the public lands, appointed the 7th inst.

The order of the day for the House to resolve itself into a committee of the whole on the report of the committee of Revisal and Unfinished Business, was taken up.

Mr. GREGG in the chair.

The first resolution for reviving and making permanent the law for regulating the mode of taking testimony in cases of contested elections was agreed to.

The second resolution for renewing the charter of Washington city being under consideration.

Dr. Leib observed that it would be unnecessary to act on this subject at the present time, as the law of last session had extended the duration of the charter to 15 years.

On the question the committee disagreed to the last resolution.

The committee then rose and reported.

The House immediately considered and concurred in the report of the committee of the whole—And the first resolution was referred to the committee of Revisal and Unfinished Business to report a bill for the purpose.

Mr. M'Creery from the committee appointed for the purpose reported a bill declaring the assent of Congress to the act of Maryland of December 28, 1793, allowing a health officer at Baltimore.

The bill being twice read.

On motion of Doctor Leib it was referred to a committee of the whole for Monday next.

Mr. Root from the committee appointed for the purpose reported a bill authorising the discharge of John York from his imprisonment.—The same was twice read and referred to a committee of the whole for Monday next.

Mr. *Dana* called up the report of the committee of Claims on the petition of Margaret Ralston, widow of captain Ralston, late one of the inspectors of the port of Philadelphia, which recommends that she have leave to withdraw her petition.

The report was agreed to by the House.

Adjourned.

On the 25th inst Mr. J. Randolph presented the following report of the committee appointed the 12th of Nov. last on so much of the message of the President of the United States, as relates to an amelioration of the form of government of the territory of Louisiana; to whom was referred the third ult. a memorial in the French language, with a translation thereof, from sundry planters, merchants and other inhabitants of the said territory of Louisiana.

REPORT

[*In part*] *Of the committee, to whom was referred the memorial of sundry planters, merchants and other inhabitants of Louisiana.*

The grievances which have been felt by the memorialists, are of a nature, which your committee believe to be inseparable from those sudden transitions of government, to which late political events have subjected the inhabitants of Louisiana. By them, however, they are ascribed to a denial, on the part of the United States, of those rights and immunities to which they declare themselves entitled, in virtue of the third article of the treaty, which transferred them to our dominion, and to the immediate enjoyment of which they now claim to be admitted. It is only under the torture, that this article of the treaty of Paris can be made to speak the language, ascribed to it by the memorialists, or countenance, for a moment,