

navigation, till in time, a superiority would be obvious and felt. The gentleman observed, that the objection to a tonnage duty, as having a natural tendency to discourage the exportation of our produce, did not apply. For the most valuable of our exports, could not be obtained from any other quarter—Tobacco, rice and lumber could not be produced in sufficient quantities any where else. The West-Indies could not be supplied from any other part of the world.

Mr. TUCKER was opposed to the duty of sixty cents. It would bear extremely hard upon some parts of the Union, and operate as a bounty to others, without any advantage to the public. This duty would be eventually paid by a few particular States. Some of the States had more shipping than was necessary for their own particular employ—others, who shipped the greatest quantity of bulky articles, were deficient in ships. The burthen would therefore fall on those States. For the tax on foreign vessels, would prove a bounty on American, and cause them to enhance their freight. He moved for twenty cents per ton; which he supposed, would be a sufficient encouragement to the building of ships, in the United States.

Mr. BENSON queried as to the policy of a discrimination between those powers in alliance with the United States and those who were not?

Mr. BURKE was opposed to a duty of 60 cents.

Mr. SHERMAN objected, that the object of these duties was to place the American vessels, upon a superior footing to foreign vessels—he feared that object would not be effected; as foreign nations, had it at their option, still to increase the duties on our ships, in proportion to the taxes we might impose.

Mr. MADISON was confident, there existed good reasons for a discrimination; but doubted the eligibility of suddenly establishing a very great difference; as our shipping, from every document, appeared at present, to be insufficient. He was in favor of a discrimination, because it coincided with the public sentiment upon the subject. Policy and justice dictated it: France had recently relaxed her commercial system in our favor: American built vessels, could now be sold in France, subject to a duty of only 5 per cent. In Great Britain, no American built vessel can be sold, nor repaired, nor were British vessels allowed to be repaired in the United States. From accounts it appeared, that the shipping of our allies, employed in the American trade, bore no proportion to that of the British; he was therefore, in favor of giving some advantages to those nations in alliance with us, that they might enjoy their due proportion of our trade, and to transfer it from Great Britain, who now enjoyed more than her proportion. Besides, Great Britain had shut her most valuable ports in the West-Indies against us; while British ships brought the produce of the whole world to the American market. For these, and many other reasons, the gentleman thought, that a discrimination should take place. He therefore proposed, an amendment, specifying a particular period, for the commencing of the tonnage duty; to prevent some of the consequences apprehended from monopoly by some gentlemen, &c.

Mr. TUCKER again rose in opposition to Mr. Goodhue's proposition; he observed that, if 60 cents were laid on ships of powers in treaty with us, and a higher duty on the shipping of those who were not, the tax would operate intolerably, upon the southern governments.

Mr. GOODHUE coincided in opinion with Mr. Madison, in his proposition for an amendment to the resolution.

Mr. FITZSIMONS objected to the amendment; freight he observed, was not higher in Virginia, since they had laid a dollar per ton, duty than it had been before that duty was imposed; the advantages resulting from any particular business, had an obvious tendency to diminish the profits; this would apply to freight: It would equalize itself in a very short time.

Mr. LAWRENCE considered the principle of self interest, as the great motive that ought to govern us; we had derived no special advantage from nations in alliance with us, in a commercial view. The public sentiment was not universally in favor of a discrimination; this State had not made any; they conceived good policy did not suggest the measure; France had given us some advantages, but had resumed them again; our oil was now prohibited: It is a serious inquiry whether we do not counteract our own interest, by destroying a rivalry among foreigners for the carrying trade. We are under no obligations to give one nation a preference over another; and therefore, the gentleman concluded, by wishing that we might be governed in the present case, by a regard to that principle, which influences all commercial countries, self interest: He was decidedly opposed to discrimination.

Mr. MADISON: A free and liberal commerce is my wish; restrictions on trade, I am averse to; and I regret that we are under any necessity to impose shackles on our navigation; but, Sir, the policy of other nations, does not leave us an election: Interest does not always regulate itself, to the best purposes. Hence the propriety and policy of the interference of commercial regulations; of giving bounties, and laying restrictions: The immense quantities of American produce, consumed in Europe, contrasted with the returns from every part, except Great Britain, plainly pointed out the great disproportion, which she enjoyed of our trade. It has been asked, what evidence exists that the States were in favor of a discrimination? To this it might be replied, that the legislative acts of several States proved the sentiment. Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania had made a very material difference, and distinctions, I believe, were also made in other States.

Mr. BALDWIN, of Georgia, observed, that he thought the fullest evidence that the sense of the people of the United States was in favor of a discrimination, was apparent in the existence of that House. The commercial embarrassments and distresses of the country gave rise to the meeting of delegates at Annapolis. That Convention found it impracticable to effect their object—and it terminated in assembling a New Convention, which gave birth to another revolution. It was he said a prevailing sentiment through the continent, that such a discrimination should be made.

Mr. FITZSIMONS then made a variety of observations in favor of a moderate encouragement to the navigation of this country. Upon which Mr. GOODHUE withdrew his motion for 60 cents. The question on 33 cents was lost—and that for 30 obtained.

The duty of 30 cents on vessels belonging to the subjects of States not in alliance with us, was then voted. The committee then rose, and the chairman reported the following Resolution.

RESOLVED, as the opinion of this committee, that the following duties ought to be laid on goods, wares and merchandises, imported into the United States, to wit.

	In Cents.
On all distilled Spirits of Jamaica proof,	15
On all distilled Liquors of inferior proof,	12
On Molasses,	6
On Madeira Wine,	33½
On all other Wines,	20
On every gallon of Beer, Ale, or Porter, imported in casks,	8
On all Beer, Ale, or Porter, imported in bottles, pr. dozen,	24
On Malt, pr. bushel,	10
On Barley, pr. bushel,	6
On Lime pr. hoghead,	100
On brown Sugars, pr. lb.	1
On leaf Sugars, pr. lb.	3
On all other Sugars, pr. lb.	1½
On Coffee, pr. lb.	2½
On Cocoa, pr. lb.	1
On all Candles of Tallow, pr. lb.	2
On all Candles of Wax, or Spermaceti, pr. lb.	6
On Cheese, pr. lb.	4
On Soap, pr. lb.	2
On Boots, pr. pair,	50
On all Shoes, Slippers, or Goshaws, made of leather, pr. pair,	10
On all Shoes, or Slippers, made of silk or stuff, pr. pair,	10
On Cables, for every cwt.	50
On tarred Cordage, for every 112 lb.	50
On untarred Cordage and Yarn, for every 112 lb.	65

On Twine, or pack Thread, for every 112 lb.	100
On Hemp, pr. cwt.	50
On all Steel, unwrought, for every 112 lb.	56
On all Nails, and Spikes, pr. lb.	1
On Salt, pr. bushel,	6
On manufactured Tobacco, pr. lb.	6
On Snuff, pr. lb.	10
On every dozen Wool Cards,	50
On every bushel of Coal,	3
On salted Mackerel, Shad and Salmon, per barrel	75
On dried Fish, pr. quintal,	50
On all Teas, imported from China, or India, in ships built in the United States, and belonging to a citizen or citizens thereof, as follows:	
On bohea Tea, pr. lb.	6
On all fouchong, and other black Teas, pr. lb.	10
On superior green Teas, pr. lb.	20
On all other Teas, pr. lb.	10
On all Teas imported from any other country, or from India or China, in ships which are not the property of a citizen or citizens of the United States, as follows:	
On Bohea Tea, pr. lb.	8
On all fouchong, or other black Teas, pr. lb.	15
On superior green Tea, pr. lb.	30
On all other green Tea, pr. lb.	18
On all Window and other Glass, 10 per cent. ad valorem.	
On all blank Books,	
On all writing, printing, or wrapping Paper, and on all Paste-board,	
On all Cabinet Wares,	
On all Buttons of metal,	
On all Saddles,	
On all Gloves of leather,	
On all Hats of beaver, fur, wool, or a mixture of either,	
On all Millinery,	
On all Castings of Iron, and upon slit or rolled iron,	
On all Leather, tanned or tawed, and on all manufacture of leather, except such as shall be otherwise rated,	
On Canes, walking Sticks, and Whips,	
On cloathing ready made,	
On gold, silver, and plated Ware, and on Jewellery and Paste Work,	
On Anchors,	
On all wrought tin Ware,	
On every Coach, charriot, or other four wheel Carriage, and on every Chaise, Solo, or other two wheel Carriage, 15 per cent. ad valorem.	
On all other articles, five per cent. on their value at the time and place of importation, except as follows: Tin in pigs, Tin Plates, Lead, Pewter, Brads, Copper in plates, Wool, Dying Woods, and Dying Drugs, (other than Indigo) raw Hides, Beaver and all other Furs, and Deer Skins.	

That all the duties paid or secured to be paid upon goods imported, shall be returned or discharged upon such of the said goods as shall within months be exported to any country without the limits of the United States, except so much as shall be necessary to defray the expense that may have accrued by the entry and safe keeping thereof.

That there ought moreover to be levied on all vessels entered or cleared in the United States, the duties following, to wit:

On all vessels built within the United States, and belonging wholly to citizens thereof, at the rate of six cents per ton.

On all vessels not built within the United States, but belonging wholly to citizens thereof, at the rate of six cents per ton.

On all vessels belonging wholly to the subjects of powers with whom the United States have formed treaties; or partly to the subjects of such power, and partly to the citizens of the said States, at the rate of thirty cents per ton.

On all vessels belonging wholly or in part to subjects of other powers, at the rate of fifty cents per ton.

Provided, That no vessel built in the United States, and belonging to a citizen or citizens thereof, whilst employed in the coasting trade, or in the fisheries, shall pay tonnage more than once in any one year; nor shall any ship or vessel built within the United States, pay tonnage on her first voyage.

The Speaker refused the chair, and the question on the report of the committee being postponed for further consideration, the House adjourned.

#### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22.

Agreeably to the order of the day, the house went into a committee on the bill for prescribing the form and manner of taking the oath required by the sixth article of the Constitution.

Some debate was held on the subject, which was supported by Mr. LEE, Mr. MADISON, Mr. STURGES, Mr. WHITE, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. BALDWIN, Mr. BURKE, Mr. SILVESTER, Mr. SMITH, and Mr. SENEY.

Having gone through and amended the same, the committee rose and reported; and the consideration of the report being postponed, the House adjourned.

#### THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 1789.

The House met agreeably to adjournment.

The committee appointed to confer with the committee of the Senate upon the modes or forms to be observed in sending papers, bills and messages to either house, reported—consideration of which was postponed.

Upon motion of Mr. White, referring to the arrival of the President, the House adjourned till to-morrow.

#### FRIDAY, APRIL 24.

The report of the committee read yesterday, was taken up and discussed. Some gentlemen conceived, that certain parts of it held up a distinction between the Senate and the House of Representatives, unfavourable to the dignity of the latter—two Members being required by it to carry a message from the House to the Senate, while the Secretary was to be the Messenger from the Senate to the House. A considerable debate ensued upon a motion for recommending this Report.

On one side of the question it was observed, That a distinction was proper, and did not imply a comparison: That the Constitution favoured this distinction; the House was the most numerous body, and the propriety of a larger number on the part of the house was sanctioned by custom, used upon all occasions; that the real dignity of the House depended upon supporting the constitutional distinctions of each branch of the Legislature; that many advantages might result from two Members being on such committees, as it would conduce to preventing mistakes: that the Senate had a right to determine their own mode; that it was evident, by an attention to the report, that the Senate did not mean to arrogate consequence to themselves; but designed that the forms proposed should be reciprocally respectful.

On the other side it was contended, That the Senate evidently assumed a superiority: That it was necessary to guard the earliest movements to aristocracy: That the mode proposed was complex and burdensome: That one Member was adequate to all the purposes of carrying a Message: That the Constitution held out no distinctions: The House was fully equal to the Senate, and in some particulars, were possessed of powers that the Senate do not enjoy: as the originating Money Bills, &c.

The Report was finally recommitted.

Mr. SHERMAN moved, that the House now receive the report of the committee providing the mode for taking the Oath agreeably to the Constitution. This motion passed in the negative.

Mr. GALE, of Maryland, moved, that the enacting file of 'Senate and House of Representatives,' of the United States, be amended, by substituting 'the Congress of the United States,' as being more agreeable to the Constitution. This was objected to by several Members; but the vote being called for, the enacting clause was repealed; but without fixing upon a substitute.

It was then moved, that the Report of the Committee of the whole House, in their Resolution upon the subject of Revenue be taken into consideration. The Report being read, the article of distilled spirits, Jamaica proof, came first in order.

Mr. BOUNDINOT observed upon the sum annexed to this article of 15 cents pr. gallon, that he thought it too high; would produce smuggling, and defeat the purposes of government. The duty also proposed on Madeira Wine, according to a calculation he had made on a cargo of 200 pipes, would amount to 2600 or 3000. A sum which gentlemen must be sensible would prove a most powerful stimulus to smuggling. To collect so heavy duties, there must be a great number of revenue officers, who must be very vigilant too, and the collection would render them odious, and government unpopular. As an evidence of the bad policy of excessive or high duties, he beg'd to recite an instance: Molasses a few years since in this port, was liable to a duty of 6 pence pr. gallon: The consequence was, that nothing was collected; but when the duty was reduced to 1 penny, pr. gallon, a large sum was realized in the Treasury. He would therefore move that 3 cents be struck off from the sum proposed.

Mr. MADISON spoke in favour of the sum proposed. Rum, he observed, if any article, ought to bear a high duty. It was agreeable to the general ideas of the people; and though he was sensible that smuggling was the general consequence of excessive exactions upon trade, yet the sum proposed was not so high, he believed, as to produce that effect to any considerable degree. He hoped to see a difference in the conduct of merchants, from the opinion now thrown out, and that they would combine to support the laws. He hoped to see the time when it would become infamous to defraud the Revenue, injure the fair trader, and pour contempt upon government.

Mr. JACKSON, of Georgia, was in favour of a diminution of the duty. He observed that it would produce all the evils which had been mentioned: More especially in the State he had the honour to represent, which abounded in creeks and inlets, exceedingly favourable to the smuggling business.

Mr. WADSWORTH, of Connecticut, was opposed to so high a duty: He thought 12 cents too much, and would propose striking off one half the original sum. There was not money in the hands of the merchants, sufficient to pay such duties.

Mr. FITZSIMONS asked, whether gentlemen had made a calculation of the amount of the duties proposed, for it ought to be considered, whether they were too much or not, before a reduction was made: For his part he did not think they would be found to exceed the sum required. Gentlemen had observed "that there was not money sufficient to pay these duties: If that was the case, the duties might be collected in some other way. As to the practicability of collections, that was merely matter of opinion. The bill upon this part of the system, would best explain that part of the business. There were few large cargoes of wine imported: It was easy to find a mode to adjust the payment of duties; time must be given. As to the smuggling to the southward referred to by gentlemen, it was counteracted by a variety of considerations. He was opposed to a diminution.

At this stage of the debate, the Speaker received a message from the Senate, the purport of which was, that they had appointed three members to join a committee of the House, to consider what title, or title, or whether any, other than what the constitution contains, should be given to the President and Vice President; also to determine upon the time and place, to administer the oath to the President, and by whom. After some debate, a committee, consisting of Mr. Benson, Mr. Carroll, Mr. Sherman, Mr. Madison and Mr. Ames, was appointed. The subject of the duty on spirits was then renewed.

Mr. LAWRENCE observed, that gentlemen appeared to have two objects in view; to be effected by a high duty on rum; but if revenue was one, high duties operated against them; if the reformation of the people, smuggling was acknowledged to be unfavorable to morals; But on the contrary, had a powerful tendency to corrupt them: That no reliance could be placed, but upon the efficacy of the laws, in the collection of the duties: He thought twelve cents too high; but if no gentleman proposed less he should vote for that sum.

Mr. TUCKER thought twelve cents much too high; he therefore moved, that seven cents be struck off from the original sum: High duties had a tendency to reduce smuggling to a system, which would greatly add to the evil, and render the cure extremely difficult: Besides it held out powerful temptations to the officers of the revenue to swerve from their duty, and become corrupt.

Mr. MADISON observed, that he was not convinced by all that had been said, that 15 cents were too much: The people expected, that this article would pay a higher sum, than had been collected from it: A duty of one-sixth of a dollar had been laid by one of the States, an evidence, that the proposed duty was within their ideas. Corruption of morals had been mentioned as the consequence of smuggling; but it should be remembered that other things had a similar influence: Injustice and fraud, had a powerful tendency, and this would be the necessary consequence of a deficient revenue; no substitute had been proposed for the defalcation this essential diminution would occasion: And it must be observed, that smaller articles would be smuggled with much greater facility: and if we abandon the idea of realizing a considerable sum from obvious and bulky goods, such as rum, &c. there would be a great deficiency ensue. We ought to suppose that the people will be actuated by better motives, than to risk their fame, their honor and justice by evading the duties: For his part he expected a different conduct from the good sense of his countrymen; and the united exertions of the great body of merchants to support the laws.

Mr. FITZSIMONS observed, that as there appeared a division of sentiment upon the subject, he would propose an adjournment: The House accordingly adjourned.

Erratum—In our last Debates, for Mr. Jackson, (Virginia)—read Mr. Jackson, (Georgia.)

#### EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCE.

DUBLIN, DECEMBER 23.

THE frost at Paris was so intense a fortnight ago, that the Seine, which is 18 or 20 feet deep in that city, where the tide never flows, was so frozen in 24 hours, as to admit bearing multitudes, who formed a kind of fair on the river. But on the third day a sudden thaw separated the ice, and 14 men, 6 women, and a few children, from 5 to 10 years old, were irretrievably lost. The rest, amounting to about 10,000, between the two bridges, made a shift to scramble to shore, but not without many broken limbs and fore bones.

#### LONDON.

Mr. Pitt has been most absurdly charged by the opposition writers, with a desire to disturb the harmony of the royal family, and to divide a mother from a son. Such an intention, if it could really be proved, would certainly render Mr. Pitt an object of abhorrence with a people, whose characteristic liberality it universally admitted. But these men should distinguish between the unpleasant consequences of a system calculated for great national advantage, and the secret dispositions of its authors. Mr. Pitt may see with extreme regret that his measures unluckily tend to interrupt domestic tranquillity, yet, in the wide and general aim to accomplish an important object, finds it necessary to disregard a consideration so amiable in private life, in the superior sense