

FOR THE GAZETTE OF THE UNITED STATES.

Extract of MANUSCRIPT IMITATIONS from the French.—The original was intended to be sung by the sacred choir of Hebrews, at the conclusion of the first Act of ATHALIAH.

An ODE.

THE WHOLE CHOIR.

BEYOND this Ball's diurnal bound,
Beyond time's terminable round,
Our GOD exists the same:
Wide from th' EMPYREAN to this sod,
The Universe is full of GOD,
Extol, extol his name!

ONE VOICE.

The beauteous painting of the flow'rs,
The fruitful year, the flying hours,
His boundless pow'r proclaim:
The dew, the rain, the snow, the hail,
Seed time and harvest still prevail—
Extol, extol his name!

ANOTHER VOICE.

Though his gifts to all extend,
Fill th' immensity of space:
Mortals, in his presence bend!
Greater are his gifts of grace.

CHOIR.

Oh, SINAI'S Mount! preserve the fame,
Of that tremendous day;
When to thy top, couvolv'd with flame,
The LORD in clouds and darkness came,
And fire prepar'd the way.

Why those trumpets in the air,
Thunder's voice and light'ning's glare,
Torrent smoke and bick'ring fire?
Dreadful signs of waken'd ire!

How great Nature's pillars nod,
How her old foundations shake,
Mountains melt and vallies quake,
At the wonder-working GOD!

ONE VOICE.

Mortals, struck with holy awe,
Fear he comes to end their race:
Israel's sons receive his law,
Greatest are his gifts of grace.

CHOIR.

Their bread from Heav'n, their water from a rock;
His hand, through deserts guiding, made them free,
Led them between the billows as a flock,
And whelm'd their following foes deep in the sea.
Beneath his standard rang'd, the legions sped,
While them gainst battling bands to glorious deeds he led.

ONE VOICE.

High o'er the Tabernacle's arch,
The Warrior GOD was seen to march;
But left the splendours from above,
Too bright for mortal eyes should prove;
He deign'd his glory ineffable to shroud,
Circl'd by Night in fire by Day in cloud.
Should not his pow'r and grace our bosoms move?
For such unheard-of good he only claims our love!

CHOIR.

Should not pow'r and goodness move,
Israel's sons his law to love?
Law divine and favor'd race!
Greatest are his gifts of grace!

SKETCH OF PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESS.

In the HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES of the UNITED STATES.

[Debate on the proposition to make a discrimination between the pay of the Senate and House of Representatives.]

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 1789.

MR. JACKSON opposed this discrimination. He observed—We have all alike abandoned our particular pursuits in life, and are all equally engaged in the service of our country—and I can see no reason for making any difference: Can a Senator eat more—or does he drink better than a Representative? I presume not—their expences are equal: There is but one reason that can be assigned for this distinction, and that is, the Senate may sit longer than the House; but as it must be considered that they will receive pay accordingly, this reason falls to the ground. The business of both houses is the same, and the pay ought to be alike.

Mr. LEE observed, that the Constitution had made a difference, and that we ought to do it:—There is a degree of refinement in the mode of electing Senators:—They are our best men—and I think that every encouragement ought to be given to draw forth the first abilities:—The difference of two or three dollars is but a trifling distinction to our venerable sages: At present there may be young men in the Senate; but the time will come when our most honorable, grey headed sages, the experienced and wise men of our land will fill those seats: Old men are with difficulty brought into public life—every inducement should therefore be held out—the honor and dignity of our government is inseparably connected with supporting, in a proper manner, this important branch of our legislature: The Constitution warrants a distinction: It is founded on the best experience—I therefore give my hearty assent to the proposal for a discrimination.

Mr. WHITE: Sir, I am opposed to a discrimination: I cannot see the difference in the Constitution which the gentlemen refers to: There was an artificial and political distinction established between the Senators and the people in some of the ancient Commonwealths: This was the case at Rome in particular: The Senators were there considered as possessing a portion of divinity;

and the rest of the people were not suffered to mix with them.—Is it to be supposed that because our Senators have the same name they are of a superior order to their fellow men? Whatever may be the sentiment here, in their respective States there is no difference in the general estimation between a Senator and a Representative—and why any discrimination should be made in their respective allowances I cannot conceive.

This distinction will operate against the independence of the members of this house—and may in some future day enable the Senate to carry points, by being able to prolong the sessions when it may be greatly to the inconvenience of the house.

Mr. MADISON was in favor of the discrimination: He said it was evidently contemplated by the Constitution to hold out some distinction in favour of the Senate, as an inducement for men of staid and fixed principles, whom habits of retirement might render averse from the active scenes of public life, to devote the experience of years and the acquisitions of study to the service of their country—and except something of this kind is done, we may find it difficult to obtain proper characters for the Senate, as men of enterprise and genius will naturally prefer a seat in the house which will be considered as a more conspicuous situation.

Mr. VINING was opposed to the motion for discrimination: He observed that wealthy men would in all probability be chosen Senators, and that the representatives would not in general be of that class—the discrimination ought therefore if any was made, to be in favor of the latter: This (said he) is a subject on which we can feel, but which it is difficult to discuss. I am against the reduction of the sum mentioned in the report, as I think that sum quite insufficient: Six dollars Sir, is not equal to the expence per day at which many gentlemen live when at home: We surely do not intend to make the public service unpleasant, by rendering the situation of gentlemen less eligible.—As to discrimination, the constitution has sufficiently pointed out the proper distinction: Mr. VINING added many more observations and concluded, by saying I have expressed myself fully upon this occasion: I am not afraid that my sentiments should be known to my constituents, because I think theirs are agreeable to my own.

Mr. SENEY: I am sorry Sir, that the question of discrimination has been brought before the House: What reason can be assigned for making this distinction? Are the services of the Senate greater than those of the Representatives? I think not.—Gentlemen have brought forward the constitution upon this occasion; but I conceive it is opposed to the principle they mean to advocate. The independence of the several branches is to be strictly preserved, this will destroy that independence: If we establish a discrimination in favor of the Senate, will it not naturally tend to create a sense of inferiority in the minds of the Representatives? and the time may come, when they may find it for their interest to be entirely subservient to the views of the Senate: Sir, I feel so sensibly the impropriety and unconstitutionality of this measure, that if I had the smallest idea that it would comport with the sentiments of a majority of the members of this House, I should call for the ayes and noes upon the question—but as I do not conceive that to be the case, I shall for the present wave the proposition.

Mr. SEDGWICK observed that whenever he had a motion to make in the House, he always endeavoured to satisfy himself of the reasonableness and propriety of the proposition it contained: When he had determined it was proper, the mode of decision that should be adopted, he considered as not of very material consequence—but in determining the present question, he hoped the ayes and noes would not be called. There is a principle in human nature, which revolts from the idea of inferiority—hence when a proposition is made which has for its object the establishment of a superiority, in whatever form you please, that principle is alarmed, and excited to opposition—but in discussing such a question as the present we ought to divest ourselves of every partiality and prejudice which may bias our judgments to a decision that will not bear the test of reason and experience.—The constitution has I conceive plainly pointed out the precedence of the Senate: There are grades in society which are necessary to their very existence. This is a self evident proposition—it is recognized by every civilized nation: It is recognized by the House in the report before us: Why else have we made a difference between the President and Vice-President? Is it not on account of his superior station, and weight of dignity—and between the Vice-President and the Senate? This distinction is also established in the difference of the terms for which the Senate and the House of Representatives is chosen: The time for which the Senate is chosen, points out the propriety of a difference in the pay they ought to receive: The administration of the government will require that they should more completely abstract themselves from personal pursuits: Their attention will be almost wholly absorbed by an attention

to public duties: They should therefore have an adequate and independent allowance: They will generally be of an age that will preclude them from all idea of ever engaging in their several professions after once having engaged in the service of their country: Their age, their wisdom and experience, all warrant this discrimination.—Mr. SEDGWICK added many more observations to shew the policy and constitutionality of the discrimination, and concluded by saying, that he thought the real dignity of the House so far from being diminished by adopting the proposition, that he conceived it was essentially connected with it.

Mr. JACKSON in reply to the enquiry of Mr. SEDGWICK,—Why have we made a difference between the President and Vice-President? observed, That the President will be employed the whole of his time: The Vice-President may retire to his farm whenever he pleases. Reference is had to the wisdom of the Senate—but how is this superior wisdom made to appear? If a distinction is to be made on this account, it follows that a difference should be made between the several members of this House and also between those of the Senate.—We cannot be too cautious how we establish an undue pre-eminence, and give an influence and importance to one branch of the legislature over the other: All governments tend to despotism as naturally as rivers run into the sea.—Despotism carries its points gradually by slow and imperceptible steps: Despotism is never established all at once: We shall ere we are aware get beyond the gulph, and then wonder how we got there: The services of the Senate are not more arduous than ours; their proper business is legislation, and I never will consent to any discrimination: Had I any idea that the question would be determined in favor of discrimination, I should be for calling the ayes and noes, and should it be so determined, I shall chuse to enter my negative against it.

Mr. PAGE made a number of observations, which as he spoke low were not distinctly heard: thus much we collected, that he was in favor of the discrimination: He said, that in his opinion, the Senate ought to have permanent salaries, that they might be placed in an eligible and independent situation.

The proposition for a discrimination as mentioned in our last was however negatived.]

MONDAY, JULY 20, 1789.

A message was received from the Senate by their Secretary, informing that they had concurred with amendments in the bill, for establishing the department of foreign affairs—also, that they had passed a bill for the establishment of judicial courts in the United States, and requested the concurrence of the Hon. House in the same.

The Secretary then delivered in the bills and withdrew.

A message was received from THE PRESIDENT, by Mr. LEAR, his Secretary, who informed the House, that he was directed by the President of the United States, to return to the Hon. House the bill, imposing a duty on tonnage, to which the President had affixed his signature.

The engrossed bill to regulate light-houses, &c. was read: A motion for its recommittal was negatived.—The question, shall this bill pass? was carried in the affirmative.

Mr. SMITH (S. C.) moved that a committee should be appointed to bring in a bill, to authorize the several States to provide funds for the support of Hospitals, for sick and disabled seamen, and for the regulation of their respective harbours. This motion was adopted, and Messrs. SMITH, (S. C.) CARROLL, and CLYMER, appointed the committee.

The report on the petition of ANDREW ELLICOTT, was again read, and recommitted.

The bill for establishing an executive department to be denominated the department of foreign affairs as amended by the Senate, was read and the amendments agreed to.

The bill for establishing judicial courts in the United States, was read.

Voted that it be referred to the committee of the whole House, to be taken into consideration on Monday next, and that 100 copies be printed for the accommodation of the House.

In committee of the whole on the bill, for establishing the government of the territory north-west of the Ohio.

Mr. BOUDINOT in the Chair. The committee went through the discussion of this bill, in which they made but one amendment, and that was in the preamble: The committee then rose—and the chairman reported the same, which was taken up in the House, and agreed to. It was then voted that this bill be engrossed, for a third reading to-morrow.

Mr. SINNICKSON asked leave of absence for three weeks—which was granted.

The house then adjourned.

TUESDAY, JULY 21.

The engrossed bill to provide for the government of the territory North West of the Ohio, was read, and passed to be enacted.