

nature of Indian affairs, I have been silent upon this occasion—but, Sir, it is because I have no opinion of Indian treaties—and I hope that if we vote any sum more than sufficient to support the Commissioners, and feed the Indians, while the treaty is holding, that it will be embezzled; for I consider it as the worst kind of policy, to spend a large sum of money in making presents to those savages; it never produces any solid advantages, but constantly the reverse. The Indians have reduced war and treaties to a system of commerce and traffic. By giving them presents, we make them strong to fall upon our defenceless frontiers; and it has often been found to be the case, that the arms and ammunition which they have received at a treaty of peace, have been employed to the destruction of the donors: the sum of 20000 dollars, I think, will be large enough.—I hope we shall concur with the senate.

Mr. MOORE was in sentiment with Mr. SCOT; he reprobated the system which had been adhered to, of making presents to the Indians.

Mr. BALDWIN said, in answer to Mr. SCOT, that the gentleman's observations are of a general nature; the superintendent of Indian affairs, and the secretary at war has made a statement, and it is to be supposed upon the best information he can obtain; if this is defective, if it is too much, let the particulars be pointed out in which the excess lies: His estimate states that 25000 dollars are requisite for holding treaties with the southern tribes; if this provision is intended to defray the expences of holding treaties with both northern and southern Indians, it appears demonstrable, that we shall fail for want of the means of effecting our object, in both.

Mr. SUMPTER observed that the number on which the estimate is founded arose from misinformation: So large a number is not necessary: such a number will not be assembled; they cannot be provided for, they would run a risk of suffering very much: I have no doubt Sir, that the business may be well done without assembling such a number, and it will be well done if we do not make too large provision. I hope we shall support the dignity of the United States, and let those Indians know that treaties in future shall not be violated with impunity; that we will treat with them upon generous and reciprocal terms; that while we guard them from depredations from our frontiers, they shall strictly observe the stipulations on their part. Some trifling presents may be necessary, the custom is of long standing; but extravagant and profuse presents I am opposed to; they are unnecessary. The sum of 20000 dollars, I think will be sufficient.

Mr. BALDWIN's motion being put, was negatived.

The amendment of the senate was then agreed to.

Adjourned.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22.

Several petitions were read and laid on the table. Representations from the citizens of Trenton, in New-Jersey, York-Town, and Lancaster, in Pennsylvania, were presented to the House, stating the advantages they possess in soil, climate, situation, population, cultivation and buildings; and proffering their respective towns with the circumjacent territory, of ten miles, to Congress, for the permanent seat of the federal government.

The amendments to the Constitution as altered and agreed to by the House, were read.

Mr. TUCKER then proposed the following amendment in substance: That Congress shall not exercise the power of levying direct taxes, except in cases where any of the States shall refuse, or neglect to comply with their requisitions.

Mr. PAGE said, although I wish the way may be always open for every member of this house to propose amendments to the Constitution—yet as the business is so far completed with respect to the report of the committee, I think it will be best to proceed and finish this report, and in the mean time refer this to the select committee of eleven.

Mr. TUCKER: I hope, Sir, the proposition will be attended to at the present time—as the house is upon the subject, and considerable progress is made, this amendment may be added with ease, if it should be agreed to—I think it best to finish the whole business now Congress has it before them.

Mr. JACKSON opposed the proposition: I hope, Sir, that the experience we have had will be sufficient to prevent Congress ever divesting themselves of this power—This experience forcibly points out the impropriety of adopting this amendment—requisitions upon several States it is well known, tho made several years since, remain uncomplied with to this day; and no inducements in future can ever be supposed to be sufficiently operative, to induce so universal a compliance with requisitions, as to secure the public good, if a sense of common danger, war, and the facility of payment in a paper medium were not sufficient to do it: But this plan of requisitions is pregnant with difficulties of various kinds—it will excite jealousies—insurrections—and civil war, dissolve the Union, and expose us to the contempt and invasion of foreign powers: For if this power is taken from Congress, you divest the United States of the means of protecting the Union, or provid-

ing for the existence and continuation of the government.

Mr. LIVERMORE supported the motion: He said, it is more important than all that has been agreed to: This is an amendment to some purpose, and which a number of the States have particularly called for: Without some to more purpose is held out to the people, that I have the honor to represent, they will consider these as a mere musketo bite—they will not give a pinch of snuff for them all.

Mr. PAGE observed, that this proposition is one about which the warmest friends to amendments have differed in opinion: Some of them have entirely ceased urging it, and others have become the most strenuous advocates for the reverse; and now say that the government ought never to give up this power: For my part, experience has fully evinced that no dependence can be placed upon requisitions: If in a time of war, and when we made paper money by hogheads full, they were disregarded, I have no expectation that any dependence in future can be placed in them—I shall therefore be against the proposition.

Mr. GERRY moved, that it be referred to a select committee.

Mr. TUCKER objected to this motion, he said the subject of amendments is still open—as the report of the committee is not yet completed.

Mr. GERRY advocated the object of the motion; but he did not think that object fully comprehended in the motion now before the house: He then entered into a general discussion of the question, and pointed out the consequences of the exercise of this power by the general government, as involving the annihilation of the State governments.

Mr. TUCKER: I do not see the arguments in favour of giving Congress this power in so strong a light as some gentlemen do: It will be to erect an *imperium in imperio*; which is always considered as subversive of all government. Whenever Congress shall exercise this power, it will raise commotions in the States; whereas the mode of requisitions will operate in such an easy way, by being consonant to the habits of the people, that the supplies will be sooner realized into the public treasury in this, than by the other mode. Much time must be spent in forming a uniform system of taxation, which shall operate equally and justly through all the States, if it is possible to form such a system.—It is said that requisitions have not been complied with in former times; but it is to be expected that there will not be so much difficulty in future. The requisitions will be greatly diminished by reason of the supplies from the impost; besides, should any of the States not comply, they will in that case be liable to the exercise of the power of Congress in the very heart of such States as are delinquent; this power would be so disagreeable, that the dread of it would serve to stimulate the States to an immediate and prompt compliance with the requisitions. This amendment is proposed by several of the States, and some of the most important; and for this, and other reasons which have been offered, I hope the amendment will be adopted.

Several methods of disposing of this question for the present were proposed, but the motion for its lying on the table being put and negatived, Mr. PARTRIDGE, referring to his instructions, was solicitous that this amendment should not be too suddenly decided upon, moved the previous question, which was negatived.

Mr. SEDGWICK observed, that he believed he felt the force of the instructions from his constituents which they ought to have upon his mind, and to as great a degree as other gentlemen; but Sir, said he, a government entrusted with the freedom, and the very existence of the people, ought surely to possess, in the most ample manner, the means of supporting its own existence; and as we do not know what circumstances we may be in, nor how necessary it may be for Congress to exercise this power, I should think it a violation of the oath I have taken to support this constitution, were I now to vote for this amendment.

Mr. SHERMAN observed that if Congress should exercise this power, the taxes would be laid by the immediate representatives of the people; nor would there be any necessity for adopting one uniform method of collecting direct taxes: The several States may be accommodated by a reference to their respective modes of taxation.

The question upon the paragraph being called for from all parts of the house, the ayes and noes stand thus:

AYES.

Messrs. Burke—Coles—Floyd—Grout—Hathorn—Livermore—Van Ranslaer—Sumpter—Tucker—9.

NOES.

Messrs. Ames—Benfon—Brown—Cadwallader—Carroll—Clymer—Fitzsimons—Foster—Gale—Gerry—Gilman—Goodhue—Hartley—Heister—Jackson—Laurance—Lee—Madison—Matthews—Moore—Muhlenberg—Page—Parker—Partridge—Shureman—Scott—Sedgwick—Seney—Sherman—Sylvester—Sinnickson—Smith (M)—Smith (S. C.)—Stone—Sturges—Thatcher—Trumpbull—Vining—Wadsworth—39.

Mr. TUCKER then proposed some other amend-

ments, from those proposed by the state of South-Carolina; which were severally negatived.

Mr. GERRY proposed the two following, viz.—Congress shall not establish any company or companies of merchants with exclusive privileges.—The other to prohibit the officers of the general government from accepting any title of nobility from any foreign power. These were both negatived.

Mr. BENSON introduced a resolution to this purport: Resolved by the house of representatives of the United States in Congress assembled, that the following amendments to the constitution of the United States having been agreed to by two thirds of both houses, be submitted to the legislatures of the several states; which when ratified in whole or in part by three fourths of said legislatures, shall be valid to all intents and purposes as parts of said constitution. This resolution was referred to a committee, consisting of Mr. BENSON, Mr. SHERMAN, and Mr. SEDGWICK, who were directed to arrange the said amendments, and report.

Mr. GOODHUE moved that the report of the joint committee on the adjournment be made the order of the day on Monday next: Passed in the affirmative.

The committee on the part of the house appointed to confer with the senate on their amendment to the treasury bill being called on to report, Mr. MADISON reported verbally, that the committee had met and conferred upon the subject; that the members on the part of the senate stated the reasons on which their amendment was founded; which not being satisfactory to the committee on the part of the house, they then submitted certain propositions to the committee of the senate, who on their part offered none: Mr. MADISON further reported that it is the opinion of the committee on the part of the house, that it would not be best for the house to recede from their disagreement.

A petition was presented from the inhabitants of the town of Alexandria, setting forth that a certain clause in the collection bill operates unequally upon the citizens of that port, and praying for alteration therein. Laid on the table.

Adjourned.

MONDAY, AUGUST 24.

A memorial from the inhabitants of George Town, on Patowmac, was introduced by Mr. CARROLL, which being read, was referred, with a petition from the inhabitants of Alexandria, to a committee, consisting of Messrs CARROLL, LEE, and GOODHUE.

Mr. MADISON presented a petition from JOHN HURT, a CHALAIN in the late Southern army, which was read and laid on the table.

Mr. FITZSIMONS of the committee appointed to bring in a bill for establishing the salaries of the officers in the executive departments, brought in a report which was read the first time.

The salaries proposed in the bill are as follow:

To the Secretary of the treasury.	5000 Dollars.
Secretary of foreign affairs.	3500
Secretary of the department of war.	2500
Comptroller.	2000
Auditor.	1500
Treasurer.	1600
Register.	1250
Superintendent of Indian affairs.	1000
Governor of the Western Territory.	1000
Assistant to the secretary of the Treasury.	1600
Chief clerk to the secretary of foreign affairs.	800
Chief clerk in the war department.	600

The committee appointed to arrange the amendments agreed to by the house, and to prepare a resolution as a preamble to the same, made report: The resolution is the same brought in yesterday—which was accepted. The amendments as arranged were then read.

The order of the day on the report of the joint committee on an adjournment was moved for.

Mr. VINE was opposed to taking up this report: He observed, that it appeared absurd to go into a discussion of the question at this moment—it would necessarily involve a great deal of debate and loss of time, and would counteract the object of gentlemen entirely, while so many important subjects were yet undecided, which must be attended to and finished, previous to a recess: He moved for a postponement, in order to take up the Treasury Bill.

Mr. HARTLEY observed, that the gentleman's remarks furnished the best argument for coming to a determination upon the adjournment at the present time, as it was the best way to confine the attention of the house to the essentials, which claimed their immediate notice and decision.

Mr. SEDGWICK advocated taking up the report immediately: He contended that it would expedite the public business, and (he observed) his observation was founded on experience; when the time is once fixed, and gentlemen are fully impressed with the importance of dispatching business in a given time, he had known as much transacted in the assembly of Massachusetts in one week, and as well done as had been before in three. He further observed that many gentlemen were anxious to go home; that the sickly season was approaching, and that if an adjournment does not take place, the members will be thinned off so that in all probability a much less number than the present will be left to do the business.

Mr. VINE's motion was withdrawn.

Mr. MADISON proposed the following resolution, viz. Resolved, That when this house does adjourn on the — of Sept. next, they will adjourn to the first Monday in December next.

Mr. SCOTT objected to this: He said it was too short a period—it would not admit of the members who lived at the extreme parts of the Union going home and returning again by the time mentioned.

Mr. LIVERMORE also objected to it; and proposed to adjourn on the First day of September.

Mr. GOODHUE said, that he believed, that gentlemen who talked of adjourning the first of September, did not wish for any adjournment at all: He contended for a short adjournment as proposed by the resolution: Some relaxation from business is necessary: It is also expedient to consult our constituents: Some alterations may be necessary in the laws we have enacted: We can judge better of that necessity from observation, and conversation in our respective States.

Mr. AMES supported the motion, and proposed to fill the blank with 22d which was carried in the affirmative.

Mr. SUMPTER objected to the shortness of the time of adjournment: The business now before us cannot be completed (said he) if we may judge by what has already taken place: The recess will be so short, that none of the advantages to be derived from consult-