

ought to be fixed for the permanent residence of the General Government, as near the centre of population, wealth, and extent of territory as is consistent with the convenience of the Atlantic navigation, having also due regard to the western territory. He then moved to make this the order of the day for Thursday next.

Mr. SHERMAN objected—he observed that the house has as much important business before them, as they can possibly dispatch without entering on this. Neither is the government in possession of resources at present for the establishment of a federal town. He therefore moved that the second Monday in December next be assigned for taking this matter into consideration.

Mr. HARTLEY. I hope, Sir, the motion will prevail. Gentlemen who live near New-York may perhaps be satisfied to postpone this subject for ten or a dozen years: But justice to the inhabitants of this city requires that it should be soon settled. They are going into large expenses for erecting a palace for the President, and for other objects; if the presumption, on which this project is founded, is not well grounded, it is just and proper that they should be undeceived. A regard for their interests therefore requires that we should let them know what they are to depend upon.—He also observed that some attention ought to be paid to the petitions of the people respecting a permanent seat.

Mr. BURKE suggested that it will be doing great injustice to the southern states to fix on so early a day in the next session, as it is not probable that the members from those states will be then present.

Mr. FITZSIMONS said the present is the most proper time to determine this business. There is now a pretty full representation; it is not probable that at any future time, there will be so great a number collected, certainly not at any period in a winter session. It is true there is much important business before Congress: But what more important than the subject proposed. It is a question about which people are much agitated. As to the expense, that is an after consideration. The present object is only to fix on the place.—Whether the removal is to be made this year or next is a distinct business.

Mr. SHERMAN said, that he moved the second Monday in December, merely to accommodate the gentlemen who are pressing. It is evident that we all have too little time this season. If the gentleman from South-Carolina thinks it too early a day for the southern members, I am willing to agree to a more distant time.

In addition to the arguments for deferring this matter, there is another important consideration. The Union is not yet complete. North-Carolina and Rhode-Island have not yet a voice—it is supposed it will not be long before those states will become members of the Union.

Mr. SMITH (S. C.) moved, that the first Monday in January next, should be assigned for the taking up this subject.—He was opposed to going into it at present, and enumerated several reasons to shew that the other business could not be put off. The judiciary bill is pressing, and has been the order of the day for several weeks. The funding of the public debt is also important, and is earnestly expected. It is of little consequence, he said, where the duty which the house owe to their constituents is executed, provided it is done, and done to their satisfaction.

Mr. SCOTT observed, that a principle of the Union in which we are bound is the principle of reciprocal and equal justice.—The question now before the house is a grand link in the chain of the federal system. The peace of the United States depends as much on this as on any other question which can come before Congress. An adoption of some such measure is a piece of justice due to the extremities of the continent. It being therefore a point with them, and a point of justice too, I cannot conceive how any gentleman, who has the good of the country at heart can oppose it.

The resolution holds out this general idea, that the federal government ought to be fixed at that place which is most central with respect to population and territory, having an equal regard to the Atlantic and western part of the union. No man in the western country ever wished anything further than that when the central line between the northern and southern extremities was fixed, Congress should establish their seat as far back on this line, as the convenience of maritime commerce would allow.

I think the people have a right to demand this. If this principle is admitted the subject cannot involve much debate.

This is a favorable moment to settle the great question which has agitated the mass of the people for several years. We may be assured that Congress at this time possesses all their virtue and innocence, but it is to be feared that will not be the case in future: Congress are now clear of all factions, and as destitute as possible of the spirit of party and local views. In a future day faction may drive the government to fix on some improper place, and one of two events will result from this; either they will be obliged again to remove after expending great sums of money on this

imprudent establishment, or the union will be dissolved.

Mr. LIVERMORE said that the two houses had come to a resolution to adjourn next month.—Many weighty matters are still before the Legislature. How much time a discussion of this subject will require, is uncertain. It may engross a great deal, and there is danger of its producing that animosity and party spirit, which the measure itself proposes to guard against. Let us first finish the organization of government, and the performance of those important duties which the public anxiously expect of us.

I do not understand, said he, that any gentleman is uneasy in his present situation. I have heard no complaints. Congress are well accommodated in this city. There may be other places, to be sure, in which they might find accommodations, but I believe both the citizens of New-York, and the members of the Legislature are mutually satisfied—I have not heard of any memorial from the former requesting us to remove.—Many parts of the country indeed seem to be in a fever to have us with them; especially the State of Pennsylvania—Carlisle, Lancaster, York town, German-town, and Reading have sent us abundance of petitions, setting forth their various advantages, and we wish that they may enjoy them. If they are pleasantly situated and have plenty of fish, we are glad to hear it.

I cannot see any reason for postponing all our important matters in order to consider this.—If we can dispatch all these matters by next spring, and the roads should be so impassable, that we should not be able to get home, I shall be for taking it up.

He then observed, that the idea of a permanent seat is not itself strictly true. As population increases, and as men of new principles and views take their seats in Congress, this permanent seat may be altered at pleasure.—It is certainly wise in Congress to be economical.—It is always found a very expensive thing to remove.—And the finances of the country are not at present a legate to many new expenses.—A great variety of objects are necessary to be taken into view in fixing the seat of government, besides the mathematical centrality.—The healthiness of the situation is a capital circumstance to be attended to.

Mr. SCOTT objected to the cavalier manner in which he thought the gentleman treated the subject.

Mr. JACKSON said the existence of the Union depends on this subject. The place of the seat of government is important in every view. It may be compared to the heart in the human body; it is a center from which the principles of life are carried to the extremities.

It is indifferent to me whether the subject is determined now or next session, but I think it best that the motion should lie on the table.

Mr. STONE observed that this will be a very important business, and it is necessary to be extremely cautious in conducting it. I know of no question which will have such a tendency to produce heats and divisions which arise chiefly from an indiscreet mode of conducting matters of this kind. I am glad to see the temperate spirit with which the house has set out, and I wish it may continue. No question will so fully try the temper of this body as the present.

The question was then taken on Mr. SMITH'S motion, and was lost—Ayes 21—Noes 30.

Mr. AMES I would ask, Sir, if the original motion is not inconsistent with the resolution of the house to adjourn on the 22d of September? A committee, said he, has been appointed to report the business of the present session. The committee reported, and so much of that report was accepted, as related to the time of adjournment. It seems to me therefore, that the proposition to take up this subject at the present time, is superfluous. I am confident that it is inconsistent with that determination. It will become necessary therefore to rescind that determination, and whether that will be done or not, must depend on the disposition of the Senate. If they should not concur, the Legislature will be obliged to leave the most important business unfinished.

I cannot suppress some emotions of surprise that gentlemen can bring forward questions which have not for their object the complete organization of the government. The government yet lies prostrate and inanimate, and instead of infusing life into it, and giving it motion, we have been in the first place altering our constitution, and now we are going into a long discussion to determine where we shall sit.

If the gentleman's motion only involved a few abstract propositions, it would still be uncertain how difficult their decision might be. But were I a stranger I should apprehend, from the manner in which the motion has been introduced, that it would be a question agitated with as much acrimony as any whatever.

I have observed that even on the most trifling question it is extremely difficult to obtain unanimity. What then must be the division on a question, which gentlemen have said, concerns the existence or peace of the union! I believe it will involve as many passions as can reside in the human heart. Every principle of local interest, of pride and honor, and even of patriotism itself are engaged. I am willing to pledge myself to the gentleman, that if the good of the union requires that the seat of government should be fixed at Pittsburgh, I will vote for it. But I must now vote for postponing the business. It is not enough to determine where the seat of government ought to be, but it is necessary to prepare the public mind to agree with ours in the decision of questions of this magnitude. Our reasons ought to be made public, and they ought to be the reasons of the public.

When I left my constituents, I did not contemplate this business, nor have I yet formed my own opinion. When I do, I pledge myself that it shall not spring from local or selfish principles.

The gentleman has brought forward this subject as a very important one. As such we will consider it. If it were to determine merely the centre of matter, it might be settled in a short time.—If we are to represent the oaks and mountains.—If the acres of the United States are to be represented, a few days of calculation may determine it.

I am of opinion that the centre of our government should be a centre of convenience and utility, that the heart should be so

placed as to propel the blood to the extremities, with the most equitable and easy motion. I would place the head of the government, where it might guard most effectually the extremes, and protect the weak parts. It is my wish that the territory now subject to the laws of the Union may continue so, and that the government may be so situated as to use its force with the best advantage to ensure the preservation of the Union, and obedience to its laws.

The gentleman from Connecticut has rightly said that the States of North-Carolina and Rhode-Island should have a voice in this business.

I would not impute unworthy motives to the gentleman who introduced the motion; but I would ask him whether the world at large should not be equally convinced of their purity; whether in justice to himself, the public mind should not be better prepared for the occasion. I am not convinced that our government still so ill cemented and feeble, could stand the shock of such a measure, and therefore I most ardently deprecate the event.

The question for making this business the order of the day for Thursday next, was carried. *Adjourned.* [DAILY ADVR.]

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28.

Mr. FITZSIMONS presented a lengthy memorial from the public creditors of the State of Pennsylvania, which was read and laid on the table.

Mr. TRUMBULL presented a memorial from the commanders of the Packets, which ply between New-York, and Newport and Providence in Rhode-Island, respecting the hardships which they suffer by reason of that State's being considered out of the Union.

A letter from the Governor of South Carolina, addressed to the Speaker, inclosing an account of the exports of that State from December, 1787, to December, 1788, was read.

The report of the committee on the memorials from the merchants of George-town and Alexandria, was taken up, and accepted, and the same committee ordered to bring in a bill for the relief of the memorialists.

In committee of the whole, on the bill for establishing the salaries of the officers in the executive departments, their assistants, and clerks.

The committee agreed upon the following salaries, viz.

To the the Secretary of the Treasury,	3500 Dollars:
of State,	3000
of the War Department,	3000
To the Comptroller,	2000
Auditor,	1500
Treasurer,	1600
Register,	1250
Governor of the Western Territory, including the emoluments of Superintendent of Indian Affairs,	2500
Assistant to the Secretary of the Treasury,	1500
Chief Clerk to the Department of State,	800
Chief Clerk to the Department of War,	600
Secretary of the Western Territory,	750
Principal Clerk to the Comptroller,	800
Chief Clerk to the Auditor,	600
Three Judges of the Western Territory,	800 dol. each.
To the Clerks which may be employed in the several departments, not to exceed 450 dollars each.	

The committee having gone through the bill, with amendments, the same were reported to the house, and accepted. It was then ordered, that the bill be engrossed for a third reading to-morrow.

The committee appointed for the purpose, brought in a bill to suspend for a time, the operation of a clause in the collection law, agreeably to the report on the memorials from Alexandria, and George-town, which was read the first time.

Mr. CLYMER had leave of absence for a few days—and Mr. STURGES to the end of the session. *Adjourned.*

Mr. FENNO, Certain interesting representations presented to an Hon. Assembly gave rise to the following, which please to publish. Yours, P. Q.

WHEREAS it is of consequence, Congress should fix its residence—That seat of honor and renown, Yclept long since the "Federal town;" The people of this pleasant borough, From a conviction just and thorough, That there's no other situation, Can equal this in all the nation; Your honors do most humbly pray, To make it your abode for aye.

Nature provideth here so ample, We only can select a sample Of what this blessed place affords, Enough to tempt a House of Lords! Where'er you turn your wond'ring eyes, Ten thousand pleasing prospects rise! The streams meandering thro' the vales, "BLUE HILLS," whose height the skies assail; The air salubrious, sweet, and bracing, All fogs, and noxious vapors chasing; And as no mortal man can think, But what you all must eat and drink, Our markets give, ye gods, such meat, As ye, in your own hotels, eat: We've beef, and veal, and lamb; and mutton, As fine as e'er was table put on; And dunghill fowls, wild ducks, and widgeons, And snipes, and geese, and quails, and pigeons; Pheasants, and ortolans, be sure, To please the daintiest epicure.

Our Schuylkill gives us fish in plenty, Of sorts we reckon more than twenty—As *shad* and *alwives*, pretty picking, Without a bone your throat to stick in; That Schuylkill, theme of future song, Upon whose waves are borne along Two hundred thousand sacks of wheat, Transported in Musketo fleet—Musketo fleet! yes, *here* in peace, CONGRESS may sit till time shall cease, Nor ships with horrid broad sides scare 'em, Nor soldier with a gun come near 'em.

At present we've three hundred houses, All fill'd with loving wives and spouses; But *timber, shingles, scantling, boards*, The neighborhood great store affords; We'll give you stones all vein'd with blue, And thank you when you take them too; But as for *bricks*, you pay for making, They cost us time and pains in baking; We've *carpenters*, and *masons* good, As ever work'd in stone or wood; Artists in every kind of work, To build you houses in a jerk. We've barbers, tailors, and shoe makers, Pye-women, hucksters, brewers, bakers; Taverns in plenty too abound, And here and there a church is found; Besides all these, there are "exteriors," We need not mention our superiors, Both for convenience, and delight, To crown the day, and eke the night: Then come good Sirs, make this your seat Where nature's choicest bounties meet—The public good prompts this petition, From yours with reverence and submission.

THE ALPHABET.