Friday, Feb. 5.

Mr. Hemphill from the committee of claims reported a bill for the relief of Matthew Smith and Darius Gates, Indian and Revolutionary Pensioners, which was twice read and referred to a committee of the whole.

Mr. Lyon moved to lay on the table the following resolution:

Resolved, That a committee of philosophers be appointed with power to enquire what measures if any are necessary to submit to the members of the National Legislature the philosophic opportunities to them by the constitution, which committee shall have power to report by bill or otherwise."

Mr. Masterson offered the following resolution which the House agreed to consider 56 to 49.

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to enquire into the loss or gain to the Treasury of the United States, *Provided*, the seat of government be removed from the City of Washington.

Mr. Lyon opposed the motion on account of the delay which the production of it would operate to the main question of removal.

Mr. Lyon supported it, from a desire for the enquiry; the result of which he had no doubt would do away many false estimates on the subject.

Mr. Dawson had no objection if he thought the enquiry would produce information; but independently of its being out of the power of the committee to make the estimate, there was now on the files of the House, and in the printed reports, an exact account of the expences of removal from the city of Philadelphia; from which an estimate might be formed of the expence of moving back.

Mr. Masters said the gentleman had mistaken the object of the resolution; it was not to enquire into the expence of the removal, but into the comparative expence of government at each place.

Mr. Nicholas said the expence would not be proper to enquire into, in particular points, into which he trusted an enquiry would not be made. They had already been long deliberating on the main question; and the mind of every gentleman must be made up on the subject.

Mr. Rhea (T.) moved to postpone this resolution till to-morrow.

Mr. Taylor said if any information for the instruction of the House in deciding the main question could be acquired by this resolution, he should not simply agree to adopt it; but even if this resolution were to produce information of a saving 170 or 180,000 dollars (which gentlemen had positively asserted, and which he as positively declared it should not be lost by removing) it would be a trifle