ther; for Yazoo had been dragged into the discussion and it might occupy a month. The seats were empty, and it was time to adjourn, if but for an hour, to give an opportunity for members to take refreshment.

Mr. Holland commenced some observations in relation to Yazoo. No subject could be introduced, but this or some such alarm which had no relation to the subject was certainly introduced, to no purpose but to operate a delay of business.

A quorum of members not appearing within the bar, Mr. Holland resumed his seat, and the House adjourned 38 to 23.

FRIDAY, APRIL 22.

On motion of *Mr. Newton*, the House resolved into a committee of the whole, Mr. BASSET in the chair, on the bill in addition to the several acts laying an embargo.

Mr. D. R. Williams, after some observations going to shew that the embargo ought to be rigidly enforced, and that it was as much the duty of all, however originally disposed towards the measure, to secure its observance, as it would be to prevent a robbery or fraud of any sort, stated a circumstance which had occurred in George-Town, under our own eyes, and which called for remedy. Application had also been lately made to the custom-house officer of a southern port for clearance to New Orleans for a ship said to be laden with 500 hogsheads of New England rum. The collector, being surprized at so large a cargo of such an article, sent an inspector to examine it, and on inspection it was found to be 500 hogsheads of rice instead of rum. Nothing would have been easier than for this vessel to have slipt into New Providence or Havanna, landed its cargo and reloaded with rum, which could be carried into New Orleans, thus committing a double fraud—violating the embargo law, and defrauding the revenue of the duty on the rum thus imported. He therefore offered a new section to the bill, which it would be seen would operate only on such vessels as take licences.

[This section goes to require every vessel required to take out a licence to be loaded under the immediate inspection of the revenue officers.]

Mr. Goldsborough objected to the section as going to operate a great inconvenience, almost an impossibility, to the revenue officers. Some of the districts, for instance the one which he represented comprising many ports or places of loading to which only one collector belonged; so that it was impossible that he could attend to the loading every vessel required to take a licence under the provisions of this bill.

Mr. D. R. Williams replied that this objection could not properly be made to the House, but to the Secretary of the Treasury, whose duty it would be to appoint additional inspectors.

The section was agreed to, Ayes 65.

A new section was also added on motion of *Mr. Newton*, supported by Mr. Cutts to permit vessels with cargoes on board to remove from port to port, and to remain loaded, for the purpose of preserving their produce.

A section was also added for allowing to Indians their usual trade.

Mr. Newton, wishing in the times which try men's souls, that the true American and patriot should be distinguished from the unfair trader or British agent, moved a new section directing the Secretary of the Treasury to cause to be published the names of those persons who had violated the embargo laws.

On the suggestion of *Mr. D. R. Williams* that this had better be done by resolution, Mr. Newton withdrew the motion.

Several other verbal amendments having been made, the committee rose and reported the bill as amended.

Mr. Goldsborough moved to postpone the further consideration of the bill, in order that the amendments might be printed—Negatived. Ayes 19.

The Yeas and Nays being required by Mr. Quincy on the section moved by Mr. D. R. Williams in committee of the whole.

Mr. D. R. Williams said that the section was such an one as could distress no honest man, and would promote an observance of the laws. It had also an operation which gentlemen from commercial towns should look to; for it went to provide employment for the inspectors who were now almost starving for want of it.

Mr. Dana and *Mr. Quincy* objected to the section on the general principle that it threw difficulties into the way unnecessarily; and on account of the distressing operation which this section and the law generally would have upon the coasting trade. Mr. Quincy complained also, that the bill could not be understood, from the numerous amendments made to it in committee, and that the operation of each section could not be distinctly seen.

The question was then taken by Yeas and Nays on concurring with the committee of the whole, and carried—Yeas 74, Nays 20.

A section authorising the collectors of the U. S. to detain vessels suspected of an intention to violate the embargo, having been reported by the committee of the whole,

Mr. Goldsborough called for the Yeas and Nays on concurrence with it; which being taken there were Yeas 64, Nays 25.

FIVE O'CLOCK.

A message from the President of the U. S. was read as follows:

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the U. States.

I transmit to both Houses of Congress a letter from the envoy of his Britannic majesty at this place to the Secretary of State, on the subject of certain British claims to lands in the territory of Mississippi, relative to which several acts have been heretofore passed by the legislature.

TH: JEFFERSON.

April 22, 1808.

Mr. G. W. Campbell moved to refer the papers and documents to the committee on Public Lands.

Mr. Rowan moved to postpone them indefinitely. It was but little worth while to consider claims of this nature, while claims by us of such enormous magnitude against that nation remained unsettled.

The *Speaker* declared a motion for a reference to take precedence.

Mr. Blackledge thought that as the communication had been made in the form of civility, it might at least receive the form of a consideration.

Mr. Fisk hoped it would not be referred. He had no respect for form in these little cases where they had shewn none for reality in greater claims by us.

Mr. G. W. Campbell said this was a claim by individuals, not by the government, and he hoped therefore it would be referred.

Mr. Newton could not see the difference between a motion for reference and a motion for postponement, for the subject was equally postponed by either course. With respect to individual right, were not the claims of our impressed seamen claims for personal liberty and individual right, and had they ever been listened to?

Mr. Dana said that the President of the U. S. had transmitted a message recommending the subject to their attention; from respect to the chief magistrate of our own country, therefore it would perhaps be proper to refer it.

Mr. Smilie said he would just observe that we had always valued ourselves in doing justice to every nation. That being the case, whatever injury may have been received by us, we should act in such a way as to shew that we will always hear complaints and consider whether they are well founded or not. In justice to the character of the nation it ought to be referred.

Mr. Rhea (T) having called for the reading of the memorial of the claimants to the British minister,

Mr. Eppes observed that he understood the memorial only to claim further time, which had in certain cases been already granted. This was an application; whether further time should be given or not, might be enquired into by the House; he did not expect that it would be acted on during the present session.

The message was referred to the committee on Public Lands.

The House proceeded in the consideration of the amendments made in committee of the whole to the bill supplementary to the several embargo laws.

An amendment being under consideration authorizing the collectors, when at any time any collection of certain produce shall be gathered together under suspicious circumstances, to take the same into safe keeping, and *Mr. Pitkin* having called for the Yeas and Nays, it was passed by Yeas and Nays, 58 to 36.

Another new section being under consideration for allowing vessels from the southern ports to pass laden northward, without being compelled to re-land their cargo, in order to give accommodation as store vessels,

Mr. D. R. Williams asked for the Yeas and Nays on it, because as they were compelled to impose hardships on the people, he wished it to be shewn that they were desirous of giving them every alleviation in their power.

Mr. Rowan opposed this amendment because it granted no privilege not already allowed by the embargo laws; and because, if it did, it did not impose the same obligations on the motions of these vessels as they had just done on small craft; he could therefore see no object of it but that it exempted a particular class of vessels from the general duty. He wished to be informed whether these vessels might not be blown off the coast as others were said to be? Certainly they would be much more likely to be so than those compelled to give such heavy bond. As to these additional embargo laws he could not agree with gentlemen in their zealous endeavors to amend them, for every law which passed on the subject, embraced a ground not before touched; every additional law in fact was a new embargo law.

Messrs. *D. R. Williams* and *Marion* replied that there were a sort of vessels cut off from sailing by the embargo in the southern ports, whose bottoms would be eaten up and crews become sick in the summer, and therefore they wished to remove to the northern ports to act as store ships. True, that by the present laws these vessels might sail from one port to the other, but were compelled on arrival to reland their cargo before their bonds could be cancelled, which it was now wished to retain on board the ships, to save the expence of storage. The cargo consisting of cotton, and being packed by means of screws it was extremely troublesome to load and reload. These vessels would not be more subject to be *blown off* than others, for they would give the same bonds on removal with this section as without it; the only difference was that they were not compelled to be unladen.

The amendment was concurred in, 88 to 6.

An amendment respecting Indian trade, providing that nothing in these acts shall be construed to prevent transportation by land or inland navigation from the territories of the U. S. into those of G. Britain, of furs the property of subjects of G. Britain and by them purchased of the Indians, or from the territories of Britain into the U. S. of property of British subjects imported for the use of the Indians.

This amendment was opposed by Messrs. Rowan, Montgomery, and Rhea, and supported by Messrs. Newton, Dana, Eppes, and Campbell. Mr. Rowan called for the yeas and nays on it.

The opponents contended that while such great differences existed between this country and G. Britain it was not well to yield up any commerce to her when she has totally interdicted ours. If it were for the exclusive benefit of the Indians they would not object to it; but it went to admit G. Britain to pursue in our territories a trade of considerable value, and it certainly was the interest of the U. S. to give a clear preference to the American trader. From very good information it was said, that there is now arrested within the territory of the U. S. peltry to an immense amount, which by this amendment would be taken out. The British trader was more benefitted by this amendment than the Indians could be; for without it, the trade would be diverted in its course from the British to the American trader. In the present situation of affairs to act a benevolent part to either European power was wrong; whatever part other nations pursue we ought to mete out to them the same.

On the other hand it was said by the friends of the provision, that it was not to yield our commerce to Britain, but to permit trade with unoffending tribes of Indians, and would but deprive G. Britain of a powerful weapon which she might possess in the distress of the savages in consequence of our measures. That various tribes of Indians had become habitually dependant on the British provinces for supplies; and a stoppage of them by the U. S. would only have an ill effect on their dispositions towards us. That if there were any race of human beings who could not be made to understand an embargo system, it was the native Indians of America; in vain then would it be attempted to convince them of the necessity of cutting them off from their supplies. A rejection of this amendment would be in fact tantamount to a declaration of war against them; and, to save a few thousand dollars value of trade, we should have to spend millions in an Indian war.

The amendment was agreed to, 60 to 32.

Some further verbal amendment having been made, the bill as amended was ordered to a third reading tomorrow.

A motion to adjourn was negatived Ayes 38.

On motion of *Mr. Blount* the House went into committee of the whole, Mr. *Storer* in the chair, on the bill to erect Plymouth N. C. into a port of entry and to change the name of the distaict of Nanjemoy, &c.

An amendment was added to the bill on motion of Mr. *Cutts* including the town of Augusta in the district of Maine.

The committee rose and reported the bill

Mr. Randolph said he really did not suppose the House had agreed to sit in the evening to transact such *important* business as this, and therefore moved to adjourn.—Negatived.

The bill before mentioned was ordered to a third reading.

The amendments of the Senate to the bill concerning certain post roads in the state of Georgia and the bill concerning invalid pentioners were taken up & agreed to.

The *Speaker* had proceeded in reading the bill to authorize the President of the United States to arm and equip the frigates, when,

Mr. Nelson moved to pospone itt till to-morrow.

The reading being called for by a member the Speaker proceeded in reading the bill.

A question of order having been made whether the bill should be read, after the motion of postponement.

The *Speaker* decided in the affirmative.

Mr. Nelson appealed from the Speaker's decision and called for the Yeas and Nays on the appeal.

Mr. Garnett moved to adjourn—Negatived.

After a desultory debate of half an hour on the point of order, in the course of which Mr. *Randolph* made a motion to adjourn which was negatived 48 to 29.

Mr. Nelson withdrew his appeal,

The bill was then read the first time, and on the question stated by the Speaker that it do now have a second reading—

Mr. Stanford moved to reject the bill.

On motion of Mr. *Nicholas* the House adjourned.—Half past eight.

SATURDAY, APRIL 23.

The bill amendatory of the embargo law passed this day by Yeas and Nays, 70 to 22.

The bill from the Senate authorizing and requiring the President to equip all the armed vessels of the United States was, after debate, postponed indefinitely by Yeas and Nays, 52 to 45.

The House adjourned till 5 o'clock.

FIVE O'CLOCK.

The bill to supply the deficit in the appropriations for public buildings in the city of Washington was ordered to a third reading.

(Details in our next.)

New-York, April 21.

The fast sailing ship Protection, Captain Beanes, arrived at this port last evening in 29 days from Belfast, and furnishes to the office of the MERCANTILE ADVERTISER, *Belfast papers to the 19th of March, inclusive, containing London dates to the 14th being nineteen days later than our last advices from that quarter.*

Capt. Beans informed us it was the general opinion in England that Mr. Rose would adjust the difference between that country & this, in which case it was expected, the embargo would not continue longer than the 22d of March. Petitions for Peace with America were sending into Parliament from all parts of the kingdom. No prospect presented itself of an accommodation between France and England. Markets for American produce very high.

A numerous meeting had been held of the Merchans and Manufactures of Liverpool, who had petitioned Parliament against the orders of council In a discussion in the House of Commons on the orders on the 7th of March, it was stated that there was not in the country a supply of silk for more than six weeks, and that probably 60,000 manufacturers would be turned out of employ in a short time; that the usual importation of flaxseed amounted to 60,000 hogsheads, of which but 10,000 had been received. A number of merchants of London presented a petition to Parliament requesting to be heard by councel against the British orders, which request had been rejected—Ayes 66—Nays 99.

A gentleman arrived in the Protection, confirms the intelligence of the failure of crops throughout Ireland. Provisions of every description are extravagantly dear. The Protection literally hurried off on account of a report that an Embargo had been laid upon all American vessels in the British dominions. Flax-seed, from 11 to 15 guineas per hogshead. The linen business very much stagnated, and, on account of our non-importation act, the sale was very dull.

The Rochefort fleet, relative to which there have been so many surmises, has joined the fleet at Toulon, prior to which a number of Spanish ships of war had at different periods also been added, and has sailed for Sicily. The whole force consisted of thirty sail.

The marquis of Wellesley, has been appointed by the king of Great Britain, Secretary for Foreign Affairs, in the room of MR. CANNING, resigned. *Oracle.*

STRASBURGH, FEB. 20.

Letters from Touloun bring the important advice, that the fleet there reinforced by the combined French and Spanish fleets (probably the fleets from Rochefort and Cadiz) set sail from that harbor on the 7th and 8th of February, and steered towards Sicily with a favorable wind at S. S. The number of ships of the line amount to thirty.

New-York, April 22.

We have seen a letter from a very repectable commercial house in Nantz, dated the 23d of February, which gives strong hopes that the American vessles detained in France under the Milan decree would be released. This hope was founded upon favorable intelligence recived at Nantz from Paris.

Captain Chester from Bordeaux, informs, that all the American vessels in Bordeaux, which had been boarded by the British, were under seisure.

Doctor Leighman, of Philadelphia, passenger in the George is the bearer of dispatches from Mr. Armstrong to the Secretary of State.

A vessel has arrived at New York, which brings London papers one day later; but contain nothing of moment.

TO THE PUBLIC.

It has been with extreme unwillingness that I have yielded to the unpleasant necessity of appearing before the public. Such an appeal will always be resorted to reluctantly by the man content with the situation in which he is placed, and preferring in silence the peaceful occupations of industry to the uncertain and agitated pursuits of ambition and intrigue. The extraordinary course pursued by gen. Wilkinson before the Court of Enquiry, instituted, as it is said, for the trial of this officer, calls upon me in justice to myself and my friends to ask a suspension of the public opinion for a short time, till it will be in my power to lay before them, in one perspicuous view, a statement of testimony and facts relative to him, that shall leave no doubt as as to his criminality, and will sufficiently account for his recent mode of proceeding. Gen. Wilkinson well knows that the testimony submitted against him in the House of Representatives, under a resolution of that body, cannot be rebutted. He is conscious of the truth of every word of it. It is therefore not wonderful that instead of meeting and endeavoring to refute that testimony he should attempt by every means in his power to divert the public attention from himself and fix it upon others. He knows too that the disgrace and shame which await him can only be delayed or resisted by endeavoring to stigmatize and destroy the character of those who have been called upon to testify against him. Hence the novel mode of defence he has pursued of criminating others instead of attempting to exculpate himself from the high charges exhibited against him. Before I left Washington, and before I obtained leave of absence for the remainder of the session, I had seen unmoved, gen. Wilkinson's two pompous addresses to the Court of Enquiry, containing against me charges of forgery, perjury and treason, with no other sentiments than contempt, as he knew the whole to be without foundation, and utterly incapable of being substantiated. I was in Philadelphia, about to sail for N. Orleans, where my private business most imperiously demanded my attention, when I saw in a paper of that city extracts said to be taken from the testimony of general Smith, delivered before the Grand Jury, and received information that gen. Wilkinson had intimated the particular case upon which he intended to rest his charge of perjury.—That it related to some conduct of mine in 1795, as consignee of the brig Grand Sachem. The circumstances of this transaction, among a multiplicity of other mercantile concerns, had escaped my recollection, and I am yet at a loss to conceive why that case is particularly referred to. However I have here and at N. Orleans all the papers and information necessary to explain satisfactorily my conduct in relation to every part of it, from its commencement in N. Orleans to the trial of this vessel in Charleston, and in it as in every transaction of my life I challenge investigation. I defy general Wilkinson and his myrmidons to cover me for a moment with the shadow of criminal or dishonorable intentions. It has been the practice since the establishment of this Court of Enquiry, for some person, general Wilkinson I presume, to publish garbled and detached extracts of the testimony delivered before them. Mr. Spence found it necessary to deny in the public prints what had been given to the world as his testimony, and gen. Smith has declared, that the testimony published as his is totally incorrect, and not in fact such as he delivered before the court. I have made a very considerable sacrifice by returning to Washington for the purpose of enquiring into the correctness of the extracts published as the testimony of gen. Smith and of refuting any charge that might have been made against me supported by the least appearance of plausibility; but I find the extracts are totally incorrect, and no charge but in the form of an inuendo. I have therefore only to request of my friends for whose good opinion I have the most sacred regard, that whilst gen. Wilkinson is carrying on an exparte trial of me before the Court of Enquiry instead of defending himself, they will rest perfectly satisfied that I shall sustain no possible injury, and that I regret indeed that it was ever my misfortune to be placed in a situation to become perhaps better acquainted than any other man now in the U. S. with gen. Wilkinson's transactions and connexions with the Spaniards, under the disclosure and proof of which he must sink. Yet it has so happened, and the consequence is unavoidable.

DANIEL CLARK