

H. OF R.]

*Treaty with Great Britain.*

[MARCH, 1796.]

The Committee, having gone through the bill, rose and reported the bill with its amendments. The House then took it up, and went through the bill and amendments, which were all agreed to, without debate, except that appointing the method of surveying, which met with considerable opposition, but which was finally agreed to.

The bill was then recommitted, and four members added to the select committee to whom it was referred.

#### COMPENSATION TO MEMBERS, &c.

A communication was received from the Senate, with a bill, which originated there, for the relief of persons imprisoned for debt; which was read a first time. Also, the bill for allowing compensation to members of both Houses, &c., which they had agreed to with one amendment, viz: the striking out the word *next*, and inserting in its place *in the present year*.

#### REGULARITY OF MAILS.

Mr. W. SMITH said frequent complaints had been made of the miscarriage of letters to and from the Southern States, and it was of considerable consequence that these miscarriages should be remedied. He believed the Eastern mails were very regular, and it was a desirable thing to have the Southern equally so. In order to inquire into these complaints, he proposed a resolution to the following effect, which he wished to be referred to the proper committee:

*“Resolved, That the committee to whom is referred the business relative to Post Offices and Post Roads be directed to institute an inquiry whether any, and what, impediments exist in the conveyance of the Southern Mail, and, if any, the cause thereof.”*

This resolution was agreed to.

#### THE SON OF LAFAYETTE.

Mr. LIVINGSTON laid a resolution to the following effect on the table:

*“Resolved, That a committee be appointed to inquire whether the son of Major General Lafayette be within the United States, and also whether any, and what, provision may be necessary for his support.”*

A resolution was also laid on the table respecting a tract of land purchased by John Cleves Symmes, in the Northwestern Territory.

#### MONDAY, March 7.

A petition of the proprietors of a glass manufactory of Boston, praying for a bounty, or such other assistance as Congress might please, for the encouragement of their manufacture, and an additional duty on all window glass imported above a certain size, was read and referred to the Committee of Manufactures and Commerce.

A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, enclosing certain statements, in pursuance of resolutions of the House, prepared by the Commissioners of the Revenue, respecting the Internal Revenues of the United States, with his report explanatory thereof, was read and ordered to be printed.

The bill for making a partial appropriation for the Military Establishment of 1796, was read a third time and passed.

The bill for the relief of persons imprisoned for debt, was read a second time, and ordered to be committed to a Committee of the Whole.

Mr. TRACY moved that several reports of the Committee of Claims on the cases of invalids, might be taken up, in preference to the unfinished business before the House.

#### AMERICAN SEAMEN.

Mr. HARPER thought it necessary to make a correction of what he had said on the debate respecting the subject of American sailors. He had said that Mr. Cutting had never released one seaman, whereas he has since found by a report on the subject, that he obtained the release of many. He had also seen a copy of a letter from Major Pinckney, in which it is said that considerable services were done by him to American seamen. He mentioned these circumstances in order to do away any impressions that might have been made by his assertion in the late debate.

#### THE TREATY WITH GREAT BRITAIN.

Mr. LIVINGSTON wished, before that business was gone into, to take up the consideration of the resolution which he laid upon the table some days ago respecting the gaining of information from the PRESIDENT on the subject of the Treaty; but if the House did not wish immediately to take up the subject, he hoped he might be permitted to make an amendment to the resolution, which had been suggested to him as proper, by gentlemen for whose opinion he had a high respect, in order to prevent any embarrassment in the Executive on account of any papers which he might not think proper to give up as relating to some existing negotiation; he therefore proposed the following exception to follow the resolution:

*“— excepting such of said papers as any existing negotiation may render improper to be disclosed.”*

After a few observations from different members on the propriety of taking up the consideration of the resolution, it was determined first to go into the business proposed by Mr. TRACY, and the amended resolution was laid on the table.

#### CLAIMS OF INVALIDS.

The House having formed itself into a Committee of the Whole, the report of the Committee of Claims on the cases of invalids, which allows them such a proportion of relief as their different cases appeared to merit, was read and agreed to.

Mr. TRACY said that the committee had allowed a number of claims, though claimants had not in every instance complied with the necessary regulations in every particular, being of opinion that the failures had not arisen from any intention of evading the law, but from a want of knowledge. Considering that the testimony which they had provided must have been attended with much difficulty and some expense, and that as the law soon ceased to exist no further claims could be made, they thought it best to place them on the list.