

A bill from the senate to continue in force, for a further time, the act for the more effectual preservation of peace in the ports and harbours of the United States, and the waters under their jurisdiction, was twice read. On motion, the said bill was read a third time, and passed without a division. It is by virtue of this act that the president's interdictory proclamation was issued. It expires at the end of the present session. The bill now passed continues the act two years longer, and thence till the end of the next session of congress.

Twelve or fourteen orders of the day were called for. The house went into committee on the bill to arm the whole body of the militia of the United States.

Mr. Randolph offered some observations on the importance of encouraging domestic manufactories of arms, and of putting them into the hands of every man, and concluded with moving a million of dollars annually to purchase arms.

Mr. Nicholas was extremely anxious to arm the militia, but thought the sum mentioned could not be advantageously expended in a year, and proposed two hundred thousand dollars.

After a desultory debate the committee rose, 56 to 29, and reported progress. Upon the question whether the committee should have leave to sit again, there was some altercation between Mr. Nicholas and Mr. Randolph. While Mr. Leason was speaking, it was suggested that there was not a quorum present, which was found to be the case. An adjournment was then moved, upon which Mr. Randolph called for the ayes and noes, which were taken, & the question negatived, 30 to 39.

An adjournment was again called for immediately, and the ayes and noes taken. The motion was lost, 26 to 32.

Another motion to adjourn was made and carried, 34 to 21.

Monday, April 18.

Mr. Quincy presented on Saturday a petition from five hundred inhabitants of Beverly (Mas.) interested in the fisheries, who represent that they suffer peculiar hardships from the embargo, and pray for leave to export their fish.

Mr. Dana, from a select committee, reported "a bill concerning associations for the security of navigation," which was twice read and committed for Wednesday. The bill proposes the conditions and regulations under which merchant vessels may arm and sail in com-

pany, whenever allowed by law to arm.

Mr. Dana, from the same committee, reported "a bill for the encouragement and security of seamen of the United States," which was twice read, and committed for Wednesday. This bill is of some length, and provides that no ship or vessel shall receive an American register, unless the captain, mate, and a majority of the seamen, are American citizens. It also discontinues the present protections, and provides a new mode of ascertaining and authenticating the citizenship of the seamen.

Mr. Ely presented petitions from the several towns of East Hampton, South Hampton, and West Hampton, against the embargo, which were referred to a committee of the whole on the state of the union.

The amendments of the senate to the bill concerning courts martial and courts of inquiry, were read and ordered to lie on the table.

The house resumed the unfinished business of Saturday—the question being, shall the committee of the whole have leave to sit again to whom was referred the bill to arm the whole body of the militia of the United States?

Mr. Holland spoke some time in the negative, when the question was taken and carried—49 ayes. The house immediately went into a committee on the bill, Mr. Desha in the chair. Mr. Randolph's motion to appropriate one million annually to obtain arms, being still under consideration.

Mr. Dawson had thought and still continued to think that the nation would be involved in war, and was in favour of this bill and of appropriating the largest sum possible.

The question on one million was lost—ayes 27. Mr. Blackledge then proposed 200,000 dollars; Mr. Basset proposed 500,000.

Mr. Smilie spoke against so large a sum. He thought that the militia should be armed, but not at the expense of the nation. It did not seem to him so hard that a man should be required once in his life to furnish himself with a gun. Mr. S. was in favour of encouraging the manufacture of arms & assisting the people to arm themselves.

The question on 500,000 dollars was lost—35 to 45. Several sums from 450,000 to 200,000 were then severally named.

Mr. Varnum (the speaker) spoke against the bill. He understood the bill

to give the arms gratuitously to the militia. This would operate so as to prevent their making any exertions to arm themselves. He shuddered at the idea of the government's owning the arms in the hands of the militia, and able to withdraw them at pleasure.

Mr. Rowan supported the bill. The militia could never be armed without the aid of the general government; and the arms would be equally useful, whether derived from the government, or purchased by the militia man himself.

Mr. Masters in a very spirited speech supported the bill, and expressed his apprehensions that our government might be drawn by France into a war with Great Britain. He said much of the power and intriguing policy of Bonaparte; and thought every man in the United States should have arms in his hands or we shall not be safe.

Mr. Blount (who is a major general) said there were not muskets enough in his state to arm the proportion of the 100,000 men lately detached.

After some further debate the question was taken on 450,000 dollars, which was negatived—ayes 39 noes 47; on 400,000—ayes 37 noes 46; on 300,000—ayes 41 noes 47. The sum of 200,000 dollars was agreed to—ayes 47, noes 36.

Mr. J. Rhea offered a new section, to distribute the arms among the states and territories in proportion to their effective militia.

Mr. Randolph opposed the amendment, and contended that the arms ought first to be distributed to those states which are not armed: but the appropriation is so small, that the bill is deficient unless the house will revise and increase it.

The committee rose and reported the bill as amended, in which the house concurred. Ordered, that the bill be engrossed, and read a third time to-morrow.

A message was received from the senate, announcing that they had passed a bill authorising the president, under certain conditions and restrictions, to suspend the embargo, in which they request the concurrence of the house.

Be it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of the United States, in congress assembled, that in the event of such peace or suspension of hostilities between the belligerent powers of Europe, or of such changes in their measures affecting neutral commerce as may render that of the United States suffi-