idea, the was 220 dollars more will be wanted on its account.

With sentiments of the highest respect,

I am, sir,

Your obedient servant,

DANIEL C. BRENT.

The President.

City of Washington, January 19th, 1803.

Sir,

The new Jail is now ready for your reception, as completed agreeable to contract, except in a few articles which the present season has prevented their being done, and which, by agreement, may be finished at any future period, for which purpose I shall note them hereafter. The building, I presume, is executed throughout with fidelity to the contract, the execution is plain, but the work is strong, substantial, and firm.

An expense for some extra articles has unavoidably accrued, either for work which has been thought greatly advantageous to the building, or other contingencies not to be foreseen but during the progress of building, in consequence of which, and also of a clause in the contract providing for additional work, the contractors bring in an extra claim of dols. 962—253 of which I reject as unfounded, the remainder 709 are for iron work, and other articles ordered for reasons as above mentioned; a deduction in your favour must be made for the omission of the iron frames which I calculate ought not to amount to less than dols. 260, in which case the remaining sum for extras to be examined, would be dols. 449.

I presume, Sir, that if you approve of the building, you might receive it, and close the contract with the undertakers to prevent delay, leaving the business of extra claims to any time afterward.

I remain your obedient servant,

(Signed) GEORGE HADFIELD.

D. C. Brent, Esq.

Articles to be completed by agreement—painting of cornice on the north side and the two ends; painting in flatting, finishing, painting, inside & outside bars, fixing grate in jailor's room, and repairing whatever plaistering that may have been injured by the frost.

There is another claim from Maitland, which has been given in amounting to £ 42 4s. which is positively inadmissible.

G. H.

ESTIMATE

Of the expense necessary for finishing the interior of the West side of the new Jail, in the City of Washington.

	Dolls.
Digging foundation, and removing the earth,	34
All rough stone work, materials and labor included,	555
All brick work do. do.	286
All plaistering do. do.	96
All freestone work and lead, stone not included,	301
Finishing pediment,	13
All carpentry and joinery materials, and labor included,	700
All iron work,	502
Clearing away the rubish from the south side, and the ends,	89
	dolls. 2,577

GEORGE HADFIELD.

City of Washington, Jan. 18th, 1803.

N. B. Iron grated doors in this estimate is not included, or is the kitchen, which if built, will cost about 300 dollars.

THEO. HOLT

Has for sale, at his Nursery Garden, Eastern Branch,

A LARGE ASSORTMENT OF

FRESH GARDEN SEEDS,

Which he has imported from London, per ship Sheppardess, to Norfolk, and others of his own saving—consisting of

FRAME Peas, very early,	Deptford do.
Early Charlton do.	White Spanish do.
Dwarf Marrowfat do.	Early Scarlet Radish,
Large Marrowfat do.	Mixed do.
Dwarf Prussian do.	Spanish do.
Dwarf Union do.	White Turnip do.
Dwarf Prolific do.	Long Prickly Cucumber,
Large Windsor Beans,	Green Turkey do.
Turkey Longpod do.	Nasturtion,
Dwarf Bunch do.	Parsley,
Lima do.	Spinage,
Saddlestrap do	Red Beet,
Early York Cabbage,	Early Horn Carrot,
Early Battersea do.	Long Orange do.
Early Sugarloaf do.	Large Parsnip,
Large Drumhead do.	Leaf Lettuce,
Green Savoy do.	Brown Dutch do.
Red Pickling do.	Mixed do many sorts,
Scotch Kale,	Solid Celery,
Brocoli sorts mixed	Endive,
Early Caul flower,	White Asparagrass,
Late do.	Common,
Early Dutch Turnip,	Salsofic, &c. &c. &c.
Large Tripoli Onion,	

A variety of different kinds of Fruit Trees, Flowering Shrubs, Flower Seeds, Garden Hoes and Rakes, various sizes; Imported Roots of fine Mixed Tulips, Double Hyacinths, Double Jonquils, Crown Imperials, Double Snow Drops, Anemonies, Persian Ranunculus, Persian Iris, Crocuses, &c. A quantity of Lombardy Poplars, proper size for planting.

Washington, Jan. 21, 1803. 2wtf

National Intelligencer.

Congress of the United States.

House of Representatives.

Tuesday, Feb. 8, 1803.

Debate on Mr. Smilie's motion to refer to a select Committee a petition of certain ALIENS *residing in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.*

Several gentlemen had spoken before we entered the house, when Mr. Nicholson was on the floor.

Mr. Nicholson said he never recollected an instance of his voting against the reference of any petition to a committee, until yesterday. He thought that every man in this country, whether owing a temporary or a permanent allegiance to the government, had a right to petition the legislature for a redress of grievances, and to state such remedies as in his opinion would remove the evils complained of. When however he admitted this right, he considered that it ought to be exercised with decency, and that the petitions should be couched in respectful and unoffensive language. The petition now proposed to be referred, was similar in every respect to that offered yesterday, and in both of them he found an intemperance of language which this house ought not to countenance. He thought it highly disrespectful to the house to address them by impeaching the principles of any former administration. The petition declared that the gentleman who formerly presided over the councils of this nation, was notoriously hostile to all aliens of republican principles. This was a language which individuals, to be sure, had a right to use out of doors, but it was highly disrespectful to the house to make it a part of a petition, and it was a respect which the house owed to themselves, to shew their disapprobation. Foreigners as well as citizens had a right to petition; but the petitions of both ought to respect the feelings of every part of the house. He should therefore vote against referring the petition.

Mr. Leib called the Yeas and Nays on the question of reference.

Mr. Randolph said that as the Ayes and Noes were demanded, and as he should give a vote on this question different from the vote which he had given yesterday on a similar question, he thought it due to himself and to the house to assign his reasons for so voting. He had not yesterday heard the petition read, and had only inferred its contents from the remarks of the gentleman from Delaware. Had he known the terms in which it was couched, he would not have voted for its reference. He thought the house owed it to itself to assert its dignity by refusing to refer a petition drawn up in such indecent terms. It was enough for them to receive petitions that wounded their feelings from their own citizens. He wished to see the government in the hands of our own citizens, and not in those of foreigners.

Mr. Jones had voted yesterday in favor of a reference, and should vote to day in the same way. Not that he approved the language of the petition; but because it contained, in one part of it, a request that he thought it would be very proper to grant.

Mr. Dennis observed that it had been said that one part of the petition might be referred to the exclusion of the remainder. This he considered, as entirely inadmissable according to any parliamentary usage ever adopted. As to the reference of the whole petition, he was of opinion that unless the house was disposed to constitute itself into an organ through which every discontented alien might propagate his slanders, it would be highly improper to commit it. He should therefore vote against a commitment. It was also wholly unnecessary to refer the petition to accomplish the object prayed for; as the house knew the situation of the petitioners and their wishes, and could act upon this knowledge independently of the reference. Besides if they did act at all, it would be becoming to act generally upon the subject, and not upon the cases of these individual petitions. He did not know what the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Smilie) meant by saying the facts contained in the petition were all true. One of these facts stated in the petition, was that the petitioners were all convicts. If this was a fact, he did not think it very respectful in the gentleman to put the remarks of the petitioners on a footing with what fell from gentlemen on this floor. It appeared in the petition that in consequence of information received by the English government from our minister at the court of London, these men had been for some time detained in England in the state prison. Notwithstanding these hardships, Mr. Dennis did not see what right these men had to give us lectures upon government.

Mr. Bacon hoped the house would not spend a great deal of time on the disposition of this petition. It was agreed on all hands that it was not expressed in decent language. When the petitioners came forward with a decent petition, it would be time enough for them to be heard.

Mr. Smilie said he did not know any of the petitioners. The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. Dennis) also without knowing them, had found out that they were all convicts. This was exceedingly ingenious. It, however, most unfortunately happened that into the state of Pennsylvania, from which the petition came, no convicts were admitted. This might not be the case in the gentleman's own state. Whether it was or was not, Mr. Smilie did not know. But the gentleman desires to know what parts of the petition contained those truths to which he had alluded. He had said it was a truth that these aliens had received abuse in prints patronized by the late administration of the government. For the truth of this he could appeal to many gentlemen then present. We are told in the petition that the late President was hostile to aliens. This appeared from the signature of the President to the alien bill. But the petitioners had mentioned these circumstances, not with the view of criminating the administration, but merely as reasons for not coming forward with their petition earlier.

Mr. Claiborne observed that nothing was more repugnant to his feelings than to refuse the reference of a petition. But the terms of this petition were so indecent that he could not resist voting against its reference.

The question was then taken, by Yeas and Nays, on the reference of the petition, and lost. Yeas 23—Nays 61.

Mr. Dawson observed that some time since the committee to whom our Indian affairs had been referred, had reported certain resolutions, which it was important to take up, as the arrangements necessary to be made, in case they should be agreed to, would require some time. He, therefore, called for the order of the day on them.

Mr. Bacon hoped the gentleman from Virginia would suspend his call, till his (Mr. B's.) resolutions respecting the recession of the district of Columbia should be disposed of by a reference to a committee, which he proposed to make, and which could only occupy a few minutes.

Mr. Nicholson wished these resolutions to be taken up at once, and that the House would immediately, by rejecting them, signify their determination not to recede the district. He was himself decidedly opposed to a recession; and he believed a great majority of the House was opposed to it. He hoped, therefore, the House would take up the resolutions and reject them.

Mr. Dawson withdrew his motion; when the motion of Mr. Bacon was before the House.

Mr. Bayard said he would make a motion which would supercede that before the House. He would move that the House should resolve itself into a committee of the whole on the state of the union, to take up the proposition of amendment to the constitution that related to the mode of electing a President and Vice President, of which motion he has given notice yesterday. The proposition of amendment had laid on the table since the 3d of January, and there was not probably a member of the House that was not prepared to vote upon it. He hoped, therefore, it would be taken up at this time, and not postponed till the end of the session. He recollected the hurry and confusion of the end of the last session, when a similar resolution was acted upon; and he feared the same effect would follow this session from a postponement. It could not be the wish of any gentleman to let this resolution sleep till certain members had left their seats. It was a great question, as every question was that involved an amendment of the constitution. He hoped, therefore, that his urgently calling for the taking up of this resolution would not be considered as indicative of a disposition improperly to press the subject on the House, but of a desire to have the fairest decision which could be made, when the House was full.

Mr. S. Smith said he had early in the day risen to call for the order of the day on the report respecting discriminating and countervailing duties. If the motion of the gentleman from Delaware did not succeed, he hoped the House would recollect that his motion was made before that of the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. Bayard said there was no subject before the House less pressing than that which related to the repeal of the discriminating duties. Whatever our proceedings may be, they can be attended with no effect this session. The power given to the King of England by the British Parliament ceased on the 4th of March, and any power we may give to the Executive can have no effect before that time. He, hoped, therefore, that subject would not now be taken up. We are every day getting important information respecting it from our merchants, who were the most intelligent and enlightened part of the community, & the best acquainted with the operation of whatever respected their interests. From them we shall receive, what we most want, practical information. However apparently correct theories formed by gentlemen on this floor may be, they may be falsified by facts. He, therefore, thought that this point should remain undecided upon until the latest period of the session, that full and correct information might be obtained. Mr. B. concluded by requiring the Yeas and Nays.

Mr. Gregg said there was a great deal of business before Committees and the House, respecting the territory of Columbia. There appeared to be a disposition to withhold an attention to this business until a decision should be made on the resolutions for a recession. It was therefore of immediate necessity to decide this question, that if the resolutions shall be rejected, the business respecting the territory may be attended to.

Mr. Nicholson said he was happy to see the anxiety of the gentleman from Delaware on the amendment to the constitution, as he flattered himself when the subject should come before the House, they would have his assistance to carry it into effect. But he was opposed to taking up that subject at this time. The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Gregg) had assigned substantial reasons for immediately taking up the resolutions offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. Bacon). There was a great mass of business before the House respecting the territory, on which they must act if the district was not receded, and for which there would be no necessity if the territory was receded. This, therefore, was a pressing subject. As to the amendment, though important, it was not pressing; for if it was passed at any time before the close of the session, it would be in time for the state legislatures to act upon at their meetings in the fall. If gentlemen will leave their seats and neglect the public business, is that a reason for hurrying us, and putting us out of the regular course of procedure? The fault is their own, not ours.

(To be Continued.)

Wednesday, Feb. 9.

Mr. Eustis moved to postpone for one hour the unfinished business of yesterday, in order to take up a bill to provide an additional armament for the protection of the seamen and commerce of the United States.

Carried.

The House accordingly went into a Committee of the whole on that bill—*Mr. Varnum* in the Chair.

The committee reported the bill without amendment—the House concurred in the report, and ordered the bill to be engrossed for a third reading to-morrow.

Mr. Gregg moved the order of the day on the report of the committee of claims on the petition of George Mason.

Mr. Griswold moved that the House should resolve itself into a committee of the whole on the state of the union, in order to take up the proposed amendment to the constitution respecting the election of President and Vice President.

After some conversation, the question was taken on Mr. Griswold's motion by Yeas and Nays, and lost. Yeas 28—Nays 54.

The House then went into a Committee of the whole, on the report of the Committee of claims on the petition of George Mason—

Mr. Hanna in the chair.

The committee rose, and reported their agreement to the report of the committee of Claims, which provides for the allowance of pensions to soldiers of the South Carolina line unprovided for—the House took up the report concurred, and directed the committee of claims to bring in a bill.

Mr. Dawson moved that the committee of the whole on the state of the union should be discharged from the consideration of two propositions of amendment to the Constitution—the one prescribing the designation of the persons voted for as President and Vice-President—the other prescribing that representatives and electors shall be chosen in districts.

Mr. Davis said he would second the motion to relieve gentlemen from the apprehensions entertained of these amendments being taken up at a late period of the session when the house might be thin. And if the motion prevailed, he would move a postponement of the consideration of the amendments till the 1st Monday of November.

Both motions were carried without a division.

The House then resolved itself into a Committee of the whole on the resolutions of Mr. Bacon to recede to the states of Maryland and Virginia the district of Columbia.

Mr. John C. Smith in the chair.

A debate, which continued till 4 o'clock, ensued; in which Messrs. Smilie, Bacon, Claiborne, and Varnum supported; and Messrs Bayard, Gregg, Randolph, Eustis, Thatcher, and Southard opposed the resolutions.

When the question was taken on agreeing to the first resolution, for receding that part of the district on the South side of the Potomac, to Virginia, and lost—Ayes 22.

The question was taken on the 2d resolution, for receding the other part of the district to Virginia, and lost without a division.

The committee then rose and reported their disagreement to the resolutions.

The House immediately took up the report.

Mr. Nicholson required the taking the Yeas and Nays.

Mr. Dawson moved for a division of the question. He said he would vote for the first resolution, for receding that part of the territory originally attached to Virginia; and for the second, for receding that part originally attached to Maryland, with the exception of the City of Washington, which, in his own opinion, ought to be reserved.

Mr. Elmendorf spoke against agreeing to the report.

Mr. Randolph coincided in opinion with his colleague (Mr. Dawson.)

Mr. S. Smith spoke against; and Mr. Holland in favor of a recession.

When, after some further debate the question was taken, by Yeas and Nays, on concurring in the report of the committee in their disagreement to the first resolution, and carried Yeas 66—Nays 26.

Mr. Bayard offered a resolution for the appointment of three legal characters by the President, to revise the laws of Maryland and Virginia, and form therefrom a uniform system for the district of Columbia—to report the same to Congress.

Mr. Mitchill moved the appointment of a joint committee of both Houses, to enquire into the state of the public buildings, what repairs are required, and the expence attending the same.

Mr. Eustis offered two resolutions—*the one* for making provision by law for the making such alterations in the Capitol as are required for the future accommodation of Congress;—the other appropriating the sum of Dollars.

All the above resolutions were ordered to lie on the table.

Thursday, Feb. 10.

An engrossed bill to provide an additional armament for the protection of the commerce and seamen of the United States, was read a third time and passed.

Mr. Greene presented certain resolutions of the legislature of the Mississippi Territory expressive of their sense of the shutting of the port of New Orleans.

Referred to a committee of the whole on the state of the union.

Mr. Greene presented a memorial from the Mississippi Territory praying sundry things.

Referred to a select committee.

Mr. Mitchill presented a petition from sundry citizens of the city of New York, praying the erection of a plain monument to the memory of those who had perished on board of British prison ships, during the late war, and whose skeletons had lately been disinterred in digging the navy yard in that city.

Referred to the committee of the whole on bills respecting monuments.

Mr. Thomson, from the committee appointed, on the memorials of the city of Washington and Alexandria, reported a bill for establishing the government of Columbia.

This bill establishes a legislature composed of a house of representatives to be chosen annually, and a senate to be chosen biennially, by the freemen who have resided in the territory 12 months and paid taxes.—No person to be eligible as a member of the house of representatives unless resident in the territory for three years, and possessed of a freehold for the same time; and no person to be eligible as a member of the senate unless possessed of property in value amounting to 500 dollars.

Referred to a committee of the whole on Monday next.

The house went into a committee of the whole on the report of the committee on the propositions of the convention of Ohio—Mr. Varnum in the chair.

The resolutions, reported by the committee, and already printed in this paper, were, with slight amendments, agreed to. The committee rose and the House concurred in the report, and ordered bills to be brought in.

On motion of Mr. Randolph, resolved that so much of the letter of the Secretary of the Treasury as relates to the sale of public lands in the state of Ohio, be referred to the committee on Indian affairs.

On motion of Mr. Dawson the House went into committee of the whole, Mr. John C. Smith in the Chair, on the report of the committee on so much of the President's Message as relates to our concerns with the Indian tribes, and the establishment of a new settlement.

The report of the committee, with slight amendments, was agreed to—the committee rose—the House concurred in their report, and ordered bills to be brought in.

After going into a committee of the whole on the bill for the relief of Moses White, the bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.