

UNITED STATES' BANK.

The following resolution heretofore submitted by Mr. CLAYTON, was taken up:

Resolved, That a select committee be appointed to examine the affairs of the bank of the United States, with power to send for persons and papers, and to report the result of their enquiries to this house.

The question before the house, was the amendment proposed by Mr. ROOT—to strike out the words “be appointed,” and insert “of seven be chosen by ballot.”

The following is an abbreviated sketch of to-day's debate:

Mr. BLAIR, of South Carolina, did not propose

advocate.

Mr. BLAIR, of South Carolina, did not propose to go into the general question. The charter of the bank contemplated an enquiry by a select committee, as had been heretofore proposed. The only advantage in departing from the usual mode of appointing a select committee, was to screen the appointment of a committee who might not be disposed to go thoroughly into the investigation, from responsibility. He thought the friends of the bank would not sustain it before the people by the examination of such a committee. The course adopted was badly calculated to make proselytes. His own impression had been unfavorable to the bank—he was not determined whether he should vote in favor of re-chartering it or not—but he thought there never had been an instance where the members of a corporation had greater occasion to exclaim, “God preserve us from our friends,” than the bank had at the course taken by its friends on this floor.

Mr. LEAVITT was also opposed to the amendment. He thought the utmost vigilance of examination was called for on the part of this house in relation to the affairs of the bank. Such an examination, if faithful and thorough, would have a great and favorable influence. The bank was regarded as a necessary evil. If on a rigid scrutiny, it turned out that the remedy was worse than the disease, it would lose supporters; but on the other hand, if, by an examination through a committee appointed according to the ordinary rules of parliamentary action, the bank was vindicated from the charges made against it, the effect would be highly favorable to its interests, both here and abroad.

risen in opposition to it. The charges were said to be frivolous—the resolution itself was termed a manœuvre, to delay the decision of the question. This opposition had excited great surprize in his mind, as well as that of every body, he believed, whose opinions were not conclusively settled. But, all at once, a ray of light broke in upon the friends of the bank. They found that opposition to the proposed inquiry would make the clouds of suspicion hang still heavier and darker over its affairs. They were evidently disconcerted by the honorable and frank avowal of the chairman of the committee of ways and means, that this committee was an improper one for the inquiry. There then appeared to be no alternative, but to go into the inquiry, proposed by the gentleman from Georgia, [Mr. Clayton]. To avert this stroke, the gentleman from New-York stepped in with this amendment. The amendment was extraordinary, but not so much so as the argument by which it was supported. It was, that the bank is to be judged by a different rule from all other parties before the house. All inquiries are, by the rules of the house, committed to the friends of the inquiry. This is to be an exception—this inquiry is to be committed to the friends of the bank, and instead of appointing the committee by the ordinary rule, it is to be chosen by ballot. Would this be done on questions of the highest moment?—Would a committee be chosen by ballot to report on a question of peace or war? Certainly not. He thought no measures should be adopted which

Would a committee be chosen by ballot to report on a question of peace or war? Certainly not. He thought no measures should be adopted which were calculated to prevent or smother inquiry, and was therefore opposed to the amendment.

Mr. DANIEL was in favor of the amendment.— No gentleman would accuse him of friendship to the bank. He was opposed to it not on specific charges, but on its general character. He was against all investigation, for he was afraid it would result in the vindication of the bank from the charges which he now believed to be true. He was in favor of immediate action on the question of rechartering, in order that the president might veto the bill, and a new bank of a different character might be established. No man could doubt but the president would veto the bill, who would read his first message, and understood the English language.— By the 23d section of the bank charter, the committee to investigate the affairs of the bank were to be appointed. By whom? by the speaker of this house? No—by the American people. He was in favor of the amendment, for he wanted a committee who were hostile to the bank. He should vote against the bank, unless he was instructed to the contrary by his constituents. The bank was under the highest obligations to the state of Kentucky, for it would have failed, at an early period, had it not

contrary by his constituents. The bank for the highest obligations to the state of Kentucky, for it would have failed, at an early period, had it not been for \$300,000, sent from that state. The president of the bank stated that if the money had come three days later, the bank must have failed. It had done the state little good, and great injury. He strongly expected to oppose it. He was in favor of a bank founded on the public revenues. As the bank was now organized, half the merchants in the country were living on its bounty, and the people on the credit given them by the merchants. He was opposed to such aristocratic consequences. Mr. D. made some remarks on the Albany Regency, and stated himself to be pleased with the old Democrat though he did not agree with his views in favor of the bank.

Mr. DRAYTON thought good consequences had not resulted from the institution, but was entirely willing to go into the proposed inquiry by the committee selected in the usual manner. He could see no reason for departing from the ordinary practice, nor in a further discussion of the subject. He accordingly moved the previous question.

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The previous question was lost—ayes 71, noes 98

Mr. E. EVERETT said he should vote in favor of the amendment. He granted that the committee should be favorable to the inquiry—but there were two classes of persons in that situation—those who believed that the bank would be exonerated from all imputation—and those who were hostile to its proceedings, and anxious to destroy it. He thought the inquiry should not be put into the hands of those who were anxious for delay and destruction to the bank. It should be placed in the hands of those who were friendly to the bank, and the inquiry.—He had no doubt the chair was willing to be excused from the appointment, for there was no rule of selection to which the whole house would agree.—He wished the inquiry placed in the hands of honest men, who were incapable of blinking it, a majority of whom were friendly to the institution. No one could tell the consequences of putting it into the hands of its enemies. It was due to the friends of the inquiry and of the institution, to hold the power in their own hands, and trust to the result of the inquiry for their justification.

inquiry for their justification.

Mr. CAMBRELENG said, that the uniform course of parliamentary practice was better than any refinement on the subject of appointing committees. The fallacy of all this might be seen by reference to the case of the 2d Auditor, brought up by the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. Everett] a few weeks since. Would the house send that enquiry to a committee favorable to that gentleman? Certainly not. The object is thorough investigation. This proposition would be deemed, out of the house, as of a most unfriendly character to the interests of the bank. It was the most extraordinary thing he had lately heard, except the speeches of his colleague

[Mr. Root] and the response from the gentleman from Kentucky, [Mr. Daniel.]

Mr. ANGEL had no doubt but the gentlemen who might be appointed this committee, either by ballot or in the usual manner, would faithfully do their duty. But before a departure from the usual mode was determined on, a sufficient reason should be given. None had yet been suggested that had satisfied him. Mr. A. then went into a vindication of the politics of the state of New-York from the imputations which he stated his colleague (Mr. Root) had thrown out.

Mr. JENIFER thought the mode of choosing the committee not so important, as the period at which their report should be made to the house. The practice of minority reports rendered it in a great measure indifferent which way the majority of the committee was inclined. Mr. J. commented on the arguments of Mr. BELL and Mr. CLAYTON, which we have not yet given at length, and vindicated the bank in the payment of certain sums to printers, for the circulation of information, and the correction of error. He gave notice, that, when in order, he should move the addition to the resolution of the following words: "by the third Monday of April next." When he concluded—

Mr. COLLIER rose, and said, he proposed to address the house on the question, but the usual time of adjournment having passed, he moved an adjournment—which was carried.

Tuesday, March 13.

In the SENATE, Mr. DALLAS in obedience to the instructions of the special committee of which he was chairman, and to which was referred the ap-

The vote being taken on the resolution, it was carried. Yeas 29—Nays 17.

In the HOUSE, Mr. CLAYTON'S resolution, respecting the Bank of the United States, came up. The question was upon Mr. ROOT'S amendment, taking the appointment of the select committee from the Speaker of the house, and directing it to be chosen by ballot.

Mr. COLLIER, after some preliminary remarks upon New-York politics, and the principle of the safety fund in that state, stated that he had been, from the beginning, in favor of the most extensive enquiry. He had before voted against the amendment, as it seemed to cast distrust upon the presiding officer of the house. But on further examination he was satisfied that the amendment implied no imputation against him, and should now support it. Mr. C. discussed some of the charges that had been made against the bank, and expressed an opinion favorable to the institution.

Mr. M'DUFFIE suggested the necessity of bringing the debate to a close. Two weeks had been occupied in a debate, three quarters of which was entirely irrelevant. He hoped the house would now sit out the question. He would say one word upon the subject before the house—which had hardly been touched these three or four days. He supported the motion as a personal friend of the Speaker, who would never be able to give any more time to it.

touched these three or four days. He supported the motion as a personal friend of the Speaker, who would never be able to give general satisfaction in the appointment of a committee. It was a committee of a special character, as much as that sent to the senate to impeach an officer of the government.

Mr. ADAMS did not rise to go into the question, but to give notice that when in order he should move an amendment to the resolution—which was read by the clerk.

The question was then stated from the chair.

Mr. LAMAR moved a call of the house; after it had proceeded, on motion of Mr. CRAMBRELENG, it was suspended.

The question was taken on the amendment and lost: ayes 100; noes 100.

The house being equally divided the SPEAKER voted in the negative.

The yeas and nays were as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Adams, C. Allan, Allison, Appleton, Armstrong, Arnold, Ashley, Babcock, Banks, N. Barber, J. S. Barbour, Barringer, I. C. Bates, Branch, Briggs, Bullard, Burd, Cahoon, Choate, Collier, L. Condict, S. Condit, E. Cooke, B. Cooke, Cooper, Corwin, Coulter, Craig, Crane, Crawford, Creighton, Daniel, J. Davis, Dearborn, Denny, Dickson, Doddridge, Ellsworth, G. Evans, J. Evans, E. Everett, H. Everett, Ford, Gilmore, Grenuell, Heister, Hodges, Horn, Howard, Hughes, Hunt, Huntington, Ihrie, Irvin, Isacks, Kendall, H. King, Letcher, Marshall, Maxwell, R. McCoy, DoDuffie, McKannan, Mercer, Milligan, Mublenbergh, N.

Letcher, Marshall, Maxwell, R. McCoy, DoDuffie,
McKannan, Mercer, Milligan, Muhlenbergh, New-
ton, Pearce, Pendleton, *Pitcher*, Potts, J. Reed,
Root, Russel, Semmes, Wm. B. Shepard, Slade,
Smith, Southard, Spence, Stanbery, Stewart, Storrs,
Sutherland, *Taylor*, P. Thomas, Tompkins, *Tracy*,
Vance, Vinton, Washington, Watmough, *Wilkin*,
E. Whittlesey, *F. Whittlesey*, Ewd. D. White,
Wickliffe, Wilde, Williams, Young—100.

NAYS—Messrs. Alexander, R. Allen, Anderson,
Angel, Archer, Barnwell, *Barstow*, J. Bates, Bell,
Beardsly, Bergen, Bethune, James Blair, John
Blair, Boon, *Bouck*, Bouldin, J. Broghead, *J. C.*
Brodhead, *Cambreling*, Carr, Carson, Chandler,
Chinn, Claiborne, Clay, Clayton, Coke, Connor,
Davenport, W. R. Davis, *Dayan*, Dewart, *Double-*
day, Drayton, Duncan, Felder, Fitzgerald, Foster,
Gaither, Gordon, Griffin, T. H. Hall, Wm. Hall,
Hammons, Harper, Hawes, Hawkins, *Hoffman*,
Hogan, Holland, Hubbard, Jarvis, *Jewett*, R. M.
Johnson, C. Johnson, C. C. Johnston, Kavanagh,
Kennon, A. King, *J. King*, Lamar, *Lansing*,
Leavitt, Lecompte, *Lent*, Lewis, Lyon, Mann, Mar-
dis, Mason, McCarty, Wm. McCoy, McIntire, Mc-
Kay, T. R. Mitchell, Newnan, Nuckolls, Patton,
Pierson, Polk, Plummer, *E. C. Reed*, Rencher,
Roane, Aug. H. Sheppard, *South*

Mr. T. R. Mitchell, New York, Nicholas, Fulton,
Dunham, Pa., Sherman, E. C. Cook, Kenyon,
Dodge, Aug. H. Shepard, Smith, Spaight, Small,
Mr. F. Thomas, W. Thompson, J. Thompson, Per-
kins, E. Ward, W. Ward, W. Ward, W. Ward, W. Ward,
Mr. C. A. White, Washington—100

Mr. Wayne's amendment proposing that the com-
mission should meet in the recess of congress to ex-
amine into the affairs and arrangements of the bank
was then taken up. Mr. Wayne spoke about five
minutes in favor, when the house adjourned.