

The COMMITTEE to whom was referred the LETTER of the COMMISSIONERS authorized to form TREATIES with the INDIAN TRIBES, having conferred with the said Commissioners upon the subject of their Letter, and the Resolutions of 18th of March, directing a TREATY to be held at Post St. VINCENT, on the day of June next, R E P O R T,

THAT from the statement of the commissioners, effectually to carry the said treaty into execution, there will be necessary for the purchase of goods, in addition to those on hand, and the sum voted by the resolutions of the 18th March last, 3000 dollars, for the support of the commissioners and others necessarily attending the treaty, 2000 dollars; and for the pay of the officers, messengers, interpreters and artificers, 2000 dollars; that a sum will still be wanting, to pay for the transportation of the goods to the post at which the treaty will be held, but that the amount cannot be precisely ascertained, and must therefore be left with the board of treasury.

That it is also necessary a power should exist to controul all circumstances which might arise to prevent or disturb the treaty. That this power should be vested in the commissioners, and extend to the confinement of persons and seizure of property, during the treaty, as circumstances may require.

When they consider the very important interests which the states have in the western country, and the duties which have already devolved on them respecting it; your committee take the liberty to suggest to Congress, the propriety of turning the attention of the commissioners during their residence there, to the following objects. As a friendly commercial intercourse between the citizens of the United States, and the several tribes of Indians, must always be advantageous to both parties, the committee propose, that as the commissioners from their being on the ground, will possess the necessary knowledge for the purpose, that they be empowered to make such temporary regulations respecting the said trade, as they shall think expedient, to be in force until repealed, and report the same to Congress.

By the act of cession from the state of Virginia, it is stipulated, "That the French and Canadian inhabitants, and other settlers of the Kaskaskies, St. Vincents, and other neighbouring villages, who have professed themselves citizens of Virginia, shall have their possessions and titles confirmed to them, and be protected in the enjoyment of their rights and liberties." To carry this into effect, it is necessary that the origin and extent of their rights be fully ascertained; and for this purpose the committee propose, that the commissioners be instructed to obtain from them, authentic documents thereof, and report the same to the board of treasury. The state of Virginia having also relinquished her right of jurisdiction, and no government being as yet established over the said inhabitants and settlers, upon the principles of the resolutions of the 23d of April, 1784, they are of course free from any express engagement or allegiance to the union whatever. The committee considering it as highly improper, that any body of men should inhabit any part of the territory within the United States without acknowledging its authority; suggest that the commissioners be instructed to administer to the said inhabitants an oath of allegiance or fidelity, in the following form.

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will be true and faithful to the United States of America; that I renounce all allegiance and dependence upon any foreign prince or potentate whatsoever; and that I will, as becomes a good citizen, as far as in me lies, protect and defend the said United States from all attacks and invasions from other powers."

That they advise and assist them in forming a temporary government upon the principles of said resolutions.

The committee being informed from good authority, that many people have crossed the Ohio, and settled upon the lands of the United States, are of opinion that unless this is immediately discountenanced and measures taken effectually to prevent it in future, but little dependence may be put on those lands as a fund for the payment of the public debt, for this purpose they propose that the following proclamation be issued and pub-