

3d CONGRESS.]

No. 55.

[2d SESSION.

ELECTION OF THE DELEGATE FROM THE SOUTHWESTERN TERRITORY.

COMMUNICATED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, NOVEMBER 14, 1794.

Mr. BALDWIN, from the committee to whom was referred the letter from James White, enclosing the credentials of his appointment as a Representative of the Territory of the United States south of the river Ohio, made the following report:

That, by the ordinance for the government of the Territory northwest of the river Ohio, section 9, it is provided that, "so soon as there shall be five thousand free male inhabitants of full age in the district, upon giving proof thereof to the Governor, they shall receive authority to elect representatives to represent them in a General Assembly." And, by the 12th section of the ordinance, "so soon as a Legislature shall be formed in the district, the Council and House, assembled in one room, shall have authority, by joint ballot, to elect a delegate to Congress, who shall have a seat in Congress with a right of debating, but not of voting, during this temporary Government."

Full effect is given to this ordinance by act of Congress, August 7, 1789, that, by deed of cession of the territory south of the river Ohio to the United States, in the fourth article it is also provided, "that the inhabitants of the said Territory shall enjoy all the privileges, benefits, and advantages set forth in the ordinance of the late Congress for the government of the Western Territory; that is to say, the Congress shall assume the Government of the said Territory, which they shall execute in a manner similar to that which they support in the Territory west of the Ohio, and shall never bar nor deprive them of any privilege which the people in the Territory west of the Ohio enjoy."

The cession, on these conditions, was accepted by act of Congress, on the 2d of April, 1790.

By an act passed the 26th May, 1790, for the government of the Territory of the United States south of the river Ohio, it is enacted, that the inhabitants shall enjoy all the privileges, benefits, and advantages set forth in the ordinance of the late Congress, for the government of the Territory of the United States northwest of the river Ohio. And the government of the said Territory south of the Ohio shall be similar to that which is now exercised in the Territory northwest of the river Ohio, except so far as is otherwise provided in the conditions expressed in an act of Congress of the present session, entitled "An act to accept a cession of the claim of the State of North Carolina to a certain district of Western Territory."

The committee are of opinion that James White has been duly elected as delegate from the Territory of the United States south of the Ohio, on the terms of the foregoing acts; they, therefore, submit the following resolution:

Resolved, That James White be admitted to a seat in this House as a delegate from the Territory of the United States south of the river Ohio, with a right of debating, but not of voting.

3d CONGRESS.]

No. 56.

[2d SESSION.

OPPOSITION TO THE EXCISE LAW IN PENNSYLVANIA.

COMMUNICATED TO CONGRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, NOVEMBER 20, 1794.

And referred to in his speech to the two Houses on the 19th, of which the following is an extract:

Fellow-citizens of the Senate and of the House of Representatives:

When we call to mind the gracious indulgence of Heaven, by which the American people became a nation; when we survey the general prosperity of our country, and look forward to the riches, power, and happiness, to which it seems destined; with the deepest regret do I announce to you that, during your recess, some of the citizens of the United States have been found capable of an insurrection. It is due, however, to the character of our Government, and to its stability, which cannot be shaken by the enemies of order, freely to unfold the course of this event.

During the session of the year one thousand seven hundred and ninety, it was expedient to exercise the legislative power, granted by the constitution of the United States "to lay and collect excises." In a majority of the States, scarcely an objection was heard to this mode of taxation. In some, indeed, alarms were at first conceived, until they were banished by reason and patriotism. In the four western counties of Pennsylvania, a prejudice, fostered and imbibed by the artifice of men, who labored for an ascendancy over the will of others, by the guidance of their passions, produced symptoms of riot and violence. It is well known that Congress did not hesitate to examine the complaints which were presented; and to relieve them, as far as justice dictated, or general convenience would permit. But the impression which this moderation made on the discontented did not correspond with what it deserved. The arts of delusion were no longer confined to the efforts of designing individuals. The very forbearance to press prosecutions was misinterpreted into a fear of urging the execution of the laws, and associations of men began to denounce threats against the officers employed. From a belief that, by a more formal concert, their operation might be defeated, certain self-created societies assumed the tone of condemnation. Hence, while the greater part of Pennsylvania itself were conforming themselves to the acts of excise, a few counties were resolved to frustrate them. It was now perceived, that every expectation from the tenderness which had been hitherto pursued was unavailing, and that further delay could only create an opinion of impotency or irresolution in the Government. Legal process was therefore delivered to the marshal against the rioters and delinquent distillers.

No sooner was he understood to be engaged in this duty, than the vengeance of armed men was aimed at his person, and the person and property of the inspector of the revenue. They fired upon the marshal, arrested him,