principal, with two sureties in the sum of fifteen thousand dollars each, to appear and answer to the impeachment mentioned in their message.

The bill, sent from the House of Representatives for concurrence, entitled "An act for the relief of Thomas Lewis," was read the first time, and ordered to the second reading.

Mr. Hunter laid before the Senate the petition of Phoebe Harwood, praying support in her advanced age and widowhood; her husband having deceased in imprisonment during the late war; and the petition was read.

Ordered, That it lie on the table.

The Senate resumed the consideration of the report of the committee to whom was referred that part of the President's Message which relates to a letter purporting to have been written by William Blount, Esq., together with the papers accompanying the same.

On motion, Mr. Justice Smith was desired to attend and administer the oath to such witnesses as might be adduced.

On motion, Mr. Martin and Mr. Cocke, of the Senate, being sworn, severally testified, on inspection of the letter said to be written by Mr. Blount, that it was his handwriting, they being acquainted therewith, and having seen him write.

The President then said:

"William Blount, Esq., you have now an opportunity, agreeably to the vote of Senate, in pursuance of your own request, by your counsel, to show cause, why the report of the committee should not be adopted."

Mr. Blount was heard by his counsel, Mr. Ingersol and Mr. Dallas; and, after debate,

A motion was made to postpone the consideration of the report of the committee to the next session of Congress; and it was decided in the negative—yeas 19, nays 10, as follows:


On the question to agree to the report of the committee, as follows:

"The committee to whom was referred that part of the President's Message which relates to the letter purporting to have been written by William Blount, Esq., one of the Senators from the State of Tennessee, together with the papers accompanying the same, having had the same under their consideration, beg leave to make a further report:

"That Mr. Blount having declined an acknowledgment or denial of the letter imputed to him, and having failed to appear, to give any satisfactory explanation respecting it, your committee sent for the original letter, which accompanies this report, and it is in the following words:

[Excerpts of legal text and correspondence]

4. Colonel King's Iron Works, April 21, 1797.
5. Dear Carr: I wished to have seen you before I returned to Philadelphia, but I am obliged to return to the session of Congress, which commences on the 16th of May.
6. Among other things that I wished to have seen you about, was the business Captain Chisolm mentioned to the British Minister last winter at Philadelphia.
7. I believe, but am not quite sure, that the plan then talked of will be attempted this fall; and if it is attempted, it will be in a much larger way than that then talked of; and if the Indians act their part, I have no doubt but it will succeed. A man of consequence has gone to England about the business, and if he makes arrangements as he expects, I shall myself have a hand in the business, and probably shall be at the head of the business on the part of the British. You are, however, to understand, that it is not yet quite certain that the plan will be attempted; yet, you will do well to keep things in a proper train of action, in case it should be attempted, and to do so, will require all your management—I say require all your management, because you must take care, in whatever you say to Rogers, or any body else, not to let the plan be discovered by Hawkins, Dinamore, Byers, or any other person in the interest of the United States or Spain.
8. If I attempt this plan, I shall expect to have you, and all my Indian country and Indian friends, with me; but you are now in good business, I hope, and you are not to risk the loss of it by saying anything that will hurt you, until you again hear from me. Where Captain Chisolm is I do not know; I sent him to Philadelphia in March, and he frequently visited the Minister and spoke upon the subject; but I believe he will go into the Creek nation by way of South Carolina or Georgia. He gave out he was going to England, but I did not believe him. Among other things that you may safely do, will be to keep up my consequence with Watt, and the Creeks and Cherokees generally, and you must by no means say anything in favor of Blount, or of any other man, but as often as you can, with safety to yourself, you may teach the Creeks to believe he is no better than he should be. Any power or consequence he gets, will go against our plan. Perhaps Rogers, who has no office to lose, is the best man to give out talk against Hawkins. Read the letter to Rogers, and if you think it best to send it to him, put a water mark in it, and forward it to him by a safe hand, or perhaps you had best send for him to come to you, and speak to him yourself respecting the state and prospect of things.
9. I have advised you, in whatever you do, to take care of yourself. I have now to tell you to take care of me too; for a discovery of the plan would prevent the success and much injure all the parties concerned.
10. It may be that the Commissioners may not run the line as the Indians expect or wish, and, in that case, it is probable the Indians may be taught to blame me for making the treaty. To such complaints against me, if such there are, it may be said by my friends, at proper times and places, that Doublehead confirmed the treaty with the President, at Philadelphia, and receives as much as 5,000 dollars a year, to be paid to the nation over and above the first price; indeed, it may with truth be said, that, though I made the treaty, that I made it by the instructions of the President; and, in fact, it may with truth be said, that I was, by the President, instructed to purchase much more land than the Indians would agree to sell. This sort of talk will be throwing all the blame off me upon the late President, and as he is now out of office, it will be of no consequence how much the Indians blame him. Among other things that may be said for me is, that I was not the running of the line, and that if I had been, I would have been run more to their satisfaction. In short, you understand the subject, and must take care to give out
the proper talks, to keep up my consequence with the
Creeks and Cherokee. Can't Rogers contrive to get
the Creeks to desire the President to take Hawkins out
of the nation? For, if he stays in the Creek nation and
gets the good will of the nation, he can and will do
much injury to our plan. When you have read this
letter over three times, then burn it. I shall be at
Knoxville in July or August, when I will send for
Watts, and give him the whiskey I promised him.

WILLIAM BLount.

"Two Senators, now present in the Senate, have
decided to the committee that they are well acquainted
with the handwriting of Mr. Blount, and have no doubt
that this letter was written by him. Your committee
have examined many letters from Mr. Blount to the
Secretary of War, a number of which are herewith sub-
mitted, and the letter addressed by Mr. Blount to Mr.
Cook, his colleague in the Senate, and to this com-
mittee, residing under consideration; and find them all to be of the same handwriting
with the letter in question. Mr. Blount has never de-
nied this letter, but, on the other hand, when the copy
transmitted in his presence, on the 8th instant, he acknowledged in his place that he had
written a letter to carey, of which he had preserved a
copy; but could not then decide whether the copy read
was a true one. Your committee are fully satisfied
that the original letter now produced was
written and sent to Carey by Mr. Blount. They also
find that this man, Carey, to whom it was addressed, is,
the knowledge of Mr. Blount, in the pay and em-
ployment of the United States, as their interpreter to
the Cherokee nation of Indians, and an assistant in the
public factory at Tellico Blockhouse. That Hawkins,
who is so often mentioned in this letter as a person who
must be brought into suspicion among the Creeks, and
if possible driven from his station, is the superintendent
of Indian affairs for the United States among the South-
ern Indians; Dunmore is agent for the United States
in the Cherokee nation; and Byers one of the agents
in the public factory at Tellico Blockhouse.

"The plan hinted at in this extraordinary letter, to
be executed under the influence of the British, is so capa-
bable of different constructions and consequences, that
your committee present forbear giving any decided
opinion respecting it; except that to Mr. Blount's own
mind, it appeared to be inconsistent with the interests of the United States and Spain, and he was there-
fore anxious to conceal it from both. But, when they
consider his attempt to seduce Carey from his duty, as
a faithful interpreter, and to employ him as an engine
to alienate the affections and confidence of the Indians;
from the public officers of the United States residing
among them; the measures he has proposed to excite
temporary prejudice which must produce the recall or expulsion of our superior officers from the Creek nation; his insidious
advice tending to the advancement of his own pop-
ularity and consequence, at the expense and hazard of
the good opinion which the Indians entertain of this
Government, and the treaties subsisting between us
and them, your committee have no doubt that Mr.
Blount's conduct has been inconsistent with his public
duty; renders him unworthy of a further continuance
of his present public trust in this body, and amounts to a
high misdemeanor. They, therefore, unanimously
recommend to the Senate an adoption of the following
resolution:

"Resolved, That William Blount, Esq., one of the
Senators of the United States, having been guilty of a
high misdemeanor, entirely inconsistent with his public
trust and duty as a Senator, be, and he hereby is, ex-
peled from the Senate of the United States."