

## Virginia Legislature.

The House of Delegates have been engaged during the two last days upon two subjects of some importance. The one the Kentucky amendment to the Federal Constitution: The other a resolution, concerning the United States.

On the first question the House of Delegates have not yet come to any decision.

The second question produced much discussion and some warmth. We shall at present submit no more than the general results before our readers; reserving a more expanded notice of this debate for a subsequent paper.

On Friday the 12th inst. Mr. J. H. Blake laid the following resolution before the House:

*Resolved*, That the General Assembly of Virginia have an entire confidence in no wise diminished, but increased, in the patriotism of the views and wisdom of the conduct of the President of the United States; and that the present administration merits and ought to receive the most cordial support of this assembly.

A motion being made and carried, the preceding resolution was referred to a select committee, consisting of Messrs. Baker, Brooke, Nelson, Prunty, Smith, (of Wythe) Semple, C. B. Harrison, Miller, (of Powhatan) Blane, Love, Robertson, B. Harrison, and McHenry, (of Washington.)

On Thursday last, Mr. Baker, chairman of the committee, presented the following substitute to the original resolution:

*Resolved*, That the General Assembly have the highest confidence in the wisdom, firmness and patriotism of the President of the United States.

A motion was made by Mr. Kinney to postpone this resolution to the 31st March; which motion was supported by Messrs. Kinney, Archer, Murdaugh, and Strother; and opposed by Messrs. Smith, (of King and Queen) Baker, Foushee, (of Henrico) and Robertson.

The question of postponement was lost.—Ayes 25—Nays 131. When the question recurring upon the report of the committee, it was carried.—Ayes 138—Nays 19.

Yesterday Mr. Robertson offered the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the Legislature of Virginia, continue to view with the highest approbation, the firm, just and liberal policy, which characterises the conduct of the government of the United States towards foreign nations.

A motion was made to postpone this resolution, till the 31st of March; which was supported by Messrs. Miller, (of Powhatan) & Kinney; and opposed by Messrs. Baker, Robertson, Singleton, Smith, (K. and Q.) and Foushee, (Henrico.) This motion being lost: Ayes 30, Nays 126, the question recurred upon the original resolution. Messrs. Nelson and Lindsay having delivered their respective sentiments, the question was put and carried.—Ayes 122, Nays 35.

BOSTON, Dec. 29.

### SELFRIDGE ACQUITTED.

The trial of Thomas O. Selfridge, for manslaughter, for killing Charles Austin, on the 4th of August, 1806, commenced last Tuesday, and continued until Friday, 2 o'clock, P. M. The case was opened in a fair and able manner by the solicitor general; and the hon. judge Parker, who presided alone on the trial, having suggested that the fact of killing being proved, there was no more to be done in the opening by the government, until the defence was made, because all the circumstances of justification or excuse rested on the defendant.

Mr. Gore and Mr. Dexter then proceeded to the defence, and a great number of witnesses were examined on both sides; and the counsel for the defendant engaged in arguments which lasted four hours. On Friday morning the attorney general closed the cause on the part of the government. He observed, that in his peculiar situation, nothing but a sense of his official duty, and a compliance with the public expectation, could have induced him to undertake the task. His argument lasted from ten till one o'clock, in which a crowded audience were, from the importance of the case, held in a state of perfect silence.

Judge Parker was one hour in summing up the cause, in which, in an impartial and learned manner, he placed it on these points, viz: The fact of killing being proved, it was incumbent on the defendant to prove, beyond a reasonable doubt, that he was under necessity to do it, to save his own life, or to avoid some great bodily harm intended by the deceased:—That should he have proved this; yet if by the evidence it appeared that the defendant sought the quarrel, or with premeditation and expectation had gone armed on change for the purpose—he was guilty of manslaughter at least.

There are reports of the case preparing, in which the public will see what the evidence is. The jury agreed in less than a quarter of an hour, that Selfridge was not guilty.

CHILICOTHE, (Ohio) Dec. 18.

The following gentlemen were impanelled and sworn on Friday last, as grand jurors, in the case of the state against Daniel Casset, viz.—Nathaniel Willis, foreman, Henry Massie, John Waddle, John Pickens, John G. Macan, John Hall, Wm. Wilson, John M'Coy, James M'Dougat, George Renick, John Kerr, Wm. Irwin, Robert Steele, Thomas Steele, Adam Holler, Ephraim Doolittle, Joseph Scott, John Edmonson, Wm. Rutledge, John Davidson, Wm. Wallace and Gabriel Coil—32.

After the grand jury was sworn, judge Tod delivered his charge to them.

On the following day, (Saturday,) the court met in the forenoon; the grand jury appeared, and were divided, ten being in favour of finding a bill of indictment and twelve against it. The court then adjourned until three o'clock in the afternoon. In the afternoon Mr. Casset appeared in the court, and was admonished for his conduct, and then discharged.

The court observed, that from the extreme agitation of the public affairs, not only the peace and tranquility of this state was at stake, but that of the whole Union. That he had conducted himself in such a manner as to excite suspicion, and that it was highly necessary at the present momentous crisis, to check every act which bore the semblance of hostility towards the peace and tranquility of the state and that of the United States.

We hope from this example, those concerned in this nefarious scheme will shudder at their situation, and ground those arms of rebellion which they wished to hurl against their own government.

A letter received in New-York, dated Trinidad, Nov. 22, states that Miranda had gone to Barbadoes—that a British expedition for the Spanish Maine was preparing there—that Miranda was to receive a commission of Brigadier general, and that a number of his officers were also to receive commissions in the British service.

*Post-Masters.*—A very important question has been agitated in the supreme court of New-York, viz. "Whether the Post-Masters are liable for bank notes stolen by their clerks out of letters delivered at their offices for transportation by the mail?"—In England they are not liable; but the provisions of our Post-office law are different from those of England. Judge Livingston gave it as his decided opinion, that our post-masters were liable: The rest of the court gave no opinion upon this point, it not being in their opinion necessary to the case. The opinion of Judge L. is however highly important, as he is now appointed one of the Judges of the supreme court of the U. States, the tribunal before which the question must be ultimately decided. *Phil. paper.*

Frankfort, (Ken.) December 5.

The grand Jury are happy to inform the court, that no violent disturbance of the public tranquility, or breach of the laws has come to their knowledge.

We have no hesitation in declaring that having carefully examined and scrutinized all the testimony which has come before us, as well on the charges against Aaron Burr, as those contained in the indictment preferred to us against John Adair that there has been no testimony before us which does in the smallest degree, criminate the conduct of either of those persons; nor can we from all the enquiries and investigation of the subject, discover that any thing improper or injurious to the interest of the government of the United States, or contrary to the laws thereof, is designed or contemplated by either of them.

December 5th.

Abra. Hite, Foreman.  
William Steele,  
George Madison,  
John Patrick,  
Thomas Lewis,  
Richard Apperson,  
P. B. Ormsby,  
George Greer,  
Richard Davenport,  
E. M. Covington,  
Abraham Owen,  
Thomas Johnston,  
Robert Johnston,  
Nicholas Lawton,  
John Kenton,  
N. Miller,  
J. Winlock,  
Richard Fox,  
Richard Price,  
Nathaniel Hart,  
John Bacon,  
Thomas Respass.

A true copy from the records of my office as clerk of the district court of the U. States in and for the Kentucky district, this 5th day of December, 1806, and of the independence of the U. S. the thirty first.

Attest.

THO: TUNSTALL, c. x. n. e.

There were seventeen witnesses, mostly the intimate friends of colonel Burr. It appeared clearly on the examination that the rumour circulated throughout the U. States, that colonel Burr's object was to divide the union, and to separate the eastern from the western states, is totally false and groundless.

The whole proceedings will be published in a few days, containing the testimony of all the witnesses—among whom are Street and Wood, editors of the Western World; which will, we are authorized to say, give entire satisfaction to the public as to colonel Burr, and acquit him of all suspicion and improper views.

Palladium Office, Frankfort, (Ken.)  
Dec. 5th, 1806.

NEW-YORK, January 5.

Extract of a letter from Governor Tiffin, dated Dec. 14, 1806, to the Secretary of War.

"I have this night received yours of the 7th of November, directing that 150 or 200 volunteer militia may be immediately raised under the authority of the U. S. to take post at Marietta, for the express purpose of preventing the flotilla from moving from the Muskingum river, which is believed to have

been built with hostile views, and observing that the troops so raised shall while in service receive the pay and rations allowed by law.

"The same mail that brought yours brought me, also a communication from Judge Meigs of Marietta, informing me that in obedience to my instructions sent to him by virtue of a law of our state passed about a week ago (an account of which I enclosed to the President) a detachment of our militia on the night of the 10th inst. seized ten of the bateaux as they were descending the Muskingum river, and that four more remain on the stocks unfinished, which will be also arrested. These bateaux were 40 feet long, very wide, covered and constructed to carry one company of men each. 100 barrels of provisions were on board those seized, and 100 more not got on board. It appears notice had been sent on of my orders being issued by some spy or other, and they were hurrying off; but they are happily secured. Comfort Tyler (styled by his men col. Tyler) was lying with a number of fast rowing boats at Blennerhasset's Island, and my informant adds with a number of men (50 were counted) armed indiscriminately with muskets, pistols, cutlasses, &c. waiting for the Muskingum flotilla to join them, in order to descend the river—that they were alarmed upon hearing of the militia being in motion, and had sentinels placed, and lanterns burning at different parts of the Island—that Blennerhasset and Tyler have pushed down the river, and left the boats to follow them, upon hearing of those on the Muskingum being seized.

"In this state of things I have thought it best, which I hope will meet with your approbation, to send off an express this night to Marietta, and another to Cincinnati. At Marietta I have appointed, by virtue of your letter, 1 major, 1 captain, 1 lieutenant, 1 ensign, and directed to be raised a company of 60 non-commissioned officers, privates & musicians, to guard the flotilla arrested, and guard the river Ohio; and arrest any boats or armaments which may come down. At Cincinnati I have directed to be raised two companies, each consisting of 1 major, 1 captain, 1 lieutenant, 1 ensign, and 60 non-commissioned officers, privates and musicians. These troops will be under arms in one day after my expresses arrive. I have at Cincinnati ordered 2 pieces of artillery to be planted on the bank of the river—to keep spies every ten miles up the river to give notice of the approach of the boats—to throw a bridge of boats across the river, and not suffer a boat to pass unexamined, or sink every one which shall attempt forcibly to pass.

"I believe the Muskingum flotilla and Comfort Tyler's flotilla, were the whole of the boats prepared for this secret expedition, and that they were to take troops on board below our state, and depended on these boats and provisions, &c. to enable them to prosecute the enterprise. We have therefore completely frustrated their intentions. The Muskingum flotilla is secured, and I have no doubt but that I shall soon give you a good account of Tyler's.

Extract of a letter from Return J. Meigs, Esq. dated Marietta, Dec. 17.

"The governor of Ohio having commissioned me to carry into effect a law of the state, passed the 6th inst. entitled "An act to prevent certain acts hostile to the peace and tranquility of the U. S. within the jurisdiction of this state, I have on the 9th, by a detachment of the militia, seized fifteen bateaux and about two hundred barrels of provisions prepared on the Muskingum river (by Harmer Blennerhasset, a colleague of Col. Burr) for a military expedition against the dominions of Spain, and for other purposes. I issued a warrant for the apprehension of Blennerhasset, who resided thirteen miles below this, and without the jurisdiction of this state. He fled immediately upon hearing of the seizure of the boats, in the night, with Comfort Tyler and about fifty men, in fast rowing boats. He is pursued by land in order to head him, at some point on the Ohio. Tyler's flotilla passed this in the night. Had not the mail failed us from Washington for a whole trip, we should have received the President's proclamation in time to have seized Blennerhasset, Tyler, and his whole party.

"The bateaux preparing and prepared on the Ohio, at different places, for a length of 600 miles, are all of the same model, and will carry from 40 to 60 men, and are calculated to ascend shallow rivers.

"Capt. Stoddert, with the U. S. troops, have just left this place; the ice retards his progress."

In the Assembly of the province of Jamaica, on the 5th October, a petition was presented from William Tufur jun. and James Savage, citizens of the United States, stating that after numerous experiments and much reflection, they are convinced that they can, with proper cautions, transport ice to tropical climates, and also preserve it there; that the introduction of that article into the island of Jamaica will be attended with the most salutary effects; and that it is a commerce entirely new and never before carried on by any nation or individual; and praying that the house will grant them the privilege of importing ice and snow into this island for the period of ten years, exclusive of all others, except the subjects of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. Referred to a committee.

CHARLESTON, January 16.

It has seldom been our duty to record circumstances of disgraceful to humanity

or more calculated to rouse the indignation of every feeling mind, than those we are now about to detail:—

The ship *Cleopatra*, John Butman, master; and R. V. Lawton, supercargo, arrived in this port on Sunday last, with a cargo of slaves, from Africa. Thirteen of her crew were landed the next day, and conveyed to the Marine Hospital, in a most pitiable situation, from the wounds, and barbarous treatment they had received on the voyage. It appears from their evidence, taken before James Benham, esq.—that three seamen were cruelly beaten, and killed at sea; that those who have returned, are much maimed; that some of them have been burnt in the face with fire-brands; others were beat with hammers—one man had his arm cut with a billet of wood, and twisted round nearly out of its socket, in consequence of which a mortification took place, of which he died last evening—another was stripped naked, and two blood-hounds let loose upon him, who have severely torn his flesh—[The dogs were thrown overboard two days before the ship arrived in port.] For three or four days they were sometimes shut down, and no provisions or water given to them—and they were often compelled to eat their pork and beef without having it dressed. These unfortunate men relate many other instances of wanton and deliberate cruelty; but as the cause will be brought before the Federal Court in May next, where the culprits who have been committed to gaol, will be judged by the laws of the country, we deem it not proper to inflame the public mind, by a recital of them.

The boatwain of the ship, Daniel Saunders, was this morning committed to gaol, upon the affidavit of the surgeon's mate, charging him with having killed one of the seamen, by the name of Anderson.

A jury of inquest was held yesterday evening at the Marine-Hospital, upon the body of one of these poor fellows, who died yesterday morning. The following is their verdict:

"That the deceased Oloff Gronning came to his death by the cruel and ill treatment of captain Butman and R. V. Lawton, by severe beatings, and particularly by Mr. Lawton stabbing him under the left arm with the tormentors, or cook's fork, it having entered the throat, by which he languished and died—There being the marks of eight blows inflicted on his arms, hand and feet, and said to be inflicted by said Lawton, with a billet of firewood, and the pump-bolt on board said vessel."

Another of the crew died last evening. A jury of inquest have brought in the following verdict:

"Daniel Meyer, a native of Denmark, a mariner on board the ship *Cleopatra*, capt. J. Butman, and R. V. Lawton, supercargo, came to his death from the cruel and ill treatment, wounds and bruises, particularly by the captain, twisting and bruising his right arm, from which a mortification took place; and a number of bruises on his arms and legs, which deprived him of the use of them inflicted by Mr. Lawton and the captain jointly, on board, of which he died in the Marine Hospital last evening."

We learn that none of the seamen now at the Hospital, are considered in a dangerous situation. They are all foreigners; most of them Germans.

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Wilmington, January 6.

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