

North-Carolina Legislature

SENATE.

Friday, Dec. 24.—Mr. McLeary presented a bill to amend an act passed in 1818, to incorporate the town of Charlotte, in Mecklenburg; which was read the first time.

The Senate took up the unfinished business of yesterday, relative to the treaty with the Cherokee Indians.—Mr. Seawell proposed an amendment, which was rejected, and the bill passed its third reading and was ordered to be engrossed.

The Senate proceeded to the consideration of the bill to compel the banks of the state to pay specie in certain cases, which was read the third time and rejected—34 to 22.

Monday, Dec. 27.—Mr. Speight presented the following resolution, which was agreed to.

Resolved, That the Speaker of the Senate and House of Commons be, and they are hereby directed to adjourn the two Houses of this General Assembly, sine die, on the first day of January next; and that the Clerks of the two Houses be directed to make up the estimates of allowances accordingly.

Mr. Love, from the committee of Finance, to whom was referred the business of counting and destroying the worn and redeemed notes in the Treasury, reported that the committee had counted and destroyed, by fire, Treasury notes emitted by this state in the years 1814 and 1816, to the amount of 12,170 dollars and 84 cents; and for which they recommend that the Treasurer should have credit in his next annual settlement. Concurred in.

Mr. Love, from the same committee, to whom was referred the resolution directing an inquiry whether a more convenient contract cannot be made with regard to taking care of the public buildings, and the property contained therein, reported the following resolution, which was agreed to:

Resolved, That the Comptroller of this state be directed to contract, on behalf of the state, with some suitable person, at a price he may deem reasonable and just, and not exceeding 75 dollars, to take charge of the public buildings, and the property belonging thereto, during the ensuing year.

Mr. Carson presented a bill to repeal the 3d section of the act of 1820, entitled "An act allowing compensation to the Attorney General and Solicitor of this state, and for other purposes;" which was rejected.

The Senate resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. McLeod in the chair, on the bill fixing the salary hereafter to be paid to the Civil Engineer; and after some time spent therein, the committee rose, and the chairman reported the bill with an amendment. Mr. Speight moved to amend the amendment, by inserting, in the 6th line of the 2d section, after the word, "obtained," the words "not exceeding twenty-five hundred dollars." Which amendment was not agreed to—yeas 25, nays 31. The question then recurred on the amendment made in the committee of the whole; which was agreed to, and the bill passed its second and third readings, and was ordered to be engrossed.

Mr. Wilson from the balloting committee for Counsellors of State for the ensuing year, reported that William Blackledge, Gideon Alston, sen. John Owen, Thomas Wynns, George W. Jeffreys, John McDowell, and Meshack Franklin, were duly elected, which report was concurred in.

Thursday, Dec. 28.—Mr. Forney, from the select committee, to whom was referred the bill to continue in force the provisions of the act of 1822, entitled "An act to promote Agriculture and domestic manufactures within the state," reported the same with an amendment; which was agreed to, and the bill passed its second reading.

The engrossed bill to repeal the act of 1822, entitled "An act to repeal, in part, an act entitled "An act directing the designation of lands, and how they shall be compelled to work under overseers of roads hereafter in the counties of Lincoln, Columbus, Burke and Washington," was read the third time, amended, and sent to the other House for their concurrence in the amendment.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Thursday, Dec. 23.—Mr. Folk presented a bill, to amend an act passed in 1822, to amend an act passed in 1824, to provide for the execution of process, where there shall be no proper Sheriff to execute the same; Mr. J. Smith, a bill to establish and lay off a town on the lands of James Gordon, in Anson county; Mr. Stany, a bill to prevent protracted litigation by enlarging the jurisdiction of Justices of the Peace. Which bills were read the first time and passed.

Mr. Stany from the committee on the Judiciary reported that it is not expedient to take from the County Courts the jurisdiction of the pleas of the state which they now possess and give them to the Superior Court.

Mr. Graham presented a bill, appointing commissioners to lay off a road from Lincolnton to Morganton—read the first time.

Mr. Ashe presented a bill, more effectually to provide against corruption in elections; which being read, Mr. Hines moved for the indefinite postponement, which passed in the negative—100 to 25.

Monday, Dec. 27.—Received from the Senate the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Speaker of the Senate and House of Commons be, and they are hereby directed to adjourn the two Houses of this General Assembly, sine die, on the first day of January next; and that the Clerks of the two Houses be directed to make up the estimates of allowances accordingly.

Which resolution was rejected—yeas 52, nays 63.

The bill to authorize and direct the Supreme Court to be held in the several places therein named, and to assist the administration of justice in the trial of equity causes, was read the second time. Mr. Piccott moved to amend the bill, by striking out Newbern and inserting Washington; which motion was negative—yeas 50, nays 68. Mr. Irredell moved that the bill be amended, by striking out the 3d section, in the following words: "that a Supreme Court be held in the town of Newbern," &c. The question thereon was decided in the negative—yeas 57, nays 66. The bill was then put on its passage, and the question, shall the said bill pass? was determined in the negative—yeas 56, nays 67.

Tuesday, Dec. 28.—Mr. Stanly presented the petition of Edward Clark, of Philadelphia, stating that he has invented a plan, by means of which he has succeeded in towing boats against rapids which obstruct navigation, and praying that the legislature grant him the privilege to use the said invention on the several rivers of this state. Referred to the committee on Internal Improvement.

The following bills from the Senate, were read the first time and passed, and the latter made the order of the day for to-morrow. The bill authorizing the appointment of commissioners to run and mark the dividing line between the counties of Lincoln and Burke; and the bill to carry into effect a contract entered into by Benjamin Robinson and William Robards, commissioners on the part of the state, with certain Indians of the Cherokee nation.

Mr. J. A. Bynum, from the committee, to whom was referred the bill more effectually to guard against corruptions in elections, recommended the striking out of the whole of the said bill, except the words "a bill," and inserting an amendment in lieu thereof. Which report was concurred in, and the bill, as amended, was read the second time. Mr. Lamb moved for the indefinite postponement of the bill; which motion was negative—yeas 42, nays 79. The said bill was then put on its passage, and carried—yeas 78, nays 41.

NATIONAL ROAD.

REPORT

Of the Postmaster General, on the subject of the most practicable Post Route from New-Orleans to Washington City.

POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT, 15th December, 1824.

Sir: In obedience to a resolution of the Senate of the United States, adopted at their last session, requiring the Postmaster General to report to the Senate, at the present session, the most practicable post route from New Orleans to Washington City, I have the honor to state, that the route on which the mail has been transported, for several years past, from this City to New Orleans, is by the way of Fredericksburg and Abingdon, in Virginia; Knoxville and McMinnville, in Tennessee; Huntsville, Rushville, and Pikeville, in Alabama; Columbus, Jackson, Fort Gibson, Washington, Natchez, and Woodville, in Mississippi; thence, by St. Francisville and Baton Rouge, to New-Orleans. This route is estimated to be 1,380 miles, and required a travel of 24 days.

The military road, as it is called, from Columbus, in Mississippi, to Madisonville, in Louisiana, is on nearly a direct line from the former to New Orleans, and much nearer than the road by the way of Washington and Natchez. But this road is represented so much out of repair, as to render the regular transportation of the mail upon it impracticable. The bridges and causeways have fallen into decay, and, in many parts, the entire space, opened for the road, has become filled with young growths of timber.

Some years since, a contract was made by this department, to transport the mail to New Orleans, from this City, by Salisbury, in North Carolina; Spartanburg, in South Carolina; Athens and Fort Hawkins, in Georgia; and Fort Stoddard, in Alabama, the distance being computed at 1,250 miles. But there were so many obstructions on this route, arising from streams of water, and other causes, that it was found impracticable to perform the contract, and it was abandoned.

There is a mail route from Knoxville, in Tennessee, by the way of Kingston, in the same state; Bennettsville, Cahawba, and St. Stephens, in Alabama, to New Orleans, which makes the distance from Washington to that place, 1,222 miles. But the obstructions on this route are known to be nearly as great as on the route by the way of Athens and Fort Hawkins.

The post route to New Orleans, which passes through the capitals of the Southern states, is estimated at 1,212 miles.

This distance might be reduced to 1,000 miles, if no greater deviations, from a direct line, were made, than would be necessary to obtain good ground for a road, and to pass through Richmond, Raleigh, Columbia, and Milledgeville; and thence by Coweta and St. Stephens to New Orleans. A part of the Alabama and Mississippi mail, and the mail from the south to New Orleans, is transported on this route. But, in the winter and spring seasons of the year, the numerous streams of water over which there are neither bridges nor ferries, present insurmountable obstacles to the regular and rapid transmission of the mail on this route.

On a direct line from Washington, to New Orleans, the distance is 960 miles. This line passes near Warrenton Charlottesville, Lexington, Big Lick, Grayson Court House, in Virginia; Ashville, in North Carolina; thence, through the Indian Country by Cahawba and St. Stephens, in Alabama, to Pearlton, near Lake Borgne; thence to New Orleans.

The northwestern part of North Carolina, through which this line passes, is so mountainous as to render a deviation to the south or north, in constructing a road, indispensable. A deviation to the north, so as to avoid the mountains, will pass by or near Fotheringay, Wythe Court-House, Christiansburg, and Abingdon, in Virginia; Knoxville, in Tennessee; thence, through the Tennessee Valley, by Cahawba, to New Orleans, on nearly a straight direction. This route is estimated at 1,059 miles, including ten per cent. for the variation from a straight line, from Washington to Knoxville; thence to New Orleans. The variation, so as to pass by Knoxville, would not increase the distance more than six miles. A deviation to the south, so as to avoid the principal mountains, would pass near Salem, in North Carolina, Greenville, in South Carolina, and Athens, Georgia. This route would not vary, at any one point, more than 60 miles from a direct line, and would not increase the distance, by a line passing through the above places, more than seven miles.

The route by way of Warrenton, Abingdon, and Knoxville, affords great facilities for the construction of a mail road. Through Virginia and Tennessee, the materials are abundant for the formation of a turnpike; and through the states of Alabama and Mississippi, it is believed, from information which has been obtained, that in no part of the Union can an artificial road of the same length, be constructed at less expense. On this part of the route, the general face of the country is level, and the soil well adapted to the formation of a solid road. Some information has been communicated to this department on this subject, but it does not come strictly within the scope of the resolution. If a substantial road were made, in this direction, to New-Orleans, the mail could be transported, to that place, from this city, in eleven days. If the road were to pass through the capitals of Virginia, North-Carolina, South-Carolina, and Georgia, it could be conveyed in less than 12 days.

The route on which the mail is now transported to New-Orleans, although more circuitous than some others, in the present condition of the roads, is the safest and best. There are many obstructions on it, but they are less numerous than on any other. Greater celerity and safety are given to the mail on this route, than could be given to it on any other, to New-Orleans, and it passes through, and supplies, many important towns and villages, and thickly settled parts of the country.

In the winter and spring seasons of the year, the mail on this route, as on all others in the same parts of the country, is sometimes entirely obstructed by high waters; and, when this is not the case, it is frequently much injured by the mail horses swimming creeks and through swamps of considerable extent. The friction from the movement of the mail horses, is certain to destroy all newspapers that become wet, and not infrequently letters are much obliterated. When the mail is a considerable time immersed in water, as has often been the case on this route, it is impossible to secure it perfectly from injury.

The Department now pays at the rate of fifty dollars and seventy-six cents a mile for the transportation of the mail three trips in each week, to New-Orleans. On a good turnpike road, it could be conveyed in a stage as often, and in less than half the time, at the same expense. And what is a most important consideration, the utmost security would be given to the mail by such a transportation, and a very considerable increase to the receipts of the department.

I have the honor to be, respectfully, your obedient servant, JOHN McLEAN.

HON. JOHN GALLIARD.

Benefits of Education.—The 13th anniversary of the British National Education Society took place at London in June last, when the Bishop of Exeter stated, that not one child educated in a National school had been brought before a court of justice; it had indeed happened, that in a very few instances, children had been committed, who were said to be from National schools; but it had been ascertained that these children had either been dismissed as incorrigible, or had been so very short a time in the school as neither to have imbibed the principles there instilled, nor to have cast off the lawless habits which they had acquired before their admission.

Southern Intelligence.

A VOICE FROM THE FIRE. We give the following as we received it from the mouth of a gentleman of respectability, and have the drunkard to draw instruction from the fact.

A shoemaker's shop was lately burnt in Saugus, and two brothers, in a state of brutal intoxication, perished in the flames. The evening before this event, one of them purchased a pint of rum, of a neighbouring trader, and assured him that he would pay him by ten o'clock the next morning, if he had to take hell for the money.

MISCELLANEOUS.

FROM AN ENGLISH PAPER.

The deplorable effects of superstitious observances.—I have been grieved since I came back from Meliphilla, by the state of a beautiful and amiable girl, which has arisen from a misunderstood spirit of devotion. Before I went away she was gay and cheerful, the delight of her father's house. Her music and her poetry, and her reading aloud while others worked, formed the charm of her home. But her mother, though a clever woman, is a bigot; and Maria's mind, of a high and lofty nature, is peculiarly susceptible of religious impressions. Under these, the tender conscientious girl, to punish herself for an attachment not favored by her house, which she still felt, though at her parent's bidding she had given up its object, resolved to go for ten days to a Casa de Exercicio. There, under the guidance of an old priest, the young creatures who retired thus, are kept praying night and day, with so little food and sleep, that their bodies and minds alike become weakened. All the intervals between the masses, which are of the most laborious nature, are passed in silence: no voice is heard above a whisper, and the light of heaven is scarcely admitted. A young married woman, who went in with Maria, came out even gayer than she entered; doubtless her heart had rested on her husband and her home. But what was to occupy the thoughts and affections of the girl whose best feelings were to be crushed? Could she harbor there? A wish but death, a passion but despair?—and she has returned, as it were, to earth—on it, but not of it. The sight of friends throws her into fits of hysterical weeping, and, only prostrate before the altar, and repeating the masses of her house of wo, does she seem soothed or calmed. Such are the effects of the house of exercise. I might have thought that my young friend's peculiar disposition alone, had caused this; but I know a youth who was, I am told, once all that parents could wish—accomplished and enlightened, and possessed of honor and spirit. He is now little better than a drivelling idiot. He went into a house of exercise a man—he came out of it what he is. Oh! if I had power or influence here, I would put down these mischievous establishments. Even when they do not cause, as in this instance, a derangement of the intellect, they are nurseries of bigotry and fanaticism. To have been in one, is a source of vanity, to conform to the sentiments inculcated there, a point of conscience; and as it is easier to be a bigot than a virtuous man, great laxity of conduct is permitted, so the spirit is bent to maintain the church, and to persecute, or at least keep down those who are not of it.—Mrs. Graham's Journal of a Residence in Chili.

Important Trial.—The celebrated case of Clarke against the Corporation of Washington, to recover the amount of a Ticket in the Grand National Lottery, purchased by the said Clarke, and which drew the prize of \$100,000, occupied our court the whole of last week. The law and the facts were very minutely examined and canvassed, and the instructions given by the court to the jury were remarkable for their perspicuity. The jury retired about two o'clock on Saturday, and in three quarters of an hour returned into court with a verdict for the plaintiff of \$85,000, to carry interest from the 17th March, 1823, till paid. The prize was subject to a discount of 15 per cent. We understand that a motion has been made for a new trial.

The Attorney General of the United States and Thomas Swann, Esq. for plaintiff; and Gen. Walter Jones, for defendant.—Alex. Her.

A Dreadful Situation.—Much sensibility is expressed as to the distressing and miserable situation in which the Governor of Kentucky is placed by the conduct of his son. He is committed to prison, and, under violent presumption, accused of MURDER in the first degree. On looking at the constitution of Kentucky, we find that the Governor of that State is entrusted with the sole power, "to grant reprieves and pardons, except in cases of impeachment." How deplorable will be the situation of the Father, if the Governor shall be called upon to sign the death warrant of his son. Without the public, powerful and pressing consideration which moved Brutus, Gov. Desha is likely to be placed in nearly the same situation. He cannot now resign, because to resign would be to prejudice his son's guilt, by presuming his conviction, which is the only thing which can compel him to act upon the case. His situation is indeed heart-rending and most pitiable.—PHIL. PRESS.

Extraordinary.—Twenty-three years ago, George Robbins, of Connecticut, went to sea, and was supposed to be lost; but on Sunday week, his brother received a letter from him, dated in the Spanish mines at Yucatan, the 20th

May last, (which is published in the *Wilmington Gazette*) informing them that he had been condemned to the mines for life, in consequence of being engaged in a smuggling concern, and connected in a conspiracy; but that the Governor, in consequence of his good behaviour, had promised to clear him on his next birthday. The father of Robinson is still alive, and ready to go and visit his son, if he is not liberated as promised.

HUNTING SPORT.

LEWISTOWNS, (PENNS.) DEC. 14.

It is stated that John Mitchell, Esq. of Bellefonte, went to the foot of the Allegheny, a bear hunting, one day last week—after travelling a short distance, he started a fine buck and wounded it.—The deer ran a short distance over a small eminence into a hollow, he heard it make a strange noise, as if he had ran against a snag—he immediately followed it, and went within about 40 yards, he saw the deer on its back, and perceived a panticle have hold of it by the throat, he immediately shot the monster through the heart—on getting a little nearer, he saw another of these animals have hold of the deer; the under bushes prevented him from seeing any thing of the monster but a part of his head, he immediately fired and hit it in the eye. The panther let go his game and made towards him; Mr. Mitchell by this time had his rifle loaded, and again shot and hit it in the face shoulder; the monster however still stood, and appeared disposed to make towards the huntsman. Mr. Mitchell reloaded, in haste, and with breathless anxiety, as the animal advanced, he brought it down.

The last of these animals killed is said to have been the largest ever seen in this part of the country. Their skins were taken through town last evening.

Junata Gazette.

A party of three gentlemen, in pursuit of runaway negroes on North Inlet yesterday, were attacked by about twenty negroes who were armed, and threatened their lives. They had to leave them. Today, Sheriff Huggins ordered out the several companies here, who have gone down in boats, armed and provisioned, &c. to break up the gang. One of the three gentlemen beset by these negroes, was Mr. John Thompson, who was so unmercifully beaten by three white men, about fourteen months ago.

Georgetown Gazette.

Hat Machine.—We are requested to state, says the Democratic Press, that a native of Connecticut has invented a machine to make Hats, which is now in operation near Hamiltonville, on the West Chester road. It is propelled by a steam engine four horse power. It dispenses with the labor of many hands. The expense of manufacturing a hat body, by this machine, is said to be but four cents. Citizens are invited to go and view this labor saving machine in operation.

A DESPERADO.

On Friday last, a soldier deserted from Fort Mifflin, under circumstances which induced a belief that he had stolen forty dollars from one of the officers. As soon as it was known that he had gone, Major Belton despatched a Sergeant, and a file of men in search of him, who having spent several hours in useless search, fortunately met Mr. North, a vigilant watchman on the Point, and after giving him a description of him, he recognized in the person described a man whom he had noticed through the evening, as having changed his dress, and was induced from that circumstance, to trace him to his room among the frail sisterhood on the Causeway, and to which place he plotted the Sergeant and his comrades, and by making a rapid movement upon the gentleman's bed chamber, surprised him in the arms of his "dear one." He made no resistance, but after dressing himself, accompanied the watchman and the guard of soldiers very quietly to the Watch House, where he was deposited for safe keeping, until morning. After the prisoner had been locked up in one of the prison rooms, the Sergeant stated to Captain Evans that he had better take care, as he was a bad fellow, and had a drink, upon which the captain concluded it would be best to take him from him before the guard retired, and for the purpose called him out into the guard room, and demanded of the prisoner whether he had not a drink, to which he very civilly replied he had; the captain then approached near to him, and asked him to give it to him, and to which request he as civilly replied that he would, and putting his hand into the side pocket of his coat, drew out the drink and handed it to the Captain. Evans and the Sergeant almost at the same instant, Capt. Evans was stabbed in the breast just below the stomach. At the moment of stabbing, he took to his heels and succeeded in making his escape; the Sergeant attempted to follow him, but fell at the critical loss of blood; he was however pursued by a file of soldiers and several watchmen up Market street, and was overtaken by one of the soldiers opposite to Ramsay's Rope Walk, who endeavored to stop him, probed him in the back with his bayonet, which had the effect to arrest his progress, but he no sooner stopped than he was seized by such a dreadful certainty, that the soldier received seven stabs in the breast, and the villain succeeded in getting off, and eluded all search for the remainder of the night. He was, however, pursued by Major Belton, in the morning, on the Philadelphia road, whither it was conjectured he had bent his course, and was arrested and brought back. But such was the determined spirit of the villain, that he brandished his sword in the face of the guard when they came to arrest him, and it was not until a pistol had been pointed at him, that he gave himself up. He is now safely lodged in our jail, where he will remain until the Court sits, when he will have his case measured out to him. It appears, that he is undergoing an examination before the magistrates, and is believed with great rudeness, and made a total denial, as to the facts that were stated.