

National Legislature

IN THE SENATE...

SENATE.

THURSDAY, JAN. 25.—Mr. Van Buren presented the memorial of the Chamber of Commerce of the city of New-York, representing that, in consequence of the great increase of imports and exports at the port of that city, the merchants have frequently experienced serious injury from delays at the Custom-House, occasioned by the inability of any one person to discharge the duties of Collector of that port, whilst obliged to attend the import and export duties, with that promptness required by commercial interests; and suggesting the expediency of separating these branches of commerce, and of appointing an additional officer, to whom may be assigned the duty of attending to exports. Referred to the Secretary of the Treasury.

DRAWBACK ON CORDAGE.

The Senate then resumed the consideration of the bill "allowing a drawback on the exportation of cordage manufactured in the United States from foreign hemp." The question pending, "Shall the bill be engrossed, and read a third time?"

Mr. D'Wolf and Mr. Lloyd, of Mass. made some observations in favor of the bill, and Mr. Johnson of Ken. Edwards, and Mr. Dickerson, against it.

The question was then taken on ordering the bill to a third reading, and it was determined in the negative, by yeas and nays, as follows:—Yeas 11—Nays 24.

INLAND TRADE BETWEEN MISSOURI AND MEXICO.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 26.—The Senate then resumed the consideration of the bill to authorize the President of the United States to cause a road to be marked out from the western frontier of Missouri to the confines of Mexico; and after considerable debate, the question was taken by Yeas and Nays, and decided as follows:—Yeas 30—Nays 12.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 26.—Mr. Wright, from the committee appointed to prepare and report such rules as in their opinion may be proper to be observed in the election of President and Vice President, made the following report, which was referred and ordered to be printed:

The Committee appointed "to prepare and report such rules as, in their opinion, may be proper to be observed by this House, in the choice of a President of the United States, whose term of service is to commence on the fourth day of March next, if, on counting the votes given in the several States, in the manner presented in the Constitution of the United States, it shall appear that no person has received a majority of the votes of all the Electors of President and Vice President, appointed in the several States,"

REPORT: That the following Rules be observed by the House in the choice of a President of the United States, whose term is to commence on the fourth day of March, 1825, if the choice shall constitutionally devolve upon the House:

1st. In the event of its appearing, on opening all the certificates and counting the votes given by the Electors, of the several States for President, that no person has a majority of the votes of the whole number of Electors appointed, and the result shall have been declared, the same shall be entered on the Journals of this House.

2d. The roll of the House shall then be called, and, on its appearing, that a member or members, from two-thirds of the States are present, the House shall immediately proceed, by ballot, to choose a President from the persons having the highest numbers, not exceeding three, on the list of those voted for as President; and in case neither of those persons shall receive the votes of a majority of all the States on the first ballot, the House shall continue to ballot for a President, without interruption by other business, until a President be chosen.

3d. The doors of the Hall shall be closed during the balloting, except against members of the Senate, and the officers of the House; and the galleries shall be closed on the request of the delegation of any one State.

4th. From the commencement of the balloting until the election is made, no proposition to adjourn shall be received, unless on the motion of one State, seconded by another State; and the question shall be decided by States. The same rule shall be observed in regard to any motion to change the usual hour for the meeting of the House.

5th. In balloting the following mode shall be observed, to wit:

The Representatives of each State shall be arranged and seated together, beginning with the seats at the right hand of the Speaker's chair, with the members from the State of Maine, thence proceeding with the members from the States, in the order the States are usually named for receiving petitions, around the Hall of the House, until all are seated;

A ballot-box shall be provided for each State;

The Representatives of each State shall,

in the first instance, ballot among themselves, in order to ascertain the vote of the State, and they may, if necessary, appoint tellers of their ballots; After the vote of each State is ascertained, duplicates thereof shall be made out, and in case any one of the persons from whom the choice is to be made, shall receive a majority of the votes given, on any one balloting, by the Representatives of a State, the name of that person shall be written on each of the duplicates; and, in case the votes so given shall be divided, so that neither of said persons shall have a majority of the whole number of votes given by such state on any one balloting, then the word "divided" shall be written on each duplicate;

After the delegation from each State shall have ascertained the vote of their State, the Clerk shall name the States in the order they are usually named for receiving petitions; and as the name of each is called, the Sergeant-at-Arms shall present to the delegation of each two ballot-boxes, in each of which shall be deposited, by some Representative of the State, one of the duplicates made as aforesaid, of the vote of said State, in the presence, and subject to the examination, of all the members from said State then present; and, where there is more than one Representative from a State, the duplicates shall not both be deposited by the same person; When the votes of the States are thus all taken in, the Sergeant-at-Arms shall carry one of the said ballot-boxes to one table, and the other to a separate and distinct table;

One person from each State, represented in the balloting shall be appointed by its Representatives to tell off said ballots; but, in case the Representatives fail to appoint a teller, the Speaker shall appoint;

The said tellers shall divide themselves into two sets, as nearly equal in number as can be, and one of the said set of tellers shall proceed to count the votes in one of said boxes, and the other set the votes in the other box;

When the votes are counted by different sets of tellers, the result shall be reported to the House, and if the reports agree, the same shall be accepted as the true votes of the States; but if the reports disagree, the States shall proceed, in the same manner as before, to a new ballot;

6th. All questions arising after the ballotings commence, requiring the decision of the House, which shall be decided by the House voting per capita, to be incidental to the power of choosing a President, shall be decided by States without debate; and in case of an equal division of the votes of States, the question shall be lost.

7th. When either of the persons from whom the choice is to be made, shall have the majority of all the States, the Speaker shall declare the same, and that that person is elected President of the United States.

8th. The result shall be immediately communicated to the Senate by message; and a committee of three persons shall be appointed to inform the President of the United States, and the President elect of his election.

MONDAY, JAN. 31.—The Speaker laid before the House a communication from the Secretary of War, containing returns of the militia of the States and Territories, together with an abstract of the annual returns of arms and accoutrements—prepared in conformity with the act of Congress of March 2d, 1803; which was referred, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. M'Lane from the committee of Ways and Means, to whom was referred an act from the Senate "to secure the accountability of public officers and others," reported the same, without amendment.

Mr. Forsyth, from the committee on Foreign Relations, made a report on so much of the President's message as relates to piracy and outrages committed on our commerce by Spanish vessels; which was ordered to be printed.

On motion of Mr. Forsyth, it was Resolved, That the committee on Indian Affairs be instructed to inquire into the expediency of making an appropriation for the extinguishment of the Indian title to land lying in the State of Georgia, by purchases from those Creek and Cherokee Indians who reside within the limits of the said state.

Mr. Forsyth referred to the message from the President of the United States, which was presented to the House last week. The information which he possessed on the subject, differed from that contained in the message. He understood that some of the Creek nation were anxious to sell their lands to the United States, without the consent of the rest of the tribe. He referred to the precedent to show that such had been the course of these Indians, in a former treaty; and expressed his wish to take the sense of the House on the subject.

Mr. Forsyth offered the following resolution, which lies one day on the table:

INTELLIGENCE.

NEW-YORK, JAN. 29.

VERY LATE FROM ENGLAND.

Last evening, the ship Tally-ho, Glover, arrived at this port after a remarkably quick passage at this season, of 23 days from the Downs, which she left on the 5th inst. The regular packet ship John Wells, from Liverpool, also came up, but having sailed on the 10th December, the contents of our files with her have already been anticipated by the Paris papers received by the Havre packet. We have also received Lloyd's Lists to the 22d December.

The London Morning Chronicle gives a letter from Madrid, dated December 7th, the contents of which, if true, would seem to warrant a belief that Spain feels very much disposed to quarrel with this country. The writer says:—

"In my last I mentioned the American Minister having sent off his Secretary at a short notice with despatches to Washington—the cause now comes out. The king, in his wisdom, formally demands of the United States to recall the recognition of the independence of the several Spanish countries in America, under pain, in case of refusal, of issuing a royal decree revoking the cession of the Floridas."

Another London paper states that Mr. Appleton, of the American Legation to Spain, had embarked at Liverpool for New-York. It cannot be long, therefore, ere this is cleared up. The determination of our government to adopt, in compliance with the wishes of the nation, more energetic measures than those hitherto employed, to root out the pirates who find shelter in the island of Cuba, will, probably, be as displeasing to Ferdinand as our recognition of the independence of the South American States. Our Minister, Mr. Rush, is stated to have transacted business with Mr. Canning on the 21st December.

Spain.—A new treaty is said to have been signed on the 10th Dec. between France and Spain, relative to the continuance of part of the troops of the former in the Peninsula. At Cadiz they were fortifying Caraca and Leon, and collecting money to pay themselves. Madrid had been entirely evacuated by the invaders; and it was reported that the pious Ferdinand talked of abdicating the throne and retiring to the Escorial, where he contemplated devoting himself entirely to religion. The arrests and punishment of the opposers of his tyranny continued with unabated rigor. The Duke of Triana, Duke of Abrantes, Count Altamara, Marquis Ceralve, and Marquis Alcanizes, who had been banished from Court for Constitutionality, were carried into Madrid, Dec. 16, and lodged in the common jail. A party of Constitutionals had landed on the coast of Valentia, but hearing of the approach of some troops, they re-embarked, having previously killed a few royalists that opposed them.

Portugal.—The king of Portugal is also said to have become tired of governing, and to have proposed to abdicate. French influence appears to predominate at Lisbon, which had excited a good deal of jealousy in England. It was likewise reported that the king of Portugal had refused to ratify a treaty concluded at London between the Ministers of Brazil and Portugal, by which the latter were to acknowledge the independence of the former. An Algerine squadron had passed the Straits of Gibraltar for the purpose of cruising against Portuguese commerce, on learning which, two frigates and a corvette were despatched from the Tagus in pursuit of them.

Greece.—The Greeks had obtained another naval victory over the Turks about the middle of November, and the government had officially announced the blockade of Petras and Lepanto. The Turks were withdrawing their troops, and talked of forming a new army for another campaign in the spring. It is acknowledged, however, that they want the means. The Grand Seignor, dissatisfied with the conduct of the Pacha of Egypt, is said to have determined to send him a firman inviting him to have his head taken off; but no messenger could be found willing to carry the despatches, the Pacha having formerly resisted similar orders.

France.—The King of France had opened the Legislative Chambers by a set speech, the contents of which are noway remarkable. His coronation will take place in May or June. M. Hyde de Neuville had left Lisbon for Paris.

Great Britain.—The British Parliament is prorogued to the 3d February.—The London Courier says that Mr. Stratford Canning's mission to Russia has several objects: the settling the boundary line on the north-west coast of America, the affairs of Greece and those of South America. On the two first, the most desirable results were to be anticipated; and with regard to the latter, Great Britain had no intention of adopting at present any new course of policy. On the rumors which had grown out of recent frequent meetings of the Cabinet Council, the same paper remarks:—"at no period has the aspect of public affairs been more gratifying, more pacific and more calculated to inspire the most sanguine hopes of a long continuance of prosperous tranquility, than they are at this moment."

Mr. Ward was to return to Mexico, and

Col. Campbell to Bogota, as British Commissioners.

Disturbances continued among the Whiteboys in Ireland; and there had been an Irish mob at Edinburg, which, however, was attended with no serious consequences. At the Liverpool theatre a riot took place; and Mathews, the actor, had been insulted at the Dublin theatre.

A meeting was held in London on the 17th December, to raise a fund for the Spanish and Italian refugees in and about London, and 1,100l. subscribed.

The extreme wet weather in England, &c. had occasioned a scarcity of bread-stuffs, and a considerable rise in price.

A company had been formed in England, with a capital of 600,000l. for working the mines in Peru.

Mr. Day's racing stud was sold on the 14th Dec. under the hammer at Tattersall's. His chestnut colt Monticello, 3 years old, by Soothsayer, out of Snowdrop, a colt of great size and power, sold for 350 guineas.

A steam boiler, attached to a machine shop at Manchester, burst, while all the workmen were busily employed in the factory. The explosion shook the houses violently in its neighborhood, and shattered the windows in all directions. The whole of the building, which contained the boiler, was blown up, and with it several workmen. A number of dead bodies had been dug out of the ruins.—Six men, dreadfully wounded and scalded, were taken to the hospital, but no hopes were entertained of their recovery.

Mr. Canning was confined with the gout at the Foreign office. The King was in his ordinary health.

Cotton.—At London, Dec. 27, there was an animated demand for cotton. The sales of the preceding week were 7,250 bags, at an advance of 1-8 to 1 per lb.

The sales of cotton at Liverpool, the week preceding the 18th, amounted to 24,800 bags, consisting of 8055 bowed, 8 1/2 a 9 1/2 inferior to fair, 9 1/2 a 10 1/2 good fair to very good; 574 Orleans 9 1/2 a 10 1/2 inferior fair, 10 1/2 a 11d good fair to good; 1607 Alabama 8 1/2 a 9 1/2; 1218 Sea Island 16 1/2 a 18 1/2 fair to good fair, 19 a 21d good to fine and choice; 173 stained do. 9 a 11d.

The Inundation.—We have given below some particulars respecting the terrible inundation which took place at St. Petersburg. The official account of the loss of lives, makes the number only 500, altho' report says it was as many thousands.—The emperor contributed 1,000,000 of rubles to the sufferers; the empress 500,000; the commercial fund 1,000,000, &c. The hurricane had been felt in almost every sea port on the continent of Europe; and in England, the gales continued to the latest dates.

St. Petersburg, Nov. 20, 1824.

"A most awful calamity has befallen our city by the overflowing of the river Neva, to a height never known before. Our streets are at this moment filled with the wrecks of houses, vessels, firewood, timber and thousands of dead bodies of men and domestic animals, which found their death in the floods. Some of the neighbouring villages are entirely swept away, and their inhabitants perished. The herring warehouse, containing at least 15,000 barrels herrings, has drifted away with its contents. All shopkeepers goods and merchandise generally on the first floor, are ruined, as well as the immense quantity of merchandise stowed in the custom-house warehouses, situated on the lowest grounds of the city; the bakers are unable to bake, and a famine stares us in our faces. Commercial transactions, or payments are not thought of. The hearts of all are filled with pity and grief. Thousands of families, which a few days since were in affluence, are reduced to want.

"Yesterday, (19 Nov.) about 9 o'clock, the water in different canals, which are branches of the Neva, and intersect the city, began to rise most rapidly, so that at 2 o'clock the street of the Glehenhoff, which is considered one of the highest parts, was overflowed ten feet; consequently no part of the city remained dry. The inhabitants of small houses fled with their families, to the roofs; those less resolute, who hesitated, or endeavoured to fly out of doors, perished, or were swept away. To increase the awfulness of the scene, a hurricane arose, which, together with the force of the water, burst open the strongest doors, window-shutters, and floated off such houses as were built of wood. The roofs of houses are generally covered with sheet tin or copper, which the force of the wind rolled up like paper, and carried away in the air to a great distance from the original spot. At 3 o'clock the waters began to fall, and at 9 o'clock they had retreated to the highest mark of former rises, so that one could walk the streets again; but the darkness of the night, and the continuance of the storm, made it impossible to judge of the scene of destruction which was exhibited at day-break this morning."

A letter from St. Petersburg, of the 25th Nov. says, the principal scene of distress was at the Imperial Foundry, on the Peterhoff road. The works were stopped, and the men ordered to go to the assistance of their families. It was impossible to reach them, and they were only enabled to save themselves by regaining the roof of the works, from whence they had the misery of seeing their houses, with their wives and children, carried a-

way by the flood—195 ladies had been found and 54 men have been missing.—The Botanic Garden, enriched with plants from every part of the world, was destroyed—the principal director, Dr. Fischer, saved himself in the garret of his house.

Present state of Spain.—The following extract of a letter from a gentleman of high standing in Madrid, to his correspondent in this city, gives a melancholy picture of the state of affairs in this unhappy country. We will only add, that the information may be regarded as authentic. The letter is dated Madrid, 15th November. Nat. Journal.

"It is difficult to hazard an opinion respecting the affairs of this country.—The French troops are to leave this, on their return to France, on the 1st of next month; but, twenty-two thousand men are to remain at Cadiz, Barcelona, Figueras, Pampeluna, and St. Sebastian; besides which, the two regiments of French Swiss guards are to remain until such time as the Spanish royal guard is properly organized. The public papers will give you a pretty correct account of what passes. Hanging, strangling, and shooting, are now become so frequent, and persecutions and arrests so general, that the state of this unfortunate country can only be compared to that of France in the year 1792."

This moment is thy own—the next is in the womb of futurity.—Every day's occurrences test the truth of this aphorism, and a melancholy illustration of it occurred a few days since. An aged, venerable couple, whose children had emigrated from Ireland to this country, stimulated by that feeling which nature has implanted within every parent's breast, spite of poverty and age, left their native soil to visit their only surviving child, who is engaged, as we understand, in a thriving business at New-York. Two of their sons died in their adopted country's cause—one under Gen. Brown, the other under Gen. WINCHESTER. The snows of more than eighty winters had frosted the locks of each, but animated with the desire of seeing their child, they determined to visit New-York—but in their eagerness to come, or from want of geographical knowledge, they sailed for New-Orleans. They suffered much from the climate and their indigence, but through the kindness of individuals, they arrived a few days since, as far as this place, in prosecution of their intended journey. Sympathy is the product of every soil, and here they were furnished with the means to reach Warrenton. There, kindness again alleviated their destitute condition, and they left Warrenton in comfort, with letters to another good Samaritan, who is ever willing to pour the balm of consolation into the wounds of suffering humanity. For some miles, before the stage reached Maj. Gholson's, the old Lady appeared much exhausted, and had rested against her husband. When the stage stopped, LIFE was exhausted, and so merciful had been the dispensation, that neither groan or motion had indicated the awful moment!

The unfortunate survivor is named Montgomery, and the brave General of that name, who fell at Quebec, was his paternal cousin. Raleigh Register.

CADIZ, (OHIO), DEC. 18, 1824.

Bent this who can.—We are informed that a gentleman on Canotten, killed, at a single shot, three Deers, and wounded the fourth in such a manner that he obtained it. Another, in Stocktownship, killed two at one shot. Another, in the same township, killed one, at a single shot, whilst his dog, who had caught it, was holding it. And another, who had come from Jefferson county on a hunting expedition, and, whilst in the same township, he saw a deer, immediately placed his back against a sturdy oak (which he almost caused to shake) presented his gun, shut both eyes, fired, and frightened the poor animal prodigiously.—Telegraph.

ROBBERY.

In Washington, on Thursday night the 20th inst. a citizen was assaulted by three white men, in the street south of the capitol square; one of them held a pistol at his breast, while the others robbed him of his pocket book and watch.—After rifling the pocket book of the small amount it contained, they threw it down and ran off with the watch, which bears the inscription of S. Trehan, Exeter, No. 4416. It is an English silver hunting watch, with a ribbon, gold seal, and brass key. As the discovery of the watch may lead to the apprehension of the robbers, it is hoped that silver-smiths and all others, to whom it may be offered for sale, will be vigilant. The interests of our community require that these villains should be detected and punished as they deserve. National Intelligencer.

The Legislature of New Hampshire at their last session, passed a law, providing that illegitimate children shall be the heirs of their mother, she dying without leaving legitimate issue; and in case of the decease of such child or children, the life-time of the mother, leaving legitimate issue, such issue shall inherit the share of such child or children, as if they were legitimate.—Telegraph.