

National Legislature

18TH CONGRESS—SECOND SESSION.

SENATE.

Wednesday, Feb. 23.—The President communicated a report from the Secretary of War, accompanied by an abstract of the rules and regulations for the field exercise and the manoeuvres of the Infantry, and the general regulations of the Army, which are observed and practised upon by the Army.

The bill "for the preservation and civilization of the Indian tribes within the United States," was read the third time, passed, and sent to the House of Representatives for their concurrence.

CUMBERLAND ROAD.

The Senate next proceeded to the consideration of the bill "for the continuation of the Cumberland Road."

Mr. Brown, of Ohio, observed, that the measure proposed by the bill, involved so little of novelty in principle or policy, that he could trespass on the time of the Senate only to make a few remarks.

It is proposed, said Mr. B., to continue to the Muskingum the road that now connects the country on the Atlantic coast with the country on the waters of the Ohio. The distance between Wheeling and Zanesville is about eighty miles, and is supposed to present the most difficult part on the whole line of road from Wheeling to the Mississippi, and the Senate is now asked to agree to an appropriation of moderate amount to commence its construction between the points contemplated by the bill. It would not be denied that the state of Ohio would be more interested, in the first place, in the proposed improvement, than her sister states, but that state is not alone concerned—several of the western states feel a deep interest in it. The appropriation required no sacrifice from the states east of the mountains. It could be no good objection that the western states were to receive the most immediate benefit. The United States, as proprietors, had a much greater ultimate interest in increasing the value of their millions of acres that would be affected by improving the means of communications with their unsettled lands.

Mr. Cobb, of Georgia, moved that the bill be indefinitely postponed, and supported his motion in a speech of about an hour and a half in length.

Mr. Ruggles, of Ohio, replied to Mr. Cobb, in a series of remarks against the motion—when the question was taken on the motion, and decided in the negative, as follows:—Ayes 19, Noes 24.

So the Senate refused to postpone the bill.

After some desultory conversation, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The Speaker laid before the House a communication from the Department of State, accompanied by a statement of passengers who arrived in the United States, from foreign countries, during the year ending the 30th September, 1824; which was laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

The Speaker laid before the House another communication from the same department, transmitting a return of American seamen, as registered by the Collectors of the Customs in the year 1824; which was laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. P. P. Barbour moved the House to take up the bill to authorize the payment of interest due to the state of Virginia, which was laid on the table, on his motion, on Monday, in order that the House might proceed to the election of Printer; which motion was sustained.

The question occurred on the amendment of the gentleman from New-York, to strike out "state of Virginia," and insert "several states."

Mr. Wood, of N. Y., supported the amendment. If the justice of the claim was allowed in one state, it ought to be allowed to all; and a refusal to allow was a denial of justice. In private transactions, a denial of this character would cover with infamy the individual who refused to repay his friend what that friend had paid for him. The claims of New-York were in a course of settlement at the Treasury, and delay would be productive of great injury. He hoped the amendment would be adopted.

Mr. Barbour begged the House to suffer the question to be taken.

Mr. Webster, as the Yeas and Nays were called, wished to state his views very briefly. In April last a message was received from the President, on the subject of this claim, and, at the same time, he recommended to make the relief general. This message recommending a general law, was referred to the Committee of Claims. What do they do? They recommend a particular bill for Virginia. They have looked over the Virginia papers, and are satisfied that she has made out her case. But the House has not looked over these papers. We are now asked to pass this law for the benefit of Virginia, because the committee have looked over the Virginia claim. He contended that we ought to extend the same rule to other states. He referred to the bill to show that Virginia had no claim but for interest; every other

claim had been satisfied; there was nothing else against the United States. And how do we propose to deal with her on this claim for interest? He read the bill to show the rule adopted, by which Virginia could receive no payment for interest until the principal itself was paid. It was again provided that interest only should be paid on sums on which she herself had paid interest. He questioned the correctness of this principle. The whole bill is a rule to regulate the accounting officers of the treasury in their allowance of the claim of Virginia. This bill is reported, instead of a general law recommended by the President. He replied to the argument that when other states petitioned, they would be heard. Would the House deal out justice on petitions? If the principle thus laid down be adopted, we shall have to pass as many laws as there are states. He apprehended that the whole argument was founded in mistake. It is supposed that the house knew something peculiarly favorable in regard to Virginia. There was nothing, however, in this claim, to make it different from the claims of other states. The committee may have, in this case, considered facts proved, which the accounting officers may not consider proved; and it might then be considered to pass a new law. The object, and whole intent of this law is, that when Virginia proves that she has paid interest on sums which she has borrowed for the use of the United States, and which she has refunded, then the interest so paid is to be refunded to her. What objection could there be to an extension of this principle to other states? Those who voted against the amendment involved themselves in difficulty, since it was giving that to Virginia, which, on like grounds, was to be refused to New-York. He did not object to the bill, on any ground of justice; he considered it just, but that it ought to be extended.

Mr. Wickliffe moved the previous question—Ayes 71, Noes 59.

The Ayes and Noes were then ordered on the question "Shall the main question be now put?"

The question was then put, when there appeared—Yeas 88, Nays 80.

The main question was about to be put, when

Mr. Webster moved that the question on the engrossment of the bill be taken by Ayes and Noes, which was sustained.

The question on engrossment was then taken by Ayes and Noes, when there appeared—Ayes 133, Noes 36.

The bill was then ordered to be engrossed and read a third time to-morrow.

APPROPRIATION BILLS.

Mr. McLane moved the House to take up the amendments made by the Senate in the Appropriation Bills, which, after an objection had been made by Mr. Cocke, was negatived, as it depended on general consent.

Mr. McLane then moved to postpone the other orders of the day, with a view to take up these amendments.—Ayes 83, Noes 25.

The House then resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. Whittlesey in the chair.

The amendments were then read.

On the question to concur in the amendment making appropriation for the erection of a fort at Beaufort, North-Carolina,

Mr. Foot, of Connecticut, expressed his hope, that the House would, at this late period of the session, and before the general system of fortifications was before it, refuse its concurrence.

Mr. Spaight explained, that this fort was of great importance, and formed a part of the contemplated system of fortifications; and also, that a fort was erected there, during the Presidency of Mr. Jefferson.

Mr. Cocke objected to the appropriation. It had been said, that a plan of a general system was to be laid before the House. He did not wish to act upon this system until it was before us.

Independent of this, the Secretary of War tells us, that there is no other officer of the engineer corps who can at present be employed on this work. He should, therefore, object to any appropriation until there could be spared skilful hands to carry it into execution. He had objected to this appropriation, on a former occasion, on the ground that the subject had not been examined by a committee. That objection had been partially removed by the examination which had been made by a committee of the Senate; but he thought, if the subject were to go before our own military committee, we should have a full report on the subject.

Mr. Saunders, of N. C. replied, that, as to information on this subject, it had been presented to the committee of the Senate, who had reported the amendment. And, in relation to the other objection, he explained, that this was part of the system necessary to be adopted for our defence. He believed that, if the appropriation were now made, some officer of the engineers would be found in the course of the year to go on with the work. If not, the money would be in the Treasury. The work is important, and should be commenced as early as possible.

Mr. Foot, of Conn. thought North-Carolina should be the last state to ask for a fortification. He objected to the general policy, as he considered fortifi-

cations as merely inviting hostile attacks; and the more you extend them, the more you increase the inducements to hostile forces to attack the coast.

Mr. Cocke objected to a fortification being authorized, before a survey and plan were made.

Mr. Saunders explained, that a survey had been made.

Mr. Cocke then continued his objections, contending that we have not information sufficient to justify the appropriation. He did not know that any enemy had been in North-Carolina.

Mr. Saunders replied, that Admiral Cockburn was there.

Mr. Cocke answered, that Admiral Cockburn was driven there by a storm, but did not stay.

Mr. McLane said, it was now too late to make objections to the general system of defence. The system was established; and he strongly protested against these attempts to defeat appropriations, in conformity with that system. The committee of the Senate had received the information which was necessary on the subject. We had it, even to the stone which would be necessary for its erection, and the strength to man it. The survey had only just been completed; and we have it in our possession. Why then should we not proceed, and round off this system of defence. The gentleman from Tennessee had stated, that if this money were appropriated, there was no officer to use it. That gentleman was mistaken, both as to the fact and the premises. It had been always the practice of the House to make appropriations one year in advance; and the appropriation now asked, was to provide the materials, and was in the usual course of legislation adopted by this House.

Mr. Mangum, of North-Carolina, rose to defend the present appropriation. He could not, however, avoid expressing his entire approbation to the extreme vigilance, the sleepless eye, with which the gentleman from Tennessee sits, like an incubus on the Treasury chest, guarding it with a drawn sword. Nor could he help complimenting the gentleman from Connecticut, who had discovered that the general system was wrong, because fortifications are of no other use than to attract hostility. Your fortifications have sprung up in the wilderness, in the midst of swamps, through which an enemy must march to attack them, in the midst of musquitos and wild beasts; yet there is a vulnerable part of the coast where not a single pebble had been touched. He thought this request was not out of season. He should not endeavor to show the patriotism of North-Carolina, but would put the question on the simple ground of justice.

Mr. Newton said a word or two on the importance of this part of the coast, along which all our productions had to pass in their transit from the north to the south, and vice versa, and the necessity of a fortification there.

The question was then taken on concurrence;—Ayes 82, Noes 33.

The Bill for the Suppression of Piracy, which caused so much debate in the Senate, may be expected to come before the House of Representatives immediately after the private bills are gone through. The e are about twelve of this class to be acted on; it is therefore probable that this important measure may be taken up in the course of this day, or early to-morrow morning. The strongest sections in the bill, and those which called forth the spirited opposition which it encountered in the Senate, having been stricken out, the discussion in the House will be much more limited, and much less warm, than it would otherwise have been. Still we believe there will be some proposition to amend it further, so as to make it, in fact, simply a bill to authorize the building of the sloops of war. It is necessary that, in some shape, that bill should pass. The insults offered to our national character, and the injury done to our commerce; the wanton destruction of property; and, above all, the cool and cruel murders of our valuable citizens, call loudly for the adoption of some measures to check the depredations which are daily committed; and Congress can scarcely perform an act more acceptable to the country than by closing the session with some legislative provisions which will give security alike to the speculations of our merchants and the enterprise of our seamen.

Nat. Journal.

Another unsuccessful attempt was made yesterday, in the House of Representatives, to introduce into the bill making appropriations for fortifications, an appropriation for a school of practice for artillery. The military appropriation bill was laid on the table, to give the House time to examine certain appropriations, introduced by the Senate, for the purpose of carrying into effect some Indian treaties which have been confirmed by that body since the bill passed the House of Representatives.

The bill, which passed the Senate on the preceding day, for the purchase of Rembrandt Peale's Equestrian Portrait of Washington, was received in the House yesterday; and, after being read, received its death blow, by a successful motion to postpone it indefinitely. 76.

INTELLIGENCE.

From a late London paper.

GREECE AND TURKEY.

Letters from Constantinople of December 2, announce the evacuation of Moldavia by the Ottoman Porte. It is said that the Sultan had considered extraordinary measures necessary for the protection of his person.

Accounts from Zante of the 13th of December, say that Colocotroni (the son) who had excited some disturbances in opposition to the Greek Central Government, had been executed, or, as others say, had been killed in an action with the troops of the Government. Private letters from Hydra of the 2d December, say, that since the naval action fought off Candia, there had been another engagement near Rhodes, in which an Egyptian frigate was burnt, and several transports taken.

On the 27th Nov. Constantine Botzaris, informed that Jousse Pacha had just sent two thousand men from Lepanto, commanded by the celebrated Achmet Pacha, left Sicheia himself, for the purpose of encountering them. He came up with them on the plain of Xero Campos, beat them, killed Achmet Pacha, and took away from the Turks the desire of giving further annoyance to the besiegers. The capture, therefore, of the fort of Patras, may be considered very near.

SOUTH AMERICA.

The London Courier in speaking of the late act of the British government in recognizing the independence of Mexico and Colombia, says, "The first condition which his Majesty's government required, as a motive to recognition, is fully completed. These states have made satisfactory progress towards a regular and settled form of government, and the time has arrived when the recognition of their separate political existence, could no longer be delayed. In Mexico we have seen an anomalous and heterogeneous constitution has been replaced by one which, in all its essential forms, resembles that of the United States." The time too has arrived (continues the Courier), "when the interest of his Majesty's subjects imperiously called for the measure. The commercial transactions between England and South America generally, but more particularly with Buenos Ayres, Mexico, and Colombia are extensive and rapidly increasing. With respect to Buenos Ayres, we understand, that at a period anterior to the recent cabinet deliberations upon the subject of Mexico and Colombia, measures had been adopted calculated to lead to similar results, and we should not be surprised to find the commercial relations with the La Plata provinces ratified before those can be which have been entered into with Colombia and Mexico."

Some of the French editors are displeased at the British government for recognising, as they term it, "the Insurgent States of South America." The Etoile of the 6th January, remarks, that the Cabinet of Great Britain must now be considered hostile, not only to the monarchy of Spain, but all the Cabinets of the other great Powers of Europe.

IRELAND.

It is with extreme regret that we observe the growing animosity between the Catholics and Protestants in the sister kingdom. We do not presume to say which party is the most to blame, and the discussion of this question would tend rather to increase than allay this irritation. We cannot avoid, however, expressing our sorrow that the Roman Catholic Clergy of Ireland should have tho't it their duty to have addressed a pastoral letter to their flocks, in which the doctrines of the Romish Church, which are the most offensive to Protestants, are brought prominently forward, and expressed in terms which must shock not only every Protestant, but every liberal and enlightened man, of whatever religious faith he may be. Under the pretext of preserving their flocks from heresy, these pastors actually prohibit them from reading every religious work which is not strictly Catholic. As to the Bible, it is treated with a contempt which could not have been expected from Christian ministers. The principles openly avowed in this pastoral letter, which is to be read in all the Catholic chapels, are such as would have done discredit to the darkest ages. This document claims for the Romish church a submission and prostration of the understanding which the Almighty has not thought fit to exact for himself, and which it is equally absurd and impious to render to any human authority, whether the claim be made in behalf of Bishops, Popes, Councils, Synods, or the whole body of the church.

London paper.

NEW-YORK, Feb. 26.

The British line of battle ship *Romney*, of 50 guns, arrived off the Hook late last evening, in 50 days from England, and sailed again immediately. The gentlemen composing the Board of Canadian Land Commissioners, came up in a pilot boat. The *Romney* brings no news of importance, with the exception of the sailing of the ship *Eugenia* from England for South America, having on board Commissioners to negotiate a treaty of

commerce with the Republics of Mexico and Colombia.

The President's Message was received at Greenock by the ship *Camillus*, Peck, which arrived there on the 2d January from New-York, and on the 7th and 8th it was published at length in the London papers, accompanied by remarks highly complimentary of the people and Government of this country.

From the New York Commercial Advertiser.

A Swindler.—Much excitement has been created in the eastern part of the county of Otsego, in this state, within the last few weeks, by the failure and flight of GILBERT F. JONES, an Englishman, who, for two or three years past, has been extensively engaged in the wool manufacturing business in the town of Eaton. "He has absconded," says the Hamilton Recorder, leaving debts behind him to the amount of at least 55,000 dollars; of which, it is believed, 25,000 dollars are papers endorsed by his friends and neighbors, whom he has thus abandoned to certain ruin."

He had borrowed money, it appears, to the extent of his credit, and by means of exhibiting the will of his father, who had lately died, leaving him a legacy of two thousand pounds sterling, and which it is believed was forged, was enabled to impose upon a great number of credulous victims. It is supposed he has gone to England with a large sum of money in his possession. The Bank of Chenango, we are told, suffers several thousands; and an attempt was made to defraud an Insurance Company in Albany several thousands more, by first getting his factory insured, and then endeavoring to loan money upon the property. He left a suffering wife, who has since died, and several small children, to the mercy of strangers. We are informed that he was indicted for swindling by the grand jury last week, and that he will be pursued to his native country."

Affecting event, the result of fraudulent bankruptcy.—Benjamin Rush, the son of that distinguished citizen who added to the stock of science by his labors, and reflected honor upon his country by his virtues as well as his genius, fell a victim to the arts of a villain who tricked him out of about forty thousand dollars, the fruits of some years of successful enterprise. Unable to throw off from his mind the consciousness of the dependence to which he was thus reduced, he came to the dreadful determination of seeking an end to his cares in a voluntary grave. Before he discharged the fatal pistol, he addressed a sensible letter as to the disposal of the little property he possessed, to his friend in New Orleans. He declared that his life had become a burthen to him, and that he could no longer sustain it. He was only about twenty-five years of age, remarkably beautiful in his person, very highly accomplished, and of the most fascinating manners and conversation. But this case, affecting as it is, we cannot compare with instances of fathers and mothers advanced in life, and they and their children separated forever and cast upon the world to seek a precarious subsistence, and all this to feed, and sustain in profligacy, some bankrupt old knave, who has neither wife nor child. *The cares and anguish inflicted by such a villain do not intrude the pillow of his barren bed.* Every day brings to our knowledge some additional reason for the call we have made upon our fellow-citizens, to discriminate between the honest bankrupt and the villain who transfers the property of his creditor to some congenial rogue, locks up his accounts, and not only laughs at the vast ruin he has made, but seeks an extenuation of his treachery and his shame in the defamation of his victims!—N. York Paper.

BOLIVAR has struck the last blow for freedom and his country. Ferdinand may now bite his own chain in the dungeons of the Escorial. His tyranny in the new world has ceased forever. The bigotry which upheld it cannot long survive its fate. The raised minds of the people are yielding to the anger of the superior virtues. The priests dread the impatience which their own intolerance has provoked, and in every direction they are flying to give in their adhesion to the new governments or to perish in those dark cells where flowers bud not and where nothing germinates. Now was there a scene upon a scale more grand, or of joy more unmixed; never one that more directly appealed to the hearts of the liberal and the good to roll up the tennings treasure of its gratitude to the great and bountiful dispenser of all blessings. Bolivar of the South had followed the diligent Beacon of the North; he has adopted, one after another, with filial care and devotion, all the prefigurations of his immortal Archangel. Bolivar, like our own Washington, is a name known to the poor, loved by the good and admired by the wise; a name—

"Which every wind to Heaven will bear,
When men to speak, and angels joy to hear."

National Advocate.

Gen. WILLIAM MARKS, President of the Senate of Pennsylvania, was, on Friday last, elected, by the Legislature of that State, on the 3d ballot, to be Senator in the Congress of the United States for six years from and after the 3d of March.