

State Legislature.

SENATE.

Thursday, Jan. 18.—Mr. Pickett from the Judiciary committee, who were instructed to enquire into the expediency of passing a law, to empower the County Courts to establish Poor and Work Houses, reported that it was inexpedient to pass a general law on the subject.

Mr. Pickett from the same committee, to whom was referred the bill to amend an act passed in 1819, to prevent the fraudulent trading with slaves, reported the same without amendment.

Mr. Pickett from the same committee, to whom was referred the bill for the relief of securities and endorsers in certain cases, reported the same without amendment.

The bill to prevent the migration of free persons of color into this State, for the good government of such persons resident therein and for other purposes, was read the 3d time.

Mr. Joyner remarked there were constitutional difficulties, in the way of this bill, which ought to prevent its passing. There were principles in it, independent of these difficulties, which he could not support, so long as he considered himself an accountable being.

The question, shall this bill pass its 3d reading, was determined in the affirmative, 45 to 14, and ordered to be engrossed.

The Senate took up the order of the day, and resolved itself into a committee of the whole, on the bill to alter the time of the annual meeting of the General Assembly, Mr. Seawell in the Chair.

The bill proposes to alter the time back to the 3d Monday in November. Mr. King moved to strike out the third Monday in November, and insert the second Monday in December.

Mr. Yancy moved that the question be first taken on striking out the third Monday in November.

Mr. Speight of Greene, moved to strike out the whole of the bill, after the enacting clause.

The Chairman said this motion was not in order. The question was then put on Mr. Yancy's motion and decided in the affirmative. Mr. Yancy then moved to insert in the place of the words stricken out, the 3d Monday in December.

The question was put on inserting the 3d Monday of December, and negatived. The question was then put on the 2d Monday of December, and decided in the affirmative.

Mr. Speight moved that the committee rise and report the bill, which was agreed to.

The Speaker resumed his seat and the Chairman reported the bill with the amendment.

The question then recurred on adopting the amendment proposed by the Committee, which was decided in the affirmative, and the bill passed its second reading.

Mr. Seawell moved that it be read the third time to-morrow. This was negatived, and the reading was called for.

Mr. Spaight of Craven, moved that the Senate adjourn, which was negatived.

The bill having been read the third time, the question on the passage of the bill was decided in the affirmative.

Friday, Jan. 19.—A resolution was received from the house of commons in favour of Francis Moreaux, granting him in fee simple, 500 acres of land on the Brushy Mountain, for the purpose of making experiments in the cultivation of the vine. The resolution passed through its several readings, and was ordered to be engrossed.

Saturday, Jan. 20.—The bill to unite the Offices of Clerk of the Superior Courts and Clerk and Master in Equity, having been read the third time, Mr. Williams of Martin moved for its indefinite postponement, which was negatived, and the question recurring on its passage it was decided in the affirmative.

Mr. Hill of Franklin submitted the following:—
Resolved, That the Senate and House of Commons be adjourned *sine die*, by their respective Speakers on Saturday the 3d day of February next.

Mr. Love moved that the resolution lie on the table.

The Senate refused to lay it on the table, and it was carried by a large majority.

Monday, Jan. 22.—Mr. Beard of Rowan, from the Select committee, to whom was referred the bill to establish a Medical Board in this State, and to regulate the practice of Physic and Surgery, made a report recommending the passage of the bill. The Report was ordered to be printed and shall hereafter be given in this paper.

Mr. Elliot presented the petition of John Mac Rae of Fayetteville, asking for the loan of a small sum of money, to aid him in publishing the Map of the State.—Referred to a select committee.

Mr. McKay presented a resolution to allow Archibald D. Murphey to use any books in the State Library, which may be of service to him in compiling his History of the State.

The following engrossed bills from the House of Commons, were read the second and third times, and ordered to be

enrolled:—

The bill to appoint commissioners to lay out a road from Salisbury to Lincoln; the bill to alter the name of Henry Brown of Robeson county and to legitimate him; the bill to appoint Commissioners to fix upon a site in the town of Lincoln, for a suitable building for the accommodation of Jurors.

The engrossed bill to authorize the appointment of Commissioners to lay out a road in Lincoln county was rejected on the ground that the County Court possessed the power of doing what was required of the Legislature.

The bill prescribing the mode of surveying and selling the lands lately acquired from the Cherokee Indians was taken up. The bill authorizes the Governor to appoint Commissioners to superintend the surveying and selling of those lands not hitherto surveyed, so much at least as in their estimation is worth fifty cents per acre.

The bill to require Defendants before they are put upon their trial, to except to such matters in the Indictment, as might after conviction be assigned as reasons in arrest of judgment, was taken up and read the second time, and on the

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Thursday, Jan. 18.—Mr. St. Clair from the Committee on agriculture, made a favourable report on the petition of Francis Moreaux, who prayed for a grant of land on the Brushy Mountain, for the purpose of cultivating the grape vine, recommending the passage of a bill which accompanied the report, giving him the use of 500 acres of land on said mountain for the term of ten years. The bill being put on question shall the bill pass, was decided in the negative.

Mr. Martin moved to strike out the words "for ten years," that the land might be granted to the petitioner in fee simple.

Mr. Fisher was decidedly in favor of granting to the petitioner, for the purpose proposed, as it might be of more advantage to the State, if the experiment succeeded, than any one could now foresee.

The question on Mr. Martin's motion to strike out "the term of 10 years," so as to render the grant a fee simple, was carried 60 votes to 59.

Mr. Scott, from the select committee to whom was referred the memorial of A. D. Murphey, who prayed for further aid to enable him to complete the publication of his History of North-Carolina, reported a bill to authorize the President and Directors of the Literary Fund to raise by way of Lottery \$50,000, which passed its first reading.

Mr. Wyche offered the following resolution:

Resolved, that a committee of three be appointed by the Speaker, for the purpose of corresponding with different capitalists, in order to know on what terms two millions of dollars in specie, can be obtained, by her creating Stock to that amount, one-half reimbursable in the year 1840, and one-half in 1850, and that they report to the next General Assembly.

Mr. Swain said, it would be right, before the Legislature hazarded the credit of the State by enquiring at what rate she could borrow so much money, that the House should know for what purpose it was wanted.

Mr. Wyche answered, that it was his intention, should he be a member of the next Legislature, to propose the establishment of a Bank of the State, provided he could obtain for it a specie capital, but unless he could obtain specie for this purpose, he would not attempt it.

On motion of Mr. Fisher, the resolution lies on the table till to-morrow.

A message from the Senate, informed the House that they agreed to their proposition for appointing a committee to draft a Memorial to Congress, asking for an appropriation for the extinguishment of the Indian title to such lands in this State, as are yet occupied by the Indians, and appointing for this purpose, Messrs. Crook, McKay, King, Love and Beard. The House appointed on its part, Messrs. Toomer, Swain, White, Ship and Donoho.

The bill to regulate the fees of the Attorney and Solicitor-General and Solicitors was put for its second reading, and after a few remarks upon it, and attempts to amend it, the bill was rejected, 20 members only voting in favor of its passage.

Mr. Jones, from the Judiciary committee, to whom was referred a bill respecting the duties of constables. The committee are of opinion, that no alteration of the law on the subject is necessary, and recommend the rejection of the bill. It was rejected accordingly.

The following bills were presented:—
By Mr. Shippi, a bill to incorporate the Franklin Library Society of Buffalo in Lincoln county; and a bill to appoint commissioners to lay out a road from Charlotte to Morganton.

Friday, Jan. 19.—The following bills were presented:—

By Mr. Swain, a bill to permit attorneys from other States to practice in the Courts of this State in certain cases;

By Mr. Fisher, a bill to appoint Road Commissioners and for other purposes; &c.

By Mr. St. Clair, a bill fixing the sum hereafter to be paid for vacant lands.

The 1st bill passed its 1st reading; the 2nd was referred to the committee on Internal Improvements; and the last was rejected.

On motion, the House again resolved itself into a committee of the whole, on the bill to advance the administration of Justice in Courts of Equity, and to establish Courts for that purpose, Mr. Donoho in the Chair. After some debate, the Committee rose, and instructed their Chairman to report to the House that, in their opinion, it would be inexpedient to pass the bill.

The Speaker having resumed his Chair, and the Report of the Chairman being concurred with,

Mr. Potter moved that the bill be indefinitely postponed; which question was carried by Yeas and Nays, 80 to 36.

January, 20.—The Resolution submitted by Mr. Wyche, proposing to authorize the Speaker to appoint a committee to apply to Capitalists to learn on what terms two millions of specie could be obtained upon a stock to be created to that amount, was negatived, by a very large majority.

Mr. Alexander presented the memorial of sundry citizens of Mecklenburg, stating certain difficulties which had long existed in relation to a large tract of land in that county, from the number of conflicting claims upon it, and praying that the State would cause the same to be sold for taxes due upon it. Referred to the committee of Finance.

Monday, Jan. 22.

A committee was appointed on the part of this House, to superintend the balloting for a Council of State, and nominating William B. Lockhart, Geo. W. Jeffreys, John McDowell, James Morgan, Blackledge, Mesback Franklin, Gideon Aiston, Senior, Owen, and Peter Browne.

The following bills were presented:—
By Mr. Potter, a bill to establish a Political College for the State of North-Carolina. In introducing this bill, Mr. P. we are informed, (for we were not present,) made a long and eloquent Speech, in the course of which, he introduced some severe personal allusions on certain known characters in this State, as well as highwrought panegyrics on others. The bill passed its first reading and was ordered to be printed.

By Mr. Adams, a bill to amend an act passed in 1741, for the better observation and keeping of the Lord's day, &c.

Nineteenth Congress.

SECOND SESSION.

WASHINGTON, JANUARY 23.—In the Senate, yesterday, about three hours and a half were spent in the consideration of Executive business. A bill was reported from the Committee on Commerce, for regulating the commercial intercourse between the United States and the colonies of Great Britain. The bill from the House of Representatives appropriating \$20,000 for the relief of the sufferers by the late fire in Alexandria, was twice read.

In the House of Representatives, the discussion on Mr. Buchanan's motion to discharge the Committee from the further consideration of the Manufacturer's Bill was resumed, but without coming to any result. The bill making provision for the Officers of the Revolution went into Committee, and an amendment was proposed by Mr. Condict, proposing \$1000 each as a gratuity to the Officers, and an annuity for life; but the Committee rose without proceeding further, and the amendment was ordered to be printed.

We publish to day the Bill reported in both Houses of Congress "to regulate the commercial intercourse between the United States and the Colonies of Great Britain." A report on the subject, going fully into the history and merits of the question, was made to each House. These papers will show the ground upon which the Government has proceeded in regard to this interesting question; and we have no doubt, fully justify its course to the public judgment. We shall avail ourselves of the earliest opportunity of presenting them to our readers. In the mean time, we make public the Bill which has been the result of these deliberations; and we entertain no fears that the enlightened sense of the community will approve as well the moderation and temperance, as the firmness and wisdom of the measure which is now submitted to the consideration of Congress.

National Journal.

Trade with British Colonies.—In both Houses of Congress, on the 23d ult. Reports were made, by Mr. J. S. Johnston in the Senate, and by Mr. Tomlinson, in the House of Representatives, accompanied by bills, in substantially the same form, for regulating the trade and intercourse between the U. S. and the British Colonies.

The reports in both Houses are of considerable length, and exhibit much industry and research. Our readers will, in a few days, have an opportunity of seeing them.

The object of the bill, it will be seen,

is, to prevent the admission of any vessels into the ports of the United States, after the 30th day of September next, from the Colonies and possessions of Great Britain, including them all by name except Upper Canada; with a provision for the suspension of the act in either of two cases, viz. First, if the President shall receive satisfactory evidence that the ports in the British Colonies and Possessions are open to the admission of vessels of the U. States, paying no higher or other duties than those levied on British vessels, and that our vessels are permitted to export therefrom the same produce, and on the same terms as British vessels, then this act may be suspended by proclamation of the President.—Secondly: the bill proposes the provision which Mr. Gallatin was authorized to propose to the British Government, viz. that if vessels of the United States are admitted into the British Colonies or possessions, paying no higher duties than the vessels of Great Britain, and permitted to export thence, to any country except Great Britain, any articles which British vessels may export, then the President may declare, by proclamation, that British vessels arriving in the United States from the Colonies of Great Britain, shall not be subjected to any higher duties than vessels of the United States, &c.

From and after the date of such proclamation, in either case, the acts of Congress of 1818, 1820, and 1823, being all the acts restricting this trade, are declared to be repealed; the effect of which repeal will be, to leave British vessels at liberty to clear from the United States to any country whatever as our vessels may clear thence.

The general language of this act is to say to the British government, if you will open the direct trade between the United States and the Colonies we will do the same if you insist on the circuitous trade, we shall follow your lead. The bill seems to be framed in a spirit of amity, by which also the report of the Committee of Commerce in each house appears to be characterized. At this we are the more gratified, as we are decidedly opposed to any thing like a quarrel between the two nations upon any question such as the one involved in this controversy, which each nation has an indisputable right to act upon municipally, without offence to the other. We have no doubt that, in the end, Great Britain will see her interest in retracing her steps, seeing that the United States is entirely disposed to act towards her on principles of reciprocity.

Nat. Int.

Domestic.

From the National Intelligencer, Jan. 17.

AWFUL FIRE AT ALEXANDRIA.

A few minutes before nine o'clock yesterday morning an alarming fire broke out in the town of Alexandria. It was soon perceived from this city; and, cold as the weather was, (thermometer at 13) our townsmen turned out with alacrity, and almost literally flew to the assistance of their neighbors. The Engine from the Capitol-Hill, with its hose, first started. About three hundred persons from the Navy Yard, headed by Captain Booth, were under way almost as soon, but, having further to go, did not arrive quite as early on the ground. The Engine from the Post Office Department, with its fine hose, was under way as soon as the fire was ascertained to be serious, and had just started when an express arrived to our Mayor from the Mayor of Alexandria, soliciting aid, upon which the Engine of the second ward, and that from the first were notified and were under way. Nor were our Georgetown neighbors behind hand: with great spirit they went down in numbers in carriages, on horseback, and on foot, carrying also, it is believed, their engine. All the Marines on the station were also carried down by Capt. Howle, under the orders of Col. Henderson, and carrying an engine with them; and though they did not arrive until the fire was got under, afforded important service as guards. The whole number of persons who went down from this side of the river could not be less than a thousand. If we appear to dwell too much upon this public-spirited conduct of our citizens on this occasion, let it be recollected that the distance to Alexandria from most of the points started from was seven miles, and that the engines and men arrived there about the time the fire was most appalling. If any other cause for exultation is thought necessary to justify it, let it be found in the fact, that the fire was arrested, and a vast amount of property rescued from the jaws of destruction, by the aid thus afforded. The first succor from the city arrived about 11 o'clock, and was followed by successive supplies.

Our friends at Alexandria, exhausted by fatigue and anxiety, were not employed in endeavoring to save their individual property, and without the excellent apparatus of hose, &c. which we have, were not able to contend with the devouring element. They welcomed relief from this quarter as almost providential, and they are unbounded in the measure of their thanks for the assistance, without which the best part of their town, with most of the shipping, would have shared the fate of that valuable portion of it which was already in flames.

As it was, however, the conflagration was awful, and the destruction of property very great, as may be supposed, from a fire raging in the thick of the town for five long ours, with a brisk North West wind blowing. It is a wonder, indeed, that the fire was got under at all. The hose and forcing machinery, having the river for the source of supply, furnishing copious and inexhaustible supplies of water, effected what no supply of water, by hand could have done; and, although the water thrown in streams descended in the form of ice and sleet, mantling the firemen, in icy garments, we believe but one of the engines was so frozen during the day as to be disabled, so steadily were they worked.

The fire commenced in the Cabinet Maker's Shop of Mr. James Green, on the East side of Royal st. between King and Prince st. and extended to Fairfax st. thence, down Prince st. to Union st. The number of houses destroyed, besides back buildings was about 40; and the value of the houses and goods destroyed can hardly have fallen short of two hundred thousand dollars.

THE WEATHER.—Here we have had it cold enough for some days past, but there is no snow, and our streets are almost as dusty as summer. The cold has been very severely felt throughout the country generally, and in the Northern States more snow has fallen than usual. In Albany there has been more than at any one time within fifteen years; it was there so deep that it took two hours to go two miles with a sleigh; and many sleighs which left Albany for the South were compelled to return; and the mail which was due on Sunday evening, did not arrive until two o'clock on Monday last.

Passengers for the Philadelphia stages were on Friday morning, from 7 to 11 o'clock in crossing the river from New York to the Jersey shore. The following paragraph from the New-York Commercial Advertiser, may lead us to expect the most appalling news from the coast:

The Weather at New-York.—Mr. Hope, one of our pilots, came up this morning from Sandy Hook, in the schr. Angelica. Mr. H. went on board the schooner on Tuesday, and although he had been a pilot for twenty-seven years, he says he never experienced so severe a night as that. "The stopper," a small rope attached to the cable, which when put out, measured only two and a half inches, increased during the night, by the accumulation of ice, to three feet seven inches in circumference. A fire was kept in the cabin of the schooner during the night, notwithstanding which a pitcher of water on the table was frozen a solid cake of ice. Two schrs. and a sloop bound in were driven to sea during the night. The bay and rivers are now filled with ice.

Nat. Journal.

ISLAND OF CUBA.

Florida Canal.—It is supposed by skillful engineers that a ship canal through Florida would destroy the power which Havana possesses over the commerce of the Gulf of Mexico. Mr. White the delegate from Florida, has presented this subject to the consideration of Congress. The city and fortress of Havana, in the hands of an enemy or rival to the trade of this country, might be made extremely hurtful to our great national interests. This is the reason that we are so sensitive in the United States respecting the fate of Cuba. Our government has indeed made a declaration respecting that Island, which, if respected by Europe, would prevent it from passing into the hands of the French or the English. But will they mind it? If, by the construction of a great national work in Florida, we can destroy the importance of Havana, our government ought by all means to adopt immediate means for such a great object. They would be seconded by all the country. The fate of Cuba would then be a matter of minor importance. The Constitutional objections to the exercise of the power by Congress are in part obviated by the consideration that Florida is a territory, and therefore under the control of Congress in certain respects. But what a great national work it would be if it could be accomplished! The trade not only of our western states but of all the new republics bordering on the Gulf of Mexico would pass through the Florida canal.

N. F. Advocate.

Cuba, in extent little greater than one of our largest states, furnishes exports equal in value to two-thirds of the exports of the whole twenty-four. Florida is capable of producing nearly all the articles of Cuba, and hence its immense value may be easily estimated. A million and a half of oranges are gathered in St. Augustine and its vicinity. The rice lands of Florida equal those of Carolina, which sell at \$250 an acre, while those of Florida sell at \$3. to \$4; and \$4,000,000 might be saved by it to the United States in tobacco and segars now imported from abroad. Wine and silk of the best quality might be produced as easily as at Bordeaux, Languedoc or Valencia, not to mention the staples of indigo, sea-island cotton, sugar, &c.

A letter from Kingston, Jamaica, states that flour was selling there at \$18; so much for the British closing their ports to the American trade.