

provisions of this bill. By the former acknowledgment will bring an instrument within the statute; but by this bill it is barred forever, after ten years; although the maker may admit its justice, no action can be brought. In many instances, the holder of a note receives the interest of it annually, and is satisfied it should run on, but if this passes, at the expiration of ten years he will be compelled to bring his action. With regard to mortgages, it is well known that the mortgagor is prevented from bringing a bill to foreclose after twenty years; why should we compel the mortgagor to foreclose when he is satisfied with the interest. He was opposed both to the principle and details of the bill, and hoped it would not pass.

The question on passing the bill at its second reading, was decided in the affirmative and was ordered to be read the third time to-morrow.

Friday, Jan. 26.—Mr. Elliott, from the select committee, to whom was referred the petition of John Mac Rae, of Fayetteville, reported a resolution, directing the Public Treasurer to advance to him the sum of \$5,000 on loan, without interest, for five years, to assist him in publishing his contemplated Map of the State—which passed its first reading.

Saturday, Jan. 27.—A message was received from the House of Commons, informing that they have passed the following bills and resolution, in which they ask the concurrence of the Senate:—A bill to incorporate the Franklin Library Society of Buffalo in Lincoln county; a bill to restore to credit Willis Bradley of Rutherford; a bill to authorise the directors of the Literary Fund to raise \$50,000 by way of Lottery and for other purposes, and a resolution in favor of Samuel McDowell Tate, Sheriff of Burke—which bills were read the first time.

The resolution to lend John Mac Rae of Fayetteville, \$5,000 for five years without interest, to assist him in the publication of the Map of the State, having been read, a long debate arose on the propriety of its passage which will hereafter appear. Messrs. Hill, of Franklin, and Sanders opposed the resolution; Messrs. Spaight of Greene, Pickett, Gilchrist, Seawell and McRay advocated it.

The question on the passage of the resolution at its second reading was determined in the affirmative, after having been amended so as to reduce the period of loan to four years. On its third reading, Mr. Hill of Franklin, called for the Yeas and Nays, which were as follows:—Yeas 37—Nays 23.

So the resolution passed and was ordered to be engrossed.

Tuesday, Jan. 30.—The bill limiting the time within which Deeds of Trust and Mortgages shall be registered, and to provide for giving additional publicity to the same, was read the third time and passed, without debate.

The bill to amend an act passed in 1819, to prevent the fraudulent trading with slaves, was read the third time. Various amendments were submitted, among which, Mr. King moved to strike out that provision which declares that slaves shall only trade in the day time, which was negatived.

Mr. Joyner moved for the indefinite postponement of the bill.

Mr. Speight, of Greene, opposed the motion, and gave his reasons for doing so.

The question was decided in the negative, by Yeas and Nays, as follows:—Yeas 26—Nays 33.

The question then recurred on the passage of the bill, at its third and last reading in the Senate, which was decided in the affirmative.

The bill for the better protection of securities: the bill to amend the road laws, and the bill further to extend the time of payment to the purchasers of the Cherokee Lands, were read the third time and ordered to be engrossed.

Thursday, Feb. 1.—Mr. Love, from the Committee of Claims, reported a resolution in favor of the Securities of James Means, late Sheriff of Cabarrus, for \$13 60, for insolvent polls.

Mr. McLeary presented a resolution, directing the secretary of State to endeavor to procure from Newbern, (where they are supposed to be) and file in regular order in his office, all such original plats and certificates of surveys, on which patents were issued previous to the Revolutionary War, for the benefit and convenience of persons owning land under such patents, and allowing him a reasonable compensation for the same, which passed its first reading.

Friday, Feb. 2.—Mr. Davis called up for consideration, the bill to vest in the County Court the right of appointing Superior Court Clerks. The bill having been read,

Mr. Seawell said he felt mortified that such a bill had been introduced to the consideration of the Senate; for it would not only be thought in the State, but throughout the United States, that our Superior Court Judges are so degraded in public estimation, that we are compelled to take from them the power of appointing their subordinate officers, and give it to another tribunal.—The power

of appointing their Clerks, has been uniformly vested in the several Courts; indeed, the custom is coeval with civilization itself. If it be a fact, that our Judges are so unworthy the confidence reposed in them, that we cannot trust them to appoint their own officers; if they, to whom we confide our lives, our liberties, and our future hopes, are capable of exercising it, for unhalloved purposes, let us sweep them from the bench, and appoint others, for we have the power to annihilate them at a single blast. But he hoped the bill would not pass, and the present order of things in this respect would continue so long as we remained a political people, for he was confident no change could be made for the better.

The question on the passage of the bill was decided in the negative—so the bill was lost.

The bill to amend an act passed in 1818, concerning the Supreme Court, was read the 3d time and ordered to be engrossed.

The bill limiting the time, within which actions shall be brought on bonds, judgments and other sealed instruments and on the equity of redemption on mortgages, was taken up. A variety of amendments were proposed, which excited a protracted discussion on the details of the bill. The question on the passage of the bill was decided in the negative, as follows:—Yeas 27—Nays 30. So the bill was rejected.

Saturday, Feb. 3.—The resolution directing the Secretary of State to procure from Newbern certain plats and certificates of surveys, issued previous to the revolution, and file them in his office, and the bill to appoint commissioners to run and mark the dividing line between Duplin and Wayne, were read the third time, and ordered to be engrossed.

The bill declaring runaway slaves who carry arms, outlaws, after considerable discussion on its details, was rejected by the casting vote of the Speaker.

The bill to amend the Emancipation laws, which provides that the owner of every manumitted slave, before liberating him, shall give bond in \$1000, that said slave shall leave the State within six months, never more to reside therein, was taken up on its third reading.

Mr. Hill of Franklin moved to amend it, by striking out the whole of the bill but the enacting clause, and insert, "that from and after the passing of this act, it shall not be lawful to emancipate slaves in this State, on any pretence whatever."

On the question of adopting the amendment, a long discussion arose. The amendment was supported by Messrs. Hill, Seawell, Speight of Greene, and Sanders, and opposed by Messrs. Joyner and Pickett.

Mr. Joyner moved for the indefinite postponement of the bill and amendment, which was negatived. The question then recurred on the adoption of the amendment, which was negatived. The bill was then put on its passage, and rejected.

The Senate took up the order of the day, viz. the bill to compel children of sufficient ability to support their poor parents. The bill having been read,

Mr. McKay remarked, that it was very strange that no provision of this kind had ever been incorporated into our laws. In England, a law was passed during the reign of Elizabeth, which not only declared that children who possessed the power should maintain their indigent parents, but it even embraced their grandfathers and grandmothers. Virginia, New-Jersey, South-Carolina, and perhaps other States, have passed laws similar to the bill under consideration. The only question which presents itself to the Senate as to the propriety of passing this bill, is whether it is better that children who have probably derived fortunes from their parents, should support them when age and infirmity press on them, or that they should become a public charge.—He had known an instance in his own county, where a poor woman was placed in the Poor House, whilst her son, who was in good circumstances, represented that county in the House of Commons. He understood, that in Caswell, and other counties, instances of Parents who had wealthy children, being thrown on the Parish were common.

Mr. Hill, of Franklin, said, it was a common remark, that laws were not made for honest men. The affection of a dutiful child requires no law to make the maintenance of his poor parents obligatory on him. But when it is recollected that in all communities there is a certain portion, whom laws only can coerce into a compliance with their duty, it will be seen that the effect of the bill will only operate on that part. It had fallen to his lot, to be in several counties of the State, at the time when paupers are hired out, and he had seen a son, who was living on the patrimony derived from his parents, waiting in unfeeling anxiety for his mother to be knocked off to his bid. Sir, such wretches deserve coercion. What would be the effect of this bill, if passed into a law? Will North-Carolina sustain any injury from what would take place

under its requirements? No, sir—it will only compel children to fulfil that obligation which a natural affection should prompt them to perform. The bill was a proper one and he hoped it would pass.

The bill passed its second and third readings, and was ordered to be engrossed.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Tuesday, Jan. 23.—The Governor transmitted to the Legislature, the annual Report of the Board for Internal Improvements; which being read, was referred to the committee on Internal Improvements, and sent to the Senate with an order that the Report and Documents be printed.

The Governor also sent to the House, the Report of the President and Directors of the Literary Fund in compliance with an act of last session, which being read, was referred to the committee on Education, sent to the Senate, and proposed to be printed.

By Mr. Hardy, a bill limiting the time within which suits shall be brought against Guardians, Executors and Administrators.

All the above bills passed their first reading. The last was referred to the Judiciary committee.

A bill from the Senate, to unite the Office of Clerk and Master in Equity with that of the Clerk of the Superior Court, passed its first reading.

On motion of Mr. Toomer, a resolution in favor of Sherwood Fort, was called up for a 2d reading.

The report of the committee of Propositions and Grievances and the resolution were both read. It appeared that the petitioner had been allowed \$50 by the last General Assembly; but not having been placed on the pension list, the allowance was at an end. This resolution proposed to make to this old soldier an annual allowance of \$60.

Mr. R. H. Jones opposed this claim on the same principle that he objected to a similar claim a few days ago, and warned members against opening a door that would admit claims without number.

Mr. Toomer and Mr. Moore both advocated this claim. The petitioner, they stated, had not only served in the Militia, but as a continental Soldier; but had failed to obtain a certificate of honorable discharge from the service, so that he could not obtain a pension from the U. States. Mr. T. said that he knew the man, and that from the good character he bore, he fully believed the statements he made of the case, and had no doubt of his being entitled to the relief which he asked for, of which, in his old age, he stood in great need.

The 2d reading of this resolution passed by yeas and nays, 109 votes to 11.

Wednesday, Jan. 24.—Mr. Shipp presented the petition of John Hoke and others, of Lincoln, owners of a Cotton Manufactory, praying that the hands employed therein may be exempted from working on roads and doing military duty; and,

Mr. Alexander the petition of H. Forbes of Mecklenburg, praying to be placed on the pension list. The former petition was referred to the committee of Propositions and Grievances, and the latter to the committee of Claims.

On motion of Mr. Allison, the Judiciary committee were instructed to enquire into the expediency of making some provision more effectually to suppress fraud in the execution of deeds of trust.

Mr. Spruill, from the committee of Claims, reported against the claim of Christian Bottles, of Burke; and also against the petition of Felix Walker, both of which reports were concurred with.

A message from the Senate, informed the House they had passed the following bills:

Further to amend an act making the protest of a Notary Public evidence in certain cases; to repeal part of the 3d section of an act to extend the jurisdiction of a Justice of the Peace passed in 1820; and a Resolution permitting A. D. Murphy to have the use of the books in the public Library—all which passed their first reading, and the resolution requiring but one reading, was ordered to be enrolled.

The Senate also informed the House, that they had passed the bill appointing commissioners to erect a building in the town of Lincoln for the use of the Jurors, and rejected that for laying off a road in Lincoln county.

The bill authorising the President and Directors of the Literary Fund to raise money by way of Lottery, passed its second reading.

The House went into a committee of the whole (Mr. Scott in the chair) on the bill for making a digest of our Statutes, &c. Mr. Swain spoke at considerable length in support of the measure, and Mr. Fisher against it. In the course of Mr. Swain's remarks, he said, in reply to some objections which had been made to the expense which would be incurred by passing the bill, "poor degraded North-Carolina, is she not able to bear the expense of a more perfect digest of her laws than she has at present?" On which Mr. Fisher remarked, that it had become fashionable of late to speak of N. Carolina as a degraded State, and as unequal in every respect to her sister States. He did not like to hear his native State thus

represented; he was proud of being a citizen of North-Carolina, and considered her as respectable as any of her sisters; and said it was, "an ill bird that beways its own nest."

This remark called up Mr. Potter who said, that he considered North-Carolina a degraded State, and so far from being proud of being one of her citizens, he was ashamed of it, and proceeded to make other severe remarks which Mr. Fisher considered as reflecting on him, and called Mr. P. to order, and demanded whether the Gentleman from Halifax meant to apply what he had said to him. Mr. P. replied he meant them to apply to those whom they fitted. Other words passed, when Mr. A. Moore called both gentlemen to order. The committee rose, and the bill was ordered to lie on the table.

The bill for altering the time of meeting of the General Assembly was taken up, when a motion was made to strike out the 2d Monday in December, which succeeding, it was moved to fill the blank with the 1st Monday in November. This motion was negatived; as was also the 1st Monday and the last Monday in December. It was at length filed with the 3d Monday in November, the former period of meeting.

Thursday, Jan. 25.—Mr. Alexander presented the petition of Robert Robinson, Jesse Clark, Benjamin Lindsay, Henry Houston and John Connelly, praying to be placed on the pension list.

The Governor enclosed to the Legislature, a claim of Jonas R. Clark for the value of a horse which he lost in the service of the State at the reception of Gen. Lafayette. Both the above claims were referred to the Committee of Claims.

Mr. R. H. Jones, from the Judiciary Committee, to whom was referred a resolution instructing them to inquire into the expediency of Testamentary Guardians giving security where it shall appear to the County Court that they are insolvent, and are likely to waste and squander the property of their wards, reported that it was inexpedient to vary the existing law as proposed; but recommended that the bill accompanying this report, entitled a bill concerning Testamentary Guardians, be passed into a law. It passed its first reading.

The engrossed bill to alter the time of the Legislature was taken up: when

Mr. Alexander moved to strike out the 3d Monday in November, for the purpose of reinstating the second Monday in December, as the bill came from the Senate, but the motion was negatived, 70 votes to 51.

The bill was then ordered to be sent to the Senate for their concurrence in this amendment to their bill. If the two Houses do not agree the bill will be lost, and the next Legislature will of course meet on the 2d Monday in January, as fixed by the act of last session.

Saturday, Jan. 27.—Mr. R. H. Jones, from the Judiciary Committee, to whom was referred the resolution instructing them to inquire into the expediency of so amending the laws relative to Constables, as to allow a certain per cent. on all executions collected and accounted for by them, reported it to be the opinion of the committee that no alteration in the laws in this respect is necessary. Report concurred with.

Tuesday, Jan. 30.—Mr. Bain presented a bill to require Defendants before they are put upon their trials, to except to such matters in the indictment as might, after conviction, be assigned as reasons in arrest of judgment, which passed its first reading.

The House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole, (Mr. Lewis of Caswell in the chair) on the bill to prevent free persons of color from migrating into this State, for the good government of such persons resident in the State and for other purposes. The bill underwent sundry amendments, and produced considerable discussion, both on the details and principle of the bill. The bill passed its 2d reading 75 votes to 39.

The orders of the day being gone through, Mr. Whitehurst announced to the House the death of Mr. John J. Bonner, one of the Members of that House from Hyde county.

On hearing which, the House immediately adjourned to 4 o'clock.

Thursday, Feb. 1.—The bill directing a continuance of the Geological and Mineralogical Survey of the State, and the bill for the support of sick seamen of the United States, passed their third reading.

The bill appropriating \$5000 for the purpose of improving the navigation of the Cape-Fear river below Wilmington, being on its second reading, Mr. W. W. Jones stated at length, the causes which made this further appropriation necessary, and the propriety of granting it, in order to complete the object in view. He was followed by Mr. J. A. Hill, in support of the bill; and on the question being taken on its second reading, it passed, 82 votes to 55.

The bill giving to the state a right of challenge, was taken up. [The bill proposes that the State shall, in all criminal cases, challenge four jurors without cause, and as many more for good cause as she may think proper.]

On motion of Mr. Jones, the first sec

tion of the bill, which gave this right a challenge, was struck out. The remaining section of the bill, which authorises the council of a defendant on a criminal suit to aid his client in selecting his jury, was retained, and the bill passed its third reading, the title being altered to read as follows: "a bill relating to the exercise of the right of challenge in certain cases."

Friday, Feb. 2.—Mr. Settle, from the committee of Propositions and Grievances, to whom was referred the petitions of John Hoke and others of Lincoln, and William Dowling of Surry, praying for gates to be erected on roads, reported unfavorably, recommending the rejection of the prayer of the petitioners, which was concurred with.

Mr. R. H. Jones, from the Judiciary Committee, to whom was referred the bill to alter an act passed in 1741, for restraining the taking of excessive usury, reported, that if there ever has been a period of time when the Legislature could, with safety to the public, alter or repeal the provisions of the act of 1741, commonly called the Statute of Usury, the present is not that period. The depressed state of Agriculture and of Commerce, the extensive control and influence possessed by certain monied institutions, and the facility with which that control and influence could be exercised over the engagements and transactions of the people, notwithstanding the 4th Section of the bill, must, while they exist, and the Legislature is true and faithful to the public interest, prevent the bill under consideration from becoming a law. The committee therefore recommended the rejection of the bill. The report was concurred with, and the bill indefinitely postponed.

Saturday, Feb. 3.—The following bills passed their third reading:

Concerning Executors, Administrators and Guardians; making an appropriation to improve the navigation of Cape-Fear river below Wilmington; limiting the time within which certain officers shall be prosecuted and prescribing the duties of Grand Jurors relative thereto; concerning testamentary Guardians; to repeal part of the 3d section of an act, to extend the jurisdiction of Justices of the Peace, passed in 1820; making compensation to Coroners in certain cases; further to amend an act making the protest of a Notary Public evidence in certain cases, passed in 1812; and the bill to prevent frauds and perjuries.

The resolution proposing to loan \$5000 to John MacRae, to assist him in publishing his Map of the State, passed its third and last reading.

Foreign.

LATEST FROM FRANCE.

BAITMORE, JAN. 29.—By the Edward Bonaffe packet ship from Havre, the editors of the New-York American have files of Paris papers to the 15th ult. The impression which the course of England in the affairs of Portugal might produce, could not at that time be ascertained, as the intelligence of it had only just reached Paris; and in other respects the papers are barren of interest, excepting so far as the accounts from Madrid would seem to show, that the Spanish government was anxious to persuade the British Minister, Mr. Lamb, that it was unconnected with and disapproved, the invasion by the revolted Portuguese regiments, of the territory of Portugal. The British government, however, had decided that question for itself, on the principle that what Spain could, and did not, prohibit, she permitted.

It is stated in the Journal du Commerce of 14th Dec. that the Marquis of Hastings, better known in this country as Lord Rawdon, and afterwards Lord Moira, died in the harbor of Naples, on board the ship which was conveying him to Italy for the benefit of his health.

The following extract from the Augsburg Gazette, gives renewed force to the impression that the Christian powers of Europe are about to interfere for Greece.

Napoli di Romagna, 13th Oct.—An English vessel arrived yesterday from Constantinople brought to the Committee of the National Assembly a despatch from Mr. Stratford Canning, in which that Minister says—

"That he had received the instructions which he expected from his government concerning an arrangement between the Turks and the Greeks, and that they contained precise directions to make to the Turkish government proposals founded upon the demands of Greece; that the negotiations between Russia and the Porte would close on the 7th Oct., and that he would apprise the Members of the Committee of their results; that in case of an amicable adjustment of the difficulties between the two empires, the Russian Ambassador would immediately go from Ackerman to Constantinople, to bring to a close as soon as practicable the difficulties of Greece." The despatch was signed, your friend and servant, Stratford Canning.

In some subsequent explanation which Mr. S. Canning transmitted through Commodore Hamilton, it is said that Mr. C. expressed his confidence in the good intentions of France respecting Greece, and that he hoped much from the steps he was authorized to take at Constantinople.