

## Congress of the U. S.

Monday, Dec. 6.

This being the day fixed for the opening of the Second Session of the Eighteenth Congress, Mr. GALLARD, president pro tempore, in the absence of the Vice-President, took the chair in the Senate. In the H. of Representatives, Mr. CLAY, the Speaker, took the chair.

The only subject of importance transacted in Congress this day, was the appointment of a committee to devise the most suitable manner in which to receive into that body the "Nation's Guest."

Tuesday, Dec. 7.—The President of the United States transmitted, this day, to both Houses of Congress, the following

### MESSAGE:

Fellow-citizens of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives:

The view which I have now to present to you of affairs, Foreign and Domestic, realizes the most sanguine anticipations, which have been entertained of the public prosperity. If we look to the whole, our growth, as a nation, continues to be rapid, beyond example; if to the States which compose it, the same gratifying spectacle is exhibited. Our expansion over the vast territory within our limits, has been great, without indicating any decline in those sections from which the emigration has been most conspicuous. We have daily gained strength by a native population in every quarter—a population devoted to our happy system of Government, and cherishing the bond of union with fraternal affection.—Experience has always shewn, that the difference of climate, and of industry, proceeding from that cause, inseparable from such vast domains, and which, under other systems might have a repulsive tendency, cannot fail to produce, with us under wise regulations, the opposite effect.—What one portion wants, the other may supply, and this will be most sensibly felt by the parts most distant from each other, forming, thereby, a domestic market, and an active intercourse between the extremes, and throughout every portion of our Union. Thus, by a happy distribution of power between the National and State Governments, governments which rest exclusively on the sovereignty of the People, and are fully adequate to the great purposes for which they were respectively instituted, causes which might otherwise lead to dismemberment, operate powerfully to draw us closer together. In every other circumstance, a correct view of the actual state of our Union, must be equally gratifying to our constituents. Our relations with foreign powers are of a friendly character, although certain interesting differences remain unsettled with some. Our revenue, under the mild system of impost and tonnage, continues to be adequate to all the purposes of the Government. Our agriculture, commerce, manufactures, and navigation, flourish.—Our fortifications are advancing in the degree authorized by existing appropriations, to maturity; and due progress is made in the augmentation of the navy, to the limit prescribed for it by law. For these blessings we owe to Almighty God, from whom we derive them, and with profound reverence, our most grateful and unceasing acknowledgments.

In adverting to our relations

with foreign powers, which are always an object of the highest importance; I have to remark, that of the subjects which have been brought into discussion with them during the present Administration, some have been satisfactorily terminated; and others have been suspended, to be resumed hereafter, under circumstances more favorable to success; and others are still in negotiation, with the hope that they may be adjusted, with mutual accommodation to the interests and to the satisfaction of the respective parties. It has been the invariable object of this Government, to cherish the most friendly relations with every power, and on principles and conditions which might make them permanent. A systematic effort has been made to place our commerce with each power, on a footing of perfect reciprocity; to settle with each, in a spirit of candor and liberality, all existing differences, and to anticipate and remove, so far as it might be practicable, all causes of future variance.

It having been stipulated by the 7th Article of the Convention of Navigation and Commerce, which was concluded on the 21th of June, 1822, between the United States and France, that the said Convention should continue in force for two years, from the first of October of that year, and for an indefinite term afterwards, unless one of the parties should declare its intention to renounce it, in which event, it should cease to operate at the end of six months from such declaration; and, no such intention having been announced, the Convention having been found advantageous to both parties, it has since remained, and still remains in force. At the time when that convention was concluded, many interesting subjects were left unsettled, and particularly our claim to indemnity for spoliations which were committed on our commerce in the late wars. For these interests and claims, it was in the contemplation of the parties to make provision at a subsequent day, by a more comprehensive and definitive Treaty. The object has been duly attended to since by the Executive, but, as yet, it has not been accomplished. It is hoped that a favorable opportunity will present itself, for opening a negotiation, which may embrace and arrange all existing differences, and every other concern, in which they have a common interest, upon the accession of the present King of France, an event which has occurred since the close of the last Session of Congress.

With Great Britain our commercial intercourse rests on the same footing that it did at the last Session. By the convention of 1815, the commerce between the United States and the British dominions, in Europe and the East Indies, was arranged on a principle of reciprocity. That convention was confirmed and continued in force, with slight exceptions, by a subsequent Treaty, for the term of ten years from the 20th October, 1818, the date of the latter. The trade with the British colonies in the West Indies, has not, as yet, been arranged by treaty or otherwise, to our satisfaction. An approach to that result has been made by Legislative acts, whereby many serious impediments which had been raised by the parties in defence of their respective claims, were removed. An earnest desire exists, and has been manifested on the part of this Government, to

place the commerce with the colonies likewise on a footing of reciprocal advantage; and it is hoped that the British Government, seeing the justice of the proposal, and its importance to the colonies, will, ere long accede to it.

The Commissioners who were appointed for the adjustment of the boundary between the territories of the United States and those of Great Britain, specified in the fifth article of the Treaty of Ghent, having disagreed in their decision, and both governments having agreed to establish that boundary by amicable negotiation between them, it is hoped that it may be satisfactorily adjusted in that mode. The boundary specified by the sixth article has been established by the decision of the Commissioners. From the progress made in that provided for by the seventh, according to a report recently received, there is good cause to presume that it will be settled in the course of the ensuing year.

It is a cause of serious regret, that no arrangement has yet been finally concluded between the two Governments, to secure, by joint co-operation, the suppression of the slave trade. It was the object of the British Government, in the early stages of the negotiation, to adopt a plan for the suppression, which should include the concession of the mutual right of search, by the ships of war of each party, of the vessels of the other, for suspected offenders. This was objected to by this Government on the principles, that, as the right of search was a right of war of a belligerent towards a neutral power, it might have an ill effect to extend it, by treaty, to an offence which had been made comparatively mild, to a time of peace. Anxious, however, for the suppression of this trade, it was tho't advisable, in compliance with a resolution of the House of Representatives, to propose to the British Government an expedient which should be free from that objection, and more effectual for the object, by making it piratical. In that mode, the enormity of the crime would place the offenders out of the protection of their Government, and involve no question of search, or other question between the parties, touching their respective rights. It was believed, also, that it would completely suppress the trade in the vessels of both parties, and by their respective citizens and subjects, in those of other Powers, with whom, it was hoped, that the odium which would thereby be attached to it, would produce a corresponding arrangement, and, by means thereof, its entire extirpation forever. A convention to this effect was concluded in London on the — day of —, by Plenipotentiaries duly authorized by both Governments, to the ratification of which certain obstacles have arisen, which are not yet entirely removed. The difference between the parties, still remained to a point, not of sufficient magnitude, as is presumed, to be permitted to defeat an object so near to the heart of both nations, and so desirable to the friends of humanity throughout the world. As objections however, to the principle recommended by the House of Representatives, or at least to the consequences inseparable from it, and which are understood to apply to the law, have been raised, which may deserve a re-consideration of the whole sub-

ject, I have thought it proper to suspend the conclusion of a new Convention, until the definitive sentiments of Congress may be ascertained. The documents relating to the negotiation are, with that intent, submitted to your consideration.

Our commerce with Sweden has been placed on a footing of perfect reciprocity by treaty, and with Russia, the Netherlands, Prussia, the free Hanseatic Cities, the Dukedom of Oldenburg, and Sardinia, by internal regulations on each side, founded on mutual agreement between the respective Governments.

(to be continued.)

## N. Carolina Legislature.

### SENATE.

Thursday, Dec. 2.

On motion of Mr. Bryan, resolved, that the Comptroller of this state be required to obtain from the Clerks of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions and Wardens of the poor in each county in this state, or from any authentic source, a statement exhibiting the amount of tax and sums of money levied and disbursed in their respective counties, annually, for the support of the poor, during the last five years, and report to the next General Assembly.

The bill for the better regulation of slaves and free persons of color was indefinitely postponed; and the bill to amend the laws making provision for widows, was referred to a select committee.

Saturday, Dec. 4.

Mr. Bryan, from the committee on that part of the Governor's Message, relating to free persons of color, reported, that, in the opinion of the committee the provisions of an act passed in 1795, to prevent any person who may emigrate from any part of West India or Bahama Islands, or the French, Dutch, or Spanish settlements on the southern coast of America, from bringing slaves into this state, and also imposing certain restrictions on free persons of color, as amply and effectually operate upon this subject as any which can be enacted, and moved that the committee be discharged from the further consideration of said subject. Agreed to.

On motion of Mr. Bryan, resolved, that the judiciary committee be instructed to enquire into the expediency of so modifying the act of 1820, relative to the marriage of infant females, as to permit the marriage, by consent in writing of the mother of a *feme sole*; or by the like consent of the guardian.

Monday, Dec. 6.

Mr. Hill, from the committee on education, reported a bill to create a fund for the purpose of educating that part of the infant population of this state, who shall, from time to time, be found destitute of the means of becoming otherwise properly taken care of, in that particular; ordered to be printed.

Mr. Carson presented the petition of sundry inhabitants of Rutherford county, praying that compensation be allowed for services rendered by justices of the peace; referred to the committee of propositions and grievances.

Tuesday, Dec. 7.

Mr. Love, from the committee of finance, to whom was referred a resolution directing an enquiry into the expediency of reducing the tax on those who peddle on navigable waters, reported that the committee deem it expedient to diminish such

tax, and moved to be discharged from further consideration of the subject; ordered to lie on the table.

Wednesday, Dec. 8.

Mr. Seawell presented a bill further to suppress vice and immorality; and Mr. Copeland, a bill to suppress the practice of cock-fighting.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Friday, Dec. 3.

Mr. Rainey, from the committee on Privileges and Elections, to whom was referred the resolution, instructing them to inquire into the expediency of restoring the District mode of electing Electors of President and Vice President, reported, that it is inexpedient, at this time, to make any alteration. Concurred in—ayes 70, noes 54.

Saturday, Dec. 4.

Mr. S. Miller, presented a bill to repeal the 6th sec. of an act for the more uniform and convenient administration of justice, passed in 1806, and to locate the Judges of the Superior Courts.

On motion of Mr. Helme, the Treasurer was directed to exhibit to this House, the amount of monies received from the several Clerks and Sheriffs, in conformity with the act of 1823, for the promotion of Agriculture, &c. and also the amount due from them.

Mr. Stanly, from the judiciary committee, to whom was referred the resolution instructing them to inquire into the expediency of passing a bill to compel persons intending to erect any mill or dam, to remove all vegetable matter previous to such erection from the ground which would probably be overflowed by the water of such dam, reported that it is inexpedient to pass such bill. Concurred in.

Monday, Dec. 6.

Mr. Bynum presented a bill to authorize the town Commissioners of Halifax to make a settlement with the Commissioners appointed, under the act of 1818, to sell and lay off the town lots, and for other purposes.

On motion of Mr. Jones,

Resolved, that the committee on Internal Improvement be instructed to inquire into the expediency of reducing the Board of Internal Improvement, as organized by the act of 1819, from six to three members; and that they report by bill or otherwise.

On motion of Mr. Neely,

Resolved, that the committee on Internal Improvement be instructed to inquire into the expediency of reducing the wages of the Secretary at present attached to the Board.

A communication from the Governor, transmitting the annual Return of the Adjutant General of the state; and resolutions, passed by the Legislature of Georgia and Ohio, relative to amending the Constitution of the United States.

The bill to alter the present mode of electing sheriffs, and to vest the right thereof in the free people of this state, was read the second time, amended, and rejected—Yeas 60, noes 68.

Tuesday, Dec. 7.

The Speaker laid before the House, the memorial of the Circuit Court Judges, suggesting the advantages that would arise from the Courts, in the eastern districts of the state particularly, commencing on the first Monday in October; which referred to a select committee.

Wednesday, Dec. 8.

Received from the Governor, a communication, enclosing a