



THE "FREE PRESS,"

By George Howard,

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Congress of the U. S.

Monday, Jan. 24.

IN SENATE.

Mr. Barbour moved that 1500 additional copies of the message of the President of the U. S. of 13th inst. and the documents accompanying it, respecting piracy, be printed for the use of the Senate. He observed that great difference of opinion existed on the subject which had been in discussion for the last two or three days. The majority were always safe, but the responsibility, in this case, rested on the minority alone; therefore, it was necessary they should justify themselves to the public—And it was this view he moved for the printing an additional number of the documents.

Mr. Lloyd, of Mass. complimented Mr. Barbour on the zeal and ability he had displayed in his support of the bill. He expressed his conviction of the propriety of his views on this subject, and hoped he would not relax in his endeavors to carry it through.

The question being taken on the motion, 1500 additional copies were ordered to be printed.

The Senate then again took up the bill allowing a drawback on cordage manufactured from hemp imported.

The debate on this bill occupied the remainder of the day's sitting. The debate embraced the same range of argument, as to the practical effect of the proposed measure on the commerce and navigation, and the manufacturing and agricultural interests of the country, which the debate occupied on former occasions, when it has been fully reported, and must still be fresh in the recollection of most of our readers. The bill was opposed at considerable length by Mr. Dickerson and Mr. Talbot, and was advocated by Mr. Smith and Mr. D'Wolf.

Without taking any question on the subject; after the debate had continued until past three o'clock,

The Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. Carter, of S. C. laid on the table the following resolution.

Resolved, That the President be requested to communicate to this House any correspondence, in his possession, which he may not deem it improper to disclose, which has taken place between the government of the United States and that of France, touching the interpretation of the 8th article of the treaty for the cession of Louisiana. On motion of Mr. Webster, of Mass. the House proceeded to consideration of the bill making further provision for the punishment of

certain crimes committed against the United States.

After some discussion, the House adjourned.

Tuesday, Jan. 25.

SENATE.

The bills from the House, "for the continuation of the Cumberland Road," and "authorizing the subscription of stock to the Delaware and Chesapeake Canal Company," were read a second time, and referred to the committee on Roads and Canals.

The Senate then resumed the unfinished business of yesterday the bill for allowing a drawback on the exportation of cordage manufactured from imported hemp.

Messrs. D'Wolf, and Lloyd of Mass. spoke in favor of the bill, which was opposed by Messrs. Edwards, and Johnson of Kentucky.

The question being taken on engrossing the bill, for a third reading, it was decided in the negative, by Yeas and Nays, as follows: Yeas 18, Nays 25.

So the bill *rejected*.

The Senate then proceeded to the consideration of the bill reported by Mr. Benton, from the Committee on Indian Affairs on the 11th inst. to authorize the President to cause a road to be marked out from the frontier of Missouri to the confines of New Mexico, and making appropriations therefor. The bill having been read through—

Mr. Benton rose and said, that the petitions presented by the inhabitants of Missouri, and the communication derived from Mr. Storrs, had proved the existence of an inland trade between the valley of the Mississippi and the internal provinces of Mexico. They had shewn also, he said, the dangers to which the trade is subject, from Indian depredation on the way, and the arbitrary exactions after it arrived.—The Indians, prone to robbery and murder, attacked & pillaged the caravans; the Provincial authorities, separated by an immense distance from the parent government, imposed arbitrary duties on the merchandise imported. To relieve the trade from those dangerous impositions, the citizens of Missouri had addressed themselves to the Congress of the United States, and claimed the interposition of its powerful protection. They have asked, said Mr. B. among other things, for the right of an unmolested passage, protected by treaty stipulations, through the territories of the intervening tribes, and for the appointment of agents, with suitable powers, to reside at Santa Fe and Columbia. In deciding upon these requests, the committee to whom the subject was referred and whose organ I have the honor to be, have held it to be their duty to enquire strictly into the value of the trade for which protection is sought, the probability of its continuance, and its effect upon the social and political, as well as upon the commercial relations of the two countries. They have enquired, accordingly, and finding the results to be favorable to the object of the petitioners, they have instructed me to report

the bill which has been read at your table.

Mr. Chandler put one or two questions on the subject, which were answered by Mr. Benton, as to distances, &c. after which

The bill was on motion of Mr. Chandler, laid over until to-morrow; and

The Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The resolution yesterday offered by Mr. Carter, calling for the correspondence respecting the 8th article of the treaty for the cession of Louisiana, was taken up and agreed to.

The House resumed the unfinished business of yesterday, being the bill further to provide for the punishment of crimes against the United States.

After debate, the House adjourned.

Wednesday, Jan. 26.

SENATE.

The Senate proceeded to the consideration of the bill to authorize the President of the United States to cause to be marked out a road from the line of the state of Missouri, to the confines of New Mexico.

On motion of Mr. Lloyd, of Mass. to strike out the second section of the bill, (which provides for marking out that part of the road in the Mexican territory) a debate arose on the bill, which continued nearly the whole of the remainder of the sitting. Finally,

The motion of Mr. Lloyd was negatived, ayes 15, noes 23, and

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, by the following vote: yeas 30, nays 12.

The Senate then took up the bill to amend the judicial system of the U. States, &c. and spent a short time in modifying its details, and then, having ordered it to be printed, as amended, postponed it to Friday.

After spending half an hour in Executive business,

The Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. Wright, from the Select Committee appointed to prepare rules to be observed in the case the election of President and Vice President shall devolve on this House made a report: which was read and ordered to lie on the table.

The House then proceeded to the unfinished business of yesterday, which was the bill making further provision for the punishment of crimes against the United States.

Mr. Livingston, of Lou. moved an amendment, which was rejected; the bill was then ordered to be engrossed and read a third time on Friday next.

On motion of Mr. Conway, the House then went into committee of the whole, Mr. Metcalfe in the chair, on the bill to authorize the laying out and making of a road from Little Rock, and the territory of Arkansas, to Cantonment Gibson, in the same territory. After a few general, but very appropriate remarks in explanation, by the Delegate from Arkansas, the committee rose, reported the bill without amendment, and it was *ordered to be engrossed for a third reading*.

Thursday, Jan. 27.

SENATE.

A Message was received from the President of the United States.

Mr. Benton moved that the message and documents be referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs; and that 3000 be printed for the use of the Senate.

Mr. Cobb, said, no man had more at heart than himself the subject matter of the message; the impression on his mind was, that it was a plan by which they might get rid of all the Indians on this side of the Mississippi, on terms compatible with the interests of the United States and with that of the Indians themselves. He was, therefore, sorry to be obliged to object to the printing of so large a number, and thought that half the number would be amply sufficient to circulate the information amongst the people of the United States.

Mr. Benton then moved that 2000 be printed for the use of the Senate, and 1000 placed at the disposal of the Secretary of War; which was agreed to: yeas 17, nays 16.

After the consideration of Executive business,

The Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

An engrossed bill, "to authorize the laying out and making of a road from Little Rock to Cantonment Gibson, in the territory of Arkansas," was read a third time, passed, and sent to the Senate.

The House then passed to the unfinished business of yesterday, and took up the bill "to regulate the Post Office Department."

On several of the sections of this lengthy bill, considerable debate arose, in which many Members, besides the Chairman of the Post Office Committee, (Mr. J. T. Johnson,) took part.

At a late hour, the Committee rose, and had leave to sit again.

The following Message was received from the President of the U. States; which was read.

To the H. of Representatives of the United States:

Being deeply impressed with the opinion, that the removal of the Indian tribes from the lands which they now occupy within the limits of the several States and Territories, to the country lying westward and northward thereof, within our acknowledged boundaries, is of very high importance to our Union, and may be accomplished on conditions and in a manner to promote the interest and happiness of those tribes, the attention of the government has been long drawn, with great solicitude, to the object. For the removal of the tribes within the limits of the state of Georgia, the motive has been peculiarly strong, arising from the compact with that state, whereby the United States are bound to extinguish the Indian title to the lands within it, whenever it may be done peaceably and on reasonable conditions. In the fulfilment of this compact, I have thought that the United States should act with a generous spirit, that they should omit nothing which should com-

port with a liberal construction of the instrument, and likewise be in accordance with the just rights of those tribes. From the view which I have taken of the subject, I am satisfied that, in the discharge of these important duties, in regard to both the parties alluded to, the United States will have to encounter no conflicting interests with either. On the contrary, that the removal of the tribes from the territory which they now inhabit, to that which was designated in the message at the commencement of the session, which would accomplish the object for Georgia, under a well digested plan for their government and civilization, which should be agreeable to themselves, would not only shield them from impending ruin, but promote their welfare and happiness. Experience has clearly demonstrated, that, in their present state, it is impossible to incorporate them in such masses, in any form whatever, into our system. It has also demonstrated, with equal certainty, that, without a timely anticipation of, and provision against, the dangers to which they are exposed, under causes to which it will be difficult if not impossible to control, their degradation and extermination will be inevitable.

The great object to be accomplished is, the removal of those tribes to the territory designated, on conditions which shall be satisfactory to themselves, and honorable to the United States. This can be done only by conveying to each tribe a good title to an adequate portion of land, to which it may consent to remove, and by providing for it there, a system of internal government, which shall protect their property from invasion, and, by the regular progress of improvement and civilization, prevent that degeneracy which has generally marked the transition from the one to the other state.

I transmit, herewith, a report from the Secretary of War, which presents the best estimate which can be formed, from the documents in that Department, of the number of Indians within our States and Territories, and of the amount of lands held by the several tribes within each: of the state of the country lying northward and westward thereof, within our acknowledged boundaries; of the parts to which the Indian title has already been extinguished; and of the conditions on which other parts, in an amount which may be adequate to the object contemplated, may be obtained. By this report, it appears that the Indian title has already been extinguished to extensive tracts in that quarter, and that other portions may be acquired, to the extent desired, on very moderate conditions. Satisfied I also am, that the removal proposed is not only practicable, but that the advantages attending it to the Indians may be made so apparent to them, that all the tribes, even those most opposed, may be induced to accede to it at no very distant day.

The digest of such a government, with the consent of the Indians, which should be en-