

## Congress.

### SENATE.

Mr. *Macon* presented a memorial from the North-Carolina Institution for the instruction of the Deaf and Dumb, praying for a donation in public land; referred to the committee on public land.

Mr. *Branch* presented a memorial from the citizens of Elizabeth town, and part of Pasquotank county, North-Carolina. The memorial, said Mr. Branch, was a plain appeal to the justice of Congress, to aid in effecting an object in which the citizens of North-Carolina are deeply interested. Indeed, it was one he considered of great national importance. They pray that an appropriation may be made, to open a communication between the Albemarle Sound and the Atlantic ocean. The subject has been frequently before the Legislature of North-Carolina, and appeals were constantly making to Congress to effect objects of far inferior importance, and he could see no reason why an appropriation should not be made for a work which promised to be of such vast utility. He had never been in favor of extending the powers of the general government; he believed that on a retrospect of the past legislation of Congress, it would be found that appropriations for objects of this importance, had not been withheld from constitutional scruples. It was well known that the coast of North-Carolina was hazardous. The opening of this communication would not only be of vast advantage, in a commercial point of view, but to vessels of the national government, it would afford a safe and commodious harbor. Mr. B. said, that from the surveys that had been made, the practicability of opening the proposed communication was fully demonstrated. [The memorial was then read, ordered to be printed, and referred to the committee of commerce. On the following day, a bill making appropriation for the continuation of the Cumberland Road being under consideration, the following remarks among others were offered:]

Mr. *Branch* said, it was all-important in investigating this subject, to preserve a due regard to the legitimate powers of the general government. It was time for Congress to put this question at rest—whether we were to be governed by the express or implied construction of the Constitution. In presenting the memorial, which he did yesterday, his only object was, as a representative of North-Carolina, to do justice to that State. It was on this principle that he claimed, for the State he represented, a due portion of the money to be expended from the surplus revenues of the government. In most of the appropriations asked for, he found it was the object of those who asked them to serve the people whom they more immediately represented; some under one pretext and some under another. It was the duty of Congress to meet the question fairly, stripped of the disguise under which they but too

often attempt to deceive themselves. He would take this opportunity, while up, of correcting a misrepresentation of the remarks he made, in presenting the memorial from N. Carolina, yesterday, which had appeared in one of the prints of this city. He had been made to say, that the people of N. C. were in favor of extending the powers of the general government, for purposes of Internal Improvement. Sir, said Mr. B. the people of the State I represent, are alarmed at this formidable exercise of power, on the part of the general government, and he was equally unfriendly to any such construction. But, if Congress will apply the funds of the general government for this object and then for that, it was but just, said Mr. B. that we should have our due proportion. Were we, asked he, to sit with folded arms, and see the money of the nation squandered, and refuse to take a part of it? Not one cent had ever been appropriated for the benefit of North-Carolina—all he wanted, was an equal right, a just participation, in the appropriations made by the government. Though opposed to the doctrine of Internal Improvement, by the general government, yet when he saw its revenues expended among the States, he thought North-Carolina had her claim, and it was on that principle that his colleague had placed the memorial before the Senate, in behalf of the association for the Deaf and Dumb. This was asked for under the sanction of the Legislature of the State; tho' that State would gladly put a check to this usurpation, nay, would stop, temporarily, the very wheels of government, rather than see it persisted in. His principal object, however, in rising was, as he stated before, to correct a misrepresentation which had gone forth to the world in a public newspaper of this city—I allude, said Mr. B. to the National Intelligencer, wherein I have been made to say, that which I did not intend to say, that which I did not say; to support a doctrine which I never advocated, and to represent the feelings and wishes of the people of my State diametrically opposite to their principles and practice. The National Journal had done him something like justice. If Congress were to give away the money of the nation, all North-Carolina asked was her fair proportion of it.

Mr. Smith of Md. said, the general government had never assumed a power to the extent which gentlemen intimated. Objects of great national importance might be effected in some States that could not be in others; but wherever they could, there was every disposition to grant them—thus proceeding hand in hand, and dividing the surplus revenue. To the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal something had been given. That was a great national object. Something also had been given to the Dismal Swamp Canal in Virginia. And altho' the members from Virginia spoke against and voted against it, still he supposed they were very well satisfied with it. We are asked, too,

said Mr. S. for something to arrange an opening from Albemarle Sound to the Atlantic, for North-Carolina, that iron-bound coast, that no enemy could attack, and which was always safe. He was happy to find that now she was turning her attention to commerce. He did not happen to hear the speech of the gentleman, yesterday, (Mr. Branch) on the subject; but that gentleman had exhibited to him the map, and he did not doubt of the importance of the measure, and he should no doubt vote for it.

Mr. *Macon* said, (the first part of this gentleman's remarks were not heard)—exactly as we go on, by implication and construction to increase the powers of the general government, so do we make the machinery of government more complicated, more difficult to manage, and create heart-burnings and jealousies among the people. He recollected some years ago, that a gentleman from New-York, now no more, insisted upon it, we were not pledged to make the road, but merely to locate it. With respect to the constitutionality of the question being settled, these questions were always settled when the thing was done. Let a majority be had to carry through a favorite measure, and there was no constitutional difficulty in the way. He hoped the gentleman from Kentucky, who so often talked about the usurpations of the Courts, and he had always accorded with him, would say something as to the usurpations of the general government. A good road, said Mr. M. is a good thing, important and useful; no one ever doubted it; it had never been questioned in Congress; but not quite so good in his opinion, as a good government with wholesome laws. So that all the friends of the bill may say on that subject, on the importance and usefulness of a good road, is at an end. If we have power to make roads through the several States, we have the power to order the inhabitants of the States to work on them and keep them in repair. Will any gentleman pretend to say, that we have the power to order the people of Maryland, Virginia, or Pennsylvania, to work upon a road of our constructing? Surely not. It had been said by the friends of the bill, that the construction of national roads would cement the bonds of the Union; would, by facilitating the intercourse between different sections of the country, bind the people more closely together. Sir, said Mr. M. I never believed we could bind the Union together by legislation, unless by that kind of legislation which is strictly within the limits of the Constitution. If we advance one step beyond this, we create heart-burnings and dissatisfaction. If we act justly and impartially, the people never will complain. Look Sir, at the petitions with which the clerk's table is loaded. On one side they say, give us some of the money of other people; on the other side they say, don't take our money from us to put into the pockets of others: And this was the effect of stretching the powers of the general government, by

construction and implication.—Destroy the Federal government, said Mr. M. and the country is ruined forever. He did not care in what manner it was done, the ruin would be effectual and certain. He was not in the habit of using threats—threats should not be used to a nation of freemen; but he would say that some of the petitions on the table, breathed a spirit more than fifty years old—spoke a language that had never before been spoken to this House. We must go back fifty years to find a parallel.

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Three engrossed bills, viz:—  
1. To prevent defalcations on the part of the disbursing agents of the government—2d. Making appropriations for the support of government, for the year 1828—3. Making appropriations for the payment of revolutionary and other pensioners—were severally passed, and sent to the Senate for their decision thereon.

The Speaker laid before the House a communication from the Secretary of War, transmitting a report and plan of the survey of the Swash in Pamlico Sound, which was referred to the committee of commerce.

Received from the President of the U. S. a Report from the Director of the Mint, together with a statement of the operations of that institution during the year 1827, as follows:

The coinage effected within the past year, as appears from the Treasurer's statement, amounts to \$3,024,342 22, consisting of 9,097,845 pieces of coin, viz:

	Pieces.	Making.
Of Gold,	27,713	\$131,565
Of Silver,	6,712,400	2,869,200
Of copper,	2,357,722	23,577

Of the gold bullion deposited at the Mint within the past year, the proportion received from Mexico, South America, and the West Indies, may be stated at \$76,000, that from North-Carolina at \$21,000, and that from Africa at \$15,000, leaving about \$20,000 derived from sources not ascertained. The whole amount, received from North-Carolina to the present time, is nearly \$110,000; this gold has generally been found to exceed in fineness the standard of our gold coins. The supply of silver, under various forms of unwrought bullion, and in foreign coins, has been unusually abundant, especially during the first three quarters of the year. The heavier deposits have been received generally through the Bank of the United States. Of the amount of silver coined within the last year, more than \$2,000,000 consisted of deposits received from that institution. The amount of copper coins distributed within the last year, is \$21,910. They are forwarded, as heretofore, at the expense and risk of the government, to all parts of the United States, accessible by regular means of transportation, on receiving the value thereof here, a certificate of deposit to the credit of the Treasurer of the United States, for the requisite amount, in any of the Banks authorized to receive deposits of public money.