

## General Assembly.

### SENATE.

On motion of Mr. Hinton, it was resolved, that the committee on Internal Improvements be directed to inform this House, upon what terms the Civil Engineer is employed, and whether the interest of the State requires that he should be any longer retained in its service.

The Senate resolved itself into a committee of the whole House, Mr. Love in the Chair on the resolution, submitted by Mr. Wellborn, for the appointment of a select joint committee to take into consideration the expediency of instructing our Senators and requesting our Representatives in Congress to obtain for this State a proportionate part of the public funds for the purpose of internal improvement; and on the resolution, submitted by Mr. Wilson as an amendment thereof, declaring that the right by Congress to carry on internal improvements in the several States, or to appropriate the funds of the general government for that purpose, is not contained in the granted powers of the Constitution of the United States, and is at variance with the rights reserved to the States, and not sanctioned by sound policy; and, after some time spent therein, the committee rose and reported the said resolutions with an amendment, to wit: to strike out the whole of the same except the word "resolved," and substitute the following: "that, in the opinion of this Legislature, Congress have a right to create a fund for the internal improvement and education, to be apportioned among the States in proportion to their federal representation, and to be applied to such particular objects as each State may specify." The question on agreeing to the amendment of the committee of the whole was determined in the affirmative—29 to 27.

Mr. M'Farland presented a bill to provide for poor persons who are desirous of becoming freeholders in this State; which passed its first reading. [Gives every head of a family, not able to purchase land, the privilege of entering 50 acres any where in the State, not prohibited by law, on their paying the fees of Entry-taker, Surveyor & Secretary of State. And if they erect a dwelling house of any kind & cultivate for five years, 15 acres of the land, and paying the public tax, they shall then be entitled to a grant from the State.]

The bill to regulate the emancipation of slaves, was read the third time and, on the motions of Messrs. Beasley & Deberry, amended and passed—yeas 45—noes 10.

Mr. Ruffin presented the following resolution, which was adopted:

Whereas, under the existing state of embarrassment, and scarcity of circulating medium, incalculable sacrifices of property are likely to be made under execution sales:

Be it therefore resolved, That the committee on the Judiciary be instructed to inquire whether,

by enactment of what is commonly termed a valuation law, or whether any other, or, if any, what means can be adopted to avert such a calamity; and that they report by bill or otherwise.

### HOUSE OF COMMONS.

On motion of Mr. Jones, of Rowan, it was resolved, that, for the purpose of encouraging domestic industry and promoting a spirit of economy in our State, it be recommended to the members of the next General Assembly to appear in their places clad in homespun.

On motion of Mr. Graham, the committee of Finance were instructed to inquire into the expediency of revising and amending the revenue laws, so as to impose a certain per cent. on the capital stock in trade.

Mr. Blackledge, from the select joint committee, reported a bill to vest the right of electing sheriffs in the several counties within this State, in the free men thereof.

On motion of Mr. Barnhardt, it was resolved, that the committee on Education be instructed to inquire into the expediency of appropriating a part of the literary fund for the education of poor and indigent children in the several counties in this State; and that they report a plan to carry the same into effect either by bill or otherwise.

## CONGRESS.

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Tuesday, Dec. 16.

Mr. HALL, of North Carolina, rose and said, that the resolution which he was about to present had been suggested by a bill which he found on his table—the Cumberland Road bill, the provisions of which he believed contrary to the Constitution and the fundamental principles of our political institutions. It was not his purpose, himself, to go into a discussion of the abstract constitutional question. But if it should be thought proper by others, the resolutions might offer an option to the House in discussing the question separately from the bill. If this should not be done, Mr. H. said, the resolutions would yet serve him as a protest against the bill and its principles. Mr. H. then offered the following resolutions:

*Resolved, &c.* That the people of the United States, in the formation of their Governments, did not alienate their sovereignty.

*Resolved,* That the rights of Jurisdiction and soil are the essential attributes of sovereignty.

*Resolved,* That the power to execute a system of Internal Improvements within the States, involves the right of Jurisdiction and soil.

*Resolved,* That the power to make Roads and Canals within the jurisdiction limits of the States, and to make laws for their preservation and protection, and to erect toll gates, and to enforce the collection of tolls, involves the right to execute a complete system of Internal Improvements.

*Resolved,* That Congress does not, under the Constitution, possess this power.

The resolutions were read, and ordered to lie upon the table.

Wednesday, Dec. 16.

Mr. HALL, of North Carolina, brought up the resolutions proposed by him on Tuesday, respecting the question as to the power of general government, tending so far as to put aside the distinctive and sovereign authority of the States, in relation to all matters connected with internal Improvements within such State. He moved to refer the same to a Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union.

Mr. Bartlett thought it would be better to refer it to the Committee on the Judiciary, as it involved a legal question. He should not make a motion on the subject; but begged to suggest it for the consideration of the committee to the gentleman from North Carolina, (Mr. Hall.)

On motion by Mr. Wickliffe, *Resolved,* That the Committee on the Judiciary be instructed to inquire into the expediency of providing by law, that in any case decided by the Supreme Court of the United States, in which shall be drawn in question the articles of any part of the constitution of a State, that a greater number of justices than a majority shall concur in pronouncing such part of the said constitution or act to be invalid, and that without such concurrence, the part of the constitution or act of the Legislature, as the case may be, so drawn in question, shall not be deemed or holden invalid.

A division was called on the reference of the resolution, when there appeared in favor of it 70—against it 59.

Mr. Sawyer moved the following resolution, which was read, and laid on the table:

*Resolved,* That the Secretary of War be directed to lay before this House, a copy of the report of the Engineers employed under a special appropriation by an act of Congress, passed in 1826, to make a survey of the Roanoke Inlet, in North Carolina, with a view to a navigable communication between the Albemarle Sound and the Ocean.

On motion of Mr. Bryan, it was resolved, that the committee of Commerce be instructed to inquire into the expediency of making an additional appropriation for the improvement of Ocracock Inlet, in North Carolina.

The following resolutions, moved by Mr. Mercer at the last Session, was taken up and referred to the Standing Committee on the State of the Union:

1. *Resolved,* That the nett proceeds of the sales of the public lands, not specifically pledged for the payment of the public debt of the United States, be applied, under such regulations as the Legislatures of the several States and Territories may, respectively, provide, to popular education.

2. *Resolved,* That, in effecting this purpose, the said sum be distributed among the several States and Territories according to their respective federal numbers.

3. *Resolved,* That the nett proceeds of the sales of the residue of the public lands, not included within the provisions of the pre-

ceding resolutions, be applied, in like manner, to the object of popular education, in the same proportions, so soon as the public debt now charged thereupon shall have been paid.



## Tarborough,

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1828.

"A merry Christmas."—This being the season generally devoted to mirth and festivity, agreeably to ancient usage, we tender to our readers the usual compliments.

*Internal Improvements.*—In our last paper we gave the resolutions submitted to the Legislature of this State, by Gen. WILSON, Senator from this county, calling in question the constitutional power of Congress to engage in a system of Internal Improvements; and, under the Congressional head of this paper, our readers will find a series of resolutions, relative to the same subject, submitted to Congress by Dr. HALL, representative from this District. We are inclined to believe, from the proceedings of the Legislatures of several States, that a vigorous effort will be made to bring this question fully and fairly before the ensuing Congress; and we are satisfied, that unity of action alone is required from those who doubt its expediency and its constitutionality, to effect either a total abandonment of the system, or an amendment to the Constitution, defining the extent to which it may be carried, and the manner in which the funds appropriated to it, shall be distributed. This, and this only, in our opinion, can induce the Southern States to tolerate the system.

*Public Documents.*—Since our last, we have received from Washington City, in addition to the Report from the Treasury Department, a pamphlet copy of the President's Message, with the accompanying Documents, viz: from the Department of War, Navy Department, General Post-Office, and General Land-Office. We have already given an extract from the President's Message, and the following is a brief outline of the principal features of the Documents:

*Treasury Report.*—In the years 1825-6-7-8, there were applied to the interest of the National Debt, the sum of \$14,930,454, and to the principal \$30,373,188, making an aggregate of \$45,303,642. The National Debt, on the 1st January next, after deducting the seven millions of Stock of the U. S. Bank, will be \$51,362,135; which, it is conjectured by the Secretary, will in effect, be totally paid off in little more than four years. The total receipts for 1828, are estimated at \$24,763,149 91, the expences at \$25,637,511 63; exhibiting an excess of expenditures over receipts of upwards of one million of dollars.