

THE STAR, and North-Carolina State Gazette, Published weekly, by BELL & LAWRENCE.

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LARCHE'S CASE.

The committee of the House of Representatives in Larche's case, have returned the bill from the Senate...

This question having excited a profound interest among the Southern people, we have thought it our duty to request the copy of a Correspondence...

His Excellency John Tyler.

DEAR SIR: The enclosed document (which has this moment been laid upon my table) contains matter of too much interest to Virginia...

I write in too much haste, and under circumstances which necessarily restrain me, from adding any observations upon the facts I have stated...

LITT. W. TAZEWELL.

Washington, April 24, 1826.

Mr. Martindale, from the Committee of Claims, to which was referred the Bill from the Senate...

REPORT.

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the petition of Francis Larche, with a Bill from the Senate for his relief, report:

That this is a claim for the value of a slave belonging to the petitioner, impressed into the service of the United States by General Jackson in the defence of New Orleans...

Richmond, May 2, 1826.

DEAR SIR:—Your favor of the 24th April, covering the report of the committee of the House of Representatives, on the subject of Larche's claim for a slave impressed by the United States...

found good enough to sanction the principles, or more properly the principles, contained in the report. It will be a point from which there will be no receding and no advancing...

I have the honor to be, your most obedient, JOHN TYLER.

CONGRESS.

SENATE.

Saturday, May 13.

The Senate agreed to the conference asked by the other House, on the subject of the Creek Treaty; and Messrs. Benton, Van Buren, and Berrien, were appointed managers on their part.

The Senate then took up the bill supplementary to an act, entitled an act to regulate the commercial intercourse between the United States and certain British colonial ports. [This bill provides that no other or higher duties of impost and tonnage, and no other or higher duty, or charge of any kind, upon any goods, wares, or merchandise, imported from the following free ports of the British Colonies—(here follows a list of the ports in the West Indies, &c.)—in British vessels, shall be levied or exacted in any of the ports of the United States, (excepting the ports in Florida) than upon the vessels of the United States, and upon the like goods, wares, &c. imported into the ports of the United States in the same.

Some discussion took place, in which Messrs. Sanford, Lloyd, Smith, Holmes, and Tazewell, took part, as to the most advantageous mode of accomplishing the object, whether it should be done by the present bill, or be left to negotiation; it was urged that this bill would put our trade on an unequal footing with Great Britain, inasmuch as they might bring the produce of every part of the world to our ports, while we could only go direct to the West Indies with our own produce and manufactures.

Mr. Holmes moved an amendment that the act should not extend to the importation of Plaster of Paris into the United States from British provinces, unless the same advantages should be granted to the United States' vessels, as to the British vessels concerned in that trade. The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. Smith then moved to amend the bill, by adding after the word colonies, "or such as may hereafter be declared to be free ports;" which prevailed.

Mr. Harrison said, there was such a difference of sentiment amongst gentlemen on this subject, that to prevent its occupying more of the time of the Senate, he would move to lay it on the table; which was decided in the affirmative.

Mr. Benton then moved that the Senate proceed to the consideration of confidential business, and for that purpose the gallery be closed.

The motion prevailed, and, after a few minutes spent with closed doors, the Senate adjourned.

Monday, May 15.

On motion of Mr. Roggles, the committee on Claims were discharged from the further consideration of the bill from the House, for the relief of James Monroe; and, on the question of reference to the committee on Foreign Relations, it was decided in the negative by the casting vote of the Chair—ayes 15, noes 15; and it was then referred to a committee of five. Messrs. Sanford, Holmes, White, Hayne, and Eaton, were chosen the committee.

The bill from the House, supplementary to an act for the gradual increase of the navy, was taken up; and, after some discussion between Messrs. Chandler, Tazewell, Branch, Macon, and Hayne, the bill was ordered to a third reading—yeas 24, noes 14.

On motion of Mr. Hayne, the Senate then took up the bill making further appropriation for ten sloops of war, and re-appropriating certain balances carried to the surplus fund. After some ex-

planations by Mr. Hayne, the bill was ordered to a third reading.

Mr. Smith said, as Chairman of the committee who had reported the bill, he felt bound to move to take up for consideration, the bill repealing, in part, the duty on imported salt.

Some discussion took place between Messrs. Holmes, Branch, Lloyd, Macon, Smith, Woodbury, Noble, Van Buren, Sanford, and Findlay; and the Senate refused to take it up, on account of the late period of the session not affording time for the discussion of general subjects.

The Senate then took up the bill from the House for subscription of stock in the Dismal Swamp Canal Company.

A long debate ensued on this bill, in which Messrs. Hendricks, Chandler, Tazewell, Branch, Noble, Holmes, Harrison, Kane, Van Buren, Rowan, Chambers, and Reed, took part.

The question on ordering the bill to a third reading, was finally determined in the affirmative—yeas 21, noes 16.

So the bill was ordered to a third reading, and was then read a third time, passed, and returned to the House of Representatives.

[This bill wants only the signature of the President to become a law.]

Thursday, May 18.

Mr. Randolph, from the Select Committee, appointed to take into consideration the present arrangement of the Senate Chamber, and report such provisions as they shall deem requisite for the accommodation of the Senate, and the order of its proceedings, made a report, accompanied by five resolutions.

Mr. Randolph moved its immediate consideration; but, as it embraced an appropriation of money, by the rules, it required three readings. It was accordingly twice read, but the third reading requiring unanimous consent, and it being objected to, it was not read the third time this day.

Mr. Randolph then said he would content himself with making a motion which could be considered; and, after some other remarks, offered the following:

That the Post Master General be instructed to inquire into the practicability of accelerating the Southern mail in its passage to Washington, so that the mail shall be delivered and opened immediately on its arrival; and also that unnecessary delay in the speed of the mail coach on the road be retrenched.

And that the Postmaster General cause an inquiry to be instituted into the conduct and management of the Post Office at Washington.

Mr. Randolph followed his motion with further observations; after which the resolution was agreed to.

Mr. Holmes rose and said, he thought it his duty, at this late stage of the session, to offer a resolution for consideration, not with the intention of its being acted on at the present session, but at an early period of the next session he should call the attention of the Senate to the subject, and seriously impress on their consideration its importance.

Mr. Holmes then submitted the following resolutions:

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to report such rules and regulations of the Senate as may be expedient—

1st. To require the President of the Senate to call a member to order, and to decide all questions of order, subject to appeal to the Senate.

2. To make further provision to prevent any member from interrupting a member speaking.

3. To provide that no member shall indulge in remarks, or in debate, previous to submitting a motion or resolution, until such member shall have read such motion or resolution in his place.

4. To make further provision to prevent members from speaking indecorously or disrespectfully of other members.

5. To prohibit any member from charging a member of the House of Representatives with a crime or offence.

6. To inquire whether it is proper that a member should charge any officer of the Government with an impeachable offence.

7. To inquire how far it is consistent with the dignity of the Senate to allow disrespectful language to a stranger invited into the Senate.

8. To inquire how far, and in what cases, it ought to be permitted to a member to speak disrespectfully of the dead.

9. To inquire whether, by the existing rules, a member has a right to retain a paper or document which he acknowledges to be in his possession, of a public character, or which he may have read in debate, and whether any further provision be necessary to obtain such paper or document when the Senate may deem it proper.

And that the committee report such rules and regulations on any or all of these inquiries, as, under existing circumstances, may be expedient.

Mr. Randolph moved that they be considered now.

The President said, the rule was, that when a member offered a resolution, if he did not desire its consideration, it would lie one day on the table.

Mr. Holmes said, he had stated distinctly, he did not know that he should call them up during the present session, but that he should urge their consideration at an early period of the ensuing session.

Mr. Randolph said, if it is in order, I should like to move some instructions to this committee, or to a committee, which I will try to read.

I move that it is inconsistent with the rights and privileges of the States to vest in the Vice President, or the President of the Senate, the power of calling a member of the Senate to order, whether subject to an appeal to the Senate or not.

I move you, sir, that no further provision is necessary to prevent any member from interrupting a member speaking, because I never knew it to be done, except in the friendly manner in which it has been done between the gentleman from Kentucky and myself.

No further provision is necessary to prevent any member of the Senate from indulging in remarks in debate previous to submitting a motion or resolution, till such member shall have read such motion or resolution in his place, because such provisions would be inconsistent with one of the highest rights of this body, and introduce into this body a practice, under which has crept into other bodies, the rule that a majority shall have an imprimatur, a veto, on motions in the House. No further provision is necessary to prevent members speaking indiscreetly or disrespectfully of other members. To say any thing further on this subject, would be a libel on this body.

No further provision will be necessary for preventing any member from charging a member of the House of Representatives with crime or offence, for the best of all reasons, that he may be deputed, in his high, solemn, and sacred duty here, to charge a member of the House of Representatives, yea even the presiding officer of that House, with crime and offence, or any officer of the Government, from the highest to the lowest. To prevent that, is to put us prostrate at the footstool of power, where some hereafter may be disposed to fly to cover their disgrace.

It is unnecessary to inquire whether it is proper to prevent that any member should charge any officer in the Government with an impeachable offence. And why? Because it becomes necessary for us, when the other branch of the Government is negligent of its duty, to sound the alarm, and to show the People they are sleeping at their posts.

It is not necessary to inquire how far it is consistent with the dignity of the Senate to allow disrespectful language to a stranger invited into the Senate. This would apply, I suppose, to the case of the famous editor of the Boston Centinel. So far from feeling any disposition, when that person or any other person comes here, it is the duty of every Senator to put the stigma of reprobation on him, and through him on the Senator who introduced him.

Mr. Lloyd.—Do you apply that personally to me? Introduced Major Russell, and I am responsible to the Senate—I am responsible to you individually, if you please. I know nothing in the character of that gentleman that should prevent his being admitted into this assembly—he was, if he is not at this moment, a Senator in Massachusetts. I introduced him; and I repeat I am responsible to the Senate, to you individually—I shun no responsibility.

Mr. Randolph.—You shall shun none to me, sir, when you owe it to me.

Mr. Lloyd.—I shall, because I will shun none.

Mr. King, of Alabama, called to order. The President required the Senator calling to order to reduce the exceptional words to writing.

Mr. King said it was not necessary to reduce the words to writing.

Mr. Randolph.—I should have called order myself.

The President.—The gentleman from Virginia will take his seat until the Chair decides. The words must be taken down. The Chair directs the Senator from Alabama to reduce the words to writing.

Mr. King.—I cannot reduce them to writing for the reason assigned. It was only necessary to check the gentlemen when they were giving way to effervescence of feeling.

The President.—The gentleman from Alabama will take his seat.

Mr. Randolph.—Am I at liberty to go on? The disorder consisted in the interruption of me. I allowed it through the comity and courtesy that ought to be shown to every member on this floor. I allowed it because of the character of the interruption on the part of the gentleman from Massachusetts. The words of the gentleman from Massachusetts cannot be misunderstood; they cannot be misapprehended—they are technical—they demand no other reply than that I have given to the gentleman, and which, when he shall be permitted to use that language to me here, I will give to him, or to any man on earth, here or elsewhere.

Mr. Lloyd rose.

The President asked if the gentleman from Massachusetts made any call to order.

Mr. Lloyd said, No. He wished to inquire whether one Senator had a right to rise and state the conduct of another, without that Senator having a right to reply instantly.

The President said he regretted exceedingly the occurrence had taken place. The Chair had no authority but what was vested in the Chair by the rule of the Senate itself. What said the rule of the Senate? If a member be called to order for words spoken, the exceptional words immediately be taken down in writing, that the President may be better enabled to judge of the matter. The Chair had no power beyond the rules of the Senate. It would stand in the light of a usurper, were it to attempt to exercise such a power; it was too high a power for the Chair. The Senator calling to order must comply. If the Senator from Massachusetts, or the Senator from Alabama, choose to comply with the rule, the gentleman from Virginia would remain in his seat till the words were reduced to writing. If either of the gentlemen declined it, the gentleman from Virginia might proceed.

Mr. Randolph resumed. I should have to file a cross bill myself in that case; there were words I would have reduced to writing; words that are technical among men of honor. It is unnecessary to inquire how far and in what cases a Senator ought to be permitted to speak disrespectfully of the dead. I shall take the liberty of speaking disrespectfully of Nero, Domitian, and the rest of the host of worthies, though they be dead, when I see fit.

It is unnecessary to inquire, whether, by the existing rules, a member has a right to retain a paper or document, he acknowledges to be in his possession, of a public character, which he may have read in debate, and whether any further proceedings be necessary to obtain such paper or documents, when the Senate deem it proper. I should have taken notice of this string of resolutions, but I am compelled to go to Baltimore in the course of the day; the carriage is at the door which is to carry me away. It is a matter of notoriety, and but for my duty here; to be discharged towards the Senate, in relation to the Committee, and the resolution I have submitted, I should have been at Baltimore. I shall go there with the leave of the Senate; I shall pursue my course unchanged; but I say, sir, there is an insinuation in the last resolution, which is rebutted by my resolution, and properly rebutted. I say no such fact exists. I deny it most peremptorily.

Mr. R. having taken his seat—

The President rose, and expressed his deep regret that any occurrence had taken place in this body, calculated to destroy its harmony. The Chair, he said, would never assume any power not vested in it, but would ever show firmness in exercising those powers that were vested in the Chair. The rule was most explicit as to words spoken; the Chair could not make it more plain; it would be unworthy to occupy the seat which it held, if it could observe any other rule than that prescribed by the Senate itself. Those rules had guided the Chair, and it would apply them rigidly to every one as far as its power extended.

Mr. Randolph.—And I shall submit cheerfully, because I always submit to justice and order.

The resolutions offered by Mr. Randolph having been read, he said, let them lie on the table till next session, when I shall say a word or two about them.

The resolutions were then laid on the table.

The bill to provide for the erection of a Penitentiary in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes, was read a third time.

On the question, shall this bill pass? it was decided in the affirmative—yeas 22 to 13.

On motion of Mr. Tazewell, leave of absence was granted to Mr. Randolph for the residue of the session.

The Senate took up the bill for the relief of James Monroe, and the question being on the amendment proposed by the committee of the Senate, to strike out the sum allowed by the bill from the House, and insert "\$9,513 dollars in full of all demands against the United States."

Mr. Harrison moved to amend the amendment so as to include interest on the outfit from the time Mr. Monroe was employed on the mission in 1803, till the time the outfit was paid.

Considerable discussion ensued; and Mr. Harrison having withdrawn his proposition, the question was taken on agreeing to the amendment proposed by the select committee, and decided in the affirmative—yeas 25, noes 14.

The bill was then ordered to a third reading.