

senate, when in its legislative capacity.

Second—To correspond constantly and regularly with the executive during the recess of the legislative.

Third—To exert themselves to have such of the journals of the senate printed as are not of a secret nature, and transmit the same to the executive once a month during each session of Congress, and on such other matters as the committee may think proper to instruct the said senators.

Thursday, November 11.

Mr. Macon moved for leave and presented a bill to repeal all acts, clauses, and parts of acts of the general assembly of this state as relates to classing tobacco, which was read the first time, passed, and sent to the senate.

The bill to repeal an act, entitled, an act providing means for the payment of the domestic debt, for appropriating certain monies therein mentioned, and to amend an act, passed the last session of the general assembly, entitled, an act for levying a tax for the support of government, and for the redemption of the old paper currency, continental money, specie and other certificates; and also part of an other act, entitled, an act for opening the land office for the redemption of specie and other certificates, and discharging the arrears due to the army, was read the first time, passed, and sent to the senate.

The bill to authorise the sheriffs of Brunswick or New-Hanover counties respectively to serve writs or other process on Cape-Fear river, or the branches thereof, which divide the said counties, was read the second time, amended, passed, and sent to the senate.

Mr. Pride moved for leave and presented a bill for prohibiting the importation and admission of black persons into this state, which was read the first time, passed, and sent to the senate.

Received from the senate a supplemental bill to the act, entitled, an act concerning old titles of land, for limitation of actions, and for avoiding suits at law, endorsed, read the second time, and passed.

Friday, November 12.

Mr. Macon moved for leave and presented a bill to direct the mode of proceeding in suits brought by persons detained in slavery, for the recovery of their freedom, which was read the first time, passed, and sent to the senate.

Mr. Jones moved for leave and presented a bill to alter and amend the act for regulating the pilotage, and facilitating the navigation of Cape-Fear river, which was read the first time, passed, and sent to the senate.

*Address of his excellency Alexander Martin, esquire, governor of this state, presented to both houses of the general assembly, the 2d instant.*

*To the honourable the General Assembly of the state of North-Carolina.*

Gentlemen,

AGREEABLY to your message of this day, I do myself the honour to lay before you the several communications come into my hands in the recess of your body that are of a public or important nature.

The authenticated copies of the several acts of Congress, passed at their last session, transmitted to me by the secretary of state for the United States, first merit your attention. Some of those acts concern the state more immediately, particularly "an act to accept a cession of the claims of the state of North-Carolina to a certain district of western territory," the deed of which, pursuant to directions of an act of the general assembly of this state, passed for this purpose at the last session, was executed in due form by our senators in Congress, and the same, with the first recited act, I have caused by proclamation to be duly promulgated.—As the ceded territory contains nearly one of the districts of the state, late intitled to representation in Congress, it will be necessary that the other districts be new-modelled by legislative act, that the number of representatives this state claims by the federal constitution, be apportioned to such parts as will make that representation equal and just. The time of our representatives serving in Congress having nearly expired, as by resolution of the house of representatives, it will be also necessary that legislative provision be made for another election before the fourth day of March next, as mentioned in said resolution, that the new elected members be in readiness to take their seats in Congress at the time aforesaid.

The act of Congress for the assumption of the debts of the individual states, without their particular consent, or application of their citizens for this purpose, seems to exhibit at an early period, a new and unexpected precedent of legislation in the federal government; how far the same may involve in it the independence and internal sovereignty of the state, I shall not undertake to discuss; but must presume the principles of pure and equal justice dictated in that honourable body this extraordinary measure.—By this act taking effect, it may be advisable and proper that some part of

your revenue system be altered and made conformable to it. Our agents for settling the accounts of the state with the commissioners of the United States, by their communications now before you, inform, that in consequence of the "act to provide more effectually for the settlement of the accounts between the United States and individual states," our accounts are to wear a new dress by undergoing a different statement from the former, and other claims admitted greatly in favour of the state.

The judiciary system of the state has been long the subject of legislative attention. A reform hath been frequently attempted, that hath as often failed.—The daily increase of litigation in the courts of law and equity, seems to demand some relief to our judges in the growing burthens and complicated duties of their office, by additional aid to their number. How far the same is expedient at this time to undergo again your deliberations, is submitted to your wisdom.

I beg leave to call your attention to the frauds daily practising on the public credit of the state, by nefarious villains in the neighbouring states, as well as in this. The counterfeiting our public bills of circulating currency in such an artful manner as almost baffles detection, and the infamous traffic carried on with the same, require some new exertions of legislative authority to suppress these evils. Though the laws in force be deemed adequate to the punishment of persons offending in the state, yet these crimes committed out of the government bid defiance to those laws, and pass with impunity. I submit to your wisdom the expediency of calling in the whole of our present paper medium, and exchanging the same with another prepared and executed with greater accuracy and art, under the direction of characters equal to the trust, and possessing your highest confidence. That the same be not considered a new emission, but a meer exchange of our present paper currency to secure the public credit of the state. That your sense of these great crimes be expressed in resolves or otherwise, and the executive be authorized to transmit the same to the neighbouring, or all the states in the union, requesting them to pass laws inflicting punishments as to them shall seem just, on such of their citizens guilty of the above offences, so destructive to public credit and commerce in general, as well as to our own.

The general assembly, at their last session, were pleased, by an "act to establish an university in this state;" but the funds allotted being slow in the collection, have