

scribe; *Provided* always, That payment made on account of clothing any officer or volunteer, and which was not warranted by existing law, shall be paid from the value of said horse, page, &c.

Wednesday, March 3.
An important bill for changing the mode of disposing of the Public Lands by credit to cash sales, was discussed at length, and finally ordered to be engaged for a third reading.

USE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Monday, March 3.
Mr. Stocumb submitted a resolution advising the President of the Senate to close this session by adjournment of their respective Houses on the day of — next. And, at the instance of the mover, the said resolution was ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Cocks submitted for consideration the following resolution:

Resolved, That the committee on Naval Affairs be instructed to enquire into the expediency of reducing the Naval Establishment of the United States.

Mr. Cocks made a few remarks, in the course of which he stated his object to be to effect a reduction of expense by reducing the number of officers of the Navy, so as to proportion them equally to the number of vessels in commission. It was to this point only that he wished to call the attention of the naval committee.

The house having agreed to consider the motion by a vote of 67 to 63, it was, on motion of Mr. Lowndes with the consent of the mover, ordered to lie on the table.

On motion of Mr. Cocks, it was

Resolved, That the Secretary of War be directed to report to this House a list of all contracts which have been made for the building or repairing fortifications, arsenals, or magazines, since the year 1815; and also that he report the amount of monies actually paid, to whom and when, and whether public money was actually given of said contracts, and what surety was given, in what amount, and whether the surety is still solvent; and whether the contracts have been faithfully performed.

On motion of Mr. M'Koy, it was *Resolved*, That the committee on private land claims enquire into the expediency of providing by law for the location of unsatisfied warrants issued to troops of the Virginia State Line, for services during the revolutionary war of the United States.

On motion of Mr. Rankin, the committee on Commerce were instructed to enquire into the expediency of establishing a port of entry at the mouth of Pearl River in the state of Mississippi.

The engrossed bill in addition to the act regulating the Post Office Establishment, was read a third time, passed, and returned to the Senate.

NAVY APPROPRIATIONS.

The House then resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. Nelson in the chair, on the bill making appropriations for the support of the U. S. for the current year.

On this bill a rather interesting, but desultory debate took place, which employed the time of the committee until past four o'clock; and which shall be the subject of a future notice.

The Speakers were, in succession, Messrs. Smith, of Md., Johnson, Starrs, Clay, Lowndes, Trimble, Meigs, Foot, Alsbe, Cobb and Fuller.

Towards the close of the debate, Mr. Clay moved that "it be recommended to the House to recommit to the committee of Ways and Means the bill entitled, &c. (the appropriation bill) with instruction to prepare the same in reference to an occasional instead of a permanent employment of the squadron in the Mediterranean."

After debate, this motion was negatived, 72 to 51; and the committee rose and reported the bill, with the following appropriations therein, viz:

For pay and subsistence of the officers, and pay of the seamen.	\$989,320.
For provisions,	\$145,157.
For medicines, hospital stores and all expenses on account of the sick, including the marine corps,	\$ 36,000.
For repairs of vessels,	\$181,000.
For contingent expenses,	\$140,000.
For improving of navy yards, docks, and wharves, pay of superintendants, store keepers, clerks, and laborers.	\$100,000.
For pay and subsistence of the marine corps,	\$177,225.
For clothing the same,	\$ 27,205.
For military stores,	\$ 1,000.
For the contingent expenses of the same,	\$ 20,000.

And, before considering the same, the House adjourned.

Wednesday, March 3.
Mr. Campbell, from the Committee on Private Land Claims, made a report accompanied by a bill, for the relief of the heirs of Abijah Hunt and William Gordon Forman—Twice read, &c.

On motion of Mr. Cocks, the bill respecting the Military Establishment of the United States, (for reducing certain

branches of it) was committed to the same committee to whom had previously been referred the bill making appropriations for the military service for the year 1820.

The bills from the Senate, authorizing the Secretary of State to issue letters patent to Richard Wilcox; for the relief of Francis B. Languille; for the relief of John Pellett; were severally read twice and referred, the first to a committee of the whole, and the two latter to the committee of claims.

The amendments of the Senate to the bill "to provide for taking the fourth census or enumeration of the inhabitants of the United States," were read and concurred in by the House.

The engrossed bill making appropriations for the support of the Navy of the United States, for the year 1820, was read the third time, passed and sent to the Senate.

MILITARY APPROPRIATIONS.

The House then resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. Nelson in the chair, on the bill making appropriations for the support of the Military Establishment of the United States.

[To the same committee was referred the bill respecting the Military Establishment.]

The last mentioned bill was up, and having been read—

Mr. Cannon moved to strike out the first section of the bill, excepting the enacting clause, and to insert hereof to insert the following:

"That the Military Peace Establishment of the United States shall consist of such proportions of Artillery, Engineers, Infantry and Riflemen, as the President of the United States shall judge proper to retain in service, not exceeding in the whole, including officers, non commissioned officers and privates, five thousand."

Mr. Cannon supported this motion by a speech of some length on the necessity of retrenchment, occasioned by the state of the finances; the inability of an Army in peace—the Militia being willing and competent to perform any occasional service in which an army may be employed.

Mr. Clay avowed himself to be in favor of reducing the Army, in preference to resorting to taxes, loans, or to an invasion of the sinking fund, to meet the expense of the government—if, on the report of the committee of foreign relations, the attitude of the country should not be changed to that of war or to that which should menace war. Meanwhile, he was disposed not to act on the bill now before the committee, but to defer it for the present, for the purpose of acting on the military appropriation bill. If, after the report of the committee of foreign relations should be made, it should be thought expedient to reduce the Army, the appropriations would shape themselves to what should be the actual force and condition of the Military Establishment. He therefore moved to lay this bill on the table, with a view to take up the appropriation bill.

The question was taken without debate, and decided in the affirmative.

The bill making appropriations for the support of the Military Establishment, for the current year, was then taken up.

On coming to the appropriation for the support of the Military Academy for the present year—

Mr. Cannon spoke at some length against this appropriation, on the ground of hostility to the institution itself; conceiving that the money levied by taxes on the People, and on the poor as well as the rich could be better employed than on the gratuitous instruction of a privileged class of youth.

Mr. Smith, of Maryland, remarked that the arguments of the gentleman would well apply to a proposition to abolish this institution; but did not apply with any force to the question in hand, which was not the Establishment of the Academy, but the appropriation of money to defray expenses already authorized by law.

Mr. Cannon was so little disposed to continue this Establishment, that he was willing to arrest, or at least to reduce the appropriation. But, in order to get at a proposition to reduce the expense of that Establishment, or to abolish it, Mr. C. moved to lay this bill on the table.

After some observations from Mr. Strother in opposition to this motion, the question was taken thereon, and decided in the negative.

Mr. Cannon had proposed a sum less than that moved by the Chairman of the committee of ways and means for the support of the Military Academy. So that two questions were presented: the one on a certain sum necessary to the support of the Academy as it now stands, and the other on a less sum. The question being taken, according to usage, on the largest amount, it was decided in the affirmative, by a large majority.

The committee proceeded to the consideration of the other items of appropriation.

The item of 21,000 dollars, for bounties and premiums on enlistments of recruits to fill up the Army, coming up—

Mr. Williams, of North Carolina, opposed this item, on the ground that there was no necessity for increasing the number of the Army beyond their present actual amount.

Mr. Smith, of Maryland, supported the appropriation as being almost a matter of course, and, generally, on the ground that the Army ought not to be reduced at all; but, if reduced, that it ought to be by a direct vote.

Mr. Trimble declared himself to be in favor of a reduction of the Army, but in a practicable way; and he thought that, to attempt it in this way, would but serve to weaken the efforts which should hereafter be made directly to effect the same object.

Mr. Stocumb was opposed to this appropriation; and, by way of shewing how

cautions the House ought to be in making its appropriations, said that it appeared, from documents laid before the House, that powder and lead belonging to the government had been loaned to bankrupts to the amount of 240,000 dollars—the repayment of which the House is coolly informed, by the officer having charge of that branch of the service, was precarious, and, in order to mend the matter, that 1000 dollars more had been advanced in money to the same persons.

Mr. Cobb made a few remarks against the appropriation.

Mr. Livermore delivered his sentiments in favor of a reduction of the Army. But, he said, though many were in favor of that reduction, there were also many who were opposed to it—and the only way in which the former could secure their object, was to reduce the appropriation. If the appropriations were made, the ground was given up. He was of opinion, therefore, that the friends of the reduction should make use of the weapons which lay in their way. He thought the army too large; and uselessly employed. It would take longer to collect this army, which was scattered about like the sheep of the shepherd, among many hills—to bring them from the Yellow Stone, and the red corners of the earth, than to raise up a new army. He also complained of the magnitude of the Staff of the Army, as being disproportionate to its numbers, &c.

Mr. Baldwin made some remarks explanatory of the occasion for this appropriation.

Mr. Foot, with a view to present directly to the House the question of authorizing the enlistment of men to supply vacancies occurring in the ranks, moved to strike out from the bill all that relates to appropriations for recruiting expenses. Mr. Smith, of Maryland, opposed the motion.

[Here the Debate began to be essentially a debate on the reduction of the army.]

Mr. Simkins, delivered his opinion at length against the reduction of the army, and against a course which would subject measure of great national policy to fluctuations depending on the state of the finances. The sum of his argument may be expressed in the maxim of Washington, which he quoted, that to secure Peace we ought to be prepared for War. He declared, that he, for one, would sooner resort to loans and taxes than in the present condition of the country, vote for the reduction of the Army or the Navy.

Mr. Rhea, said a few words in defence of the Militia, as compared with the regular force.

Mr. Simkins, disclaimed any intention to depreciate the Militia.

Mr. Clay said a few words expressive of his hope that this bill would be permitted to take its course. These broken efforts, he said, of the friends of a reduction of the army, would have the effect to weaken their strength. For himself, he could not vote to reduce a man of the army in the present posture of our affairs. Even if the army were to be reduced, he did not know that he should vote against this item of appropriation, as it might yet be necessary to have such an appropriation, let the force of the army be greater or less. In relation to all expenditures already authorized by law, he thought the House should go on and make the appropriations: in relation to the items of appropriation not previously authorized by law, such as that for fortifications, &c. the House was at full liberty to use a discretion, &c.

Mr. Cannon spoke at some length in favor of the proposed amendment, and of course in favor of arresting the recruiting of the army. He denied the necessity of maintaining the army in its present force, and did not see any indications, from any quarter, of a change in our present attitude, to require its maintenance.

Mr. Williams of N. C. also again spoke to the same effect as Mr. C. at some length, and concluded by a motion that the committee rise, with the express view of laying this bill on the table, in order to take up the proposition to reduce the army.

The question on this motion was decided in the negative, by no large majority.

The question on Mr. Foot's motion was then decided in the negative by a decided majority.

And the item of appropriation for bounties, &c. for the recruiting service, was agreed to.

The other appropriations in the bill were then agreed to, until the House came to the appropriation for fortifications; for which object the committee of Ways and Means propose the sum of eight hundred thousand dollars.

Mr. Smith, of Md. explained the views of the War Department, and of the committee of Ways and Means, on this subject. The officers having charge of that branch of the service had recommended the appropriation of a considerably larger amount, as being necessary under existing contracts; but the committee of Ways and Means was of opinion that a part of the proposed amount might be dispensed with, without great prejudice to the service, and had so reported.

This item gave rise to some brief debate, which had not terminated when a motion was made for the committee to rise, (about 4 o'clock,) and agreed to. Whereupon, the House adjourned.

Thursday, March 9.

Mr. Salsbee, from the Committee on

Naval Affairs, who were instructed to enquire into the expediency of suspending for a limited time, so much of the standing appropriation of \$1,000,000 for the increase of the Navy as may be consistent with the public service, &c. made a report, the purpose of which, is that, after enquiry, they believe that true economy and the best interests of the nation are opposed to a suspension, even for a limited time, of any portion of the sum annually appropriated for the gradual increase of the Navy; and that they have not been able to ascertain where any essential reduction can be made in the expenses of the Navy, without reducing the establishment. The report was ordered to lie on the table.

Navy appropriations.—The House then proceeded to the consideration of the report of the committee of the whole on the bill making the annual appropriations for the support of the Navy.

Mr. Cobb moved to recommit the bill to the committee of Ways and Means, with instruction so to amend it as to reduce the appropriation for every branch of the service, one-fourth.

This motion produced a Debate, in the course of which it was supported by the mover, and Mr. Harford and Mr. Calhoun, and opposed by Messrs. Smith, of Maryland, Smith, of North Carolina, Trimble, Johnson, Foot, Holmes, Wood, and Lowndes.

Mr. Johnson, desirous to postpone this and the other appropriation bills until the amount of the deficit appeared, moved to strike out the proposed instruction to the committee, so as to leave the question one of recommitment merely. This motion was negatived.

The question was then taken on Mr. Cobb's motion, and negatived, 15 or 20 members only rising in favor of it.

The report of the committee of the whole was then agreed to, and the bill, as it stands, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading,

And the House adjourned.

Internal Improvement.

From the Fayetteville Gazette.

Internal Improvement.—We observe that the board of public works, appointed at the last session of the legislature, have advertised to receive proposals for opening a road from the county of Haywood to the southern line of the state, to be extended through the Cherokee country. We notice, also, that his Excellency the Governor has appointed commissioners to superintend the surveying and sale of public lands acquired by treaty from the Cherokee Indians.—These measures may not, in themselves, be calculated to excite general attention, yet they will be viewed with peculiar interest by those who consider the appropriation of the last session as the commencement of a new era in the improvements of North Carolina. It will be recollected that, by an act of the last General Assembly, the proceeds of the Cherokee lands are appropriated to purposes of internal improvement; and it is not doubted that, under the direction of the gentlemen who compose the board of public works, the funds arising from the sales will be judiciously applied. Until an estimate can be formed of the probable extent of the fund it cannot be supposed that any work of considerable magnitude will be undertaken by the board; it may be proper, however, in the mean time, to suggest such works as, by a moderate expenditure, may be rendered permanently and extensively useful.

We take the liberty of calling the attention of the board to the expediency of opening a road from the Yadkin river, near Salisbury, by the most direct and convenient route to Fayetteville. Should this road be well constructed, and kept in good repair, the cost of transportation, including toll sufficient to reimburse the interest on the amount expended, would be reduced one fourth, at least, below the present expense. It is well known that the present prices of many articles of produce are too low to defray the expense of transportation from the western counties of this state to the nearest market.—The consequences are obvious. The planter loses the products of his industry and the commerce of the state is deprived of its resources. It will, therefore be readily perceived that every facility which can be afforded to the transportation of produce from the interior to our market towns will contribute to the advancement of the agricultural and commercial prosperity of the state. Should the proposed communication from Yadkin river to Fayetteville meet the views and receive the support of those who are individually interested in the result, it is presumed that the board of public works will cheerfully co-operate in the design, and render such aid as may be required for the accomplishment of the work.

COLUMBIA, (S. C.) MARCH 7. PUBLIC WORKS.

We announce, with much pleasure, that since the first meeting of the board of public works, at Land's Ford, on the 24th January, most of the plans of the works for this year, there determined on, have been put into operation. Contracts have been made, and the work commenced at the following points:

Broad River.—Col. Nesbitt has undertaken the canal and locks at Lockhart's Shoals. The work is commenced and his force rapidly increasing.

Mr. McKenzie has contracted for the lockage at the Bull Shoals and for the Columbia canal and basin. His force is a respectable one, and considerable impression has already been made on this work.

Saluda.—Mr. Dyer with a good force

continues the work on the Saluda, which is nearly completed. Mr. Falls, Green and Gove, Columbia, and has placed a strong force on the work.

Congaree and Santee.—Col. Myddleton superintends the clearing of the Congaree and Santee, and we understand has used of his force engaged.

Wateree.—Col. Nixon has undertaken this river below Grove's Shoals, eight miles above Camden. He has a considerable force already employed.

Pedee.—General Williams continues the operations on this river, with a force, which, it is expected, will finish it this year.

Edisto.—Contracts are in full operation, with competent forces, on Lower Edisto, under Col. Johnson, on South Edisto, under Mr. Head, and on North Edisto, under Mr. Williamson.

Catawba.—General Davis and the assistant engineer are examining this river, and a strong force of stone masons, blazers, &c. are expected from the north, to commence the work in April.

Charleston Road.—The general course of this road has been determined. It has been examined from the Columbia Ferry, to a point below Huckabuck Swamp, and a contract is made for that part of the road, with Mr. Anderson, who is expected to begin the work in a few days, and finish it by the middle of July, when his force will be removed to the road from Columbia to Spring Hill, during the autumnal months.

The president of the board and the engineer are now examining this road below Huckabuck Swamp, and will reach Charleston; when it is hoped that a force will be engaged to commence the work below.

Saluda Road.—The contract already made on the rivers contain stipulations for the removal of a whole force to this road in July. About 500 men it is supposed will thus be engaged on the upper part of the road, for the three autumnal months.

We understand that the whole force now employed on the different works exceeds 700 men, and will probably be increased to 1000 by the beginning of April.

Literary Intelligence.

LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC INTELLIGENCE.

From Blackwood's Magazine for November, received at the office of the Commercial Advertiser, New-York.

Carrier Pigeons.—The Plover papers have recently contained accounts of the late annual competition of the Society of Pigeon Fanciers at Antwerp. On this occasion, thirty two pigeons, whose word Antwerp marked on their wings were despatched from the above city to London, whence they were sent back with answers, their wings being previously counter marked with the word London. The custom of training pigeons to convey letters from one place to another, is prevalent in all parts of the East, but particularly in Syria, Arabia, and Egypt. The Mogul formerly kept a vast number of pigeons for the purpose of carrying letters on occasions when extraordinary speed was necessary. The Pashas of the Port were the same. They fly from one extremity of his dominion to the other. By the mode of conveyance the consul of Alexandria daily sends despatches to Aleppo in five hours, though couriers occupy a whole day in proceeding from the town to the other. The caravans travelling through Arabia, maintain communications with the Arab sovereigns by means of pigeons with letters fastened under their wings. These messengers fly with extraordinary rapidity and return with fresh speed to the place where they have been reared. They are frequently observed flying with their backs on the sand with their bill open to receive the morning dew, and recover breath. Pliny mentions, that pigeons were employed to introduce letters from Mutina (Modena) when that place was besieged by Mark Antony. They were also employed in 1374, at the siege of Harlem, and in 1775, at that of London. The route of Orange, when the latter siege was raised determined that the pigeons should be maintained at public expense, and that at their death they should be embalmed, and preserved in the town house as a mark of gratitude.

Populal light of Africa.—On the eastern coast of Africa and the western shore of the gulf of Aden, a flame called *populal* is seen to issue from an opening, about three feet in diameter, in the side of a mountain, and in shape resembling the mouth of an oven. Cape Beaufort, of the royal navy, when surveying this part of the coast of Kaimania, visited the spot. This mountain like that of Cuchivana, was composed of porous rock, with loose blocks of the same; there was not the least appearance of volcanic production, no tremors of the earth, no noises; neither smoke, nor noxious vapors were emitted from the cavity, but brilliant and perpetual flame issued forth, of intense heat, and said to be unquenchable by water; the remains of the walls, which had formerly surrounded near the spot, were scarcely discernible and trees, brushwood and grass were close to this little crater, it so might be called.

Literature encouraged by the Pasha.—The Pasha of Egypt, say the Savans, has become an object of universal notice.—His name abounds in journals and periodical works.