

Corros.—This article has taken another run, and was selling in Fayetteville, at our last dates, at 15 and 16¢ cents. The last Observer says—“Our market has never been more animated than at the present time. Sales of cotton were made yesterday at 16¢ cents;” and the opinion is expressed that the present prices will be maintained throughout the season.

Since writing the above, a slip from our correspondent informs us, that the actual sales of cotton on Friday, the 11th inst. were at 16 1/2¢.

The Cheraw Gazette, of the 8th inst. states that cotton had advanced one cent, and was selling at 14 1/2 and 15 cents.

The Charleston Courier, of Feb. 9th, says—“The news from Liverpool, by the line ship Canada, has had a decided effect on our cotton market—very good cottons, (not strictly prime) were sold yesterday at 16 1/2 cents.”

The Small-Pox has entirely disappeared from Fayetteville, no new case having occurred for the last twenty-one days.

NEW PAPER.—Proposals, we observe, are issued, for the publication of another paper in Fayetteville, to be entitled “THE FAYETTEVILLE CENTINEL.” The experiment has already been made, whether Fayetteville can support two papers, and failed; if tried again, the result will be the same.

No papers from Petersburg, Richmond, or Washington, were received in this place by the last northern mail; but papers from Alexandria, Baltimore, and as far north as Massachusetts, came regularly to hand. How this happened, we know not; but we know the disappointment was a sore one to our politicians. We had scarcely begun to search our scanty supply of papers for intelligence from head-quarters, when one accosts us with—“What news from Washington?—are Mr. Adams’ prospects still bright? Hope so; but can’t tell. No letters or papers from Washington to-day. “What will be the effect of the Clay movement?” says another. “Will it defeat the election of the old General?” Don’t know—the mail failed. “What! so soon after the Postmaster General’s circular?” Yes, The contractor for the mail between Salisbury and Raleigh, doubtless met with obstacles which “human exertions” could not overcome. That’s a very rough road, you know. “Yes; and a rough stage that runs on it; but the contractor knew the nature of the road, when he received his *quid pro quo*.” Quite probable; but contractors are sometimes apt to imagine, that they are employed, not for the public, but for their own private benefit. “Too true.” A friend of Mr. Crawford now steps up, with a smiling countenance—“Well, is it true that Jackson has gone over to Crawford, and that we shall bear you, after all?” May be so; but doubt it very much. No late news from Washington this week—not a scratch of a pen from that place. “Ah!—But suppose this union should take place, what would be the consequence?—would it secure Crawford’s election?” Can’t say; but think not. It would probably cause a tie, and thus bring Mr. Calhoun in thro’ the Vice-Presidency. This conclusion did not suit him—and the smile on his countenance vanished. Thus were all eager for news—all hoping—and all disappointed. Should any untoward event prevent the arrival of the mail on Wednesday, it will hardly be safe for a contractor to show his head—the whole race of them would be execrated. But the weather has been so fine for a few days past, that it will be quite within the compass of “human exertions,” to get the mail along safely and easily; and Wednesday, probably, will put an end to all doubts, confirm the fears of some, and realize the hopes of others.

Benevolence.—Nine hundred pounds were lately subscribed at Shrewsbury, in England, to build a kennel and stable for the Shropshire hounds—Sixty-six pounds were subscribed at the same place, for the sufferers in the explosion of the steam engine of the Manchester Manufactory! “Look on this picture, and then on that!”

The Grand Seigneur has issued his firman, prohibiting the Bible in the Turkish Empire. He no doubt thinks it a dangerous book to be placed in the hands of the people, and that it will have a

National Legislature.

18th CONGRESS... SECOND SESSION.

SENATE.

TUESDAY, FEB. 1.—Mr. Benton, from the committee on Indian Affairs, to whom the message of the President of the United States on the subject was referred, reported a bill “for the preservation and civilization of the Indian tribes within the United States;” which was read, and passed to a second reading.

On motion of Mr. Tazewell, it was

Resolved, That a committee be appointed, to join such committee as may be appointed by the House of Representatives, to ascertain and report a mode of examining the votes for President and Vice President of the United States, and of notifying the persons elected of their election.

SUPPRESSION OF PIRACY.

The Senate then again proceeded to the consideration of the bill for the suppression of piracy in the West Indies; the motion to strike out the third section, (which authorises a blockade of the ports of Cuba, under certain circumstances,) being still pending.

After considerable debate, the question on striking out said section was taken, and decided in the affirmative—yeas 37, nays 10.

Mr. Holmes, of Maine, then offered the following, as a substitute for the section just stricken out:

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That no armed vessel of the United States, authorized and employed for the suppression of piracy, shall be engaged or employed in the transportation of specie, or any other article of freight, unless especially designated therefor by the President of the United States.

Before the question was taken on this amendment, Mr. Van Buren moved to recommit the bill to the Committee on Foreign Relations, with the following instructions:

Resolved, That the bill “for the suppression of piracy in the West Indies,” be re-committed to the Committee on Foreign Relations, with instructions to report amendments thereto, giving power to the President, on its being satisfactorily proved to him that any of the pirates mentioned in the said act, find refuge in any of the cities or ports of the said island of Cuba, or other islands mentioned in the same bill, and that the local governments of the said islands, on being requested so to do, neglect or refuse to aid in the apprehension, prosecution and conviction of such pirates, to give authority to the crews of the armed vessels of the United States, under such instructions as may be given them, to land on the said islands, in search of pirates, and there to subdue, vanquish and capture them, and bring them to the United States for trial and adjudication, as the said instructions of the President of the United States may prescribe; and further, to authorise reprisals on the commerce and property of the inhabitants of the said islands.

The proposed amendment and instructions were ordered to be printed; and the Senate adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 2.—The Senate again took up the bill for the suppression of Piracy.

The amendment moved yesterday by Mr. Van Buren, was for the present withdrawn by that gentleman.

The amendment of Mr. Holmes then came on—a long debate ensued upon it; but it was finally rejected.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

GENERAL APPROPRIATION BILL.

TUESDAY, FEB. 1.—The House then passed to the unfinished business of yesterday, which was the bill making appropriations for the support of Government for the year 1825. The bill, after undergoing several amendments, was reported to the House by the committee of the whole, and ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

The House then went into committee of the whole, on the bill “making appropriations for the Military service of the United States, for the year 1825;” which was amended, by the addition of a clause appropriating, for the expense of surveys, &c. made under the act to provide for internal improvements, \$28,567, and then ordered to a third reading.

The same committee then took up the bill “making appropriations for the support of the Navy of the United States, for the year 1825.”

Mr. Cocke moved to reduce the amount of the appropriation for contingent expenses of the navy, from \$200,000 to \$195,000.

The motion was resisted by Mr. McLane, who declared himself ready to prove, by documentary evidence, that the whole amount had been devoted to the objects designated by law, and to those only, and that, instead of being too great, it was, in fact, too small, to meet the necessities of the service.

The motion of Mr. Cocke was lost.

The contingent fund (for officers’ transportation, &c.) which had, but last year, been reduced from 14,000 to 9,000 dollars, was again raised to its former amount, and the 5,000 in arrears for the last year, was provided for by a distinct item of appropriation.

The committee then rose, and reported the bill, which, as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 2.—On motion of Mr. Wright, of Ohio, the House then resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the state of the Union, and took up the report of the Select Committee appointed to prepare rules to be observed

by the House in choosing a President of the United States.

The report was read through, and then the rules were read and considered separately. On the first rule some conversation took place between Mr. Basset, of Va. and Mr. Wright, the chairman of the select committee. No alteration, however, was made in the rule.

The second rule was then read, and no objections were made to it.

The third rule was read as follows:

3d. The doors of the Hall shall be closed during the balloting except against members of the Senate and the officers of the House; and the galleries shall be cleared on the request of the delegation of any one State.

Mr. Ingham of P. moved to strike out the words in *Italics*. He would rather have the rule made absolute at once, than dependent on the delegation of one State.

Mr. McLane of Del. spoke in favor of clearing the galleries altogether. Mr. Buchanan of P. was for throwing the galleries open, and supported the amendment. Mr. Livermore of N. H. thought the present rule was sufficient; to clear the galleries whenever the House thought proper. Mr. Webster approved of the rule as reported by the committee. Mr. Wright of O. was of the same opinion.

Mr. Ross of O. was opposed to closing the doors. Mr. Hamilton of S. C. spoke at large on the same side. The debate was protracted—finally, Mr. McDuffie of S. C. observed, that as, in the course of the debate, principles had been advanced, against which he must protest, and against which he intended to vote, he was desirous of giving the subject some discussion, which the lateness of the hour would not, at present, admit him to do. He therefore moved that the committee rise.

The question on rising was put accordingly, and carried, yeas 89—noes 71. So the committee rose, and obtained leave to sit again.

A message was received from the Senate, informing the House that they had appointed a joint committee for the purpose of counting the votes of President, and requesting the appointment of a similar committee on the part of the House; and the resolution for this purpose was agreed to by the House.

THE SPEAKER’S APPEAL.

[See first page of the Journal.]

FRIDAY, FEB. 4.—On motion of Mr. Condict, of N. J. the House resumed the consideration of the motion of Mr. Forsyth to refer the communication of the Speaker to a select committee.

Mr. Archer of Va. although laboring under a severe indisposition, felt himself urged to say a few words on the subject before the committee. No member was ever more disposed than himself to vindicate the dignity of the House, or to allow an opportunity for a member to be heard in his defence against charges which implicate his honor and integrity. But he did not consider the presiding officer of the House to be in that predicament; and he asked the House if it would lend its sanction to proceedings like those on which it was now called to enter; and appoint a committee to investigate charges which came before them on the authority of vague rumor, and through the channel of a public newspaper. Did such a course comport with the dignity of the House? Did it not involve implications against the Speaker which were not warranted? What are the objects of the inquiry? They are peculiar. The accusation on which we are called to decide is extra-official. Let gentlemen refer to the paper, and say whether the charges are susceptible of any proof? The writer of the letter in the newspaper refers only to rumors. Does he make any specific charge against the Speaker? Does he accuse him of any malfeasance? No. He speaks of a number of gentlemen. Does he charge any thing against the Speaker, which, if proved, could excite the indignation of the House? He says nothing in the publication which could induce such a result. He thought gentlemen could not have adverted to the newspaper. The only part of the publication which could excite any inquiry is mere matter of report, relating to something which has been whispered here. What is the predicament, then, in which the House is placed? If the charges should be true—which he could never bring himself to admit, except for the sake of argument, what could the committee do? They could only make their report to the House, and the House might concur in it. But if true—if the Speaker should be guilty of every corruption, the House could not convict him. If, then, there could not be any ultimate procedure, this proceeding would amount to nothing more than a solemn mockery, to which he would never consent to lend himself. But even admitting that the House ought to go into the inquiry—when ought it to take place? Why, after the act has been consummated, and not before. What does the charge amount to? Does it accuse the Speaker of having betrayed his country? Does it charge him with having accepted a bribe? No; it intimates merely that he means to do so. When we can obtain the proof that he has done so, then, if the matter is one with which the House should interfere, it is time for inquiry. Suppose it should be proved that he designed it—suppose the committee should report that he had such inten-

tion, and did contemplate such gross abandonment of his duty, could the House pass any other sentence upon him than that of ineffable contempt for his corruption and his folly? We must have to wait until the act is perpetrated; for then, and then only, would it be before us in a form which would enable the House to interfere; then proceedings might be instituted, and the Speaker, if found guilty, might be subjected to punishment. But, at present, he hoped the House would refuse to go into the investigation.

Mr. Archer was succeeded by Mr. Wood, who took the same side of the question.

Mr. Forsyth, of Geo. said the communication was made to the House yesterday. The object of his present motion was to refer this communication to a committee. If that committee should report to the House, that this is a matter which requires its interposition, the House could either reject, or accede to, the report. He knew of no other course which could be adopted. We have before us only the communication from the Speaker. It is true, there have been publications of cards in the newspapers, but we have no evidence that these are the productions referred to by the Speaker. They are not before the House in any official form. It is impossible that we can know what the charges are until we have examined them. It is imputed to him that he has acted most corruptly. The committee will enter into inquiries. They will interrogate the accuser, whether he meant to charge the presiding officer with making corrupt bargains. If he answers “Yes”—what is the course to be pursued? Will any gentleman say this is not a serious charge, and one which the House is competent to punish? Would the member of the House permit one, who, either in his character of legislator or elector, was guilty of corrupt bargaining, any longer to pollute the floor?

There seems to exist a difficulty in determining between the intention and the act. But a corrupt bargain is stated to have been made; and, on proof of the fact, the constitution has given to the House the power of expulsion. There can arise no discussion as to the deserts of an individual against whom such charge can be made good. Any member, operated upon by rumors, or influenced by feelings of jealousy, may charge another with corrupt practices, and it is competent to the House to punish, by reprimand or by expulsion. The only course for a man of honor and respectability, in such circumstances, is to appeal to the House. This is the place where the examination should take place, and the sentence be awarded. He cannot enter into a newspaper contest, without provoking public derision. He is considered as degrading himself when he enters into that arena. It is so customary to view paragraphs in the newspapers as either electioneering tricks, or time-serving squibs, that no high-minded man can enter into a contest of that nature, without injury to himself. That press which we have heard cried up as the palladium and boast of liberty, is no longer the support of innocence, nor even the scourge of guilt. What is the alternative, then, which is left to the upright man?—He must throw himself on the judgment of his peers. As to the power which exists in this House to act in such cases, there can be no question whatsoever. There can be no question as to its power to appoint a committee. The only question is—Does this matter require the interference of the House? The crime, indeed, has not been consummated. He would put a case to the consideration of the House.

Suppose an individual presents a demand against the United States for a considerable sum of money. He discovers a person who has great weight and influence; and, with a view to insure success in his projects, he assails the integrity of a member, and gives him a bribe to secure his vote. The fact is proved. Is it not, then, in the power of the House to punish before the act, for which the bribe is given, has been consummated? Should such fact come before the House, he contended that the House would be bound to inflict instant punishment. The charge, which is the basis of the communication to the House, is, that the presiding officer has consented to give his influence to a certain candidate, and, for it, is to receive—what? A place of profit and power. If the charge, upon investigation, should be found true, the delinquent, however elevated in talent and in station, must be expelled; but, if false, the accuser would be obnoxious to the punishment of the House. The case ought to be sent to the committee. That committee will enter into the necessary investigation, and come to the House for the necessary power.

Mr. Tucker, of Va. spoke in favor of the investigation. Mr. Gazlay opposed it, and moved to lay the subject on the table; which motion was negatived.

Mr. McDuffie of S. C. expressed his regret that he should be under the necessity of trespassing on the House on this most unpleasant subject. If we adopt the course which is now suggested, we must inflict on the character of the House a deeper injury than it had yet sustained. Before we adopt this course, it is right that we distinctly ascertain that there is some lawful and constitutional act which

we could do, as the result of such measure. This House is not to be viewed as an assemblage of persons, invested with the character of convokers—assembled merely to inquire into the truth or falsehood of allegations. It must be shown that we can do something beyond the mere inquiry. What is it we are to do? If there is any legitimate power, it is to expel the Speaker. Let us meet the question as it must be met. Has the House the power to expel? Notwithstanding the ingenious exposition of the charge by the gentleman from Ohio, this is clear, and every gentleman will come to the same conclusion, that no charge has been made against the Speaker. The writer speaks in general terms of “combination,” “unholy coalition,” &c. but when you trace the historical charges which give color to these expressions, they amount to nothing beyond a belief. For some time it had not been believed, but it was now believed that such a combination had taken place. But by whose agency has this been brought about? By that of the Speaker? Let any gentleman put his finger on the paper, and say there is such a charge. His friends have done so and so. Where? He has friends out of the House as well as in it. It does not appear that any members of the House are implicated. The charge then is merely a general one. But he had a much stronger objection to the inquiry. He would go on higher ground, and deny that we can prosecute this investigation, with a view to the consummation, without violating the highest privilege of the people.

We have been told of the licentiousness of the press. This is not now a fit subject of inquiry. It was not a new inquiry. There was a time of great public excitement—when the people were all rising up—when the legitimate power of the House, in this respect, underwent a solemn investigation. The question was, whether the House had a right to adopt the common law of England, with some modifications, as to the punishment for libel. He referred to the sedition law. What was the proposition? Was it to pass a law enabling the government to punish by its own act? Was that it? Was it to enable a person to be a judge in his own cause? No. The proposition was—that if Members of Congress, the President, or any public officer, were libelled, they should call on a jury to decide, and if the charges were false, the libeller should be punished. What said the nation? It rose indignant; the law was repealed, and no man rises to do honor to its memory. And, what are we now doing? We are to show our contempt of the people, and to declare the law, and inflict the punishment, by the same act. We are called upon to inflict punishment, not by virtue of a law, but on our own will, and under the influence of an excitement from which none of us can be entirely exempt.

In this country, the law of libel received an important modification. The law which prevailed in the freest country in the world, except our own, was deemed incompatible with our freer institutions. The English law of libel was not our law of libel.

We are told by the gentleman from Virginia, (Mr. Tucker,) that he had a precedent at the last session. That was a proceeding which was not founded on a newspaper paragraph, but on a memorial solemnly before the House, and we were called upon to impeach an officer of the government, if the allegations were proved. But how did we get this information? How came it here? Who bro’t it? A paragraph appears in a newspaper. Can we call the writer, and punish him? No: How did it get here? Let us examine. The gentleman to whom allusion had been made in the letter complained of, issues the following Card:

[Here Mr. McDuffie read the Card of Mr. Clay.]

Now, so far as the subject has been before the House, as far as relates to the name of the person who is identified with the charges, it has been extorted by this publication. Were he to inquire into the breach of privilege: here it is. A public challenge to a member of the House. Yet, after this public challenge has been sent, the House is called upon to sit as a tribunal to decide upon the matter. So far as the matter is changed from the original form in which it appeared in the papers, it has no claim on our attention. The name of the member from Pennsylvania has been extorted by this personal challenge, and the proceedings must partake of this personal character, and it is most inexpedient for us to go into the investigation. He put it to the good sense and good feelings of the House, whether, if even an inquiry were desirable, a more unfortunate moment than the present could have been selected for it. Are we to be thrown into confusion, on the eve of the Presidential election, when every individual is under the influence of personal feeling?

The motion of Mr. Forsyth to commit the communication of the Speaker to a committee, was finally adopted—yeas 125, nays 69.

The committee was ordered to consist of seven, and to be appointed by ballot.

On the following day, (Saturday,) after two ballottings, the committee was appointed; which consists of Messrs. P. P. Barbour, Webster, McLane, Taylor, Forsyth, Saunders and Rankin.