

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

#### SENATE.

THURSDAY, DEC. 22.—Mr. Jones of Rowan presented a bill for the better protection of Public Bridges owned by individuals or corporations and prescribing the punishment for burning the same.

Mr. Pickett, from the Judiciary Committee, reported a bill to provide for the security of persons purchasing slaves, sold by virtue of executions issued by Justices of the Peace—which bills were read the first time.

The bill to authorize the building of a Toll Bridge over the river Cape Fear and to incorporate a company for that purpose, and the bill authorizing the Trustees of the Salisbury Academy to raise by way of lottery \$10,000 were ordered to be enrolled. They are therefore laws.

Mr. Hill of Franklin from the committee on Education, reported a bill to create a fund for the establishment of Common Schools and for the support thereof—which was read the first time and ordered to be printed.

FRIDAY, DEC. 23.—Mr. Pickett presented a bill to extend the provisions of an act passed in 1822, granting further time to perfect titles to lands—which was read the first time and passed.

The engrossed bill to repeal the 10th section of an act passed in 1806, directing the manner in which the clerks of the Superior Courts shall be appointed, &c. was read the second time and indefinitely postponed on motion of Mr. Speight of Greene, Yeas 51, Nays 19.

MONDAY, DEC. 26.—The bill to amend an act concerning the town of Salisbury, passed in 1822, chap. 524, and for other purposes, was ordered to be enrolled. It is therefore a law.

The Senate resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. Pickett in the Chair, to take into consideration the bill to create a fund for the establishment and support of common Schools, &c. which was reported with an amendment to the House by the Chairman, and on motion of Mr. Snead, ordered to lie on the table.

The bill to amend an act passed in 1785 concerning Roads, and the bill to amend an act passed in 1824, authorizing the appointment of Commissioners to run and mark the dividing line between Lenoir and Burke, were indefinitely postponed.

TUESDAY, DEC. 27.—Mr. Hill of Stocks, from the committee on the proposed amendment to the constitution of the United States as respects the election of President and Vice President, reported the resolution introduced by Mr. Wilson, which had been submitted for their consideration, without amendment—which, on motion of Mr. Pickett, was ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Hogan presented a bill to amend an act appointing Sheriffs and directing their duty in office and compelling them to give sufficient security for the discharge of their public duties.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 28.—Mr. Pickett from the Judiciary Committee, to whom was referred the bill providing the time within which prosecutions for certain offences shall be commenced, reported the same with sundry amendments, which were agreed to and the bill read the third time.

The engrossed bill to encourage the publication of a historical and scientific work on this State, was read the second time. This bill, as it came from the House of Commons, authorized Mr. Murphrey to raise by lottery, the sum of \$25,000 for the purpose of carrying his views into effect.

On motion of Mr. Speight of Greene, the bill was amended by striking out twenty-five thousand and inserting fifteen thousand. Mr. Hill of Franklin moved for its indefinite postponement, which was negatived. Mr. Ward moved to amend the bill further by empowering the Governor to raise by lottery the first mentioned sum, and loan the same to Mr. Murphrey without interest for six years, upon condition that he give security for the publication of the work; and that when the work is completed, copies of the same should be taken by the State to the value of \$20,000.

On this amendment the votes were equal, and the Speaker decided in the negative. Mr. Forney moved a new section which was agreed to, limiting the classes of the Lottery to three drawings. The bill then passed its second reading, Yeas 51, Nays 24. The bill was then read the third time, and Mr. Hill moved to add a third section, that the benefits of the act should in vest in Mr. Murphrey until he conveys to the Governor, for the use of the State, all right of possession to all documents, &c. concerning the aforesaid history, he may possess at his death, provided he die before the completion of the work—which was carried. A motion was made to lie on the table and an amendment proposed to restrict the management of the Lottery to native born citizens of North-Carolina, but both were negatived. The bill passed its 3d reading 52 to 24.

#### HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THURSDAY, DEC. 22.—Mr. W. W. Jones presented a bill to make an appropriation for clearing out the flats below Wilmington.

Mr. Wilson, a bill for the better regulation of the County Courts of Wilkes.

Mr. Scott from the Judiciary committee, reported a bill directing the manner

in which costs of suits decided in the Supreme Courts shall hereafter be collected and paid over, [Provides that Sheriffs in all executions from the Supreme Court shall pay into the office of the Superior Court from whence an appeal was taken, the costs due in said Court.]

Mr. Swain, from the Select committee on the subject, reported a bill to erect part of the counties of Buncombe and Burke into a separate and distinct county. This bill was read the first time and indefinitely postponed on motion of Mr. Drake.

Mr. Spruill from the select committee on the subject, reported that it is inexpedient to establish a Penitentiary at this time.

Mr. Swain presented the petition of John Mac Rae of Fayetteville, stating he is about to publish a Map of the State, and asking for a loan of 3,000 dollars to enable him to effect the work. Referred to a select committee.

Unfavorable reports were made on the petition of William Hooker and others, and the memorial of the officers of the Sunday School Union of Orange.

FRIDAY, DEC. 23.—Mr. Holland presented a bill to amend the 9th section of an act passed in 1777, directing the method of electing Members of Assembly. [Proposes that the polls may be opened at 10 o'clock in the morning, instead of the hour now specified.]

Mr. Gordon presented a bill which was read three times, to amend an act passed in 1813, for the better regulation of the town of Wilkesboro.

Mr. Donoho from the committee on Internal Improvement, to whom a resolution of the House on the subject was referred, reported a bill directing the Board of Internal Improvement to make contracts with such persons as may hereafter undertake any of the public improvements in this State and to take bond and security for the performance of the same.

William Newton Parks was elected Colonel of Cavalry of the 11th Brigade.

The bill prescribing the duty of the Attorney General was read the second time and amended by repealing the parts of acts under which the Solicitor General is appointed, so as to appoint two Solicitors for the third and fourth circuits, and the bill as amended passed its third reading.

SATURDAY, DEC. 24.—Mr. Picot from the select committee, reported a bill authorizing a loan to J. Mac Rae to aid him in the publication of a Map of this State.

Mr. Wilson, a bill to amend the first section of an act passed in 1820, concerning the marriage of infant females.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 26.—The bill to make an appropriation for clearing out the flats below Wilmington, was read the second time. Mr. Beon moved for its indefinite postponement, which was negatived 62 to 45.

The bill to prevent protracted litigation by enlarging the jurisdiction of Justices of the Peace, was taken up in committee of the whole, Mr. Martin in the chair, and reported with sundry amendments to the House. After some debate, Mr. Picot moved for its indefinite postponement, which was carried 62 to 47.

Mr. Martin from the select committee to whom was referred the bill to compel certain officers therein named, to make out their fee bills in dollars and cents, reported the bill without amendment and recommended its passage, and the bill was read the first time.

Mr. Scott from the Judiciary committee, to whom was referred the resolution instructing them to enquire into the expediency of so amending the present laws as to prevent, as far as possible, frivolous and malicious prosecutions going into court, reported that it is not expedient to legislate on the subject—which report was concurred in.

TUESDAY, DEC. 27.—Mr. A. Moore, presented a bill to alter the time of electing the members of the General Assembly. [Proposes that they be held in November, instead of August.]

Mr. Stedman presented a bill to prevent persons from educating slaves.—Rejected on its first reading.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 28.—The bill to create a fund for the establishment of Common Schools, was received from the Senate and read the first time.

The bill to regulate the hire of slaves was indefinitely postponed. 84 to 25.

**A Whale.**—Capt. Hobron of the whale ship Neptane of New-London, has written home, that on the 12th of August, he fell in with a school of Sperm Whales; he lowered his boat and soon fastened to one—the line got round the loggerhead and took the boat down, and with it Nathan Fish, the steersman. The boat appeared in about 20 minutes, and he with it, but before the boat could be turned the whale took both down again. When the whale rose the second time the unfortunate man was cut loose, of course drowned. The line was found wound round his finger and that holding only by a part of the skin. He was one of the best men on board.

The public may ere long, look for another "Waverley Novel," the author is said to be engaged in a work, the scene of which is laid on the shores of Fife.

U. S. Gaz.

### General Intelligence.

By the brig Mercedes, which arrived at New-York from Cadiz, papers to the 19th of November have been received. The following are extracts:

CADIZ, NOV. 15.—Extract of a private letter from Trieste, dated the 4th inst.—Missolonghi sustains and defends itself valiantly. Several Austrian vessels have been taken by the Greeks. The brig Severo, one of our best vessels, on her return from Smyrna with thirty Turkish passengers, fell in with an armed Greek vessel. An engagement ensued, in which she was captured, the crew put to the sword, and the brig sunk. Only three of the Turkish passengers were preserved in the hope of obtaining a large ransom for them.

Gibraltar, Oct. 27.—Yesterday 9 Spanish merchant vessels were captured by the Colombian cruisers, one alone escaped, and owed her salvation to our batteries, which were opened upon the privateers. It is no longer possible to bear these repeated captures.

Nov. 10.—The ship Governor Strong, Capt. Daniel Coffin, which arrived here from Marseilles, with a cargo of wine and oil, for New-Orleans, parted her cable in a gale and went ashore near the Castle of San Felipe. It is supposed that she has experienced some damage.

We have received the most disastrous accounts of a famine which now prevails in Barbary to such an extent, that the wretched inhabitants of Tangier drop down dead in the streets. A subscription has been opened here for their relief.

From Buenos Ayres, papers have been received at New-York, to the 5th ultimo, inclusive. A great battle was fought a short time previously, between a force of 2000 Brazilian cavalry, commanded by Col. Dentos Manuel, and an equal force of the Monte Videans (or Banda Orientalists) under the command of Gen. Lavalleja, in which a decisive victory was gained by the latter. The Brazilian army sustained a loss of 400 men killed, and 470 taken prisoners, including 52 officers, with 2000 stand of arms, 10 pieces of artillery, &c. The loss of the Orientalists was comparatively small, amounting to thirty killed and seventy wounded.

From Buenos Ayres.—In addition to the battle between the Brazilian and Banda Oriental troops, we learn, by the last arrival at New York, that the government of Buenos Ayres was about to issue a manifesto, claiming the right to the jurisdiction of Montevideo, and avowing the intention of aiding the Patriots in their efforts to wrest it from the dominion of the Emperor; and that a serious war was, therefore, likely to ensue between the two governments. A Brazilian squadron of 15 sail lay before Buenos Ayres.

From the N. Y. Commercial Advertiser, Dec. 16. **Surrender of St. Juan de Uloa.**—We have the satisfaction to announce that the Spaniards have been forced to abandon the last strong hold they possessed on this side of the whole continent of America. The Castle of St. Juan de Uloa, which has for a long time annoyed the commerce of Mexico, and commanded the entrance into the port of Vera Cruz, was surrendered to the Mexicans on the 17th ult. This agreeable intelligence is by Capt. Fosdick, of the ship Francis, from New-Orleans. He was boarded on the 4th inst. off Havana by the Mexican brig of war Victory, Capt. Thomas, from Vera Cruz, bound to Havana, with a flag of truce, having on board Gen. Coppinger, the late Governor, and the officers of the Castle. The troops composing the garrison, who were reduced to a few men, were on board of a transport, which separated from the brig the day before.

BOSTON, DEC. 12. **Discovery of Silver Mines.**—Captain Ford, of the brig Colon, who arrived at this port yesterday, informs that a few days previous to his departure, a large quantity of silver was found on the surface of the earth, about 14 miles from Coquimbo, by a muleteer, who made known his good fortune at Coquimbo, and had been offered thirty thousand dollars for the discovery. It was reported about the time the Colon sailed, that four or five valuable mines had been traced from the silver found on the surface, which promised to be almost inexhaustible. One of these was discovered by Mr. Frost, an American merchant at Coquimbo, and it was supposed he would obtain a grant to work it, as others had done. People were flocking to the place from Coquimbo in search of silver, so that it was difficult to get any business transacted.

**Horrid Murder and Suicide.**—Extract of a letter from a young lady in Springfield, Mass. dated Dec. 17.—"Yesterday my eyes beheld such a sight as I never before witnessed—it was the corpses of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard. The circumstances are as follows: Last Tuesday, Mrs. Leonard attended meeting in the evening; on account of the ill treatment of her husband,

she tarried with her brother over night. In the morning Mr. Leonard came to her and requested her to go home. He appeared very pleasant that morning. She went immediately home. The children went to school, and left Mr. and Mrs. Leonard, Harriet, (about ten years old, who was unwell,) and the babe about one year old. Mrs. L. got her bench and tubs to go to washing, when Mr. L. came in with an axe behind her, and struck her on the side of the head—she raised her hand to her head, to defend it from the blow, as he struck her with the head of the axe, and broke her fingers—she fell senseless to the floor. He then struck her twice on the side of the face, which knocked her jaw in, and bruised her shockingly, and said 'd—n you, I guess you are dead now;' then took his axe and carried it out and laid it in the back shed—he came in, took his razor from the mantel-piece, stood facing Harriet, who lay on the bed, drew the razor twice across his throat, then fell to the floor. As soon as he fell, Harriet went and took the babe out of the cradle, and ran crying murder! Mrs. L. has seven children to mourn her loss. His corpse was carried and buried on a hill—her corpse was carried to the meeting house, where a sermon was preached by the Rev. Mr. Sprague."

The feelings of the inhabitants of the central part of Washington were painfully excited, on Saturday last, between 3 and 4 o'clock, P. M. by the sudden death of Dr. THOMAS WEBB, who lately kept a respectable Druggist's Shop, near Brown's Tavern. He died by his own hand, having shot himself through or near the heart, with a horse-pistol. No cause has been assigned for this act of desperation. The deceased was on a highly respectable family, some of whom reside among us, and whose distress of the occasion may be well conceived. Nat. Intel.

The Democratic Press mentions another robbery of a wagoner, near Philadelphia, by two villains, armed with knives and pistols, of 75 dollars in money. He entreated them to allow him something to bear his expenses home, as he had fifty miles to travel; but their generosity extended only to 75 cents.

**Beware of counterfeit 100 dollar notes.**—Counterfeit 100 dollar notes on the Farmers' Bank at Winchester, were detected at the bank on Tuesday. Two notes of that description were contained in a package sent from the Mechanics' Bank of Baltimore, and upon first sight were pronounced by the officers to be base counterfeits. They are signed "P. N. Nicholas," whereas the branch bank at Winchester never issued any 100 dollar notes with that signature, but all signed Benj. Hatcher. Two other striking defects in the notes were visible to the officers; but the difference in the signatures is enough to put the public on their guard. Winchester Republican.

#### FIRE AT THE CAPITOL.

WASHINGTON, DEC. 23.—About twelve o'clock last night, Vincent, the sergeant of the guard on duty at the Capitol, perceiving an unusual light in the apartment of the Library of Congress, alarmed the Librarian, who instantly came to the spot, and on opening the doors, perceived a part of the gallery, (of wood,) which runs round the apartment, to be on fire. He immediately removed the books in the alcove adjoining; and, the alarm being spread, the citizens promptly assembled. An engine and hose were brought, and by the very active exertions of the firemen, aided by a number of Members of Congress, who vied with one another in their exertions to save the Library, the flames were extinguished in less than an hour.

Very few of the Books, and those of little value, are consumed. Many of them, of course, are injured by the wet, and by a hasty removal; but the loss is trifling, to what might have been expected. The ceiling of the Saloon is partly destroyed, & one of the alcoves, of this beautiful apartment. It is believed that the fire originated from a candle, left in the gallery by a gentleman who was reading there till a late hour, and which, being up stairs, was not noticed when the Library was closed. Nat. Int.

#### DESTRUCTIVE FIRE.

A conflagration more extensive in its ravages than any which had been previously experienced in this city for several years, commenced on Sunday morning, between 12 and 1 o'clock, and continued burning until nearly 4 o'clock, before its destructive progress could be arrested.—It commenced in a fruit shop, occupied by Mr. Jno. Vignean, near to the corner of Lomboll-street, on the West side of King-st.—The wind being at N. E. the flames were carried immediately over a mass of wooden buildings, extending to South-Bay, and the entire square bounded on the East by King-street, on the South by South-Bay-street, and on the North by Lamboll-street, with the exception of four dwelling-houses, nearest to Legare-street, was entirely destroyed. Besides the buildings burnt in this square, 3 dwelling houses on the East side of King-st. nearly opposite to where the fire originated, and the large mansion of Capt. F. SALTS, on the South side of South-Bay-street, (occupied by Mr. ROGER HENRIOT,) were destroyed. Another wooden dwelling house, belonging to Captain SALTS, and nearly adjoining the one destroyed, was preserved, by the unremitting exertions of the Hose Company. Several other houses adjoining the scene of conflagration, were repeatedly on fire, but were finally saved by the exertions of the citizens, aided, by the Hose, Engine, and Axe Companies.

It is not ascertained how the fire originated—no one slept in the front building, in which it commenced, nor was there any fire or candle in it after half past 3 o'clock in the evening; the flames were discovered by a watchman about half past 12 o'clock. The night was severely cold, the wells in that neighborhood, which are by no means numerous, were generally low, and soon exhausted; and unfortunately, it was low tide at the time the fire was raging—these circumstances added much to the difficulty of arresting its progress; and it is matter of congratulation, under all these discouragements, that its ravages were not more extensive. Charleston Courier.

**The Custom-House.**—Some hints recently dropped by the Editor of the Democratic Press, have led to suspicious of the management of the concerns of the Custom-Houses generally; and the following, copied from the Press of Thursday last, is of too serious a nature to be permitted to go uncontradicted. If the thing be as stated, it is high time the corrective was applied: if it be not, let the statement be decisively refuted.

PHILADELPHIA, DEC. 15.—It is now said, and confidently said, that the China Merchant who lately failed in this city, has taken, or caused to be taken, without having given the required securities, from the Custom House Stores, seventeen thousand one hundred and eighty packages!! Can this be possible? Half the amount, or one half of that half, would be scarcely credible, yet the whole amount is boldly affirmed. It is further said, we hope for the purpose of ascertaining the extent of public credulity, and not because it has any foundation in truth, that certificates, proper Custom House Certificates, were obtained to accompany the seventeen thousand packages thus taken from the Public Stores. Strange and incredible as are those rumors, yet others still more strange and incredible, are currently circulated, listened to with avidity, yea, and credited generally.—There will be no end to these stories until the public, from authority, are satisfied as to the real state of things. We hope Congress will not be long before they institute an inquiry upon so liberal a scale, as not merely to embrace this case, but the whole system of collecting the revenue. Press.

On this subject, the Baltimore Gazette of Saturday affords the following additional information: "We can see no good reason why it should not be stated that the name of the Merchant who has failed is Edward Thompson, as that fact is well and generally known in Philadelphia. We also think, that justice to the respectable Collector of Philadelphia, a veteran officer of the Revolution, requires that it should be explained, as we are informed is the fact, that he is not justly chargeable with any impropriety of conduct official or otherwise, in regard to the removal of any merchandise before the duties payable thereon were secured. The Philadelphia editors, we hope, will not neglect this act of justice."

[It is said that the government will lose the enormous sum of \$900,000 by the failure of Mr. Thompson.] The public have been apprised of the loss of a packet containing money, that was mailed at Fayetteville for Newbern, N. C. on the 9th of April, 1824, of its long disappearance, and of its recent recovery. We are happy to have it in our power to state, that its detention is ascertained to have been the effect of accident entirely. Letters of inquiry were addressed, we understand, by the Post Master General to all the Post Masters on the several routes between the two places, from an answer to one of which it appears, that on the removal of a Post Office desk in October last, the packet was found unopened between the desk and the wall, and was immediately forwarded to the place of its destination. We further learn, that the management of this office has always exhibited diligence and fidelity, and that the character of the Post Master is held in high esteem by his neighbors, and by distinguished citizens of this State. Nat. Journal.

**Criminal Law.**—The Legislature of Vermont have adopted a new criminal code, abolishing capital punishments in every case but murder in the first degree, and arson of dwelling houses, causing death. The penalties of other crimes consist chiefly in imprisonment for a greater or less period. Raleigh Reg.

The total of the cotton crop of the United States, for the year ending Oct. 1, 1825, is to be 569,259 bales, being an increase of 60,091 bales on the crop of the preceding year.