

...Mr. H. said he would ask leave to report the bill.

The bill was read the first time by its title, and 600 additional copies thereof were ordered to be printed for the use of the Senate. [The bill is the longest ever read in Congress, on this subject, embracing no less than ninety-four sections.]

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION.

Mr. Powell, of Virginia, offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Constitution ought to be so amended that, in the event of the election of the President of the United States devolving on the House of Representatives, as to provide that no member of the House who shall vote upon such election, shall be capable of receiving an appointment to any office under the Government of the United States, where the power of nomination is in the President, for three years thereafter, except when the nation may be involved in war, in which event the foregoing disqualification shall not operate to prevent the appointment, or acceptance by any such member of a commission in the Army or Navy of the United States.

Mr. Powell, upon offering his amendment, observed, that it was not his intention, at this time, to discuss the merits of the proposition he had offered, or any of the various propositions now before the committee, and under discussion, and unless his present intentions underwent material alteration, he should not, at any future period, intrude himself upon the attention of the committee upon the subject. Mr. P. observed, that it was due to himself and his feelings, in relation to the members of the last Congress, to disclaim any, the most remote, idea that the House, or any of its members, in the exercise of their high constitutional duty of electing a President, at their last session, were influenced by any hope of office, or by any other unworthy motive. He had too high a sense of the character of the members of the last Congress to believe such an event possible. It was in reference to the future, and the fears expressed by gentlemen, that he had offered the resolution. The House would discover that the resolution would only be adopted in the event of the various plans, already suggested, or which might be suggested, to take the ultimate election from the House, being rejected by the House. While we were distributing constitutional power, taking from one and giving to another, it might be well for us to show our willingness to submit to this self-denying provision, and place the members of this House beyond suspicion.

The resolution was then referred to a committee of the whole, and ordered to be printed.

We noticed, says the Baltimore Patriot, in the proceedings of the House of Representatives of the United States, of Friday, in addition to the mass before presented, five distinct propositions to amend the Constitution, with respect to the election of President and Vice-President. The House appears to be divided into two parties; the one opposed to any amendment, the other subdivided into as many parties as it has members; each entertaining views of its own, and no two concurring in any fundamental principle, but the one which declares, "the Constitution requires amendment." In this state of things it is obvious, that no very judicious amendment can be adopted, for the pride of opinion is too powerful to be combated, even by the profundity, cogency, volubility, or length of the debates. With this view of the case deeply impressed on our minds, and while rapt in the mystification produced by the great number of propositions on the table of the house, we came across the following proposition of Mr. Miner of Pa., on the same subject; and we firmly believe, that the whole business will end, substantially, in the adoption of his views:

Mr. Miner of Pennsylvania, offered the following:

"It is unwise frequently to change the fundamental principles of Government."

The Constitution of the United States being peculiar in its structure, founded in compromise, and compounded of Federative and popular principles, of delicate and difficult adjustment, it should only be altered in cases of obvious and imperious necessity.

Any change would be unwise which should diminish the relative power of the States, to the United States.

The present mode of electing the President and Vice-President is based on the master principle on which our Republican Institutions are founded, namely:—That the People are intelligent and virtuous; that their Representatives are worthy of confidence; that the security of the People lies, not in refusing to delegate power, but in exacting from their Delegates a rigid responsibility.

Therefore, Resolved, That it is inexpedient to alter the Constitution of the United States, in that part which relates to the election of President and Vice-President.

In introducing the resolution, Mr. Miner observed, that a great many propositions to amend the Constitution had been laid upon the table, and he was not without some fear the People would be

led to believe, that it was universally conceded here that the Constitution was defective, and needed amendment. I, for one, said Mr. M. make no such concession. I am satisfied with the Constitution in its present form, and am willing to take it and keep it, word for word, and letter for letter, without any change whatever. I am desirous of saying so, and placing a resolution to that effect on your table, among the numerous propositions to alter it. With this view, I have, upon this paper, placed three or four, what I consider sound political axioms, in relation to the principles of our government: and deduced, as a corollary therefrom, a Resolution. I hope it may prove a rallying point for the friends of that sacred instrument; and when the whole subject shall have been fully discussed, I flatter myself with the hope that a large majority of the House will be found in favor of preserving the Constitution as it is.

The resolution was referred to a Committee of the Whole House, and ordered to be printed.

From the New York American.

Extract from a letter dated Washington, Saturday, February 18.

"The Panama mission is yet undecided. The Senate took it in great dudgeon that the House should have called on the President for papers in relation to that affair; and actually refused for two or three days to go into the consideration of executive business, until they should see whether the President answers the call. As he has not done so, they have again gone to work, and sat yesterday with closed doors, till after 4 o'clock—with what issue, if any, is of course unknown. The conduct of the Senate in this whole matter has impaired the confidence hitherto reposed in that body. In times past, they have been, with whatever bias of parties, a grave deliberative body, intent on ascertaining and promoting the public interests. At present they appear, in the light of men bent rather upon defeating an individual, and embarrassing the Government, right or wrong, than as the grave conscript fathers of a great republic. The mission, however, will be sanctioned in the end; and the House of Representatives will confirm and provide for it, by a powerful majority."

There seems, to our plain perception, to be but little weight in the opposition to the Panama mission. Some politicians appear to dread the mission, through fear of "entangling alliances" with other powers, notwithstanding the President has distinctly stated that our neutral relations will be inviolably maintained. Are not the fears thus expressed mere phantoms conjured up in the perturbed imaginations of those who are determined to oppose the administration right or wrong? Suppose, for a moment, that a minister to the Panama congress should so far transcend his instructions and forget the settled and approved policy of the United States, as to consent to an alliance with another power. What would it avail?—Is it not well known that no treaty is binding without the sanction of the Senate? Has not that body a complete check in its own hands? Has not the House of Representatives charge of the purse-strings of the nation, by drawing which any unauthorised measure can be promptly defeated? Then why all this unnecessary alarm about "entangling alliances?" The clumsy guise of pre-concerted opposition to every conspicuous measure of the administration is as plain as noon-day, and we trust will be as futile as it is unnecessary.

Virginia Free Press.

Mr. M'Duffie's speech.—Whenever our brothers of the National Intelligencer inform us that "Mr. such and such an one" occupied the floor until 4 o'clock, when, not having finished his arguments, he gave way to the committee to rise: Mr. such-a-one will possibly conclude to-morrow,—we say whenever our brothers of the Intelligencer inform us of these long-winded speeches, we unconsciously find ourselves counting up the cost. We find by a fair calculation of the cost of Mr. M'Duffie's speech in favour of his resolutions to amend the constitution of the U. S. including the pay of the members of congress, and contingent expenses, that it amounts to \$4000. Unquestionably the nation will be the gainer!

Winchester Gazette.

Receipt to make a "VERY ABLE" Speech or Report.—Let your Speech or Report be "very long;" to accomplish which, speak or write a general dissertation;—throw in all the common-places that you can recollect; levy contribution upon history, ancient and modern, however little to the purpose; intersperse truisms, and be not sparing of paradoxes; you may also extend your work by copious professions of diffidence, &c.; it is understood that you will be as verbose as possible.

Nat. Gaz.

Algernon Sydney.—When Algernon Sydney placed his head on the block, the executioner asked him (as was the custom in such cases) whether he should rise again?—The intrepid patriot replied, "Not till the general resurrection; strike on!"

General Intelligence.

FROM THE PACIFIC.

Extract of a letter from a young officer of the U. S. ship United States, to his friends in Boston, dated Chirochillas, Sept. 26, 1825.

"The forts of Callao are still in the possession of the Royal Spaniards. Bolivar has created batteries within a quarter of a mile of them; and a constant firing is kept up between them; while the Chilean and Peruvian squadrons are assailing the forts from the sea. Rodil, who commands in the forts, has held out like a good fellow, and deserves the praise of his nation. He has been penned nearly one year, and has now only 2000 men; formerly he had 4000; but, living on salt provisions and bad water, so long, they have died. Five days ago, a shell from Bolivar's batteries, burst in the castle, and killed 25 men, and Rodil's horse; and the soldiers turned to, and devoured the animal. The port of Callao is most rigidly blockaded, and no merchant vessels are allowed to enter; and Bolivar has cut off all communication by land. Notwithstanding the soldiers are dying off very fast, Rodil says, 'he will not give up whilst there is a man's body to know upon.'"

Sandwich Islands.—The Nantucket Inquirer states that the young king of the Sandwich Islands, Chou Choula, is aged about 14 years, and is brother to the late king, Rho Rho. While Lord Byron, who brought from England the body of his late Majesty, was at the Islands, he assisted at the coronation of the new king. A part of the ceremony consisted in crossing two swords over the royal head; one of the weapons being held by the prime minister, Billy Pitt, and the other by Lord Byron. The latter, after going through this august rite, turned to the populace, and brandishing his sword, exclaimed in English, "now, d—ye, obey the king!"

Embargo at Havana.—Capt. Wiley of the brig Nassau, arrived at New York in 9 days from Havana, informs that an embargo was laid on the 16th February on all vessels in the port of Havana, but on what account is not stated.

A letter in the American dated the 14th at Havana, says—"We have nothing new. Six Spanish frigates which are here, will, it is said, sail in a very few days. They are elegant new vessels, and have some fine young men for officers, but the crews are generally bad. A great number of vagabonds and rogues and thieves from the jails have been put on board of them. With such materials what can the officers do! Some say they are going to destroy the Mexican fleet; others that they are bound off Carthagena, while others again assert that they merely intend to cruise to exercise their crews, until a stronger force, expected from Spain, arrives."

Balt. Patriot.

From the Baltimore Patriot.

There is a peculiarity in the Grecian character which few nations—none other probably—are capable of assuming. We approach it, view it, but shrink back from even the thought of imitating its sublimity, with reverential awe. It is emphatically and appropriately denominated the SPARTAN CHARACTER. Two thousand three hundred and six years ago, Leonidas the king of Lacedaemon, with three hundred chosen Spartans, took leave of friends and kindred, and resolved to die rather than submit to the dictation of Xerxes, who had offered him the kingdom of Greece if he would not oppose his views. The Spartan heroes met the legions of Xerxes at the pass of Thermopylae, and before the engagement, Leonidas thus addressed his little band: "Dine heartily, for you are to sup in the realms of Pluto." But one man escaped from the battle, who was treated with reproaches for ingloriously flying from a battle in which his prince and companions had perished. How well this Spartan character is sustained even to the present day, let the following testify:

ZANTE, Nov. 16.—The intrepid defender of Missolonghi, perceiving that they are on the point of being attacked by sea and land, have resolved to sacrifice their lives for their country, and have taken a last farewell of the world, amidst religious and military ceremonies, after a general review in which the chief embraced the soldiers, at the same time the Bishop giving them his benediction, sprinkling the holy water on their standards, were decorated with crowns of laurel. At the same time were embarked for Zante and Cephalonia, the archives of the government, as well as the old men, women and children—the separation caused the greatest grief. All communication is still open with Missolonghi, by sea and land, and numerous bodies of troops have entered, as well as a great quantity of provisions. They will defend the batteries inch by inch, as there is no hope of retreating.

The following curious statistical account is given in the Cassel Almanack for the year 1826:—The 100 most populous cities on the globe are—Jeddo, in Japan, 1,680,000 inhabitants; Pekin, 1,500,000; London, 1,274,000; Hans-Ishen, 1,100,000; Calcutta, 900,000; Madras, 817,000; Nankin, 800,000; Cango Ischen, 800,000;

Paris, 717,300; Wats Chan, 600,000; Constantinople, 597,800; Benares, 530,000; Kio, 520,726; Su Ischen, 500,000; Houng Ischen, 500,000, &c. &c. The fortieth on the list is Berlin, containing 193,000, and the last Bristol, 87,800. Among the 100 cities, three contain more than a million; nine from half a million to one million; 23 from 200,000 to 500,000; 56 from 1 to 200,000; six from 87 to 100,000. Of these 100 cities, 58 are in Asia, and 32 in Europe, of which four are in Germany; four in France; five in Italy; eight in England; three in Spain; five in Africa, and five in America. A list of the population of 94 states is given; the following is an extract:—China, 264,500,000; British Empire, 136,500,000; Russia, 59,000,000; Japan, 40,500,000; France, 31,500,000; Austria, 30,000,000; Turkish Empire, 24,500,000; Anam, 23,000,000; Spain 15,000,000; Afghanistan, 12,800,000; Persia, 13,500,000; Morocco, 15,000,000; Prussia, 11,370,000; United States, 10,645,000; Naples, 7,500,000; Brazil, 5,500,000. The principality of Litchenstein contains the smallest number of inhabitants out of the 94 states, having only 5,800 inhabitants.

From the Edinburgh Independent.

"The death of the Emperor of Russia, cannot fail to be attended by important results on the political state of Europe; and it may lead to a general War. We do not wish to excite unnecessary alarm upon this subject; but it is our duty as public Journalists, to state our sentiments on so momentous a subject. We are in possession of some information, which is of great importance in endeavoring to anticipate the probable consequences of the demise of the Emperor, and which is perhaps unknown to any Journalists in the Kingdom—even to those who are supposed occasionally to receive their cue from Ministers. It is this,—and we pledge ourselves in the most solemn manner to the truth of the statement,—that the British Government relied solely on the personal feelings of the Emperor Alexander, for the preservation of peace."

NEW-YORK, FEB. 22.

Interesting Circumstance.—It was omitted in our account of the sentences on Saturday, to state that the Recorder in passing sentence on Andrew Shields, for uttering counterfeit money, observed, that a number of respectable persons, considering the evidence in favor of the prisoner and his previous good conduct, had proposed petitioning the governor for a pardon, and that if this was done, the court, if called on, would state to his excellency the testimony in his favor.

Since the sentence, facts have been disclosed which throw suspicion on another man, who resembles Shields so much that an ordinary observer could not but be deceived. That this man did make five or six attempts to pass counterfeit three dollar bills of the Manhattan Bank, on the night of the 28th January, on which Shields was arrested, is indisputably established; and that it was in the immediate vicinity of the shops of the two persons who swore to the identity of Shields on his trial. This man was taken by one of the persons on whom he made the attempt, but on the way to the watch-house told such a pitiful story of his children, and of having been deceived in the bill, that he was released. Within a day or two several persons have seen him, and declare that they could not upon their oaths distinguish the two men from each other. There are other facts in favor of the opinion that the iron hand of justice has fallen on the wrong object. It is to be hoped the real rogue will soon be substituted for his unfortunate representative.

WASHINGTON, FEB. 17.—The duty devolves upon us of announcing to our readers the death of that faithful public servant, the Honorable JOHN GAILLARD, Member of the U. S. Senate from the State of South-Carolina, and the actual President for several years past, in occasional absences of the Vice President, of that body. He expired at his lodgings in this City, yesterday, a little after 4 o'clock, P. M. of a complaint by which he has been much afflicted of late years, and of which the fatal termination has been for some time expected.

We forbear ourselves the attempt to pay the respect due to his memory, looking for it from better authority and abler hands.

Nat. Int.

Suicide.—Persis Hall, a young lady of highly cultivated mind and of accomplished manners, about 24 years of age, of Lebanon, N. H. destroyed herself recently by taking opium. She had been in a state of mental derangement for 4 or 5 months previous to the fatal night, occasioned by a belief that she had committed the unpardonable sin. This religious phrenzy produced a state of deep dejection and despair, which all the exertions of her friends could not remove, and which resulted as mentioned above.

Mr. Noah, of the National Advocate, notices a strange occurrence in the following manner:—Singular Circumstance.—The Coroner was called, on Saturday, 18th instant, to view the body of an unknown colored woman, found at the store No. 171, South-street. She was shipped on board the schooner Mirror,

from Baltimore, to some person here. The discovery was made in consequence of the barrel being opened, in mistake by the wrong consignee. The barrel was marked P. X. No. 2.—We hope the affair will be investigated."

The following heart-rendering paragraph is copied from the Philadelphia Democratic Press of the 15th ult.:

Last evening, about nine o'clock, an infant child was found dead, in an alley, near Race-street, in Third-street. Its little throat had marks of violence on it, and blood had been forced from its nose. The Coroner was sent for: no doubt is entertained that the child was murdered. Suspicion rests upon a woman who was seen to cross over from the alley. The day before, a beautiful little child was found murdered in an open lot, in the outskirts of the city, with one of its limbs much eaten by a dog. These are horrible and alarming events! Can no means be devised to arrest the progress of such daring and inhuman crimes? It is most remarkable and not a little appalling, that two well known citizens, old inhabitants of Philadelphia, heads of families, suddenly disappeared, nearly two months ago, and no tidings have ever been heard of them.

False Alarm.—Robberies have of late been so frequent on the highway near Philadelphia, that travellers "do fear each bush" a robber. A stout old farmer, not distinguished for personal courage, was travelling on the Norristown road before daybreak, and heard some one running after him, crying "Halloa—stop." The horse could not be urged forward, and the old man dismounted, and with the butt end of his whip, layed about the robber lustily, vociferating with stentorian lungs, "Fire—murder—thieves," when after a parley, he discovered the beaten and bruised robber to be—his son, who had been sent after him on a message.

Noah's Adv.

Fire.—On Saturday night, about 12 o'clock, the "Clay Factory of Pennsylvania," owned by Mr. J. B. Nones, an enterprising citizen of Philadelphia, situated in North Seventh st. near the Mill-dam, was totally destroyed with all its contents. The flames were first discovered rushing from the Drug and Chemical room, which soon spread over all the building, and as there had been no fire used in the premises for 10 days, it is supposed to be the work of some vile incendiary. This valuable establishment was for the manufacturing of blue and yellow nankeens, under the patronage and patent of the general government; the loss will not only be felt by the owner, but by the country at large—as the goods made therein had risen to much repute and are sought for. The loss is estimated at between 4 and \$5000 and we understand that \$3500 is insured in New York. Although at a considerable distance from the city, our fire and hose companies repaired with their usual alacrity to the scene of conflagration.

Freeman's Journal.

Play of Nature.—A cow belonging to Mr. Silas Stratton, of Sullivan township, in this county, was a few days ago delivered of five calves, all perfectly formed, well haired, and about the size of a fox.—This is such a singular play of dame nature, that we should have doubted the truth of the above statement, had it not been given to us attested by the evidence of many creditable persons who have seen the progeny.

Washington Pa. Reporter.

Stammering.—We noticed some days ago, the advertisement of Mrs. Leigh, 27 Gold Street, who proposed to cure impediments of speech, or stammering, a most painful and unpleasant affliction; and in proof of the efficiency of her system, we have witnessed an extraordinary instance of cure. A young gentleman arrived in this city on Thursday from Fredericksburg, Va. sent by his parents to be cured of a most obstinate stammering. He called on Mrs. Leigh on Friday, and on Saturday remained five hours with her, taking the usual lessons—his speech is now clear, smooth, and free from the least impediment. He assured us that he could not read, and could scarcely speak, from guttural difficulty and spasmodic affection. He could not utter his name, to be placed on the way-bill, and was compelled to point to it on his trunk; he now reads fluently, and speaks without hesitation, and after a few hours instruction. We also conversed with two ladies, who had been relieved from a similar affliction in eight or ten days practice, and whose speech was free from impediment.

N. Y. paper.

More man slaying.—It unfortunately again becomes our weekly task, to record the death of another of the human family, by the hands of a fellow citizen. In Lincoln county some days ago, two men, one named Hunt, the name of the other we do not now recollect, engaged in a fight. Hunt was knocked down by his antagonist and left for dead, in a short time, however, he had strength to move. The other determined to return and despatch him; as he came up, Hunt rose with a skilet in his hand, and drove one of the feet into the head of his antagonist, who immediately expired.—Ken. Adv.