

CONGRESS.

WASHINGTON, MARCH 2.

In the Senate, Mr. Randolph submitted a motion calling upon the Executive for such information as he may possess respecting the intentions of the Congress at Panama, touching the question of negro slavery. Mr. Benton, from the select committee, reported a resolution proposing an amendment to the constitution, declaring that no member of Congress shall be appointed to any office, during the term for which he was elected. A bill for the relief of John A. Webster; a bill for the relief of the heirs of Louis Creten, deceased; and a bill making appropriation for the Library, were passed, and sent to the House of Representatives. A great part of the day was passed in the consideration of Executive business.

In consequence of the indisposition of Mr. Stevenson, of Virginia, who had a right to the floor, the discussion on the amendment to the constitution was not resumed, yesterday, in the House of Representatives. The House was principally occupied on the bill to erect a Penitentiary in the District of Columbia, and to reform the criminal code of the District. Among the resolutions laid on the table, are the following: on motion of Mr. Mercer, of Virginia, calling for information on the subject of certain African captives, taken in the harbor of Pensacola, and also empowering the committee on the Slave Trade to send for persons and papers; on motion of Mr. Buchanan, of Pennsylvania, to elect the Speaker of the House *via voce*; on motion of Mr. Stewart, of Pennsylvania, calling for information relative to the Cumberland Road; and, on motion of Mr. Vance, of Ohio, asking for information relative to the head branches of the little Miami and Scioto rivers. On motion of Mr. Worthington, of Maryland, the claims of that State, for military services, were referred to the committee on Claims; on motion of Mr. Verplanck, of New-York, the subject of the comparative rate of gold and silver coinage was referred to the committee on Ways and Means; the committee on Commerce was instructed, on motion of Mr. White, of Florida, to consider the expediency of erecting certain light-houses in that Territory; and, on motion of Mr. Vinton, of Ohio, the subject of granting school-lands, in that State, was referred to the committee on Public Lands. Some interesting messages and communications were received; which will be found in our report of proceedings.

MARCH 6.—The Senate did not sit on Saturday. The House of Representatives was engaged, chiefly, in disposing of private bills. The bill authorizing a subscription to the stock of the Dismal Swamp Canal Company, was postponed, to give time for some information to come from the Department, which is expected in a few days. Mr. Cook, of Illinois, laid a resolution on the table, proposing a reference of all the various amendments of the Constitution, now before the committee of the whole on the state of the Union, to a select committee.

MARCH 7.—In the Senate, yesterday, the following bills were reported by committees: a bill to improve the navigation of the port and harbor of Mobile; a bill for the erection of a Marine Hospital at Charleston, S. C. for the relief of sick and aged seamen; and a bill concerning the sale of justice in Gallatin county, Illinois. The general appropriation bill, for the support of government, was ordered to be engrossed for its third reading.

In the House of Representatives, Mr. Stevenson, of Virginia, in Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, concluded his remarks on the proposition to amend the Constitution, and was succeeded by Mr. Ingersoll, of Connecticut, who spoke for about three quarters of an hour, in opposition to the amendment, *in toto*. Among the resolutions offered, was one by Mr. Cooke, to inquire into the amount of pay to officers of brevet and full rank in the army; by Mr. Holcomb, of New-Jersey, directing an inquiry whether marines may not be substituted, in part, or altogether, for able seamen, as artificers in the navy, with advantage to the service; by Mr. Peter, of Maryland, on the subject of a survey of a route on the bay of Washington to Buffalo, in the state of New-York; by Mr. Tomlinson, of Connecticut, as to an extension of the time for which military bounty lands shall be exempted from taxation by the territorial governments. A joint resolution, offered by Mr. Ward, of New-York, on the subject of the termination of the session, was read and laid on the table. Mr. Everett, of Massachusetts, laid a resolution on the table, calling for information from the President, on the subject of draining the low grounds in the city of Washington, and in relation to the public lands in the city.

The Speaker laid before the House the following message from the President, transmitting a statement of the operations of the Mint; which was ordered to be laid on the table, and printed:

To the Senate and House of Representatives.—I transmit, herewith, a report from the Director of the Mint of the United States,

showing the operations of that institution for the year 1825.

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.

Washington, 1st March, 1826. From an examination of the report of the Director of the Mint, it appears that—The coinage effected within the year has amounted to \$1,735,894; consisting of 5,178,760 pieces of coins, viz: Of gold coins, 33,494 pieces, making \$156,585 silver 5,021,166 1,563,583 copper 1,534,107 14,926 \$1,736,894

The gold coin of the last year has exceeded that of 1824, by the sum of \$63,183; of this excess, it may be interesting to observe, a very sensible portion consists of gold bullion derived from North-Carolina, the value of the deposits received from that quarter, within the year, having been nearly 17,000; more than three-fold the amount from the same source in any previous year since 1804.

The value of the gold bullion received from other quarters, within the last year, may, with a sufficient approximation to accuracy, be stated at \$45,000 from Africa, and \$75,000 from Mexico, South-America, and the West-Indies, leaving about \$19,000, derived from other sources, not ascertained.

State Resolutions.—As we predicted, a motion to refer so much of the Governor's Message as relates to the Tariff and Roads and Canals by Congress, has been made in the House of Delegates, and carried, ayes 105, noes 61. The subject is referred to a select committee, as may be seen under the legislative head. From the talents of the committee, and the subject, we look for a report worthy of both, and of the reputation of Virginia acquired by her former stand against federal encroachments. We saw no necessity for this course, but as it is determined upon, we hope for the honor of the State it will be sustained with ability. We respectfully refer the committee to Gallatin's Report in 1803—to President Jefferson's last Message to Congress—to President Madison's first—to Governor Cabell's Message to the General Assembly in 1808—to the Enquirer about the same period—and to resolutions of the House of Delegates of Dec. 1808—asking aid of the General Government, to construct a Canal for vessels drawing 8 feet water, from Elizabeth River, to the head of Currituck Sound. These documents will much aid them in their Report. They will find that Roads and Canals by Congress, were then all the go, among the Jeffersonian Republicans. We hope they will attempt to account for the *delusion* of the Republicans of that day, and Mr. Jefferson at their head, and by what accident it happened, that Roads and Canals were not discovered to be unconstitutional, until an unpopular administration (Mr. Monroe's) came round. The committee have a glorious field for display.—*Richmond Whig.*

Congress.—According to the National Intelligencer, Mr. Archer has taken ground in opposition to the District System, while he approves of the proposition to exclude the election from the House of Representatives. This last change Mr. Archer says is demanded by the public voice—which members are bound to respect, &c. This seems to us gratuitous. How has the public voice demanded it? What Legislature, but that of Tennessee, has asked it? In what shape of petition, resolution or remonstrance, has it been demanded? We think the remark would have been more just, if it had been confined to the propriety of securing the integrity of the House of Representatives from the assaults of ambition and intrigue, by making them ineligible during office; and for a period afterwards, to Executive appointments. This being done, and we only wonder it was not done by the Constitution itself, we can imagine nobody so trustworthy, so competent, as the House of Representatives. Emanating immediately from the people, acquainted with their wishes, the depository of their powers, their constitution, their political happiness, their liberty and fortunes, it is a strange anomaly to think them unworthy of being trusted with the election of the President! When this be so, or if it be so, corruption has already struck at the heart of the nation, and slavery prepared his yoke for the necks of a willing people.—*ib.*

Constitutional questions, says Mr. Niles, are "as plenty as blackberries." The right to make roads and canals, or to assist in the making of them, is denied to the general government, though under the administration of Jefferson, Madison and Monroe, embracing a period of twenty-four years, the right was not only assumed but frequently *exercised*; and all these came from Virginia, the correct interpreter of the Constitution. From all this we see, that what is constitutional and what is not constitutional, depends very much on our love of or opposition to the person who happens to be President; or, in other words, that "all's fair in politics."

From the Democratic Press. From Washington we learn that the Panama mission occupies a large portion of the time of the Senate. The reason which we mentioned some days ago, that the

Senate would debate this question with open doors, is believed to have been well founded, and that a resolution was adopted and a committee appointed to wait on the President, and ascertain whether it would be agreeable to him, that such a course should be pursued by the Senate. It is understood that the Committee were politely received by the President, who stated that the duties imposed by the Constitution on the Chief Magistrate had been performed, that the duties which devolved on the Senate, he did not doubt would be faithfully discharged, but that it would ill become him to interfere, or give any opinion, as to the manner in which that body should transact the public business.

When the answer of the President was communicated to the Senate, some of the Senators affected to take offence, and a Resolution disapproving of the President's conduct, was offered. The discussion on this resolution occupied considerable time: it was then withdrawn. We fear the conduct of the majority of the Senate on this question will lessen the standing of that distinguished and honorable body.

Foreign.

From the National Gazette.

We are indebted to Captain Tubbs, of the brig Commodore Barry, for two Liverpool papers, one of the 9th, and the other of the 11th January containing a few London articles of the 9th. We annex all the matter of any novelty or importance which we have found in them. Nothing is said of any official intelligence of the resignation of Constantine.

LIVERPOOL, JANUARY 11.

United States.—The President's Message to the American Congress is, as usual, a long and rather cumbersome document. For the form of these state papers we have no predilection, and should prefer to see something not quite so lengthy—a brief view of the external politics and the internal economy of the country, leaving the details to be brought forth in the proceedings of Congress.—This would be a more business mode; for the present practice, persisted in, must lead to almost endless prolixity, or a very inconvenient extent of particularity, as a President may be disposed to *garble* it, and as the United States may have more complicated interests to engage their attention.—For the substance of the document itself, it will give great satisfaction, as it shows that no cause of public quarrel exists between this rising and important portion of the New World and the Old; and that as this great federal body increases in population, commerce, and power, its interests are interlocking themselves with those of other countries, by a reciprocal intercourse, which is the best pledge for the continuance of a good understanding among all. When nations find it out that they have a greater interest in each others friendship than they can extract from their enmity, they will be more reluctant to dispute with each other; an event to which a liberal commercial system will more contribute than any other. To pursue this object, from the commencement which has been made by the leading commercial powers of the world, is now one of the best objects of the policy of enlightened statesmen; and though it can only be gradually accomplished; though time is required for the different interests of nations to adjust themselves to principles, which invert, in many respects, the maxims of former ages, yet we doubt not but that the principles are so solid, and are working that conviction in the minds of statesmen, that it will ultimately be accomplished, and that commerce, which has so often been the incitement of war, will become a firm and inviolable bond of peace.

Russia.—To the vague rumours of the assassination of Alexander, succeeded the equally singular story of the abdication of Constantine in favor of his brother, the Archduke Nicholas. The former is now exploded, though the *Morning Post* has stoutly clung to the hoax which was played upon it. The second had more foundation, and now seems pretty well developed. It appears, that in consequence of the marriage of Constantine below his dignity, the succession was changed in favor of Nicholas by his own consent. Love triumphed in him over ambition, and his signature was affixed to three documents, not to be opened until the death of Alexander. They were then opened; but the Archduke Nicholas declined to stand upon them against the hereditary rights of his brother, and Constantine, true to his engagements, remained at Warsaw. The fact is, however, that the Imperial Family have all taken the oath of allegiance to him; and that he will ascend the throne which of right devolves upon him. Rumours of a subsequent abdication have been circulated, but they appear not to rest on any sufficient authority.

LONDON, Jan. 7.—Under the head of Zante, the Herald gives some news from Greece, by which it would appear that General Comas, after having defeated a body of Turks, had made preparations to march against Sidonia.

The contents of Paris papers and letters of Wednesday set conjecturing at first with respect to the succession to the Russian throne, and at the same time

plain the extraordinary circumstances of its being so long vacant. It would appear that the two imperial brothers, Constantine and Nicholas, had vied with each other in a generous renunciation of their respective claims—the former from a faithful adherence to an old engagement. Nicholas refused to reign under the will of the late Emperor, who, according to the uncertain rules of succession in Russia, could appoint his successor; and Constantine, who was bound to resign his pretensions by a family compact, refused to make his legitimacy available against a voluntary surrender. The former proclaimed the absent Emperor, and took the oath of allegiance to him; the latter, disregarding his birth-right, offered submission to Nicholas I.—Russia was thus in the strange predicament of having two self-denying emperors, and no active ruler. The crown of the Czars was in abeyance, till Couriers passed between Warsaw and Petersburg.—Each brother was in his turn a subject and a sovereign, and both stood at the portals of power, amicably disputing the point of precedence. Constantine has at last submitted to take the command of forty millions of men.

FROM GREECE.—The brig Ann, Capt. Boyce, arrived at New York on Thursday evening, in 45 days from Gibraltar. Capt. B. reports, that intelligence had been received by way of Spezzia to the 7th of December, which stated that Mavrocordat was at Napoli di Romania. A skirmish had taken place between a body of Greeks of from 3 to 600 and a much larger body of Turks: the latter lost 150 to 200 killed, and a few prisoners. Ibrahim Pacha is said to have narrowly escaped being taken prisoner. The Greeks lost 70 killed, and returned after the battle. Colocotroni is said to be collecting an additional force to make an attack on Tripolizza, where the Turks had 300 troops, and 400 cavalry. Missolonghi, the only place threatened by the Turks, was in a good state of defence with four thousand soldiers: The Turkish fleet had landed a body of troops at Navaro, another at Patras, and retained a third body for the attack of Missolonghi. The Turkish fleet is said to have consisted of 113 sail, of which 16 or 17 were frigates, 20 corvettes, 1 steam vessel, and 6 fire-ships—the remainder brigs and schooners. The Hydriot division of the Greek fleet were watching the movements of the Turks; Spezziotte and Ipsariot divisions were at Spezzia, preparing to join the Hydriotes. On the 12th of December, spoke a ship and brig belonging to the Hydriote division, and learnt from them that a skirmish had taken place between the two fleets; that they, the Greeks, had made an unsuccessful attempt to set fire to the Turkish fleet, and had lost a fire ship, which blew up. Finding themselves unequal to the enemy, the Greek fleet had dispersed; the above ships were on their way to Hydra for additional fire-ships. The Turkish fleet was in two divisions, 70 sail at Patras, and the remainder at the western extremity of the gulf of Patras. The Naval force was divided into three divisions. The Hydra divisions consisted of 40 brigs and schooners, from ten to twenty guns each, commanded by Miaulis, who is commander in chief, styled Admiral. The Spezziotte division of 51 sail, from 10 to 20 guns each, commanded by Anavruz. The Ipsariot division consisted of 10 vessels. There were 24 fire ships in the whole fleet.

Balt. Patriot

From the National Gazette.

We have received the *Gazeta de Colombia* and the *Constitutional*, of Bogota, down to the 8th ult. inclusive; together with the annual Message of the Vice President of Colombia, delivered on the first, to the Congress of 1825.

The whole of the message has given us much gratification. It is, marked by sense, candor, dignity, and a true republican spirit. The Vice President mentions the fruitless attempts which have been made by some of the powers of Europe and America with the cabinet of Madrid, in behalf of Colombia, and assures the Congress that if a reconciliation with Spain, such as becomes Colombia, cannot be effected, the resources of the republic are sufficient for the successful prosecution of the war. He adverts to the Congress of Panama in the following terms.

"In Panama, the plenipotentiaries of the new States of America are assembling to ratify in the most solemn manner, our common determination to maintain and defend our national liberty and independence against the attempts of its enemies. That assembly, the effect of the American people, and of the most eager desires of the government of Colombia and the *Liberator*, for peace and friendship between the confederate republics, is, in the opinion of the Executive, the complement of the guarantees (security) of our independence. I have endeavored to make known in Europe the true objects of the Congress of the 14th inst. in order to efface whatever unpleasant impressions may have been received by some cabinets, less through the insidious conduct of our enemies, than from the magnitude of the undertaking which we have been able to realize."

The following passage of the Message

"In order to comply with the engagements which we have contracted with the United Mexican States, I have disposed of our forces in the manner of which you will be informed in due season. The common cause of America, interested in this measure, will be essentially promoted, and there will remain no part of the new world where the Republic of Colombia will not have co-operated in assailing its old oppressors & bringing peace and friendship to its brethren." Cuba and Porto Rico would seem to be here included.

Royalty.—In France the duchess of Berry lately visited the coast, and indulged in sea-bathing. Afterwards, bottles of the water where she bathed, fish caught near the spot, and even their scales and fins, together with particles of sand from her foot-steps on the beach, were greatly inquired for, and sold for high prices! The English papers call the water Berry brine.

[From the Indiana Western Register.] Thomas Pucket against the World.—A fine gentleman is a resident farmer of this county—in personal prowess few excel him and for courage and veracity he is respected among his neighbours. He is remarkably active in driving Cattle, Hogs, &c. through the woods. About a year ago while Mr. Pucket was in search of some Hogs in the woods near Eel River, he discovered a Bear and hastened to a cottage not far distant to obtain a gun, but on his return the Bear had fled; being dissatisfied with himself for letting the animal escape, he declared that should another opportunity occur, he would and would drive a Bear home with him. The next day while in the woods near Eel River, he had the satisfaction of seeing another Bear, but much larger than the one which escaped from him before, and resolved to put his plan into execution. He accordingly procured a stick and being mounted on an animal of excellent bottom and speed, rode up and "commanded the Bear who was lying down to run"—who raised up his head, looked at Pucket, opened his mouth and stretching himself, laid down again, seemingly unconcerned. Pucket then rode near to him and again accosted, when Bruin "took the track." Pucket gave close pursuit—the race was a close one for several miles—Bruin became considerably exhausted, would lay down upon the ice when crossing the small branches in their route, and when Pucket would ride up to it and present him his stick, Bruin would bite the end of it and again commence running, and would show a great inclination to go towards Eel River; but Pucket, by intercepting would turn his course, and at length succeeded in reaching the road leading from Eel River to Honey Creek, and succeeded finally in driving the Bear within a few miles of home, when night coming on, and the feet of the Bear becoming sore from having travelled over frozen ground, he utterly refused to travel, notwithstanding Pucket would frequently strike him with an enormous club. Mr. Pucket then meeting his brother, procured a gun and despatched his game after having driven him a distance near eighteen miles, upon a straight line from the place where they started. He was offered a gun in the morning by a man, on the road, but refused to shoot the Bear, declaring he would drive him into Terre Haute. Frequent contests occurred between the Bear and Mr. Pucket during the day, which he relates with much good humour. The bear was remarkably fat, and weighed between four and five hundred pounds.

From the Rochester N. Y. Republican.

"Murder will out."—A gentleman who has just returned from Batavia, N. Y. states that a Mr. John Murray has been lately taken up for a supposed murder committed about a year ago, and put into the jail in that village. The circumstances appear to be these:—That a traveller came on horseback to the house of Murray (who was a tavern keeper) and put up; that he handed his portmanteau to M. who put it in the bar—that he went to bed. In the morning, "which was yet dark," he arose to pursue his journey. The traveller asked M. to show him a place to wash—he did so, which was at a pump in the back yard. While washing, the maid came into the room, and was sent for a towel. When the man entered from washing, he was knocked down by M. who stood in the door with a club. He was killed, dragged off and secreted. While killing the stranger, the girl entered with the towel—she was called away by the wife of M. Fears were entertained that she would disclose the whole, and she was threatened with death—she begged for her life, adding she would never divulge it. A few days ago, in a hysterical fit, she talked so much about the murder, that when she came out of her fit, her family compelled her to tell the foregoing, when she has since sworn to. It is said too for a fact, that about the same time the murder is said to have been committed, that M. was and only possessed of considerable cash. The girl's name was made oath to the foregoing is Miranda Johnson. Time will determine whether these statements, in all their blackness, are true or false. The fact now is, that they are a *top story*.