

REPORT of the SECRETARY of WAR.

From the Union. This whole report is a full and satisfactory view of the condition of the army, and of the subjects which are under the supervision of the War Department.

It exhibits, in the first instance, the organization, strength, and constitution of the regular army. The rank and file—embracing every arm of the service—does not exceed 6,500 men. At this time, there is stationed but a single regiment on the whole northern frontier, from Maine to Lake Superior—an extent of two thousand miles; and on the whole line from the Falls of St. Anthony to New Orleans, (fifteen hundred miles,) only one regiment of dragoons and two of infantry. The artillery regiments—reduced by detachments of four companies from each—now garrison the fortifications of the seaboard, from Newport to New Orleans. The remaining and larger proportion of the army is now stationed in Texas. The report gives an interesting account of the political reasons which have induced the government to give them this destination. The Secretary does not think it prudent to remove the troops from this position until our relations with Mexico have assumed a more decidedly amicable character. In the event of there being any necessity to increase the army, he proposes to build upon the basis of the regiments, by adding to the rank and file of each company, instead of creating new regiments. This necessity may be found in the course of Mexico, or in the conduct of the Comanches, or of the Indians that are found in Oregon, or that may interrupt the increasing current of emigration to the Rocky mountains. By the proposed arrangement of filling up the infantry companies to sixty-eight men, and the dragoons to sixty, the privates are increased, without a corresponding augmentation of the officers.

The report suggests that, besides this increase of the number of privates in the two existing regiments of dragoons, another regiment of dragoons or of mounted riflemen may be necessary, in the event of extending our posts to the Rocky mountains.

It states that, though the concentration of so large a proportion of the army on the frontier of Texas may have, in some measure, enlarged the expenditures, (certainly in the article of transportation,) yet it has, in some degree, been compensated by the improvement which has taken place in the discipline of the troops. It renews the recommendation for establishing a corps of sappers, miners, and pontoniers, to assist, among other things, in constructing bridges, in consequence of the military occupation of Texas. One hundred men will be sufficient for the purpose.

The report gives a rapid but interesting account of Colonel Kearney's expedition; during the last summer, to the South Pass of the Rocky mountains; the impressions it produced among the Indians; the number of emigrants whom it met on their way to Oregon, to the number of 2,325 men, women, and children, with 7,000 head of cattle, 400 horses and mules, and 460 wagons. This report of Col. Kearney accompanies the communication of the commanding general, and will furnish, no doubt, an interesting store of extracts, at a season of greater leisure. It also refers to the adventures of another detachment of the dragoons, under the command of Capt. Sumner, nearly to the northern line of the United States, between Lake Superior and the Lake of the Woods. Among the Indians whom they met with on their route, and upon whom they made a due impression with their military array, was a numerous band of the half-breeds of the Red River of the North, who had come from the region of the Hudson Bay Company into our lines, to hunt buffalo. They had even solicited permission to reside in the United States.

The Secretary refers to the considerations which had prompted Gen. Gaines to despatch the volunteers of Louisiana to the camp of Gen. Taylor. Ample justice is done to their gallantry, and Congress is invited to make appropriations for their compensation. Gen. Taylor had also accepted the services of four Texas companies of mounted men for three months.

The estimates for the ensuing year do not greatly vary from those of former years. The item for arming the fortifications is increased \$100,000. The attention of Congress is directed to the state of the fortifications—to the armories of Springfield and Harper's Ferry—to the establishment of a national foundry for cannon—to the preservation of the gunpowder owned by the government—to the condition of the mineral lands in the northwest, which the Secretary proposes to transfer from the management of the ordnance department to some other, (the President's message suggests to the land office.)

It calls the attention of Congress to the forty-eight forts in process of construction, and to the propriety of erecting new forts at other points. Among these, are suggested by the reports of the engineers, and fortifications of the narrows at Staten Island and at Shady Hook, and the condition of the long-suspended fort at Pea Patch; an additional work at Sellers Point, for the protection of Baltimore; and projected fortifications on the Florida reefs.

The Secretary speaks with great consideration of the school at West Point, and proposes some improvements. He calls special attention to the report of the chief of the corps of topographical engineers—to the improvement of the harbors on the lakes, which are so well calculated to furnish accommodations to steamers that, in a state of war, may be turned to the most effective purposes, and to furnish facilities to a commerce that is now estimated at one hundred millions of dollars annually.

prehensive and very interesting report to a subject which is of so profound an importance in a free government, viz: the organization of the militia. He suggests various alterations; and, among the rest, submits the question whether it might not be advisable to reduce the period of service from 18 years of age to 21, upon the ground that, although citizens of 18 years of age are not too young to bear arms, they are not generally in a situation to equip themselves with arms, as the law requires.

REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER GENERAL.

We make a synopsis of the report of the Postmaster General. On the 30th of June last, the transportation of the mails covered an extent of 143,844 miles. The annual transportation on the routes, on the same day, was 35,634,269 miles—involving an expenditure of \$2,905,504.

The number of mail contractors on the day above mentioned was 3,277. It is stated that while the annual transportation in 1845 was greater than in the preceding year by 221,845 miles, the cost has been less by \$62,791.

On the 30th June, 1845, there were 14,183 post offices; during the preceding year, 352 were created, and 269 were discontinued. The revenue of the department for the period mentioned amounted to \$4,239,841 80; and the expenditures for the same time were \$4,320,731 99.

The net revenue of the department amounted to \$2,942,217 17.

It is estimated, from data given in the report, that there will be a falling-off in the net revenue to the amount of forty-five per cent., and under the supposition that the savings on contracts will not transcend the expense of "new routes," and other meditated improvements, the conclusion is drawn, that the means of the department for the present year will be lessened \$1,323,997.

It is stated that the cost of transportation in New York and in the New England States will, during the present fiscal year, ending in June next, be reduced \$252,732. This reduction has been accomplished by means of the provision of a late act of Congress, of which the department has availed itself.

Great difficulty seems to have occurred in the making of contracts with railroad companies. The companies have, for the most part, been disposed to exact prices beyond the "legal right" allowed; and the Postmaster General complains of the large amounts taken from the revenues of the department for the payment of railroads. It is alleged that that mode of transportation has invariably increased the expenditure, and, in some instances, two or three hundred per cent. Of the entire service to the department, one-tenth part is rendered by railroads; and yet the companies derive one-fifth of the whole revenue. The English example of conferring such privileges, it is deemed highly inexpedient for us in America to follow. The Postmaster General regrets, in strong language, the resolution of the Philadelphia and Baltimore Railroad Company not to convey mail agents on their road. The course of that company in this respect is stated to be an exception to the spirit of accommodation generally manifested by other companies. Serious consequences to the revenue, it is supposed, may possibly have resulted from the persistence of this company in that resolution.

The Postmaster General states that, should a saving similar to that effected in New York and New England be effected in other parts of the country upon the practical introduction of the "new law," then in the "western section," after July next, a reduction in the cost of transportation will be effected to the amount of \$335,000; in the "southern section," a reduction, in 1847, of \$238,000; and in the "middle section," after July, 1848, of \$18,000 per annum. The whole reduction at the period last referred to will, upon the hypothesis affirmed, be \$1,005,000 per annum. But the report states that it may not be safe to infer a corresponding reduction elsewhere to that which has occurred in New York and New England.

The compensation to postmasters and office expenses for the year ending on the 30th June last amounted to \$1,409,875 18.

With some exceptions, occurring in the large towns, this class of public servants, it is affirmed, are worse paid in proportion to the labor encountered than any other in the employment of the government. The late law, in the opinion of the Postmaster General, aggravated this disparity, by talking away the franking privilege, and by the reduction of salaries, depending as those did for their amount upon the amount of revenue. This "new law," operating such hardship; occasioned the resignation of 2,000 postmasters. But the Postmaster General, presuming (under the expectation, which was understood by the friends of the new law, that the revenue would not be diminished) that Congress did not contemplate a reduction of the salaries, continued them as they had existed.

In view of these facts, it is supposed that in a short time a resort to the treasury, for the support of the department, would become indispensable; Congress is, therefore, admonished to avoid that necessity, upon reasons founded in the past policy of national legislation with regard to the Post Office Department, and the expediency of making the Post Office Department support itself.

The deficiency for the current year, as calculated upon the returns for the quarter ending the 30th September, will be more than a million and a quarter; and it is stated that it will not be less than a million next year, without an amendment of the existing law. An increase of the revenue of the department is recommended.

The rating of letters by weight, instead of by the single sheet, is said to have been productive of very injurious practices. Under this branch, the Postmaster General goes into much detail, showing through what expedients the just rights of the government have been "more or less" impaired.

The report recommends a continuance of the rates of postage on written communications, subject to these modifications: That five cents pay for each single letter for fifty miles and under; that ten cents pay for each

letter for any distance between fifty and three hundred miles, until the 30th June, 1848; and after that time that the ten cents pay for any distance over fifty miles; and that fifteen cents be paid on each single letter for any distance over three hundred miles, until the 30th June, 1848, when it shall cease.

It is supposed by the Postmaster General that, if other suggestions which he makes, of a kindred character, are adopted, the cheap postage system may, after the present year, be continued without burdening the treasury. Prepayment of postages, hitherto often recommended, is pressed upon the favorable consideration of Congress, and various considerations justifying the innovation are presented.

The report, referring to the law of the last session of Congress, authorizing the Postmaster General to provide by contract for the transportation of the mails between the ports of this and foreign countries, states that, owing to the condition of the finances of the department, it has been considered proper to postpone the making such contracts until the meeting of the present Congress.

The successful operation of the electro-magnetic telegraph, it is supposed by the Postmaster General, will, under the control of the patents, be the means of securing much of the business that has hitherto been transacted through the United States mails, and occasion a diminution of the resources of the department. It is considered a question of importance for the government, whether individuals shall divide with it the business of transmitting intelligence, or whether the government shall purchase the telegraph.

The power for good or for evil which this invention has supplied, is deemed too great to be left in the uncontrolled possession of individuals.

This report of Mr. Cave Johnson is distinguished for the strong practical sense of its author. In all that concerns economy and retrenchment, no one can be more vigilant and assiduous than the honest and laborious man who stands at the head of the Post Office Department.

THE OREGON CORRESPONDENCE.

The Union of Saturday night furnishes us with the correspondence which has passed between Mr. Packenham, the English Minister, and Messrs Webster, Uphur, Calhoun, and Buchanan, in relation to Oregon. The intense public interest felt in this subject induces us to give immediate place to a tolerably full synopsis of the more recent portion of this interesting chapter of diplomacy—the original letters occupying seven columns in the Union.

The first is a letter from Mr. Fox, the British Minister, to Mr. Webster, United States Secretary of State, dated Washington, Nov. 15, 1845, covering a copy of a letter from Lord Aberdeen to Mr. Fox requesting that the United States Minister at London might be furnished with instructions to treat with such person as might be appointed by England, on the Northwestern Boundary. Assisting Mr. Webster that England was ready to enter into a fair and equitable compromise of the difficulty.

Mr. Webster replies to Mr. Fox, Nov. 25, 1845, informing him that such instructions would be given to the United States Minister at London.

Mr. Packenham writes to Mr. Uphur, U. States Secretary of State, dated Washington, Feb. 28, 1844, intimating the anxious desire of the British Government to come to a speedy settlement, and proposing a conference.

Mr. Uphur to Mr. Packenham, Feb. 26, 1845, names 11 o'clock, A. M., next day, for said conference.

Mr. Packenham writes to Mr. Calhoun, July 22, 1844, announcing that the death of Mr. Uphur, (on Feb. 25,) &c., had prevented prompt attention to the Oregon Boundary, and that now, as Congress had adjourned, it would be a proper time to proceed with it.

Mr. Calhoun to Mr. Packenham, August 22, 1844, appointing 1 o'clock, P. M., next day for conference, concurring with the English sentiment in desiring a speedy settlement of the question.

Mr. P. to Mr. C. Aug. 22, 1844, agreeing to the hour.

The conference was accordingly held on the 23d of August 1844, and the plenipotentiaries proceeded to examine the state of the question. Mr. Calhoun desired a proposal from Mr. Packenham, who said he would be able to make a definite one at the next conference, and desired Mr. C. to be also ready with his proposal. Adjourned to the 26th August, when it again assembled. Mr. Packenham made a proposal to Mr. Calhoun, which Mr. Calhoun declined. They then agreed that a full understanding of their respective claims was necessary to facilitate future proceedings. It was agreed that written statements of the views of both parties should be given before proceeding further. It was also agreed that the American Plenipotentiary should make his statement at the next conference, and, when ready, to give the necessary notice.

Attached to this Protocol is the offer of Mr. Packenham to take the 49th parallel of latitude to the Columbia River and the River to the sea; and also to make free to the United States any port of ports which they might desire on the mainland or on Vancouver's island South of 49 deg.

Sept. 2d, 1844, the third conference was held at the office of the United States Secretary of State. The American negotiator gave his views of the claims of the United States to the portion of the Territory drained by the Columbia as his grounds for declining the British Minister's proposal.

Sept. 12, 1844, Mr. Packenham replies to Mr. Calhoun.

This most important letter are those from Mr. Packenham, Jan. 21, 1845, offering arbitration; of Mr. Calhoun, Jan. 21, 1845, stating that the President could not accept arbitration; of Mr. Buchanan, July 12, 1845, offering the 49th parallel of latitude, with any port on Vancouver's island, which England might choose south of 49 degrees.

July 12, 1845, Mr. Buchanan having been appointed Secretary of State, replies to Mr. P.'s letter of Sept. 12, 1844, and rears our title on that of Spain, contending that at the date of Spain's transfer of her rights to us, she had a good title to the whole of Oregon against

Great Britain. The Nootka Sound Treaty conferred no right on Great Britain but to trade with the Indians, was transient in its nature, and did not touch the sovereignty of Spain over the territory. That it was annulled by the war between Great Britain and Spain in 1796, and has never since been renewed, and consequently that Great Britain is destitute of any claim to the Oregon territory. Having defended these views at length, and enforced our title to the whole of Oregon Territory, he says the joint occupancy treaty excepts our title from being impaired.

In this view of the subject, the President, considering the action of his predecessors and embarrassed by their offer, to show also to the world that he is actuated by a spirit of moderation, has authorized him, (Mr. B.) to offer the 49th parallel to the sea as a boundary, with any port in Vancouver's island south of that latitude.

July 29th, 1845, Mr. Packenham replies to Mr. Buchanan; combats wrongly Mr. B.'s position, particularly his claim of the United States to the Valley of the Columbia, to be older than the treaty of 1819. He examines the Spanish title—the American offer to divide the territory—the United States can found no claim, or discovery, or exploration, or settlement, prior to the treaty of Florida, without admitting the principles of the Nootka Sound Convention, and the parallel claims of Great Britain. He contends that the Nootka Sound Convention continues in force, and even if that Convention had never existed, the claims of Great Britain are as good as those of the United States.

He then goes into a history of the discoveries, from which it might appear that American citizens discovered the Columbia River, while British navigators discovered Frazer's River and Vancouver's Island. He repeats the British claims to the territory, and declines the offer made by Mr. Buchanan.

August 30, 1845, is the date of the last despatch. It is from Mr. Buchanan in reply to Mr. P. He quotes the declaration of Messrs. Huskisson and Addison that "Great Britain claims no exclusive sovereignty over any other part of that [Oregon] territory." Mr. Buchanan makes a very long argument in reply to Mr. Packenham, maintaining the rights of the United States to the whole of the territory, and concludes by withdrawing his offer.

MEMPHIS RAILROAD.

Mr. Holden: Raleigh and Fayetteville, and in fact the whole State, is deeply, deeply interested in the contemplated Railroad, from Memphis to South Carolina. It is our duty and interest, as citizens of North Carolina, to contribute every exertion in our power to bring about its construction by all constitutional means. Look on the map of the United States, and you will see it at once. First, it will be an iron bond between the southern States and the Southern. Secondly, it will divert all the travel from the southern and southwestern States and Texas, which now passes up and down the Mississippi and Ohio, through North Carolina; for, the route will be nearer, more expeditious, more safe, more healthy and more certain, because neither drouth nor ice, which affect trade and travel on the Ohio river and in higher latitudes, can suspend the travel and trade on this Railroad route. Thirdly, it will attract, year after year, to continue the Railroad from Raleigh through Fayetteville to South Carolina. Fourthly, it will give middle and western North Carolina the command of the Charleston, Wilmington, and Fayetteville market, in addition to the Virginia markets, which we now have. Fifthly, it will render us independent in case of war; for no enemy can cut off our supplies of sugar, coffee, molasses, fruits, &c. from Texas, Louisiana, and Florida, nor our trade, through the great Mediterranean Sea, the Mississippi River and its tributaries with all parts of the Union. Sixthly, this route, situated as it will be, midway between the Atlantic and Mississippi routes, will be the great thoroughfare of travel and intercourse.

In fine, my heart as a North Carolinian leaps within me when I contemplate what a new era of prosperity will burst upon our State, if this Memphis road should be constructed. Our State, by nature inaccessible to a foreign enemy by land and water, will be at last the most desirable spot on the globe. In war or peace her trade and travel would flourish; and what is most remarkable, the security of her natural situation and the internal trade and travel in a time of war, would mitigate to her most of its evils and calamities.

But when we take a loftier view of this idea, and behold its political effect, in cementing the Union by the indissoluble bonds of trade and travel; imagination's utmost stretch could hardly realize a measure which is more fraught with benefit to us as North Carolinians and to the Union.

In this point of view, how important it is that our Railroads should be owned by our own citizens, that in case these happy results should be effected, our trade and travel should not be subjected to the vexations and control of other people. It may become evident that the better policy would have been for our last Legislature to have authorized our Governor to bid a higher amount at the sale of the Raleigh and Gaston Road, to prevent the ownership of foreign companies, and thus to secure the road to the State. The Legislature might then have had it in its power, by creating a stock and selling it out to the citizens, to indemnify herself, or nearly so, as there can be no question that a capital of from five to seven hundred thousand dollars would be a most desirable investment for our own citizens.

This latter suggestion, however, I merely throw out by the way. The main subject is ripe with importance to us all individually and collectively.

NOTICE.

Whereas, Felix Bell, late of Sampson county, N. C., has departed this life, and Letters of Administration have been granted to the next of kin and distributees of said estate, that the subscriber is now ready to close the same, and pay to those entitled, their share of said estate.

The following is the composition of one of our Fayetteville youths, now at College. It does him much credit, both in style and sentiment. We are glad to see young men view in a right light, the dangerous works of such novelists as Bulwer and Eugene Sue.

BULWER.

In looking over a library of modern literature, one would perhaps meet with some of Bulwer's novels; and if he should open and read, he would immediately become interested in his author. If it should happen to be "Ernest Maltravers," he would be led imperceptibly into ardent admiration of the Man of Genius; or take delight in the simple manners and fond affections of the untutored Alice, the true child of Nature. Or, if it should be the "Last Days of Pompeii," the beauty and misfortunes of the blind Nydia would enchain him—the winning smiles and virtuous bearing of Ione, and the high and noble temper of the Athenian Glaucus, alike in prosperity and adversity, would equally excite his sympathy and regard. But why name particular characters? All are favorites of the casual reader. . . . The peculiarities of Bulwer's style are many and marked. It is at all times a strain of grandeur and sublimity. Possessed of a most beautiful flow of language, and having ever ready at his pen the elements of attraction, and all that delights mankind in thought and word, it would indeed seem strange if he should give birth to any thing mean or insignificant. He is choice in his selection of words to express them. His ideas generally are such as captivate and lead away the reader into forgetfulness of the realities of life, and to concentration of his whole soul and energies upon the history of the author's hero. His words, as flowers culled from the summer tress, he forms into wreaths, and with them crowns the virgin thought, which is thus made more beautiful. Another peculiarity in his style is its marked variety of diction and diversity of manner: At one time he breathes out the soft and gentle voice of love—the professions of friendship—the aspirations of hope, and the brightness of joy; at another, whispers the promptings of jealousy—the suggestions of envy, and the labels of malice; now vaults aloud in the forwardness of pride; and the blustering of vanity, and then hushes to rest in the low, deep, dying groan of remorse; and in all he supports his characters with the utmost consistency. Be it king or courtier, serf or villain, lord or commoner, it is all the same with Bulwer; and we may say, in conclusion of this part of our subject, that our author's style is elegant, his manner of writing pleasing, and his diction most copious and effusive. We cannot close without noticing some other peculiarities of Bulwer's writings: and the first is, the beautiful garb in which he adorns vice, and the shabby garment with which he chooses to clothe modest and unassuming virtue. This is a fault which more than counterbalances all his excellencies. Crime and bloodstained wickedness are made to lose their hideousness, and to become pleasing and attractive to the reader's mind. Guilt passes on unnoticed; and the worst passions of the human heart are made to triumph in their despotic rule. Just reigns uncontrolled and unconcealed, and the soft persuasive voice of seduction is at first unnoticed, then heard, then assented to—then comes—the victim falls—the victor, falls! No, lives and triumphs. Take, for instance, the case mentioned above, Ernest Maltravers, into ardent admiration of whom the reader is imperceptibly drawn. Who would not, at times, like to run through the course that he is represented as having trod? Who does not, while he considers, at the same time, pity and sympathize with this noble and high-souled villain? Yet strip him of that ornament, and that beautiful dress of vice with which the novelist has chosen to adorn him, and what does this Man of Genius become? What now, when seen with the plain and naked eye of truth, and weighed by the standard of morality, does he resemble? This true, our author makes virtue triumph, and vice fall, but in such a way, that the fall of vice seems preferable to the triumph of virtue.

Another peculiarity of Bulwer's writings, is the manner in which he interweaves his visionary philosophy into his works; and in this, we may say, consists their principal attraction. By his winning style and beautiful language, he instils into the very soul, precepts and rules of philosophy which, having the appearance of truth, are but the sporting productions of his own glowing and inventive genius. Believing as it is thought, in doing himself, he seems to task his imagination to explore to its utmost stretch, the unreal and visionary world, and to return laden with the fruits of its own aerial flight. With them, he decks out in gorgeous array his tales of fiction, which serve to make them more pleasing and attractive. The effect of works of a fictitious nature is deleterious under any circumstances; but when interwoven with theories of a false and speculative philosophy, their tendency is to render the mind totally unfit for the common business of life, and to prevent the due exercise of those nobler powers which are directed to the cultivation both of science and virtue. . . . But a third most striking and most deplorable characteristic of our author's works, is their immoral tendency. This is a stigma upon the name of Bulwer, which will forever blast his reputation as a man of letters. Not content to give the dying blow to virtue, he seems to endeavor to us the name of vice, and to entwine into our very souls its admiration. And what is the effect upon the heart of the reader, of a view of this dazzling, splendid dress, in which guilt stalks forth, free and uncontrolled? Does he the more shun the beautiful phantom as it passes before him? Does he look with eyes of increased horror upon sin and wickedness? Or, does he not rather court the vice, which as an English bard has most beautifully expressed it, "at first, hated as a monster, is, when seen too oft, endured, then prized, then embraced?" In fine, it may be said, that Bulwer, possessing talents of the highest order, and worthy to be marked high on the column of ennobling Genius, is the best, and, at the same time one of the most depraved writers of the age.

29th Congress—1st Session.

SENATE.

TUESDAY, Dec. 9.—General Case submitted the following resolutions relating to the National defenses:

Resolved, That the Committee on Military Affairs be instructed to inquire into the condition of the national fortifications and of their armaments, and whether other defensive works are necessary; and into the condition and quantity of the military supplies; and into the state of the means possessed by the government for the defence of the country.

Resolved, That the Committee on the Militia be instructed to inquire into the present condition of that great branch of the public service; and into the state of the militia laws; and that they be further instructed to report such changes in the existing system as will give more experience and efficiency to that arm of defence, and will place it in the best condition for protecting the country, should it be exposed to foreign invasion.

Resolved, That the Committee on Naval Affairs be instructed to inquire into the condition of the navy of the United States, and into the quantity and condition of the naval supplies now on hand, and whether an increase of them is not necessary to the efficient operations of the navy, and to its preservation and augmentation; and, generally, into its capacity for defending our coast, and our commerce, and for any service the exigencies of the country may probably require.

The Senate then proceeded to the election of Senate officers. A. B. Dickens, dem., was re-elected Secretary, by one vote. Mr. Robert Beale, dem., Sergeant-at-arms, or Doorkeeper.

The Senate then proceeded to ballot for Standing Committees. Messrs Huntington and McDuffie begged to be excused from serving on Committees, on account of indisposition. The following are the Chairmen of several of the important Committees:

Foreign Relations—Mr. Allen, of Ohio, d. Finance—Mr. Calhoun. Commerce—Mr. Haywood. Manufactures—Mr. Dickinson, d. Military Affairs—Mr. Benton.

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 10.—A resolution was introduced asking information from the President in relation to the number and pay of the agents for the preservation of Live Oak timber in the United States. Mr. Lewis of Alabama introduced a bill for the admission of Texas into the Union. It was referred to the Judiciary Committee. The Senate resumed the balloting for the Standing Committees. Mr. Haywood was elected Chairman of the Committee on the District of Columbia. The following is the Committee on

Foreign Relations.—Messrs Allen, Cass, Sevier, Atholton, and Archer. Four demotics and one whig.

The Senate then elected the Finance Committee and adjourned.

THURSDAY, Dec. 11.—The Senate, after hearing an eulogy on Mr. John B. Dawson, a member of the House from Louisiana, who died a few months ago, adjourned over to Monday.

HOUSE.

TUESDAY, Dec. 9.—Resolutions for referring the different parts of the President's Message to the appropriate Committees, were offered and adopted. Mr. Stewart, whig, of Pennsylvania, moved a resolution that it is the sense of the House that the Tariff of 1842 ought not to be altered. (This produced loud laughter.) Mr. Stewart spoke his hour on the subject of the Tariff of 1842. He said he had received numerous letters from persons about to engage in manufacturing, asking him if they would be safe in going on—that is, would the Tariff remain as it is. But Mr. Stewart, at the desire of several, withdrew his resolution. Mr. Andrew Johnson, democrat, replied to Mr. Stewart. Petitions from several States were then presented. A number from the abolitionists, against the annexation of Texas. A message was received from the President, accompanied by a copy of the Constitution of the State of Texas, which was referred to the Committee on Territories.

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 10.—Mr. Douglas introduced a resolution for the admission of Texas into the Union, which lies over till Tuesday next. The House then determined to pass a resolution for the election of the Chaplains. Mr. Pettit objected, and desired to offer an amendment that members should pay Chaplains out of their private funds. The resolution passed. Mr. Adams again presented petitions and remonstrances against the annexation of Texas. The House then adjourned as a mark of respect to the memory of the Hon. J. B. Dawson, who died some months ago.

THURSDAY, Dec. 11.—The reception of petitions from the several States, was the only business transacted today.

FRIDAY, Dec. 12.—Today, the House again adjourned in respect to the memory of Mr. Peyton, of Tennessee, who died some months ago.

PETITIONS.—We congratulate the good spirit in which some of the petitions touching two most delicate subjects have been presented and disposed of. The remonstrances against the annexation of Texas have been presented in considerable profusion. A correspondent of the Baltimore American estimates the number of signatures to those which were laid before the House of Representatives on Thursday last, at 40,000. The same letter also speaks of memorials, signed by 30,000 more, from Massachusetts alone. What has become of them? Laid quietly upon the table. Even Mr. Adams remarked, on that day, that, "as the House were determined to hurry through the measure of annexation, regardless of any remonstrances against it, he should hereafter content himself with presenting the memorials forwarded to him, and submit to what seemed to be the determined action of the House.—Union.

A whig member of Congress from New England writes to a friend in this city as follows: "My belief is, that Congress will, with great unanimity, support President Polk in a preeminent claim to the 49th parallel, however imminent may be the hazards of war."—N. Y. Journal of Commerce.

The venerable and Rev. John Cotton Smith is dead.