

ceived, by the officers whose posts were contemplated to be suppressed, that he was surprised the subject had not been proposed to this house before. If the resolution were adopted, Mr. S. was sure a saving might be annually made of 7 or 8,000 dollars without the least detriment to the public.

The resolve was ordered to lie on the table.

On motion of Mr. Lowndes, it was

Resolved, That the secretary of the department of the navy be directed to inform this house, whether the commander of the Ontario, during her late cruise in the Pacific Ocean, received any present from the Viceroy of Lima, and, if he did, what disposition has been made thereof; whether he received on board the Ontario any citizens or subjects of a foreign power, and any monies or effects belonging to foreign subjects or citizens to be transported from some foreign port to another; if such foreign subjects were so received, whether any of them were in the military or naval service of governments engaged in war; if any money or effects were so transported, whether any freight was received on that account; and whether any and what instructions have been given by the department of the navy, respecting the transportation, in public ships of the United States, of passengers money or effects.

The bill supplementary to the several acts for the adjustment of land claims in the state of Louisiana, was received from the senate, read, and referred.

The bill from the senate, to apportion the representatives of the states of Massachusetts and Maine, was received, twice read, and referred to a select committee.

The bill from the senate further to suspend, for a limited time the sale or forfeiture of lands for non-payment of the monies due thereon, was read a third time.

A motion was made by Mr. Stocumb to lay the bill on the table; which was opposed by Mr. Anderson.

A short debate then arose involving the merits of the bill; which was supported by Messrs. Hardin, Fuller, Brush, Hill, Storrs, Campbell, Lowndes, Rankin, Beecher, and Cook; and opposed by Messrs. Cobb and Stocumb.

The ground on which the bill was supported, was generally, that the indulgence, proposed to be extended by this bill, had been granted for so many successive years, that it had been confidently calculated upon by the purchasers of public lands; and that there was nothing in the circumstances of the present times which made the indulgence less necessary than hitherto, but rather, the contrary. It was not denied that this indulgence ought to cease without some previous intimation of the intention of congress in this respect, such, for example, as would be given by the passage of the bill, now depending for changing the mode of disposing of the public lands.

The bill was opposed on the ground that it was time to change a system which daily augmented the debt due to the treasury, and kept from it so large an amount of money, at a time when the treasury is certainly not overflowing. Some relief, probably, was necessary, but it was worthy of inquiry whether it could not be better given in a different form. If such a bill as this was to pass at this session, however, it was contended that it ought to be delayed until the system could be examined, with a view to the remedy of what was certainly an evil, the progress of which ought to be arrested.

The motion to lay the bill on the table was overruled; and it was finally passed, not without opposition, but without a division, and returned to the senate.

The bill for the relief of John A. Dix, then passed through a committee of the whole Mr. Hill in the chair, being supported by Mr. Williams of North Carolina, and was ordered to a third reading.

The house then resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. Campbell in the chair, on the bill from the senate for the relief of certain persons who have paid duties on certain goods imported into Canada.

This bill embraces a case, in which, on the recovery of Casine to the U. S. at the close of the late war, certain foreign goods were found there, and duties thereon were levied by the collector of the United States, though the same goods had previously paid the duties levied thereon by the British authorities. Most of the persons concerned resisted the payment demanded by the United States officers, and, by a recent decision of the Supreme Court, they are exempted from the payment, on the ground of national law. Some, however, did pay their bonds, and this bill proposes, in order to place them on the same footing as those who resisted the payment, to refund from the treasury the amount of those bonds.

In this bill a debate took place, it was opposed by Messrs. Holmes and A. A. and supported by Messrs. Smith, J. A. Sergeant, Sibley, and Mason. Messrs. Tyler and Barbour assigned the reasons why they should vote for the bill; yet disapproving the decision of the supreme court, which appeared to make its passage necessary, with a view to equity and justice.

The bill was opposed on the ground

that, in all probability, the goods in question had been imported either during the war, or be smuggled into the United States—or after the conclusion of peace, but before the place was given up, also with a view to their being conveyed into the United States, and thus to evade the duties which would have been payable had they been legally imported into the United States, &c. If such were the fact, it was said, the duties ought not to be refunded, &c.

The discussion resulted in the committee's rising and reporting the bill, and obtaining leave to sit again.

And the house adjourned.

Friday, March 31.

Mr. Smith, of N. Carolina, from the committee of accounts, reported in favor of paying out of the contingent fund to Thomas Constantine, two hundred and fifty dollars, which was concurred in.

Mr. A. Smith from the committee on military affairs, who were instructed to inquire into the expediency of providing for the payment for the gun and gun carriage, taken by the enemy at the battle of North Point, on the 12th Sept. 1814, made an unfavourable report thereon; which was read and ordered to lie on the table.

The amendments proposed by the senate to the appropriation bill for the current year were read and referred to a committee of the whole house.

Mr. Randolph then rose, and after a speech of some length, to enforce the propriety of a respectful observance of this day, (Good Friday,) and of the duties connected with it—moved, that when the house adjourn, it adjourn to meet on Monday next; with an intimation that if the motion should prevail, he would forthwith follow it with a motion for adjournment.

The motion to adjourn over to Monday was negatived.

Mr. Randolph then moved, that the house do now adjourn.

This motion was also negatived—about twenty rising in favour of it.

The house then proceeded, on motion of Mr. Barbour, to the consideration of the amendment reported by a select committee to the bill to amend the revolutionary pension law.

Several amendments were proposed to the bill, and successively negatived, an indisposition appearing to any alteration of its present form.

Mr. Williams, of N. Carolina then said, he was not able to discover any good reason for a distinction between the officers & soldiers of the revolutionary war now reduced to poverty; and as putting them on the same footing would save to the country annually a considerable sum of money, he moved to add the following as a new section to the bill:

"That no officer who now is, or may hereafter be, placed on the pension list, shall, after the payment of that part of his pension which became due on the 4th day of March, 1820, be entitled to receive more than ten dollars per month the same as received by all other persons on the pension list."

The yeas and nays being required by Mr. Cannon on agreeing to this motion, were as follows.

For the motion 62
Against it 89

So the motion was negatived.

Other amendments of a verbal nature were proposed and passed upon.

Mr. Cannon, under the impression that the service of the militia had been of as much importance, and their sacrifices as great at least as those of the continental soldiers, moved to amend the bill by adding a new section, the object of which was to embrace in the provisions of the pension law the officers and soldiers of the militia who actually served for — months during the revolutionary war.

Mr. Hardin suggested that the proposition of the gentleman from Tennessee was incomplete. He ought to have connected with the provisions for a direct tax or internal duties, which would be the necessary consequence of a measure that would add full five millions to the present amount of expenditures under the pension act.

Mr. Cannon said, he would tell the gentleman, if congress went on with their enormous expenditures, he should be ready, without this provision, for a direct tax. He placed his motion, he said, on the grounds of equality and justice, which appeared to him to sustain it.

Mr. Bloomfield said a few words against the motion; when

The question was taken thereon, and decided in the negative, five or six members rising in support of it.

Mr. Campbell moved an amendment, that no application for a pension should be received after the first day of June, 1820.

This motion was supported by the mover, and opposed by Messrs. McLean, Livermore, Foot, Cupepper, Bloomfield and A. Smyth—and was decided in the negative, without a division.

Mr. Strother then moved to strike out the whole of the bill, except the enacting clause, and to insert in lieu of it a provision for the total repeal of the revolutionary pension law.

Mr. S. said he voted for the law, without foreseeing the extent of its operation. Being convinced, now, that its benefits were not equal to its expen-

siveness, he made the best reparation he could to the country, by moving its repeal.

Mr. Cannon assigned the reason why, contrary to his disposition heretofore expressed, he should vote for the repeal of the law. He had endeavoured to obtain amendments to the law, to place the officers and soldiers on the same footing, and to place the militia man, of equal or greater merit, on the same footing as the continental soldier. In these objects he had failed; and he felt himself now bound to vote for the repeal of a law unjust and inequitable in its operation.

Without further debate, the question was taken on the motion of Mr. Strother, to repeal the law, and decided as follows:

For the motion, 32
Against the motion, 122

So the motion was rejected.

Mr. Morton moved an amendment, the object of which was to strike out the whole bill, and insert a provision, limiting the continuance of the pension of nine-months' men to three years, and of three-years' men to nine years, from the time they are placed on the pension list. This motion was negatived, 86 to 46.

Mr. Strother then moved an amendment, the object of which was, to diminish the rate of the pensions 50 per cent. (or one half,) from and after the 4th day of September next. This motion was also negatived, but by not so large a majority as the last.

Mr. Whitman then moved to add two other new sections to the bill, the object of which was to guard, by cautionary provisions of a rigid nature, against frauds by persons acting or assuming to act as agents for pensioners, &c. The house would not agree to the amendment.

The question was then taken on ordering the bill to be engrossed for a third reading, and decided in the affirmative, by a large majority.

It was then determined, on motion of Mr. Hill, to meet hereafter at 11 instead of 10 o'clock; and

The house then adjourned.

HILLSBOROUGH.

Wednesday, April 19.

In consequence of the indisposition of the journeyman printer, during the absence of the editor for a fortnight, who has necessarily returned to the north to bring out his family—but half a sheet appears for this week. We hope for and expect the editor's return in a day or so. Under present circumstances we beg the indulgence of subscribers.

"The revival of the Bankrupt Bill," says the National Intelligencer, "is yet talked of, but in what shape we know not."—Whether it is revived or not, we can assure legislators of one thing—if they go home without in some shape or other realizing the hopes of their numerous distressed constituents, they will meet—we will not say their execrations, but certainly their reproaches. In all extraordinary emergencies affecting the nation, the people look to Congress as their natural guardian for relief and protection; and in the present unparalleled state of the country, it was but reasonable to expect from that source something like relief for the thousands of suffering individuals amongst the commercial and manufacturing classes, now reduced from affluence to a state bordering on pauperism.—To disappoint an expectation so general as this is known to be, and which is founded in so much justice, would be a stretch of cruelty better becoming the flinty hearted minions of some Eastern tyrant than the enlightened and philanthropic representatives of a free people. It is all very well to talk about our "supereminently happy condition," and to contrast it with the miserable circumstances of the starving population of Europe.—It is a language which may dilate the heart of a well fed and better paid Congressman, who can lay his head on pillow of down, and hear the howling of the "pitiless storm," without, as he lays warm in his bed, as regards of its fury as secure from the effects of it—who sees his daily meals set out before him without their costing him a thought, and who, happen what will, is beyond the casualties which attend the great mass of his fellow citizens.—But let us go forth into the streets and highways—let us take a peep into the private dwellings of two-thirds of the community—and we shall presently perceive that it will be more proper for us to whisper to one another that we are less miserable than the rest of the world, than to boast aloud that we are more prosperous and happy.—Let it be admitted that Heaven, as a reward for our duly appreciating the blessings of our free and excellent government, has exempted us from a portion of the evil, it has inflicted on the arbitrary governments of the old world—shall we look with indifference on evils which it is in our power to remedy? And when we call upon our legislators for the remedy, shall we be satisfied when they tell us they can't agree amongst themselves, what is best to be done? In a word—although we agree

that it is better to endure the ills we have, than have them made worse by hasty and injudicious legislation, yet we believe it to be within the scope of the wisdom of our national legislature to ameliorate, if not entirely remove them; and this is all that is expected.

Henry Middleton, of South Carolina, formerly governor, and recently a member of congress, from that state, has been appointed by the president, with the consent of the senate, to be envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to the court of Russia, in the place of Mr. Campbell, resigned.

Mr. Ervin, in the House of Representatives of the United States, on Thursday last, moved several Resolutions, the object of which went to the erection of a Mausoleum at the seat of government for the remains of General WASHINGTON, and the placing thereon, an Equestrian Statue of Bronze of the General. The House refused, at that time, to consider the resolves.

General VIVES, the Envoy Extraordinary from SPAIN, yesterday arrived at the Franklin Hotel in this city.

Nat Int. 10, inst.

Contrary to our expectations, contrary to the expectations of almost the whole American community, general Vives, the Spanish ambassador, has at length made his appearance among us. He arrived at New-York on the 8th inst, and was to have left that city on Friday last, for Washington.

Gen. Vives has arrived in good time. The national legislature is in session, and will not adjourn, we imagine, till the Spanish treaty is brought to a final close. Our differences with that monarchy must now be settled, either at the pen or the sword's point. Procrastination must no longer be the order of the day.

[Pet. Rep.]

Salem, (Mass.) April 4.

Jonathan Knowlton, of Gloucester, had a ball drop from out his back last week, that he had received on his retreat from the battle of Bunker's Hill, in the American revolution.

New-York, April 7.

The trial of Smith Davis, for plundering the mail, came on yesterday before the circuit court of the U. States in this city, the hon. Brockholst Livingston, judge. The case was submitted almost without argument, and the jury, without leaving the box gave a verdict of *Gulity*. The indictment was not for a capital offence, of course the punishment will be imprisonment in the state prison, not less than three nor more than seven years.

Second Dialogue between Alexander and a Member of Congress.

Member of Congress: I have returned from a journey through your Majesty's dominions, and have been highly gratified by new improvements every where visible, and by the activity of every class—my only apprehension is, lest your paper money should depreciate and cause ruinous losses to the enterprising and industrious.

Alexander: This cannot occur, unless by famine, pestilence, or in vading armies. I do not issue my paper money, as I did, from necessity, during the late war: my boards lend on good security, and the borrowers are enabled to pay interest, and to gain ten or fifteen per cent, besides. The nation, therefore, gains, annually, the whole amount of my loans, and the profit and interest which the borrower obtains, and the wealth produced by hands and machinery. Some men, it is true, would have worked without this currency, but in agriculture they would have used bad implements, and in manufactures employed very little mechanism.

M. C. I am delighted and instructed by your Majesty's reasoning; but, pray excuse my asking why you borrowed specie of Great Britain at high interest, if paper answers all its purposes?

A. I wished, by founding a portion of my outstanding paper, to raise its value, and to teach my subjects the funding system. I have, however, on reflection, doubted whether the measure was a judicious one; my paper roubles, by stimulating industry and by creating buildings manufactures, &c. would have soon raised in value to par. The funding of the excess of paper was, however, a proof of my desire to preserve my credit.

M. C. Sovereigns formerly would not condescend to let their subjects know the state of their finances. There was, therefore, a natural distrust. Your majesty insures confidence by an annual financial report or budget. Will you not be embarrassed when you have to pay off your foreign debt in specie?

A. The exports from my empire will annually increase. Great Britain exports 120,000,000 of roubles worth of manufactures, with a population not more than a fourth of my

number. My loan is too insignificant to occasion any difficulty in obtaining bills on Holland, France, or England. One article of commerce is easily exchanged for another: what are gold and silver but articles of commerce?

M. C. I must acquiesce from conviction: your Majesty's candor and affability preclude the necessity of flattery or of suppression of objections. I am at a loss to ascertain why the British are attempting to return to a specie currency, if paper be so superior?

A. I have wondered at this—perhaps it is deemed prudent to compel the bank to have some bullion, lest a temporary disturbance in the little island should discredit the bank notes; or perhaps the attempt is merely made to satisfy the prejudiced. The state creditors and wealthy subjects of Great Britain, who reside abroad, and draw, as I am informed, about 10,000,000 pounds sterling annually, will drain away the bullion whenever they choose, and, in times of danger, the timid always convey diamonds and the precious metals away, being the most portable articles. The ministers in England are too well founded in finance to rely upon specie—dear bought experience has proved that it always disappears in times of need.

M. C. In the instructions to the Captain who went on the voyage I have before mentioned, there is a curious one for him to observe, if men stooped to pick up any thing on the shore, and then to examine whether it was gold or silver.

A. All discoverers of new countries, formerly, sought for the precious metals. Columbus did so in the new world, but what advantage has Spain derived from its mines in South America? All industry produces valuables, and of all valuables gold and silver would be the least important if old prejudices were discarded.

M. C. Our excellent constitution and good laws, well administered, produce more wealth than the mines of Mexico and Peru. I admire your Majesty's system, and will not fail to point out its importance on my return to America; we have no impediments to rapid progress, but want of capital and the discordant interest of the several states, which the general government ought to reconcile.

A. You seem too much inclined to make speeches about liberty, and to be too jealous of the general government; but you know best what is right. Again, I say, I wish you well. HOMO.

The Duke of Grafton, who was prime minister to his late majesty soon after he came to the throne, and who makes so distinguished a figure in the celebrated Letters of Junius, after retiring from office, employed himself in writing "Memoirs of his own Life," which, when completed, his grace carefully sealed up, and by an injunction in his will, strictly prohibited his heirs on any account, to open the envelope during the reign of the late king; but, after the monarch's demise, to make the memoir known to the world. It is supposed to contain a full development of all the great political events and private history of the court, at that interesting period; and in all probability, will, for the first time, divulge to the public, the real name of JUNIUS, which, it is understood, had been made known to his grace, under a pledge of honor not to communicate the secret to any person living, in the life time of king George the Third.

A lady of high fashion, complimenting the king of Prussia in such high terms that his Prussian majesty was rather disgusted at it than pleased; and saying, amongst other things, that he was covered with glory, was the peace-maker of Europe, and in short, the greatest monarch and man upon earth—"Madam," the king, "You are as handsome as an angel; witty, elegant, and agreeable; in short, you possess all the admirable qualities of your sex, but—you paint!"

Dancing-School.

THE subscriber respectfully informs the inhabitants of Hillsborough, and its vicinity, that he will open a dancing school at the house of Mr. Clifton's, Hillsborough, the first Thursday of May next, to continue three days each dance. The terms of tuition will be left in the hands of Mr. Clifton. Those wishing to have their children instructed, and those wishing to be instructed in that line, can apply to Messrs. Wm. Kirkland, Wm. Cain, Jr. and Maj. John Taylor, for information respecting my qualification.

J. L. Vaughan.