

her hair combed. When she saw me, she crept on her knees towards me, begging permission to burn herself with the body of her husband.

"As soon as the magistrate's leave arrived for the awful ceremony, the relatives placed the corpse on a bier which they carried, and on which the widow was seated. She was carried to the place of funeral, amidst a large crowd, on whom she scattered parched grain. The funeral pile was made in a hollow cone, dug in the earth, about four feet deep, and five feet diameter at the mouth. It was lined with dry wood, and partly filled with combustibles. After the widow had bathed in an adjacent tank, the corpse was placed on the cone. At this time she was exhausted, that a relation was obliged to bear her up in his arms.

When again on her feet, she tore off a part of her robe, wrapped it round her eldest son, a child about eight years old. After this many men and women fell at her feet and kissed them. The victim exhorted the women to follow her example, should they ever be in a similar state. The boy now threw a lighted torch into the cone—it blazed with great fury. The widow walked three times round the cone, throwing in rosin to enliven the blaze from a pot which she had under her arm, then jumped with alacrity into the flames, and seated herself near the corpse.—She was in a moment enveloped in flames, which the crowd increased by throwing in tow and other combustibles, and she kept clapping her hands, after the epidermis was nearly burnt off her body. Her hands then fell; she was soon dead, but still the body kept its erect, seated posture, and appeared like a statue of ebony amidst the raging flames!

"The crowd shouted loudly and incessantly, and said that such a resolute suicide was never seen. The police officer who attended, and had seen many suicides, told me he never saw one where the victim was so calm and intrepid. I was within three yards of the cone—the poor creature had her face towards me. I shall never forget the dreadful sight: It was awful and horrible! When I first saw her, there was a wildness in her looks; she was afterwards calm and composed; latterly weak, exhausted and agitated, but when she walked round the blazing cone, she was calm and collected.

"She was about fifty, her husband about sixty. She had three children, a daughter married, about 20, and two sons, one 8 and the other 7.

"There was no compulsion, no force. The crowd, by the order of the police officers, receded from the cone, and I was nearer to it than any other person except the poor victim. There was no impediment to her jumping out of the fire, if she wished it. There was no interest, in her self immolation, to the relations; for she was poor, and the nearest relatives were obliged to enter bonds to maintain the two children until they were of age to support themselves. It was religious enthusiasm—it was the force of early inculcations acting on a warm mind.—The actor and the crowd seemed to feel no restraint from my presence; on the contrary, they fell back, to give me a better view of the awful ceremony."

LETTER OF M. N. B. HULL, TO HIS FATHER.

We publish the following letter, which was delivered to us by the unhappy man himself for publication, with feelings of no ordinary sensibility. This paper will speak for itself; it needs no comment of our own; it may be said to speak from the grave, which already opens for its victim; and from the evidence that we personally became acquainted with from the lips of this unfortunate and guilty man, we have no doubt of its sincerity.—Could we add any thing to the sentiments advanced by the writer, most cordially and deeply would we join in his supplication, that our rising youth would learn from this awful example, to reverence the admonitions of their pious parents. Would to God that it would lead us all to reflect, that even murder is nearly allied to the indulgence of any known vice. That the same beneficent Redeemer, through whose merits, not only this unhappy man, but every son and daughter of Adam, must expect divine forgiveness, may have mercy on him, is our fervent supplication at the throne of Divine Grace. [Baltimore Chronicle.]

Dear Father—I am daily and impatiently expecting a letter from you, and hope you have before this time received my last. On Wednesday I received my awful sentence; but, dear father, I acknowledged to the court then, as I did before to you, the strict justice of it. Yes, I know that my hands are polluted with blood, and my conscience—oh, it is burdened with the crime into which I have been drawn. Little did I expect when I left our happy home and an affectionate father, that before I could see you again, I should have incurred such guilt, and be a tenant of this doleful cell. Would to God I had rejected the first proposal, which was that we should go on to get a sum of money, which Hutton assured me he knew we could get, with ease and certainty. The plan was not fully explained to me until we got to Wilmington—of the murder I

knew nothing until we were returning from the place the first night, and when my terror prevented the execution of the plan. Then Hutton told me, that although he had not mentioned it to me he meant to have put the man out of the way, lest his evidence should lead to our conviction. Oh! if God had taken my life the next day, and never allowed me to go out a second time. But then I should have died as I lived—thoughtless, rash and unprincipled—and now, though I have brought disgrace and anguish upon you yet my guilty soul may be saved because Jesus Christ died for sinners, and he has given me time and hope to repeat. When the poor man begged for his life, I told him we would, and I meant it, indeed I pleaded for him; but Hutton insisted we would be known, and told me it was no time for pleading, and at last told me either to shoot him or the driver, and then—oh my God forgive me.

Dear father, I do not write you this to excuse my guilt—no, this is too, too bad! I have not denied it before God or man, but it is to show you, that dreadfully as I had abused your care, your tears and prayers were not altogether thrown away—I was not quite abandoned. Oh my God, preserve my brother from bad company, and enable him to soothe a heart which my wickedness has so much tortured. The poor woman too—from her I have assisted to tear away her husband, and made her children orphans. If I could only work for them! but God will take care of them. Dear Father, this is a time of shame and sorrow with me, but may God so help me to repent and be converted, that all my sins may be forgiven me, and blotted out from his holy book. I read the Bible the greatest part of my time: I have several other books and tracts, but the Bible is now worth to me all that you used to say it was worth. I learn there that God is gracious, long suffering and merciful, and forgiving sin to the penitent, and takes delight in a broken spirit; for he says in the Scripture, 'a broken and a contrite heart he will not despise; he is able to forgive the worst of sinners, and we read, 'though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be as crimson, he can make them white as wool'—how often my dear father have you told me these things, and yet worse than a child or brute I have resisted and not profited by your advice, and preferred the guilty advice of bad friends. I know that I am inexcusable by my earthly father; and can my God, my heavenly father, ever forgive me? Oh, if it was not for Jesus Christ where, where should I go? but I hope that he will support me under the dreadful punishment which I have shortly to suffer—how my soul sinks under it; but if he will only give me hope in my death, and the least, the lowest part in his kingdom, I die contented.

One thing more.—What will you think of me, who am so undeserving a wretch, asking any favour of you? But, my dear father, Mrs. Heaps, the woman whose husband we murdered, is poor and dependent, and her children—it was your son that helped to make them orphans! Will you not then, notwithstanding your large family, do something for them? give them a salary, or any thing that you see best, or can afford, and they, and God, and you son, will bless you. This would sweeten my death, to know that it was done at my request. Remember me, unfortunate as I am, to my mother. Thank God that my own mother is spared your sufferings. Remember me, also, to brother, and sisters; and may my awful situation be a warning to them and all my acquaintances. God comfort you in this your time of affliction. I have seen a letter from a gentleman in Utica, which stated you would probably be on to visit me after my trial. I long, yet dread to see you; it will be a grievous meeting. My eyes are so filled with tears, that I cannot write any more. But you know my feelings better than I can describe them. Do write me soon. This from your guilty, afflicted, undutiful and imprisoned son.

MORRIS N. B. HULL.
Baltimore, (Prison) April 23d, 1820.
Doct. Amos G. Hull.

CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Friday, April 21.

The bill from the senate for clothing the army of the United States in articles of domestic manufacture, as amended; the bill to establish a uniform mode of discipline and field exercise for the militia of the United States; the bill to designate the boundaries of districts and establishing land offices, for the disposal of the public lands not heretofore offered for sale in the states of Alabama and Indiana, were read a third time.

The house then resolved itself into a committee of the whole, on the bills reported by the committee of manufactures—and the committee determined to take up first in order, the bill "to regulate the duties on imports and tonnage, and for other purposes." This bill proposes changes in relation to the duties on goods imported, in various proportions.

The bill having been read through Mr. Baldwin rose, and delivered a

speech of nearly three hours in length, explanatory of the general principles by which the committee had been guided in reporting the bill; and of the grounds of the proposed increase of the duties on the several articles of the most importance.

Mr. Smith, of Md. rose, after Mr. Baldwin concluded, and expressed his views of the tariff, in general opposition to those of Mr. Baldwin, as regards the merits of the system of revenue from imports, but without denying that some of the present duties might require to be increased. He did not, however, go far into the general question, having risen to move an amendment in the following clause:

First.—A duty of twelve and a half per centum ad valorem on all dying drugs, and materials for composing dyes, not subject to other rates of duty; gum arabic, gum senegal, saltpetre, jewellery gold, silver and other watches, and parts of watches; gold and silver lace, embroidery and epaulettes; precious stones or paste work, and all articles composed wholly or chiefly of gold, silver, pearl, and precious stones; and laces, lace veils, lace shawls, or shades, of thread or silk.

The amendment was to strike out the word twelve, in the first line, for the purpose of inserting in lieu thereof the word seven.

Mr. Clay, after paying a high compliment to the ability and substantial character of the speech of Mr. Baldwin, said, that until an answer was to that speech at least attempted, he should abstain from engaging in the support of the general principles of the bill. At present he only rose to say, that it became the friends of the manufacturing system not to lend themselves with too much facility to alterations proposed in the system which has been reported by the committee of manufactures. That committee had, with a patience and industry never surpassed in this house, prepared and reported a general system. Its provisions were no doubt the result of much calculation; and, if the friends of the general features of it listened to every application which should be made to change this or that particular item, the effects would be, that they would lose the whole. Mr. C. then made some remarks against this particular motion.

The question was taken on Mr. Smith's motion, and decided in the negative, without a division.

Various other amendments were then proposed, which were uniformly rejected.

The committee then rose, reported progress, and obtained leave to sit again.

Saturday, April 22.

The house resolved itself into a committee of the whole, on the bill to regulate the duties on imports and tonnage.

And after a number of motions being made to amend the bill most of which were negatived—the bill having been gone through;

Mr. Tyler of Va. moved to strike out the first section of the bill, and was prepared now to go into the remarks which he intended to offer in opposition to the bill, if it were the pleasure of the committee to listen to an argument on its general merits; but as the committee had been engaged for several hours in a laborious and fatiguing consideration of its details, he moved that the committee now rise.

The committee then rose, reported progress, and obtained leave to sit again.

Mr. Newton from the committee of commerce presented to the house a mass of correspondence derived from the executive department, between the ministers of our government and those of France and England, respecting our trade with the British American colonies, and the general intercourse between France and the United States; which was ordered to be printed; and the house adjourned.

Monday, April 24.

TARIFF OF DUTIES, &c. &c.
The house again resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. Taylor in the chair, on the bill to regulate the duties on imports.

After some debate the motion to strike out the first section of the bill (to reject it) was decided in the negative, 73 votes to 48.

The committee of the whole then took up the other bill referred to it, by the title of "a bill regulating the payment of duties on merchandise imported, and for other purposes."

Some progress had been made in the debate; when

An alarm of fire, in the city, induced the committee to rise (at 4 o'clock) and The house adjourned.

Tuesday, April 25.

On motion of Mr. Whitman, it was Resolved, That the committee on foreign relations be instructed to inquire into the expediency of imposing a duty on Plaster of Paris imported from certain ports of the provinces of New Brunswick to countervail a duty lately imposed by the legislature of that province on that article when exported from certain other parts of the same province.

THE TARIFF AND REVENUE BILLS.
The house again resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. Taylor in the chair, on the bills concerning the duties on imports and the mode of their collection.

The bill now under consideration, is the bill regulating the payment of duties on merchandise imported, and for other purposes.

The question immediately before the house being on Mr. Silsbee's motion to strike out the first section of the bill.

Mr. Baldwin and Mr. Trimble spoke in favour of the bill; and Mr. Johnson of Virginia and Mr. Whitman in opposition to it.

There was then some conversation on the propriety of reporting the bill for increasing the duties on imports forthwith, that it might be finally acted on, and, if it passed this house, that it might be before the senate whilst the discussion was going on here on the bill now under consideration, for requiring cash payments on certain duties, and on the other bill before the same committee, for imposing a duty of 10 per cent. on the amount of sales at auction. Nothing, however, was finally settled on this head.

The house adjourned at half past 3 o'clock.

Wednesday, April 26.

Mr. Southard, from the committee on Indian affairs, to whom was referred an inquiry into the expediency of repealing the act making provision for the civilization of the Indian tribes adjoining our frontier settlements (passed at the last session) reported, that, in their opinion, it is inexpedient at this time to repeal that law. And the report was ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Silsbee, from the committee on naval affairs, reported, without amendment, the bill from the senate, for authorising the building of a certain number of small vessels of war.

Mr. Anderson, from the land committee, reported, without amendment, the joint resolution, referred to them, for establishing the boundary line between the state of Ohio and the territory of Michigan. The question being stated on ordering the resolve to be engrossed—

Mr. Brush moved to lay the resolve on the table, desiring time to examine it, not having been, from accident, present when the resolve was first moved.

This motion gave rise to a short debate, in which it was opposed by Mr. Anderson, Mr. Woodbridge and Mr. Sloan, on the ground of the lateness of the session, and the improbability that, if laid on the table, it would be again taken up at the present session. It was supported by Mr. Ross and Mr. Brush, on the ground that the line proposed by the resolve was not the proper line, but would be injurious to the interests of the state of Ohio, without being at all beneficial to Michigan. It was important, it was admitted, that the line should now be established; but it was equally important, that, when it is established, it should be the proper line.

The resolve was ordered to lie on the table, by a vote of 60 to 44.

The house again resumed the consideration of the bill regulating the mode of collecting the duties on imports, &c. —Mr. Silsbee's motion to strike out the first section of the bill being yet under consideration.

Mr. Alexander, of Virginia, delivered his sentiments in favor of the motion.

Mr. Archer, of Virginia, followed, also a considerable length, in support of the motion.

Mr. Clay (speaker) in a speech in support of the bill, occupied the remainder of the usual time of sitting.

When, after explanatory observations between Mr. Clay and Mr. Smith of Maryland, the committee rose, and The house adjourned.

Thursday, April 27.

Mr. Smith, from the committee of ways and means, reported a bill making appropriations for carrying into effect the treaty lately concluded with the Chippewa nation of Indians; which was twice read and committed.

The bill from the senate "to continue in force an act to protect the commerce of the United States, and punish the crime of piracy; and also to make further provision for punishing the crime of piracy," was twice read, and referred to a committee of the whole.

The bill from the senate, to establish certain land offices in the state of Alabama, (so amended in this house as to include also Indiana and Illinois,) was read a third time, passed, and returned to the senate for concurrence in the amendments.

THE TARIFF BILL.

The house again resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the bill regulating the duties on imports, Mr. Taylor in the chair. [It was this bill, and not the cash duty bill, as inadvertently stated, which was debated yesterday, and was opposed by Mr. Alexander and Mr. Archer, of Virginia, and supported by Mr. Clay.]

The question being on the committee's rising and reporting the tariff bill to the house—the debate thereon was resumed.

Mr. Barbour, of Virginia, delivered a speech of nearly three hours in length against the bill.

Mr. Holmes, of Massachusetts, next delivered a speech of nearly two hours in length, also against the bill; when The committee rose and reported the bill to the house.

Mr. Hardin moved to postpone the bill indefinitely; and The house adjourned.

Friday, April 28.

Mr. Newton, from the committee on commerce, reported, without amendment, the bill from the senate to grant certain privileges to the Ocean steam ship company of New York, and the bill, after some explanation of its object, by Mr. Newton, was ordered to a third reading.

Mr. Archer, of Maryland, submitted the following amendment to the rules of the house, which lies on the table one day of course.

"Every discussion on any bill, motion, or resolution, shall terminate in five days after it shall have commenced.

"No member shall speak upon any question longer than one hour at a time."

Mr. Butler, of New Hampshire, submitted the following resolution for consideration:

Resolved, That the committee of manufactures be instructed to prepare and report a bill laying a duty of — cents on all spirituous liquors distilled from grain and other domestic materials.

The question being taken whether the house would now consider the resolution, it was decided in the negative—ayes 58, noes 66.

DUTIES ON IMPORTS.

The house again took up the bill to regulate the duties on imports, and the amendments reported thereto by the committee of the whole house; Mr. Hardin's motion to postpone the bill indefinitely, being under consideration.

Mr. Hardin, Mr. Lowndes and Mr. Silsbee, of Mass. spoke in opposition to the bill, and Mr. Lane of Del. and Mr. Baldwin in favour of it.

Mr. Simpkins moved that the bill and amendments be postponed until the first day of the next session; in favor of which motion Mr. Hardin withdrew his motion for indefinite postponement.

Mr. Parker, of Va. then demanded the previous question, but the call was not sustained by a majority of the house.

The question was then, about six o'clock, taken on the motion to postpone the bill until the first day of the next session, and was decided in the negative—ayes 79, noes 92.

The amendments agreed to in committee of the whole were then concurred in by the house.

Mr. Edwards, of N. C. moved to reduce the duty on imported salt from 25 cents to 20 cents a bushel.

The yeas and nays being ordered on this question, Mr. Metcalf moved for the previous question (the effect of which would be to decide forthwith the main question, viz. the engrossment of the bill for a third reading;) but the call was negatived, 71 to 60.

The question was then taken on reducing the salt duty, and decided in the affirmative—ayes 93, noes 71.

Mr. Hill of Massachusetts moved to amend the bill by reducing the duty on imported molasses from ten cents to five cents a gallon; on which motion the yeas and nays were ordered.

Mr. Parker perceiving that all the amendments which had been discussed and rejected in committee of the whole would probably be again offered, and the time of the house occupied in the tedious process of deciding them again, by yeas and nays, moved again for the previous question.

The call for the previous question was sustained by a vote of 86 to 62; and

The previous question, "shall the main question be now put?" was stated accordingly, and was decided by yeas and nays, in the affirmative—ayes 92, noes 71.

The question was then at length taken on ordering the bill to be engrossed and read a third time, and decided in the affirmative—ayes 90, noes 69.

The house then (having rejected ten or twelve previous motions to adjourn, at various stages of the evening's proceedings) adjourned between 7 and 8 o'clock, after a sitting of more than nine hours.

Saturday, April 29.

DISTRICT BANKS.

The house took up the amendment of the senate to the bill concerning the banks of the district of Columbia.

Mr. Mercer moved that the house disagree to the amendment; which motion was negatived, and then

The house agreed to the amendment of the senate, without a division.

THE TARIFF.

The engrossed bill to regulate the duties on imports and tonnage, was read the third time.

Mr. Baldwin remarked, that it would be recollected the bounty on pickled fish exported had been increased in committee of the whole, in consequence of an increase of the duty on imported salt—the duty on salt had subsequently been reduced, but it had been omitted at the same time to make a corresponding change in the bounty on pickled fish. He presumed there could be no objection now to make this amendment, and moved that the house agree thereto by general consent, by which only an amendment can be made to a bill in the house on the third reading.

The motion was objected to, and of course failed.

Mr. Rhea then rose and spoke about an hour against the passage of the bill.

Mr. Slocumb, of N. Carolina, moved to recommit the bill, with instructions to reduce the duty on imported iron in bars, &c. from 125 cents to 75 cents.