

THURSDAY, DEC. 7.—On motion of Mr. B. Person, a select committee was appointed, consisting of Messrs. B. Person, Shoher, Singleton, Glisson and Atkinson, to enquire into the expediency of passing a law establishing the daily pay of the members, clerks and doorkeepers, and that said committee report by bill.

Mr. Owen, from the committee on that part of the Governor's message relative to the circulating Medium of the State, reported a bill authorising and directing the Treasurer of the State to issue Treasury Notes, which being read, was referred to a committee consisting of Messrs. Calloway, Owen, Caldwell, Glisson and Baker.

#### HOUSE OF COMMONS—Friday, Dec. 1.

Mr. Barringer, from the balloting committee for a Secretary of State, reported that William Hill was duly elected.

A message from the Senate, proposed to ballot to-morrow for six commissioners to compose the Board of Public Improvement for the ensuing year, nominating for the Edenton district, J. H. Baker; for the Newbern district, Durant Hatch; for the Wilmington district, Alfred Moore; for the Hillsborough district, A. D. Murphey; for the Raleigh district, John D. Hawkins; for the Morgan district, Charles D. Connor. The message was concurred with; but the balloting was afterwards postponed by another message from the Senate.

Mr. J. R. McDowell introduced the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That James J. Hill, the sitting member from the county of Franklin, being at this time possessed of no freehold estate, is constitutionally ineligible to a seat in this house, and that therefore his seat be vacated.

Referred to the committee of elections.

Tuesday, Dec. 5.—Mr. Cameron presented the annual report of the adjutant-general of the state; from which it appears that we have 48,223 infantry militia, and 1,620 cavalry. Referred to the military committee.

On motion of Mr. Deberry, the judiciary committee were instructed to inquire into the expediency of passing a law requiring the several county courts to appoint a master commissioner in each county to settle the accounts of administrators and executors, and that the proof of the vouchers before a master commissioner be received as prima facie evidence of their justness, and report by bill or otherwise.

The following bills were introduced:

By Mr. Alston, a bill for suspending executions in certain cases... [where notes of any of the banks of this state shall have been tendered and refused:] and,

By Mr. J. D. Jones, a bill to amend an act passed in 1816, to compel retailers of spirituous liquors by the small measure, to take out licenses from the county courts.

Mr. Dawson, from the committee to whom was referred the bill making the purchase of bills, bonds, or notes, usury, reported the bill without amendment; and

Mr. Hampton, from the committee to whom was referred the bill for the division of Rowan county, reported the bill without amendment.

Both bills passed their first reading.

Wednesday, Dec. 6.—Mr. Mebane reported a bill to provide a revenue for the payment of the civil list and contingent charges of government for the year 1821.

A message was received from the Governor, recommending to the Legislature to authorise the Treasurer to advance money from the Treasury in anticipation on the notes received for the public land sold at the seat of government, payable at one, two and three years, in order that the repairs of the State-House may be finished in the course of the ensuing year, and that the discount now paid to the banks may be saved.

The bill for the division of Rowan county being under consideration, on its second reading,

Mr. Spencer moved that this bill be indefinitely postponed. On this question the house was equally divided, and the Speaker voting in the negative, the question was lost.

Mr. F. W. Blackledge then moved that the bill lie on the table. The house was again equally divided, and the Speaker voting as before, the question was not carried.

The bill was then put upon its passage, and it passed by the casting vote of the Speaker.

Thursday, Dec. 7.—Mr. Martin presented a bill to prevent oppressions at sales under execution.

Mr. James R. McDowell, from the committee of elections, to whom was referred the resolution proposing to vacate the seat of James J. Hill, one of the members from Franklin, reported in favor of the sitting member retaining his seat; which report was concurred with.

On motion of Mr. Welch, the committee on internal improvement was instructed to inquire into the expediency of authorising the county court of Haywood to receive proposals for clearing out a turnpike road from the Smoky-mountain, up the west fork of Little Pigeon River, to the top of said mountain, which road is to descend the west fork of the Oconolufy River, thence down the same to the nearest and best route to the war ford of the Tuckasee River, so as to intersect the road leading from Waynesville to the state of Georgia, authorised at the last session.

Mr. J. D. Jones, from the committee appointed on the subject of the insolvent laws, reported that they required amendment, which was concurred with; and the same committee was instructed to report a bill on the subject.

The Frigate on the stocks at the Navy-Yard, Washington city, it is expected, will be ready for its destined element before the termination of the present session of Congress.

## CONGRESS.

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS—SECOND SESSION.

IN SENATE—Friday, Dec. 1.

### BANK OF THE UNITED STATES.

Mr. Roberts presented the memorial of the Bank of the United States, which, after some introductory matter, concludes by submitting the following points, on which they ask relief and protection from Congress:

"1st. The charter provides that no Director, except the President, shall be eligible for more than three years in four. This provision has, in practice, been found to deny to the Bank the services of those men who are best qualified to administer its affairs with safety and profit to the institution. It is a provision not contained, your petitioners believe, in the charter of any respectable banking institution. It was not contained in the charter of the former Bank of the United States, and it would seem that the provision of the charter which forbids the re-election of more than three-fourths of the Directors in office at the time of an annual election (to which your petitioners have no objection,) is calculated to effect all the ends of the embarrassing provision from which your petitioners now crave relief.

"2d. At present there is no authority under the laws of Congress to punish any fraud, peculation, or violation of trust, committed by any of the officers of the bank or its offices, and on this point the state laws are also supposed to be deficient. Nor is there any adequate civil remedy for the bank against its faithless agents who may, the hour before their dismissal from office, while the investigations necessary to their removal indicate to them that result, take the property of the bank from its vaults, and withhold it, spend it, and, if they please, give it in payment to their other creditors, in exclusion of the bank from which it has been thus purloined.

"3d. Under the charter, it has been doubted whether the bank has power to authorize the issuing of notes not signed by the President and countersigned by the Cashier. The labor and the time necessary to sign notes for the bank and all its branches, are much greater than either of those officers can bestow upon that object, and hence the bank has been unable to put in circulation a sufficient amount of notes of the smaller denominations, which the public most want, and which are best calculated to serve the interest of the bank. If authority were given to the Board, from time to time, to appoint one or more persons to sign notes of the smaller denominations, at the parent bank, under the superintendence and direction of the Board and its principal officers, there would be no public risk, and it would afford all the aid which your petitioners desire on the point.

"4th. Under the 14th section of the act incorporating the Bank, the bills or notes of the Bank originally made payable, or shall have become payable, on demand, are made receivable in all payments to the United States, unless otherwise directed by act of Congress. Under this regulation, the power of the Bank to make its capital available, either for its own profit or the public good, is greatly abridged. The sphere of its circulation is limited to those places where it is least wanted, and made to exclude those where it would be eminently useful, while the whole currency of vast sections of the country is thereby frequently greatly embarrassed."

The memorial was read and referred to the committee on finance.

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FRIDAY, DEC. 1.

MISSOURI EXPEDITION.—Mr. Coker, of Tennessee, rose to present a proposition to the House. When looking into the expenditures of last year, he said he found the account of Col. James Johnson, for transportation furnished the expedition ordered up the Missouri River. The gross amount of it, said Mr. C. is \$256,818 15. Several items in this account require at least explanation. I find the sum of \$333 37 per day, for forty days, charged for the detention of steam boat Expedition, amounting in the whole to \$13,333 33. In addition to this, \$200 per day, for thirty-six days, is claimed for the detention of steam boat Johnson, amounting to the sum of \$7,200. The sum charged for detention alone of those two boats, for less than one month and a half, is \$20,533 33. He called the attention of the House, also, to some other items in this account.

It appeared, he said, that three hundred officers and soldiers procured a passage, on board Col. Johnson's boats, from Belle Fontaine to Council Bluffs, about four hundred miles, at 50 dollars each, making the sum of \$15,000 for passage alone. The sum demanded by Col. Johnson for detention of boats and passage of three hundred men employed on this expedition, is \$35,533,33. By what means the residue of the Missouri detachment found their way to Council Bluffs, said Mr. C. I am at a loss to determine, but no doubt on terms equally advantageous to the public. Knox, Haldiman, & Co. contracted and furnished transportation to the Council Bluffs for the sum of \$5 50 per hundred pounds. Col. Johnson charges, for transportation to the same place, \$16 25 per hundred pounds, almost three times the amount paid Knox, Haldiman, & Co. for similar services. I am informed those charges have been allowed, and the account liquidated and paid. I trust the information is erroneous. Permit me to ask, was not Col. Johnson contractor to furnish supplies as well as transportation? Why, then, the delay? Why pay a large amount for detention? This, Mr. C. said, is the expedition the President himself takes very great interest in the success of, and is willing to take

great responsibility to ensure it. This is the expedition that was to protect the frontier and fur trade, acquire for the United States lasting influence over the savages of Missouri, raise corn in summer, improve navigation in winter, and result in saving to government, in four years, the sum of \$42,483 84. The estimated cost for transportation of this favorite project, as reported to Congress at the last session, was 162,994 dolls. The sum claimed by Col. Johnson, and, he was told, actually paid, is \$256,818 15. To ascertain with certainty the amount actually paid for transportation and detention of boats on the Missouri expedition, and the reasons why it was paid, he offered the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the Secretary of War be directed to communicate to this House what sums of money have been actually paid to Colonel James Johnson, on account of transportation furnished the expedition ordered up the Missouri river; and also what sums have been paid him for detention of Steam-boats or other incidental charges; whether any difference of opinion existed between the Department of War and said Colonel J. Johnson, relative to the value of transportation or other charges exhibited by him against the United States; if any differences existed, how were they adjusted; if by reference, who were the referees; what was their award, and what evidence was submitted to them, on which they formed their award.

Mr. Trimble, of Kentucky, said he did not profess to know any thing on the subject of this resolve but what he was about to state. The account first preferred by Col. James Johnson, he had understood, had been thought too high. Some discussion on that point took place between him and the Secretary of War, and he authorized his friend and brother to assent to a reference of the points in dispute to arbitrators, to be chosen, one by each party, the third by those two. Three arbitrators were accordingly chosen—gentlemen of the first standing and of the highest respectability, who passed upon the accounts. They reduced very considerably the amount claimed by Mr. Johnson, and the amount paid to him was the amount awarded in his favor by the referees. Thus much he had heard, and, as impression adverse to him might be drawn from the gentleman's remarks, though not intended by him, Mr. T. said he had thought it proper to say thus much in behalf of Col. Johnson, who had ever been believed to be an honest man.

Mr. Coker said, it was far from him to question the honesty of any man whatever, in what he had said. He disclaimed any such intention.—But it seemed extraordinary to him how the allowance referred to had been made, without the authority of Congress. On looking into Col. Johnson's contract, he did not find that any provision was made for allowance for the detention of steam boats. He had understood, too, that Col. James Johnson was a contractor not only for transportation, but for supplies of provisions. If this were true, Mr. C. said, he should like to know how it did happen that the boats were detained, and whether it was in consequence of the neglect of Col. Johnson to furnish the provisions in proper time. Not being included in the contract, application ought to have been made to this House to authorize the allowance which has been made to Col. J. without its authority. Mr. C. said he should make no observations with regard to this arbitration which was spoken of. If the matter had been referred to these exalted arbitrators, let the House know it. Why refuse the information which it was desirable to acquire in relation to it? The resolution, he said, was predicated on accounts transmitted to Congress at the last session, and he did not see why there should be any wish on the part of the gentleman from Kentucky to oppose its adoption.

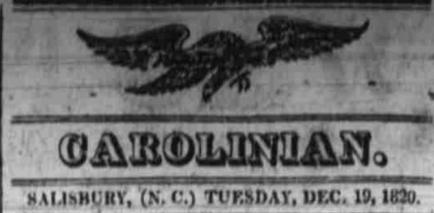
Mr. Lowndes remarked, that the gentleman from Tennessee must have mistaken the gentleman from Kentucky, if he supposed there was, on his part, or on that of any other member, any objection to the object of this resolution, calling for information. There could be no objection to it. But, Mr. L. said, he submitted it to the House and to the gentleman from Tennessee, whether in calling for information on any subject, it was proper to accompany that call with animadversions on the conduct of those, whose conduct could only be properly judged when the information itself was before them. Mr. L. added another remark or two of the same tone as the preceding, which were not distinctly heard by the reporter.

On motion of Mr. Rich, with the consent of Mr. Coker, the resolution was amended so as to require an account also of the causes of the detention of the Steam Boats.

Mr. Trimble rose to say, that he did not intend to object to any information which might be sought for by the gentleman from Tennessee, or any other member of the House. It was not his habit to do so; and it was not his disposition to do so on the present occasion. On the contrary, he said he was sure the inquiry would meet with the approbation of even Colonel James Johnson, could his wishes be consulted. Without knowing the fact, Mr. T. said, he thought it quite likely that Col. J. may have thought that he, and not the Government, had a right to complain of the manner in which his accounts were liquidated. Mr. T. said he should not have opened his lips on this subject, had he not thought that the statement made by the gentleman from Tennessee might—though he was sure the gentleman could not possibly intend it—give a color to an imputation on the character of Col. Johnson.

Mr. Coker rejoined in a few words more, in the course of which he said he was sorry that any gentleman should suppose that he wished to cast an imputation on any man. It was not so he said; he wished to ascertain what were the facts in the case referred to, without any personal views or motives, &c.

The question was then taken on the adoption of the resolve, and agreed to, *yea, aye.*



SALISBURY, (N. C.) TUESDAY, DEC. 19, 1820.

#### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"AMICUS" shall have a place in our text.  
"LEGATION" is inadmissible. His personalities are too glaring; and we should be sorry, indeed, if we believed he entertained a serious thought of our publishing them.  
"A TRAVELLER" is informed that his communication was received, and that we declined publishing it, not from the want of an inclination to gratify him, but from a conviction of its in expediency.

#### CONVENTION.

In a short article on the first page of our paper, on the subject of a Convention, extracted from the Fayetteville Gazette, the editors remark:

"There can be no question; however, that a right to act on the subject, without the intervention of legislative sanction, resides in the people."—This is correct doctrine, and is coming to the point at once. It harmonizes exactly with the principles of our revolution, and will receive the hearty assent of every honest, candid mind, of every sincere friend to equal rights and popular government.

The people are the only true source of legitimate power; and with them remains the power to alter or abolish the governments they themselves have established. The people formed our present constitution; their obedience to it is only conventional, or by choice; and when they see proper, they have an inherent, unalienable right, to new model it, or throw it entirely aside, and adopt a new one in its stead. These we conceive to be incontrovertible facts, the truth of which rests on the broad and solid foundation of the rights of man.

The people of the West will wait, till even the East shall acknowledge they can wait no longer, without forfeiting every claim to dignity and independence of soul,—for the "legislative sanction" to a convention; and then they will give a greater sanction than that of the legislature, to the call of a convention, the sanction of their own will. Let the East, then, pursue that course which duty, and honor, and political honesty point out to be the right one, and call a convention, and all will be WELL: But let them pursue a contrary one, i. e. the same they have heretofore, and all will be—AS WELL.

ART. XII.—That a school or schools shall be established by the Legislature, for the convenient instruction of youth, with such salaries to the masters, paid by the public, as may enable them to instruct at low prices; and, all useful learning shall be duly encouraged and promoted, in one or more universities.—Constitution of North-Carolina.

The framers of our constitution, in penning the above, undoubtedly had principally in view the establishment and support of primary or elementary schools. The advantages of a collegiate education can be enjoyed by only a few, comparatively speaking: Academies disperse their blessings more widely: But it is common schools only which extend their beneficial influences into every nook and corner of the land, and chase the mists of ignorance from every mind.

The reasons which might be urged in favor of common schools are as weighty as the cultivation of the moral and intellectual faculties is important: they are drawn from every motive which is worthy to actuate the human soul, are intertwined with all the noble and generous feelings which dignify humanity, with all the enjoyments which smooth the rugged path of life, and with all the hopes that brighten its close.

Relinquishing, for the present, the many motives which might be urged on us, as members of society, in the welfare of which we are deeply interested; and as the friends of good morals, on which the very existence of society depends, that is, of society which is not absolutely worse than solitude,—we will barely mention one consideration, which must carry immediate conviction to the mind of the importance of elementary schools, viz: Ignorance is totally incompatible with liberty. If, then, we pride ourselves as Americans, as friends to liberty, and, of course, to the republican forms of government, under which we live, here is a motive sufficient of itself to call forth all our exertions in favor of common schools, and to interest all our better feelings in their success.

Colleges cannot flourish without the aid of Academies, well-regulated Academies are in their turn dependant on primary or common schools; and the virtue and morality of the people, the happiness of society, and the perpetuity of our free institutions, depend primarily on the latter. The great majority of the people cannot enjoy the advantages of an academic, much less of a collegiate, education. Their minds must receive their first, and, therefore, most lasting impressions,—their habits their future complexion,—their passions their good or evil bias,—in some other institutions, if in any, beside the above. The foundation of a virtuous or vicious life is laid in childhood; the character then receives its stamp; the man is then beheld in miniature. If childhood, then, be passed in ignorance; if the plastic hand of education do not at that period give the character its form; if the passions be not then curbed and a right direction given them; we may expect to see the man a complication of folly and vice, as useless and unprofitable to society as