

CONGRESS.

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS..... SECOND SESSION.

BY SENATE..... WEDNESDAY, JAN. 31.

Mr. Dana, from the select committee appointed to inquire into the propriety of reducing the compensation of the members of Congress, and also the salaries of the principal and other officers of the Executive departments, at the seat of government, stated, that the committee had made all the necessary inquiries, and collected all requisite information from the different departments comprehended in the scope of their inquiry, from the year 1790 to the year 1820; that the committee had duly deliberated on the whole matter referred to them, and that not being able to agree on any specific report, embracing any system or measure of reduction, partial or general, it only remained to state this fact to the Senate, which he was instructed to do, and ask to be discharged from the further consideration of the subject, that the Senate might be enabled thus early to take such further order on it as should to it appear expedient.

A good deal of debate arose on the question of thus discharging the committee from the subject.

It was opposed by Messrs. Roberts and Smith, chiefly on the ground that, as a specific inquiry had been referred, a specific report, either for or against the object, ought to be made; that this mode of disposing of such an inquiry was an innovation of legislative custom; that, as the chairman had, with great industry, collected a mass of information on the subject, it was proper to submit it to the Senate, with an opinion, no matter how concise, of the committee; that, as the committee had come to a decision on the subject matter referred to them, that decision ought to be reported, &c. &c. Mr. Alcon thought the documents, at any rate, ought to be laid before the Senate, that it might have the same light on the subject as the committee had.

The motion to discharge the committee was supported by Messrs. Dana, Stokes, Otis, and Johnson, of Ky. for the reasons, generally, that, as the committee could agree upon no plan of reduction, they could come to no practical conclusion, and therefore could make no specific report or recommendation; that the committee had tried the question on one salary and amount of compensation after another, but a majority could not unite on any one point of reduction; that the information possessed by the committee would be [and was after the discussion commenced] laid before the Senate; that the mode now proposed, of discharging a committee which could do nothing, was the most proper, under the circumstances, the most parliamentary and logical; that there was an incongruity in a committee's reporting it expedient to do nothing; that it would be competent still for any gentleman, who was dissatisfied with the result, to make any specific motion for reduction in any branch of the government, &c.

The question being taken on discharging the committee from the further consideration of the subject, it was decided in the negative, by yeas and nays; Yeas 14, Nays 31.

After a short time, Mr. Dana delivered in the following report:

The committee appointed to inquire into the propriety of reducing the allowances authorized by law for the two houses of Congress, and for the Executive departments, report: That they have made inquiry according to the resolution for their appointment, and do not consider it advisable at the present time to propose any reduction of legal allowances in the cases to them referred. The following resolution is accordingly submitted: Resolved, That it is not expedient at the present time to reduce the compensations allowed by law for the respective houses of Congress, and for the principal and other officers in the Executive departments.

The report was read. The Senate then according to the order of the day took up the Bankrupt bill; but before any progress was made in it, The Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. MISSOURI.

MONDAY, JAN. 29.—On motion of Mr. Clay, the House resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the State of the Union, Mr. Smith, of Md. being called to the chair; and the resolution from the Senate, for admitting Missouri into the Union, with a caveat against the provision, if there be any which conflicts with the constitution of the U. States, was taken up.

Mr. Randolph moved to strike out the proviso (or caveat) from the resolution, but waived his motion for the present, to accommodate Mr. Clay, who wished to address the committee on the whole subject.

Mr. Clay then delivered his sentiments at large on the present state of the question. He was in favor of the resolution from the Senate, and should vote for the resolution, even though more emphatically restricted against any supposed repugnance of one of its provisions to a provision of the constitution of the United States, the existence of which, however, he did not by any means admit.

When Mr. Clay concluded— Mr. Randolph renewed his motion to strike out the proviso, and spoke for about 15 minutes in support of it.

Mr. Lowndes deprecated the motion, as going to present to the house the naked question, which it had already decided in the negative, and as preventing a decision upon the proposition as it now stands.

Mr. Barber expressed the reasons why he should protest as useless and unnecessary, but without

retain it to gratify gentlemen who were of a different opinion.

Mr. Sergeant inquired whether it would be in order, this proviso being stricken out, to move to introduce a different one.

The Chairman decided that it would. The question was then taken on striking out the proviso, and decided in the negative, 22 to 54. So the proviso was retained.

Mr. Stevens assigned the reasons why he should vote against the resolution.

Mr. Foot moved to amend the resolution by adding to it another proviso, that it be taken as a fundamental condition on which said state is admitted into the Union, that so much of the constitution as requires the Legislature to pass laws to prevent the migration of free people of color thither, shall be expunged from the constitution of the State within two years from this time, in the mode prescribed for amending the constitution. [This would admit Missouri into the Union forthwith on the condition stated.]

Mr. Baldwin having expressed his intention to vote for this proposition—

Mr. Clay moved to amend the amendment by adding words to this effect: "so far as the same (the clause of the Missouri constitution) tends to deprive citizens of each state of the privileges and immunities of citizens of the several states." This motion, however, he subsequently withdrew.

It being suggested, that other gentlemen had amendments which they wished to propose, and that it would be well to have them all presented to-day, so as to be examined and compared—

Mr. Sergeant rose, as it might be supposed, from the question he had put, that he had an amendment to offer, to say that he had not: that he should vote for every amendment which should bring the resolution nearer to what he wished, but with a clear determination, for which he would hereafter assign his reasons, to vote against the resolution, however amended.

Soon after this, the committee rose, without coming to any decision; and the House adjourned.

TUESDAY, JAN. 30.—The House having then again resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the state of the Union, Mr. Smith, of Md. in the chair—

The resolution from the Senate, for the admission of Missouri into the Union, was resumed—the motion of Mr. Foot being under consideration; which motion is to strike out the proviso to the Senate's resolution, and in lieu thereof to insert the following:

Provided, That it shall be taken as a fundamental condition, upon which the said state is incorporated in the Union, that so much of the 26th section of the 31 article of the constitution, which has been submitted to Congress, as declares it shall be the duty of the General Assembly "to prevent free negroes and mulattoes from coming to, or settling in, this state, under any pretext whatsoever," shall be expunged, within two years from the passage of this resolution, by the General Assembly of Missouri, in the manner prescribed for amending said constitution.

Mr. Butler, of N. H. delivered the reasons why he could not vote for the resolution from the Senate. He suggested the course which he would consent to take, which he presented to the House in the shape of a written amendment, to be proposed hereafter. The object of it was, after declaring a particular clause in the Constitution of Missouri to be repugnant to that of the United States, to provide, that the People of Missouri be, and they are hereby, authorized to form a new Constitution, or amend that already formed, in order to their being admitted into the Union.

Some conversation passed between Mr. Lowndes and Mr. Foot, as to the mode of proceeding.

Mr. Storrs, after a few introductory remarks, moved an amendment to Mr. Foot's amendment, which was to strike out all of the latter, after the word "Union," in the 3d line, and in lieu thereof to insert the following:

And to be of perpetual obligation on the said state, (in faith whereof this resolution is passed by Congress,) that no law shall ever be enacted by said state, impairing or contravening the rights, privileges, or immunities, secured to citizens of other states, by the constitution of the United States: And provided further, That the Legislature acting under the constitution already adopted in Missouri as a state, shall, as a convention (for which purpose the consent of Congress is hereby granted,) declare their assent by a public act to the said condition before the next session of Congress, and transmit to Congress an attested copy of such act, by the first day of the second session.

Mr. Floyd entered his protest, in decided terms, against both amendments.

Mr. Cobb also assigned the reasons why he could vote for neither of them.

Mr. Ross stated the reasons of his opposition to the resolution from the Senate in any shape it was likely to assume.

Mr. Hardin, in a earnest desire to see the question settled, was willing to agree to both the amendments.

Mr. Rhea, after making some remarks, moved the committee should rise, with a view to demanding the previous question, which would preclude all debate and amendment, and present to the House a naked and direct question on the resolution from the Senate.

Mr. Clay earnestly opposed this course, as going to close the door on the spirit of accommodation.

The motion for the committee to rise was negatived, by a large majority.

Mr. Clay, then, after an earnest appeal to all parts of the House to bring to the future discussion of this subject minds prepared to harmonize, and forever settle this distracting question to mutual satisfaction, and expressing his desire more fully to examine Mr. Storrs's proposition, to see whether he could bring his mind to assent to it, as he wished to do—moved, that the committee should rise, in order to have the several propositions for amendment printed; which was agreed to.

Mr. Clay then gave notice, he should again call up the subject to-morrow.

Mr. Lowndes wished it deferred until Friday next, to give more time.

Mr. Clay said he would compromise with his friend for Thursday. He did not like the idea of taking up this question on Friday.

Mr. Cobb said that he proposed, at a future day, to offer the following amendment, which he now read, to follow the word "Union":

"That the Legislature of the state of Missouri shall pass no law impairing the privileges and immunities secured to the citizens of each state, under the first clause of the second section of the fourth article of the constitution of the United States."

This amendment was ordered to be printed, as well as the others.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 31.—On motion of Mr. Fisher, it was

Resolved, That the committee on the Judiciary be directed to inquire into the expediency of authorizing by law the executors of John W. Mehane, late a deputy collector of internal duties and direct tax in North-Carolina, to collect whatever arrearages may yet be due him from individuals, and for which he has accounted with the principal collector.

Foreign.

LATEST FROM ENGLAND.

NEW-YORK, JANUARY 30.

The December Packet ship Amity, Captain Maxwell, arrived in the bay yesterday from Liverpool, whence she sailed on the first of the month. Capt. M. and the passengers got up to town last evening, with the letter bag. The editors of the Mercantile Advertiser have received London papers to the evening of the 29th November. They furnish considerable interesting intelligence, but we have only time to give the extracts which follow.

LONDON, NOV. 23.

The House of Lords met this day, pursuant to adjournment, and the commission for proroguing Parliament to the 23d January was then read. The commissioners were the Lord Chancellor and the Earls Bathurst and Liverpool.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—In consequence of the order for a call of the house this day, and of the interest excited by the expected communication from her Majesty, the members began at an early hour to assemble in considerable numbers.

At one o'clock, the whole of her majesty's counsel, who are members, except Mr. Brougham, who was detained professionally, in the court of King's Bench, were in their places, beside nearly one hundred other members, chiefly of the opposition party.

The Speaker was, however, looked for in vain. It was understood that Lord Castlereagh had been closeted with him for a considerable part of the forenoon.

Mr. Denman rose at two o'clock, and said,—"Mr. Speaker, I hold in my hand a message, which I am commanded by her majesty (the queen) to present to this House." (Loud cries of hear!)

At this moment (a minute past 2 o'clock) Mr. Quarme, the deputy-usher of the Black Rod, tapped at the door, and immediately entered. This interruption caused great uproar. About fifty members rose in their seats, and the general cry was, "Mr. Denman, Mr. Denman!" "Withdraw, withdraw!" but the noise was so great, that that gentleman in vain attempted to be heard; and, in the midst of the tumult, Mr. Quarme proceeded thus, although it was impossible for him to be heard by the chair: "Mr. Speaker, the Lords' Commissioners, appointed by virtue of her majesty's commission, command the immediate attention of this honorable house in the house of Peers."

Mr. Tierney rose, and observed, that not one word of what had fallen from the deputy-usher had been heard; and how, then, did the Speaker know what was the message, or whether he was wanted at all in the other house? (Loud cheering, intermingled with cries of order, from the Treasury Bench.)

The Speaker then rose, the uproar still continuing, and Mr. Bennet exclaiming, with a loud voice, "This is a scandal to the country."

Cries of "Shame! Shame!" were reiterated on all sides, and the utmost indignation was manifested by a number of members, who found her majesty's message thus treated.

The Speaker instantly quitted his chair, followed by Lord Castlereagh and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, to obey the summons of the Peers.

The utmost confusion prevailed at this moment; and it would be vain to attempt to describe the tumult which took place in the body of the house. The loudest and most indignant cries of "Shame" were reiterated throughout the house; and the Speaker, followed by his majesty's ministers and several other members, advanced toward the door on his way to the Lords, in the midst of the most disconcerting uproar.

Mr. Denman, during this confusion, remained on his legs, holding in his hand her majesty's message. He was surrounded by the most distinguished members of the opposition, who, as well as many independent members who generally vote on the other side, seemed utterly astonished at what had occurred.

At 5 minutes past 2 o'clock, the Speaker reached the lobby of the House of Peers.

After being absent about ten minutes, the Speaker returned, accompanied by the few members with whom he retired, and, being surrounded by the members present, he communicated to them that the House had been to the House of Peers, where the Lords' Commissioners, by virtue of his majesty's commission, had presented Parliament to the 23d of January next.

The members then retired, and the strangers

collected in the lobby and avenues leading to the House, dispersed.

THE QUEEN'S MESSAGE TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The following is the message which Mr. Denman was in the act of delivering at the moment he was interrupted:

"CAROLINE R."

"The Queen thinks it proper to inform the House of Commons that she has received a communication from the King's ministers plainly intimating an intention to prorogue the Parliament immediately, and accompanied by an offer of money for her support, and for providing her with a residence until a new session may be held. This offer the Queen has had no hesitation in refusing. While the late extraordinary proceedings were pending, it might be fit for her to accept the advances made for her temporary accommodation; but she naturally expected that the failure of that unparalleled attempt to degrade the royal family would be immediately followed by submitting some permanent measure to the wisdom of Parliament; and she has felt that she could no longer with propriety receive from the ministers what she is well assured the liberality of the House of Commons would have granted, as alike essential to the dignity of the throne, and demanded by the plainest principles of justice. If the Queen is to understand that new proceedings are meditated against her, she throws herself, with unabated confidence, on the representatives of the people, fully relying on their justice and wisdom, to take effectual steps to protect her from the farther vexation of unnecessary delay, and to provide that those unexampled persecutions may at length be brought to a close."

It is the more extraordinary that this message was not received, as Mr. Brougham had apprised both the Speaker and Lord Castlereagh that such a message was to be brought down.

Though the House of Commons, as is well known, usually meets about a quarter before four, yet the hour fixed in every adjournment is ten.

LONDON, NOV. 29.

Ministers.—Lord Grenville has declared to the King, that he could form no party of friends in either House, that could strengthen the remnant of the present administration, if left by the Earl of Liverpool, the Earl of Harrowby, and Mr. Canning, who have all tendered their resignations. It is said the King has sent for Lord Spencer, to consult with him on the formation of a new administration.

Foreign Intelligence.—The Brussels papers contain some communications from Vienna, respecting continental affairs. It is not pretended that the precise determinations of the Allied Powers, as settled in the Congress of Troppau, are yet known. It is, however, acknowledged that Austria, in conjunction with Russia and Prussia, will occupy the kingdom of Naples with a military force. The immediate co-operation of England in this nefarious scheme is not anticipated. The English fleet in the Gulf of Naples is stationed there for observation, and for the purpose of protecting the Royal Family, in case of need.

The continued absence of the King of Spain from his capital, and some unconstitutional appointments, by the sign manual only, gave rise to a very general suspicion that some treachery was meditated by Ferdinand against the people. An address of the municipal authorities was therefore published on the 18th ultimo, which has determined the monarch to return to Madrid. The alarm spread through the provinces, and the militia is every where organizing to protect the constitution.

The Hamburg papers mention an attempt to revolutionize the Danish monarchy. It is said that it had been long in preparation, but was frustrated on the eve of its execution, by the vigilance of the police.

Lisbon.—It is stated in letters which have arrived through France, that Capt. Watkins, of the Brazil packet, was arrested on his arrival at Lisbon, and his mails seized and searched. No contraband articles being found, the captain was released. The packet was again to sail on the 6th Nov. with the Conde de Palmella; but no private letters would be suffered to go with her. The elections for the Cortes of Portugal were concluded in the same manner as in Spain, and the deputies are to meet in January. The loan of 4,000,000 is nearly completed. Upwards of 20,000 troops are quartered upon the inhabitants, which causes much complaint. Robberies are frequent, and the public mind is still very unsettled.

PARIS, NOV. 22.—A letter from Bayonne, dated the 14th inst. says, "The English have taken possession of two Portuguese vessels at the mouth of the Tagus, and war between Portugal and England may be daily expected."

[Gazette de France.]

Letters from Madrid of the 14th, announce that new troubles had broken out in Valencia.—The pillar of the constitution had been insulted, and subsequently a popular movement took place against the Archbishop, and the troops were called out to protect him from the fury of the multitude. The head of General Elio was demanded, and he could with difficulty succeed in calming the commotion.—Courier Français.

VIENNA, NOV. 12.—The political thermometer now decidedly indicates war against Naples. The military council of state yesterday despatched orders to several regiments of infantry in garrison at different places, to march for Italy: The reinforcements of the army of Italy, sent off within these few days, amount to 20,000 men.—Colonel Augustin, chief of the corps of artificers, Congress rockets still more destructive, is on his march to Italy. Baron Primrose, general of cav-