

# CONGRESS.

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS—FIRST SESSION.

FROM THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

IN SENATE—WEDNESDAY, JAN. 23.

## THE SUPPRESSION OF PIRACY.

Mr. Johnson, of Louisiana, submitted the following resolution for consideration:

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Naval Affairs be instructed to inquire into the expediency of providing by law for the building of an additional number of sloops of war for the protection of the commerce of the United States in the Gulf of Mexico; and into the propriety of employing one or more of the frigates or ships of war of the United States for the same purpose.

Thursday, Jan. 24.—Cæsar A. Rodney, a Senator from the State of Delaware, appeared this day, was qualified, and took his seat.

Mr. Holmes, of Maine, from the Committee of Finance, to whom was referred a memorial from the President and Directors of the Bank of the United States, reported a bill to amend the charter of the Bank; [authorizing the Bank to appoint an Agent and a Register to sign and countersign the notes of the Bank; and making it penal for any of the officers or servants of the Bank to defraud it or embezzle any of its funds or property.] The bill was passed to a second reading.

The following resolution, submitted by Mr. Ruggles, on Tuesday, was taken up and agreed to:

*Resolved*, That the Secretary of State be requested to transmit to the Senate, the returns of manufacturing establishments and manufactures, taken by the Marshals of the several States, under the act of the 14th of March, 1820, "providing for taking the fourth census or enumeration of the inhabitants of the U. States, and for other purposes."

The resolution offered yesterday by Mr. Johnson, of Lou. was taken up for consideration:

Mr. Pleasants thought the designation of sloops of war would confine the scope of the inquiry within too narrow limits, particularly as he presumed a smaller class of vessels would be more suitable for the object in view. He should prefer an enquiry into the expediency of building an additional number of small vessels of war, without designating the size. Mr. P. had an objection, also, to the latter part of the resolution, which directs that a part of the naval force be employed in a particular service; because it would be interfering with the proper action of the Executive authority, whose province it is to direct in what manner the naval force shall be employed. Mr. P. moved to amend the resolution conformably to the ideas he had suggested.

Mr. Johnson, of Louisiana, had no objection to the first modification, to substitute "small vessels" for "sloops of war;" but, as to the second proposition, he was not so certain of its propriety, inasmuch as if it was deemed proper to employ a part of the naval force on this special service, an appropriation would be necessary to carry the object into effect.

Mr. Pleasants remarked that the President of the U. States had the power of employing the naval force in any manner he might think proper; and if an extraordinary service of any part of the navy was deemed necessary, by any gentleman, the proper time for the enquiry would be when the annual appropriation for the naval service comes under consideration.

Mr. Johnson said, as the Chairman of the Naval Committee seemed to think the object could be attained without embracing it in the present inquiry, he would assent to the amendment proposed.

Mr. D'Wolf observed, that five or six additional small vessels were certainly very much wanted to protect the commerce of the nation on the coast of Cuba, and elsewhere among the islands; but, as the expediency of increasing the navy by building additional vessels might be doubted; and as a sufficient number of suitable vessels might, at present, very probably be purchased; he suggested the propriety of changing the inquiry into one for providing by purchase an additional number of small vessels.

Mr. Otis suggested, the propriety of applying the resolution into an inquiry for providing by purchase or otherwise, an additional number of small vessels, "for the better protection of the commerce of the U. States." An expression of the object in terms so general as this, he thought would not trench on the province of the Executive.

Mr. Johnson, for the purpose of accommodating the views of the different gentlemen, while it would answer the object had in view, modified his motion to read as follows:

*Resolved*, That the committee on Naval Affairs be instructed to inquire into the expediency of providing by law for the building or purchase of an additional number of small vessels of war, for the protection of the commerce of the U. States.

In this form the resolution was agreed to.

A communication was laid before the Senate by the President, from the Secretary of State, transmitting the returns of the Census in Kershaw District, in S. Carolina.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. Cannon rose to call the attention

of the house to a resolution submitted by him some weeks ago, and now lying on the table. It would be recollected, he said, that, on the reduction of the army by Congress at the last session, a different organization had been given to it by the Senate than was proposed by a large majority of the house—which change, he believed, would not have received the sanction of a majority of the house, but for the lateness of the period at which the bill, with the amendment, was returned from the Senate. The difference of the expense of maintaining the military establishment as at present organized, Mr. C. said, was vastly greater than it would have been if otherwise organized. He had, for the information of the House, made an estimate, not only of the amount of public money which would be saved by re-organizing the army, but also of the probable number of officers that would be discharged if the army should be re-organized according to the resolution which he had moved, and now meant to call up. Mr. C. here proceeded to state that, should Congress pursue the course which he proposed, the total number of officers of each grade disbanded, including both Infantry and Artillery, and including the General Staff, would be—

5 Colonels, salary of \$2,400 each.	
5 Lieut. Colonels	2,148
5 Majors	1,860

15 Field Officers in all.

5 Regimental Qr. Masters, \$849 per annum	
5 Sergeant Majors	849 do.
5 Q. M. Sergeants,	849 do.
5 Adjutants,	120 additional tax- \$ en from line.
5 Paymasters,	1908 per annum.

25 of the Regimental Staff.

53 Captains—35 of Infantry, \$1044 per annum, and 18 of Artillery, \$1428 per annum.	
71 First Lieutenants—35 of Infantry, \$849, and 36 of Artillery, at \$1176, per annum	
72 Second Lieutenants—35 of Infantry, \$813, and 36 of Artillery, at \$1176 per annum.	

195 Commissioned Officers of Companies, and 549 Sergeants, Corporals, Artificers, and Musicians, at an average of \$300 each per annum.

Making an aggregate number of 784 Officers to be disbanded, being surplus officers over the number which would be necessary when the army was properly organized. The whole amount per annum saved by this re-organization, would be \$428,247 96, leaving out of view the reduction of the General Staff, which, if included by a proportionate reduction, or that fixed on by the House last session, would augment the annual saving by the re-organization, to at least 450,000 dollars.

Mr. C. said, he had not risen for the purpose of making a long argument on the subject of this resolution. It could not be denied, he said, that the period of the session has now arrived when, if it was proper to look at the subject, it ought to be referred to the consideration of the Committee on Military Affairs. On the subject of retaining so large a number of officers in service, he was, he said, decidedly opposed to it. He believed it would be impossible for those officers, however disposed to do their duty, to render any service to the government—inasmuch as an army organized, or rather disorganized, as it now is, could not be of as much service, either for peace or for war, as if it were organized as he now proposed.—For, said he, as you multiply officers, you throw an incumbrance on the army, and place the high-minded individuals who fill its offices in a most disagreeable situation—that is, being in the employment of the government without having any duty whatever to perform. As this resolution proposed merely an inquiry, he hoped there would be no opposition to it. Perhaps, he said, other changes in the organization of the army might be thought necessary, particularly the consolidation of the ordnance with the artillery. If so, he hoped the military committee would report accordingly.

The House having agreed to consider the resolution, in the following words:

*Resolved*, That the committee on Military Affairs be instructed to inquire into the expediency of re-organizing the regular army, (so that companies into different corps contain the number of non-commissioned officers and privates they did previous to the reduction and organization made under the act of the last session of Congress;) and that said committee inquire into the expediency of disbanding the supernumerary officers, and reducing the general staff.

Mr. Cocke said, he had rather that the resolution should not confine the committee to any specific alteration in the army. Let the committee, said he, have the subject referred to them generally: they can then examine every branch of the service, and make such alterations as the public interest may require. The committee might feel disposed to disband a part of the officers, and retain part. But, if the resolution passed in its present shape, the committee would be precluded from taking such a course. He hoped his friend would alter the resolution so as to bring the whole subject fully before the military committee.

Mr. Cannon said, that his object was to bring the whole subject fully before the committee. He had no wish to limit its inquiries, having the highest confidence in them, that they would make such report as the good of the service and the situation of the country require. He therefore modified his motion, so as to make the proposed inquiry general.

Thus modified, the resolution was answered.

Mr. Buchanan submitted for consideration the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That a committee be appointed, whose duty it shall be to inquire and report to this house the causes why no part of the sum of 243,609 dollars and 41 cents, the amount imposed as fines by court martials held under the authority of the United States on Militiamen within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for delinquencies which occurred during the late war with Great Britain, has yet been received into the Treasury: how much of the said sum has been collected from the delinquents by the late Marshal and the present Marshals of Pennsylvania and their deputies, respectively, and what are the names and places of residence of such deputies; how much of the money collected remains in the hands of the deputies, and how much has been paid over by them to their respective principals; who are the sureties of the late Marshal, John Smith, and of his deputies, respectively; what is the amount of each of their bonds, and what is the prospect of recovering the whole or any part of the money remaining in their hands; what cases have heretofore prevented the institution of suits against the said John Smith, his deputies and their sureties, to recover the militia fines retained by them respectively, and under what authority, by whom and to whom, the sum of 41,531 dollars and 77 cents has been paid out of the said fines to defray the expenses of the Courts Martial by which they were assessed.

In offering this resolution, Mr. Buchanan said, that a sense of duty, and not a desire to give trouble and cast reflections upon any officer of this government, compelled him to bring before this house the subject of the collection of militia fines from delinquent militiamen in Pennsylvania. He would, he said, state the facts connected with it, and which were so many reasons why the resolution should pass, without doing more at the present time. The State of Pennsylvania during the late war furnished her full proportion of men and of money to the general government to enable them to carry on the contest. She furnished more than her quota of volunteers and militia. It however happened, that, owing to the pious and peaceful habits of the People of that State, conscientiously scrupulous of bearing arms, there occurred, in obtaining the number of men required by draft, a great number of delinquencies; which were more than made up by volunteers. It followed, therefore, that whilst Pennsylvania, as a state, can with pride and with pleasure declare that she fulfilled, in the most ample manner, all her federal obligations, yet there was a very large proportion of her citizens fined as delinquent militiamen. From the letter of the Secretary of War, of Feb. 14, 1821, it appeared, that out of nine states, on the citizens of which militia fines were assessed, and from eight of which returns have been received, the fines assessed on citizens of Pennsylvania amount to a larger sum than all the fines assessed on the citizens of seven of the states:

The assessment on Pennsylvania amounted to	\$243,609 21
On New Hampshire, New-York, Maryland, Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky, East Tennessee, West Tennessee,	240,076

These fines were assessed, chiefly, if not altogether, within the years 1813, 1814, and 1815; and, strange and wonderful as it may appear, not one cent of that large amount assessed on citizens of Pennsylvania has yet reached the Treasury of the U. States. It is within my own knowledge, said Mr. B. that very large sums of this money have been collected by the deputy marshals, and much distress has been spread over the country in levying these fines from the poorer classes of the citizens within our state.—It is very natural that every state in the Union, particularly Pennsylvania, should be anxious to have the darkness which hangs over this subject dispelled, and the guilty agents exposed to the light of day. It is possible that by an investigation something may be obtained; if not, the authors of the shameful frauds which have been perpetrated will be dragged from the concealment in which they now lurk. On the 4th Dec. 1820, at the instance of a gentleman from Pennsylvania, a resolution was passed by this house calling on the Secretary of the Treasury for information on the subject, which for some cause or other remained unanswered, but on the 2d Jan. 1821, was renewed. And, said Mr. B. what answer has been given to it? It consists of six clauses, answers to which would embrace all the information we desire. The answer to the 1st is a letter from the present Marshal, which Mr. B. read, from which, he said, it appeared that almost three years had been suffered to expire since this communication, and it does not appear that any measures have been taken to secure the books and papers.

The department could therefore communicate no information on the subject. The second query, how much money had been received into the Treasury, on account of these fines, was easily answered: not a cent has been received. The 3d query the department is unable to an-

swer, except that \$3671 30 in the hands of the present marshal, and \$3,546 60 in the hands of Lewis Deffebach, one of his deputies in Bucks county. The 4th query, as to the names of the deputies and the sureties of the marshal, was not answered. Indeed, it appeared that the department never either inquired or knew who were the sureties of the marshal, or who were his deputies or sureties. It appeared, further, that no action had ever yet been instituted against the marshal or his deputies on these bonds, except against one of the deputies. The object, therefore, Mr. B. said, of his resolution, was to obtain the information which the former vote of the house had failed to procure, &c. &c.

The motion of Mr. B. was read, and, according to the rule of the House, lies on the table for one day.



## SALISBURY:

TUESDAY, FEB. 12, 1822.

The mail from Fayetteville failed again last week. We are really at a loss to account for these repeated failures, though doubtless the contractor has good and sufficient reasons for thus suspending our intercourse with Fayetteville, Cheraw, Charleston, &c. But good as they may be, it would certainly afford no little satisfaction to know when they will cease to operate, and the embargo be removed. At this season of the year, when planters are taking their cotton to market, and are anxious to learn their prices, a failure of the mail is doubly vexatious. If these failures should be owing to any neglect, we hope it may be discovered and reported to the General Post-Office, so that the penalty may be inflicted. Is it not the duty of Post-Masters to look into such things?

Mr. Cannon has again opened his battery upon our harmless little army, which, heaven knows, is incapable, in its present reduced condition, of injuring any body. It is now a mere skeleton: but it seems he is determined to cannonade it till nothing but the head and tail are left. But he will spend his ammunition to no purpose. Weak as it is, it will be able, we think, to withstand his paper shots. We doubted very much the policy of reducing it at the last session; but we acquiesced in the wisdom of the majority. At this time, however, we believe neither the people, nor the state of the Treasury, nor the dis-organization of the army, (as Mr. Cannon terms it) calls for such a measure. Any further reduction will not be popular: and if Mr. Cannon expects, by this renewed attack, to obtain the thanks or applause of the people, he will find, we believe, that he has shot wide of his mark.

The army is now organized with a view to future emergencies; so that should we unexpectedly be involved in a war, we might not be exposed to the danger of depending on an entirely undisciplined force, both as to officers and men. Every body knows the loss of lives, time, and money, during the beginning of the last war, which resulted, in most instances, from the want of skill and experience; and is it not wise, is it not a duty, to guard against a recurrence of these evils? The present organization of the army is calculated, in some measure, to do this. Under the present arrangement, it could be very considerably enlarged, without materially increasing the number of officers: and in case of future events rendering such an enlargement necessary, these officers, whom Mr. Cannon is so anxious to shove out of the service, would be of infinitely more benefit to the country than all the money which could possibly be saved by disbanding them: they might, moreover, save lives as valuable to the nation as even Mr. Cannon himself. He should think of this.

## THE BANKRUPT BILL.

Has been brought forward in the House of Representatives, and the discussion has been opened by Mr. Sergeant, in a lengthy speech. The Intelligencer apprehends it will be debated at great length; and we are not disposed in the least to doubt it. Its fate is uncertain. "The talent and the members of the House of Representatives," says the Intelligencer, "appear to be more divided on the subject than on any other question of equal importance we can recollect—with the exception, perhaps, of Mr. Calhoun's Internal Improvement Bill, which passed the House of Representatives by a majority of two votes. Such may be the fate of the Bankrupt Bill." Such may it not be, is our wish: it is of too partial a character. We see no reason of

justice in extending its provisions to one class of citizens only, to the exclusion of all others; and that class not always the most meritorious. If a Bankrupt Law be necessary for the relief of one honest debtor, it is equally so for another. If relief be extended to the broken merchant, why not to the ruined manufacturer and agriculturist? Surely the one is neither more meritorious, nor more deserving our sympathy, than the other. The people, we believe, will never sanction any law, so partial in its operations, so limited in its benefits.

But to place the subject in a stronger point of view, let us refer to facts: By the late census we learn, that the number of persons engaged in agriculture, is 2,065,499; in manufactures, 349,247; while in commerce, it is only 72,397. Is it possible that this small number, that 72,397 persons, can have greater claims on our humanity or our sympathy, than two millions of our yeomanry, the real stamina of the nation? But this, it may be said, is not a correct view of the subject; as most of these agriculturists are persons of very small capital, and one third of them, perhaps, of none at all: and in respect to manufacturers, the estimate embraces every description of manufactures, from the most simple to the most intricate; from the petty manufacture of corsets and lotions, to the construction of steam engines and the various and intricate machinery of a cotton factory: It would be useless, therefore, that the provisions of a Bankrupt Law should extend to all these, two-thirds or one half of whom very probably never could be benefited by them. That it is unnecessary that they should embrace all these classes, we admit; but then it does not follow that the whole of one class should be selected, to the exclusion of all of every other. But how many of the 72,000 engaged in commerce, are men of extensive capital? how many of them are importers? Were the real number known, it would, we think, place the injustice of the Bill in a still stronger light. If the Bill were framed so as to include all, or even to restrict its benefits to persons of a certain capital, and over, whether engaged in agriculture, commerce, or manufactures, it would obviate many of the objections which lie so heavily against it in its present shape. It would be more consonant to the genius of our institutions, and less aristocratic in its principles; and would meet the approbation of a far greater number than it can ever hope to should it pass in its present form.

COMMUNICATION.

Messrs. Editors:

I am one of your subscribers for the *Western Carolinian*, which I receive every Wednesday, though so late that I seldom read it before evening; when, scarcely having commenced, imagining to myself a pleasant entertainment, my good neighbor *Stingy* comes, and says he wishes to get my paper. I tell him I have not yet read it; (hoping thereby he would apologize for the unseasonableness of his request;) but, notwithstanding, he may read it, and so lend it. I am sometimes (tho' seldom) so fortunate as to get it the next day; if so, after supper I sit down, and having perused a part of some interesting extract, I hear a knock at the door; expecting to see some of my good customers, I open it, and, sure enough, Mr. *Bussybody* wants to see some act of the Legislature; though half distracted that I must leave my interesting history, I give it to him, at the same time I go to a friend of mine to read the remainder. On my return, I find Mr. *Bareface* at my house, saying (mirabile dictu!) that he wanted to get the paper to see whether his advertisement was inserted; I render my excuse, and he leaves me with a forced utterance of "good evening." Having again, by some good fortune, got the paper into my hands, in comes some rustic clown with, "do you take the *Western Carolinian*?" I answer in the affirmative. "Well," says he, "they say there is such a great piece in it, and I want to see it." I accommodate the gentleman thus far, and having read it, he gives me the thanks,—"I declare I must take it home to show my people."

Thus, Messrs. Editors, I scarce ever satisfactorily read one of the papers; and it not unfrequently happens that I never get them again; or if I do, they are so dirty, greasy, and torn, that they are not fit to be filed. I wish this as a hint to all my tormentors, that they may either subscribe, or quit their unwelcome effrontery.

A CITIZEN.

Lincolnton, Jan. 5, 1822.

FOR THE WESTERN CAROLINIAN.

The following extract of a speech was related to me by a Choctaw Interpreter, in 1821. It was delivered by a Choctaw Chief, who, as Mr. Jefferson once observed, as a soldier and a prince, might do honor to any nation in Europe. The speech was in reply to the threats of an American Commissioner, then holding a treaty with the Choctaws; and, as a specimen of eloquence, we think it may rebuke the genius of our own times:

"Tell me not of blood—I was born a warrior. I was not born as other men are, of a woman—I was never nourished by the breast, or cherished by the affection of a mother—a dark cloud arose in the west, and from that cloud there came a stream of lightning, which struck and shattered to its root a huge pine—and thence