

CONGRESS.

SECOND SESSION, SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

SUPPRESSED DOCUMENTS.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 5.—Mr. Campbell, of Ohio, submitted the following resolution:

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to ascertain by whom the suppression of the paragraph in the letter of Wm. R. Dickinson, Cashier of the Bank of Steubenville, to the Secretary of the Treasury, dated the 1st day of 1819, and by him communicated to this house, at the last session, was caused, with leave to sit during the sessions, and with power to send for persons and papers.

Mr. Campbell, in submitting this resolution, disclaimed all personal feeling. He had no ill will to any mortal breathing. He had conversed with the members of the committee, and understood that they did not feel themselves clothed with sufficient powers to enter into that full investigation which was necessary. A fraud had been practised on the house, and if it had been ascertained that such and such persons did not commit it, he thought it expedient to go a little further, and inquire who did do it. Some members thought this resolution was giving importance to a trifling subject. But the committee had declared it to be a matter of importance; the house had given it importance; and every paper out of doors treated it as important. He did not wish to impugn any gentleman, but was only anxious to discover whence it originated.

Mr. Wright said he had originally declared his desire to probe the business to the bottom, let the odium fall where it would. He was still of this opinion. He alluded to some persons who had received the papers from the clerk, and broke the seals; and if it was proved that these marks were not made before the documents came to the house, it was necessary to discover when the obliterations might have been made.

Mr. Edwards, of N. C. thought it was unnecessary to disclaim personal feelings. He was conscious of none. The report of the committee had acquitted the persons originally implicated. If they were guiltless, where did the fault rest? The documents came into the possession of the officers of this house, of the members of the house, and he called on the house to investigate the business to the bottom.

Mr. Hamilton thought there ought to be some testimony to justify measures which supposed guilt on the part of members of the house. He had understood that such was the importance attached to this, and other documents that, in one case, under Mr. Gallatin, even a proof-sheet was not submitted to the inspection of members. He did not believe there could be found a person so base among the members of the house, as to make the erasures which had been made; nor was he prepared to throw imputation on the motives of members without testimony on which to found it. If any gentleman had any facts in his possession, tending to throw light on the subject, he ought to state them explicitly.

Mr. Hardin threw out some aspersions on the Washington Republican, in which the charge had first appeared, asserting that it was a paper famed for the insertion of every thing but correctness, and a paper which contained more misrepresentation than any other paper in the United States.

Mr. Cook said it was impossible for him, when he couped the assertions now made on the floor, with secret whispers, which had reached his ear, without his being able to trace them to any responsible persons; to resist the influence that he was alluded to, as the person in whose hands the documents had been, and who knew where the erasures had been made. "I have sworn," said the honorable member, "and I am ready to go to the altar of my God, and swear, that they were not made within my knowledge." He had taken no particular notice of the whispers which had reached him; but when assertions such as had been made, were made on that floor, he owed it to his own character to notice them in the most express and pointed terms. Mr. Cook proceeded to shew the importance of the paragraph suppressed, in betraying facts which could otherwise have escaped suspicion; after which he inquired whether the inquisitorial power of the house is to be found which would compel the disclosure of persons writing for the public good? On this subject he entered into an able and a spirited defence of the rights of the press. The honorable member moved an amendment.

"And that the said committee be instructed to prepare and report to this house a digest of the evidence contained in the printed documents in which the said printed letter [A5] is included, if any notes were taken, in lieu of cash, from any of the banks in which the public moneys were deposited. Whether the public moneys have not been discontinued to be deposited in branches of the U. States' Bank, and placed in certain local banks, situated in the same towns or neighborhoods, without complying with the directions of the law on that subject; and whether such transfers have not resulted in loss to the government. Whether the public moneys have not been loaned to those banks, in which standing deposits were

made, under the name of deposits; and whether such loans or deposits have not resulted in loss to the government. Whether security was not neglected to be taken, in some one or more instances, for the punctuality of one or more banks which proposed to give such security; and whether such failure has not resulted in loss to the government."

Mr. Hardin talked of finding out the person who writes under the signature of A. B. and if he was a member, of expelling him, "like a tainted dog."

Mr. Little moved to lay the resolution and amendment on the table, and to take the ayes and noes on the question. The ayes and noes were ordered, and there appeared

Ayes 26—Noes 141.

Mr. Wright commenced a series of remarks, which were considered irrelevant, by

Mr. Campbell, of Ohio, who expressed his determination to call to order every gentleman who wandered from the subject, and who took this opportunity of expressing his acceptance of the amendment of the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. Wright then resumed the floor, and went on to state his views of the question. He considered there were grounds to justify suspicion; and went on to investigate the oath which had been administered by the late committee, when he was called to order by

Mr. Moore, who put it to the Speaker to decide whether this reference to the oath was in order.

The Speaker decided that, as it went to elicit information, it was in order.

Mr. Wright went on, expressing his hope that the house would not be alarmed, or afraid of going into the investigation. Fiat justitia, ruat cælum!

Mr. Cook entered into a long and able reply to the gentleman from Maryland. The people of this country never could submit to have the press, the strongest safeguard of their rights, shackled at the will of any despotism whatever.

Mr. Dwight expressed his obligations to the gentlemen who had spoken, for the indulgent manner in which they had spoken of the labours of the committee. He went into various points which had been before the committee; and expressed his opinion that a witness is as much bound to answer any question proposed by the committee, as any witness before any other body. He said the question of the author of A. B. was not deemed sufficiently relevant to require any unusual exercise of the power of the committee to obtain it.

Mr. Saunders stated that he had differed in opinion from the chairman of the committee, on an important question. [We believe that he alluded to the relevancy which the author's name would bear to the question.] He then spoke in defence of Mr. Dickens and his testimony. He then went into a view of the motives which had influenced him in putting the questions he did. He thought there was but one secret, and that was as to who made the marks; and on this subject, there ought to be no confidence. He thought a breach of faith in such cases was virtue—not crime. Gentlemen, however, had their own views on the subject. He was against engrafting the amendment of the gentleman from Illinois, on the original resolution. He thought the resolution, in its original form, should be adopted, because it is clear that there was a difference of opinion in the committee, as to the extent of the powers they possessed. He would vote for the commitment of any witness who refused to answer a question.

Mr. Gilmer stated, that he had intended not to trouble the house with any remarks, during the present session, as he did not wish to give the chair an opportunity to call him to order. He held that every man elevated to the confidence of the people ought to be honest, and above suspicion. He contended, therefore, that this house must be kept pure and honest. A charge had been made by a member of Congress, which (he contended) had been proved to be false, and such member ought to be expelled. He was not certain that A. B. might not be a member of the other house.

He was not sure that he did not see him skulking behind the persons in the gallery. He held in his hand evidence which furnished to him strong presumptive evidence of the author of A. B. There had been nothing elicited in the committee to impeach any member of this house. He moved the following amendment to the original resolution:

"And to ascertain, if possible, whether any member of this house, or confederacy of members, have made use of the papers of this house, for the purpose of making charges against any department of this government, and which that member, or those members, knowing them to be false."

Mr. Woodson moved that the House now adjourn.

The House then adjourned. [Mr. Gilmer's amendment was subsequently withdrawn, and the resolution of Mr. Campbell, as amended by Mr. Cook, agreed to, by a vote of 107 to 23. The gentlemen composing the committee are: Messrs. Campbell, of Ohio; Cannon, Jan. 1 of Va.; Nelson, of Md.; Stewart, Morgan, and Hill.]

INTELLIGENCE.

He comes, the herald of a noisy world, News from all nations lumbering at his back.

THE GREEKS.

Extract of a letter, dated Smyrna, Nov. 17, 1822, from an American, living on the spot.

"Trade has for three or four weeks past been quite brisk, which, together with the perfect good order which now reigns in our city, makes us, in a measure, forget our past miseries, and the great facility with which they may be renewed. The Greek cause has gained much, and I think the question of their independence nearly established. The Morea, and most of the Islands in the Archipelago, will most probably (under some conditions) remain to them.

"How the Grand Sultan will reconcile this to his turbulent Janissaries, remains to be seen. We are anxious to know the result of the Congress at Verona, which will probably decide the fate of this country. It appears to me, that in the present state of Europe, peace, on any terms, and at any price, must be desirable to every crowned head on the continent: with that they may hope to bring mankind back to the way of thinking they had fifty years ago; but I am afraid all will not do.

"The Emperor of Austria has forbid that any other than Protestants should meddle with the education of youth. If he could have added, that no one else should converse with them, and ordered that all the books published in the last fifty years should be burnt, he might then have some hopes of succeeding. The Carbo-ari make a great noise, and thereby their consequence increases.

"The Turkish fleet had returned to the Dardanelles, and there is every probability of their remaining there until May next."—Commercial Advertiser.

NORFOLK, FEB. 10.

The Pirate Expedition.—This formidable armament against the merciless buccaniers of the ocean, which has excited so much interest in every part of our country, and has for several weeks presented a scene of uncommon bustle and activity at our navy-yard and in the business walks of our town, is now ready to commence its work of retribution; and it is devoutly to be wished, that the sword drawn in this righteous cause, may not be returned to its scabbard, until the just mandate of the nation to "exterminate the Pirate throng" shall be fully executed. In the appropriate language of a native poet, who has recently offered a neat and feeling tribute to the occasion, we would say—

"Then go forth, Porter in thy might, Let sudden vengeance on them light,— Pursue them with a fiery hail, From which no refuge may avail— Alike from ocean and from land, Sweep off the vile marauding band— Let every monster of them fall, Not one be spared—destroy them all!"

The expedition is destined to avenge the death of the gallant ALLEN, and the multiplied outrages upon our lawful commerce, is under the orders of Commodore DAVID PORTER, and consists of the

Sloop of War Peacock, capt. Stephen Cassin, bearing the broad pendant of the commodore.

Schooner Shark, lieutenant com. M. C. Perry.

Sea Gull, (steam galliot) Lt. com. Wm. H. Watson.

Decoy, (store ship) lieutenant com. L. Kearny.

Greyhound, mast. com. John Porter.

Jackall, Lt. com. W. H. Cooke.

Wild Cat, lieutenant com. Charles W. Skinner.

Beagle, Lt. com. J. T. Newton.

Ferret, Lt. com. Samuel Henley.

Terrier, Lt. com. R. R. Rose.

Wasp, Lt. com. Bev. Kendall.

Cutters—Minge, Miquito, Sand Fly, Galley Nipper, and Goat.

Four of the small schooners dropped down from the navy-yard on Thursday last, and anchored near the Flag Ship, off Fort Nelson; yesterday morning, they were joined by the other four schooners, and in the afternoon the Shark and the store ship Decoy, were towed down from the yard, by the steam galliot Sea Gull, and all anchored near the Peacock. They form quite an imposing spectacle, and to-day or to-morrow, we shall have the pleasure to see them spread their white canvas to the breeze, and depart for the pirate coast. Our best wishes go with them.

The steam galliot is much improved in appearance, and performed the duty of towing down the ship and the schooner in a style and with a velocity that augured well of her adaptation to that purpose in the expedition.

The schooners mount one long gun on a pivot and two cannonades each, and it is believed, will not, in point of sailing, dishonor the names by which they have been designated.—Bacon.

LYNCHBURG, JAN. 31. Freshet.—We omitted to notice in our last the rise of James River, unprecedented, we believe, in its height, and in the celerity with which it rose. The only damage done near this place, of which we have heard, is, the de-

struction of a part of the free bridge, several tiers having been swept off. From every part of the country, we hear of unexampled swells in the water courses.—The following letter to the editors of the Virginian, gives a distressing account of the situation of a part of Montgomery county.

Montgomery, Va. 20th Jan. 1823.

It appears evident that the scourges of God for the wickedness of men present themselves in various ways throughout the world. In many sections to the East, it seems there has been a visitation almost of famine. In the West and South, sickness and death have displayed in their most fearful forms the superiority of their power; while, for a number of years, we have been blest with health, fine crops and a good market for the surplus. But at this inst. the scene seems to be changing. I am now within 1 1/2 miles of the great Alleghany summit, parallel with and near to the road. The torrents from the angry clouds still continue to descend without intermission. The turnpike road has become like a constant river, and the valleys in every direction are filled with water. What now must be our calculation! The suffering farmers, who had lost all their fencing and the grain which had been sown, on the waters of Staunton, (called there Roanoke,) in the destructive storm of September last, had then an opportunity of making a small recruit. But now, all is lost. The portion of rails then collected to enclose the cultivated parts must again go. The grain sown has been destroyed, and we are all in one general calamity. Oh God! when will the wickedness of man cease, and thy frown abate!

"I have employed my time during the latter part of the storm in penning the foregoing observations. The storm has been much more violent than that of last September. The water would have made a rapid current through the house in which I now am, had not the doors been taken off the hinges, and placed outside (crosswise) to turn the stream. The storm has yet abated, but little of its fury. It commenced last evening about 9 o'clock—it is now 8 P. M.

NEW-YORK, JAN. 31.—The following interesting circumstance is communicated from the most respectable source, and there can be no doubt of the correctness of the statement:—

Extract of a letter from London, November 23, 1822.

"A great object of curiosity is now preparing on the Thames—a new Steam Vessel, intended for Calcutta. Her engine and boiler occupy only one fifth part of the usual space—her furnace, consuming its own smoke, will perform with one bushel what formerly took one chaldron of coals: her boiler is constructed to return its own steam, without one particle escaping, so that once filled it is enough for the voyage, which it is calculated she will perform in 36 or 40 days. The invention is American—PERKINS is the man, who does honour to his country. In two months time this vessel will sail [or go] for Calcutta."—Mercantile Adv.

PROVIDENCE, JAN. 29.

Warning to Sabbath breakers.—We learn that the following distressing event took place at Valley Falls, one mile above Pawtucket, on Sunday last. A person in discharging his gun (loaded with a ball) at a mark, shot a boy, named Chace, through the body, who survived the fatal wound but about 15 minutes.

NEW-YORK, FEB. 6.—The ship Magnet, capt. Mount, arrived yesterday from Liverpool. She sailed December 12th, and brings the same dates as were received by the Ceres at Charleston. The Magnet has on board a famous stud horse, imported for a gentleman in North-Carolina—it is conjectured for the purpose of matching some one of our American horses of repute.—Mer.

RALEIGH, FEB. 14.

The board of Internal Improvements adjourned on Thursday evening the 6th inst. to meet again in this city on the 4th Monday in April next.

Mr. Fulton, our civil engineer, in addition to the attention which he is directed to pay to the works about to be carried on at the flats below Wilmington, and to the improvements making by the several Navigation Companies, was instructed by the board to cause surveys to be made of the principal tracts of swamp and marsh lands within this state; to ascertain the quantity and quality of each tract; the most practicable mode of draining it, and the expense of the work; and for the sake of expedition, he is authorised to employ such number of surveyors and chain-carriers as he may think necessary.

Mr. Fulton is also instructed to survey and mark the line of a road from Wilkesborough to Salem, on the best and most convenient ground; to survey the road from Salem to Fayetteville, and ascertain whether the distance cannot be shortened by altering the present road; and that he report such alterations as, in his opinion, are necessary to shorten and improve said road.

The engineer is also directed to cause the line of the road and canal to be run

from the Roanoke river, at or near Plymouth, to the waters of Pungo river, in Hyde county, through the Dismal Swamp, and to report as well on the practicability and utility of the road without the canal, as upon the road and canal together. He is also instructed to cause a survey to be made of the channel leading from Currituck inlet, through the narrows, to the Albermarle Sound, and report to the Board on the practicability and utility of improving this navigation.—Register.

WASHINGTON, FEB. 5.—The Debate, in the House of Representatives, on the subject of imposing higher duties on imports, for the protection of Manufactures, becomes more and more interesting. There is a prospect now, that the question will be determined on its merits, and definitively, at the present session of Congress. Nat. Intel.

Perhaps the Members of the bar in attendance on the Supreme Court, were never more numerous than at the present term. Besides the distinguished Members of the Profession, who, being Members of either House of Congress, are necessarily present, and those who are resident in the District, we have observed the following gentlemen in attendance on the Court, viz:

Mr. WEBSTER, and Mr. BLAKE, of Boston.

Mr. PITTMAN, from Rhode Island.

Mr. EMMETT, Mr. OGDEN, Mr. OAKLEY, Mr. WHEATON, (Reporter to the Court,) from New-York.

Mr. CREECH, of Philadelphia.

Mr. WINDER, and Mr. HOFFMAN, of Baltimore.

Mr. CLAY, and Mr. ROWAN of Kentucky.

Mr. WRIGHT, Mr. HAMMOND, and Mr. WHITTLESEY, of Ohio.—ib.

JOHN TAYLOR is re-elected a Senator of the United States from the State of VIRGINIA, for six years from the 3d day of March next, when his present term of service will expire.

United States' Mint.—The mint of the United States was established at Philadelphia, by an act of congress of April 2d, 1792, and has ever since been continued in that city. The officers are—a director, treasurer, chief coiner, assayer, melter and refiner, engraver, and treasurer's clerk. The annual salaries of all these officers amount to \$9,600. From its establishment to the year 1822, 72,263,972 pieces have been coined amounting in value to \$19,352,746; viz. in gold pieces \$7,620,867; in silver pieces \$11,606,193; in copper pieces \$423,686.

FROM THE WASHINGTON REPUBLICAN.

ATTEMPT TO MUZZLE THE PRESS.

Mr. Hardin, a member from Kentucky, whose zeal on most subjects is apt to over-run his discretion, and whose heat of language is not always chastened by reason, declared in the debate of this day, that our paper is "famed for every thing but correctness," and "contains more misrepresentations than any other paper in the United States." Were we disposed to put the question of our editorial reputation, at issue with his public character, the judgment of public opinion would place us on a new and most elevated pinnacle of triumph. But we forbear. We have no desire to crush an individual like him. His attempt to muzzle the press, is sufficient to place his political purity and his republicanism, in a correct light. We would only caution the people to beware of such politicians. For ourselves, his enmity is our glory—his friendship, would be our shame.

We will never avail ourselves of slight occasions to sound an alarm.—But the tendency of the debate of to-day, and the spirit of it, were too pointed to be misunderstood, even had not Mr. Cook, of Illinois, dragged it, in all its odiousness, before the house, and exposing it, pronounced it an attempt to introduce "the second reign of terror." We warn the people! Attempts are really making to surround a certain individual with an atmosphere which is to be impenetrable;—and thus is he to be charioted along to the eminence which he is seeking. Our correspondent A. B. has roused the indignation of this gentleman's friends, and of some, who, if not his friends, are not the friends of the administration. The inquisitorial power of the Spanish despotism is attempted, to drag A. B. to light; and we are to be put on the wheel, "till this Judas," as he was called in debate, is dragged out, in the language of Mr. Wright, of Maryland, in application to all the parties to it, (which we know to be any thing but the language of Maryland,) consigned to "condign punishment."

We have but a moment to give to this subject, at this time. Let the people look well to it. Its details shall be faithfully given.—strike whom they may. One word more.—We will beat the screw, and the tourniquet—we will meet the committee, and face its powers—and if we are struck, it shall be at the expense of a rupture in the constitution, for that is our mantle; but A. B. shall never be given up—at least, by us.