

CONGRESS.

SECOND SESSION, SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS.

SENATE.

TUESDAY, FEB. 25.—The Senate took up, in committee of the whole, Mr. Dickerson in the chair, the bill to enable the holders of French, British, and Spanish titles to lands within the state of Louisiana, which have not been recognized as valid by the government of the United States, to institute proceedings in the courts of the United States to try the validity thereof.

Mr. Johnson, of Lou., explained the objects of the bill, and urged the importance of acting on the subject at the present session. He thought it was not only the duty, but the interest of the government to provide for the adjustment of the claims embraced by the bill. If they are not valid, they belong to the United States, and should be brought into market, which could not be done until they are decided on. But he complained of the injury done to Louisiana, by keeping large claims of land waste, within the limits of the state. Emigration had been checked, and the prosperity of the country retarded.

Upon this amendment a discussion arose, which occupied more than three hours. It was ultimately adopted—ayes 26, noes 10.

It appeared to be the opinion of several members, that the three claims alluded to, should not be referred to the judiciary, but be decided on by Congress itself; though the Senate seems to have acted on the ground that it was expedient to provide for their adjustment by a separate bill.

The gentlemen who spoke in favor of including the three large claims, named above, in the bill, were Messrs. Johnson, of Lou., Van Dyke, Brown, of Lou., Smith, of Md. and Mills; and those who opposed it were Messrs. Taylor, of Va., Van Buren, Eaton, Lanman, Barbour, and Chandler.

After considerable discussion on other details of the bill, and the adoption of several amendments; and after rejecting a motion to postpone the bill indefinitely;

The question was put on engrossing the bill for a third reading; and was decided in the affirmative, by yeas and nays—Yeas 28, Nays 6.

On motion of Mr. Talbot, the Senate took up the bill authorizing the President of the United States to employ an engineer to examine and select the most suitable site for a National Armory on the western waters, and appropriating 25,000 dollars for the purchase of such site, &c.

No objection being made to this bill, the question was taken on ordering it to be engrossed for a third reading, and was carried, with only two or three dissenting voices.

FRIDAY, FEB. 28.—Mr. STOKES, from the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads, to which had been referred an inquiry into the expediency of authorizing an interchange of the laws of the several States, by mail, free of postage, made a report adverse to that proposition.

The bill providing for clothing the militia of the United States when in actual service, was taken up in committee of the whole.

Mr. NOBLE made some remarks in support of the measure. Mr. SMITH, of Md. opposed the bill, not on principle, because he was friendly to the principle, but from objections to the mode proposed by the bill; and for the purpose of getting rid of the bill he moved to lay it on the table. Mr. NOBLE replied to Mr. S. and answered his objections; when—

The question being taken, the bill was ordered to lie on the table—ayes 21.

The bill further to prolong, for five years, the continuance of the Mint at Philadelphia, was taken up.

Mr. EATON questioned the propriety of making provision for continuing the Mint at Philadelphia for five years. He thought the Mint establishment might be fixed at the seat of government, where it would be more immediately under the eye of Congress, and its operations and concerns more easily examined and understood. He did not assert that it ought to be removed; but he wished the subject to be inquired into, and moved to insert one year in the bill instead of five, that Congress might, in the mean time, consider the subject, and decide understandingly on it.

This motion was opposed by Messrs. ELLIOTT and LANMAN; who among other things, argued that, even if it were enacted to continue the Mint at Philadelphia for five years, Congress could revoke the law at any time, if it should be deemed expedient to remove the establishment from thence; but they controverted the propriety of removing the Mint from Philadelphia, from consideration of convenience, and the successful operation of the establishment, &c.

The motion to amend the bill was negatived; and the bill was ordered to a third reading.

The President laid before the Senate, a report from the Secretary of the Treasury, relative to loans or deposits made by the Treasury to banks from the year 1789 to the present time—rendered in obedience to a resolution of the Senate; which report was, on motion of Mr. EATON, ordered to be printed.

The Senate took up the Message from the House of Representatives, announcing its disagreement to the Senate's amendment to the bill, supplementary to the Revolutionary pension law.

The amendment disagreed to by the House of Representatives, was a clause inserted by the Senate, to reduce all the Revolutionary pensions 20 per cent.

Mr. NOBLE, moved to postpone the bill indefinitely, and after some debate, the motion was lost—ayes 20, noes 23.

Mr. BARBOUR then moved that the Senate recede from its amendment, which motion was agreed to, by yeas and nays—yeas 23, nays 21.

About 5 o'clock, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

TUESDAY, FEB. 25.

On motion of Mr. Rochester, the committee of the whole was discharged from the further consideration of the bills of the following titles:

A bill further to prolong the continuance of the Mint at Philadelphia;

The bill to continue in force an act, entitled "An act regulating the currency within the United States, of the gold coins of Great Britain, France, Portugal, and Spain, and the crowns of France, and five franc pieces," passed the 29th day of April, 1816, so far as the same relates to the crowns of France and five franc pieces; and

The bill making the coins of Great Britain, France, Portugal, and Spain, receivable in payments on account of public lands.

The first of these bills being taken up by the House, it was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, without opposition.

The next bill was then taken up, in the following words:

"Be it enacted, &c. That so much of the act, entitled "An act regulating the currency within the United States, of the gold coins of Great Britain, France, Portugal, and Spain, and the crowns of France and five franc pieces," passed on the 29th of April, 1816, as relates to the crowns of France and five franc pieces, shall be, and the same hereby is, continued in force, for the further term of two years, from and after the fourth day of March next."

Mr. M'KIM moved to amend the bill by extending the operation of the bill to four years, instead of two, for mercantile reasons, which he stated.

The motion was assented to by Mr. Rochester, and agreed to by the House. And, thus amended, the bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading to-morrow.

The third bill is in the following words:

"Be it enacted, &c. That, from and after the passage of this act, the following gold coins shall be received in all payments on account of public lands, at the several and respective rates following, and not otherwise, viz: the gold coins of Great Britain and Portugal, of their present standard, at the rate of one hundred cents for every twenty-seven grains, or eighty-eight cents and eight-ninths per pennyweight; the gold coins of France, of their present standard, at the rate of one hundred cents for every twenty-seven and a half grains, or eighty-seven and a quarter cents per pennyweight; and the gold coins of Spain, of their present standard, at the rate of one hundred cents for every twenty-eight and a half grains, or eighty-four cents per pennyweight."

"Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury to cause assays of the foregoing coins to be made at the Mint of the United States, at least once in every year, and to make report of the result thereof to Congress."

This bill, also, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading to-morrow, without debate or opposition.

ELECTION OF PRINTER. Mr. Allen, of Mass. pursuant to the notice he yesterday gave, that the house this day proceed to ballot for a Printer, to execute the printing for the next Congress, now made a motion to go into the election of the said Printer.

The question was then taken on agreeing to the motion of Mr. Allen, of now proceeding to ballot for a Printer; and it was determined in the affirmative.

After the nomination of candidates—The house then proceeded to the balloting, and, upon counting the votes by the tellers, Mr. Cooke and Mallory, it appeared that the whole number of votes was 155, of which 78 were necessary for a choice.

For Gales and Seaton, 102
Andrew Wag, Jr. 43
Other persons, 10

Gales & Seaton were then declared duly elected Printers to the next Congress.

THURSDAY, FEB. 27.—Mr. CAMPBELL, of Ohio, from the Select Committee appointed to inquire who committed the act of suppressing certain passages of documents transmitted to the House, made a report in relation thereto, recommending that the committee be discharged from the further consideration of the inquiry committed to it; which report and resolution were read and ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. HEMPHILL, from the Committee to which was referred the memorial of several banking institutions and insurance companies in the State of South Carolina, and a memorial of the President and Directors of the Bank of the United States, praying for certain laws in relation to the Bank, and for certain alterations in their charter, made a long report thereon, concluding with a resolution that the Committee be instructed to prepare and bring in a bill in relation to the Bank of the U-

nitied States; which was read and ordered to lie on the table.

An engrossed bill "to authorize and empower the Secretary of the Department of the Treasury to dispose of all the public lots and other property belonging to the United States, in the city of Washington, in the District of Columbia," was read a third time, passed, and sent to the Senate for its concurrence.

The SPEAKER communicated a letter from the Secretary of State, transmitting a supplement to the Digest of Manufactures, printed in pursuance of an act for taking the fourth census of the United State; which was read and ordered to lie on the table.

SUPPRESSION OF THE SLAVE TRADE.

FRIDAY, FEB. 28.—Mr. MERCER, proffered a motion to take up the following resolution, with some remarks on the propriety and necessity of effecting the great and important national object contemplated by the adoption of this measure, &c.:

Resolved, That the President of the United States be requested to enter upon and to prosecute, from time to time, such negotiations with the several maritime powers of Europe and America, as he may deem expedient for the effectual abolition of the African Slave Trade, and its ultimate denunciation, as piracy, under the Law of Nations, by the consent of the civilized world.

Mr. MERCER's motion of consideration was then taken, and decided in the affirmative—Ayes 68.

After Mr. MERCER had delivered his sentiments at some length, with energy and feeling, upon the general subject of suppressing the Slave Trade, and on the policy of investing the President of the United States with the power proposed to be given to him by the resolution.

Mr. WRIGHT, of Maryland, then claimed the floor, and spoke at some length on the merits of the question involved in the resolution, strongly asserting the necessity of adopting some effectual measures for the total abolition of this odious traffic. Mr. W. spoke with considerable vehemence and zeal against the Slave Trade, but, being of opinion that no convention with other nations could make the engaging in this trade Piracy, proposed an amendment to alter the phraseology of the resolutions in this respect.

When Mr. W. concluded—Mr. BURROWS, of Connecticut, required the Previous Question, and in this call he was sustained by a majority of the members. The Previous question was put and carried; and then,

The main question (on agreeing to the resolution, as above stated) was taken by Yeas and Nays, and decided as follows—Yeas 131—Nays 9.

INTELLIGENCE.

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

FRIGHTFUL SACRIFICE.

The following letter, dated July 1, and addressed to the editor of the Calcutta Journal, contains a melancholy narrative of the immolation, or, rather, murder of a Hindoo widow:

Sir—Prompted by curiosity to endeavor to investigate the religious ceremonies of the Hindoos, I was induced to attend the self-immolation of a Hindoo widow, at B. llyghaut, yesterday. The preparatory ceremonies, if any, must have taken place previous to my arrival at the ghaut, for I found the unhappy victim of their idolatry in a perfect state of insensibility.

Though I was aware her husband died at so late an hour as twelve o'clock on Saturday night, I laid aside all idea of grief for his loss being the actual cause of her immolation; and I am not disposed to think I was wrong in so doing, from the circumstances attending this barbarous custom. It was about twenty minutes past 11 when I arrived—the Brahmins were washing the body of the corpse in the river, and a few paces from them sat the apparently unconscious victim, his widow. She was 21 years of age, beautiful to my conception, by far the most of any native female I have ever seen; combined with the beauty of her face, her figure was perfect, which heightened the distress, if possible, in the minds of those who were witnesses of the sacrifice, and felt their inability to prevent it. The latter, under any circumstances, I believe would have proved ineffectual to prevent her dissolution, and that speedily; for, judging from her appearance, (which was that of stupefaction,) I inquired of several Brahmins, and among them I found men intelligently delivering their sentiments, and, except in acquiescing in the detestable custom, men with whom I should have thought our enlightened views of Christianity might be pressed with success; they said it was her fate, and added, that if she was prevented or persuaded from her purpose, she would die before three o'clock.

Upon this intimation, I was led to attend more minutely to her situation, and I recite to the time I first saw her: She was sitting on the ground near the river, supported by two men, and, as I said, in a state of insensibility. Her eyes were open, but apparently beyond the power of recognition of surrounding objects. Here she remained until a paper was signed by several Brahmins, who earnestly pressed upon the person in whose possession it

was. While this was going forward, the Thannadar asked her the usual questions of her sacrifice being voluntary, &c.; to which, in a feeble voice, she replied affirmatively. The pen was then presented to her, with which the Brahmins had previously signed the paper, and she was made to touch it as significant of her approval. The corpse being laid upon the funeral pile, she was raised from the ground and supported to the river, and after being bathed, (for to bathe herself was beyond her power,) she was dressed by attending Brahmins in a red scarf, and ornamented with flowers, and her head painted with red where her hair parted. She was then led up to the pile, and performed, merely and solely by the assistance of others, the required ceremonies: she was supported round the pile seven times, and, after having performed her task, her head fell on the shoulder of the man on her left hand, and for upwards of ten minutes she was, to my idea, in a faint; but, in the sequel, I was well satisfied that the drugs that had been given her had begun effectually to operate.

The attendants waited this time, I suppose, in hopes of her reviving and being able to show somewhat of voluntary action, in the sight of seven European gentlemen who happened to be present; but in this they were disappointed, for she remained perfectly insensible to every object. And now commenced a scene so horrible, so revolting to every common principle of humanity, that one's blood shudders at the recital. They lifted her up, more dead than alive, and placed her on the pile; she had not the power, when on it, even to lay her arm over the body of her deceased husband; but this was quickly done for her, as well as placing his head on her bosom. This was enough for me to see, and I left the scene of murder, for no other term can be applied to this "infernal" transaction. The declarations of the Brahmins, that she would not survive three o'clock, being a satisfactory conclusion to my friends, that the drugs that might have been administered to her were of the most destructive nature; and it would be well if government would interfere, in a similar case of self-immolation, to postpone the ceremony beyond the time the death of the victim was so prophesied; and if it occurred, to subject the body to the investigation of surgeons, in order to discover the fact of murder, or not. In the instance I speak of, the woman was perfectly insensible, and no part of this abominable ceremony could be said to have had her consent. I am, Sir, &c.

AN EYE WITNESS.

NEW-ORLEANS, FEB. 4.

An item of Mexican News.—Capt. Mestre, of the brig Santa Anna, from Campeachy, represents that the province of Yucatan is in a state of complete anarchy: that when he left Campeachy the people were fighting in the streets—one party headed by the monks and priests, contending for the Emperor Iturbide, who has promised to establish the holy inquisition; and the other party, the people, contending for their natural rights and a republican form of government. We learn from another source, that Iturbide's prospects became daily more obscure at his head quarters, and in the neighborhood of the capital.

NEWPORT, R. I. FEB. 22.—Arrived, brig Bowdoin, Carr, 18 days from Matanzas bound to Warren. Sailed on the 31st inst. in co. with brigs Abeona, for Providence, and Neptune, of Bristol, for Trieste. After being out 4 hours from Matanzas, saw a piratical schr. coming out from the land, full of men, and rowing with 14 sweeps. On her coming up with the Bowdoin, she hoisted a red flag and commenced firing with round and grape shot, at the same time ordering Capt. Carr to "strike or die." As soon as the pirate was within a sufficient distance, the Bowdoin returned the fire from her carriage guns and musketry, which raked the deck of the pirates, killing several, and compelling them immediately to haul off, having only 7 men to be seen on the deck, and rowing with only three sweeps—she stood again for the land. Had it not been entirely calm, Capt. Carr would have been enabled to have sunk the pirate. The Abeona and Neptune being in co. at the time, and being both armed, assisted the Bowdoin in repulsing the pirates. The Bowdoin mounts four carriage guns, with muskets, &c.

In addition to the accounts given by our correspondent at Newport, of the gallant defence of the brig Bowdoin, the Providence Patriot mentions that the piratical schr. mounted 1 large gun on a pivot, and was supposed to contain 70 or 80 men, and that she came so near the brigs that the captains saw people on board whom they had traded with at Matanzas. The brigs were injured in their rigging by the fire of the pirates, and some of the crew were wounded. The Bowdoin parted company with the other brigs after getting through the passage.

Bost. D. Adv.

Robbery.—On Tuesday evening last, Mr. John A. Inslee, steward of the Philadelphia Almshouse, had his desk broken open and rifled of about 700 dollars. Suspicious immediately attached to a black fellow named Antony, who had been em-

ployed by him as a servant, but who had absented himself a few days previous.—Search was made, but he could not be found—some person, however, who knew him, had seen him passing through the streets with his coat pockets filled; in order, as it was supposed, to prevent the jingling of the silver he was presumed to have stolen, he at the time supporting his pocket with his hands. Upon inquiry at the Mail Stage Office, Mr. Inslee was informed by Mr. Chester Bailey that a person answering the description had started for N. York by the way of Amboy on Thursday; that the wind was ahead from Amboy to New-York; and that by going on in the mail, he (Mr. I.) would reach New-York as soon if not sooner than his servant. This was Friday, 2 o'clock. At 3 Mr. I. took his seat in the mail stage for this city, where he arrived at 8 on Saturday. At 12 the doop from Amboy arrived; Mr. I. proceeded on board with an officer, where the first person he beheld was his *eldest* servant; bounding up from the cabin with the utmost satisfaction at his escape; but upon perceiving Mr. I. his countenance fell; and truly the transition of his features at this moment were a study for Cooper or Keat. Neglectful of the sable charms of his lawful wife, Mister Antony had brought with him a mulatto lady, the partner of his treasure.—Both were taken into custody, and upon examining their trunks, among new hats, boots, shawls, and other articles, as the showman says, *too tedious to mention*, was found a pocket book containing about 270 dollars. Upon his examination, Antony confessed the robbery, and stated that a black man named Plato (not the philosopher) was an accomplice. That Plato stood without the building while he (Antony) entered and committed the theft, and that Plato was to give the alarm by whistling if any body approached. Upon rejoining his comrade the money was put into Plato's hands for division, as he could read, most of the money being in bank bills. Plato remains in Philadelphia.—Mr. Inslee set off early on Sunday morning for Philadelphia, with a hope of arresting Plato on his arrival. The probability is that the greater part of the money will then be recovered.

N. Y. Gaz. 18th inst.

A melancholy scene.—A correspondent at Conwayborough, in Horry district, informs us, that on the 21st ultimo he was called on by the coroner of the district to attend an inquisition on a most solemn and impressive occasion—"On approaching the spot," observes our correspondent, "I was presented with the view of the dead body of a white man, of at least 60 years of age, whose snowy but rory locks would have led us to believe his pursuits far different from that which an inscrutable Providence determined should be his last. It appeared, from the evidence, that he had attempted to rob a potatoe-house, in which a gun was set, and on his entry he inadvertently touched the spring, and was thus, by his own hand, instantaneously hurried before an angry God! What solemn and useful reflections might be drawn from this awful dispensation!"—If *any* Intel.

The cotton factory, principally owned by Mr. D. Avery, in Meredith, N. H. with most of its contents, machinery, &c. were destroyed by fire in the afternoon of the 13th inst. The fire is reported to have originated in the *Picker*, placed near the stairs; and the flames were so rapid as to produce the entire destruction of the building in 37 minutes. Seven females were at work in the third story, at the time, and being precluded the means of escape by the stairs, six of them leaped from the windows, a distance of thirty feet, and were more or less grievously injured from broken limbs and bruises; and the other was taken from a small window by means of a ladder, almost suffocated. The factory contained 700 spindles, and 20 looms, and the loss is estimated at between 25 and 50,000 dollars.

We have been told that the Indians at the eastward prognosticate great freshets during the approaching spring; from the circumstance of the *beavers* having built their houses one story higher than common last fall. This they consider an invariable forerunner of great freshets. [Salem Gazette.]

Looking-glass Curtain.—The managers of the New-York theatre announced for exhibition on Wednesday evening week, a looking-glass curtain, equal in size to the drop curtain. For extent of machinery, cost in the production, and brilliant magnificence of effect, it is asserted that this splendid spectacle is unequalled by any other in any theatre. It reflects in one lucid sea of glass, the entire audience, and every object in front of the stage. The elegance and richness of its frame work renders the superb ornament complete.

An excellent rule for living happy in society is never to concern ourselves with the affairs of others, unless they desire it. Under the pretence of being useful, people often show more curiosity than kindness.