

NATIONAL AFFAIRS.

NATIONAL ROAD. Report of the Postmaster General on the subject of the most practicable Post Route from New Orleans to Washington City.

POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT, 15th December, 1834. Sir: In obedience to a resolution of the Senate of the United States, adopted at their last session, requiring the Postmaster General to report to the Senate, at the present session, the most practicable post route from New Orleans to Washington City...

The military road, as it is called, from Columbus, in Mississippi, to Madisonville, in Louisiana, is on nearly a direct line from the former to New Orleans, and much nearer than the road by the way of Washington and Natchez.

Some years since, a contract was made by this department, to transmit the mail to New Orleans from this City, by Salisbury, in North Carolina; Spartanburg, in South Carolina; Athens and Fort Hawkins, in Georgia; and Fort Stoddard, in Alabama, the distance being computed in 1260 miles.

There is a mail route from Knoxville, in Tennessee, by the way of Kingstons, in the same state; Bennettsville, Cahawba, and St. Stephen's in Alabama, to New Orleans, which makes the distance from Washington to that place, 1,222 miles.

The post route to New Orleans, which passes through the capitals of the South, this distance might be at 1,312 miles, if no greater deviations, from a direct line were made; than would be necessary to obtain good ground for a road, and to pass through Richmond, Raleigh, Columbia and Milledgeville; and thence by Coweta and St. Stephens to New Orleans.

On a direct line from Washington to New Orleans, the distance is 960 miles. This line passes near Warrenton, Charlottesville Lexington Big Lick, Grayson Court House, in Virginia; Asheville, in North Carolina; thence through the Indian country by Cahawba and St. Stephens, in Alabama, to Pearlton, near Lake Borgne; thence to New Orleans.

The north western part of North Carolina, through which this line passes, is so mountainous as to render a deviation to the south or north, in constructing a road, indispensable. A deviation to the north, so as to avoid the mountains, will pass by or near Fotheringay, Wythe Court House, Christiansburg, and Abingdon, in Virginia; Knoxville, in Tennessee, thence through the Tennessee Valley, by Cahawba, to New Orleans, on nearly a straight direction. This route is estimated at 1,056 miles, including ten per cent. for the variation from a straight line from Washington to Knoxville; thence to New Orleans; and it is believed to be the nearest direction practicable for a post road from Washington to New Orleans.

The route by the way of Warrenton, Abingdon, and Knoxville, affords great facilities for the construction of a mail road. Through Virginia and Tennessee, the materials are abundant, for the formation of a turnpike; and through the state of Alabama and Mississippi, it is believed, from information which has been obtained, that in no part of the Union can an artificial road of the same length be constructed at less expense.

the formation of a solid road. Some information has been communicated to this Department on this subject, but it does not come strictly within the scope of the resolution. If a substantial road were made, in this direction, to New Orleans, the mail could be transported to that place, from this city, in eleven days.

The route on which the mail is now transported to New Orleans, although more circuitous than some others, in the present condition of roads, is the safest and best. There are many obstructions on it, but they are less numerous than on any other. Greater celerity and safety are given to the mail on this route, than could be given to it on any other, to New Orleans and it passes through, and supplies, many important towns and villages, and thickly settled parts of the country.

In the winter and spring seasons of the year, the mail on this route, as on all others in the same parts of the country, is sometimes entirely obstructed by high waters, and when this is not the case, it is frequently much injured by the mail horses swimming creeks and through swamps of considerable extent.

The Department now pays at the rate of fifty two dollars and seventy six cents a mile for the transportation of the mail three trips in each week, to New Orleans. On a good turnpike road, it could be conveyed in a stage as often, and in less than half the time, at the same expense.

I have the honor to be, respectfully, your obedient servant. JOHN McLEAN.

Hon. John Gaillard.

FROM THE NATIONAL JOURNAL.

As the propriety of the conduct of Commodore PORTER, in relation to the recent affair at Faxardo, will probably become the subject of official investigation, we publish his letter to the Secretary of the Navy, without remarks:

UNITED STATES' SHIP JOHN ADAMS.

Sir: I have the honor to inform you that, on my arrival at St. Thomas, I was informed that Lieutenant Commandant Platt, of the United States' schooner Beagle, who had visited Faxardo, a town on the east coast of Porto Rico, about two miles from the sea, for the purpose of making inquiries respecting a quantity of dry goods supposed to have been deposited there by pirates, was, after being recognized as an American officer, by the proper authorities there, imprisoned, and shamefully treated.

Indignant at the outrages which have so repeatedly been heaped on us by the authorities of Porto Rico, I proceeded to this place, where I left the ship, and taking with me the schooner Grampus and Beagle, the boats of the John Adams, with Captain Dallas, and part of his officers, seamen, and marines, proceeded to the port of Faxardo, where, finding preparations were making to fire on us from the battery on shore, I sent a party of seamen and marines to spike the guns, which was done in a few minutes, as the Spaniards fled on the landing of the party.

As we were getting under way, a number of persons appeared on the beach, bearing a white flag, and having with them some bullocks, and a number of horses, apparently laden, no doubt a present from the authorities of the place, which they informed me they should send me.

Every officer and man, on this occasion, conducted themselves in a manner to meet my entire approbation.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your most obedient servant. D. PORTER.

Hon. SAMUEL L. SOUTHARD, Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

WASHINGTON, JAN. 3.

THE LA FAYETTE DINNER.

According to previous arrangements, the Dinner given by the Members of both Houses of Congress to General LA FAYETTE, took place on Saturday, the first of January. At 4 o'clock, the whole range of front rooms, at Williamson's extensive establishment, (now occupied by private families), was thrown open for the reception of the company; and, at 6 o'clock, the company, in number exceeding two hundred, sat down to a sumptuous and elegant dinner, prepared in Mr. Williamson's best style.

Mr. Gaillard, the President protem. of the Senate, and Mr. Clay the Speaker of the House of Representatives, presided at the feast.

On the right of the President of the Senate, sat our venerable chief magistrate, the President of the United States; who, graced, by his presence as a guest, the most memorable feast that has ever taken place in this country. On the left of the chair sat THE NATION'S GUEST, supported by several of his brethren of the Revolution, among whom were recognized Gen. Sam'l. Smith, Gen. Jackson, Mr. Rufus King, and Messrs. Chandler and D'Wolf, of the Senate, and General Udree of the House.

After the cloth was removed, a number of patriotic Toasts were drunk, accompanied by appropriate Music from the excellent band attached to the Marine Corps. The sentiments were received by the company with great enthusiasm. When the health of Mr. Monroe was proposed, the company rose with one accord, and seemed to pay him the homage, not merely of the lips, but of devoted hearts.

The following is Gen. La Fayette's valedictory: "Perpetual Union among the United States; it has saved us in our times of danger: it will save the world."

Very respectfully, THOS. A. ALLISON, A. M. GAITHER, JAS. H. HALL, JAS. CAMPBELL.

CURIOUS NOTIONS of the TURKS.

A letter from Constantinople, in Turkey, in speaking of the defeat of the Turkish fleet by the Greeks, contains the following paragraph, to which we have appended an extract from the Grand Signor's firman, (or proclamation):

"It seems that the Sultan ascribes the disasters of his fleet to the relaxed devotion of the Mussulmans. He has just published a firman, ordering the women to dress less indecently, and cast less wanton looks upon the men."

The following is an extract from the firman of the Grand Signor respecting the toilet of the Turkish women:

"Since the women must never, when they go out, deviate from the rules of decency and honor, it is especially necessary to take care that none of their actions be contrary to the holy law."

"Henceforward, therefore, the women shall not wear embroidered serdages, nor condemnable colours, nor veils artfully contrived to show their faces; whoever be the husband or relations of all those who may be seen in such a dress, they shall be made answerable, and punished for the conduct of their women."

These paragraphs, to many, may seem to be something akin to the family of Humburg; but we can assure them that faithful history affords more striking illustrations of the ridiculous superstitions of the Turks, than this firman of the Grand Signor.

If his Turkish majesty is so ungallant as to interdict, by proclamation, the small privilege to the women of his empire of peeping from behind their veils, what would he think of the modesty of the ladies of our country, who constantly expose the whole circumference of their pretty faces, (and sometimes more than their faces) to the noon-day gaze of all the world round about them?

The Supreme Court of this state met in Raleigh on the 27th ult. and from the Justices composing it, the following young gentlemen have obtained licence to practice law: DAVID L. SWAIN, Buncombe; JOSEPH A. HILL, New-Hanover; BOYKIN, Guilford; CHARLES G. SPAIGHT, Newbern; GEO. W. HAYWOOD, Raleigh.

EXTRA LUCE. A person at Philadelphia lately bought four quarters of tickets, and the first number drew \$12—second \$60—third \$1000—fourth \$5000.

Salisbury, January 18, 1835. NATIONAL ROAD. The citizens of Salisbury, and the adjacent country, will bear in mind, that an adjourned meeting on the subject of the National Road, is to be held at the Court-House in this town, on Saturday next, the 23d inst.; and at this meeting, the committee appointed for the purpose, is to report the draft of a memorial to the President of the U. S. in favor of locating the Road on the route by Salisbury.

STATESVILLE, JAN. 11, 1835. Mr. White: A meeting of the citizens of Statesville, and its vicinity, was held this day, at the house of Robert Worke, Esq. in the town of Statesville, and the following Resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That this meeting highly approves of the policy of having a great national Road from Washington to New-Orleans.

Resolved, That the location of this road is a matter of high importance to the sections of country through which it shall pass, and an object of laudable emulation among the citizens of different parts to endeavour to have it pass through such sections.

Resolved, That it is the opinion of this meeting, that a route which shall pass through the towns of Salem, in Stokes county, and Statesville in Iredeil county, will combine as many or more advantages, and as few or fewer disadvantages, than any other route;

Resolved, That Col. Thomas A. Allison, Robert Worke, Esq. Alfred M. Gaither, Esq. James H. Hall, and James Campbell, be a committee for the purpose of drafting an address, and forwarding the same to the President of the United States, for the purpose of turning the attention of the executive to this route, and claiming from government that attention to their claims that they may be found justly entitled to;

Resolved, That the said committee transmit a copy of the foregoing resolutions to some person of influence in the town of Salem, for the purpose of obtaining their co-operation, and to the office of the Western Carolinian for insertion in that paper, and to the honorable Lewis Williams, and the honorable Henry W. Connor, of the house of Representatives.

We are, Sir, Very respectfully, THOS. A. ALLISON, A. M. GAITHER, JAS. H. HALL, JAS. CAMPBELL.

WILLIAM D. HOPKINS, Warren; NATH. W. ALEXANDER, Cabarrus; JESSE TURNER, Orange; JOS. H. POOL, Pasquotank.

GEN. LA FAYETTE.

E. F. Tatnall, Esq. a member of congress from Georgia, has written to the Mayor of the city of Savannah, on the subject of General La Fayette's visit to the south; in which he says, that, as the General wishes to be present at the inauguration of the new President, he will not leave Washington city before the 5th or 6th of March.

A SECRET TO BE TOLD!

Messrs. Sperry & Hogan give notice in a New Haven (Connecticut) paper, that they intend publishing an account of a successful mode of treating the bite of a Rattle Snake, and Chink Head or Moccasin Snake: the symptoms will be given; and the remedies, with their doses, and the manner of administering them, will be explained; the articles used, consist wholly of native plants; and these gentlemen say the secret of this cure has been kept within the family of the Sperrys for more than a hundred and fifty years!

We suppose all persons who like to hear (as well as TELL) secrets; and all who expect to be bitten by snakes, will wish to get this work; and we would advise such to buy it, were we sure the book would not be a worse bite than that of any snake against whose venom it proposes a remedy.

A scrap of news for all lovers of long names. We give new married folks the liberty to cut it out, and put it into their pocket-books, all the while they are in the world.

"In August last, the second daughter of the Emperor of Brazil was baptised by the name of... Donna Francisca Carolina Joannna Charlotte-Leopoldina of the Angeli-Romanax Xavier de Paulina-Mibaello Gabriella-Rafaela-Genzoga.

We are authorized to announce Maj. Samuel P. Carson, of Burke county, as a candidate to represent, in the House of Representatives of the 19th Congress of the U. S. the 12th congressional district of North-Carolina: this district is composed of Burke, Buncombe, Rutherford and Haywood counties.

"CONSTRUCTION CONSTREUD."

The recent Presidential election has, as it seems to us, occasioned some improvements in political logic, and given rise to some new readings of the Constitution. As one instance of which, it might be remarked, that during the prospect of a tie between Mr. Crawford and Mr. Adams, the Constitution on this subject, which was so far new and ingenious, that these two gentlemen were to be considered as one, and thus to constitute the last of the three, out of which a President was to be chosen by the House of Representatives.

The words of the Constitution are, "the person having the greatest number of votes shall be President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of Electors appointed." And if no person have such majority, then from the highest number, not exceeding three, on the list of those voted for as President, the House of Representatives shall choose immediately by ballot the President."

Here appears to be no ambiguity, and no one ever heretofore, we believe, doubted that the meaning of those words was, that from the persons having the highest number of votes, but not exceeding three of these, the House should choose, in the event of there being no choice by the Electors.

But the Intelligencer is of opinion, on "closer examination of the Constitution," that it does not mean from the persons having the greatest number of votes, but from the "numbers not exceeding three," the House shall choose—and that therefore, in the expected tie, the numbers would stand thus:

Gen. Jackson being the highest, would be No. 1. Mr. Adams next highest, would be No. 2. And Mr. Crawford and Clay, being equal, would be No. 3.

And thus four persons and three numbers would be placed before the House of Representatives for their choice—and in accordance with this idea, if the House selected No. 1. Gen. Jackson would be President; if they should choose No. 2. Mr. Adams would be President; if they should choose No. 3. Mr. Crawford and Mr. Clay, like man and wife, would be the Executive Office in partnership, and their joint election furnish a practical evidence of the ingenuity of this construction, and of the happy method in which the Constitution provided for this unlooked for contingency, and for gratifying the friends of both individuals. If, however, the office is ever held in partnership, it might be a question whether it would not be better that it should be held by man and wife, under suitable restrictions, rather than by two aspiring