

THE LEGISLATURE.

On the first page of today's paper, will be found the proceedings at the organization of the legislature, and the Governor's message. Below we have given some further proceedings.

SENATE.

Thursday, Dec. 26.—On motion of Mr. Sewell, it was Resolved, that the speaker of the Senate assign suitable places in the Senate Chamber for one or more stenographers for this session.

Mr. M'Kay presented the following resolution, which was laid on the table.

Resolved, That a select committee be appointed to enquire what measures may be necessary to be adopted for validating acts which may have been done by the Governor, Treasurer and Secretary of State during a supposed vacancy in these several Offices, and for supplying those vacancies.

On motion of Mr. Hill, of Franklin, the following Standing Committees were appointed:

Of Claims—Messrs. Love, Gray, Spaight of Cary, Leck, Matthews, Beard of Rowan, Sellers and Bell.

Of Propositions and Grievances—Messrs. Spaight of Greene, Montgomery, Forney, Hawkins, Elliot, Hill of Stokes, Burbey, and Wilson.

Of Privileges and Elections—Messrs. Vanhook, Croome, M'Millan, Boddie, Gilchrist, Davenport, Alexander and Locke.

Of Finance—Messrs. King, Sharp, M'Kay, Pickett, Hill of Franklin, Seawell, Williams of Beaufort, and Stokes.

Mr. Leck, from the committee appointed to conduct the balloting for three Engraving Clerks, reported that Samuel F. Patterson was duly elected; and that no other person in nomination had received a majority of the votes.

On motion of Mr. Seawell, Secretary of State, he is directed to suspend the issuing of grants for Lands, and to cease from all official duties in his office, until otherwise directed by this General Assembly.

Received from the Governor a Message, (inserted in our 1st page,) which was read and ordered to be printed.

On motion of Mr. Stokes, the vote on the resolution presented by him, in relation to the Secretary of State, was reconsidered. Mr. Stokes then moved to amend the said resolution, by inserting the following preamble: "Whereas doubts exist whether the office of Secretary of State has not become vacant since the 30th of November last, in consequence of the law altering the time of the annual meeting of the General Assembly." Which amendment was agreed to.

Mr. M'Kay moved that the resolution be further amended, by striking out the words, "and to cease from all official duties in his office," which was negatived, and, on motion of Mr. Hill, of Stokes, the resolution was laid on the table.

December 27.—On motion of Mr. Forney, the Senate proceeded to the consideration of the proposition received from the other House yesterday, relative to the election of a Governor of the State. The proposition was agreed to, and Messrs. Forney and Williams, of Martin, were appointed superintendants of the balloting on the part of the Senate.

Mr. Sead offered the following resolution, which was rejected: Resolved, That the Constitution of the United States, and the several amendments to it, and the Constitution of this State, be printed, one copy for each Member of the General Assembly.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, Dec 26.—On motion of Mr. Burke, ordered that a writ of election be issued to the Sheriff of Perquimons, directing him to hold an election in said county on the 8th and 9th of January, to supply the vacancy occasioned by the death of John Pogue.

Messrs. Swain, Carson, Strange, Gray and Cox of Lenoir, were appointed a committee to prepare rules of orders for the government of this House during the session.

On motion of Mr. Swain, it was Resolved, That the Speaker assign suitable places in the Hall for one or more stenographers during the session.

The Governor's Message was received, read, and ordered to be printed. [See our 1st page.]

Wednesday, Dec. 27.

A message from the Senate, consenting to ballot for Governor this morning, and stating that Messrs. Forney and Williams of Martin form a Committee on their part to conduct the balloting.—Thereupon Messrs. Fisher and Potter were appointed on the part of this House.

Another message from the Senate, pro-

posing to ballot immediately for Treasurer, Secretary of State and Comptroller. The proposition was concurred in, and Messrs. Marshall and Frederic were appointed to conduct the balloting on the part of this House.

Mr. Fisher, from the committee appointed to conduct the balloting for Governor, reported that Hutchins G. Burton was duly elected to that office.

An ineffectual attempt was made to elect two Engraving Clerks—no person in nomination having a majority of the votes.

Mr. Swain, from the committee appointed to prepare Rules of order for the government of this House, made a report, which was concurred in.

The following Standing Committees were appointed:

Claims—Messrs. Holland, Gordon, N. Jones, Whitaker, Spruill, Patterson, Wilson, Bernard, J. Cox, Ellison, M'Millan, W. W. Jones, Brower, Alexander, Marshall and Hodges.

Propositions and Grievances—Messrs. Carson, Clayton, M'Ghee, Ransom, Gray, House, Hardy, Montgomery, Edwards, Whitehurst, Simmons, Stephens, Hampton, Settle, Seawell and M'Dermid.

Internal Improvements—Messrs. Ship, Swain, Hill, Donoho, Green, Arrington, Monon, Stradman, Blount, Burns, Moore, W. W. Jones, Fisher, Barnett, Strange and M'Millan.

Education—Messrs. Love, Blevins, Scott, J. E. Lewis, Potter, Wiche, Irred, H. W. Lee, Fox, Dickinson, Gilmour, Moore, Morehead, Shepperd, M'Neil and Howell.

Agriculture—Messrs. S. J. Stclair, New, J. W. L., R. Lind, Latham, King, D., Bell, O. B. Cox, Raiford, Sutton, Underwood, Torrence, Simpson, Wade, Worth and J. Smith.

Internal Improvements—Messrs. Richardson, Edmondson, Brown, Weston, Fowlers, Sharp, Bateman, Boman, Adams, Kilpatrick, Frederick, Best, Walker, Linn, Gilmour and A'ford.

FINANCES OF THE STATE.

It appears by the Comptroller's annual Report, (laid before the Legislature on Tuesday last,) that, for the past year, ending on the 31st October last, the Revenue of the State amounted to \$135,147 49, and the Expenditures to \$123,729 07—viz

Table with columns for RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURES. RECEIPTS includes Treasury for monies paid for entries of vacant land, Do. for monies paid by the revenue, Do. by sheriffs on account of the revenue of 1875, Do. by the clerks of county courts on account of licenses issued to tailors of spirituous liquors, Do. by auctioneers on account of duties on sales at auction, Do. by the Bank of Newbern for tax \$4,091 00, Do. do Bank of Cape Fear for do. \$6,225 00, Do. of dividends paid by the State Bank on shares held by the state, Do. of dividends paid by the Bank of Newbern, Do. of dividends paid by the Bank of Cape Fear, Do. of monies paid by individuals on account of public lands near Raleigh, sold in 1826.

Table with columns for EXPENDITURES. Includes Legislature, Executive Department, Executive Council, Department of State, Treasury Department, Comptroller's Department, Adjutant General's Office, Public Printers, Judiciary Department, Land Deficiencies, Sheriffs for settling tax, Congressional Election, Electoral Election, Repairs of State House, Governor's House, Building the Treasury Office, Public Bell, Building the Belfry, Public Library, Expenditures of the Board of Agriculture in conformity with an Act of the General Assembly of 1874, Roanoke Navigation Company, The Buncombe Turnpike Company, State Bank of North Carolina, Treasury Notes, Pensioners, Reception of General Lafayette, Miss 'Idney M. Blakeley, Colonel Benjamin Forsythe's Son, Contingencies, Bank Stock purchased with a part of the surplus Money in the Treasury, Literary Fund.

Imposture.—Mr. Hartley, an English missionary, writes that the Greek monks have lately brought to the island of Zante "one of the arms of John the Baptist!" and that they are enriching themselves by showing it to the credulous multitude. Some of the Greek ladies give as much as 15 dollars for a sight of such rarities!

SENATE.

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Dec. 19.—Messrs. Van Kell and Brine, merchants, of Baltimore, have petitioned Congress, praying a drawback on certain Spanish playing cards, sent to them from Bremen, destined for Havana. The value of the cards was estimated at about \$200—the duty on them amounted to upwards of \$700.

Dec. 21.—Mr. Hayne, in pursuance of notice given yesterday, asked leave and introduced a bill authorizing the erection of a Marine Hospital for sick and disabled seamen, at or near Charleston, S. C., which was read twice, and referred to the Committee on Commerce.

Mr. H. having obtained leave, introduced a bill to provide for a report of the proceedings in the Supreme Court of the United States; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. Mason, agreeably to notice given on Wednesday last, asked and obtained leave to introduce a bill to provide for the location of two townships of land designed for a Seminary of Learning in Florida.

Mr. J. Buren, from the Committee on the Judiciary, reported the bill for taking precedence in the Courts of the United States in certain cases, with amendments.

On motion of Mr. Holmes, it was resolved, that when the Senate adjourns, it be until Tuesday next.

Dec. 2.—Mr. Harrison, from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported the bill to make further compensation to officers commanding companies in the Army, to include "subalterns." This amendment was agreed to, and the bill was ordered to a second reading.

Mr. H. in pursuance of notice given yesterday, asked and obtained leave to introduce a bill "to prevent desertions from the army, and for other purposes," which was read twice, and referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

The following resolution, submitted yesterday by Mr. Smith, of Maryland, was taken up and agreed to:

Resolved, That the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads be instructed to inquire into the justice and expediency of allowing distributing Postmasters a specific sum for Clerk hire, in cases where the gross amount of their commissions do not exceed \$1500 per annum; also, whether it be not proper to allow them compensation for the distribution of letters, or to change the present system, so as to allow for distribution, in lieu of delivery of free letters.

Dec. 22.—Mr. Johnson, of Kentucky, from the Select Committee to whom the bill in relation to imprisonment for debt has been referred, reported the bill with amendments; and, on motion, they were ordered to be printed.

HOUSE REPRESENTATIVES.

Dec. 19.—On motion of Mr. Drayton, Resolved, That the Committee on the Judiciary be instructed to inquire into the expediency of establishing a uniform system of Bankruptcy, throughout the United States.

On motion of Mr. Bryan, of North Carolina.

Resolved, That the Committee on Commerce be instructed to inquire whether any, and if any, what measures are necessary to secure the more effectual and economical collection of the Revenue of the United States, at the port of Ocracoke, North Carolina, and whether it is not expedient to establish a Hospital for seamen at that port, or its vicinity.

On motion of Mr. Mitchell, of S. C. Resolved, That the Committee on Naval Affairs be instructed to inquire into the expediency of passing an act to appropriate annually, the sum of \$300,000 to the gradual increase of the Navy, from and after the first day of January, 1827.

Dec. 20.—The Speaker laid before the House, the following communications:

One from the Secretary of the Treasury, relative to the importation of wool on sheep skins—which was referred to the Committee on Manufactures, and ordered to be printed.

One from the Secretary of War, accompanied by a report on a system of Cavalry Tactics, and Field Artillery—referred to the Committee on Militia.

Dec. 22.—Mr. Cooke, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, reported a bill appropriating sums for the purchase of certain lands in Georgia.

On motion of Mr. Campbell: Resolved, That the sundry reports made to this House at the last Session, by the Secretary of War, in relation to desertions from the army, be referred to the Committee on Military Affairs, with instructions to inquire into the expediency of adopting some further legal provisions which may more effectually restrain desertions.

On motion of Mr. Mitchell, of Maryland:

Resolved, That the several memorials from the Captains of the Army of the United States, (now on the files of this House,) asking an augmentation of their pay, be referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

On motion of Mr. Hamilton: Resolved, That the Committee on Military Affairs be instructed to inquire into the expediency of graduating the pay of the Surgeons and Assistant Surgeons of the Army of the United States, in proportion to the length of time they may have been in service.

On motion of Mr. Barney: Resolved, That the Committee of Ways and Means be instructed to inquire into the expediency of creating the office of commissioner of the customs, whose duty it shall be, under the direction of the Secretary of the Treasury, to superintend this important branch of the revenue, and to enforce a greater conformity in the collection of the same.

On motion of Mr. Marble: Resolved, That the petition and documents of Wyl. Blount, (of Tennessee) referred to a Select Committee at the last session of Congress, and on which a bill was reported and passed this House, be again referred to a Select Committee, to be raised for that purpose, and that they have leave to report by bill or otherwise.

On motion of Mr. M'Nair: Resolved, That there be appointed a Select Committee, on Weights and Measures.

On motion of Mr. Weems: Resolved, That the Committee on the Judiciary be instructed to inquire into the expediency of amending the laws of naturalization, heretofore made on that subject, so that when any person shall apply to be admitted a citizen of the United States, and shall prove to the satisfaction of a Judge or Judges of a district or county court, of the State wherein he resides, on the oath or affirmation of at least two witnesses, that he has been a resident within the limits and under the jurisdiction of the U. S. for at least 3 years preceding the time of such application, as also, the place or places where the applicant has resided for at least five years, as aforesaid, shall be deemed a citizen of the United States, and be entitled upon taking the usual oath of allegiance, and paying the legal cost, to receive a certificate of naturalization, although he may have omitted, from ignorance or improper information, or from being a minor, to have entered his name as a candidate for naturalization; and whether any other, and what alterations may be necessary, in the existing law on the subject of naturalization.

On motion of Mr. Ward: Resolved, That the Committee on Manufactures be instructed to inquire into the expediency of augmenting the duty on slate.

WASHINGTON, DEC. 23. Congress.—In the Senate, no business of importance was transacted yesterday; at half past twelve o'clock, the senate went into consideration of Executive business.

In the House of Representatives, immediately after the reports from Committees had been received, Mr. Metcalf, after a few remarks on the death of his late colleague, Robert P. Henry; Mr. M'Nair, of Kentucky, after some similar remarks on the death of his predecessor, Col. James Johnson; and Mr. Miller, of Pennsylvania, after a few observations having reference to the death of his late colleague Henry Wilson, moved resolutions that the House, in testimony of respect for these gentlemen, do wear crape on the left arm, for thirty days. The resolutions were unanimously adopted; and the House then adjourned.

Journal.

Dec 23.—In the House of Representatives, a brief discussion was elicited by a resolution offered by Mr. Cook, the object of which was to obtain some relief for the purchasers of lands who, not having completed their payments, have incurred the penalty of forfeiture of the lands. His resolution asked for the appointment of a Select Committee, to inquire into the expediency of exchanging these certificates for scrip, which the holders might dispose of for other lands.

Committee on Enrolled Bills.—On the part of the House Messrs. Angel and Forward; on the part of the Senate Mr. Knight.

Grand Jury.—A Massachusetts Grand Jury (Suffolk county) has recommended the employment of daily labour of persons imprisoned for debt. This is going a little too far. Mr. Johnson, a member of Congress from Kentucky, has given notice in the Senate of his intention to move for abolishing imprisonment for debt. We think his proposition the more sensible and humane of the two.—N. Y. Eng.

The Russian ultimatum, it appears, was the independence (of the Porte) of Wallachia and Moldavia. These countries will probably now be in some measure dependent upon Russia; but it will be far better, considering the present disposition of the Russian Court, than absolute dependence, or rather abject subjection to the Turks.

LEGISLATIVE.

The Interrogation in the office of Governor, Mr. Seawell, of Stokes, in the office of the Governor, Public Treasurer, Comptroller, and Secretary of State, which occurred previous to the meeting of the General Assembly. A short discussion took place, in the senate, on the subject of the Interrogation in the office of the Governor, Public Treasurer, Comptroller, and Secretary of State, which occurred previous to the meeting of the General Assembly. A short discussion took place, in the senate, on the subject of the Interrogation in the office of the Governor, Public Treasurer, Comptroller, and Secretary of State, which occurred previous to the meeting of the General Assembly. A short discussion took place, in the senate, on the subject of the Interrogation in the office of the Governor, Public Treasurer, Comptroller, and Secretary of State, which occurred previous to the meeting of the General Assembly.

On Tuesday, the 30th, a message was received from the House of Commons, proposing to ballot for Governor of the State, at the meeting of the two Houses to-morrow morning; and informing that Hutchins G. Burton was in nomination for the appointment.

Mr. M'Kay, hoped the Senate would not concur in the proposition from the other House. It is, said he, within the knowledge of every member here, that by an act passed at the last session, the annual meeting of the Legislature was changed from third Monday in November to the last Monday in December. By this alteration, doubts are entertained, whether the Governor and other State Officers who are required to be elected annually, do at the present time, constitutionally fill their offices. The Governor was elected, on 7th December, 1823, and it is alleged, that the term for which he was chosen, expired on the 7th instant. If it be true, that there is any constitutional difficulty in the case, it will again occur at the next Session, if we elect the Governor to-morrow. That question will come on on the 2d Monday in January, but the Governor's official term will expire on the 27th December.

Mr. M'Kay read the clause of the Constitution which provides that the Senate and House of Commons, jointly at their first meeting after each annual election, shall by ballot elect a Governor for one year, who shall not be eligible to that office longer than three years, in six successive years: He stated also, that the Secretary of State received his appointment on the 30th of November, three years ago, and consequently, that his office became vacant on the 30th ult. If the above construction be the true one.—Without wishing to discuss, at present, this Constitutional difficulty, he hoped the Senate would not agree to ballot to-morrow, but would adopt a resolution to enquire what measures are necessary to be taken in relation to this subject.

Mr. Seawell did not pretend to have any definite ideas on the subject, but he thought it right to afford every member an opportunity, for investigating the question, and of freeing their minds from doubt. Without professing any opinion as to the point under consideration, no great harm could, as he conceived, arise from the delay of a day. Members might reflect, and in twenty four hours come to a determination very different from that now entertained by them. He hoped the gentleman from Bladen would agree that the Message should lie on the table.

Mr. M'Kay assented to the suggestion of the gentleman from Wake, and the message was ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. M'Kay then offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That a select committee be appointed to enquire what measures may be necessary to be adopted for validating acts which may have been done by the Governor, Treasurer and Secretary of State, during a supposed vacancy in their several offices and for supplying these vacancies.

Mr. Forney said, he did not believe that these vacancies had occurred, and therefore moved that the resolution lie on the table.

Mr. M'Kay had no objection to this disposition of his resolution, but had the gentleman attended to it, he would have perceived, that it speaks of a supposed vacancy, thus clearly admitting that there is doubt on the subject.

It was ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Stokes, in rising to introduce a resolution, remarked, that it was time, if error had been committed, to put a stop to it. The Governor, understanding that doubts are entertained, as to the constitutionality of his exercising powers vested in him by virtue of his office, will probably refrain from any official act.—He would submit for the consideration of the Senate, a resolution, which had for its object the suspension of the duties of the Secretary of State, until this difficulty was adjusted. It is in these words:

Whereas, doubts exist whether the office of the Secretary of State has not become vacant, since the 30th day of November last, in consequence of the law altering the time of the annual meeting of the General Assembly, therefore Resolved, That the Secretary of State be, and he is hereby, directed, to suspend the issuing of Grants for Lands, and to cease from all official duties, until further directed by this General Assembly.

Mr. Spaight, of Greene, had no objection to the Resolution, but he could see no impropriety in this gentleman's continuing to perform his official duties.—He knew this objection was raised at the last session, when the bill to alter the