

marks of Mr. Webster's powerful and plausible mode of presenting them throughout. We do not doubt that Mr. Webster had a hand in its preparation. In his letter through the National Intelligencer, to satisfy his friends that he should not go out with his colleagues of the first Cabinet, he promised them "AN INSTITUTION, UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF CONGRESS, TO AID REVENUE AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS, AND TO GIVE THE COUNTRY THE BLESSINGS OF A GOOD CURRENCY AND CHEAP EXCHANGES." We take the present project as intended by Mr. Webster for the fulfillment of his pledge.

There are one or two concessions in it which argue some change for the better in Mr. Webster's notions of Government Banks and fiscal agencies. By admitting the right of repeal, as regards the new fiscal machine, he admits the Democratic doctrine that Government cannot irrevocably alienate its powers in favor of what must be considered a subordinate agency; in declaring that discounting corporations are not the proper sources of paper currency, another evidence is given of a great reformation on the part of Mr. Webster on the currency question. Whether Mr. Webster has derived improvement touching these vital matters, from the discussions of the Extra Session, his own reflections, or the rapid progress which public opinion has made in regard to them, we do not say; but it is certainly considering his station, a circumstance on which the country is to be congratulated.

### TWENTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS

Compiled from the Globe.

#### IN SENATE.

December 23.

The session to-day was short. No business of much importance was transacted. A bill was introduced by Mr. Linn, for the erection of a hospital in the city of Washington. The Senate adjourned, after a session of less than an hour, till Monday next.

#### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. Garrett Davis asked leave to offer a resolution, calling upon the Secretary of the Treasury to report the names and number of all officers employed in the different custom houses, their salaries and the amount of revenue collected at each custom house, also calling for other information from the Departments, and asking the President of the U. S. to report to the House under what law or authority the board of commissioners was appointed to examine into the affairs of New York custom house and the cost of such commission.

Several members objected to the reception of the resolution, and it was not received.

The House then resumed the consideration of Mr. Fillmore's resolution to refer that portion of the President's message relating to the tariff to the Committee on Manufactures, the question being on Mr. Rhett's amendment to the amendment of Mr. Atherton:

With instructions that, should it be in their opinion expedient to lay additional duties, they shall be so laid as not to discriminate in favor of any particular class of industry in the United States.

Mr. Atherton, who had the floor, addressed the House in an able and argumentative speech in favor of the motion, but principally in opposition to the protective policy.

Mr. Reynolds followed.

Mr. Arnold next addressed the House at great length in opposition to the amendment.

Mr. Waller then obtained the floor, but yielded it when

The Speaker communicated a report from the Secretary of State in relation to the sixth census, which was laid on the table and ordered to be printed. Several petitions were presented and referred; when

The House adjourned until Monday.

#### IN SENATE.

December 24.

Mr. King presented the credentials of Mr. Bagby of Alabama, Senator elect in the place of Clement C. Clay, who resigned. He was qualified and took his seat.

Several petitions were presented and referred; among which were two petitions from merchants and others of New York, praying the suspension of the operations of the Bankrupt law for two years from the first day of February next, presented by Mr. Wright. Mr. W. stated that one of the petitions was signed by the presidents of several of the banks, among which were the presidents of the Bank of America, the Leather Dealers, the Merchants, and the Sixty Banks. The petitions were referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

A resolution introduced by Mr. Allen was adopted, relating to the President for information whether a proposition had been made by either England or the United States, for a mutual right of search; and calling for such correspondence, if any, as has passed between the two Governments upon the subject.

Mr. Benton, agreeably to notice given on Thursday last, asked leave to introduce a bill for the postponement of the operations of the Bankrupt law till July next, and to extend its provisions to the banking corporations. Mr. Benton produced his motion with a long and able argument to show the necessity of the postponement, and the propriety and justice of including the banks. He argued that it was no bankrupt system in any sense of the term, and as such, Congress had no moral or constitutional right to pass it—that it was purely and simply an insolvent law, a property law, and a law for the abolition of debts, and calculated to free debtors from their creditors with the greatest possible rapidity, and the least possible trouble or expense.

Mr. Benton repeated, he was no friend even to a bona-fide bankrupt system, between man and man, such as prevails in England and other commercial countries; but as to the extra session act of theirs, the impious usurping of Bank and State, he detests and abhors it. It was an insult and an outrage upon the 19th century. It was big with shame and ruin to the present age, and with disastrous influence upon posterity. Millions upon millions of debt must be sponged by it. Thousands and tens of thousands of families must be reduced to want by it.

Mr. Calhoun did not rise to oppose the motion, for he said he believed, as he did, every word uttered by the mover of the bill, as to the evil effects of the Bankrupt act. He believed that act to be one of the most flagrant laws ever passed in Congress. He had risen to say he hoped the Senator (Mr. Benton) would not only persevere, but go a little farther and amend his bill, so as to repeal the act instead of postponing its operation. He did not, he would himself make a motion on the previous time so to amend the present bill. He had presented a few days back, a memorial from the Chamber of Commerce in his own State praying for the repeal of the act, and the above of his own opinion was in favor of it, would induce him

to make the amendment. There was one part of the Senator's remarks with which he did not coincide—those which urged the necessity of including banks, and making them subject to the bankrupt law. He was opposed to that proposition in any shape or form at that time.

Leave was then granted.

The bill was read the first, and, by special order, the second time, and referred to the committee on the Judiciary.

The Senate then adjourned.

#### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The Speaker called for the special order of the day, being Mr. Rhett's amendment to the motion of Mr. Fillmore to refer the subject of the tariff, as alluded to in the President's message, to the Committee on Manufactures.

Mr. Weller then took the floor. His object in rising, Mr. W. said, was not so much to discuss the question before the House, as to glance at some of the other topics that had been brought up in the course of the debate.

Much speculation had been heard on that floor in relation to the causes which produced the recent revolution in public sentiment, resulting every where in the defeat of the Whig party. Excuses had been manufactured in abundance by the defeated party, for the purpose of showing that it was not in consequence of the measures of the extra session that they were so signally overthrown. He could tell them of some other causes which operated on the public mind at the late elections. It was the violation of the pledges made by that party previous to the Presidential election, that contributed in no small degree to their discomfiture. The Whig party obtained power by charging the extravagance of expenditure on the last Administration, inducing the people to believe the charge to be true, and pledging themselves to bring about an economical administration of the Government. Well, what had been seen since this reform Administration came in power? Why, taking the estimates of the heads of Departments, with their recommendations of an increase of the navy, army, and of the expenditures of the Post Office, it would be seen that a plan was chalked out for an expenditure of upwards of fifty millions annually. They told the people before the election that the most enormous corruption existed in the administration of the Government, and pledged themselves that they should all be exposed to the public eye. Well, with a majority of the Whig party on all the committees of the House, with the Executive Departments under their charge, none of those corruptions that they so loudly denounced have been found out and exposed. They had been a year in power, and could find out no abuses and corruption of the last Administration to expose.

Instead of bringing down the annual expenditures of the Government as they promised, they proposed to increase them. What were the people to think of all this? Why, that they had been deceived and betrayed, and that those self-styled reformers did not deserve their confidence.

Mr. Williams of Tennessee next addressed the House in favor of referring the subject to the Committee on Manufactures.

Mr. Hudson of Massachusetts having obtained the floor, went into a lengthy and ingenious argument in reply to the speech of Mr. Rhett, and in favor of the protective system. Before concluding, however, Mr. H. gave way to Mr. Ward, who moved an adjournment.

And the House adjourned.

#### SENATE.

December 25.

Mr. Walker, Senator of Mississippi, appeared in his seat to-day.

The President pro tem. presented a petition, praying Congress to take measures to remove the seat of Government to Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, or Philadelphia; or to some central point in a non-slaveholding State.

On motion of Mr. King, the motion to receive and petition was laid on the table.

Mr. Clay gave notice that he would, on to-morrow, ask leave to introduce three joint resolutions, proposing three several amendments to the Constitution of the United States:

The first to put a restriction on the veto power; 2d. To take the appointment of the head of the Treasury Department from the Executive, and to vest that power in the Legislative branch of the Government; 3d. To extend the provision in the Constitution in relation to the appointment of members of Congress to office, so that no member shall be eligible to receive an office from the Executive from the day of such member's election to the expiration of the time for which he was elected.

He said there was another point in which it was desirable the Constitution should be amended—that was, to limit the duration of time for which the Chief Magistrate should be elected. But that subject had been taken into handling by another Senator, who was not then present, and he had no desire to interfere with him.

The bill introduced yesterday by Mr. Benton to postpone the operation of the Bankrupt law, with a view to amendment, came up in order, and was read the second time.

Mr. Berrien moved its reference to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. Benton saw no necessity for its reference to any committee. Prompt action was wanted. He hoped, therefore, the motion would not prevail.

Mr. Berrien, said, in consideration of the fact that several petitions touching the subject had been referred to that committee, he took it for granted that the bill should have the same reference.

Mr. Calhoun hoped it would not be referred at all, unless it was the understanding that the committee would report at an early day. The object of the bill was for a suspension of the law. It was his object to engraft upon it, when it came up, an amendment for the repeal of that law. He believed that there was a great section in public opinion with reference to the question. It was passed precipitately at the last session; and since that time, the country had examined, not only its provisions, but the question of the propriety of any law, and there was a great change, he believed, with reference to it. He thought those interested in the bill should have an opportunity of perfecting it, if it were to go into operation; and unless the committee was to report at an early day, that opportunity could not be afforded.

After a debate of some length, the question was put on reference to the committee on the Judiciary and decided in the negative, Yeas 15, Nays 25.

The bill will take its place on the calendar, subject to be disposed of at any time.

The Senate then adjourned.

#### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House resumed the consideration of the unfinished business of yesterday. Mr. Hudson having the floor.

After a debate of considerable length the House adjourned without taking the question. Mr. Eastman being called to the floor.

#### IN SENATE.

Wednesday, Dec. 29.

The session in the Senate on the new Ex-

chequer scheme to-day, was of too much interest to commit to a hasty analysis. Our Reporters will furnish for to-morrow evening's paper a sketch, which we hope will give a just conception of it. The position which we are inclined to believe the Democratic party will take in relation to the proposed Administration measures of finance, was most distinctly pointed out by Mr. Buchanan and Mr. Calhoun. Mr. Buchanan opened the debate on the proposition of Mr. Tallmadge to refer the bill for the establishment of the Board of Exchequer, and the Cabinet exposition which accompanied it, to select a committee of five. Mr. Tallmadge indicated a wish that all expression of opinion touching the fully-matured measure of the Administration should be waived for the present, although developed in its minutes and amendments in the bill from the Treasury, and illuminated with the full and long studied argument with which it was ushered into Congress by the Cabinet exposition. It was thought by the Democratic Senators due to an Executive measure of such grave import—as elaborately prepared, and so elaborately argued, in advance, by its authors—to meet it as presented by them, before submitting it to the crucible of a committee, in which it might undergo a change, making it altogether different from that designed by its originators. In the meantime, if the scheme had been sunk, for weeks to come, in the oblivion of a committee, the public might have been left to infer that the busy scatterers of rumors were right in the inference that the silence of all sides in regard to it, was to be taken as a sort of universal consent to its adoption.

Under these impressions, we doubt not, Mr. Buchanan and Mr. Calhoun felt themselves called on to state, without any unkind feelings or intentions towards the Executive submitting it, their objections to the plan proposed.

Mr. Buchanan's speech was an able, comprehensive, impartial, generalized review of the whole subject, brought up by the new proposition. He stated the objections which forbade him and those who acted with him from embracing any of the extraordinary features engrafted on the simple substratum of the Independent Treasury. He showed that the whole superstructure was a Government Bank of immense and irresistible tendencies to mischief, and making absolute the identification of the political and moneyed powers of the country—a perfect blending of Bank and State.

Mr. Calhoun, in a very brief and clear statement, touched on some important admissions of the Cabinet exposition, militating against the measure itself, and the whole system of banking as associated with Government. He sustained Mr. Buchanan in all his positions, and declared, resolutely his purpose to stand firmly on the ground and principles on which the Democracy had planted itself in the renewed struggle between it and its old antagonist in our Government.

Mr. Tallmadge having withdrawn from the Senate after making his motion for the reference of the bill and the Cabinet exposition, (being affected by recent indisposition) Mr. Rives undertook to reply in behalf of Mr. Tallmadge, and for himself, to the views delivered by Messrs. Buchanan and Calhoun.

#### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. Fillmore asked the unanimous consent of the House to go into Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, in order to take up the Loan bill. He had information from the Secretary of the Treasury, communicated this morning, that there was a deficiency in the Treasury to the amount of \$260,000, that must be immediately provided for, or the Government would be disgraced.

This motion requiring unanimous consent.

Mr. Eastman objected, and the question, therefore, was not put.

The House then resumed the consideration of the reference of the President's message, the question being on the amendment of Mr. Rhett to the resolution of Mr. Fillmore, to refer the subject of the Tariff to the Committee on Manufactures.

Mr. Eastman, who had the floor, addressed the House for some time, in continuation of his remarks commenced yesterday, and proceeded with his comments on the result of the late elections, for the purpose of showing how the majority would stand in the House if the Whig members from certain States fairly represented the sentiments of their constituents.

Mr. Garrett Davis called him to order, on the ground of irrelevancy.

The Speaker observed, that so much latitude had been taken in the course of the debate by all the gentlemen who had preceded the gentleman from New Hampshire, that it would not be fair to confine him to the naked question before the House.

Mr. Eastman said that the gentleman from Kentucky need not be afraid that he would touch his state. After concluding his comments on the results of the late elections, Mr. E. next adverted to the causes that had produced them, which were not only the extra session and its measures, but the violation of all the promises made by the Whig party to the people during the Presidential election, together with the fact that the people had at length found out how grossly they had been deceived. Gentlemen, he said, need not console themselves with the belief that their late reverses were caused by apathy on the part of their friends. If, indeed, any Whig voters stood away from the polls, they were John Tyler men, and the Whigs need never expect him to go with them again. It was not only the measures of the extra session which contributed to bring about the late revolution, but the promises which were broken, and which opened the eyes of the people to some of the arts by which they had been betrayed. To the farmer was promised higher prices for his products; the merchant was told that his business would be more profitable; the merchant was promised a brisk trade and increased facilities, while to the manufacturer was promised a high tariff. How had these promises been kept? Ask the farmer if he gets as good prices for his wheat, his beef, and his pork, as he got under the administration of Mr. Van Buren. Ask the merchant, the merchant, the manufacturer, if they have yet seen the fine times that were promised them. Every body was told that there would be an abundance of money, if the Whig party succeeded; and yet, after they had been less than a year in power, their Secretary of the Treasury had to go to the market to borrow money. Yes, he had gone into the market, and dried up all the sources from which the trading community used to get their supplies, that men who before the elections could get money at six per cent, could not now get it at twelve. Not only was money scarce with the mercantile community, but Uncle Sam himself, as they had just been informed by the chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means, [Mr. Fillmore] was in the verge of bankruptcy; that there was a deficiency of \$500,000, which must be immediately supplied, or the old gentleman was broke. There was another cause, too, for the great falling off of the Whig vote, which he must advert to. The great clean-morning had been all gone. The Bank was wrecked, and could no longer answer drafts to pay the Pop-Lovers and men in buckram, who sought out the Whig tail in the Presidential elections.

Mr. E. then replied to that part of Mr. Arnold's remarks in which an attack was made on the State of New Hampshire, and ably defended his State from the aspersions that had been cast on her contrasting her most favorably with the State of Tennessee.

Mr. Meriwether, of Georgia, next addressed the House, and after replying to Messrs. Atherton and Eastman, went into an argument against the protective system, but, before concluding, gave way to Mr. Arnold, who moved an adjournment. The House then adjourned.



### WESTERN CAROLINIAN.

SALISBURY, N. C.:

Friday, January 7, 1849.

#### CONGRESS.

Both the Sen. and House, it will be observed from our extracts of their proceedings, are now fairly under way, and engaged in the discussion of questions that must be the main subjects of interest the present Session. Movements have been made from the Democratic party towards the repeal of the Bribery Bill and the Bankrupt Law, neither of which, it is to be presumed, their Federal authors will suffer to be repealed, although these, as well as all their acts have been so strongly rebuked by the people in the late elections. The Tariff is under full blast, urging with all their might the old protective policy, so that we may look for the burden of additional taxes on the necessaries of life. The Federal Whigs of the South are behind none of the party in advocating this odious doctrine for loading their constituents with more oppressive taxes, while the Democrats of the North and South alike resist it. We have made copious extracts from the proceedings in the House, that the people may see who their friends are, and how the Federal Whigs are proceeding to redeem their promises and pledges of better times.

#### "THE FAMINE IN ENGLAND."

On our first page is an account of the condition of the working classes in England, which is confirmed by later dates. It seems from these, that millions of the poor are in a state of actual starvation, not having even bread to eat, while they are oppressed with heavy taxes to support the rich land-owners already bloated with wealth and rolling in abundance. The oppressive "corn law" tax if repealed, would give bread to the starving millions, but it would take away the "protection," and diminish the princely revenues of the lordly land-holders. This is not to be thought of; so that the real people, the great many must be loaded with taxes like boasts of burden, and die in want like dogs, that the rich few may be made richer. And all this in the consequence of a "protective policy," that policy which the Federal Whigs are attempting to fix on us in this country, to foster rich monopolists, and oppress the poor. If the American people are not ignorant and the capable of Government, as the Federalist consider them, they will be warned by the example of England, and tolerate no legislation that is opposed to free trade and equal rights.

The extract below contains the opinion of Albert Gallatin on the suspension of banks at any time, and on the present one particularly, under which we have been suffering now for years even.

It was expressed in a letter written last fall, and contains strong truths. What indeed, can be more manifestly unjust than that a bank, in a state of suspension of specie payment, that is, while refusing to pay its own debts, should be permitted both to enforce payment from its debtors, and make its profitable loans, as if it was furnishing a sound convertible currency? Yet this have nearly all the banks of the country been doing, and are yet doing. If an individual refuses to redeem his "promise to pay," his credit is gone, and the law enforces its payment, but banks may do so, and it is all right, lawful, and proper; it is even considered by some, a great piece of presumption in any body to question their right to continue in a state of suspension as long as they please. This is the extract referred to:

"Banks have been permitted to issue paper money on the express condition that they should sustain its value at par with specie. Whenever this condition ceases to be performed, the privilege should likewise cease to exist. If that natural principle was rigidly adhered to, if the banks were expressly forbidden to issue the notes of any suspended bank, (including, of course, their own notes when they had themselves suspended specie payments) this alone would, in most cases, prevent a suspension, and which did not, the provision must necessarily enable the suspended bank or banks, if solvent, to resume their payments within a very short time.

"A much greater indulgence has been granted to the banks in the case of a general suspension—much greater certainly in this instance than was necessary. But it is not the less an obvious moral and legal duty of their part to resume as soon as possible. On that subject, as well as on the intolerable evils and enormous tendencies of depreciated currency, I have nothing to add to what I have already published on several occasions, before, during, and since the suspension in this city.

"If a sense of justice be not a sufficient motive, it seems to me that their interest should induce the banks to perform their duty. The patience of the people is nearly exhausted. They have waited from time to time, always expecting the promised restoration of a sound currency. They now see that nothing has been done in that respect by the change of Administration, that nothing can be expected from it. The opposition to banks strengthened by the catastrophe of that of the United States, and by numerous other failures and defaultings, is daily gaining ground; and the effect on the banking system generally and indiscriminately, cannot be otherwise inverted than by a speedy restoration of

the currency. I would, indeed, myself prefer a total exclusion of paper money to a continuance of that system as now organized and administered west and south of New York."

The great Whig measure of the Extra Session.—The Chamber of commerce composed of the merchants of Charleston, have put forth a most able report against the great Whig measure of the Extra Session, the Bankrupt Law. We regret that our limits will not allow us to lay this exposition before our readers, though we believe, but few even in favor of the scheme. The times are hard, it is true, but this Whig plan of paying debts, finds very few advocates of any sort or description, so far as we have heard.

The name of Whig.—The Madisonian, the paper so extensively circulated by the Whigs in 1840, has recently come out and assumed the name of Whig.—The Editor considers it "an undesirable party appellation." This paper has heretofore acted as the organ of the party at Washington, and is now the organ of Mr. Tyler's administration. The declaration quoted shows desertion from Whiggery at head quarters, but the Madisonian is by no means alone. That print is only following in the wake of thousands who within the last few months, have concluded that the name Whig "is an undesirable party appellation," and an association with the politicians calling themselves so, as equally "undesirable." No great wonder either, we think, after the doings of the Extra Session. The Republicans told them these things would happen, and it will not be long before the people of this country will look upon the humbug name of "Whig," exactly as they have long regarded that of Federalist, belonging to the same party.

#### THE TRUE REMEDY.

"Ohio.—The House of Representatives of Ohio has passed a resolution directing the Committee on Banks and Currency, to prepare a bill "to provide for the permanent resumption of specie payments by the Banks of that State " by a vote of 46 to 14. Among the provisions which the Committee are instructed to incorporate is the following:—"That no court of law or equity in this State shall enforce, at the suit of any bank in this State, any contract made by such bank for its benefit, at a time when it refused to redeem its notes and bills in gold or silver, as aforesaid; provided that the contract made by the banks of this State prior to the passage of the proposed laws, shall not be affected by the said bill."

We find the above in an exchange paper, and set it down as the most perfectly just, equitable and righteous proposition relating to banks and bank operations, which we have yet seen made.—It is the very remedy for the evil of suspension, the effectual one for that outrageous and fraudulent evasion of liabilities. Is there anything more clearly outrageous than that monopoly corporations should be suffered to refuse to meet their own promises to pay, and at the same time, enforce by law the payment of promises no more binding on individuals to them? We have always believed the provision proposed above, the right and most effectual remedy for the abuses of the banking system under which we have suffered, and are suffering so much.—Let this law of retribution be passed generally, and our life on it, banks will be as careful to meet their obligations, as they are now careless of suspension.

The Washington Globe suggests another provision, which would be both equitable and admirable.—It is that—"the note holders of suspended banks should have the power, by some simple process, to attach the notes of debtors to the bank, so as to make the latter responsible for the same."

WHIG PROMISES.—In the month of July, 1840, Henry Clay, in his Hanover speech, made the following promising prediction:—"The fact of the election of William H. Harrison, without reference to the measures of reconstruction, will powerfully contribute to the security and happiness of the people. It will bring assurances of the cessation of that long series of disastrous experiments, which have so grievously afflicted the people. Confidence will immediately revive, credit will be restored, active business will return, prices of products will rise, and the people will know that instead of their savings being occupied in devising measures for their ruin and destruction, they will be assiduously employed in promoting their welfare and prosperity."

The very fact of the election of Wm. Henry Harrison, without reference to his measures, was to revive confidence, restore credit, make business active, and raise prices of produce, so said Mr. Clay. How admirably his promises and predictions have come to pass!

#### "Hushed are thy melodies"

What has become of all the "Tippecanoe and Tyler too" songs of 1840? The soul stirring and heart melting strains that resounded through the length and breadth of the land! Forgotten already? Alas! how soon the gliding influence of hard "cider inspiration" has passed away from the melodious whiggery. Since their day of psalms, leaping, singing and dancing is over, soon, it is most fortunate that the records of the time preserve their touching and material evidences of poetry and song, else might they have been forever lost—a loss irreparable to posterity.

TENNESSEE PENITENTIARY.—We find in late Tennessee papers, the Report of the Inspectors on the condition of the Penitentiary in that State, and as it may not be uninteresting to some of our readers to see a statement of its expenses, and other facts contained in the Report, we make some extracts. It is stated that:—"The number of convicts in the prison on the 30th day of September, 1841, was one hundred and seventy-eight, employed as follows: Painters, two; Carpenter, ten; H. dress-makers, three; Matross, maker, one; Coopers, eleven; Shop tenders, eight; Pickers, wood, six; Tailors, thirteen; Sawyers, eight; Getting out staves, three; Wagon makers, one; Blacksmiths, twenty-two; Hatters, twenty-