

CONGRESS

Monday, November 13.

This being the day appointed by law for the re-assembling of the present Congress, at their second Session, the following proceedings took place in the two Houses respectively:

IN SENATE.

The President of the Senate pro tempore, Mr. Gaillard having taken the chair, and the roll being called it appeared, there were 33 members present.

The new members having qualified and taken their seats, they were classed, by lot, as usual. It so fell out, that the term of service of Mr. Holmes will expire on the 3d of March next, and that of Mr. Chandler on the 3d of March two years thereafter.

Mr. King, of Alabama, moved the appointment of a committee to acquaint the President of the United States of the organization of the Senate, and of its readiness to receive any communication from him; whereupon,

Messrs. King of Alabama and Macon were appointed.

Mr. Wilson was appointed on the committee of enrolled bills, on the part of the Senate; and,

The orders usual at the commencement of the Session having been made; The Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

At 12 o'clock precisely, the Clerk invited the House to come to order, and on calling over the Roll it appeared that there were 134 members present.

The Clerk having announced that a quorum of the house was present, said, that he had received a letter from the Hon. HENRY CLAY, late speaker of the House, which, with the leave of the House, he read as follows:

Lexington, (Ky.) Oct. 28, 1820.

SIR—I will thank you to communicate to the House of Representatives, that, owing to imperious circumstances, I shall not be able to attend upon it until after the Christmas Holidays, and to respectfully ask it to allow me to resign the office of its Speaker, which I have the honor to hold and to consider this as the act of my resignation. I beg the House also to permit me to reiterate the expression of my sincere acknowledgments and unaffected gratitude for the distinguished consideration which it has uniformly manifested for me.

I have the honor to be, with great esteem, your faithful and obedient servant,
HENRY CLAY.

Thomas Dougherty, Esq.
Clerk of the House of Representatives.

On motion of Mr. Newton, the letter was ordered to lie on the table, and to be inserted in the Journal of the House.

On motion of Mr. Newton, the House then proceeded to the election of a Speaker.

The Clerk declared, that, as this was an election to be made from amongst members of the House, no previous nomination was necessary. No nomination, therefore was made.

Messrs. Newton and Moseley being appointed a committee to count the ballots, reported that the votes were—

For John W. Taylor	40
For William Lowndes	34
For Samuel Smith	27
For John Sergeant	18
For Hugh Nelson	10
Scattering	3

Sixty seven votes being necessary to a choice and no member having the requisite majority, a second ballot took place; and the votes were thus reported:

For Mr. Taylor	49
For Mr. Lowndes	44
For Mr. Smith	25
For Mr. Sergeant	13
Scattering	1

No choice being yet made, the House proceeded to a further ballot, when the votes given in were as follows:

For Mr. Lowndes	56
For Mr. Taylor	50
For Mr. Smith	16
For Mr. Sergeant	11
Scattering	1

No choice having been yet made, the House proceeded to ballot a fourth time—when the following result was reported:

For Mr. Lowndes	61
For Mr. Taylor	60
For Mr. Smith	11
Scattering	3

No one having yet a majority of all the votes, a fifth ballot took place, which resulted as follows:

For Mr. Taylor	65
For Mr. Lowndes	63
For Mr. Smith	8
Scattering	2

A motion was then made that the House do now adjourn; and the question thereon being put by the Clerk, it was decided in the negative.

The House then proceeded to ballot a sixth time, and the votes being counted stood thus:

For Mr. Taylor	67
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For Mr. Lowndes	61
For Mr. Smith	7
Scattering	1

No election having yet taken place—Another motion was then made to adjourn, and the vote thereon was

For adjourning	65
Against it	68

So the House refused to adjourn and another ballot was held, which resulted as follows:

For Mr. Taylor	62
For Mr. Lowndes	57
For Mr. Smith	15
Scattering	1

No choice having yet been made—A motion was made to adjourn, and decided in the affirmative, ayes 71.

And the clerk adjourned the House to 12 o'clock to-morrow.

Tuesday, Nov. 14.

The House met, pursuant to adjournment—and proceeded to ballot again for a Speaker—75 votes necessary to a choice. The votes were:

For Mr. Taylor	64
For Mr. Lowndes	54
For Mr. Smith	33
Scattering	1

No one having a majority of all the votes, the House proceeded to ballot for the ninth time; when it appeared that the votes were—

For Mr. Taylor	66
For Mr. Lowndes	47
For Mr. Smith	33
Scattering	1

No election having yet taken place, the House proceeded to ballot for the tenth time: and the result was declared as follows:

For Mr. Taylor	64
For Mr. Smith	50
For Mr. Lowndes	32
Scattering	3

No election having yet taken place, the House proceeded to ballot for the eleventh time; when the following result was pronounced:

For Mr. Taylor	61
For Mr. Smith	50
For Mr. Lowndes	31
For Mr. Sergeant	5
Scattering	1

No election having yet taken place, the House proceeded to ballot for the twelfth time; and the result was as follows:

For Mr. Smith	53
For Mr. Taylor	47
For Mr. Lowndes	23
For Mr. Sergeant	19
For Mr. Tomlinson	3
Scattering	3

The thirteenth ballot resulted as follows:

For Mr. Smith	48
For Mr. Taylor	32
For Mr. Sergeant	32
For Mr. Lowndes	30
Scattering	3

The fourteenth ballot resulted as follows:

For Mr. Smith	42
For Mr. Lowndes	37
For Mr. Sergeant	35
For Mr. Taylor	27
Scattering	3

The fifteenth ballot resulted as follows:

For Mr. Lowndes	55
For Mr. Sergeant	32
For Mr. Smith	27
For Mr. Taylor	26
Scattering	6

The sixteenth ballot resulted as follows:

For Mr. Lowndes	68
For Mr. Taylor	50
For Mr. Sergeant	24
For Mr. Smith	23

The House then proceeded to the seventeenth ballot, which resulted as follows—73 necessary to a choice:

For Mr. Lowndes	72
For Mr. Taylor	44
For Mr. Smith	17
For Mr. Sergeant	11

No election being made, the House went into the eighteenth ballot, when the following result was announced, 73 necessary to a choice,

For Mr. Lowndes	66
For Mr. Taylor	55
For Mr. Smith	21
For Mr. Sergeant	2

The nineteenth ballot resulted as follows,

For Mr. Taylor	66
For Mr. Lowndes	65
For Mr. Smith	14

This ballot being also ineffectual, The House adjourned at 5 o'clock.

Wednesday, Nov. 15.

The House having been called to order at 12 o'clock, proceeded to ballot, the twentieth time, for a Speaker—necessary to a choice 71; of which there were

For Mr. Taylor	67
For Mr. Lowndes	65
For Mr. Smith	8
Scattering	1

No choice having been made, the House proceeded to ballot the twenty-first time: Whole number of votes 147, necessary to a choice 74—of which there were

For Mr. Taylor	73
For Mr. Lowndes	42
For Mr. Smith	32

No choice having yet been made, the House proceeded to ballot the twenty-second time. The whole number of votes was 148—75 necessary to a choice. The votes were,

For Mr. Taylor	76
For Mr. Lowndes	44
For Mr. Smith	27
Scattering	1

So John W. Taylor, Esq. a Representative from the state of New-York, was elected Speaker; and having been conducted to the chair, addressed the House in a concise and appropriate speech.

The new Members having been sworn in, On motion of Mr. Nelson, a committee was appointed, jointly with such committee as should be appointed by the Senate, to wait upon the President of the United States, and inform him of the organization of the two Houses, and of their readiness to receive any communication he may have to make to them.

On motion of Mr. Slocumb, to-morrow at 12 o'clock was assigned as the hour for proceeding to appoint a Chaplain on the part of this House.

The committee appointed to wait on the President of the United States reported, that they had performed that service, and received for answer, that a Message would be transmitted by the President immediately—and it was accordingly received and read, at 3 o'clock.

THE MESSAGE

OF THE

President of the U. States,

To both Houses, at the opening of the Second Session of the Sixteenth Congress—transmitted by Mr. JAMES MONROE, Junr.

Fellow citizens of the Senate,
and of the House of Representatives:

In communicating to you a just view of public affairs, at the commencement of your present labors, I do it with great satisfaction, because, taking all circumstances into consideration, which claim attention, I see much cause to rejoice in the felicity of our situation. In making this remark, I do not wish to be understood to imply, that an unvaried prosperity is to be seen in every interest of this great community. In the progress of a nation, inhabiting a territory of such vast extent, and great variety of climate, every portion of which is engaged in foreign commerce, and liable to be affected, in some degree, by the changes which occur in the condition and regulations of foreign countries, it would be strange if the produce of our soil, and the industry and enterprize of our fellow-citizens, received, at all times, and in every quarter, an uniform and equal encouragement.—This would be more than we have a right to expect, under circumstances the most favorable. Pressures on certain interests, it is admitted, have been felt, but, allowing to these their greatest extent, they detract but little from the force of the remark already made. In forming a just estimate of our present situation, it is proper to look at the whole; in the outline, as well as in the detail. A free, virtuous, and enlightened people know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends; and even those who suffer most, occasionally, in their transitory concerns, find great relief under their sufferings from the blessings which they otherwise enjoy, and in the consoling and animating hope which they administer. From whence do these pressures come? Not from a government which is founded by, administered for, and supported by, the people. We trace them to the peculiar character of the epoch in which we live, and to the extraordinary occurrences which have signalized it. The convulsions with which several of the powers of Europe have been shaken, and the long and destructive wars, in which all were engaged, with their sudden transition to a state of peace, presenting, in the first instance, unusual encouragement to our commerce, and withdrawing it, in the second, even within its wonted limit, could not fail to be sensibly felt here. The station too which we had to support, through this long conflict, compelled, as we were, finally, to become a party to it, with a principal power, and to make great exertions, suffer heavy losses, and to contract considerable debts, disturbing the ordinary course of affairs, by augmenting, to a vast amount, the circulating medium, and thereby elevating, at one time, the price of every article above a just standard, and depressing it at another below it, had likewise, its due effect.

It is manifest, that the pressures, of which we complain, have proceeded, in a great measure, from these causes.—When, then, we take into view, the prosperous and happy condition of our country, in all the great circumstances which constitute the felicity of a nation; every individual in the full employment of all his rights; the Union blessed with plenty, and rapidly rising to greatness, under a national government, which operates with complete effect in every part, without being felt in any, except by the ample protection which it affords; and under state governments, which perform their equal share, according to a wise distribution of power between them, in promoting the public happiness, it is impossible to behold so gratifying, so glorious a spectacle, without being penetrated with the most profound and grateful acknowledgments to the Supreme Author of all good, for such manifold and inestimable blessings. Deeply impressed with these sentiments, I cannot regard the pressures to which I have adverted, otherwise, than in the light of mild and instructive admonitions, warning us of dangers to be shunned in future; teaching us lessons of economy, corresponding with the simplicity and purity of our institutions, and best adapted to their support; evincing the connexion and dependence which the various parts of our happy Union have on each other, thereby augmenting daily our social incorporation, and adding, by its strong ties, new strength and vigor to the political; opening a wider range, and with new encouragement, to the industry and enterprize of our fellow-citizens at home and abroad; and more especially, by the multiplied proofs which it has accumulated, of the great perfection of our most excellent system of government, the powerful instrument in the hands of an all-merciful Creator, in securing to us these blessings.

Happy as our situation is, it does not exempt us from solicitude and care for the future. On the contrary, as the blessings which we enjoy are great, proportionably great should be our vigilance, zeal, and activity, to preserve them. Foreign wars may again expose us to new wrongs, which would impose on us new duties, for which we ought to be prepared. The state of Europe is unsettled, and how long peace may be preserved is altogether uncertain. In addition to which, we have interests of our own to adjust, which will require particular attention. A correct view of our relations with each power, will enable you to form a just idea of existing difficulties, and of the measures of precaution best adapted to them.

Respecting our relations with Spain, nothing explicit can now be communicated. On the adjournment of Congress in May last, the Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States at Madrid was instructed to inform the government of Spain, that, if his Catholic Majesty should then ratify the treaty, this government would accept the ratification, so far, as to submit to the decision of the Senate, the question, whether such ratification should be received in exchange for that of the United States heretofore given. By letters from the Minister of the United States, to the Secretary of State, it appears, that a communication, in conformity with his instructions, had been made to the government of Spain, and that the Cortes had the subject under consideration. The result of the deliberations of that body, which is daily expected, will be made known to Congress as soon as it is received.—The friendly sentiment which was expressed on the part of the United States, in the message of the 9th of May last, is still entertained for Spain. Among the causes of regret, however, which are inseparable from the delay attending this transaction, it is proper to state that satisfactory information has been received, that measures have been recently adopted, by designing persons, to convert certain parts of the province of East Florida, into depots for the reception of foreign goods, from whence to smuggle them into the United States. By opening a port within the limits of Florida, immediately on our boundary, where there was no settlement, the object could not be misunderstood. An early accommodation of differences will, it is hoped, prevent all such fraudulent and pernicious practices, and place the relations of the two countries on a very amicable and permanent basis.

The commercial relations between the United States and the British colonies in the West Indies, and on this continent, have undergone no change; the British government still preferring to leave that commerce under the restriction heretofore imposed on it, on each side. It is satisfactory to recollect, that the restraints, resorted to by the United States, were defensive only, intended to prevent a monopoly, under British regulations, in favor of Great-Britain; as it likewise is to know that the experiment is advancing in a spirit of amity between the parties.

The question depending between the United States and Great-Britain, respecting the construction of the first article of the treaty of Ghent, has been referred, by both governments, to the decision of the Emperor of Russia, who has accepted the umpirage.

An attempt has been made, by the government of France, to regulate, by treaty, the commerce between the two countries, on the principles of reciprocity and equality. By the last communication from the Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States, at Paris, to whom full power had been given, we learn that the negotiation had been commenced there; but serious difficulties having occurred, the French government had resolved to transfer it to the United States, for which purpose, the Minister Plenipotentiary of France had been ordered to repair to this city, and whose arrival might soon be expected. It is hoped that this important interest may be arranged on just conditions, and in a manner equally satisfactory to both parties. It is submitted to

Congress to decide, until such arrangement is made, how far it may be proper, on the principle of the act of the last session, which augmented the tonnage duty on French vessels, to adopt other measures for carrying more completely into effect the policy of that act.

The act referred to, which imposed new tonnage on French vessels, having been in force from and after the first day of July, it has happened that several vessels of that nation, which had been despatched from France before its existence was known, have entered the ports of the United States, and been subject to its operation without that previous notice which the general spirit of our laws gives to individuals in similar cases. The object of that law having been merely to countervail the inequalities which existed to the disadvantage of the United States, in their commercial intercourse with France, it is submitted, also, to the consideration of Congress, whether, in the spirit of amity and conciliation, which it is no less the inclination than the policy of the United States to preserve, in their intercourse with other powers, it may not be proper to extend relief to the individuals interested in those cases, by exempting from the operation of the law all those vessels which have entered our ports, without having had the means of previously knowing the existence of the additional duty.

The contest between Spain and the colonies, according to the most authentic information, is maintained by the latter with improved success. The unfortunate divisions which were known to exist some time since at Buenos Ayres, it is understood still prevail. In no part of South America, has Spain made any impression on the colonies, while, in many parts particularly in Venezuela, and New Grenada, the colonies have gained strength, and acquired reputation both for the management of the war, in which they have been successful, and for the order of the internal administration. The late change in the government of Spain, by the re-establishment of the constitution of 1812, is an event which promises to be favorable to the revolution. Under the authority of the Cortes the Congress of Angostura was invited to open a negotiation for the settlement of differences between the parties, to which it was replied, that they would willingly open the negotiation, provided the acknowledgment of their independence was made its basis, but not otherwise.—Of further proceedings between them we are uninform. No facts are known to this government to warrant the belief, that any of the powers of Europe will take part in the contest; whence, it may be inferred, considering all circumstances which must have weight in producing the result, that an adjustment will finally take place, on the basis proposed by the colonies. To promote that result, by friendly counsels with other powers, including Spain herself, has been the uniform policy of this government.

In looking to the internal concerns of our country, you will, I am persuaded, derive much satisfaction, from a view of the several objects, to which, in the discharge of your official duties, your attention will be drawn. Among these, none holds a more important place than the public revenue, from the direct operation of the power, by which it is raised on the people, and, by its influence in giving effect to every other power of the government. The revenue depends on the resources of the country, and the facility by which the amount required is raised, is a strong proof of the extent of the resources, and of the efficiency of the government. A great prominent fact will place this in a just light before you. On the 30th of September, 1815, the funded and floating debt of the United States was estimated at one hundred and nineteen millions, six hundred and thirty-five thousand, five hundred and fifty-eight dollars. If to this sum be added, the amount of five per cent. stock, subscribed to the bank of the United States, the amount of Mississippi stock, and of the stock which was issued subsequently to that date; the balances ascertained to be due to certain states for military services, & to individuals for supplies furnished, and services rendered, during the late war; the public debt may be estimated as amounting at that date, and as afterwards liquidated, to one hundred and fifty-eight millions seven hundred and thirteen thousand and forty-nine dollars. On the 30th of September, 1820, it amounted to ninety-one millions nine hundred and ninety-three thousand eight hundred and eighty-three dollars, having been reduced, in that interval, by payments, sixty-six millions eight hundred and seventy-nine thousand one hundred and sixty-five dollars. During this term, the expenses of the government of the United States were likewise defrayed, in every branch of the civil, military, and naval establishments; the public edifices, in this city, have been rebuilt, with considerable additions; extensive fortifications have been commenced, and are in a train of execution; permanent arsenals and magazines have been erected in various parts of the Union; our navy has been considerably augmented; and the ordnance, munitions of war, and stores, of the army