

GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Friday, Dec. 1.

Mr. Hillman presented a bill to explain the duties of the County Courts, of executors and administrators, and of guardians in certain cases. [Referred to Messrs. Hillman, Graham, Cameron, T. W. Blackledge, and Williams. Read for the first time.]

William Hill, Esq. on a ballot, was re-elected Secretary of State, without opposition, for the three next years.

Saturday, Dec. 2.

The Bill for the better organization of the militia of Beaufort County, was amended and passed its second reading.

On motion of Mr. Hillman, Resolved, that the committee on the Judiciary be instructed to prepare and report a bill simplifying the mode of proceeding against Banks and other Corporations.

Monday, Dec. 4.

The bill, (referred to a select committee) to explain the duties of County Courts, of Executors and Guardians, &c. was reported by Mr. Hillman, with amendments, and passed its first reading.

The bill reported by Mr. Iredell, from the Judiciary committee, allowing additional compensation to the Attorney and Solicitor General passed its first reading.

On a ballot Leonard Martin, of Pasquotank, was elected Solicitor General of the first Judicial Circuit, in place of J. R. Leigh, resigned.

Tuesday, Dec. 5.

Mr. Alston presented a bill for suspending execution in certain cases [suspending for 12 months in case the plaintiff refuses to take the current Bank Notes of the State.] Read the 1st and 2nd time and ordered to be printed.

Mr. Graham presented a bill for cleaning out the swash at Ocracock Inlet. [Incorporating a company for the purpose.]

Mr. Styron presented a bill better to regulate the pilotage at Ocracock Bar. Read the first time.

On motion of Mr. Deberry, the Judiciary committee were instructed to enquire into the expediency of passing a law requiring a master commissioner to be appointed by each county court to settle the accounts of executors and administrators.

Mr. Daniel presented a bill authorizing the late Sheriff of Wayne to collect arrearages of taxes.

The bill making it usury to purchase bills or promissory notes at an advanced per cent.—passed its first reading.

On motion of Mr. Iredell, Resolved, That the Judiciary committee be instructed to enquire into the expediency of providing by law that the quiet possession of a slave for a certain time shall bar all adverse claimants.

Mr. Bateman presented a bill to authorize the County Courts to alter the times and places of holding elections. Ordered to lie on the table.

Wednesday, Dec. 6.

On motion of Mr. Mebane, Resolved, That the committee of Finance be directed to enquire into the expediency of applying the surplus money in the Treasury to the payment of the debt due by the State to the State Bank for shares.

The Cherokee land committee were instructed to enquire into the expediency of reducing the price of said lands, and making provision for the lands sale thereof.

Thursday, Dec. 7.

Mr. J. D. Jones, from the committee appointed on the subject of the insolvent laws, reported that they required amendment; which report was concurred with, and the same committee was instructed to report a bill on the subject.

Mr. Iredell, from the same committee, to whom was referred the enquiry, whether any provision was necessary to prevent fraudulent conveyances, reported a bill prescribing the time within which mortgages, and deeds and conveyances in trust, shall be proved and registered, which passed its 1st reading.

IN THE SENATE.

Thursday, Nov. 30.

Mr. Reddick introduced a Resolution requiring the Banks to pay specie. [This resolution requires the banks to pay specie for their notes by the first of July next; and if they fail so to do, the holder of their notes may receive 25 per cent. for so failing, in addition to the principal sum contained in such note or notes which shall not be paid.]—Referred.

Mr. Holt introduced a Resolution directing the Judiciary Committee to enquire into the expediency of reducing the salary of the supreme Court Judges to two thousand dollars, and that the committee be instructed to enquire into the expediency of laying off two more judicial circuits; and also to enquire into the expediency of allowing each Judge of the Superior Court, the sum of one hundred

dollars for each court they attend.—Agreed to.

Friday, Dec. 1.

Mr. Rayburn presented the petition of sundry persons of Haywood, relative to the Supreme Court. [Requesting the reduction of the salaries of the Judges.—Referred.]

Saturday, Dec. 2.

Mr. Hogan introduced a bill to repeal an act creating a fund for Internal Improvement, and to establish a board for the management thereof. Referred to a committee of the whole, and made the order of the day for Thursday next, but is not yet taken up.

Monday, Dec. 4.

On motion of Mr. Leonard, the Judiciary Committee were instructed to enquire into the expediency of passing a law to prevent persons from disposing of their property clandestinely.

Mr. Locke from the Judiciary Committee, made a report on the petition from Haywood county, praying a repeal of the Supreme Court system, and on a resolution requiring the reduction of the salaries of the Supreme Court Judges from 2500 to 2000 dollars, concluding with the following resolution:—Resolved, That the prayer of the said petition be not allowed, and that it is inexpedient to reduce the salary of the Judges of the Supreme Court. A division of the question being called for, the first part was agreed to, without a division—the latter part was carried 34 to 23.

Mr. Locke also made a report in favor of dividing the State into two additional circuits and appointing two additional Judges, and allowing \$100 for every court they may attend. Made the order of the day for Wednesday. [The bill for the purpose was rejected.]

Wednesday, Dec. 6.

The Senate took up the report of the Judiciary Committee, recommending the division of the State into two additional Judicial Circuits, and allowing the Judges a salary of \$1600, to be paid half-yearly.

The resolution being susceptible of division, the sense of the Senate was first taken on making two additional Judges, and was negatived 35 votes to 20. A vote was then taken on the last part of the resolution, which was also negatived.

Thursday, Dec. 7.

Mr. Owen from the committee on that part of the Governor's Message relative to the circulating medium of the State, reported a Bill authorizing and directing the Treasurer of the State to issue Treasury Notes, which being read was referred to a committee consisting of Messrs. Calloway, Owen, Caldwell, Glisson, and Baker.

CONGRESS.

IN THE SENATE.

Monday, Dec. 3.

Mr. Pinkney appeared to-day and took his seat.

COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.

The Senate according to the order of the day, took up the resolution submitted by Mr. Burrill on the 16th ultimo, to reduce the compensation of Members of Congress to six dollars a day.

Mr. Johnson, of Ky. observed that he had no doubt the ultimate fate of this proposition would be indefinite postponement. As he did not, however, desire a discussion of the subject at present, he would not make that motion, but would move its postponement until next Monday week, the 18th instant; which motion was agreed to, and the resolution was postponed accordingly.

PUNISHMENT OF PIRACY.

The resolution submitted by Mr. Barbour, on Friday last, was taken up, and having been modified by the mover, so as to direct an enquiry into the expediency of authorizing the President of the United States to commute the capital punishment of piracy by confinement in penitentiary houses, as he may deem expedient.

Mr. Barbour proceeded to give, at considerable length, his views in support of the object of his motion. He entered into a general defence of the superiority of the penitentiary system of punishment over the old code, contrasting the mildness and good effects of the one, with the cruelty, yet ineffectual operation, of the other—maintaining the great superiority of the former, on the subject of the punishment, as well as in its example on society—and referring to facts and experience in some of the states, Virginia particularly, compared with the effects of the bloody code in England and this country, to sustain his opinions.

The resolution was agreed to without objection.

CONSTITUTION OF MISSOURI.

The Senate, according to the order of the day, proceeded to the consideration of the resolution declaring the admission of the State of Missouri into the Union, on an equal footing with the original states.

On motion of Mr. Eaton, of Tennessee, who wished more time for reflection, the

resolution was postponed to Wednesday.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Monday, Dec. 3.

COMMERCE OF THE BLACK SEA.

Mr. Fuller of Mass. offered for consideration the following resolution:

Resolved, That the committee on Commerce be instructed to enquire into the expediency of providing by law such means as may be necessary to obtain for the citizens of the United States the navigation of the Euxine Sea and a participation of the commerce of its ports and dependencies.

Mr. F. after remarking on the expediency of affording to commerce, under present circumstances, all the facilities in the power of government to bestow, went on to say that our commerce with Russia, it was well known, was at present almost entirely carried on through the Baltic Sea, which, it was equally well known, was closed against navigation for the greater part of the year by the severity of the climate. The Euxine Sea, he said, afforded much greater facilities, by means of the rivers which fall into it, for carrying on the trade with Russia. But, not having any agent there, we have no means of procuring the permission to pass the Straits of the Dardanelles. From the information of others, however, Mr. F. said he had no doubt, that the requisite permission could be obtained by asking it in a proper form and manner. The free intercourse with the Euxine would, he said, be of much advantage to us in another point of view. At present, all our commerce with Turkey is carried on through Smyrna. Several ports of the Dardanelles, Mr. F. said, would be more convenient for this purpose than Smyrna. Upon the whole, he thought it quite advisable to have an enquiry made into this subject through the medium of a committee of the House.

Mr. Stevens, of Connecticut, said, in reference to Mr. Fuller's intimation that permission to pass the Straits could be obtained if asked in a proper manner, that he presumed the agent who asked it must go with something in hand, and suggested the propriety of ascertaining, before they went further, what would be the cost of this project.

Mr. Rhea suggested that the mover would perhaps get more directly at his object by moving at once to request the Executive to send a Minister to Turkey.

The motion of Mr. Fuller was then agreed to without a division.

Mr. Mercer submitted the following: Resolved, That the President of the United States be requested to lay before this House any correspondence that he does not deem it inexpedient to disclose, which may have existed between the Executive of the United States and the governments of any of the maritime powers of Europe, in relation to the African slave trade.

The question thereon, being taken without debate, was agreed to without division; and a committee was ordered to be appointed to present the same to the President.

Tuesday, Dec. 5.

On motion of Mr. Storrs, it was Resolved, That the Secretary of the Treasury Department be directed to communicate to this House the latest return made to that Department of the general statement of the Bank of the U. States and its offices of discount and deposit.

On motion of Mr. Simpkins, it was Resolved, That the Secretary of War be requested to lay before this House a particular statement of the expenses of the army of the United States, from the end of the late war till the present year, including the estimates for 1821, designating the expenditures in each branch of the army for each year, with such explanations as may be necessary to render the statement clear and explicit. Also, that he lay before this House the amount of balances, if any have accrued, in each year, from the moneys appropriated for the support of the army; in what way such balances have accrued, and how they have been disposed of or appropriated.

Mr. Cannon moved the adoption of the following resolution: Resolved, That the Secretary of War be directed to lay before this House, as soon as practicable, a statement shewing the aggregate amount that has been expended on the Military Academy at West Point, in the State of New-York, from the establishment of the same to the present time, in the erection of buildings, barracks, repairs and materials for the same; also, the aggregate amount that has been expended in pay, subsistence, and clothing, of the teachers, officers, and cadets, that are or have been in said Academy, up to the present time; also, the aggregate amount that has been expended on the quarter-masters' department attached to said institution, for wood and distributing the same, forage, transportation, stationary, including articles used in the drawing department, books, mathematical instruments, printing, and all other contingencies, up to the present time; also, the number of cadets that have been

educated, in said Academy, since the first establishment, from the District of Columbia, also the number from each state and territory in the Union, also the number of cadets now in said Academy from the District of Columbia, and from each of the states and territories respectively; also, the number who have received an education at said Academy who are in the army or navy of the United States, the appointment each holds, and the district, state, or territory, they are from; and also the number of orphans, if any, of those who have fallen in the defence of their country, or died in its service, who have been educated in said Academy, or are now cadets in the same, and the district, state or territory, each is from.

Mr. Little wished to correct the resolution in one particular, in which he conceived there was a misapprehension. The mover was certainly mistaken in supposing that the teachers or cadets of the Military Academy were clothed by the government; the cadets, Mr. L. stated, received pay, out of which they clothed themselves, and as it was not the fact that either they or the teachers of the Academy were clothed by the government, he did not wish such an idea to go abroad. He hoped, therefore, the gentleman would modify his resolution by omitting the call relative to clothing.

Mr. Cannon assented to the modification proposed by Mr. Little; and, thus amended,

The resolution was agreed to.

AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION.

The House then, on motion of Mr. Smith, of N. C. resumed the consideration of the resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution, in relation to the election of Electors of President and Vice President of the United States and Members of the House of Representatives.

The question was taken on ordering the resolution to be engrossed and read a third time, and was decided in the affirmative, by yeas and nays, as follows:

For the resolution, 103
Against it, 59

The Speaker announced that the question was decided in the affirmative, and, demanding when it was the pleasure of the House to have the resolution read a third time—After some discussion, the resolution was ordered to be read a third time to-morrow.

Wednesday, Dec. 6.

Mr. Foot, of N. Y. moved the following resolution:

Resolved, That the committee on Naval Affairs be instructed to enquire into the expediency of repealing so much of the act for the better government of the Navy of the United States, as authorizes the infliction of corporal punishment by stripes or lashes; and also to provide for the punishment of any officer or private in the Navy, who shall send or accept a challenge to fight a duel, in the same manner as is provided in the 25th and 26th articles of the first section of the act for establishing rules and articles for the government of the armies of the United States.

Mr. Smith, of Maryland, moved to lay the resolution on the table; which motion was agreed to.

The engrossed resolution proposing an amendment to the constitution of the United States, with respect to the mode of election of Representatives to Congress and Electors of President and Vice President of the United States, was read a third time; when, after a short debate, a motion for postponement to Monday next, was agreed to.

Friday, Dec. 8.

MISSOURI.

The House then again resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. Hill in the chair on the resolution declaring the admission of Missouri into the Union on an equal footing with the original states.

Mr. Storrs, of New-York, in a speech of about an hour's length, assigned the reasons which would induce him to vote against the resolution.

Mr. P. Barbour, of Virginia, in a speech of somewhat greater length, defended the resolution, and vindicated the sight of Missouri to the form of admission into the Union.

When Mr. Barbour concluded, there seemed not to be a disposition in any person to rise.

Mr. Smyth of Va. said he wished to present his views on the subject, but he was not prepared to do so this afternoon. He therefore asked that the committee should rise, and ask leave to sit again.

The committee, however, refused to rise.

Mr. Archer, of Va. said, that he, too, wished to address the House on this question, but was prevented from doing so to-day by bodily indisposition.

Another motion for the committee to rise was negatived.

At length, however, after one or two more refusals, the committee rose and reported the resolution to the House; and after several ineffectual attempts, a motion at length prevailed to lay it on the table.

And the House adjourned.

FROM THE WESTWARD.

Extract of a letter from Brigadier General Atkinson, to the Secretary of War.

FRANKLIN, OCT. 13, 1820.

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communications of the 17th and 21st of June. Your instructions respecting the occupancy of Fort Osage, and in relation to the complaints made by the Osage deputation, at Washington, shall be particularly attended to.

I left Council Bluffs on the 1st inst. and came down the waggon road that Lieutenant Fields has opened, with his command. We overtook him on Grand River, about forty miles above its mouth, on the 10th inst. with his wagon, team, and party, in good condition. As soon as I get his report on opening the road, it shall be forwarded to you, as shall the report, and topographical sketch of lieutenant Talcott, of the route across to St. Peter's. The road is measured from the Bluffs, to Chariton; the distance is about two hundred and fifty miles; the distance across to St. Peters, is estimated at three hundred miles. From a belief that the Sac Indians are secretly hostile to the whites, I have deferred having the country across to Rock Island, and Prairie du Chien explored for the present.

The ague and fever, has been prevalent at the post above, for the last two months, but there is every reason to believe it will soon disappear. Only one death has occurred among the troops, from the 15th April, to the 1st instant, and that from a case of the typhus.

The new barracks were in a state of forwardness on the 1st; indeed most of the troops were quartered. The rooms were put up with round logs, and hewn down without and within; the whole of the infantry and one block of the rifle barracks, are covered with shingles.—Good brick chimneys were made to most of the rooms and the residue, no doubt, completed by this time. The barracks are dry and comfortable, and will probably last some fifteen years; a plan of their construction, and of their defences, shall be forwarded to you on my arrival at St. Louis.

Our crop surpasses my expectation; of corn we shall no doubt gather more than 10,000 bushels. From the quantity gathered and measured, from an acre, which I believe, yielded not more than an average, we should count on more than 13,000 bushels. The acre alluded to produced 102 1-2 bushels of shelled corn, but as it was not quite dry, an allowance for shrinking of 22 1-2 per cent. would still give us more than the latter quantity. Our potato crop will not be as abundant as anticipated, nor will the product of turnips; of the former we shall probably gather four thousand bushels, and four to five thousand of the latter. Grasshoppers appeared in myriads the last week in August, and stripped the turnips of their leaves; they were so well grown, however, as to resuscitate measurably, and will give half a crop. If these destructive visitants had made their appearance six weeks sooner, we should not have made one bushel of corn. They stripped it, even at that late period, of half its leaves. The Pawnee Indians lost their whole crop by their ravages, and I understand that at the Earl of Selkirk's establishment, on Red River, the two last crops have been entirely destroyed by them.

If we are not again visited by those insects, there is no doubt but we shall be able, after gathering the next crop, to subsist ourselves in plentiful abundance by our own labors. We have cut and preserved two hundred and fifty tons of hay, which will be sufficient for our horses and cattle.

The Indian tribes on the Missouri continue friendly towards us. Our opportunity of judging of their dispositions has been greater the present season than at any former period. In September there was assembled, at one time, at the Bluffs, the chiefs and head men of the three bands of Pawnees, of the Kansas, of the Mahas, of the Puncas; of the three bands of Yanketon Sioux, of the Teton Sioux, and of the Sione Sioux, residing above the Great Bend; all of whom professed to be, and are, no doubt, as friendly as could be wished. It is said that the Aracaras, who inhabit the country 150 miles below the Mandans, speak lightly of the coming of the troops; and the friendly disposition of the Mandans is also questioned. In these reports but little confidence should be placed. For my own part, I have not the least doubt but the presence of 400 troops would be quite sufficient to overawe them, and make as favorable an impression as could be desired; and which I must hope will be authorized early in the spring. There certainly is not the least difficulty, with proper management, of carrying the views of government into full effect, in regard to opening a friendly intercourse with the upper tribes.

Whilst the representatives of the above mentioned tribes were at the Bluffs, the brigade was paraded for review, with two pieces of cannon on the right, supplied with horses and mounted artilleryists.