

# CONGRESS.

## SENATE.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 6, 1828.

Mr. Harrison presented the petition of sundry citizens of Cincinnati, in Ohio, praying that an appropriation may be made and applied to removing the obstructions to navigation and commerce in Ohio and Mississippi rivers. Referred to the Committee on Commerce.

Mr. Branch from the Committee on Finance, reported a bill granting the assent of Congress to an act of the Legislature of North Carolina incorporating the Ocracoke Navigation Company, without amendment.

On motion of Mr. Smith of Md. the bill to provide for the payment of the Revolutionary and other pensioners was taken up, and an amendment offered on a former day by Mr. Smith, to make the appropriation \$800,000, instead of \$564,000, in addition to the unexpended balance, was adopted, and the bill was ordered to a third reading.

A message was received from the President of the United States, enclosing a treaty of Commerce and Navigation, concluded between the United States and the King of Sweden and Norway, on the 4th July, 1827, and ratified on the 18th ult.

On motion of Mr. Woodbury, the bill to remove the discriminating duties on foreign tonnage and merchandise, in certain cases was taken up.

Mr. Woodbury gave, at great length, an explanation of the objects of the bill.

Mr. Silsbee made a few remarks in reply to Mr. Woodbury although he was not understood to oppose the bill.

Mr. Smith of Maryland, spoke in favor of the bill and went into a brief history of the advance of the liberal principles in commerce and navigation, in late years.

Mr. Woodbury explained, in reply to some of the remarks of Mr. Silsbee.

Mr. Foot replied to some of the remarks of Mr. Woodbury, in relation to the loss of the direct trade with the West Indies, which he did not think at all important in its result.

Mr. Woodbury made some further explanations, when the bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

The special Orders of the Day then occurred, and the bill more effectually to provide for the organization of the Militia of the United States, and the discipline thereof, was taken up.

Mr. Chandler explained the objects of the bill, among which is a provision authorizing the classing of the Militia into two bodies, the one to be composed of men between the ages of 21 and 28, to be known as the Junior Class; the other to be composed of men between the ages of 28 and 45. A provision was also made that, whenever the Militia of any State will turn out for discipline four days in the year, they shall be supplied with tents and camp-kettles by the United States. This, Mr. C. observed, was held out as an inducement to them to encamp for that space of time, as men were taught much more by being drilled for four days at one time, than by the same number of days at different periods. Mr. C. after having explained the various provisions of the bill, moved an amendment, to provide for any militia officer or soldier who should be wounded while in the service of the United States.

Mr. Noble expressed himself in opposition to the amendment, and threatened to establish a pension system, and moved to postpone the bill until Monday next, to be made the order for that day.

Mr. Smith, of Md. supported the bill, but suggested some alterations in the details.

Mr. Chandler acquiesced in the suggestions of the gentleman from Maryland, and observed that he had no wish to push the measure, desiring that the aid of the Senators might be given to correct the bill. He was willing to agree to the motion to postpone, if gentlemen desired to examine the bill further.

Mr. Smith, of Md. thought to postpone would place the bill too far down on the list of special orders. He therefore moved to lay it on the table.

Mr. Chandler assented to the motion, and the question being put upon it, it was agreed to.

The bill for the relief the Columbian College in the District of Columbia, being next on the list of the special orders was taken up.

Mr. Eaton made a few favorable remarks upon the bill.

Mr. White said, that he had read a statement of the affairs of the College, by which it appeared that they were very much deranged. He wished to be certain, when the United States gave up its claim on the College, that some other creditors, should not step in and take away the property with which they were to go on with the institution. He, therefore, asked of the gentlemen who formed the Committee, information as to who are the other creditors, what the amounts due to them, and whether they were willing to agree to the compromise. He wished to see what was the amount of funds possessed by them, to meet the demands of such creditors as would not give up their claims; because, if the benefit contemplated by this bill was not likely to operate upon the institution, it was useless to give up the claim of the United States upon it. All that he wanted was to be able to vote safely, and he asked for the requisite information, which he had not as yet received.

Mr. Eaton said that he could not give the information asked, because it was not the duty of the Committee to investigate the private debts of the College.

After some farther discussion, the bill was recommitted.

THURSDAY, FEB. 7.

The bill for the relief of Susan Decatur and others was taken up, and underwent considerable discussion. The blanks of the bill were filled as follows: For the legal representatives of Com. Preble, \$5,000.—For Susan Decatur, legal representative of Stephen Decatur, of the first class of officers, \$31,412. For the second class of officers, James Lawrence, Joseph Bainbridge and Jonathan Thorn, \$12,564.—For the third class of officers, \$14,958.—For the fourth class, \$12,215.—For the fifth class, \$11,074. And for 43 seamen, \$12,773.

FRIDAY, FEB. 8.

The principal subject was a bill for the relief of Abraham Ogden and others; the

blank in which was filled with one thousand dollars. After a long and desultory debate, the bill was lost on the question of engrossing, by a vote of 21 to 22. The bill making compensation to Susan Decatur, (widow of Com. Stephen Decatur) and others, was then taken up, and after a few remarks from Mr. Chambers, in relation to the statement of F. C. De Kraft, presented by him yesterday, was ordered to be engrossed by a vote of 32 to 13. The bill to graduate the price of public lands came up as the special order, when Mr. Kane addressed the Senate at considerable length upon the bill. After some other business of subordinate import, the Senate adjourned to Monday.

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 6.

The Speaker laid before the House a letter from the governor of the State of Georgia, transmitting at the request of the Legislature of that State a report made by one of its committees on the subject of "the powers of the General Government claimed and exercised, for the purpose of encouraging domestic manufactures and effecting a system of Internal Improvement," which letter was read and committed to a committee of the whole on the state of the Union.

The Speaker laid before the House a Report from the Commissioners of the sinking fund, shewing the amount of the Public debt which had been paid off in the year 1826 and 27, to be \$21,047,052.

Mr. McLean from the Committee on Indian affairs, who were instructed to make a special report in relation to the expediency of an appropriation for aiding the emigration of the Indians generally, to places without the limits of the States and Territories; and to whom was also referred so much of the estimates of the Treasury, for the service of the Indian Department, for the year 1828, as was marked "submitted," made a detailed report, decidedly in favor of carrying into effect the matters submitted to their consideration, and concluding with the following resolution:

"Resolved, That the sum of \$25,124 be appropriated for the objects specified in the estimates from the Treasury Department marked 'submitted,' and that \$50,000 dollars be appropriated for the aid of the Creek Indians in their removal West of the Mississippi; and the further sum of fifty thousand dollars to enable the President of the United States to extinguish the title of the Cherokee Indians to any lands within the State of Georgia, when it can be done upon 'peaceable and reasonable' terms, and to aid said Cherokees and such other Indians as may be disposed to emigrate west of the Mississippi."

The House resumed the consideration of the resolutions on the subject of public expenditures and retrenchment, as amended on the motion of Mr. Hamilton, and accepted by Mr. Chilton.

Mr. Bartlett resumed, and concluded an able speech, generally in defence of the present Administration from the charges alleged and insinuated against it.

He was followed by Mr. Smith, of Virginia, in general reply, on the other side.

Then followed a series of speeches, motions for adjournment, &c. which extended the session to 10 o'clock at night; of which, in due season, our readers shall have an account. The principal speaker was Mr. Wright, who inadvertently at considerable length, and with much severity, upon the speeches of the several gentlemen who had recently taken ground opposite to that which he had occupied.

The result of this night's proceedings was the unanimous adoption of the resolutions for inquiry, as amended, together with the amendment of Mr. Dorsey, which carries part of the inquiry back to the year 1790, and which was agreed to by a vote of 93 to 86.

THURSDAY, FEB. 7.

Mr. Orr, from the committee on military affairs, reported a bill to establish an Armory on the Western Waters, which was twice read and committed. [This bill provides for the location of an Armory at one of the following sites, viz. Pittsburg, Beaver, or Zanesville—the selection to be determined by the commissioners formerly appointed on the subject.]

Mr. Findlay presented a Resolution of the General Assembly of Ohio, requesting their Senators and Representatives to use their efforts to induce the Government of the U. States to aid the American Colonization Society in effecting the object of their institution, which is so eminently calculated to advance the honour and interest of our common country.—Referred.

Mr. Storer submitted Resolutions adopted by the General Assembly of New-York, instructing their Senators and Representatives to make use of every proper exertion to effect such a revision of the Tariff as will afford a sufficient protection to the growers of Wool, Hemp and Flax, and the manufacturers of Iron, Woolsens, and every other article, so far as the same may be connected with the interests of manufactures, agriculture and commerce.—Referred.

A report was received from the Secretary of the Treasury, with a digested manual on the subject of the growth and manufacture of Silk, in obedience to directions given by Congress for this purpose at a former session. Referred.

The engrossed bill for the relief of Marigny D'Auterive, came up for its third reading.—The question being on the passage of the bill, a considerable debate took place. Mr. Taylor moved a re-commitment of the bill, which motion was carried 82 votes to 79.

FRIDAY, FEB. 8.

Mr. McDuffie, from the committee of Ways and Means, reported a bill to authorize the Postmaster General to erect an additional building, and employ five additional clerks; which was twice read and committed.

Mr. McDuffie, from the same committee, also reported a bill to authorize the President of the United States to employ an agent to procure from the Plantation Office, and other Offices in England, copies of such documents as will serve to illustrate the early history of the States of this Union; which was twice read and committed.

The following resolution moved by Mr. Sloane yesterday, was taken up and read.

"Resolved, That the Secretary of War be instructed to furnish this House with copies of letters and correspondence between the Secretary of War and General Andrew Jackson, from the commencement of the Creek War, until the 1st March, 1815, on the subject of the draft service, and discharge of the several corps of Tennessee Militia."

Mr. Sloane, referring to a statement made yesterday, by Mr. Hamilton, chairman of the committee on Military Affairs, that that committee would shortly report on the communication from the War Department, (in relation to the six militia men,) said, that he wished the correspond-

ence referred to in the resolution to go to that committee, with the others, before that report was made.

Mr. Wickliffe called for the reading of the former resolution, calling for documents on this subject, and it was read accordingly.

Mr. Hamilton called for the reading of Mr. Sloane's resolution; and it having been again read.

It was agreed to by the House, nem. con. The following resolution moved by Mr. Cambreleng yesterday, was taken up and read:

"Resolved, That the Secretary of the Treasury be directed to furnish this House with a statement of the net revenue collected annually from the year 1790 to 1826, inclusive, on each of the following articles, viz: hammered and rolled bar iron, wool, hemp, flax, sail cloth, molasses, foreign distilled spirits, cotton manufactures and woollen manufactures, and of the revenue which accrued on each of the said articles during the year 1827."

Mr. Strong moved to amend, by adding as follows:

"Together with the quantity and value of the respective articles imported in each year, and the rates of duty thereon."

This was accepted by Mr. Cambreleng as a modification, and the resolution was agreed to as modified.

On motion of Mr. Wright, of Ohio, it was

"Resolved, That the Committee appointed to revise the rules of the House, be instructed to inquire into the propriety of establishing a Standing Committee, to consist of seven members, to be called the Committee on Retrenchments, who shall be charged with the investigation of the manner of discharging the public business in the different public Offices, and to report any measures they may deem expedient to facilitate the public business, and to secure its economical performance.—Carried."

On motion of Mr. Cambreleng, it was

"Resolved, That the committee on Naval Affairs be instructed to inquire into the expediency of continuing for a further term of five years, pensions to the widows and children of officers, seamen and marines, who were killed in battle, or who died in the naval service of the United States during the late war."

Mr. Talliaferro moved the following, which by rule lies one day on the table:

"Resolved, That the Secretary of War be requested to inform this House what regulations, if any, have been adopted to give effect to the 22d section of the act of Congress, passed in the year 1802, entitled 'an act to regulate trade among the Indian tribes,' the 22d section of which act gives to the President discretionary power to prevent the introduction of spirituous liquors amongst the Indians."

Mr. Gilmer laid before the House a copy of a Report of a Joint Committee of the General Assembly of the State of Georgia, "on the right and propriety of the Congress of the United States to appropriate money from the public Treasury of the Union, in aid of the Colonization Society," protesting against the power.—Referred.

The Speaker laid before the House a communication from the Secretary of War, transmitting a report and plan of the survey of the Cape Fear River, below the town of Wilmington; which was read, and referred to the committee on Commerce.

The Speaker also laid before the House a communication from the Secretary of War, transmitting an abstract of the annual returns of the Militia; which was read, and referred to the Committee on the Militia.

The Speaker also laid before the House a communication from the Secretary of War, transmitting a statement of the appropriations and expenditures of the War Department, for the year 1827; which was read and laid on the table.

The Speaker also laid before the House a communication from the Secretary of the Navy, transmitting a statement of the contracts made by the Commissioners of the Navy, during the year 1827; which was read and laid on the table.

Mr. Wright, of Ohio, submitted to the House an amendment which he contemplates moving to the bill to amend the Judiciary system of the United States, when that bill shall come under consideration.

The amendment proposed is as follows: Strike but the second section, and insert in lieu thereof, the following:

"Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That the seventh Judicial Circuit of the United States shall hereafter consist of the Districts of Ohio, Indiana and Illinois; and the Districts of Kentucky and Missouri shall form an eighth Circuit; and the Districts of Tennessee and Alabama a ninth Circuit; and the Districts of Louisiana and Mississippi a tenth Circuit; and the Justice of the Supreme Court now assigned to the seventh Circuit, and residing in the eighth Circuit, is hereby assigned to the said eighth Circuit; and the three additional Justices whose appointment is provided for by this act, shall be severally assigned, by the President of the United States, to the said seventh, ninth and tenth circuits, and shall reside within their respective Circuits."

On motion of Mr. Everett, the House took up the bill to authorize the Clerk of the House to subscribe for 500 copies of the Statistical Tables of Messrs. Watterston and Van Zandt, which was ordered to be engrossed.

The amendments of the Senate to the bill making appropriations for the support of Government for 1828, and the amendment of the Senate to the bill making appropriations for the payment of Pensions, were taken up in Committee of the Whole.

The amendments to the first mentioned bill were agreed to by the Committee, and that to the last mentioned bill were disagreed to, and so reported to the House.—The report of the Committee of the Whole was then concurred in by the House. And so the general appropriation bill has passed both Houses of Congress.

The bill "concerning the Washington City College in the District of Columbia," was taken up in Committee of the Whole. [The bill proposes to give to the College the power of conferring degrees.]

Mr. Burges wished further information before he could consent to pass this bill. The individual at the head of it was unknown to him, and the Institution had not been incorporated.

Mr. Alexander, chairman of the District of Columbia, explained the circumstances. The individual presiding was of good character, and respectable literary standing.

He had set up this Institution by his own enterprise, and had already obtained more than one hundred students. He had asked for incorporation, but only for the power to confer the usual literary degrees, for want of which, the students, after having matured themselves in their course, would be obliged to enter some other College in order to obtain a diploma.

Mr. Bartlett urged a legal objection to the bill. It spoke of the President and Directors of Washington City College, but no names were specified, nor was any such institution known to the law, not having been incorporated. If the bill should pass, any persons who chose might claim the benefit, on assuming the same title.

Mr. Burges reprobated the idea of giving to one individual the literary power, which, both in Europe and in this Country, was claimed only by a faculty of learned men. The gentleman had been spoken of as modest, but really such a request evinced any thing but modesty. It savored of an arrogance that seldom dwelt with great learning and talent. If the gentleman wished in reality to found a College, let him come forward with his friends, and seek a regular incorporation.

After a few words from Mr. Weems, on motion of Mr. Burges, the bill was recommitted.

And then the House adjourned to Monday.

## To the Freeman of Guilford County.

### FELLOW-CITIZENS,

Not forgetting the public interest, or the honor you have so frequently conferred on me, of representing in part this County in the State Legislature—in my public capacity, I have ever made it a point to promote, as well the general welfare as the local interests of my own County, agreeably to the best of my understanding. And considering it a duty incumbent on a Representative to inform his constituents what has been done, together with the part he took, and his views of the subjects which have been agitated, I shall proceed to enumerate a number of the most prominent acts passed at the late session of the General Assembly, with such remarks as I may deem proper. I trust throughout the whole of my legislative career, I have acted in accordance with your wishes; however, if in some instances you should differ from me in opinion, all I ask is, that as to err is the lot of humanity, you will ascribe any errors that I may have committed to the head and not to the heart.

There was a petition presented by the citizens inhabiting the lands of the late Cherokee purchase, for a County, to be established including those lands, as they were subjected to many difficulties and inconveniences for want of a civil police among them. The bill founded on the petition was lost in the Senate by one vote, though I gave it my support. Whether it may be considered a party question or not, it seemed to be the policy of Eastern Members not to aid the passage of such bills.

The Committee appointed to investigate the affairs of the Treasury, reported a defalcation in the Treasury (and it is with reluctance I state it) of sixty-eight thousand six hundred thirty-one dollars & some cents. To remedy this loss and guard against similar occurrences in future, required the united wisdom of the Legislature. The estate of the late Treasurer is put in requisition to supply the default as far as it will go. It is thought the State will not eventually lose much, although it must lie out of the use of the money for some time. It took up much time to condense and amend the several acts relating to the Treasury Department, and it is hoped, under the present regulations, that any future deficiency in that Department, may easily be detected.

The subject of our Internal Improvements seemed to claim the attention of the Legislature. The ill fate of past appropriations, together with the pressure of the times, rendered appropriations more unpopular than heretofore, but the citizens of Wilmington, or rather the members from that section of the State, importuned with such zeal for the State not to withhold its aid, at least until the new channel was as good as the former one, that there was an appropriation made of six thousand two hundred thirty-two dollars for improving the navigation of Cape Fear below Wilmington.

By an official Report, it appears that the expenditures from the beginning, before and since the organization of the Board of Internal Improvement, (including expense of Engineers, Surveying, expense of the Board, Inland Navigation, Roads, Contingent expenses, &c.) have amounted to two hundred and twenty thousand eight hundred and sixteen dollars twenty-five and a half cents. My ideas on the subject of internal improvement are so well known, that it is not necessary at this time to make any comment.

There were great exertions used to procure an appropriation of sixteen thousand dollars to clear out or drain Mattanuskeet Lake, which was negatived. The individuals who would have been benefited by the operation, offered to relinquish one half of the land to the State, which it was said would be worth one hundred thousand dollars; but I had so long and so frequently heard the siren song on internal improvements, that I had my doubts, and voted against the measure.

The situation of the Banks, as respects their solvency, claimed the attention of the Legislature; and in consequence of the death of the late Treasurer, the Speaker of the Senate was appointed to represent the interest of the State in the several Banks, and to report thereon. Which was done, and I was gratified to learn that there was not any doubt of their solvency. For further particulars, I refer to the Report. Perhaps, as Bank paper is our principal circulating medium, it may be worthy the attention of the people. Those chartered Companies will in course be dissolved.