

One of our late English papers contains the following extract of a letter from an officer recently employed in the East Indies against the Rajah of Pongahur:—

"After a march of five days and nights without intermission, and without sleep, and nearly without food, we arrived last night in two divisions each having two brigade of guns, before the fort of Pongahur, 20 miles north of Vellire; and at 3 o'clock this morning commenced our attack. After a heavy cannonade of six hours a breach was discovered in the fourth bastion; and the storming party, consisting of the flank companies of the 1st battalion of the 4th regiment, and the 1st battalion of the 16th regiment, with four galleys, and 100 pioneers to clear the jungles, was ordered to advance.

"Our gallant fellows marched to the spot with their accustomed bravery, under a shower of shot, and in face of 5000 men, who lined the breach and ramparts. On reaching the breach, having reserved their fire, they discharged a volley, and the soldiers here rushed forward with the bayonet, with such enthusiasm, that the enemy fled in all directions, abandoning to us the fort, and leaving behind them 2400 killed and wounded.

"Our loss on this occasion was—1st battalion, 4th regiment, 12 killed, 20 wounded; 2d battalion, 11th regiment, 9 killed, 23 wounded; 1st battalion, 16th regiment, 7 killed, 41 wounded; and pioneers, 5 killed, 11 wounded.—Total, 43 killed, 105 wounded. Lieutenant Leitch, of the 4th, was the only officer wounded. Capt. Philipson lost part of his jacket, and several buttons from the front of his waistcoat, by a 12-lb. shot. Notwithstanding the great fatigue which our troops have undergone, the service is so urgent as not to admit of their being sent rest, and we are again under march in pursuit of the fugitives.

The treasure taken by the army under Gen. Wellesly, at Acamadghur and Allypore, is said to have proved to be greater than was first supposed. The specie alone is now said to amount to 400,000 licks of rupees; and its conveyance required four hundred mule-trains, each drawn by 12 bullocks. Nine thousand camels, laden with silk and muslin; sixty thousand bullocks, laden with rice; and 2000 elephants, likewise fell into the hands of the victors.

A very large gun, 60 pounder, was taken by Lord Lake, made wholly of gold and silver, and supposed to be worth one hundred thousand pounds. Gold chains, diamonds, pearls, and other valuables, worth upwards of a million sterling, recompensed the enterprise of our troops on the same occasion.

The detachment from the British army on the Chumull river, which had been in pursuit of the Rajah of Jebugger, has returned to head quarters; the enemy having taken refuge in the hills, whither it was deemed inexpedient to follow him.

CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Monday, April 14.

Mr. J. Randolph said, he was about to call the attention of the House to a subject, which he should not probably have brought into view, but for the change wrought in the State of the revenue, in consequence of the peace concluded with Tripoli. Among the different articles from which moneys were drawn, there were none so heavily burthened as salt; and it would be recollected, that it was one of the necessities of life, and an article, the free use and consumption of which, was of a material importance to the agriculture of the country. Two acts had been passed laying a duty on this article. It was no new thing to wish—it was indeed extremely desirable, to diminish, if not to take off this duty—and for that purpose he submitted the following resolution:

Resolved, That the committee of ways and means be instructed to enquire into the expediency of repealing so much of any act as lays a duty on salt, and to report such a provision, as may in their opinion, be calculated to meet the deficiency occasioned by that repeal.

After considerable debate, the motion obtained without a division.

The bill for the safeguard of merchant vessels in the vicinity of the United States, was read a third time.

Mr. Dana moved that the Yeas and Nays be called on several occasions to show the effect of the bill as it passed in the House. He hoped they would be taken on this occasion to manifest their confidence in opinion.

The Yeas and Nays were accordingly taken, and were—Yeas 87—Nays 5.

The bill for carrying into effect certain Indian treaties, was read a third time and passed.

The bill making appropriations for carrying into effect the treaty between the United States and the Chick-saw tribe of Indians was read a third time—and after some debate relative to the provisions of the same, the question was taken by yeas and nays on the passage of the bill. Yeas 68; nays 33.

The bill respecting claims to land in the Indiana territory and State of Ohio, was read a third time and passed without a division.

A message was received from the Senate, saying that they had agreed to the resolution authorizing the adjournment of the two Houses, with an amendment, fixing Monday next as the time of a adjournment.

... immediately took up this amend- which was obtained—Ayer 73. The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole—Mr. Casson in the chair—on the bill supplementary to the act, entitled "An act making provision for the redemption of the whole public debt of the United States."

Mr. Vannum considered the subjects contemplated by this bill too important and the subject too abstruse, to be likely to solve a portion of the session to command that attention they merited; and therefore moved that the committee should rise, with a view to postponing the bill for her consideration of the bill to the next session.

Messrs. Tallmadge and Quincy supported, and Messrs. J. Clay and J. Randolph opposed this motion, which was disagreed to—Ayes 32, Nays 42.

When the bill was considered by two sections, and some progress made in it, when the committee rose, and obtained leave to sit again.

The following message was received from the President of the U. S.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the U. States.

During the blockade of Tripoli by the squadron of the United States a small cruiser, under the flag of Tunis, with two prizes, (all of trifling value) attempted to enter Tripoli, was turned back, warned, and attempting again to enter, was taken, and detained, as prize by the squadron. Her destination was claimed by the Bey of Tunis, with a threat of war in terms so serious, that on withdrawing from the blockade of Tripoli, the commanding officer of the squadron thought it his duty to repair to Tunis with his squadron, and to require a categorical declaration whether peace or war was intended. The Bey preferred explaining himself by an ambassador to the United States, who, on his arrival renewed the request that the vessel and her prizes should be restored. It was deemed to give this proof of friendship to the Bey, and the ambassador was informed the vessels would be restored. Afterwards he made a requisition of naval stores to be sent to the Bey in order to secure a peace for the term of three years, with a threat of war, if refused. It has been refused, and the ambassador is about to depart without receiving in his threat or demand.

Under these circumstances, and considering that the several provisions of the act of March 25, 1804 will cease in consequence of the ratification of the treaty of peace with Tripoli, now ratified and concluded to by the Senate, I have thought it my duty to communicate these facts, in order that Congress may consider the expediency of continuing the same provision for a limited time, or making others equivalent.

TH: JEFFERSON.

April 14 1806. Referred to the committee of Ways and Means.

Tuesday, April 15.

The Speaker laid before the House a report from the Secretary of the treasury, transmitted a statement of receipts and expenditures for the year 1804.

The House took up the amendment proposed by the Senate to the bill authorizing a detachment of the militia, to fall into, in the part of the bill relative to the militia to be called into actual service, "as the president in his discretion shall deem most proper"—in the room of which from their local situation shall be deemed most convenient.

The House concurred in this amendment. The bill has consequently passed both Houses. On motion of Mr. Masters, the House resolved itself into a committee of the whole. Mr. Vannum in the chair—on the bill "for fortifying the ports and harbors of the U. States, and for building gunboats."

The first section was read as follows: Section 1. That a sum of money not exceeding 150,000 dollars, in addition to the sum's heretofore appropriated, shall be, and the same is hereby appropriated, to enable the President of the United States to equip ports and harbors of the United States to be better fortified and protected.

Mr. D. R. Williams moved to strike out this section, which motion was disagreed to—Ayes 20.

Mr. Masters moved to strike out the sum of "150,000 dollars," for the purpose of inserting "500,000."

A division of the question having been called for; the question was put on striking it out, and lost—Yeas 27.

Mr. Masters moved a new section—viz: that a sum not exceeding be appropriated to enable the President of the United States to equip the ports and harbors of New York to be better fortified and protected.

Mr. Smith opposed this motion.

Mr. D. R. Williams moved to amend the motion by adding Charleston after New York.

Mr. Poppel moved to add Norfolk.

Mr. Early moved to add New Orleans.

Mr. R. Nelson moved to add Baltimore.

Mr. Goldsborough moved to add Georgetown.

Mr. Quincy spoke at considerable length in favor of making a liberal appropriation for the fortification and protection of our ports and harbors.

Messrs. Dawson, Smilie, Sloan, and Lyon spoke against Mr. Masters's motion, which was disagreed to—Ayes 31.

Mr. Dawson stated that the fate of the frigate Philadelphia was well known, and added that the frigates Boston and General Green had been condemned as unfit for service. To supply the deficiency in the naval establishment,

he offered a new section appropriating a sum not exceeding 500,000 dollars to enable the President to equip three additional frigates to be built.

Mr. Green moved to add, after frigates, or two frigate boats. This amendment was disagreed to—Ayer 28.

When the section offered by Mr. Dawson was likewise disagreed to—Ayes 40; Nays 54.

A new section offered by Mr. R. Nelson, authorizing the President to sell each of the national vessels as in his opinion shall be in such a situation as to make it the interest of the U. States not to repair the same, was agreed to—Ayes 63.

The committee then rose and reported the bill, which the House took into consideration.

Mr. J. Clay moved to strike out the first section.

Messrs. J. Clay, R. Nelson, and DeLinger supported; and Messrs. Dawson, Vannum, Gregg, Dana, and Elmer opposed this motion, which was disagreed to—Yeas 24—Nays 75.

Mr. Masters then moved to strike out "150,000," and insert "500,000" dollars. A motion disagreed to—Yeas 31—Nays 71.

When the bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

The Speaker laid before the House the following letter from the Secretary of the treasury:

Treasury Department, April 15, 1806.

Sir, In answer to the request contained in the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 8th inst. a law the honor respectfully to draw, that "no application has been made to draw money from the treasury for the purchase of the Florida before an appropriation made by law for that purpose."

The circumstances, which may have produced an impression that such an application has been made, being unconnected with any matter pertaining to the duties of the office of Secretary of the treasury, are not presumed to come within the scope of the information required from this department by the House.

I have the honor to be,

With great respect,

Sir, your most obedient,

Albert Gallatin.

The Hon. the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

A message was received from the President communicating the treaty between the United States and the Pinkshaw tribe of Indians.

Mr. J. Randolph, from the committee of Ways and Means, to whom was referred the message from the President of the U. S. relative to the State of our affairs with Tunis, and a resolution directing an inquiry into the expediency of taking off the duty on salt, made a report by way of bill, entitled an act for repealing the act laying duties on salt, and for continuing for a further time the first section of the act to protect the commerce and fisheries of the United States against the Barbary powers.

This bill reports from the 11th day of Jan. next, in which it is provided that a duty on salt, and continue the Mediterranean fund (to wit) and a half per cent. till the end of the next session of Congress.

Referred to a committee of the whole to report.

VACCINE INOCULATION.

THE most important discovery, when sanctioned to the mind, are counterpoised with indifference. Who now wonders at the discovery of America, or the circulation of the blood? There is, however, a period between the conception of a discovery and its mature birth. "Fought with more pang than war or women know;" and there is no light in which the human mind can be viewed more interesting than during this anxious period. Whenever, therefore, the author of any greatly useful invention details the progress of his own mind during the completion of his plan, the history is perused with avidity. On these grounds we conclude that our readers will be much gratified by the following narrative:

From the London Medical and Physical Journal.

"I am induced to give the following concise history of the origin of vaccine inoculation, from my frequently observing that those who only consider the subject cursorily, confound the casual cow pox with the disease when excited by inoculation. EDWARD JENNER.

"My inquiry into the nature of the cow pox commenced upwards of 25 years ago. My attention to this singular disease was first excited by observing that, among those whom, in the country, I was frequently called upon to inoculate, many resisted every effort to give them the small-pox. The patients, I found, had undergone a disease they called the cow pox, contracted by milking cows affected with a peculiar eruption in their teats. On enquiry, it appeared that it had been known among the dairies time immemorial, and that a vague opinion prevailed that it was a preventative of the small-pox. This opinion I found was, comparatively, new among them; for all the older farmers declared they had no such idea in their early days—a circumstance that seemed easily to be accounted for, from my knowing that the common people were very rarely inoculated for the small-pox, till that practice was rendered general by the improved method introduced by the Suttons; so that the working people in the dairies were seldom put to the test of the preventive powers of the cow pox.

In the course of the investigation of this subject, which, like all others of a complex and intricate nature, presented many difficulties, I found that some of those who seemed to have no objection to the cow pox, nevertheless, in inoculation with the small-pox, felt its influence just the same as if no disease had been communicated to them from the cow. This occurrence led me to inquire among the medical practitioners in the country around me, who all agreed in this sentiment, that the cow pox was not to be relied upon as a certain preventative of the small-pox. This for a while dampened, but did not extinguish my ardour; for, as I proceeded, I had the satisfaction to learn that the cow was subject to some varieties of spontaneous eruptions upon her teats: that they were all capable of communicating long to the hands of the milkers; and that whatever was derived from the animal, was called in the dairy the cow-pox. Thus I surmounted a great obstacle, & in consequence, was led to form a distinction between the cow pox, one of which only I have denominated the true, the others the spurious cow pox, as they possess no specific power over the constitution. This impediment to my progress was not long removed, before another, of far greater magnitude in its appearance, started up. There were not wanting influences to prove, that when the true cow pox broke out among the cattle in a dairy, a person who had milked an infected animal, and had thereby apparently gone through the disease in common with others, was liable to receive the small-pox afterwards. This, like the former obstacle, gave a painful check to my fond and aspiring hopes; but, reflecting that the operations of nature are generally uniform, and that it was not probable the human constitution (having undergone the cow pox) should in some instances be perfectly shielded from the small-pox, and in many others remain unprotected, I resumed my labours with redoubled ardour. The result was fortunate; for I now discovered that the virus of cow-pox was liable to undergo progressive changes, from the first effects precisely as that of small-pox; and that, when it was applied to the human skin in its degenerated state, it would produce the nigerative effects in a great degree as when it was not decomposed, and sometimes far greater; but having lost its specific properties, it was incapable of producing that change upon the human frame which is requisite to render it insusceptible of the variolous contagion; so that it became evident a person might milk a cow one day, and having caught the disease, be forever secure; while another person milking the same cow the next day, might feel the influence of the virus in such a way as to produce a sore on his face, and, in consequence of this, might experience an indispotion to a considerable extent; yet, as has been observed, the specific quality being lost, the constitution would receive no peculiar impression.

"Here the close analogy between the virus of small-pox and of cow-pox becomes remarkably conspicuous; since the former, when taken from a recent pustule, and immediately used, gives the perfect small-pox to the person on whom it is inoculated; but, when taken in a far advanced stage of the disease, or when (as has been often observed) previously to its infection, it is exposed to the vapours, according to the established laws of nature, cause its decomposition, it can no longer be relied on as efficient. The observation will fully explain the source of the errors which have been committed by many oculators of the cow pox. Conceiving the whole process to be so extremely simple, as not to admit of a mistake, they have been hurried about the state of the vaccine virus; and finding it insidious, as part of it will be, even in an advanced stage of the pustule, when the greater portion has been converted into a scab, they have felt an improper confidence, and sometimes a mistaken implicit faith, which the vaccine fluid in this state is capable of exciting, and which possesses the perfect character.

"During the investigation of the cow pox, I was struck with the idea, heretofore unpracticable to propagate the disease by inoculation, after the manner of the true cow pox, first from the cow, and, finally, from the human being to another. I availed myself of an opportunity of putting this theory to the test. At length the period arrived. The first experiment was made upon the arm of a young woman who had been previously infected by a cow. Notwithstanding the resemblance which the pustule, thus excited on the boy's arm, bore the variolous inoculation, yet, as the indispotion attending it was hardly perceptible, I could scarcely persuade myself the patient was secure from the small-pox. However, on his being inoculated some months afterwards, it proved that he was secure. This case I printed with confidence; and as soon as I could again furnish myself with virus from the cow, I made an arrangement for a series of inoculations. A number of children were inoculated in succession, one from the other, and, after several months had elapsed, they were exposed to the infection of the true cow pox—some by inoculation, others by variolous infection, and some in both ways; but they all resisted. The result of these trials gradually led me to a wider field of experiment, which I went on not only with great attention, but with painful solicitude. It has become universally known through a treatise published in June, 1782. The result of my further experience was all brought forward in subsequent publications in the two succeeding years, 1789 and 1800. The distrust and scepticism which naturally arise in the minds of medical men, on any new discovery, is very prejudicial to its success.