

Eighteenth Congress.

SENATE.

SATURDAY, MARCH 20.

The Senate did not sit to-day.

MONDAY, MARCH 22.

The unfinished business of Friday last, being the consideration of the resolutions proposing amendments to the constitution, in relation to the election of President and Vice President, was again taken up. The question was upon Mr. Mills' motion to postpone the whole subject indefinitely.

Mr. Dickerson spoke, at considerable length, in favor of amending the constitution, so as to provide that the Electors of President shall be chosen in districts; and this he thought could only be brought about by a spirit of mutual concession.

Mr. Taylor, of Virginia, replied to Mr. Dickerson. He was opposed to the districting system, as contravening the federal character of our government, and destroying the moral and geographical independence of the states. He spoke in favor of postponement, as the present was not a fit moment for the deliberate consideration of these amendments.

Mr. Mills stated the views which induced him to move for the indefinite postponement of the subject. He had believed that it was quite impossible to act upon these resolutions at the present session; that the public sentiment was not yet prepared for any amendment on this subject, and that a sufficient number of the Senate, to carry any one of these amendments, could not be induced to vote for any amendment. He thought the present was not the best time for the consideration of the subject, and that there were so many and so various propositions, that no one of them would be adopted at present.

Mr. Kelly rose to address the Senate. After making a few remarks in answer to observations which had been made, on the former discussion of this question, in relation to the Congressional caucus, Mr. K. was called to order by the Chair. The President stated his opinion that the debate had taken a much wider range than ought to have been allowed, and expressed the positive feeling of his duty to confine the discussion to the immediate question before the Senate. Mr. Kelly said, it was his intention to have replied to some of the opinions heretofore expressed in debate in favor of the meeting alluded to—but, as the chair had decided that it was not in order to do so, he should submit to the decision, and take his seat.

Mr. Barbour, who was in the Chair when the discussion alluded to commenced, felt it his duty to explain the reasons which had induced him to allow a wider latitude to that debate, than had been indicated to be proper, by the Chair, at this time. It was in consequence of his peculiar situation, in connection with that meeting, that he had refrained from calling gentlemen to order who had introduced their discussion. He considered that it was better that the liberty of debate should be sometimes abused, than that it should be curtailed—the more especially, as every gentleman stood answerable before the country, for any remarks he might make in this Senate.

Mr. Hayes made some observations in reply to the arguments of Mr. Dickerson, to which the latter gentleman rejoined.

Mr. Branch spoke against postponing the amendments, on the ground that the present mode of election of President was subject to many and very serious objections; and that, as there was no limit to the present session of Congress, there was ample time for a full discussion of the several propositions to amend. He was in favor, as we understood him, of sending the election back to the Electors, when not made by them in the first instance. This would place the election beyond the sphere of Executive contamination, and in a place where a mutual interchange of good offices could not take place between the electors and the elected, as might be the case in the election by the House of Representatives.

Mr. Macon made some explanation of a remark which he had made in the previous discussion.

The question was then put, on postponing the whole subject indefinitely, and decided in the affirmative, 30 to 13, as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Barbour, Barton, Bell, Brown, Chandler, Clayton, D'Wolf, Eaton, Edwards, Findlay, Hayne, Holmes, of Miss. Johnson, of Ken. H. Johnson, of Lou. J. S. Johnson, of Lou. Kelly, King, of Alab. King, of N. Y. Knight, Lanman, Lloyd, of Mass. Mills, Palmer, Parrott, Seymour, Talbot, Taylor, of Indiana, Taylor, of Virginia, Van Dyke, Williams—30.

NAYS—Messrs. Benton, Branch, Dickerson, Elliott, Holmes, of Maine, Lowrie, Macon, Noble, Ruggles, Smith, Thomas, Van Buren, Ware—13.

House of Representatives.

SATURDAY, MARCH 20.

Mr. Breck, from the Committee to whom the subject was recommended, reported an amendment to the resolution formerly reported to the House, authorizing the purchase of a Portrait of Washington, so as to make it read as follows:

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the President of the U. States be, and he is hereby authorized to procure from Rembrandt Peale, of Philadelphia, a painting (to be placed in the Capitol) of WASHINGTON, on horseback, on a canvass, of not less than 18 feet high, and 13 wide; the middle and back grounds, to contain a representation of the battle of Princeton, or such other appropriate scenery as the President shall direct: Provided, the same can be obtained for a sum not exceeding \$3,000; and that the said Peale furnish a rich gilt frame therefor, at least fifteen inches wide.

The resolution was referred to a committee of the whole.

On motion of Mr. Vance, of N. C.

Resolved, That the Committee of Ways and Means be instructed to inquire into the expediency of making an appropriation adequate to the extinguishment of reservations to certain Indians, within the limits of North-Carolina and Tennessee.

The House then, by a vote of 93 to 19, went into a committee of the whole on the bill for amending the several acts laying duties on imports, and the question being on the amendment yesterday offered by Mr. Webster, to the 6th section, Mr. Tod withdrew his objection to it, and the amendment was adopted.

On motion of Mr. Webster, the section was further amended by striking out "nine" in the 6th line, and substituting "twelve," and on motion of Mr. Reed, by striking out the words "candles or," in the 4th line.

The section, as finally amended, reads as follows:

"Sec. 6. And be it further enacted, That there shall be allowed a drawback of 75 per centum of the duties by this act imposed on tallow, which may be manufactured into soap, upon the exportation thereof, within twelve months after the said importation, and in the manner prescribed by the act entitled 'An act to allow drawback of duties on spirits distilled and sugar refined, within the United States, and for other purposes,' so far as the same may be applicable, and under such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury."

Mr. Breck moved to amend the 97th line, by excepting the article of twine, from among others on which five cents per pound is laid, and adding the words "and on twine, ten cents per pound."

Mr. Breck, Mr. Reed, and Mr. Baylies, made some remarks for and against the motion; and the question being taken, the amendment was not agreed to.

Mr. Mercer moved to amend the bill in the 177th line, by striking out four cents (duty on Tallow) and inserting one cent.

Mr. Tod objected to the motion, as having virtually been passed upon by the decision of yesterday.

The Chair pronounced the motion to be in order.

Mr. Mercer supported his motion by quotations and calculations from the documents furnished by the Departments, and reasoning from the practice of England.

Mr. Reed replied, and thought this country was in such different circumstances from Great-Britain that her practice did not furnish an example.

Mr. Wayne stated a number of facts to shew the injury to the farmer and grazier from the importation of foreign tallow, and hoped that one of the few opportunities to benefit the farmer which the bill contains (to which bill, however, he was a friend) would not be neglected.

Mr. Mercer spoke in answer to the opponents of the motion, defended the English precedents, and contended, that, if the duty was laid, all the Russian tallow would stop in England, and the English would supersede us in the South-American trade. The duty, he contended would not affect the farmer, as what was imported would be immediately exported again. He deprecated the necessity of oaths, derived from the collection of the duty, unless the system of public or private warehousing in use in Great-Britain, were adopted, to both of which he objected. The duty would present to the tallow chandler a temptation of \$180,000 a year to fraud—and when fraud is introduced into one branch of the revenue, it quickly spreads into all branches. Mr. M. concluded with some general remarks on the system of the bill.

The question was then put, and decided in the negative.

Mr. Mercer then moved to strike out 4 and insert 2 cents.

The question was taken and decided in the negative—Ayes 62—Noes 112.

On motion of Mr. Reed, the committee rose, and the House adjourned.

MONDAY, MARCH 22.

Mr. Allen called up the joint resolution offered by him some days since, respecting an adjournment; but the House refused to consider it—ayes 44, noes 83.

Mr. Randolph observed, that the vernal equinox was now passed, and he thought it was time that every member who did not intend to rely on the public crib, but to feed out of his own corn-house, should go home and plant his corn; and he hoped that the honorable member from Massachusetts would continue to repeat his motion until it should obtain a more favorable reception by the House. The protracted sessions of Congress (which, however, he thanked God, could take place only every other year) he considered as fraught with incalculable mischief. They excluded from the public service an important and valuable class of men.

[Here the Speaker interposed, and pronounced Mr. R's remarks to be out of order, inasmuch as the House had refused to consider the resolution.]

Mr. R. observed that he had intended to conclude his observations by making a motion; but he should stand corrected.

Mr. Taylor then made a motion to alter the hour of meeting to 11 o'clock, A. M. and supported his motion by a short speech, in which he adverted to the amount of business in arrears, and the injurious consequence of long sessions.

Mr. Randolph again rose, and said, that he should take the liberty which the gentleman from New-York seemed so willing to take himself, but to refuse to others—no uncommon case—of making some observations on an interdicted subject. He should, in the selection of his topics, pursue his own lights, however feeble, without availing himself of the very great discernment, sagacity, experience,—(he wished he could enlarge the catalogue.)—of the gentleman from New-York. I, for one, said Mr. R. voted for the repeal of that preposterous rule which, even if this building were on fire, prevented the House from adjourning before 4 o'clock; and I did suppose that, in its spirit, in went to repeal the other rule on the same subject, in reference to the proceedings of the committee of the whole. Four hours per diem is as long as I, at least, am able to endure—I will not say, the pestilential atmosphere of this House—but an atmosphere, such as nothing but the wretched animals plunged in the Grotto del Cane, near Naples, were compelled to breathe, to gratify the laudable curiosity of the very benevolent philosophers of modern Europe. I hope the gentleman's motion will not be adopted—and I now give notice, that I mean to follow up his motion with one which relates to a subject that requires, if not the actual cautery, at least the knife—it is a motion to reduce the per diem allowance of members of this House to what it was when I first had the honor of a seat here, and which I then thought and still think, as a per diem allowance, was fixed a great deal too high.

If the present system is suffered to continue, instead of having in Congress great leading professional men, we shall have what have been denominated the merely mechanical, the instrumental members of those professions. And as to the landed interest, how can we expect it to be represented, when it is ruin to a landed man to attend here? I for one, cannot, sir, consent to sit here for so many months, to die in diem, for six days in the week, and hear nothing but the same strain forever repeated. It is enough, sir, to worry the patience of Job himself. I shall, therefore, move that, from and after the end of the present session of Congress, the per diem allowance of members be \$6, and the allowance for travelling expenses be the same sum for every twenty miles travelling.

The question was then taken on Mr. Taylor's resolution, and carried.

Mr. Randolph moved the following:

"RESOLVED, That from and after the end of the present session of Congress, the per diem allowance of Members shall be six dollars, and six dollars for every twenty miles travelling."

The resolution he desired to lay on the table, and he gave notice that he should call up its consideration on Friday next.

The question being put on laying the resolve on the table, it was carried—ayes 80, noes 60.

Mr. McLane moved to postpone all the previous orders of the day to take up the bill making provision for the naval service of the United States for the year 1824. The motion was carried—Ayes 84, noes 68.

The House then went into committee of the whole, Mr. Bartlett, in the chair, on the consideration of the above bill, and proceeded to consider the same, item by item.

Some of the items gave rise to considerable discussion, particularly that which proposes to appropriate \$25,000 for "contingent expenses, including all extra allowances." In this discussion, Messrs. Cobb, Cocke, McLane, Taylor, Forsyth, and others, engaged.

Mr. Cocke examined in detail the expenditures under this head during the past year, to many of which he took exception, and particularly to the charges for travelling expenses, which formed a part of almost every account settled, from which he said, it would appear that almost the whole Navy of the United States was constantly employed in travelling from one part of the country to another. To many other items he also objected, particularly to the allowance to the Navy Agent at New-York, of more than 7,000 dollars, under this head, whilst he was largely indebted to the government, &c.—to extra pay, house rent, &c.—to surgeons, recruiting officers, &c.—to the payment of \$1000 to a professional gentleman for services of Judge Advocate—and lastly to the expenses allowed to the Commissioners of the Navy for going to the Eastward, some time about the New-York Races, but perhaps, also, upon other business. Mr. C. concluded by moving to reduce the appropriation for this item, to an hundred and fifty thousand dollars, which

be afterwards varied to an hundred and eighty thousand dollars.

Mr. McLane replied to the objections of Mr. Cocke, by statements derived from official papers which he had received in reply to inquiries made upon the subject at the proper offices, by the Committee of Ways and Means, although he himself thought there were items of expenditure under this head which were objectionable, and was inclined to think that this fund had not been administered as it ought to have been. But many of these items, he said, had always been allowed, and were indispensable—such as the necessary expenses of travelling to attend courts martial, fuel, quarters, &c. the incidental expenses of the recruiting service, &c. From the information which he had received, this item of appropriation was subject to the payment of clerk-hire, office-rent, stationery, transportation of munitions of war, freight, pilotage, wharfage, storage, and all those objects of expenditure not included under any specific head of appropriation, though forming collectively an important item. If there were any abuse in the expenditure, he was inclined to think it was allowing travelling expenses to officers who are not ordered on special service, but merely to join their ships. If that were forbidden, it would reduce the amount perhaps some eight or ten thousand dollars. At present, however, he thought it better to make the appropriation called for and leave the abuses, if any, to be corrected by the administration of the Navy Department. Mr. McLane here read several papers connected with this subject, one of which, from the Secretary of the Navy, stated the sum of \$25,000 dollars to be absolutely necessary for the contingent expenditure of the present year. Mr. McLane also reviewed the history of this particular appropriation, and shewed that the amount now asked for was less than the average appropriation for the same item for the last five years, &c.

The question being taken on filling the blank with \$225,000, asked by the Navy Department, and moved by the chairman of the committee of Ways and Means, there were, Ayes 32, noes 54; a quorum not being present—and an officer was despatched to summon absent members.

Mr. Taylor stated what had been formerly expended under this head. He shewed why it should be somewhat larger the present year, from the employment of the West India squadron, &c. He vindicated the conduct of the late Secretary of the Navy, but could have wished that several of the items in the account of contingent expenses had been more explicit. On the whole, he did not see that the sum could now be reduced.

Mr. Livermore observed, that, whatever the sum appropriated under the head of contingencies, it was always expended. It was never too much, but always just enough—and so he supposed it would be if it were made half a million. He did not impute this to malfeasance in the heads of Departments, &c.

Mr. Cocke replied to Mr. Taylor. The additional expenses occasioned by the West India squadron, and those for repairs, were not included in this amount. The whole of this sum went to gentlemen on shore. Those in service, at sea, got none of it. He had found, on inquiring in the offices, that certain accounts were allowed because S. T. was written against them. He was opposed to all usage and custom not fixed by law.

Mr. Culpeper hoped the appropriation would be reduced, as he was satisfied some improper sums had been formerly allowed.

Mr. Williams of North-Carolina, required further explanation on the items intended to be covered by the bill—particularly one item of \$1500, for the service of a Judge Advocate at Boston, who served but for 62 days.

Mr. Fuller replied to Mr. Williams, and explained some circumstances in relation to the item referred to by him.

The question being then taken on filling the blank with \$225,000, it was decided in the negative.

The question then recurring on the amendment proposed by Mr. Cocke, to fill the blank with \$180,000, and, being put, it passed in the affirmative.

FOREIGN NEWS.

LATEST FROM FRANCE.

New-York, March 3.

By the arrival of the ship Elizabeth, in 22 days from Havre, the editors of the New-York Daily Advertiser have received their files of Paris papers to the 20th of February, which contain London dates of the 16th, two days later than before received.

There is no political news from ENGLAND.

The accounts from SPAIN represent the country in a very unsettled state. The Constitutionalists, at Barcelona, will perhaps fall upon the soldiers of the faith, unless they are marched away. The couriers have been stopped on the road between France and Madrid; and there are reports of disturbances and meditated insurrections, from several parts of the kingdom. The govern-

ment are attempting to improve the state of the finances, as well as using great exertions to organize the army. The king has recently suppressed the journals in Madrid, except one; and these circumstances in connexion with the motions of several individuals engaged in public business, show that the government is laboring under unusual difficulties, and apprehensions. It is reported that an English man of war has taken a Spanish ship, with a large amount of specie as security for the loans.

In FRANCE, both parties are occupied in electioneering. The funds, of which the Journal du Commerce, might have been now as good as those in England, but for the war in Spain; but the ministry have done something with money. England is represented by the same paper, as having great advantage by refusing to intermeddle with the war, and stepping in fresh at the close, with an uninterrupted commerce, and stepping in, at once, to the full and almost exclusive enjoyment of the South-American trade.

Since the publication of the decree of Ferdinand, which pretends to regulate the commerce with South America, on the system of requiring from foreign vessels duties similar to those demanded by their respective governments from Spanish vessels trading in their provinces, there has been some anxiety expressed by the French, lest that singular document should have involved them in a very unfortunate dilemma. If they are bound to wait until Spanish custom-houses are established in those countries, they are likely to share very little of the commerce; but they hope to secure an escape, under a doubtful clause of the decree, from so mortifying a situation.

The Journal du Commerce, of the 20th Feb. mentions the speech of Mr. Webster, on the Greek question, as one remarkable for its energy and eloquence; and gives one or two short extracts. It also contains the motion made in Congress, to invite the Marquis La Fayette to visit the United States.

The latest intelligence from Greece represents the state of the country, and the spirit of the people, as still more flattering than before.

Letters from Constantinople, to the 15th of January, mention that Lord Stangford has been authorized to continue his mediation between Russia and the Porte.

The Greeks are said to have abandoned their projects against Smyrna.

Ireland continued to be disturbed by Whiteboyism. Many outrages are detailed.

A mummy recently arrived in France from Egypt, which appears to be that of a Princess, of the race of Pharaohs who had been buried 2700 years. In the same box was an embalmed cat, to indicate the person was of high rank.

Spain was far from being tranquil. The Journal de Toulouse states, that the first regiment of light infantry had received orders to enter Spain. The 4th regiment is to march to Figueras. The Monks continue to disturb the public tranquility in Catalonia. They command fetes and thanksgivings for the restoration of absolute power.

An insurrection is said to have shown itself in Estremadura; and great agitation was apparent in Andalusia.

The conduct of the Spanish troops in the environs of Barcelona, creates great apprehensions. The French General commanding has ordered Baron d'Eroles to withdraw his troops to the distance of 8 leagues.

THE GREEKS AND TURKS.

The Augsburg Gazette contains intelligence from Smyrna to the 19th of January. The Turkish squadron fitted out at Constantinople, to afford succour to Smyrna, had been destroyed by a tempest in the sea of Marmora. The Greeks are filled with joy. Five frigates and six brigs stranded. The Turks regarded this event as a chastisement from Heaven, and they had not been guilty of any acts of violence to the Greeks in consequence.

The Greeks had become masters of the Gulph. The Turks considered there was no longer any security in the waters of the Archipelago.

The Turkish garrison at Parish had retired to Lepanto. The Hellenists to the number of 7 or 8000, have planted the standard of the Cross in the Isle of Mitylene.

Bridge Contractors Wanted.

THE undersigned Commissioners appointed by the County Court of Orange for the purpose of building a Bridge over the River near Murphy's Mills, will be ready to let the same to the lowest bidder on the 23d of May next at the place where the bridge is to be built.

The Commissioners have not yet determined whether the Bridge shall be built with Stone or Timber piers. Plans and Specifications for both descriptions will be seen in the hands of Dr. James A. Craig, Haw River Post Office, after the 15th of April next, and in the meantime every information respecting the Bridge will be given at the State Engineer's Office in Raleigh.

Signed,
DAVID MEBANE,
JO. CLENDENIN,
MICH'L HOLT,
W. MONTGOMERY,
ALEX'R. ALLEN.

March 25th, 1824.