

CONGRESS.

TWENTY-FIRST CONGRESS.....FIRST SESSION.

WEDNESDAY, April 28.

The House of Representatives yesterday occupied during a great part of the day in considering the Bill authorizing a subscription to the stock of the Maysville Turnpike Road Company, which was strongly and strenuously opposed, but which was ultimately ordered to be engrossed and read a third time tomorrow, by a vote of 96 to 87. The bill to amend an act in alteration of the several acts imposing duties on imports was then taken up, in Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, when Mr. McDuffie continued his remarks in opposition to the bill, and in support of the amendment which he had offered, and which we here subjoin:

Mr. McDuffie proposed to amend the said bill by striking out all after the first section, and in lieu thereof inserting the following amendment:

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That, from and after the 13th of June next, so much of the act of the 19th of May, 1828, as increases the duties on wool unmanufactured, and on manufactures of wool, or of which wool shall be a component part, be repealed, leaving the duties on said article as they stood previous to the passage of that act; and that, from and after the 13th of June, 1831, so much of the act of the 22d of May, 1824, as increases the duties on aforesaid articles, be also repealed, leaving the said duties as they stood previous to the said act.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That, from and after the 30th of June next, so much of the aforesaid act of 19th May, 1828, as increases the duty on iron in bars and bolts, whether manufactured by rolling or hammering, on hemp, on flax, on cotton bagging, on molasses, on indigo, and on manufactures of cotton, or of which cotton is a component part, be repealed, leaving the said duties as they stood previous to the passage of the said act; and that so much of the aforesaid act of the 22d May, 1824, as increases the duty on any of the aforesaid articles, be repealed from and after the 30th of June, 1831, leaving the duties on said articles as they stood before the passage of that act.

Sec. 4. And be it further enacted, That the duty on salt be reduced to ten cents per bushel of fifty-six pounds, from and after the 30th of June next.

THURSDAY, April 29.

HOUSE. The bill for the subscription on the part of the U. States to the stock of the Maysville and Lexington Turnpike Road Company was, after a long and animated debate, in the course of which Messrs. Hall, Johnson, of Kentucky, Storrs, of New York, Polk, Tucker, Powers, Carson, and Crockett participated, passed by a vote of 102 to 87. The other orders of the day being suspended, the bill for the regulation of duties on imports was taken up in a committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, Mr. Polk in the Chair, and Mr. McDuffie resumed and concluded his remarks in opposition to it. Mr. Blair, of S. C., has possession of the floor on this subject.

FRIDAY, April 30.

SENATE. Mr. Smith of South Carolina, from the Committee on Finance, to which had been referred the bill from the House of Representatives to reduce the duties on tea, coffee and cocoa, reported the same with amendments, which were read.

Mr. Tyler said that the bill to reduce the duties on tea, coffee and cocoa, just reported from the Committee on Finance, by the Senator from South Carolina, imposed the duty on him of asking the printing of the memorial of the salt makers of Kanbawa. This motion was made at the request of the memorialists, because they believed that their memorial presented the most favorable view of the subject in which they were interested, and the strongest arguments to support their claims. The printing was then ordered.

The Senate adjourned over until Monday.

HOUSE. Mr. Cambreleng, from the Committee of Commerce, introduced "a bill to amend the navigation laws of the United States," which being once read, Mr. Mallory moved to lay it on the table. This motion called forth an animated, though desultory debate between those gentlemen, and Mr. Gorham of Massachusetts. It occupied the first hour of the session, and was laid over till tomorrow, when Mr. Wayne has possession of the floor. Several hours were spent on the "bill for the final settlement of private land claims in Florida," and it ultimately passed. Various private bills were afterwards acted on.

SATURDAY, May 1.

HOUSE. The bills ordered to be engrossed on Friday were passed. Mr. McDuffie moved to take up the bill for the relief of Susan Decatur, which has laid on the table for some weeks. The motion was negatived, Ayes 68, Noes 104. The House then went into Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, and agreed to the articles of Impeachment prepared against James H. Peck. On motion of Mr. Buchanan the House, after concurring in the report of the Committee

of the whole, ordered five managers to be appointed to conduct the impeachment.

MONDAY, May 3.

HOUSE. Mr. Carson laid on the table a resolution calling for various information from the Secretary of the Navy, on the subject of the accounts of Miles King, late Navy Agent of Norfolk. The House, on motion of Mr. Mallory, went into Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union. Mr. Bell then made an effort to induce the Committee to take the bill from the Senate respecting the Indians, but his motion to that effect was rejected—the vote being Ayes 65, Noes 85.—The Tariff regulation bill was then taken up, and Mr. Blair of South Carolina, and Mr. Davis of Massachusetts, each addressed the Committee.

TUESDAY, May 4.

The Senate resolved itself into a Court of Impeachment, and the Managers of the House of Representatives appeared and exhibited an article of Impeachment against Judge Peck. After ordering that Judge Peck be summoned to answer thereto, on Tuesday next, the Court was adjourned to that day. The Senate then took up the bill to re-organize the Navy of the United States, which was under consideration at the adjournment.

HOUSE. The House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, and took up the bill to amend the acts in alteration of the various acts imposing duties on imports, when Mr. Davis of Massachusetts spoke for about two hours in conclusion of a most eloquent argument in favor of the bill, to which the most remarkable and unbroken attention was paid throughout. He was preceded by Mr. Crawford on the same side. The committee then acted on the bills reported by Mr. Archer relative to Foreign Ministers, which were reported to the House.

GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

Explosion of the Steam Boat Huntress. The Cincinnati Gazette states that a steamboat accident occurred on the 4th inst. at a place on the Ohio river about 14 miles above Smithland. The Steamboat Huntress had put to shore to leave a passenger, and care was not taken to let a sufficient quantity of steam escape to secure the safety of the engine; and as the boat put off from shore the explosion took place. Three persons were killed—one engineer—one of the firemen, and the cook; two other hands on the boat jumped overboard; though very badly scalded, no other serious injury sustained.

Philadelphia, April 26. On Saturday Judge King passed sentence on Jacob Lentz and William Clark, who were convicted at the recent Oyer and Terminer of murder in the second degree, the one of his wife, the other on an acquaintance at a social party. The Judge delivered a very affecting and excellent address to the culprits, and stated that their offences were committed under circumstances of such peculiar atrocity, that the highest punishment prescribed by the law must be pronounced. They were accordingly sentenced each to twelve years solitary confinement in the penitentiary at labor. In his address the Judge alluded to a circumstance which rendered the catastrophe peculiarly tragic; when the young man was stabbed to the heart by Lentz, he bounded with a shriek into the arms of his mother, and there instantly expired—the heart's blood of her son stained her garments. [Morning Journal.]

Unparalleled Shooting. A pigeon match was shot on Wednesday afternoon, the 12th inst., at Mr. Rayolf's at the Half Way House, Jamaica turnpike, L. I. by Mr. Henry M. Burton, of Brooklyn, for one hundred dollars a side. One hundred pigeons were sprung from a trap at 18 yards distance. Ninety were shot on the wing, and fell dead within 60 yards of the trap; three others were shot down, but subsequently fluttered beyond the distance of 60 yards, consequently were not counted. We believe the sporting records do not furnish an account of an equal number being killed, on any similar match, either in this country or England. [N. Y. Enquirer 24th ult.]

Riot among the Gold diggers. Accounts received from the Gold regions, state that a serious affray has occurred among the diggers in the Cherokee Nation.—We have heard nothing of the origin of the rencontre, but understand that a party of fifty or sixty Carolinians assailed a party consisting of twenty Georgians, for the purpose of driving them from a branch in which they were digging—after a warm contest the Carolinians were driven off, and the Georgians remained master of the mine.—It is said one man was mortally wounded by a blow from a spade, and has since died—several others were badly hurt. The civil authority should look to it. [Milledgeville Patriot.]

Legislature of New York. In the Senate on the 13th ult. several bank bills engaged attention. The New York, the Tradesmen's Mechanics' and Tradesmen's, and Onondaga county banks passed; but the Phoenix, Bank of Ameri-

ca, City Bank, Union, Schenectady, and Montgomery, were lost. The N. Y. city banks say they do not wish to take renewals under the new law. On the 15th, the operation of the new tolls was suspended until the 1st of January next, with the exception of those on packets. Bank notes under \$5, of other states, were prohibited. On the 16th, the committee on the memorial of S. M. Hopkins against Mr. Lynds, keeper of Sing Sing prison, reported that the matters required examination, and the committee are to repair to the said prison before the sitting of the next session, and investigate them, so as to make a report at the same. The half mill tax was rejected in the house on the 16th. A resolution previously offered, that a committee of two from the house and one from the senate, visit the prisons, was rejected. The bill for abolishing imprisonment for debt, was reported as engrossed, but its third reading being objected to, lies over to the 19th, and so on to the next session.

Steam Boat Explosion. At an early hour yesterday morning, accounts were received by the steamboat DeWitt Clinton, of the bursting of one of the boilers of the Chief Justice Marshal, after her starting from Newburg at 7 o'clock on Thursday evening on her way to this city. When the Marshal left Albany she had 176 passengers on board, leaving Newburg 120, the greater number of these had risen from the tea table a short time before the accident occurred. The noise made by the explosion was dreadful, the whole front was blown out of the boiler, and one of the stand pipes driven through the hull of the boat. From the confusion of the moment, and the conflicting accounts given by such of the passengers as came on in the DeWitt Clinton, it is impossible to ascertain exactly at present the extent of the accident.—Some of the passengers leaped overboard, amongst these were some ladies. The following is a list of the persons whom the Captain had been able to learn were amongst the injured. Mr. Valant, Engineer, badly; James Williams, wood-passer, do.; Peter Moore, fireman, do.; Thos. Dimond, cook, not so badly; James Cassidy, waiter very badly; Cole, waiter not so much so; Aaron, waiter, do. Mr. Randell, fireman, badly. A passenger Mr. Burnett, was also amongst the injured. The names of the others cannot yet be ascertained. The Editor of the Orange Telegraph published at Newburg, states the number injured to be 30. [N. Y. Cour. & Enq. 24th ult.]

Great Sale of Cotton. A letter from New Orleans, dated the 3d ult. with which the editor of the Baltimore Patriot has been favored, says, "The greatest sale of Cotton ever known in the U. S. was effected here on the 1st inst, namely: 7500 bales in one lot, valued at \$300,000. It was sold by WILKINS & LINTON, to our two great English Houses ANDREW LORKHEART & Co: and CALDER BROCK & Co.—price ten cents, but classed down in price for ordinary and inferior: the whole was what we term fine Cottons."

How miraculously brief, says the Albany Journal, the distance between New York and Liverpool is becoming! Gov. Simpson and party, of the Hudson Bay Company, who breakfasted this morning at the Eagle, dined in London a fortnight before last Wednesday! It is after all, but a span across the Atlantic. We shall soon expect to hear of some "strong swimmers" accomplishing the passage. At any rate, if the race of aquatic Leanders, and Byrons, who swam from Sestos to Abydos, are not extinct, the feat will be attempted.

Most Horrible. Information has indirectly reached us of a transaction, hardly surpassed, for atrocity, in the annals of crime. Mr. Stephen Crank, an old and respectable citizen of Chester district, had been missed from home two or three days. The people of the neighborhood were a good deal excited, in consequence of vague and unsatisfactory answers to their inquiries about the old man; and, from some incidental circumstance, they settled upon the belief, that he must have been murdered. Accordingly, a negro fellow was arrested on suspicion, who confessed that the murder had been committed by himself—that he was instigated to commit the deed by a son of the old man, who was living with him—and that the body of the deceased was buried about 150 yards from the house, in a cotton field. The persons to whom this confession was made repaired immediately to the spot, and there found the body buried about 18 inches under the ground, with marks of violence upon it, which seemed to have been inflicted with a hoe. The wife and son of the deceased have, we understand, been arrested and imprisoned—upon what other grounds than the confession of the negro, we have not learned. We give the tale as currently reported. What could have led to this atrocious act is not yet learned. [Yorkville Pioneer.]

[From the United States Telegraph.]

REV. JOHN LELAND'S LETTER.

We have been politely favored with the following interesting letter, from this venerable advocate of liberty, for publication:

Cheshire, Mass. March, 29, 1830.

SIR—For forty years (next to the salvation of the soul) the rights of conscience have been articles of my highest solicitude. Not only that all sects and societies should be placed on a level; but that each lonely individual should have equal favor, and not be obliged to join any society to escape disabilities or oppression. Indeed, I stand pledged, that as long as I can use my tongue or pen, I will never lie dormant when religious liberty is in jeopardy. The Report speaks for itself. If it can be bettered, I know not in which particular. It breathes the language of John Milton, Roger Williams, William Penn, Thomas Jefferson, &c. and I think it is in perfect accordance with the letter and spirit of the New Testament. It has my unqualified approbation.

The report of the minority of the Committee comes in company with the other. After what I have said, it will not be expected that I shall approve of the whole of it. It discards the idea of any theological controversy, and yet, in the very beginning it lays the foundation of a religious war. There never was a Christian nation on earth, before the days of Constantine, who opened the flood gates of error, and set Christians at war with each other. If all Christian nations acknowledge the first day of the week for the Sabbath, the New Testament never does. If our translation is admitted, there is not a solitary instance where the first day is called Sabbath.

Where and when did the wise and good Ruler of the Universe appoint that all the progeny of Adam should keep every seventh day holy? That God rested on the seventh day is certain; but there is no account that it ever was enjoined on any man for more than twenty four hundred years after creation; and then only on a few: yet in this space of time lived Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Melchisedeck, Joseph, and many great men of God; of whom we have no account that any of them observed the seventh day more than any other. But the subject shall not be left to negative evidence; positive proof shall soon be given. When the manna was given, the Sabbath was appointed, which soon after was incorporated into the divine code given at Sinai, and *certain death* was the penalty to enforce it. Forty years after this, when Moses was speaking expressly of the Decalogue, he said "The Lord made not this covenant with our fathers, but with us, even us, who are all of us here alive this day." (Deu. v. 3.) The dispute then lies between Moses and those who say that the observance of the seventh day was appointed from the beginning. It was binding on the Israelites, who were often reproved by their prophets and punished by their God for profaning the day; but the Prophets, who reproved other nations for their sins, never mention Sabbath breaking. Nor does Paul ever place the profanation of the Sabbath in the list of Gentile crimes. Whenever a nation has assumed the character of *Christianity*, it has always established Christianity—manufactured a creed—appointed the days of devotion, and enforced a salary for the preachers—and if any toleration has been granted to nonconformists, it has been on very degrading conditions. Such has been the case (without exception) from Constantine down to the present day.—

SALARIES FOR THE PREACHERS, secured by law, has always been the chorus of the tune. I have never been able to say on what part of the globe the *garden of Eden* was planted. If at, or near, the poles, a day was equal, in length, to a year at the line. In any case, the globe has the same form. Is it reasonable to believe that a wise and good ruler would enjoin that on his subjects which was impossible for them to perform? For us to keep 365 holy days, while our Northern and Southern brethren keep but one, and yet begin and end at the same point of time.

Let a Turk, Jew and Christian decide their dispute by experiment. Let the Turk keep every Friday, and travel round the globe in a Western direction to the spot whence he started. The Christian travel in the same manner Eastward, while the Jew remains stationary. Each of the three will keep their day, and when they meet, it will be the *same day*. A law of this kind could be given to a section of the world, and be obeyed (so it was for Israel in Canaan;) but cannot be universal. This has strong bearings on the divine appointment of the first day of the week, as on the seventh. The subject cannot be developed in a letter. It requires a volume.

If the petitioners gain their object, Congress must decide the contest between Connecticut and Massachusetts. The laws of Connecticut prohibit recreation, labor and travel, from the going down of the sun on Saturday, until the same time of day on Sunday. Those of Massachusetts allow a man, on a journey, to travel until Saturday midnight, and resume his journey on Sunday, at the going down of the sun—eighteen hours of holy time. But recreation must cease on Saturday, at the going down of the sun, and continue to cease until Sunday midnight—thirty six hours abstinence. Whether the stages that carry the mail must stop six hours in Connecticut, when they could be running in Massachusetts—whether carrying the

mail will be travelling on a journey, in the sense of the law—and whether passengers in the mail stage will be considered as parties of recreation or travellers on a journey, must be provided for by Congress.

A few years past, a *Moral Society* was formed in Berkshire for the suppression of vice. An executive committee was appointed to stop travel on Sundays. Were it not a serious subject, it would provoke a smile to see Belzebub in chase of Lucifer, whip and spur—the committee *breaking the Sabbath* to prevent *Sabbath breaking*. When the pursuer had overtaken or met with his game, they sometimes compromised, and, for a fine, the traveller was let go on; but generally he was carried to a justice or the county Court, and fined for breaking the Sabbath. But a certain Mr. Clark, being stopped, resented the abuse, and brought suit against them for assault and battery, before the Supreme Court, where Mr. Clark recovered a considerable sum for damages—the decision being that they had no right to stop and unhorse him. This decision purified the consciences of the whole club. Strange how the getting or losing money will give direction to conscience! Whether these good souls, on conversion, paid back the fines which they had taken I cannot certainly tell. My best information is that they did not.

I have lived long enough to see that individuals often break over the bounds of moral honesty to injure their neighbors; but this is not more frequent than it is for legislative bodies to overleap their legitimate guide and usurp the empire of natural individual rights. *The let a lone policy* may be extended too far; but less evils arise from that neglect than arise from a redundancy of laws. The liberty of the native of the woods, under proper restraint, to prevent overt acts (if the expedient can be found) should be aimed at. If, on entering into social compact, individuals surrendered all to the *public will*, then Government may direct our food, physic, costume, marriage, association, location, occupation, private opinion, religion, hearing, seeing, appetite, pronunciation, vibration of the arteries, and every breath we draw. But if all this is surrendered, the individuals lose all accountability to their Maker, and Government becomes responsible for all: for it would be beneath the righteousness of the *Divine Being* to hold a man to answer for himself when he was divested of every attribute that constitutes a moral agent.

If I should vary a few degrees from the question of Sunday mails, it would be following a precedent which Congress has taught me. When members of that august assembly think until they are as full of matter as a bottle of wine that has no vent, they take the floor, and seem to tear up mountains by the roots—ride on the wings of the wind, and direct the storm. No matter what the question is, whether Missouri, Retrenchment or Public Land. The hall and the gallery are struck with wonder at the profundity of the orator; but if the small pot was in the question, neither speaker nor hearer would catch the disease. I see no great evil in all this.—

Their effusions may help the next question: at any rate the next election. Have not members of Congress as good a right to ramble as the late Patrick Henry?—Must all be gauged to speak in the direct, logical and irrefutable mode of Madison? All souls were not cast in the same mould. It takes every man to make a world. I think Congress, on the whole, perform wonders. They have safely steered the ship between Scylla and Charibdis, notwithstanding adverse winds and mutinous sailors. The religion which I profess forbid me to speak evil of the rulers of the people. I honor the throne (Government) and the altar (religion;) but those who, under a pretence of religion and good order, would shape my religion and guide my conscience, are usurping presumptuous tyrants. A man cannot give greater evidence that he is destitute of the meek spirit of christianity, and ignorant of its genius, than when he makes, or urges others to make laws to coerce his neighbors in matters of religion. It is like putting a tool on the stones of the altar, or making a new cart to carry the ark.

I cheerfully subscribe to the sentiment that christianity is not only a good religion, but the only religion that ever met the sinner's wants, and relieved his woes—the only religion that ever brought pardon to the guilty, and gave assurance of eternal life. But as an institute of state policy, a question arises whether it has ever done any good. Has any Christian nation ever exceeded Tyros in wealth—Greece in science—ancient Rome and Carthage in bravery—or modern China in internal improvement? And what nations now are more perfidious and blood thirsty than those who have formed crusades, established an inquisition and massacred the South Americans? Let christianity operate in its own natural channel, and it is a blessing of immense worth; but turn it into a principle of state policy, it fosters pride, hypocrisy and the worst kind of cruelty. JOHN LELAND.

Hon. R. M. JOHNSON.

Few accidents are so unhappy but may be mended by prudence; few so happy but may be ruined by imprudence.