

General Assembly.

[Brief summary of the proceedings of both Houses, omitting such parts as we consider uninteresting to our readers.]

SENATE.

On Wednesday, the 22d ult. Mr. Guinn presented a bill to repeal the 5th section of an act passed in 1827, giving to Superior Courts exclusive jurisdiction in all cases of divorce.

Nearly the whole of this day was consumed in debating the Bank bill, which was finally lost, as stated in our last, by the casting vote of the Speaker.

On Thursday, the 23d, the bill to extend the jurisdiction of the Justices of the Peace in certain cases, was postponed indefinitely, on its second reading.

On Friday, the 24th, Mr. M'Farland, from the committee of education, to whom was referred the bill to provide for the education of the poor children of the State, made a detailed report thereon, expressing the opinion that it is inexpedient at this time to pass said bill into a law. The report and bill were laid upon the table.

The engrossed resolution, concerning the re-opening of the old Roanoke Inlet, being taken up, Mr. M'Kay moved to lay it on the table, which was negated, 36 to 16. Mr. Williams of Franklin, moved that it be postponed indefinitely, which was also negated, 44 to 7. The question on its passage was then taken and decided in the affirmative, yeas 36, nays 21.

Mr. Spaight, from the committee on that part of the Governor's message which related to the University, to whom the memorial of the trustees of the University was referred, made a detailed report, accompanied by a bill, for the relief of the University of North-Carolina, which passed its first reading.

The question for the re-consideration of the vote on the rejection of the Bank bill, was put and decided in the affirmative, 33 to 24, and the bill was laid upon the table.

On Saturday, the 25th, Mr. Meares, from the joint select committee, to whom was referred the resolution instructing them to enquire into the propriety of establishing a fund to be appropriated to the removal of free persons of color from this State, reported a bill to accomplish this result, which passed its first reading. [In their report the committee say, that "all can perceive, that to the presence of free persons of color, and their intercourse with slaves, may be ascribed most of the ungovernable propensities of the slaves of the country. And at the same time, that their presence in the country corrupts the slaves, they themselves, from causes incident to the nature of things, are, and must remain in a degraded condition; from which neither the policy or natural feeling of the country can ever permit them to emerge. From these causes a species of population is maintained among us, which acts as a nuisance to the community in which it exists, and which, at the same time, is deprived of the means of either improving its condition, or changing its situation. Your committee consider this state of things the great root of all the evil in the present condition of the slavery of the country. It is in vain to legislate for the purpose of removing effects while the cause continues to exist. Under such circumstances, policy and humanity dictate that steps should

be taken to remove the evil. A removal to the colony of Liberia, happily affords the means; and to effect this object, so desirable both to the free persons of color and to our white population, your committee recommend the passage of the bill reported." It contemplates the imposition of a tax of 8 cents on every black poll, for this purpose; the sum raised in each county, to be applied there, until the whole of this class of individuals in such county are removed, and then the assessment to go to the relief of other counties where a complete removal has not been effected.]

Mr. Harris presented a bill concerning the salaries of the Supreme Court Judges. [Proposes to reduce them to \$2,000.]

On Monday, the 27th, Mr. Howell presented a bill to amend an act authorising the County Courts in this State to direct the Sheriffs to sell any slave that may be taken up as a runaway, after due advertisement.

The engrossed bill to explain and amend an act passed in 1822, to provide a revenue for the payment of the civil list, &c. passed its third reading and was ordered to be enrolled. [The amendment exempts from taxation, useful inventions and improvements in machinery, tho' exhibited for profit.]

On Tuesday, the 30th, Mr. Meares, from the committee on that part of the Governor's message relating to slaves, reported the following bills, which were read the first time, viz: A bill to prohibit the meeting of slaves in the night and to restrain their meeting in the day, to the presence of three discreet white persons, and for other purposes; and a bill more effectually to prevent intermarriages between free negroes or free persons of color and white persons and slaves.

The bill to erect a new county in the west, being called up, Mr. M'Kay moved to add another section, providing that should any county be established west of Raleigh, within the next ten years, with the right of representation (except in that part called the Cherokee purchase,) then this act to be null and void. This amendment was rejected, 42 to 19. The question then recurring on the passage of the bill, the third time, it was decided in the negative—ayes 28, noes 33.

The bill to compel retailers of spiritous liquors by the small measure, to take an oath and give bond with security before receiving license, not to sell spiritous or fermented liquors, &c. to any slave, being read the second time, Mr. Askew moved for its indefinite postponement, which was carried, 43 to 24. Mr. Dick moved for the re-consideration of the vote just taken, which was agreed to. Mr. Meares then moved to amend it, by restricting its provisions to New-Hanover, Brunswick, Bladen, Pitt, Wayne, Greene, Onslow, Carteret, Cumberland, and Duplin counties, which was agreed to, and the bill as amended passed its second reading.

Mr. Melchor presented a bill to amend an act passed in 1821, providing further punishment for harboring or maintaining runaway slaves.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

On Wednesday, the 22d ult. The engrossed bill to prevent the teaching of slaves to read or write, the use of figures excepted, was read the second time. Mr. Worth moved to

strike out of the bill, the words "to read," which was negated more than three to one. Mr. Moore moved that the bill be postponed indefinitely, which was also determined in the negative. Mr. J. Whitaker moved to exclude Macon county from its provisions, which was rejected. The question was then taken on its passage and decided in the affirmative—yeas 53, nays 27.

The bill to exempt from execution, a certain portion of the land of the citizens of North-Carolina, was called up, and considerable debate thereon ensued. After undergoing sundry amendments, the bill passed its second reading by the casting vote of the Speaker.

On Thursday, the 23d, Mr. Thomas Hill presented a bill to collect information relative to Schools, in the several counties of this State. [Provides that the Justices who take the list of taxables in each county, shall ascertain and report the number of Scholars in the State.]

On Friday, the 24th, Mr. Stedman submitted a resolution which was adopted, instructing the select committee on the subject of preventing disqualified persons from practising medicine, to enquire also into the expediency of passing a law preventing slaves and free persons of color from practising medicine in this State.

Mr. Blair moved that the House adjourn over Christmas—negated, 65 to 45.

On Saturday, the 25th, Mr. O'Brien submitted a resolution directing the Attorney General of the State to commence a prosecution against Wm. Swaim, Editor of the Greensborough Patriot, for the seditious and libellous publications contained in his paper of the 15th December instant, and his papers issued from that office of previous dates. Mr. Sawyer moved that the resolution be indefinitely postponed—after considerable debate, this motion was carried 80 to 33. Mr. Stedman moved that the said resolution and the proceedings thereon, be expunged from the Journal, after considerable debate this motion was negated, 85 to 13. [The paragraph referred to, relates to the bills at present before the House, prohibiting the teaching of slaves to read and write, &c. Mr. O'Brien supported his resolutions in a manly and independent speech, in which he expatiated at some length on the liberty of the Press, but contended that when it degenerated into licentiousness and crime it should be checked. It was principally opposed, on the ground, that if adopted, it would elevate the aforesaid Editor into a notice, which he would never otherwise acquire—the very thing he most desired.]

On Monday, the 27th, the House, according to the order of the day, resolved itself into a committee of the whole, on the resolutions heretofore submitted by Mr. Bynum, protesting against the usurpations of the Federal Government, and after some time spent therein, the committee rose, reported progress and obtained leave to sit again.

Mr. Wheeler submitted a resolution directing the Governor of the State to transmit to the President of the U. States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to each of our Senators and Representatives, a copy of the preamble and resolution, on the subject

of re-opening the Roanoke Inlet, just adopted. Agreed to.

On Tuesday, the 28th, the bill to make husbands, after the determination of coverture, liable to the payment of the debts of their wives contracted before marriage, was indefinitely postponed.

Mr. Moore presented several resolutions proposing that at the next election for members of the Assembly, that the people of this State, who are entitled to vote for members of the House of Commons, be invited to vote at the said election whether they are in favor of a Convention or not, by writing on their tickets, "convention," or "no convention"—which were indefinitely postponed, 74 to 53.

Legislature.—In the Senate, on Friday last, the engrossed resolution requesting our Senators and Representatives in Congress to endeavor to induce Congress to undertake the re-opening of Old Roanoke Inlet, was taken up, and, after some discussion, in which Messrs. M'Kay, Williams of Franklin, Dobson and Sneed opposed, and Messrs. Askew, Meares, Williams of Martin, Beasley and Hinton of Beaufort advocated the resolution, it was adopted, by a vote of 36 to 21, and ordered to be enrolled. The vote taken on Wednesday, the 23d inst. on the indefinite postponement of the bill to establish a Bank on the funds of the State, was, on motion of Mr. Martin, re-considered, and, on motion of Mr. Hall, the bill was laid on the table. A bill, reported by Mr. Spaight, from the joint select committee on the University, for the relief of that institution, is now before the Senate. This bill proposes to loan the trustees of the University 25,000 dollars out of the Literary Fund, for the term of five years, upon their giving bond, bearing interest from date; and the sum loaned is declared to be a lien on all the estate of the University, both personal and real.

On Thursday last, in the House of Commons, it will be seen on reference to the proceedings of that day, Mr. Sawyer introduced a bill to establish a Bank on the funds of the State; which was indefinitely postponed on its first reading, 64 to 47. On the same day, the bill to exempt a certain portion (50 acres) of the land of the citizens of this State from execution, passed its third reading and was ordered to be engrossed—64 to 64, the Speaker voting in the affirmative.

On Monday, the resolutions heretofore introduced by Mr. Bynum, protesting against the usurpations of the General Government, and denying to Congress the right to prosecute a system of internal improvements within the confines and jurisdiction of the States, were taken up in committee of the whole, Mr. J. A. Hill in the chair. Mr. Bynum spoke about three hours and a half in their defence. The host of distinguished authors quoted by Mr. B. and the abundance of testimony which he adduced to support his argument, evinced great research; and the zealous and forcible manner in which he pressed them upon the attention of the committee, shewed the deep interest which he felt in his subject, as well as the clear conviction with which he was impressed of its justice. But before he had concluded his remarks, the committee

rose, reported progress and obtained leave to sit again. As soon as practicable, we intend to lay Mr. B's speech before our readers.

On Tuesday, Mr. Moore submitted a series of resolutions, proposing to submit to the people, at the next election of members of the Legislature, the question, whether there shall be a Convention called in this State or not; which, after an interesting discussion, in which messrs. Moore, W. J. Alexander, Shipp and Barringer took part for, and messrs. Bragg, O'Brien, Wheeler, J. A. Hill and Cooper against the resolutions, were indefinitely postponed, 74 to 53.

Raleigh Star.



TARBOROUGH.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 4, 1831.

Suicide.—We understand that a few days since, in this county, *Phoebe Faircloth*, a girl aged about 18 or 19 years, hung herself at the residence of her brother-in-law Samuel Reason, at noon while the family were at dinner. It is conjectured that improper intercourse with her sister's husband, and an abandonment on his part, was the cause of this rash act.

Internal Improvements.—It will be seen by referring to our Legislative summary, that the resolution requesting our delegation in Congress to use their best endeavors to induce the General Government to re-open the old Roanoke Inlet, has also passed the Senate by a vote of 36 to 21—Messrs. Brower, Crump, Dobson, Gavin, Godger, Guion, Harris, Hill, Kerr, M'Daniel, M'Kay, M'Farland, Montgomery, Mosely, Moye, Ray, Sneed, Vanhook, Williams of Franklin, Wilder and Wilson, voting in the negative. In the House of Commons, those who voted in the negative, were Messrs. Bragg, Bryan, Houlder, Moore, Shipp, Spaight, Wadsworth, Weaver, Whitley. Mr. Hilliard of Nash, who was absent, in a note to the Editors of the Star has since declared that had he been present, he should have recorded his vote in the negative.

From a private source we learn that on the 30th ult. Mr. Bynum's resolutions passed the House of Commons by a vote of 73 to 47. Can this be so? Is it possible that the Legislature of North-Carolina has directed her representation in Congress "to use their best endeavors" to induce the General Government to undertake a certain work within her limits, and only a few days subsequent thereto the same Legislature has declared that the exercise of such power by the General Government, is unconstitutional, impolitic and inexpedient? Surely such proceedings would be unparalleled in the annals of Legislation.

Congress.—Most of the time of both Houses, up to our last advices, has been devoted to the trial of Judge PECK, in which the progress is so slow, that three days had been consumed in the examination of a single witness, without concluding it. After the holidays, we presume, they will begin to dispose of the great mass of papers, which have accumulated on their tables.

Late and Important from Europe.—By the packet ship *Columbia*, London papers to the 30th Nov. have been received at New-York. The Journal of Commerce says they contain intelligence of the highest importance. A GENERAL WAR IN EUROPE is at least probable. Indeed a passenger who left London a few hours later than any of our printed dates, states that just before his departure, he saw an extra issued from the office of the Courier, which stated that *Russia had actually declared War against France*. Russia is assembling an army of 200,000 men on the frontiers of Germany—Austria and Prussia are collecting vast bodies of troops—an alliance between France