

General Assembly.

[Abstract of the proceedings of the General Assembly, with the exception of such private and local business, as is considered uninteresting to our readers.]

SENATE.

THURSDAY, Dec. 22.

Mr. Toomer, from the committee on internal improvement, to whom had been referred the bill to incorporate a company to make a turnpike road from Williamston landing towards Windsor, made a report thereon and recommended its rejection; whereupon the said bill was indefinitely postponed.

On motion of Mr. Guinn, the committee on the judiciary were instructed to enquire into the constitutionality of taxing any estate in lands and tenements less than a freehold; and whether the holders of certificates legally authenticated by the Commissioners appointed by virtue of the laws of this State, are freeholders within the meaning of the Constitution.

Some time was spent in the consideration of the Bank bill, during which considerable discussion ensued, but no question was taken.

FRIDAY.

Mr. Elliott presented a bill giving longer time to register grants of land, in this State, deeds of mesne conveyances, &c.

Mr. Brownrigg, from the committee on military affairs, to which was referred the bill to exempt Wardens of the Poor from the performance of certain duties, made an unfavorable report thereon and recommended its rejection; whereupon the said bill was indefinitely postponed.

Mr. B. also reported a bill to prevent slaves from attending general reviews, regimental, battalion and company musters, camp meetings and election grounds.

The Bank bill was again taken up and discussed, and after various amendments had been proposed and agreed to, it passed its second reading 33 to 27.

SATURDAY.

Mr. Seawell, from the joint select committee on that part of the Governor's message relating to slaves, &c. reported a bill for the better regulation of the conduct of free negroes and slaves.

Mr. M'Farland submitted a resolution, to appropriate the amount of the claim of this State against the United States, whenever it is recovered, to the Literary fund. Referred to the committee of finance.

The Bank bill passed its third reading 32 to 29, and was ordered to be engrossed.

MONDAY.

Mr. Seawell presented a bill the better to enforce the payment of fines, in cases of State prosecutions, and for the better explanation of the law, in such cases. [Provides that no person shall be permitted to take the oath of insolvency, in discharge of a fine imposed by any Court, but the Court may remit such fine.]

Mr. Seawell, from the committee on the judiciary, reported a bill altering the laws in respect to the allotment of widows' dower. [Provides that five Commissioners shall be a competent number to lay off widows' dower.]

On motion of Mr. M'Farland, the committee of finance were instructed to enquire into the expediency of compelling all persons in this State, to give in all the stock owned by them; in Bank or Company Corpora-

tions, at a fair valuation, under the same rules as govern other taxable property.

The bill to prevent the circulation of seditious pamphlets, by the imposition of a prohibitory tax upon pedlars, was read the third time and indefinitely postponed.

TUESDAY.

Mr. Wilson presented the petition of Spier Whitaker, Colonel Commandant of the Halifax militia, praying indemnity for certain expenses incurred in calling out his regiment to suppress a supposed insurrection among the slaves.

Mr. Elliott, a bill prescribing the duty of sheriffs, constables & other officers in certain cases.

Mr. Sneed, from the committee of finance, reported that it is inexpedient to legislate upon the subject of compelling all persons in the State to give in all the stock, owned by them in Bank or Company Corporations, at a full valuation—and a transfer of the claim of the State against the United States, when collected, to the Literary fund. Concluded in.

Mr. S. also made a report adverse to the passage of the bill for the relief of the citizens of this State; which was laid upon the table.

WEDNESDAY.

The most important matters transacted in the Senate, were the presentation, by Mr. Dick, of sundry resolutions in relation to the calling of a Convention. And, by Mr. Dishough, sundry resolutions in relation to the Tariff, denouncing it as unconstitutional and oppressive, and proposing to instruct our Senators and request our Representatives to use their best endeavors to obtain a modification of it. [We will insert these resolutions entire in our next paper.]

COMMONS.

Thursday, Dec. 22.

Mr. Polk, from the committee on propositions and grievances, reported unfavorably on the petition of sundry citizens of Mecklenburg and Anson, for the erection of a new county out of part of those counties. Concluded in.

Mr. Nicholson, from the committee on military affairs, reported a bill to repeal the act passed in 1827, reducing the number of petty musters to two in a year.

The House then proceeded to the unfinished business of yesterday, being the consideration of the bill appropriating money for rebuilding the Capitol in Raleigh. Mr. Leake took the floor in opposition to the bill, and was followed by Mr. Bragg in favor of the measure. He was succeeded by Mr. M'Queen in opposition, who was followed by Mr. Long in favor. Mr. Haywood then rose in reply to the gentlemen who had preceded him in opposition to the bill. When Mr. Haywood had concluded, Mr. Gaston rose and spoke at great length, in favor of the appropriation. At near 5 o'clock, on motion of Mr. Henry, the house adjourned.

FRIDAY.

Mr. Mebane presented a bill to establish a bank, by the name and style of the President and Directors of the Bank of Albemarle. [Provisions similar to the proposed Farmers' and Merchants' Banks.]

Mr. Bonner, a bill to extend the jurisdiction of Justices of the Peace. [Gives them jurisdiction of all cases under \$200.]

The Speaker laid before the House a communication from

the Governor, covering the Annual Report of the Trustees of the University. The Governor informs the Legislature, officially, in his message, that the Trustees of that Institution have declined accepting the loan of the State on the conditions prescribed by the act of last session. There are five vacancies in the Board to be filled by the Legislature at the present session.

The House proceeded to the unfinished business of yesterday, being the appropriation bill. Mr. Henry rose in opposition and spoke for about three hours. He was followed by Mr. O'Brien, who advocated the measure. The debate was closed by Mr. Gaston, in reply principally to Mr. Henry. The question being on the passage of the bill its second reading, Mr. Pittman demanded the yeas and nays, which were as follows—yeas 65, nays 68. So the bill was rejected. [The Register states that the bill was opposed by the western, southern and south-eastern members, in a body.]

SATURDAY.

Mr. Faddis presented a bill to encourage a publication of a History of North-Carolina. [Provides that Judge Murphey, who is engaged in compiling a History of the State, may raise by way of lottery for the purpose of enabling him to complete the same, the sum of \$50,000.]

Mr. O'Brien, a bill to exempt from execution, growing crops, and to secure to debtors a certain portion of the same after they have been severed from the freehold.

The bill to amend an act vesting the election of Sheriffs in the people, was, on motion of Mr. Wyche, indefinitely postponed.

The bill to render persons whose names are forged, competent witnesses in prosecutions for such forgeries, was, on motion of Mr. Outlaw, indefinitely postponed.

The bill to abolish the punishment of cutting off the ears was read the second time. Mr. Pearson moved that said bill be indefinitely postponed. On this motion, considerable debate arose, but it was ultimately rejected 44 to 57, and the bill was ordered to its third reading.

MONDAY.

Mr. Singleton presented a bill for revising and digesting the law of Executors and Administrators. [Authorizes the Governor to appoint some competent person to revise and digest the law on this subject, to be laid before the next Legislature.]

Mr. Wyche submitted a resolution proposing to hold evening sessions, which was rejected.

TUESDAY.

On motion of Mr. Arrington, the committee on military affairs were instructed to ascertain what number of infantry and field artillery tactics is now on hand and not distributed by the act of last session; and that they suggest to this House, by bill or otherwise, what disposition is necessary to be made with the same.

The bill to amend the act for the more speedy trial of slaves, in capital cases, was read the third time and passed, 65 to 58.

Mr. Wilson introduced a resolution, which was laid on the table, that the House sit daily until the hour of 4 o'clock, P. M.

Mr. Jarvis, a resolution for the adjournment of the two

Houses, sine die, on Monday, the 9th of January. Laid on the table.

The bill to appoint a Superintendent of Public Works, was taken up, considered and passed to its third reading.

The engrossed bill to establish a Bank on the funds of the State, was read the first time. Mr. Boddie moved that said bill be indefinitely postponed. On this motion considerable debate arose, but it was ultimately carried, yeas 64—nays 58.

WEDNESDAY.

Mr. Whitaker presented sundry resolutions relating to the expediency of calling a Convention for the revision of the Constitution of this State; which were read, ordered to be printed, and made the order of the day for Tuesday next.

On motion of Mr. Edmondston, the committee on the judiciary were instructed to enquire into the expediency of vesting the Courts of this State with power to require security for the payment of costs, to be given by the plaintiff, in cases of appeals by defendants, from the judgment of a Justice of the Peace.

The bill to exempt from execution a certain portion of the land of the citizens of North-Carolina, was read the second time, amended and passed—yeas 67, nays 59.



TARBOROUGH.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 1832.

General Assembly.—The reader will find in our summary of the proceedings of the Legislature, that the bill making an appropriation for rebuilding the State House at Raleigh, has also been rejected in the House of Commons, and that bills providing for a Convention have been simultaneously introduced into both Houses. It seems that the western members, with the aid of those from the banks of the Cape Fear, have at last got us on the hip, and we presume they will go their length. The day of adjournment has not been fixed, but it is conjectured that the session will terminate about the middle of this month.

Congress.—Several propositions relative to a modification of the Tariff, have already been brought before the two Houses—this will probably be the most important as well as the most difficult subject to dispose of, that will be presented for their consideration. The holidays being over, we presume the members will now set themselves actively to work, and that the business of the session will progress rapidly.

Suicide.—We understand that on Monday of last week, Joseph, son of the Rev. Amos Rayner, of Bertie county, put an end to his existence by shooting himself with a gun. He was about 15 or 16 years of age, and had been living as a clerk in the store of the Messrs. Ryan, of Windsor—some difficulty having occurred, he adopted this dreadful alternative rather than return home.

Newspapers.—The last North-Carolina Journal, published at Fayetteville, appears in an enlarged and improved dress. It now ranks among the first in the State in point of size and mechanical execution, as well as of ability in the editorial department. We hope the enterprising proprietors will receive that support they so richly merit.

Messrs. Thos. Meredith and Wm. B. Pell have issued the Prospectus of the *North-Carolina Miscellany*, a weekly paper, designed to succeed the "Edenton Gazette," about to be discontinued.

Rail Road to the Roanoke.—We invite attention to the following article, from the Norfolk Herald of Fri-

day last. Perhaps some of our talented citizens, who are conversant with the subject, will also favor us with their views as to the practicability and expediency of the contemplated project.

An important subject.—It is believed that a rail road communication to intersect Roanoke and Tar rivers, (striking the latter at Tarborough and the former at Hamilton, the nearest points of junction) would be of immense advantage to Norfolk. The project, we believe, was started some years ago, when the proposition to open Roanoke Inlet was entertained, and as rail roads were not then in fashion, it was proposed to connect the two rivers by means of a canal. If the Roanoke Inlet scheme had been practicable, it is very certain that the proposed communication would not have benefitted Norfolk; for the produce which it sent through would have gone straight on to New-York on reaching Albemarle sound. But that project being now nearly hopeless, and it being the interest of the North-Carolina planters to make themselves a market at Norfolk, the establishment of a rail road, or a canal, as above stated, will bring all the produce collected at Tarborough to Norfolk, instead of its being sent, as heretofore, down Tar river to Washington (a very difficult navigation) and thence trans-shipped to New-York.

So much for the interest which Norfolk has in the proposed communication—& now a word or two as to its practicability. The distance from Tarborough to Hamilton (on the Roanoke) is only 18 miles—the country is level, and it is believed that the cost of a rail road through, would not exceed \$60,000. The people in Tarborough and its neighborhood, (among whom there are some heavy capitalists) would, doubtless, subscribe a good proportion of this sum. The balance ought to be readily taken up by the people of Norfolk, who are even more interested in the subject than their friends in North-Carolina; and it is with a view of calling on them for that purpose, that it is proposed to have a meeting this evening at the Exchange. We trust they know their own interest, and will not be backward on the occasion.

At present we have no trade or intercourse with Tarborough—all the produce of the fertile region in which it is situated, finds its way to the northern markets, through its *only* avenue, Tar river, until, after encountering heavy risks and expenses, it gets to the ocean. With this proposed rail road of 18 miles, however, it could be safely and speedily delivered on the Roanoke, whence a distance of 200 miles of inland navigation would bring it to the Norfolk market, and in less time than it can get to sea by the present route.

Raleigh, Dec. 30.—On Wednesday, the following gentlemen were elected Trustees of the University of this State:—William D. Mosely, Thomas G. Polk, Joseph A. Hill, and David L. Swain. One yet remains to be elected. The balloting stood thus: Mosely 147, Polk 129, Hill 110, Swain 96, Benj. Sumner 87, Thos. S. Singleton 70, John Bragg 68, Bedford Brown 67, Wm. M. Green 54, John B. Tate 9.

The Supreme Court of this State commenced its Winter