

The Tallahassee Floridian, of the 20th ult. says, that the Government has divided the Territory into three districts, with an officer in each authorized to call out any number of men, in case of actual invasion, to repel the enemy, and that scouting parties are engaged along the whole line of position, to reconnoitre in advance of the settlement, & prevent a surprise to the inhabitants. A large supply of arms and ammunition has also been ordered by the Executive. Should the Seminoles persevere in attempts to establish themselves on this side of the Sawtooth, it is the intention of the Executive to call out the militia en masse. It is also contemplated to establish posts on the Withlacoochee, and thence to the St. Johns. The Alabama country has been finally abandoned. At least one thousand persons, mostly in prosperous circumstances, have been driven from their homes.

**A Mail Robber Taken.**

On the 18th ult. the house of E. James & Co. of this Town, forwarded, by the Accommodation Mail, to their house in Richmond, a letter containing \$1,000 in bank notes, and a check for \$1,000. As this letter did not reach its destination, and as it had evidently been abstracted from the mail bag, an investigation was instituted by our vigilant Postmaster, T. Shore, Esq. for the purpose of detecting the robber. Entertaining strong suspicions against a Driver [not belonging to the line] by the name of Hoffman, and fearing that the suspicions of the guilty might be excited if he should be seen on the road between the two places, and his object thereby defeated, Mr. Shore sent an express to the Postmaster at Richmond on Saturday last, with a request that he would cause Hoffman to be apprehended. This request was promptly complied with; and the culprit committed to jail. The whole of the money was found in his possession. He stated that it was given to him by Burdick, the Driver from Petersburg to the Half Way House. A messenger was immediately despatched to this place with this information; and about two o'clock yesterday morning, Burdick was consequently arrested and committed to jail, from whence he has been conveyed to Richmond.

*Pet. Const.*

We see it stated in the New York Evening Star, on the authority of Hudson's Correspondence, at Washington, "that a plot is now on foot to deprive Houston of the command of the Army of Texas, and place Gen. James Hamilton, of South Carolina, at its head. The proposition has been made to the Texian Commissioners and is now under consideration. If Hamilton can be placed at the head of the affairs of Texas it is said that \$10,000,000 will be pledged to the cause. It is alleged Houston is not the man to carry the plans of Texas into effect, and a strong party in the south is ready to take hold of the struggle if Hamilton can be elected to the chief command."

*Rich. Compiler.*

**CAMDEN BANK.**

The whole amount of Stock subscribed in this new Institution at the various places where books were opened, was 102,126 shares, at \$50 each, making the sum of \$5,106,300 more than twenty times as much as the Capital stock of the Bank is authorized to be by the Charter. No one person was allowed to take more than five shares, and there are 6558 subscribers. We understand it is intended to cut down every subscriber to one share, and then determine, by lottery, who shall lose and who retain even that small amount of the Stock. Since our capitalists seem to have so much "surplus revenue" seeking employment, could they not find a profitable investment of it in the Charleston and Cincinnati?

*Charlotte Journal.*

Captain Gabriel Winters [a very appropriate name] has according to the Planters Advocate of Donaldsonville, Louisiana, made an ingenious apparatus to prevent fires from the sparks of steam furnaces. It is supposed it will be of much importance to the sugar planters who use steam power.

The Governor of Georgia has called for three battalions of Militia, to be raised by voluntary enlistment, to protect the Western frontier of that State, from the hostile incursions of the Creek Indians. This requisition is made chiefly from the Chattahoochee Counties, and will, with that under Major Howard, constitute two full Regiments, to serve for three months.

**Warrenton.**

SATURDAY, 18th JUNE.

We are fully authorized to announce RICHARD DAVIS, as a candidate for the Sheriffship of Warrenton County, at the ensuing August election.

A meeting of the friends of MARTIN VAN BUREN and RICHARD M. JOHNSON, is requested at the Court House, in the town of Warrenton, on the 18th day of June, for the purpose of adopting such measures as may be deemed best to secure their election.

**PETERSBURG MARKETS.**

Tobacco continues in good demand.  
Lugs \$5 00 to 7 50  
Leaf common to good 7 50 to 9 00  
Good to best 9 00 to 12 50  
Cotton--Sales are readily made at 16, and 18  
Wheat, none in market,--price \$1 30 to 1 35.

**PRESIDENT'S VETO.**

Gen. Jackson has vetoed the bill fixing days for the meeting and adjournment of Congress in future. That part of the act which is intended to fix the adjournment of every succeeding Congress to the second Monday in May after the commencement of the first session is believed by the President to be unconstitutional. The President's message on the subject may be found in today's paper. We approve of the veto and concur in the opinions contained in the message as to the unconstitutionality of the bill. The alternate long sessions of Congress are certainly a public evil, but that evil can only be remedied by each Congress fixing for itself an early day of adjournment. One Congress even with the consent of the President has no right to limit the sessions or to regulate the adjournments of another Congress.

**A CARD.**

TO THE EDITOR OF THE REPORTER.

I have understood that a statement has been made in certain parts of the county, by whom I know not--nor is it of sufficient importance to inquire--that in the discharge of my duties as Senator in the last Legislature, I expressed, by a vote, the opinion, "that the Constitution conferred on Congress the power to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia." To this a plain answer is furnished by the fact, that no proposition, either asserting or denying the existence of such a power, was submitted to the Senate during the Session. I could not, therefore, have possibly given the vote imputed to me.

Recognizing, however, to the fullest extent, Representative Responsibility--but utterly denying any and every right in others to make groundless accusations--I ask for leave to make a brief explanation through the medium of your columns.

The Journals of the Senate will show that a Committee reported a resolution, "that although the Constitution secures to Congress the exclusive jurisdiction within the District ceded by the States to the Federal Government, yet we should deprecate any action on the part of Congress, towards liberating the slaves of the said District, without consent of their owners, as a breach of faith towards the States by whom the Territory was ceded; and will regard such an interference as the first step towards legislative action with regard to our own property." To which was offered, by way of amendment, a substitute in the following words: "Resolved, That although by the Constitution all legislative power over the District of Columbia is

vested in the Congress of the United States, yet we would deprecate any legislative action on the part of that body towards liberating the Slaves of that District as a breach of faith towards those States, by whom the territory was originally ceded; and would regard such interference as the first step towards a general emancipation of the Slaves of the South."

It will be readily perceived that the language of both is almost the same--and that the only difference in the sense is produced by the omission, in the substitute, of the words "without consent of their owners." On the question to strike out the former, with the view to insert, and, in effect, to adopt the latter; I voted unhesitatingly in the negative. The motion, however, prevailed, and on the final vote on the substitute, I voted against it--I did so because, on the fullest consideration, I became thoroughly convinced that Congress possessed the power to pass acts of emancipation, liberating slaves in the District, on the application and with the consent of their owners, and would only be chargeable with a breach of faith for enacting laws liberating slaves in the District, without such consent. The substitute, it will be observed, cautiously omits the words "without consent of their owners," and thereby virtually affirms any and every act of emancipation to be a breach of faith. Such a position, I humbly conceive, can only find favor with those who are more influenced by prejudice than reason.

The Constitution of the United States declares, that "Congress shall have power to exercise exclusive legislation in all cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten miles square) as may, by cession of particular States and the acceptance of Congress, become the seat of Government of the United States." Subsequently to the ratification and adoption of that Instrument, the territory now constituting the District of Columbia, was ceded by the States of Maryland and Virginia "to the Congress and Government of the United States, in full and absolute right and exclusive jurisdiction"--and the cession act from Virginia contains this express stipulation:--"Provided, that nothing herein contained shall be construed to vest in the United States any right of property in the soil--or to affect the rights of Individuals therein," that is, of Individuals resident in the District. Congress having accepted the grant upon those terms, is bound to observe and fulfil them. It does not admit of doubt then, that the words "exclusive legislation" in the Constitution of the U. States, are controlled and qualified and explained by the Proviso in the cession act; so that the rights of Individuals in slave property exist to the same extent that they did under the laws and institutions of Virginia and Maryland (for I presume that the terms of cession are the same) and the ordinary legislative powers of those States over such property; and no other or greater, were devolved on Congress as the local Legislature of the District. Now no one doubts that it is within the competence of the Legislatures of Virginia and Maryland to liberate slaves with the consent of their owners--for these States and all the Southern States; and none with a more liberal spirit than North Carolina, have exercised that power ever since the foundation of their respective governments. To deny, therefore, this power to Congress would be an abridgement of the rights of the slave holder and by consequence, a violation of the cession act; in as much as the right to liberate, whenever an act authorizing it can be obtained, has always been regarded as a benefit or privilege to the master himself.

The mistake committed by some minds on this subject seems to me

result from confounding acts of ordinary legislation with acts of sovereignty; between which the most obvious distinction exists. Acts liberating slaves with the consent of their owners, with which all our statute books abound, are acts of ordinary legislation, and work no invasion of private property. And if the Legislature of any state should liberate the slaves within its limits, by the request of the owners, there would be nothing in such a measure to restrain them or others from acquiring and holding the same species of property the next day. The extraordinary powers of sovereignty alone could interpose an obstacle by abolishing the rights of slavery; and interdicting its future existence. This would be a restraint upon the citizen, and not a privilege. It would be an invasion of the rights of property, so far as it might interfere with the existing institution of slavery. Sovereignty abides with the people only; no one will insist that the Legislatures possess it. The sovereign power can abolish slavery, and in effect, take away the rights of slave owners; the legislative power can only liberate or set free with the consent of the owner.

If there be any action of the last legislature conceding the existence of a power in Congress to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia, it is the substitute against which I voted. The substitute declares in substance, any and every act liberating slaves to be--what? a violation of the Constitution? no! but simply a breach of faith towards Maryland and Virginia. That is, that Congress is only restrained by the obligations of good faith in this particular, and, by implication, not by the injunctions of the Constitution.

I will not enlarge upon these exciting topics in this communication, as fruitful as they may be of comment. My purpose is merely to state opinions. I will simply add, that a public man has always enough to do, to account for what he does; and that it neither comports with reason, justice or common sense, to hold him accountable for what he never did. The wickedness that would make such a requisition must be accounted for before a tribunal to which all must finally answer.

W. N. EDWARDS.

18th June, 1836.

The Rev. Wm. M. Atkinson, of Petersburg, Va. will preach in the Presbyterian Church in this place on next Sabbath, the 19th inst.

The Law Magazine relates an anecdote of Sergeant Davy... a distinguished English lawyer at the time of Lord Mansfield... that being once called to account by his brethren on the western circuit, for disgracing the profession, by accepting silver of a client, he replied: "I took silver because I could not get gold; but I took every sixpence the fellow had in the world, and I hope you don't call that disgracing the profession."

A parishoner complained to his parson that his pew was too far from the pulpit, and that he must purchase one nearer. "Why," said the parson, "can't you hear distinctly?" "O yes, I can hear well enough." "Can't you see plainly?" "Yes, I can see perfectly well." "Then what can be the trouble?" "Why, there are so many in front of me, who catch what you say first, that by the time your words reach my ears they are as flat as dishwater." Boston Post.

GETTYSBURG, (Pa.) May 23. HEAVY LOADS.

Two teams of Mr. JOHN TAUGHINAUGH, [his horses are tough in brack as well as their master,] of this country, drew from Philadelphia to Pittsburg, a few days ago, the astonishing weight of ninety hundred in each wagon!

The sale of valuable cattle at Powelton, on Saturday was numerously attended from various parts of the country. Twenty three animals

brought eight hundred and five hundred and forty dollars, an average of 800 dollars a piece. One bull brought \$700, and one cow \$600. Philad. Gaz.

The last New York American states its receipt of letters from Vera Cruz via Havana, dated 22d ult. by which it learns, Santa Anna had written to his friends in Mexico, that he will leave Texas for that city, via Matamoras by the 16th May. There is a slip between the cup and the lip; Santa Anna is no longer a despot nor a freeman. He is a slave now to the will, even to the caprices of others. He will have to ask the consent of the rebel Houston. Even his life hangs upon the breath of his nostrils. But would Santa even wish now to visit Mexico? Will not the wheel of fortune turn against him?

**DEATHS BY LIGHTNING.**

On Tuesday last, two negro men and two horses were killed by lightning on the farm of Col. Allen Temple, in Prince George. The men were ploughing in a field, in company with four others; one of whom was knocked down, but not seriously injured; the rest being in a different part of the field escaped.

*Pet. Const.*

**Another Democratic Triumph!**

We learn that at the election for commissioners of the district of Kensington, on Monday last, the democrats, friends of Van Buren and Johnson, succeeded in electing 13 out of 15 of their candidates, by a large majority. The days of opposition misrule are numbered in the county of Philadelphia, and in despite of the tricks of the minority Legislature, democracy will obtain its accustomed ascendancy there in October.

*Am. Sentinel.*

**REMARKABLE FEAT.**

By the Freedonia, N. Y. Censor, of May 18, we learn that a man entered a store in that village a few days before, and offered some persons there if they would "shoot the bill" that he would swallow a pint of wine and five dozen eggs, which he accomplished with perfect ease.

**Warrenton Academy.**

THIS Institution will go into operation, under the direction of the subscriber, on Tuesday the 5th of July next. The course of instruction will comprise the Latin, Greek, French and English Languages, Belles Letters, Mathematics, and the usual branches of a liberal education. The Students of the Classical Department, will be thoroughly grounded; the construction of the Languages; the idiom, and the beauties of the authors will be carefully noted. Strict attention will be paid to the pupils of the English department. They will be prepared for the counting-house, or for whatever business or employment their parents or guardians may design them--the scholars of both departments will be frequently exercised in composition, declamation, &c. The object of the subscriber being to prepare his pupils for usefulness, and the business of active life; no pains will be spared to attain these important objects. Those who patronize the Institution, may therefore rest assured that every exertion will be made to merit their approbation and support.

The morals and deportment of those committed to his care, will likewise be attended to.

An experience of twenty-five years, the greater part of which he has presided over Seminaries of learning, as respectable as any in the country, may be further adduced in support of his pretensions as a public instructor.

The situation of Warrenton, its character for health and genteel society, hold forth the strongest inducements to parents and guardians to board their children in the village. Boarding may be had in respectable families, on reasonable terms. The subscriber would in a short time, be able to accommodate a few boarders, to whose improvement, deportment, and comfort strict attention would be paid.

TERMS, such as are usual in other respectable Academies, and which may be known by application to the subscriber, or any of the board of Trustees.

EDWARD HUGHES, Principal. Warrenton, June 11, 1836.

A Female Academy will also be commenced under the superintendance of Mrs. Hughes, and her daughter. The branches usually called for in the most respectable Female Seminaries, will be taught in this.

**STRAYED,**



TWO fine Blooded Bay mares, five and six years old, black mane & tails, without any white

marks. These mares were sent to my care from some gentlemen in the South to the Horse, and have just returned; possibly may be on their way home, or to where they were raised. Any person taking them up shall be well rewarded and paid for all expenses.

ROBT. RANSOM.

Warrenton, N. C. June 4, 1836--77.

**NOTICE.**

I Am authorized and empowered to purchase for some gentlemen in the South, a few fine thorough bred mares or fillies and one Horse Colt. Those who have such a fair and liberal price, will please let me know.

ROBT. RANSOM.

Warrenton, June 18, 1836--77