

THE STAR, And North Carolina Gazette, PUBLISHED WEEKLY, BY LAWRENCE & LEMAY.

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The French Question.—A debate of much interest occurred in the House of Representatives on a proposition to refer to a Committee, that part of the Message relating to France, with instructions to make a report not in accordance with the President's recommendation.

It could not be disguised that the recommendation in the Message amounted, practically, to nothing more or less than a declaration of War against France. That was the recommendation. And he trusted that gentlemen would not suffer themselves to be deceived into any other view of it.

Mr. C. said he would here appeal to the honor of the House to say, whether they believed that resorting to a measure of this character would not immediately place the United States in hostile relations with one of the proudest, most high spirited, most warlike, and most wealthy, powerful, and formidable nations of the world?

Mr. C. said he had no hesitation in declaring his belief that our claims on the French Government were perfectly fair and just; he believed that we had not asked a cent more than was justly due to us; that we ought to have the money; and that should our demand be finally refused, the refusal would present just cause of war.

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MAJOR JACK DOWNING.

To my friend Mr. Dwight of the New York Daily Advertiser.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6, 1834. I suppose you have read the message long since this, and begin to think the time aint far off when we shall all be called on to give the Frenchmen a stirrin' up for not paying us that just debt they owe us.

I wish I could write French as well as I can American, for then I'd sit down and give Louis Phillip my notions about this business, for I am plagnly afraid he and his folks don't know as much about the nature of this country as they ought to know.

War aint kalkulated to bring much profit to any nation, especially to our nation as things now stand, but it will never do to look to profit or loss account in business of this nature.

The Frenchmen owe us five millions of dollars, and they must pay it, or we must try and get it out on 'em if it costs five times the sum.

Every man, to be sure, has a right to give his opinion in Congress, or out of Congress, as to the best mode of settling this business; but when once that Congress has ordered what is to be done, then my notion is for all parties to shake hands and stand by the Government, and if it comes at last to the point, and war is the word then off coat and go at it, and have no disputing among ourselves till we have thrashed the enemy.

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parly voose" in their Congress "up chamber" a thing or two perhaps they have forgotten about this country.

Your old friend, J. DOWNING, Major, Downingville Militia, 2d Brigade.

REBUILDING OF THE CAPITOL.

Report of the Commissioners appointed to superintend the rebuilding of the State Capitol, submitted to the Legislature on the 4th inst.

To the Hon. the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina.

In compliance with a Resolution of the General Assembly, passed on the 2nd instant, the undersigned, Commissioners for re-building the Capitol, Respectfully Report:

That the original plan of said building, as first adopted by the Commissioners, measured in length, from north to south, one hundred and fifty feet nine and a half inches; in breadth, from east to west, the principal part of the building, comprising the two halls, measured fifty-eight feet eight inches, with a breadth through the centre, including the east and west projections, of one hundred and two feet.

In the lists herewith submitted, full answers will be found to the third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, and ninth questions in the Resolution, namely:—The numbers and names of the Superintendents, and laborers; the amount paid each for services rendered per diem; or otherwise; also, the number of slaves, if employed by the day or otherwise, and at what price; and whether any reduction is made for loss of work by sickness or inclemency of weather; the number of blacksmiths employed for the use of the State on account of the State House; their pay.

Answers to the 11th and 12th inquiries, viz: "the superintendents, laborers, slaves, teams, et cetera, employed at the quarry, and on the rail road; their pay, and cost of each," will also be found in the accompanying lists.

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of the Resolution, viz: "Did any person, or persons, contract to build the Capitol on Union Square, in the city of Raleigh; and if so, who, at what price; the amount and conditions of the bond; the names of the securities; and their place, or places of residence; was the Rock Quarry given up to the said Contractor; and if so, who, and at what price?"

The Commissioners state, that under the conviction that they could not make a contract for the whole building, as an entire job, without hazarding the interest of the State, either as it regarded the price of the work, or its sufficiency when completed, they declined to exercise the authority given to them to that effect: They deemed it safest and most economical to hire the workmen and laborers requisite for the work by time—the performance of whose duties should be under the immediate superintendence of agents employed for that purpose, while the whole should be conducted under their own supervision and control.

William Nichols, jr. Esquire, was first employed as an architect by the Commissioners, to aid them in determining upon a plan and outline of the building: For his services, as architect, and furnishing drafts, &c. he was paid the sum of three hundred and fifty dollars.

Since that time, the Commissioners have had the services of Ithiel Town, Esquire, of New York, as architect; who continues, at times, to give his attention, and to furnish drawings for the carrying on of the work: He has been paid the sum of five hundred and fifty dollars.

Respectfully, your obed't Servants. D. CAMERON, W. S. MHOON, H. SEAWELL, Commissioners.

RALEIGH, 4th December, 1834.

From tabular statements accompanying the Report, it appears there were of Stone Cutters, a master workman, at \$3 per day, and an assistant at \$2; and seventy-four stone cutters, at wages varying from 25 cents to \$2.25 per day each; there are one master-workman, at \$2.25, one overseer, at \$2, and fifty-six workmen, at wages varying from 40 cents to \$1.25 each per day—their exact proportion, however, at 50 cents per day; of Carpenters, there are four, one at \$1 dollar and 50 cents, one at \$1 dollar and 25 cents, one at 50 cents, and one at 25 cents per day; of Blacksmiths, there are four, one at 2 dollars and 50 cents, the other three at 2 dollars each per day; of Labourers, (mostly blacks) there are forty, mostly at 50 cents per day each.

LEGISLATURE OF N. C.

Wednesday, Dec. 17. SENATE.

Mr. Wellborn, from the committee on Cherokee Lands, reported a resolution in favor of Joseph Sheppard; which was read three times, passed, and ordered to be engrossed.

Mr. W. also reported a bill directing the conveyance of the commons adjoining the town of Franklin to the chairman of Macon County Court; which passed its first reading.

Mr. Kendall, from the committee of Propositions and Grievances, to which was referred the memorial of Susanna Enoch, praying exemption from the payment of taxes on the estate of her deceased husband, made an unfavorable report thereon; which was concurred in.

On motion of Mr. Montgomery, of Orange, the committee on Internal Improvement were instructed to inquire into the expediency of granting a charter for a rail road from the sea board to the seat of Government, and thence to the Yadkin river to the most eligible point above Beard's Bridge; and of providing that the Public Treasurer shall (as soon as three-fifths of the stock necessary to construct it shall be subscribed, and the payment thereof secured, by individuals) subscribe for the remaining two-fifths on behalf of the State.

Bills presented—By Mr. Durham, a bill to provide for running and establishing the boundary line between the counties of Burke and Rutherford. Read three times, passed, and ordered to be engrossed. By Mr. Phelps, a bill to regulate attorneys' fees and State tax fees, in Washington county, in certain cases. Read the first time and passed. By Mr. Moye, of Greene, a bill to legitimate Jacky Ann Moring. Read three times, passed, and ordered to be engrossed.

orders of the day, and resumed the unfinished business of yesterday, the question being on the adoption of the following amendment, proposed by Mr. Martin, to the resolutions instructing Mr. Mangum, viz:—

Resolved, as the opinion of this General Assembly, that the preservation of the liberties of this Republic depends, not only on confining the operations of the General Government to the exercise of such powers, as are expressly granted by the Constitution, but that it is necessary to guard, with equal caution, against destroying the Constitutional balance of power in the General Government itself—that all the powers granted or entrusted by the people of the States to the Federal Government, or either of its branches, are specifically delegated and sufficiently limited, to keep each in its proper sphere—that the residuary powers given to Congress "to make all laws, which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers and all other powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof," forbid the exercise of any constructive powers, by either of the said branches of the Government.

Resolved, That in accordance with these views, this General Assembly cannot sanction the doctrines, avowed by the President of the United States, in the Manifesto read to the Cabinet on the 18th of September, 1833, or in the Protest transmitted to the Senate of the United States on the 30th April, 1834—that we are expressly granted by the Constitution the right to take or examine any responsibility, other than such as is imposed on him as a duty by the Constitution and laws of the United States—that the Secretary of the Treasury, as well as the other heads of departments, is an officer of the government, and that the President has no rightful authority to direct or control said officer, in the exercise of a discretionary duty specially confided to him by a law of the United States.

Resolved, That this General Assembly is opposed to a renewal of the charter of the United States Bank; and as it is, at all times, the duty of the officers of the Republic to keep a watchful eye over its national concerns, we approve of the Message of the President to the last session of the Senate, recommending that body to enquire into the safety of the public money deposited in that Institution—that, as we consider Congress to have the only legitimate control over the subject, we deeply regret that the President did not suspend its removal until the meeting of the succeeding Congress, and if deemed necessary, prepared the subject again to that body, with such disclosures and additional facts, as might have transpired in its recess.

Resolved, That we deem it unnecessary to give an opinion on the policy of removing the public money from the Bank of the United States, but feel constrained to express our entire dissent from the exercise of the power by the President of the United States, and without law, to place it in the custody and under the control of the State Banks—that the safety of the public money is, in the estimation of this General Assembly, of very little consequence to the dangerous tendency of the measures claimed by the President throughout the Protest Message, and more particularly, in the following paragraph:—"Congress cannot therefore like out of the hands of the Executive Department, the custody of the public property or money, without an assumption of Executive power, and a subversion of the first principles of the Constitution." To concede this power to the Executive Department, would subject the form, as well as the fundamental principles, of our government, and the elective count, to be reorganised by the freemen of North Carolina.

Resolved, That notwithstanding these alarming claims of power, our confidence in the integrity of the President of the United States remains unimpaired—that we believe he was misled in the premises, and is happy to perceive, in his late Annual Message, the following paragraph:—"Congress cannot therefore like out of the hands of the Executive Department, the custody of the public property or money, without an assumption of Executive power, and a subversion of the first principles of the Constitution." To concede this power to the Executive Department, would subject the form, as well as the fundamental principles, of our government, and the elective count, to be reorganised by the freemen of North Carolina.

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Courts of Beaufort to appoint two surveyors for said county. By Mr. Harris, a bill concerning the exercise of suffrage by free persons of colour. By Mr. Hill, a bill to authorise the commissioners of Kenansville to sell part of the town commons. These bills were read the first time and passed.

The bill to reduce the salaries of the Supreme Court Judges, was postponed indefinitely—yeas 65, nays 58.

Yeas—Messrs. Albritton, R. H. Alexander, G. H. Alexander, Barringer, Barde, Bell, Bouldie, Bray, H. Campbell, Gresham, Gresham, Clark, Craig, Crump, Daniel, Hocker, Dudley, Fleming, Foreman, Fort, Graham, Harper, Harrison, Lee, Wood, Henderson, Henry, Hoke, Howard, Hutchison, W. Jones, Jordan, Judd, Keon, King, Kurrell, Latham, Lilly, Locke, Loder, Matthews, Manly, Manney, Marsteller, Martin, Matthews, McGee, McLean, McPherson, McRae, Hadden, Norem, Ousey, Outlaw, Perkins, Pender, Potts, Pugh, Riddick, Sewell, Slack, Tallam, Watson, Weyer, Welch, Wiley, Williams of Greene, Williams of Wayne.

Nays—Messrs. Allison, Bedwell, Blatchford, Black, Blackwell, Brown, Byrum, Byrum, Carter, Coor, Cotton, Davenport, Davis, Deaton, Eason, Eason, Frank, Frankland, Gantt, Gray, Hamrick, Hawkins, Harris, W. Houston, J. Horton, Houlder, Ivey, K. Jones, Lee, Lyons, Mack, Mathews, McNeill, Perry, P. P. Powell, Register, Reubuck, Rush, Sanders, Sisson, Smartwood, J. Smith, J. L. Smith, S. Smith, Stuckard, Swanner, Swannell, Taylor, Fillett, Tomlinson, Wardworth, Walker, Vaughn, Jacob Williams, Williams of Richmond, Winstead, Yeager.

The House now took up, in committee of the Ways and Means, to establish the Merchants' Bank of Newbern. After considerable discussion thereon, the Speaker resumed the Chair, and the bill was referred to the House with several amendments, which were concurred in; and the question being put on the second reading of the bill, it was decided in the negative—yeas 51, nays 59.

Mr. Outlaw, from the committee on Privileges and Elections, made a detailed report on the contested election of James Seawell, the sitting member from Fayetteville; which, on motion of Mr. R. H. Alexander, was laid on the table.

Thursday, Dec. 18. SENATE.

Mr. Caldwell, from the select committee on the subject, reported a bill to regulate the times of holding the Superior Courts in the 4th and 5th judicial circuits, and to attach the county of Surry to the former circuit; which was read the first time and passed.

Mr. Howell presented a resolution in favor of Archibald S. Brown; which was referred.

The following engrossed bills and resolutions passed their three several readings, and were ordered to be enrolled. The bill to incorporate the Northampton Blues; the bill authorising the County Courts of Burke and Yancy to appoint commissioners for laying off roads, &c.; and the resolution in favor of Lewis Dupree.

The Senate then resumed the unfinished business of yesterday, being the consideration of the resolutions instructing Mr. Mangum; and, after considerable debate, the Senate adjourned without taking a vote on the subject.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Messrs. Lindsay, Latham and Brumwell were appointed, on behalf of this House, the joint select committee, to which is referred the Governor's communication respecting Ball Hughes.

Mr. Barringer, from the committee on the Judiciary, reported that it is inexpedient to amend the laws relating to insolvent debtors. Concurred in.