

CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

MONDAY, DEC. 29.

Mr. Pinckney, from the committee to whom the subject had been referred, reported a bill to amend the act respecting the recovery of fugitives from justice, and persons escaping from the service of their masters...

A message was received from the President of the United States, by Mr. J. J. Monroe, his private secretary, transmitting, in compliance with a resolution of the House, of the 12th inst. the following report:

Department of State, Dec. 26.

The resolution of the house of Representatives of the 12th of this inst. requesting the President to communicate to that House whether any & which of the representatives named in the list thereto annexed have held offices since the 4th of March last, designating the offices, the time of appointment and acceptance, and whether they were at that time so held, or when they had been resigned, having been referred to this department, the Secretary has the honor respectfully to report to the President as follows:

- John Holmes, of Massachusetts, commissioner under the 4th article of the treaty of Ghent; appointed 16th February 1815; resigned 24th Nov. 1817. Samuel Herrick, of Ohio, attorney of the United States; appointed 19th December 1810; resigned 29th Nov. 1817. Daniel Cramer, of New-York, post-master at Bath; appointed 29th June, 1815; resigned 1st December, 1817. Eli S. Earle, of South Carolina, post-master at Centerville; appointed in April, 1815; resigned 12th June, 1817. Thomas H. Hubbard, of New-York, post-master at Hamilton; appointed 11th March, 1815; resigned 23d Oct. 1817. Samuel C. Crafts, of Vermont, principal assessor for the 6th collection district; appointed 4th January, 1815; resigned 5th June, 1817. George Robertson, of Kentucky, principal assessor for the 7th collection district; appointed 4th January, 1815; resigned 5th June, 1817. George Munford, of North Carolina, principal assessor for the tenth collection district; no resignation has been received from Mr. Munford. Levi Barber, of Ohio, receiver of public moneys at Marietta; appointed 3d March, 1807; resigned 1st December, 1817. John F. Parrot, of New-Hampshire, naval officer for the district of Portsmouth; appointed 23d April, 1816; resigned 15th Nov. 1817.

JOHN Q. ADAMS.

Referred to the Committee of Elections.

The Speaker laid before the House a report from the Secretary of War, made in pursuance of a resolution of the House, embracing a list of all the officers who held brevet rank in the army at the close of the late war, their lineal rank at the time of receiving the brevet; and a list of officers of the present army, who hold brevet rank higher than their lineal rank, and the number and grade of such officers as receive, in virtue of their brevet rank, greater pay or emoluments than they would otherwise be entitled to by law; which report was ordered to lie on the table and be printed.

On motion of Mr. Pitkin, the Secretary of the Treasury was directed to lay before the House a statement of American and foreign tonnage employed in the foreign trade of the United States, in the years 1815, 1816, and as far as practicable in 1817, distinguishing the nations to whom the foreign tonnage belonged. Also, a statement of American and British tonnage employed in the trade between the United States and the British dominions in Europe, for each of said years, distinguishing the amount employed between the United States and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and the other British European dominions.

A statement showing the amount of British tonnage in the trade between the United States and the British West Indies, and between the United States and the British North American Colonies, in 1815, 1816, and 1817, containing the amount entered in and cleared from the American ports, in each of said years.

And also a statement showing the quantity of sugar, coffee, rice, molasses, and cocoa imported into and exported from the United States, in each of the years 1815, 1816, and 1817, together with the countries and places from whence the same were imported, and the quantity imported from each country and place.

In submitting his report, Mr. Pitkin briefly remarked on the importance of the subject on which the resolutions called for, and the necessity there was for the House being in possession of it, particularly in certain interesting questions which would come before the House on the subject of trade and navigation.

Mr. Poindexter offered the following motion:

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to enquire into the expediency of authorizing the President of the United States to exchange with the Choctaw and Chickasaw tribes of Indians, or either of them, lands belonging to the United States west of the Mississippi, for lands now in the possession and occupancy of said tribes of Indians, or either of them.

On motion of Mr. Cobb, (after some conversation with the mover, and his assenting thereto) the resolution was amended by including therein the Creek and Cherokee Indians, whose territory, within the limits of Georgia, Mr. C. thought it equally important should be obtained by the U. States. In this shape, and after, on motion of Mr. Taylor, referring the enquiry to the committee on the public lands, instead of a select committee, the resolution was agreed to.

The Speaker laid before the House, a letter from William Allen, accompanied by a present to the House of a copy of the President's message, printed on silvered sheep-skin for the manufacture of which he has obtained a patent.

The House having resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the report of the committee of claims on the petition of Alexander Worster, Mr. Holmes, of Mass. moved to reverse the report, which is unfavorable to the petition. This motion was supported by the mover, and opposed by Mr. Williams, of N. C. the chairman of the committee of claims.

[The case is that of an officer enlisting a minor, through erroneous information; who prays Congress to indemnify him for loss sustained in consequence of damages recovered from him by the relations of said minor.]

The committee agreed to reverse the report, 63 to 48; and the committee having risen, the question of concurrence in this decision being put, and the yeas and nays thereon having been required by Mr. Poindexter—

On motion of Mr. Hopkinson, who desired further time to inquire into the facts, the report was ordered to lie on the table, 65 to 61.

TUESDAY, DEC. 30.

Mr. Miller, of South Carolina, submitted for consideration the following resolution:

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to enquire into the expediency of amending the fourth section of the act passed on the 3d of March, 1817, entitled "An act more effectually to preserve the neutral relations of the United States," so to embrace within the provisions thereof the armed vessels of a government at peace with the United States, and at war with any colony, district or people with whom the United States are or may be at peace.

Mr. M. called the attention of the House to the act of the last session; wherein it would be seen that, by an oversight certainly, because it could not have been the intention of the House, that the vessels of Old Spain might now enter our harbors and increase their force, whilst those of the Colonies were prohibited from so doing. The omission of the words "district or people," in this part of the act, gave to it a force as to the vessels of the colonies which it did not possess in regard to Spain, who was not at war with any Prince or State at peace with the United States. The operation of the law thus exclusively favored Old Spain, which, Mr. M. repeated, never could have been the intention of the House. The act, as it originally passed this House contained no such provision and the error could only be accounted for by its having passed, when returned from the Senate, without due attention.

Mr. Forsyth said, it might be recollected by the House that the committee on Foreign relations were specially charged with the whole subject of the neutral relations of the United States. That committee, he stated, had not reported, because they had not received all the information they wished from the Executive Offices, but which they were in hourly expectation of receiving. When received, the committee would report with promptitude. Mr. F. vindicated the committee on Foreign relations of last session, and the House, from participation in the error which was apparent in the act; for as the gentleman from South Carolina had truly stated, it was the object of the House of Representatives, and he believed of the Congress, to pass an act to preserve to each party all its rights as a neutral nation.—The bill which passed this House was framed for that special purpose, and would have answered it. The Senate, preferring a different form of the bill, had struck out the whole of it except the enacting clause, and passed the bill as the act now stands. The bill which passed the Senate was brought into this House after 10 o'clock on the last night of the session. At that hour it was impossible to give the bill so critical an examination as under different circumstances it would have received; and this verbal inaccuracy had been overlooked.

After some farther debate, the ques-

tion to lay the resolution on the table, was decided in the affirmative, 79 to about 50 votes.

Mr Mercer offered for consideration the following resolution:

Resolved, That the committee to whom was referred the memorial of the American Colonization Society be instructed to enquire into the expediency of making such further alterations in the laws prohibiting the citizens of the U. States from engaging in the African slave trade, as may more effectually secure their intended operation; and that the said committee have leave to report by bill or otherwise.

The motion was agreed to nem. con.

The House resumed the consideration of the bill to commute the bounty lands of the soldiers of the late army, the question being on concurring in the amendments reported to the house by the committee of the whole—

Mr. Robertson, of Lou. rose for the purpose of offering an amendment which would essentially change the features of the bill; in doing which he entered somewhat into an examination of the merits of the principle of commutation, which he decidedly approved. This amendment in substance authorizes every soldier, on surrendering his warrant at the Land Office to be cancelled, to receive a certificate of the quantity of land surrendered, and where patents have issued, the patentee to surrender his patent to the Commissioner of the General Land Office within six months after the passage of this act, in order to avail himself of the provisions thereof and deposit at the same time an affidavit that he has not transferred or sold such patent to any person whatever, and receive a certificate therefor; and for these certificates such sold or his agent shall receive certificates of stock, bearing an interest of six per cent. per annum redeemable at the pleasure of the government or within five years, at the rate of one dollar per acre for the land for which the warrant or patent has been surrendered, &c. The bill he thought important both as it regarded the soldier and the United States, but infinitely more important to the interest of the latter. It was all important, Mr. R. argued, that these lands should be taken out of the hands of speculators and be redeemed by the nation. His amendment offered conditions to the soldier much more liberal, at the same time that it would be more convenient to the government, than the provisions of the present bill—the interest of both parties would be preserved and the community rescued from that speculation which would without this bill certainly take place.

The amendments offered by Mr. R. having been read, they were ordered to be printed, and the whole subject to lie on the table.

WEDNESDAY DEC. 31.

Mr Edwards offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the President of the U. States be requested to cause to be had before this House, information of the number of States which have ratified the 13th article of the amendments to the Constitution of the United States, proposed at the session of the 11th Congress, [prohibiting any citizen of the United States from accepting or receiving any title of nobility, or office or emolument, without the consent of Congress, from any foreign Prince or power, &c.]

Mr. Edwards stated, that his motion was induced by some doubts whether the article referred to had been ratified by a sufficient number of the States, to make it a part of the Constitution, although it appeared as such, he perceived, in the copies printed for the use of the members of the House; and it was desirable that a fact so important should be placed beyond question. The motion was agreed to without opposition.

Mr. Johnson, of Ky. submitted a joint resolution to authorize the publication of the laws of the United States, within the several States and territories of the United States (authorizing the publication in any number of newspapers deemed proper, not exceeding six—which was twice read and referred to the committee on the Judiciary.

On motion of Mr. Huntington, it was resolved, that the Secretary of War be directed to lay before this House a return of the arms and military stores furnished to the respective States under the provisions of the law of 1807, appropriating annually the sum of 200,000 dollars for furnishing arms and military equipments to the whole body of the militia of the United States; and also to inform this House on what principle the distribution had been made.

On motion of Mr. Huntington, also, it was resolved, that the committee on post offices and post roads be instructed to take into consideration the expediency of providing by law to authorize the Governors of States and Territories for the time being to receive & transmit, through the post offices, all official communications free of postage.

The House went into a committee of the whole, on the bill to prescribe the effect certain records and judi-

proceedings of the courts of each state shall have in every other state, and in the courts of the United States.

The bill received some amendments and considerable discussion took place on its details. But Mr Clay, (Speaker) rose, and observing that as, either from its being the last day of the year, or from some other cause, he knew not what, the House seemed less interested in this subject than its importance merited, moved that the committee rise; which being agreed to—

The committee rose, reported progress, obtained leave to sit again; and the House adjourned to Friday next.

FRIDAY, JAN. 2.

Mr. Herbert, reported a bill to provide for the erection of a court house, jail, and public offices within the county of Alexandria.

These bills were severally twice read and committed.

On motion of Mr. Johnson, of Kentucky, the committee of claims was instructed to enquire into the expediency of providing by law for extending the provisions of an act entitled "An act providing for the payment of claims for property lost, captured or destroyed by the enemy while in the military service of the United States, and for other purposes."

Mr. Comstock offered for consideration the following resolution:

Resolved, That it is expedient to provide by law for placing on the pension list the officers of the army who have been wounded in battle during the late war with Great Britain.

The House again resolved itself into a committee of the whole, on the bill to prescribe the effect of certain records and judicial proceedings, and after some debate upon it, rose, reported progress, and obtained leave to sit again.

FOREIGN NEWS.

LATE FROM ENGLAND.

Charleston, Jan. 3.

Arrived at this port last evening the fast sailing ship Friends, Capt. Jeffrey, from Liverpool, and last from Belfast, in 35 days from the latter. The PRINCESS CHARLOTTE of COBURG died at Claremont on the 6th Nov. at 2 o'clock in the morning, in going birth to a still-born child. This event is of great political importance to the United Kingdom, and in consequence a variety of opinions are expressed as to the means which shall be adopted to secure a lineal descent to the throne from the reigning family.

LONDON, NOV. 11.

The public mind continues overwhelmed by the sad occurrence which blasted all our hopes; and every new occurrence that is related serves to aggravate their sorrow. Nothing was discovered by the inspection of the Body to account for the demise of Her Royal Highness. The small quantity of serum found on the pericardium not accounting for it; so that it must have arisen from the exhaustion of the Royal Patient, under a period of labor so lingering. It was from the first anticipated by Sir Richard Croft, and the labor would be protracted, and on Tuesday morning he wrote to Dr. Sims, of Guildford street, to come to Claremont, to assist in consultation, if artificial means should be judged necessary. But this letter was not dispatched till 9 o'clock of the evening of that day, and consequently that able and most experienced accoucher did not arrive till two o'clock on Wednesday morning. It is lamentable to think that the confinement of a Princess, upon whose life and happy delivery such National importance attached, should be at such a distance. Surely the paternal roof, or Buckingham-House, or some other suitable Mansion in town, might have been assigned to the Princess for the time; or if Claremont was preferred, it ought to have occurred that a second Physician should have been previously resident to familiarize Her Royal Highness to his sight, since, in that case, they might have both assisted in the perilous moment. By the arrangement which was made, we now learn from Claremont, that though Dr. Sims was there all Wednesday, for the purpose of consultation, he was not called into the chamber at any period of the labor, nor at the delivery. Perhaps, as he had not been introduced to Her Royal Highness before hand, it was thought that the appearance of a stranger might alarm and discompose her. We have no doubt but that every thing was done for the best at the time; but the preparations were not made with regard to the unexampled importance of the case. We ought not to be deterred by delicacy from saying, that through the whole course of the pregnancy, Her Royal Highness ought to have had the society of some Lady or Ladies of rank and experience, chosen by herself, who, from the confidence reposed in them by the Princess, might have influence in directing the proper treatment to be observed; we

need not remind our readers, that even the Ladies of her Household were not left to her choice.

Great pains were taken by Drs. Sims, and Baillie, to reanimate the Child, and for which purpose it was conveyed to them in an adjoining apartment, but all their efforts were ineffectual, and it appeared probable that it had been dead for some hours before delivery. Though long delayed, every thing looked favorably till the shivering and the spasms came on. Dr. Sims and Dr. Baillie were then called into the chamber, but it was the will of God that human skill should not avail.

It will scarcely be credited, that there was not one Lady, or even female domestic, resident at Claremont, whose experience could authorize her to be useful to the Princess during her pregnancy or labor. Not one of the was a mother.

Strange also it certainly was, that Her Royal Highness was left to the care of only one accoucher, at the distance of 16 miles from London; so that no provision was made for any illness of that one, through long watching or other accident. Doctor Sims was also sent for from town long after the Patient's sufferings had commenced, and was then only in readiness for consultation, but did not assist at the delivery.

If at any moment of the 48 hours that Her Royal Highness was in labor, it had been thought advisable by Sir Richard Croft, to have recourse to art, could he, in the absence of the Patient, and all the members of the Royal Family, take upon himself the awful responsibility of doing that which in a private case, he would have felt it his duty to undertake without a sample? We do not say that such a moment arrived—but it ought to have been provided for.

It was yesterday reported in the political circles, that Ministers had come to the determination, contrary to their settled plan, to assemble Parliament before Christmas, for the purpose of removing the Suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act, and of passing some other necessary Bills, preparatory to a dissolution of Parliament. We mention this as being reported yesterday; we do not know it from authority, but it certainly is not improbable. The recent calamity is of a nature calculated to produce most important results, and which must lead to measures of a decisive nature. Already a subject of great delicacy is every where discussed. Even the Courier of last night hints at one most interesting event as a means of shortly settling all alarms as to a quick succession of Kings without issue.—"May not the Prince Regent himself have issue?" This may be interpreted in two ways, and accordingly we have heard, in one quarter, a pretty significant hint, that the new Parliament may be moved on the subject of a Divorce, "the principal obstacle to that measure being now removed."—We believe that the great majority of the people of England will not feel that there is any political necessity for recourse to such a measure, especially as it could not, under all the circumstances, be sanctioned by moral or religious principles. But certainly the measure is not called for. The health of his majesty and of the Regent gives the promise of time for the offspring of one of the Prince, to come to mature age, so as to avoid the danger of a long minority; and we trust that precautions will be taken for the union of the unmarried Royal Dukes, so as to secure the inheritance in the blood of our venerable King.—Morning Chronicle.

DUBLIN, NOV. 15.

Importation of Grain.—A letter from London of the date of Thursday says—the confident expectation is indulged that the British harbors will be closed for the ensuing three months against the importation of all face of grain. Barley perhaps excepted.—The same policy will be adopted, we presume, with regard to Flour, from all places but the British Colonies in North America, and from these Wheat, Barley, Oats and Beans, we suppose will continue to be allowed duty free.

IMPORTANT FROM THE SOUTH.

To the Editors of the Charleston Gazette &c. "Fernandina, Amelia Island, Dec. 24, 1817.

"Yesterday the squadron under the command of Com. Henley, & the troops under the command of Col. Bankhead entered the harbor of Fernandina when the troops landed, marched to the fortifications, and hoisted the American flag. No resistance was made. The followers of Aury are composed of negroes, violators of the revenue laws, and the adventurers and outcasts of all nations. Col. Bankhead has established a Police for the preservation of order and tranquility at Fernandina, until civil authority be introduced by the Government."

BANK AND KINGS, may be had at this Office.