

From the National Intelligencer.

At the close of the late Session of Congress, a very general impression prevailed, among those who had witnessed its proceedings, that no previous session had less important business been done. Such, we frankly avow, was our impression, arising from the formidable length of the scroll of unfinished business. We are glad that a more deliberate view of the proceedings of the Session has presented the subject, to us at least, in a different point of view.

It is a maxim with some of our oldest and most practised Legislators, that, with a view to the public good, Congress cannot legislate too little. If we withhold our assent from this broad proposition, we must at least admit, that they may legislate over-much, and that a few acts of good tendency are to be preferred to a multitude of uncertain efficacy.

There are circumstances, in which activity is a virtue in a Legislative Body. These are to be found in the storm of war, in the excitement which precedes, and the lassitude which follows it. During war, every nerve is to be strained, and all the vigor of the law called into action. When war impends, the duty of providing the means for carrying it on requires rapidity and boldness of legislation. It is on such occasions that celerity of movement, as well as energy and decision, in a government, whilst they contribute to the happiness, if not to the safety of a country, also attract the respect of the World. It is by overlooking the change of circumstances, that we sometimes desire to see these qualities developed by Congress, when their exercise is not called for, and might be dangerous to the public tranquility, and to the permanency of Republican government.

When Peace returns, with healing in her wings, the wounds of the sufferers by the war are to be bound up; our forces are to be reduced and consolidated; the munitions of war to be collected and preserved; errors and deficiencies, disclosed in the progress of the war, to be rectified; and lastly, the burden of taxation is to be diminished. These objects prolong yet a while the necessity for a certain dispatch; and the multiplicity of details which they involve require from Congress many and complex legislative acts. But, this season once succeeded by the period of profound tranquility, a due deliberation on every proposition submitted to them becomes the paramount duty of Congress. At this time, the nation is in amity with the whole world. Our Institutions are firmly established, and in full operation in their respective spheres. At home, and in our commerce with foreign powers, we are as prosperous as a general peace at the close of a general war will permit any nation to be. If our foreign trade be not as profitable as it has been, or as we wish, it is at least doubtful whether it could be made more so by acts of Congress. The golden harvest reaped by our merchants when carriers for every nation, can no longer be looked for when every nation carries for itself.

It is a source of great satisfaction, in reviewing the measures of the late session of Congress, to find not a single act, to which exception can be taken by any considerable portion of the people.

The acts of a national character are of a nature to gratify the philanthropist and exalt the American name. We particularly refer to the act for the more complete extirpation of the slave trade, and that for the protection of our commerce, and the punishment of piracy. The nation is redeemed from the imputation of connivance at either of these crimes of equal atrocity; an imputation unjust indeed, but a suspicion of the truth of which is wisely not permitted to remain.

The act for the further regulation of the coasting trade appears to have received the general approbation of the people of that part of our country (on our Eastern Atlantic Coast) most affected by it. And in no respect is the Government more attentive to any of its great interests, than it is to that of commerce, in the gradual increase and improvement of the light-houses and beacons erected for the guidance of the mariner passing from port to port, or revisiting his country from foreign climes. Scarcely a session intervenes in which an act is not passed, as at that just closed, for erecting numerous light-houses, beacons, buoys, &c. An act was also passed, for the further regulation and encouragement of the fisheries.

A less paternal regard has not been shown to the interests of the Western frontier. Treaties for cessions of land, and for defining and securing former cessions, were made at no fewer than sixteen different Councils, held with different Indian tribes. Besides establishing new Land Offices for the sale of lands, &c. an act was passed for the further suspension for

a limited time, of the sale or forfeiture of lands for the failure to complete the payments thereon. An act was also passed allowing further time to complete the issuing and locating military bounty warrants. Every facility and accommodation has been given to the Western and Southern interest, (as well as to the Eastern,) that could be reasonably asked. Under this head, the cession of Florida, that important security to the prosperity and peace of the Southern border, ought not to be forgotten. For, although, strictly speaking, this as well as the Indian treaties were Executive acts, they have received the sanction and co-operation of Congress by the acts appropriating money to carry them into effect, and that for the establishment of a provisional government in Florida.

Illinois was formally recognized as a Member of the Union, and the door was opened for the entry of Alabama, the twenty-second state. Missouri failed of obtaining the same privilege by the operation of an incidental question on the feelings, we had almost said the passions, of Congress. To a part of the citizens of that territory, however, an important convenience was extended, by the establishment of a separate territorial government in the southern part of it. Thus our territories rapidly populate, and are admitted with all decent haste, into the political family.

We do not mean to fatigue the patience of the reader by repeating the List of Acts which we published a few days ago, affording a full view of the import and bearing of all the acts of the last session of Congress. We mean to call the attention of our readers to the fact, that the national character, and the interests of every section of the country, have derived advantage from the Session; and that no measure grew out of it, calculated in the least to impair either the one or the other.

That much was omitted to be done which we think ought to have been done, is certainly true. But the measures we particularly desired to succeed, were opposed by some of our best patriots so warmly as to defeat them. Though we cannot yield our opinions respecting them, we must yield our will to that of the majority; and the presumption is, that the majority was opposed to them, (with the exception of one or two, the militia bill, &c. which were postponed on the last day, for want of time,) or they would have been taken up and acted on. We hope to see them brought forward at a future day, with more voices in their favor, and a better chance of success.

To the Fifteenth Congress thus much praise at least may be awarded: that none of its acts have been such as to call forth from any quarter, as far as we have heard, a murmur of disapprobation. If any thing connected with the last session be disapproved, it is that too much of the time, applicable to general legislation, was occupied with Debates, prolonged beyond the demands of the occasions which gave rise to them.

THE AMERICAN BAR.

From the Southern Patriot.

The Montreal Herald, after noticing the rich fund of eloquence expended in the Debate on the Seminole War, takes occasion at the same time to compliment us for the unbounded share of talent which is brought to light by the means of our popular institutions, our free press, our public meetings, and our various legislative assemblies, and we may add, by means of our Bar. The extent of our riches in legal acquirement and forensic oratory, is not in fact known beyond the confines of our own country. If the finer fruits of literature and the liberal arts have not yet ripened under our Western sun: if patronage has not yet awakened the powers of the poet, nor the circumstances of a new country given full scope to the studies of the mathematician and votary of natural science, we can at least boast of our profound lawyers and eloquent advocates. We have shown our capacity to achieve in science all that depends on mental vigor. We have excelled in mechanical invention, as well as in the science of law and government.

This proves that occasions are but wanting to kindle the genius of our countrymen; and make us as renowned in science, in art, and literature, as we are already distinguished for our commercial enterprize and energy of purpose. In such pursuits as hold out sufficient inducements, we have not been eclipsed, considering the recency of our existence, either in powers of imagination or patience of research. The law is a vocation that allows the largest share of talent which our country produces, not because we are a people litigious, but because it is a path the most brilliant in promises of future advantage; because it presents the shortest ascent to the heights of pow-

er and popularity; because it holds the advocate out to the constant view of his fellow citizens. The competitors for public honors and distinctions crowd and jostle each other on this road in considerable numbers.

We are, in short, a free people. We value our personal and political rights; we prize, above all other advantages, our laws, which secure these, and cherish and distinguish those who dictate their rich gifts of mind to expound & illustrate and preserve them. This liberal profession yields, therefore, the most substantial and brilliant rewards that can be presented to the citizen of a popular government. It is no subject of surprise, in consequence, that our various bars attract our largest share of talent, and afford so many nurseries of the future statesman and public orator; that they develop, because of the unbounded competition they produce, the ambition and intellectual powers of our countrymen on a scale, proportionately large, and that our halls of justice are constantly illumined with the lights of learning and genius, and embellished with the graces of eloquence. Our free institutions must continue to send forth an uninterrupted succession of such spirits, who will carry our renown in this department of knowledge to a still higher point, because within this sphere lie the strongest motives to exertion and the richest prizes to public ambition.

THE PRESIDENT'S SOUTHERN TOUR.

From the Norfolk Beacon, April 1.

The President of the United States arrived here, yesterday afternoon, in the Steam-Boat Roanoke, from Washington, accompanied by J. J. Calhoun, Esq. Secretary of War, and Lady, and Mr. Gouverneur, his private Secretary. On the approach of the boat, salutes were fired in succession by the garrisons at Craney Island, Forts Nelson and Norfolk and on her reaching the wharf, by two Volunteer Corps, the Independent and Junior Volunteers. Upon landing, his Excellency was received by the Mayor and Common Councilmen of the Borough, the Collector and Navy Agent, and escorted by the troops, including the cavalry, commanded by Capt. Cooper, to the apartments prepared by the Corporation for his reception at Mrs. Davis's Boarding House. He was afterwards waited on by a number of our most respectable citizens and Naval and Military Officers.

We understand that the President will take his departure in one of the Steam-Boats, at an early hour this morning, for Burwell's Bay, the site of the contemplated Naval Depot; will return in the afternoon—to-morrow be present at the laying of the Corner Stone of the New Custom-House, and, after dining with the Citizens at the Exchange, will take his departure for the Southern tour the same evening or succeeding morning, via the Dismal Swamp Canal, &c.

LAYING OF THE CORNER STONE.

From the same, April 3.

We do not remember ever to have witnessed a more interesting public spectacle, than that to which the ceremonial of laying the corner-stone of the New Custom House yesterday gave birth. The avidity with which all classes of our fellow citizens seized upon the opportunity, which the occasion presented, to approach the Chief Magistrate of the nation with renewed assurances of their respect and attachment, was indeed, such a spectacle as is congenial with the most felicitous view of the tendencies of such a form of government as the American people are privileged to enjoy. At an early hour yesterday, our streets were crowded with parties of ladies and gentlemen, pressing eagerly to that part of the town through which the procession was to pass, and by the hour appointed for the ceremonial, the windows on Main Street, from Town Point to Church street, and on both sides of Market Square, exhibited as rich a variety of female beauty and fashion as any town in the Union, of the same population, could boast. At half past 11 o'clock, the elegant company of Portsmouth Riflemen, commanded by Capt. Kay, with their excellent band composed of amateurs (members of the Corps) formed on the Market square, where they were soon joined by the Norfolk Juniors, Independent Volunteers and Captain Cooper's cavalry; thence they marched to the Town Hall, Main street, and united with Lodges No. 1, 57, 16 and 100 of Norfolk and Portsmouth, 150 in number. After receiving the Mayor and Common Council in the line, they proceeded to the President's lodgings, and escorted him and his suite to the site of the New Custom House.

The spot was handsomely decorated with flag staffs, on which waved the American Standard, and while the ceremony of laying the Corner Stone was performing, the band of Captain Kay's Rifle Corps, played several National Airs in a superior style—and a salute was fired from the Revenue Cutter Monroe, lying in sight. The ceremony being finished, the procession resumed the line of march—passed down Wide Water to Market st. up Market to Main and down Main to the President's lodgings, on Town Point, when the military fired a salute, counter-marched in review before his Excellency, returned to the Lodge, thence to the Market Square and were discharged.

At half past four o'clock the President, Hon. Mr. Calhoun, Secretary of War, Mr. Gouverneur, with Coms. DeCatur and Cassin, Capts. Warrington, Sinclair, Elliot and Henry, of the Navy, Col. McRae of the Army, the French and Spanish Consuls, and a large concourse of respectable citizens, sat down to a neat and plentiful dinner, provided by Mr. Matthew Glenn, at the Exchange.

The following toasts were drunk, accompanied with National Airs and Marches, performed by the band attached to Capt. Kay's Rifle Corps:

1. Our Country—"The Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave."
2. The Principles of '76—Which carried us triumphant through a bloody struggle for Independence—by them we must ride secure in the wildest storm.
3. The People—They give and take away; we acknowledge no other sovereign.
4. The Constitution of the United States—The noblest monument of human wisdom—the fulcrum of the National strength.
5. State Rights—Impregnable barriers against Federal Domination.
6. The Memory of Washington—It beams on our Hearts like the Sun on our Fields.
7. Thomas Jefferson—The grave alone can extinguish his ad in the cause of Human Liberty.
8. James Madison—The Nation honors him for his Worth—Virginia is proud of him as her Son.
9. The Army of the United States—The Veterans of Europe bear testimony of its renown.
10. Our Navy—The Battles of its Youth have astonished the World, and poured a flood of glory upon the promise of its manhood.
11. The Militia—The Yeomanry of a free Country, its last and best defence.
12. The Heroes of the American Revolution—They have a Monument more durable than brass in the Hearts of their Countrymen.
13. Green Erin—Too long the victim of Ministerial Exaction and Prostration—The Star of thy Emancipation still glimmers thro' the Gloom.
14. Republican Government—May the light which warms and gladdens this Western Hemisphere, diffuse its benign rays among all the Nations of the Earth.
15. The 20th of June, 1812—We desire to cultivate Peace with all the world; but should our wrongs again urge us, we will boldly unkenel the Dogs War.
16. The Memory of those who fell in our late War with England—Like the Music of Carril—pleasant and mournful to the Soul.
17. The Cession of the Floridas—We recognize in it the combined result of enlightened and vigorous Councils.
18. The Ancient Dominion.
19. The American Fair.
20. James Monroe—President of the United States—A soldier of the Revolution—The virtuous and able statesman—His useful and patriotic labors have won the richest wreath of the Republic.

Upon which the President rose, and, in a short but impressive address, (which we did not hear distinctly enough to report particularly,) thanked the company for their liberal appreciation of his services—assured them that they did him but justice in ascribing the purest motives to his public conduct—and pledged himself, that his best exertions should be continued to promote the welfare and happiness of his country, by a steadfast adherence to those principles upon which the permanency and excellence of our Republican institutions depend.

Amongst the Volunteers, was given: Gen. Andrew Jackson—The Patriot and Hero, who shrinks not from a proper responsibility, when the exigencies of the occasion on which duty calls him to act, require him to assume it.

A GREAT EXPERIMENT.

The experiment to cross the ocean with a steam vessel, is on the eve of execution. The New York papers inform us, that the Savannah is to sail from New York on the 28th inst. (Sunday) for the port of Savannah; thence she is to sail for Liverpool; that she is fitted up in a most elegant style for the reception of passengers; that her machinery is calculated to carry her faster than any of the common steam boats; and that she is so constructed as to be navigable in the usual way, with sails, whenever the weather shall be such as to render the use of her wheels in the least degree dangerous.—We confess we have not the smallest doubt of her success. Calculated to move both by the elements of steam and wind, she is doubly armed both for safety and expedition. Whenever the weather permits, she will avail herself of her machinery, when otherwise, she takes in her wheel, and becomes as other vessels.

We hail this experiment with pride—America will have the honor of being the first nation to cross the seas with the assistance of steam. Voyages may be performed in one half the time—instead of 25 or 30 days, passengers and news may cross the ocean in 10 to 15 days. If this experiment succeeds, what a field of enterprize and improvement opens to us! Steam packets and passenger-

boats will run from our principal ports to those of Europe, and a rapid intercourse in the same manner kept up another. In fact, the same improvement is about to be made in steam navigation as was effected in the present. Instead of a "dastardly sailing along the coasts," we launch into a "direct navigation from continent to continent."

The consequences of this experiment are beyond calculation. An astonishing revolution in ship-building, in maritime war, in the construction of frigates, privateers, &c. may be made to take place. Strange possibilities burst upon our view: But our trust is, that ere long navigation shall have made a rapid stride, the rising strength and wealth of our growing country may be themselves in the greatest degree of this maritime power.

The experiment being a very important one, it is wished that every thing attending it, may be noted, and a regular register kept of the events of the voyage.

The Yackin Navigation Company.

THE Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the Yackin Navigation Company will be held at the House of Mrs. Smith in Montgomery county, on the 7th day of May next. By order of the Directors. FREDERICK RANDAL, Secy.

April 6

NEW BOOKS.

J. GALES has just received from Philadelphia a Parcel of valuable Books. Amongst them are the following: Dubos on the Character and Customs of the people of India, 2 vols. Latrobe's Visit to South Africa. Hall's Travels in Canada and the U. States. T. Umbull's History of Connecticut, 2 v. Darby's Louisiana. De Staël's French Revolution. Emigrant's Guide. Esprella's Letters on England, 2 v. A new & handsome octavo edition of Blackstone's Commentaries. Newland's Chancery. Thornton's Grammar of Botany, with Plates. Barless's practical Sermons. Abercrombie's Mourner comforted, consolatory Extracts on the death of Friends. Hume's History of England, with a continuation to the present time in 8 vols. in elegant and neat bindings. Letters from the South. Blackbeck's Letters from the Illinois. Playfair's Dissertation on the progress of Mathematical and Physical Science. Smith's Theocides, 2 vols. Montaigne's Essays, 3 v. Mrs. Opie's new Tales. Memoirs of Rob Roy. Sophia or a dangerous Indiscretion, 2 v. Cottage Sketches, 2 v. Edgeworth's Moral Tales, 3 v. Correction, 2 v. Rachel, a Tale. Clarentine, by Miss Burney, 2 v. A number of School Books, &c. March 4, 1819.

SALEM STAGES.

HAVING become the sole Proprietors of the Line of STAGES between RALEIGH & SALEM, the Subscribers inform the Public, that they have provided good Stages and Strong Horses, so as to accommodate 4 or 5 Passengers. They will leave Raleigh every Tuesday at 2 and every Friday at 3 o'clock the afternoon, arrive at Salem at 10 o'clock on Tu-sdays and depart at 2, and at 4 o'clock on Fridays and depart at 6. These Stages pass through Chapel-Hill, Hillsborough and Greensborough. They assure the Public that every exertion shall be made to keep the Line in the best order, so as to render the situation of Passengers comfortable. John & Christopher Moring. March 4, 1819 16-5w

THOMAS COBBES,

COACH MAKER, RALEIGH, N. C. HAS employed from the Cities of N. York and Newark, a number of first rate Workmen, of the several branches of his Business, viz. Body-Making, Carriage-Making, Trimming, Painting, Smiths, &c. who have been carefully selected by his friend in New Jersey. He has also received from the Cities of New York and Philadelphia, a large and extensive Stock of the best and most fashionable Materials. He is grateful for the very liberal encouragement he has already received, and hopes from his assiduity and attention to his business, to merit a continuance of their favors. Carriages of any description or price, can be had at a short notice. Orders from any part of the Continent solicited. Reference for excellence and elegance of his work, and the character of the advertisement, is made to his numerous acquaintances in Raleigh and the neighboring States. Raleigh, Feb. 17, 1819. 14 St. Paul

IN THE PRESS,

And will be published about the 10th of next month, at the office of the NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER, A REPORT OF THE DEBATE, In the House of Representatives of the United States, on the subject of THE SEMINOLEAN WAR.

FOR the use of Members of Congress and others, we shall publish, before the termination of the Session, that is to say on the 2d day of next month, a volume containing so much of that Debate, being of course the early part of it, as we shall be able to get that day to throw from the press, in pamphlet form. The price for this part of the volume will be at the rate of one-third of a cent per page. As no Debate of the same length which has taken place in Congress, has excited more public attention, and few have been characterized by greater displays of eloquence and learning, it is presumed, on taking ourselves the responsibility of embodying it in a permanent form, that we perform a service acceptable to the community, and which we shall not incur a loss. GALE & SEATON. February 15, 1819. 14-