

FOREIGN NEWS.

VENEZUELA, GRENADA, &c.

Baltimore, Dec. 7.

Copy of a letter to the Editors of the American dated St. Thomas, 26th Nov. 1818.

The latest news here from Bolivar and his army is, that he was successful. He has got possession of all the country near Cartagena, and of Cartagena itself, it is expected, he will be master ere long. The government there have forwarded despatches to Havana, stating that, if they are not immediately reinforced, the place must fall. Whether this is correct or not is hard to say, for there are few reports that reach this place that can be relied on, respecting the movements of the Patriots. The account published at Norfolk relative to the destruction of all the wooden houses here, is incorrect—not one was blown down, during the late gale, in town; the houses in the country only suffered.

I send you the last paper; it is without interest, and so are all that are published here. Admiral Campbell, of the Barbadoes station, died on board the Salisbury G4, on her arrival at Barbadoes from hence, after the late gale.

Capt. Gibson, of the schr. William, has politely handed us the St. Thomas Times of the 23d Nov. last, from which we have made the following extracts:

ST. THOMAS, NOV. 23.

By a late arrival from Curracoa, we have received the papers of that island up to the 15th inst.

The Curracoa Courant of the 6th instant confirms the account of the capture and evacuation of Rio de la Hacha, by McGregor; but states that he had embarked his troops (with the exception of a few killed in the engagement,) and proceeded to Aux Cayes.

A Jamaica paper states that Col. Rafter and the British officers were not shot at Porto Bello. They had been tried for a conspiracy and acquitted. Lord Cochrane had offered 8 Spaniards for each British Officer, and 15 for Col. Rafter and 10 for a Mr. Moore.

CURRACOA, NOV. 13.

Private letters received here from different parts of the Spanish Main, agree in stating that Bolivar had been defeated in two actions by the troops of the King, and that the viceroy, Samano, had in consequence re-occupied Santa Fe.—That Bolivar may have been defeated, we do not doubt, but the celerity of Samano's movements, and his having so speedily collected together such a large body of men, is rather questionable, for we recollect that Captain Leon, of the schr. Admiral Kikkert, who arrived here a few days ago, in a short passage from Cartagena, there saw and spoke with the vice king, then fugitive from Santa Fe, without troops, and with very slender means of raising any.

CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

MONDAY, DEC. 13.

The following committees were announced to have been appointed by the Speaker, in pursuance of the orders of Friday, viz:

On the memorial of Wm. Jackson, in behalf of the surviving Officers of the Revolutionary Army—Messrs. Sargeant, Pinckney, Hemphill, Nelson of Va. and Settle.

On the petition of the Legislature of Georgia, in behalf of the Commissioners appointed to survey lands in the Big Bend of Tennessee, &c.—Messrs. Cobb, Allen of Ten. and Reid.

On the motion of Mr. Storrs, for an enquiry respecting unauthorised expenditures for the support of military forces—Messrs. Storrs, Fuller, Gulpepper, Mercer and Tomlinson.

On the petition of John Daley, for indemnity for losses sustained during the late war, &c.—Messrs Tracy, Fay and Lincoln.

Many petitions were presented this morning; among which were several for the further encouragement of manufactures, and for the establishment of an uniform system of bankruptcy.

The Speaker laid before the House the Annual Report of the Secretary of the Treasury, which was ordered to be printed. [This Report states that there may be a deficit next year, of about five million of dollars; that we must retrench our expences, or increase our revenue; the last he considers as rather improbable for the next year; but he thinks, whether one or the other, a loan to some extent will be necessary, as there is no "a sufficient time to prevent this necessity." If a loan, he proposes to raise it, either by a sale of 6 per cent. stock, or an issue of Treasury Notes.]

Mr. Gross, of N. Y. submitted the following resolution for consideration: Resolved, That a select committee be appointed, with instructions to enquire into the expediency of providing by law for compensating such citizens of the United States as suffer captivity or loss of property, by the enemy, between the times of their approach to, and retreat from, Plattsburg, in the year 1814, and which happened in consequence of such citizens having been in arms with the militia, against such enemy,

of having refused protection from them, and without neglect or fault on the part of such citizens; & that said committee have leave to report by bill, or otherwise.

Mr. Williams, of N. C. opposed the resolution, as changing the practice of the House, which had been to refer claims of that description to the committee of claims. After some debate, the question was decided in the negative.

TUESDAY, DEC. 14.

It being announced to the House that the President had signed the Resolution declaring the admission of the State of Alabama into the Union,

Mr. Crowell, the Representative from the State of Alabama, presented himself, was qualified, and took his seat.

On motion of Mr. Lowndes, (in order to have laid before this house the same information relative to this subject, as by a resolve of the Senate, will be laid before that house)—it was

Resolved, That the Secretary of State be directed to report to this House what information he may be able to obtain as to the regulations and standards for weights and measures in the several States, and as to the proceedings in foreign countries for establishing uniformity in the weights and measures; together with such a plan for fixing a standard for weights and measures for the U States, as he may deem proper for their adoption.

Mr. Williams, of N. C. offered for consideration the following resolution:

Resolved, That the President of the United States be requested to cause to be laid before this House any information he may possess, respecting certain executions or punishments which may have been inflicted on the army of the United States, since the year 1815, contrary to the laws and regulations provided for the government of the same.

In offering this resolution, Mr. Williams took occasion to refer to the reports in general circulation, on which his motion was founded, and particularly to one case reported as the most aggravated.—The report of it, he said, was to this effect: Col. King, who was left by General Jackson in command of Pensacola, issued an order, that if any soldier deserted, and was overtaken or apprehended, he should be put to instant death. One soldier, who had deserted, was overtaken, and so put to death. When apprehended, he exclaimed, that, as an American citizen, he was entitled to a trial according to the laws of his country, and claimed his rights as such. But, with cruelty and precipitance, his request was refused, and he was put to instant death. Congress, Mr. W. said, sat here as guardians of the people. But it was the weak, more than the strong, whose rights were the peculiar care of this House. If the facts he had stated on the authority of common report, were confirmed, a just punishment ought to await the offenders. Are the rights of an officer invaded, said he, the alarm is sounded from one end of the country to the other: every feeling is roused in his defence! And when the case of the private soldier, weak and defenceless in his own cause, presents itself, should no one be found to stand up for him?—Mr. W. hoped, he said, that there would be a thorough examination into the case, that, if the officer in question had acted as reported, he might be exemplarily punished; and if the report was not true, it was due to Col. King that the statement should be disproved.

After some debate, the resolution was agreed to.

Mr. Taylor, of N. Y. said he rose to invite the attention of the house to a subject of very great moment. The question of slavery in the territories of the United States west of the Mississippi, it was well known, had at the last session of the Congress excited feelings, both in the House, and out of it, the recurrence of which he sincerely deprecated. All who love our country, and consider the union of these States as the ark of its safety, must ever view with deep regret sectional interests agitating our national councils. Mr. T. said he could not himself, nor would he ask others, to make a sacrifice of principle to expediency. He could never sanction the existence of slavery where it could be excluded consistently with the constitution and public faith. But it ought not to be forgotten that the American family is composed of many members; if their interests are various, they mutually must be respected—if their prejudices are strong, they must be treated with forbearance. He did not know whether conciliation were practicable, but he considered its attainment worthy of an effort. He was desirous that the question should be settled in that amity and brotherly love which carried us through the perils of a Revolution, and produced the adoption of our federal Constitution. If the resolution he was about to introduce, should be sanctioned by the house, it was his purpose to move a postponement of the Missouri bill to a future day, that this interesting subject, in relation to the whole western territory, may be submitted to the consideration of a committee. Mr. T. then introduced the following resolution:

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to enquire into the expediency of prohibiting by law the introduction of slaves into the territories of the United States west of the Mississippi.

Mr. Strother made a few remarks, the purport of which was, that, although the question was already before the house, as involved in the bill for the admission of the Missouri Territory into the Union; yet, when a proposition was made having for its object a compromise of conflicting opinions, it became members to meet it in a spirit of harmony. He proposed, however, that the proposition should lie on the table till to-morrow, to give time for reflection on it.

Mr. Taylor assenting to this course—The motion was ordered to lie on the table.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 15.

Mr. Cannon, from the committee on the subject, reported a bill providing for the payment for horses, and other property, lost, captured or destroyed, in the Seminole war; which was twice read & committed.

A letter was also laid before the house from the Secretary of the Navy, stating that the appropriations made for the support of the Navy by the act of February last, are exhausted, and that a partial appropriation has become necessary, in addition to that already made, for the service of the present year. The letter was read, and referred to the committee on naval affairs.

Mr. Herrick offered for consideration the following resolution:

Resolved, That the committee on Military Affairs be instructed to enquire into the expediency of establishing by law an additional army, and also into the expediency of locating the same on the Muskingum river at the town of Zanesville, in the State of Ohio.

On motion of Mr. Lowndes, in order to leave the enquiry in its broadest shape, and to make it wholly objectionable, the resolution was amended by striking out the words in *Italic*; and, thus amended, the resolution was agreed to.

Mr. Rich of Vermont, in offering the following resolution, said, that it was a sufficient reason for an enquiry into the subject of it, that it had produced considerable excitement throughout the country. Either from defect in the law or in the administration of the law, or because of the total impracticability of giving due effect to the law, it was believed that the intentions of Congress in passing it had not been fulfilled. It was proper that the subject should be fully examined, and the defects be remedied, if susceptible of remedy; or that the law should be repealed altogether. Mr. R. then moved the adoption of the following resolve:

Resolved, That the committee on Revolutionary Pensions be instructed to enquire into the manner in which the act of the 18th of March, 1818, has been executed; ascertaining, as far as may be practicable, the class or classes of cases which it has been construed to embrace, and such as have been excluded from its provisions: whether the objects contemplated by its passage have been, or probably will be, effected by the operations of the law; and, if not, whether it be susceptible of such amendments as will insure the accomplishment of those objects; that, in case it shall be ascertained that, from fraudulent practices under the law, for which no effectual remedy can be applied, or from any other cause, the original objects of it are unattainable, the said committee enquire into the expediency of its repeal.

The resolution was agreed to, without opposition.

On motion of Mr. Morton, it was resolved that the Committee of Ways and Means be instructed to enquire whether, in any case, further time than is already prescribed by law, ought to be allowed for the redemption of lands sold for direct taxes, and purchased pursuant to law, for and in behalf of the United States.

On motion of Mr. Taylor, of N. Y. the House proceeded to the consideration of the resolution yesterday offered by him, on the subject of slavery.

Mr. Taylor said, it was not his purpose to go into any discussion of the merits of this proposition; nor, he believed, would any discussion assist the end he had in view. If a compromise of opposite opinions was to be effected, it appeared to him better that a committee should be appointed to examine into it, and make their report; and that the question should not be moved in this House until that committee should have expended their best efforts on this object.

The question was then taken, without debate, on agreeing to the resolution, and decided in the affirmative without a division. A committee of seven members was ordered to be appointed accordingly.

Mr. Taylor then moved to postpone, until the first Monday in February next, the order of the day on the bill authorizing a Convention of the People of Missouri, for the purpose of forming a Constitution and State Government.

Some objection being made to the length of the postponement, it was postponed to the second Monday in January.

The House then resolved itself into a committee of the whole, on two or three bills of a private nature, which were reported to the House, and ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

THURSDAY, DEC. 16.

Mr. Sergeant, from the committee on the Judiciary, reported a bill for establishing an uniform system of Bankruptcy throughout the United States; which was twice read and committed.

Mr. Newton, from the committee on Commerce, reported a bill for the relief of Beck and Harvey; which was twice read and committed.

On motion of Mr. Tyler, the House proceeded to the consideration of the report of the committee of Claims unfavorable to the petition of Samuel G. Adams.

Mr. T. moved to reverse the report, and direct the committee of Claims to report a bill for his relief.

[The case is substantially this; S. G. Adams was commander of a detachment of militia during the late war; and, on their being discharged, he, as agent for those under his command, the paymaster being without funds, received his due bill for the amount, and gave a receipt on the pay-roll. For the payment of this bill he applies to Congress. The committee report, that the responsibility for the amount of the pay, had, by the transaction above described, been transferred from the government to the individual who was the paymaster, and who gave the bill; and that therefore the prayer of the petitioner is not reasonable, and ought not to be granted.]

After considerable debate, the House divided on the proposed amendment; which was negatived by a considerable majority; and the report of the committee of claims was concurred in.

The engrossed bill for the relief of John Gooding and J. Williams was read a third time. [This bill proposes to allow to these persons twenty two hundred dollars (under the act allowing one hundred dollars for each prisoner bro't into port during the late war by privateers) for 22 slaves so brought in, and received for by the Marshal of the District where

the vessel arrived.] The bill was opposed by Mr. Trimble, of Ky. and supported by Mr. Smith of Md.—and was rejected.

FRIDAY, DEC. 17.

The Speaker laid before the House a letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting a statement of exports from the United States during one year, ending on the 30th September, 1819; and also a letter from the Commissioner of the Revenue, transmitting the annual statement of the proceeds of the Direct Tax, and Internal Duties, &c.

On motion of Mr. Whitman, it was resolved, that the Secretary of War be directed to report to this House a statement of the expense of furnishing the Army of the United States with rations for the term of one year, ending on the 14th of April, 1818, exhibiting the average cost per ration, and also of the expense of furnishing the Army with rations; exhibiting also the average cost per ration, for the term of one year, under the provisions of the law, passed on the 14th of April, 1818, entitled "An act to regulate the Staff of the Army."

On motion of Mr. Robertson, of Ky. it was resolved, that the committee on Public Lands be, and they are hereby, instructed to enquire into the expediency of so altering the laws regulating the sales of the vacant lands of the U. States, that, from and after the day of ——— no credit shall be given thereon, and a less quantity may be purchased, and at a less price, than is authorised by the existing laws.

Mr. Warfield offered for consideration the following resolve:

Resolved, That the committee on the Judiciary be instructed to enquire into the expediency of increasing the pay of Jurors for the Circuit Courts of the United States for the district of Maryland.

The resolution, having been amended by extending it to the District Courts, and by striking out the concluding words in *italic*, so as to make the enquiry general, was agreed to.

The House spent some time in committee of the whole on several private bills, and then adjourned.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Friday, Dec. 17.

Mr. Martin presented a bill to exempt women from imprisonment for debt.

Received from the Senate, A bill to make void void parol contracts for the sale of lands and slaves, and to regulate the lien created by executions. A bill approving of the revival of the laws of this State, made under an act passed in 1817; and

A bill relative to the organization of the Militia.

The house took up the Resolution submitted some days ago by Mr. Mears, for amending the Constitution of the United States, so as to exclude all foreigners from office, who shall arrive here after the year 1823. After some debate, it was agreed to 91 to 32.

The Revenue Bill came next under consideration.

Mr. King moved to increase the tax on land from six to eight cents on the \$100 value.—Negatived 87 to 34.

Mr. K. also moved to strike out the \$10 tax on Pedlars, and insert \$20, which was agreed to.

On motion of Mr. Stanly, the following words were added to the clause respecting Pedlars: "provided that no license to peddle shall authorise pedlars to sell goods at auction."

Mr. Stanly moved to strike out the clause which graduates the tax on merchants, for the purpose of reinstating the former mode of taxing merchants. Negatived.

Mr. Barringer moved to strike out the \$500 tax on Billiard Tables, and insert \$100.—Negatived.

Mr. Stanly proposed to add five cents more to each poll.—Negatived. The bill passed.

Saturday, Dec. 18.

The committee to whom was referred the bill directing the Public Treasurer to issue Treasury Notes recommended a rejection of the bill, which was concurred in 66 to 58.—The bill relative to the Attorney-General and Solicitors, was indefinitely postponed.

Mr. McClatchy presented a bill to repeal an act passed in 1809, respecting the punishment of the crime of Bigamy.

Mr. Cox, a bill to annex part of Craven county to Lenoir; and a bill to regulate Clerks fees in certain cases.

Mr. Neil, a bill exonerating Defendants from costs in certain cases; and

Mr. Williamson, a bill to fix the salary of the Attorney-General.

On motion of Mr. Stanly, Resolved, That one thousand copies of a Work lately published in this city, entitled "A Memoir on the Internal Improvements of N. Carolina," from the pen of Judge Murphy, be purchased by the Treasurer, and said copies be distributed amongst the Members of this Legislature, for the information of their constituents. [It being ascertained that a small edition only of the Work had been printed, and that but 400 copies could be supplied with a new edition, the number was reduced to 400.]

The Governor communicated to the Legislature the resignation of Judge Toomer. In making this communication, the Governor thus expressed himself:

"All regret, and many feel, the loss of distinguished worth & talents; for, when I say that he was an ornament to our uniform tenor of whose life entitled him to the admiration and respect of his fellow-citizens. It is true that his health has been the cause of his resignation at this time, induced, no doubt, in part, by a culean task, or, in other words, in common with the rest of men who are endowed with supernatural physical powers, he is incapable of performing the extraordinary labors, and submitting to the privations and exposures to which our Superior Court Judges are subjected.—If this instance, in connection with others which must be fresh in the recollection of all, shall fail to produce the desired effect, I am but too sensible that nothing that I can add will avail much."

The bill concerning the qualification of Jurors on the trial of Slaves, was indefinitely postponed.

Monday, Dec. 20.

Mr. Barringer introduced a Resolution, proposing so to amend the Charter of the State Banks as to permit the old Paper Currency to be re-issued, which was negatived.

A message from the Senate, proposed to ballot on Wednesday morning for a Judge, to supply the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Judge Toomer, nominating James J. McKay, for the appointment. The house concurred, and added to the nomination George E. Badger.

The house resolved itself into a committee of the whole, L. D. Wilson in the chair, on the bill to create a fund for Internal Improvements, and to establish a Board for the management thereof. After some debate, the committee rose & reported the bill, which passed its 2d reading 72 to 54.

Tuesday, Dec. 21.

A message from the Senate proposed the appointment of a Committee to enquire whether any, and if any, what measures are proper and necessary to be adopted by this General Assembly, in relation to an act of the Legislature of Tennessee, passed at their last session, giving to certain occupants of land within that State a preference in the entry of lands set apart for the satisfaction of claimants to lands acquired under the laws previous to the passing of the cession act in 1789.—Concurred with.

A resolution was also received from the Senate, allowing to H. Potter, John L. Taylor & B. Yancey, \$1000 each, in full compensation for their services in making a Revision of the Laws of the State, which was passed and returned to the Senate.

A bill concerning Usury, on motion of Mr. Person, was indefinitely postponed, 104 votes to 14.

Wednesday, Dec. 22.

Mr. Stanly presented a bill concerning the Banks of this State; and

Mr. Iredell, a bill concerning the Judges of the Superior Courts of Law.

Mr. Martin, a bill to alter the time of the meeting of the General Assembly, which, on being read, was indefinitely postponed.

The name of Willie P. Mangum being added to the nomination, a balloting took place for a Judge, to supply the place of Judge Toomer. On the first ballot, no one had a majority of votes. The name of J. McKay was then withdrawn, and Willie P. Mangum was elected.

A message from the Senate proposed that 1000 copies of the Report of the Committee appointed on that part of the Governor's Message which related to the Banks, be printed, which was concurred with.

The bill relative to the organization of the Militia; and the bill respecting the crime of Bigamy, were indefinitely postponed.

A bill was received from the Senate, to compel the several Banks chartered by this State to pay specie for their notes.

The bill presented on the 9th inst. to reduce the salary of the Judges of the Superior Court was taken up; when Mr. Iredell moved that it be indefinitely postponed. The motion was negatived 69 to 44, and the bill passed its 1st reading.

Thursday, Dec. 21.

The bill respecting the Banks of this State was, on motion of Mr. Martin, indefinitely postponed.

A number of bills received their 2d and 3d readings.

THE EXERCISES

Of the Juvenile Academy will commence on the first Monday in January—the course of studies is intended to prepare boys for College

Tuition—For the Latin and Greek languages \$12 per Session. English Grammar, Parsing, Geography, Arithmetic, &c. \$8. Col. Hinton will take boarders at \$7 per month.

THOMAS L. RAGSDALE.

Wake county, Dec. 23.