

CONGRESS.

SENATE.

THURSDAY, JAN. 16.

After disposing of some minor business, by postponement.

The Senate resumed the consideration, in committee of the whole, Mr. Smith of Md. in the chair, of the bill to abolish imprisonment for debt, and the amendments offered thereto.

Mr. Mills, of Mass. rose and entered at large into the questions presented by the subject—submitting the reasons why he could not go, and arguments against going, to the extent proposed by the bill, the difficulties which would arise in the practical operation of so broad a measure, the embarrassments in which it would involve our established and nicely adjusted system of jurisprudence, &c.

Mr. Barbour, of Va. took the opposite ground, and, in a speech of more than an hour's length, strenuously maintained the justice and expediency of the proposed measure, in its greatest latitude, so far as it respects the ordinary class of debtors, but excepting all those who become debtors by any of the various ways which constitute breaches of trust—which latter he looked upon as criminals, deserving punishment, rather than as unfortunates, entitled to commiseration.

When Mr. B. concluded, the bill was postponed to to-morrow, and the Senate adjourned.

FRIDAY, JAN. 17.

The Senate again went into committee on the bill to abolish imprisonment for debt—Mr. Smith of Md. in the chair.

Mr. Smith of S. C. rose, and in a speech of considerable length, opposed the bill in toto, and replied to its advocates. He vindicated the principles and the wisdom of the common law, and opposed any innovation upon it; contended that there was in this country no such thing, in reality, as imprisonment for debt, but if there was, the States were competent to remedy the evil, if it was one; maintained that creditors had rights as well as debtors, and that the latter, nine times in ten, deserve no commiseration, as their want of principle or prudence, often inflicted on others far more distress than they themselves suffered, &c. &c.

Mr. Holmes, of Maine, spoke a short time, on the practical effect and operation of the bill, and of the substitutes proposed—advancing himself favorable to the general principle, and suggesting such provisions, as he thought would probably accomplish it, so as to produce the most good with the fewest disadvantages; for he is spared of framing such a law as would exclude from its benefits the fraudulent, while it protected the liberty and rights of the honest.

Mr. Van Buren delivered an argument of more than an hour's length, in support of the object of the bill. He laid down the principle that imprisonment for debt, as practiced in this country, is inoperative as a remedy, unnecessarily rigorous, unjust, and ought to be abolished in regard to debtors involving no fraud or breach of trust to the public or an individual, and this principle he defended with much earnestness. He reviewed the different amendments offered, pointing out the defects of those offered by the other gentlemen, and sustaining the expediency of adopting the principles and provisions embraced in his own substitute.

When he had concluded, the bill was laid on the table, on motion of Mr. Van Dyke; and, about 4 o'clock, the Senate adjourned to Monday.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

MONDAY, JAN. 13.

This being the day in the week for the presentation of petitions—a number of petitions, about seventy, were presented and appropriately referred.

Mr. John Speed Smith of Ky. from a Select Committee, appointed on the subject, reported a bill to abolish imprisonment for debt; which bill was twice read and committed.

Mr. Walworth, of New York, rose and said it had become his imperative duty to inform the house, and particularly his worthy friend from Kentucky, who a few days ago since moved a resolution on the subject, (to whom Mr. W. took this opportunity to tender the thanks of the friends of the deceased) that it was no longer in their power to render a tribute of gratitude to the memory of the gallant Allen; by providing for the necessities of his bereaved mother. Mrs. Allen's health, said Mr. W. had long been impaired, and she was unable to sustain the shock, produced by the sudden and tragical death of her brave son, who was the hope of her old age, and on whose filial piety she depended for the support of her declining years. Her heart, said Mr. W. has been broken, by this cruel stroke of adversity, and her spirit has taken its departure to meet its kindred spirit in another and a better world. But said Mr. W. although we have thus been deprived of the power of making provision for the support of the mother, whose welfare occupied his latest thoughts, there is one still left who has a right to our protecting care. And said Mr. W. I hope and trust the sister, whose desolate situation gave an additional pang to the heart of the dying hero, that she, who has thus been deprived, not only of the support of a kind and worthy brother, but also of the guardian care of a pious and affectionate parent; that she, who has now a double claim to our protection and to our sympathy, may receive that bounty which Congress intended to bestow upon the mother, who is now removed beyond the reach of a nation's gratitude. Mr. W. concluded by moving a recommitment of the bill for the relief of the mother and sister of Lieutenant Allen, to the Naval Committee, that it might receive such amendments as present circumstances had rendered necessary. Which was agreed to.

The House then took up the bill making provision for the occupation of the mouth of Columbia River; when Mr. Colden proposed an amendment, which was negatived 54 to 46.

Mr. Mallory then moved an amendment, which, after being read, was ordered, with the bill to lie on the table.

The Speaker communicated a letter from the Secretary of the Navy, accompanied by an exhibit showing the number of officers of each grade necessary to command the vessels of the navy; which was referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs.

And the House adjourned, after 4 o'clock.

TUESDAY, JAN. 14.

On motion of Mr. Cook, of Illinois, it was resolved, that the Committee of Ways and Means be instructed to inquire into the expediency of requiring all payments of money

out of the Treasury of the U. States, to be paid directly from the Treasury, to the party entitled to receive it, where such mode of payment may not be detrimental to the public interest.

In offering this resolution—

Mr. Cook said he had but a few words to say in support of the resolution. The amount of money that passed into the hands of disbursing officers, was very great; and the number of those officers was multiplied to an unnecessary extent. The object of the resolution, he said, was to discontinue the practice of placing in the hands of those officers all moneys that it was not necessary to the public interest to confide to them. He believed that the list of public defaulters was greatly swelled by the number of disbursing officers who had been faithless in making their disbursements. If the individuals who were entitled to money out of the Treasury, for services rendered to the government, could be supplied with drafts on the Treasury, they would, in most instances, prefer them to the money, particularly in distant parts of the Union; and, if there should be some slight inconvenience to such persons, the door that such a practice would close against official fraud and peculation would more than make amends for it. The effect that the present mode of paying out the public money through disbursing agents had upon the public morals, was highly deleterious; and, if the interest of individuals could be properly provided for, and at the same time remove the temptations, now so frequently held out to public officers to betray the confidence reposed in them, it would be an important point gained. That some measure could be adopted, which would greatly protect the Treasury against such abuses as had so repeatedly happened of late years, he had no doubt; and no committee was better able to devise that measure, than the Committee of Ways and Means.

On motion of Mr. Plumer, of N. Hampshire, it was

Resolved, That the Committee on the Judiciary be instructed to inquire into the expediency of continuing in force the act to provide for reports of the decisions of the Supreme Court of the U. States, approved March 3d, 1817.

The House then resolved itself into a committee of the whole, on the bill to provide for procuring the necessary surveys and estimates for certain Roads and Canals; which having been read, Mr. Stewart proposed an amendment to the detail of the bill.

Mr. Cook requested Mr. Stewart to withdraw his amendment for the present; for he said he should like to hear from the gentleman who reported it, some reasons to satisfy the House of the utility of this measure. He wished, before proceeding to amend the bill, to be satisfied of the correctness of its principle. He wished the gentleman also to show the power which this House has to pass such a bill.

Mr. Stewart consented to withdraw his amendment for the present.

Mr. Barbour, (Speaker) rose to make a motion, the object of which, he said, was to test at once the principle of the bill. This motion was, to strike out the first section of the bill.

Upon this motion being announced, Mr. Hemphill rose, and delivered his views on the bill, as well on the grounds of expediency as on those of constitutionality.

Mr. Mitchell, of South Carolina, next assigned the reasons why he should vote for the bill. He approved it as a means of obtaining information useful to every department of the government, and to every individual in the nation—and not as part of a system of internal improvement, to which he was opposed.

Mr. Wright opposed the bill altogether, as contrary to the letter of the Constitution, which, he contended, gave to Congress no authority to commence a system of internal improvement.

When Mr. Wright concluded, the question was taken on Mr. Barbour's motion to strike out the first section of the bill, and decided as follows:

For striking out the section 56
Against it 62

So the motion was negatived.

[The House being thinly attended, this vote was not regarded as a decisive one.]

The Committee then rose and reported the bill to the House; and the question being stated, on ordering the bill to be engrossed and read a third time—

Mr. Edwards, of N. C. moved to lay the bill on the table.

Mr. Hardin asked if it would be in order so to amend the motion as to lay the bill on the table until a day beyond the session (4th March?) He thought enough of the time of the House had been occupied with it.

The Speaker said the amendment would not be in order.

The question was then taken on ordering the bill to lie on the table, and decided as follows: Yeas 76, Nays 73.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 15.

The resolution laid on the table yesterday by Mr. Sterling, of N. Y. requesting the Secretary of War to communicate what progress has been made toward the completion of the military road leading from Plattsburg to Sackett's Harbor, in New-York, how much is unfinished, the probable expense of completing the same, with any information in his possession, showing the importance of said road in a military point of view, was read and agreed to.

Mr. Reid, of Geo. rose, and said that the bill providing for the execution of certain surveys, and for the collection of topographical information, with a view to a system of internal improvements, was yesterday ordered to lie upon the table, by a vote of this House. I was, said he, one of the committee by whom that bill was reported, and although quite willing to afford the Hon. Chairman of the Committee an opportunity to make an experiment, the measure did not altogether meet my approbation. My objections to the bill are not to be found, however, in constitutional scruples. I believe that Congress does possess the power to establish roads and construct canals. But I am aware that there is much diversity of opinion upon the subject. A large portion of the people entertain the opinion that we have not the power, and the Chief Magistrate has recently expressed his convictions to the like effect—Under these conflicting sentiments, I do not believe that any system of internal improvement, however well devised by Congress, would be efficient, because concert and harmony are necessary to its prosperity. It would seem, therefore, that our first step should be a statement of this question. This can only be done by an amendment of the constitution, which shall give to Congress the power alluded to, in terms so explicit, as to

preclude all dispute. Such an amendment is now offered, viz.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, two-thirds of both Houses concurring, That the following amendment to the Constitution of the United States be proposed to the Legislatures of the several States, which, when ratified by the Legislatures of three-fourths of the States, shall be valid, to all intents and purposes, as part of the said Constitution, to wit:

"Congress shall have power to establish and construct Roads and Canals."

This joint resolution received its first reading, and lies on the table.

On motion of Mr. McLane, the House proceeded, in committee of the whole; Mr. Williams, of N. C. in the chair, to consider the bill "supplementary to, and to amend an act, entitled 'An act to regulate the collection of the duties on imports and tonnage,' passed the 2d of March, 1799, and to repeal an act supplementary thereto, passed 20th April, 1816, and for other purposes." Which having been read through, several amendments were made to the details of the bill, on motion of Mr. McLane.

The most important amendment proposed seemed to be that proposed by Mr. Ingham, to substitute the current value at the ports whence shipped for the cost or actual value, as the basis on which to estimate the duties on goods paying *ad valorem* duties.

This amendment was supported by Mr. Ingham, Mr. Walworth, Mr. Burrows, and was opposed by Mr. Gorham, Mr. Collier, Mr. McKim, Mr. Tomlinson, Mr. McLane, Mr. Cambreleng, and Mr. Nelson, of Mass.

In the end, the amendment was negatived. After some further time spent on the bill, the committee rose.

THURSDAY, JAN. 16.

Mr. J. S. Johnston, of Lou. from the Committee on the Judiciary, reported a bill for the better organization of the District Court of the U. States, within the State of Louisiana.

Mr. J. earnestly urged on the House the immediate passage of this bill, as being rendered peculiarly necessary by the present circumstances of the country.

Mr. Cooke objected to the bill on account of the addition of five hundred dollars per annum proposed to be made to the salary of the Judge; which he moved to strike out of the bill.

Mr. Taylor, of N. Y. said, as the bill had been only this morning laid upon the table, he should prefer first taking the ordinary course of bills. For which purpose, he moved that it be referred to a committee of the whole.

Mr. Johnston replied to both the gentlemen. The bill, he said, being recommended by the representation of the State, as necessary for the due execution of the laws in the State of Louisiana, he thought it almost a matter of course to pass it, especially as it contained no new principles. With regard to the additional salary proposed to be allowed to the Judge, he thought it not only reasonable, but absolutely necessary to enable him to live, &c. Mr. J. again earnestly pressed a decision on the bill at this time.

The motion to recommit the bill was negatived, by 59 votes to 45.

The question recurring on Mr. Cooke's motion to strike out the proposed addition to the Judge's salary, it was strenuously opposed by Mr. Johnston, of Lou. and Mr. Wright, and supported by Mr. Taylor and Mr. Allen, of Mass. This motion was negatived, 52 votes to 45.

On the question to order this bill to be engrossed and read a third time, the yeas and nays stood as follows: yeas 89, nays 57.

So the bill was ordered to be engrossed, and read a third time.

The House then again took up, in committee of the whole, the bill further to regulate the collection of duties on imports.

The discussion of the details of the bill was resumed, on amendments proposed; in which the following gentlemen took part:

Messrs. Tracy, McLane, Cambreleng, Nelson, of Mass. Wood, Barstow, McKim, Buchanan, Ingham and Little.

At 4 o'clock, the committee rose and obtained leave to sit again.

FRIDAY, JAN. 17.

On motion of Mr. Conklin, it was resolved, that the Committee on Naval Affairs be instructed to inquire into the expediency of providing by law for the establishment of a Naval Academy for the instruction of Midshipmen and other young officers in the services appertaining to their profession.

On motion of Mr. Hooker, it was resolved, that the committee on Military Affairs be instructed to inquire into the expediency of repairing the Fort at Smithville, N. Carolina, or to erect new fortifications at a more suitable site.

On motion of Mr. Cooke, of Ten. the House proceeded to consider the resolution now lying on the table, calling for information respecting the surveys of Public Lands, &c. Mr. C. moved an amendment to the resolution, which was agreed to; and the resolution as thus amended, was agreed to without a division.

The House, not without considerable opposition to the recess of to-morrow, adjourned over to Monday.

FOREIGN.

LATE AND IMPORTANT.

New York, Jan. 11.

The line packet ship James Monroe, Capt. Marshall, arrived last evening from Liverpool. She has brought London dates to the 5th of last month.

The Congress at Verona it is said had broken up. In the course of their sitting, the Spanish Envoy declared that Spain would not consent to the slightest modification of her constitution, by the dictation of foreign powers, and she has therefore, been delivered over to France, who it is expected will compel her to return to the ancient system. Great Britain and all the Allied powers, have promised to remain neutral.

The Paris Moniteur contains the speech of Bertrand de Lis, delivered in the Spanish Cortes. It accuses the French government of having favored the factious on all occasions—of having furnished them with clothes and warlike materials—he declares, that if they continue to excite fresh uneasi-

ness, the moment will arrive in which they shall repeat it.

The Marquis de Lascaur, senior of the French Generals, died at Paris on the 12th inst. in the 75th year of his age. Here follow particulars.

From the London Courier, Dec. 3.

A very speedy confirmation, indeed, has arrived of the important intelligence we announced yesterday—that France had succeeded in forcing the claim which she had urged from the commencement of the Sittings of the Congress to the right of an armed intervention in the affairs of Spain? We announced at the same time, that some of the Ministers to the Congress, probably the Duke of Wellington and Viscount de Montmorency, had taken their departure. The Moniteur of Su day last announces the return of M. de Montmorency on Saturday. The Duke of Wellington, was to leave Verona on the 24th of last month. M. Pizzo di Borgo, the Russian Ambassador to France, was to arrive at Paris to-day—the King of Prussia was to leave Verona on the 22d, to return to his capital—and thus the main points which have occupied the attention of the Congress may be considered as having been decided.

From the Moniteur, of Sunday last.

His Excellency Viscount Montmorency arrived here yesterday, on his return from the Congress of Verona, and had an interview with the King.

After such contradictory rumours as have been current on the state of our relations with Spain—after the discussions which have taken place on this inexhaustible subject during the conferences at Verona—after the indecision which so many opposite opinions must have every where produced, we should find, perhaps, a sufficiently solid basis for new conjectures in the assurance that France has occupied at the Congress of Verona the place which belongs to her among the monarchies of Europe; and that the Continental Powers leave to her the end and termination of the affairs of Spain, with the intention of concurring with all their force in such plans of execution as France shall be in a situation to adopt.

In taking this resolution the high Continental Powers must have acted on an idea so simple and so just, that it will strike all reasonable persons; they must have confided for the decision of a question which interested them all, in that Power whose interest in this question was the most immediate. This mark of confidence, so important for France, she owes to her own wisdom, to the power she has recovered since ideas of order have triumphed over those dissensions and errors which have too long disturbed her—she owes it, above all, to the virtues of her King, to the measures which he has taken for placing the country in a suitable attitude to observe the serious events of the Peninsula;—finally, she owes it to that unanimity of wishes and of sentiments by which a whole people has recently testified the confidence which it places in the Government. Doubtless this important result must be to all the interests engaged in this question a pledge of security with respect to the ramifications which it may assume.

From the Paris papers of Dec. 2.

The Congress has changed its place, it is no longer at Verona. According to an article in the Moniteur of yesterday, it will be for Spain and Paris—for Italy at Vienna—and for the East wherever the Emperor Alexander may happen to be. A new political system is to take place of the old. Instead of admitting in Europe only one single interest—that of the Holy Alliance—the new system of policy reduces every thing to the particular interests of each separate State.

We remark, however, that the Moniteur seems indirectly to exclude England from that honorable union which has placed in the hands of the French Government, the balance on which, relatively to Spain, the policy of the European Cabinets ought to rest.—Will that Power consent to be thus disregarded? But if England does not consent to the intervention, will it preserve at least neutrality? The Moniteur has not released us from this difficulty.

Be this as it may, it necessarily results from the article in the Moniteur, that France, in the name of the high Continental Powers of Europe, is going to enter into new negotiations with Spain.

Extract of a letter to the London Courier.

Dispatches were sent off this afternoon to Spain. The question of a declaration of war, will, in all probability, depend upon the answer to these dispatches. The decision of the Congress was sent off to Madrid from Verona, and the dispatches now spoken of are supposed to contain a statement of the views of France, and a requisition to do certain acts, on the refusal to comply with which requisition, a war is threatened.

The late accounts from Madrid, by no means lead to the expectation that the present government of Spain

will be willing to make any concessions for the sake of preserving peace. The last advices from Madrid, received by eight days old; and by them we find that "the Cortes was already very active and vigorous measures to raise a large military force

From the London Courier, Dec. 4.

We have not received at a late hour this morning, any later intelligence from Paris, than that which we communicated yesterday. It is probable, however, that we may receive an express in the course of the day, which we shall announce, if it bring any news of importance.

LONDON, DEC. 5.

The French papers received to day are full of remarks upon the important article from the Moniteur, but they throw no new light upon the subject.

Intelligence from Madrid seems to show that the Cortes anticipate the decision of the Congress—and it does not appear that they have any intention of changing their present Constitution. The success of the Constitutionalists is confirmed; but this very circumstance may accelerate the execution of the plans of the French government, in furtherance of the discretionary powers conceded to her by the Congress.

We imagine but one object which France can have—that of sustaining the Royalists of Spain in their efforts to make the government of their country a constitutional monarchy. If the Royalists were themselves in a condition to bring about this object, it might be sufficient for France to manifest its friendly disposition, and to remain a neutral, but prepared spectator of the struggle. When, however, it is clear that the King's friends are not in a condition to make his cause triumphant—but, on the contrary, that they are sustaining disasters and reverses, the moment of interposition cannot be delayed without the certainty that every hour it is protracted, will only multiply difficulties and accumulate dangers. Promptitude and decision will of themselves accomplish half what there is to do, with a proportionate diminution of the evils attendant upon a state of war. We do think, therefore, that the advance of Mina, and the retreat of the army of the Faith, are two circumstances decisively calculated to "cut short all intermission," and to force upon the French government the necessity of immediate action.

GREECE.

HYDRA, OCT. 1.

The Turkish fleet, after having left the Ionian Sea, passed on the 6th of September, Cape Matasan, and anchored some time in the Gulf of C-Jokythia. On the 14th the Greek fleet was seen doubling Cape Malee, when the former sailed with a favorable gale towards the Island of Candia. On the 17th it made its appearance between Cape Malee and the Isle of Parapola.

On the 20th the two fleets anchored opposite to each other. That of the Greeks consisting of 60 vessels, formed its line at the mouth of the Canal of Spezia, while that of the Turks, consisting of 96 sail, viz. 6 ships of the line, 9 frigates, and the others corvettes, brigs and transports, directed itself towards the island of Stratonice, having the wind on the poop, and with an intention of breaking the enemy's line, and of penetrating to Napoli di Romania.

The fight lasted six hours, and it was obstinately contested on both sides. Twenty-eight Greek vessels driven by the wind, which was adverse, were obliged to double Cape Decas, where they necessarily became inactive; the Greek flotilla, however, from the superiority of their officers and sailors, succeeded in repulsing their opponents.

The Greeks fought bravely, for they fought in the presence of their wives and children who covered the hills on shore. Captain Antonio Casis, in particular, distinguished himself by his bravery in attacking with his brig a Turkish man of war, of which he cut away one mast, and damaged the rigging. Three times did the brave Captain expose himself to the cannon of the Turkish vessel, which, unable to resist him, was at length compelled to set sail into the main sea.

The Greek fleet set sail immediately after in pursuit.

GRASSY CREEK PRIVATE ACADEMY.

THE Exercises of this Institution will commence on the 13th of January, under the direction of Mrs. H. WILSON. The prices for tuition will be, for Reading, Writing, Arithmetic and English Grammar \$7.50 per Session; Geography \$10; Latin, Greek and the Sciences \$12.50 per Session.

Board, with each of the subscribers and in other respectable families, \$30 per Session. The strictest attention will be paid to the morals of the students as well as to their literary improvement. This Institution is situated four miles north of Oxford.

BENJ. HILLYARD,

JOSEPH TAYLOR,

THOMAS B. LEWIS.

Granville, 12th Jan. 1823.