

DEBATE ON THE BANK BILL.

Continued.

Mr. WILLIAMSON from Person, said, it might be considered presumption in him at the late period of the debate, when the subject had been so fully discussed to offer his sentiments upon it, and when we had had the brightness of the Monday sun, shed on the darkness of this House.

When said Mr. W. we look around at the local Banks established throughout the county, we see hundreds of them in a prosperous condition, to one that we see otherwise, and this being the case he could see no reason, why a Bank established on the funds of the state, and conducted for its benefit, should not also succeed.

Is the plan then expedient; on this question rests the whole matter. If ever there was a time when such an institution could be desirable, it is the present. It proposes to place all the funds of the state in a Bank to be loaned out for the accommodation of its citizens—and shall we defer carrying this measure into effect, and wait till the present banking institutions bind us hand and foot, by extending their discounts to their chartered limits, and calling upon their debtors at a time when they are unprepared to pay them; are not these Banks already sounding the alarm, and telling us they must coerce the people to pay their debts?

Again sir, does not this argument go to the very root of society, does it not say, that man has no virtue separated from interest, and that man however honest he may be found in discharging the obligations which he is bound by interest and interest alone to do cannot be found honest enough in discharging the relative duties of society, or those duties which exclusively belong to the public at large.

Mr. Chairman, we have been told we should be taking all the funds which have been directed to particular purposes. Sir I deny it would be necessary, however the bill on your table may give the power to this institution over all the funds of the state, to dispose of them for the purpose of raising a capital to commence this banking operation.

Mr. W. felt no personal hostility to the present Banks; but they certainly had failed to comply with the spirit, if not with the letter, of their charters, whenever they have refused to pay specie for their notes.

The gentleman from Newbern said these Banks would have the pound of flesh, but they must not draw blood. All, sir, myself or my constituents ask of them, is to comply with their charters.

Under these views of the subject, Mr. Chairman, as irregular and crude as they have been expressed, I am fully satisfied that the principle of this bill is sound, is founded upon the only hope we have of preventing the extension of the charters of the present Banks, and putting down that monopoly of money, and aristocracy of wealth, which gentlemen tell us, fastens with so much tenacity upon our interests, and oppresses the public with its inordinate and overbearing dictation.

ically asked if \$300,000 would pay \$600,000? Gentlemen did not surely mean to say that all the notes which this Bank might issue, would immediately be returned to it for payment. He would not suppose that \$50,000 out of the \$600,000, would return to the Bank in any short period.

Sir, this kind of operation could not last long, it would be weakening the force of both, and preventing that credit and responsibility which would be their interests to unite, in protesting themselves against the consolidating principle of the United States Bank.

Mr. Chairman, the gentleman from Runcombe has said, and I have no doubt correctly too, that there are 12 or 15 times as many notes in circulation as there is specie in the United States.

It has been alleged that the State Bank had performed a great service to the State, by redeeming the old paper currency. He thought differently—for by taking that out of circulation, they withdrew a currency which was a legal tender, and which the constitution of the United States could not reach, and give us in return their own notes, which no man can be compelled to receive.

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Nineteenth Congress. FIRST SESSION. IN SENATE.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 1826. The Vice President communicated a report from the Secretary of State, accompanied by a statement of the names and salary of the clerks employed in that Department during the last year; which report was read.

Mr. Noble submitted the following resolution for consideration:

Resolved, That the committee on Public Lands be instructed to enquire into the expediency of allowing to the purchasers of public lands, who own but one quarter section, and have paid only one-fourth of the purchase money, to relinquish down to forty acres, on the amount they have paid for.

Agreeably to notice, Mr. Holmes asked, and having obtained leave, brought in a bill "to secure the accountability of public officers and others;" which was twice read and referred.

Mr. Hayne stated that he had received a memorial, which he was requested to present to the Senate, on the important and interesting subject of a Canal to connect the waters of the Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico, across the peninsula of Florida.

passed an act, appointing commissioners to report on the expediency of opening such a canal. Three of the most eminent citizens of the Territory had been appointed, pursuant to the provisions of that act, one of whom (Col. James Gadsden) was advantageously known to the country as formerly a distinguished officer of the Army of the United States, and a man of great talents as a civil and military Engineer.

It appears from the memorial forwarded by these gentlemen, that they are ready to enter into the duties of the appointment, which are to be gratuitously performed, so soon as such aid should be afforded by the United States, as was deemed essential to the successful execution of the task.

Mr. Johnson, of Lou. said, the gentleman from South-Carolina had presented a paper on a subject which he himself was just about to rise to bring to the notice of the Senate in the shape of a bill; and he now gave notice that he should, on Monday next, ask leave to introduce a bill for a survey and estimate of a Canal through the Peninsula of Florida, from the mouth of St. John's River to Vocasassa Bay, in the Gulf of Mexico, and to ascertain the practicability and expense of a ship channel.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. Thursday, Jan. 5.

The House resumed the consideration of the following resolution, moved yesterday by Mr. Forsyth:

Resolved, That the following be added to the Rules of the House: "The Speaker shall not present any memorial, petition, address, or paper, of any description, not officially communicated by some officer of the Government, to the House, except on his responsibility as a member."

Mr. Forsyth rose, and said, that the object of this resolution was very apparent on the face of it, though the necessity for it might not be understood without a statement of the grounds of it by the mover.

Under the rules which now exist, Mr. F. said, it had been considered incumbent on the persons who occupied the Chair, to present to the House every paper addressed to them in their official capacity.

During this session a paper had been laid before the House, from some madman, (for so he must be) addressed to the Speaker, from France: during the last session a paper of a similar sort was addressed to the House, from another madman, who laid claim to the throne of France.

The Speaker observed, that it might perhaps be expected that the views of the Chair should be presented in respect to a rule which had the Speaker of the House more especially in view.

He said that, as well at the present session, as when, on a former occasion, he had had the honor to occupy the same station, numerous communications had been sent to him, which he had not presented to the House.

They were couched in respectful language; but they were wanting in that degree of intellect which rendered it fit that they should be made the subjects of the attention of this House.

The communication alluded to by the gentleman from Georgia, and which seemed to have given occasion to the introduction of the resolution which he had proposed, had received much consideration.

Feeling some doubts as to the propriety of laying it before the House, he had consulted several gentlemen on the subject, and the opinion of all to whom he had spoken on the subject, was, that it was his duty to present it.

This had been his own opinion; and he had presented it accordingly; but he had taken care, in the manner of bringing it before the House, to apprise gentlemen what was its general character; he had spoken of it, in presenting it, as 'a rhapsody.'

It was marked, to be sure, with very great enthusiasm, but it referred to subjects of grave importance, and to subjects which were actually before the House for consideration, such as the cutting of a canal from the Atlantic to the Pacific, the Congress of Panama, &c.

As to the publicity which had been given to this document, it had taken place without the knowledge of the Chair, or, as he understood, of the Clerk of this House.

For himself, he conceived that the 43d rule of order (which he read,) applies to the presiding officer equally with the other Members of the House.

[The 43d Rule is in the following words: "Petitions, memorials, and other papers, addressed to the House, shall be presented by the Speaker, or by a member in his place; a brief statement of the contents thereof shall verbally be made by the introducers, and shall not be debated or decided on the day of their being first read, unless where the House shall direct otherwise; but shall lie on the table to be taken up in the order they were read."]

Mr. Forsyth said, that, under the view which the Speaker had presented of the Rule, this resolution appeared to be unnecessary. He was, therefore, disposed to withdraw it.

The Speaker having announced the resolution to be withdrawn—

Mr. Hamilton, of South-Carolina, begged leave, with great respect and deference, to propose to the Chair one inquiry, viz: whether the Speaker was aware, at the time he determined to present the communication in question to the House, that in the memorialist, to annihilate a portion of this Union if it did not embrace his "sublime measure," the emancipation of all slaves therein?

The Speaker said, the Chair informs the gentleman, very frankly, that he was not aware, and is not now aware, that the memorial in question contained any such information.

Mr. Hamilton rejoined: Then, sir, I have the honor to inform the Chair that there is, in the memorial referred to, such an invocation.

Here this conversation terminated, the resolution of Mr. Forsyth having been withdrawn.

For the better understanding of these allusions, we state that the Memorial bears date at Marseilles, in July, 1825, and is signed by Alexander Winter. Whether the writer is sane or otherwise, as he is personally unknown, can be only a matter of inference from the contents of his memorial, which is a singular mixture of good sense and absurdity.

troy, if necessary, those States, who would refuse such a sublime measure." On motion of Mr. Taitnall, of Geo. Resolved, That the committee on Naval Affairs be instructed to enquire into the expediency of establishing a Navy Yard, for the purpose of building or repairing sloops of war, and other vessels of an inferior class, at some suitable point on the St. Mary's River.

Mr. Worthington, of Md. offered the following: Resolved, That the committee on Roads and Canals be instructed to enquire into the expediency of making a Rail Road at the expense of the Federal Government, from Rockville, in Md. to Frederick in the same State.

The question being taken on agreeing to this resolve, it was decided in the negative.

On motion of Mr. Eastman, of N. H. Resolved, That the committee on the Judiciary be instructed to enquire into the expediency of reporting a bill which shall make provision that, for the purpose of decisions in all actions involving constitutional principles, which may hereafter be carried into the Supreme Court, there shall be a concurrence of opinion of a majority of all the Judges, in commission as members of said Court, at the time such decisions are respectively to be made.

Friday, Jan. 6, 1826.

The Speaker laid before the House a letter from Mr. Kent, of Maryland, resigning his seat in this House; which was laid on the table; and it was

Ordered, That the Speaker acquaint the Executive of the State of Maryland with the fact of his resignation.

On motion of Mr. Webster, of Mass. it was

Ordered, That the Clerk do make a report of the number of printed copies of the Journals of the House of Representatives, from the commencement of the present form of Government to the end of the 13th Congress, now in possession of the House; for the purpose of enabling the House to judge of the expediency of ordering a reprint of said Journals, or any part thereof.

Mr. Webster, in introducing this resolution, said that considerable difficulty was experienced by gentlemen wishing to refer to the Journals of some of the early sessions of Congress. So scarce were these now become, that of the Journals of some of the sessions hardly more were to be found than one or two copies.

Copies of the Journals of the subsequent sessions were sufficiently numerous. He apprehended there was some danger that the Journals of the sessions would soon hardly be found at all in possession of the House.

He was desirous of obtaining at least information of the true state of facts in this matter; and he hoped that when it should be received, the House would take such orders as the case should seem to require.

On motion of Mr. Bryan, of N. C. it was

Resolved, That the committee on Commerce be instructed to enquire into the expediency of improving the navigation of Pamlico Sound in North-Carolina, by deepening the water over the Swash in said Sound, or by stationing Light Boats at or near the Shoals, or otherwise.

On Motion of Mr. Moore, of Alab. it was

Resolved, That the committee on the Public Lands be instructed to inquire into the expediency of permitting settlers on lands that have been relinquished by them to the United States, under any of the acts for the relief of the purchasers of public lands, and who had improved the same previous to making such relinquishment, to occupy the same until they shall be again sold by the United States, and to have the right of removing any crop that may be growing on the same, at the time of making such sale.

A bill from the Senate, "to provide for the seizure and sale of property brought into the United States in violation of the Revenue Laws in certain cases," was twice read, and referred to the committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. Mercer, of Va. delivered, at considerable length, his views of the subject, and stated the grounds on which he had moved to strike out the first section of the bill.

He was followed by Mr. Mitchell, of Tenn. who, after a few general preliminary views of the subject, gave way for a motion for the committee to rise.

When The committee rose, reported progress, and obtained leave to sit again.

And the House adjourned to Monday next.

Strayed or Stolen.

FROM the subscriber about the 1st of November last, a small Grey Horse, 7 or 8 years old works well in harness of any kind, and trots remarkably fast either when to the gig or under the saddle, with black legs; no other marks recollected by which he could be more correctly described.

A liberal reward will be given for any information which may lead to his recovery, by communicating the same to the subscriber, living near Shocco Springs, and within 8 miles of Wrentham. WM. K. KEARNEY. Dec. 30. Jan 4.