

SENATE.

**Tuesday, Dec. 26.**—Mr. Noble asked and obtained leave to introduce a bill to continue the Cumberland road; the bill was read twice and referred to the Committee on Roads and Canals.

Mr. Harrison called up the bill making further compensation to officers commanding companies in the army of the U. S.; which was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading. [This bill passed the next day—it allows them an additional ration a day, and \$10 a month when performing extra duty in the staff.]

**Wednesday, Dec. 27.**—Mr. Johnson, introduced a resolution proposing a change in the Judiciary system, so as to make the execution laws in the several States, the rule for the U. S. District and Circuit Courts, within those States —[agreed to the next day.]

**Thursday, Dec. 28.**—The bill to establish a uniform system of Bankruptcy throughout the U. S. was taken up, and the various amendments proposed by the Committee considered.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

**Tuesday, Dec. 26.**—A message was received from the President of the U. S. respecting the proceedings of the Congress at Panama, accompanied by a report and sundry documents from the Department of State.

Mr. Ward offered a resolution respecting the imprisonment of suspected negroes, in the District of Columbia; which, after considerable debate, was modified and adopted the next day, as follows:

*Resolved*, That the Committee on the District of Columbia be directed to enquire whether there be in force, in the said District, any law which authorizes the imprisonment of any freeman of color, and his sale, as an unclaimed slave, for gaol fees and other charges; and, if so, to enquire into the expediency of repealing the same.

**Wednesday, Dec. 27.**—The bill reported and acted upon at the last session, appropriating a sum of money, to be distributed among the widow of the late Stephen Decatur, and the Crew of the Ketch Intrepid who succeeded in destroying the Philadelphia in the harbor of Tripoli, was, after some discussion, recommitted to the Committee on Naval affairs, with instructions to apportion the distribution.

**Thursday, Dec. 28.**—Mr. Weems offered a resolution instructing the Committee of Military Affairs to inquire into the expediency of granting small, suitable appropriations of money, guns, or ammunition, to such other Academies as are, or may be hereafter (in the opinion of the President of the U. States) be organized and carried into useful operation by individuals or companies; which was rejected.

**Friday, Dec. 29.**—The Speaker laid before the house the following communication from John C. Calhoun, Vice President of the U. States, viz:

*The Speaker of the H. of R.*

SIR:—You will please to lay before the House over which you preside, the

enclosed communication, addressed to that body.

Very respectfully, yours &c.

J. C. CALHOUN.

*To the Honorable  
the Members of the H. of R.*

An imperious sense of duty, and a sacred regard to the honor of the station which I occupy, compel me to approach your body in its high character of grand inquest of the nation.

Charges have been made against me of the most serious nature, and which, if true, ought to degrade me from the high station in which I have been placed by the choice of my fellow citizens, and to consign my name to perpetual infamy.

In claiming the investigation of the House, I am sensible, that, under our free and happy institutions the conduct of public servants is a fair subject of the closest scrutiny and the freest remarks, and that a firm and faithful discharge of duty affords, ordinarily, ample protection against political attacks but when such attacks assume the character of impeachable offences, and become, in some degree, official, by being placed among the public records, an officer, thus assailed, however base the instrument used, if conscious of innocence, can look for refuge only to the Hall of the immediate Representatives of the People. It is thus I find myself most unexpectedly placed.

On Wednesday morning last, it was for the first time intimated to me, that charges of a very serious nature against me, were lodged in one of the Executive Departments: during the day, rumors from several quarters to the same effect reached me; but the first certain information of their character, was received yesterday morning, thro' one of the newspapers of the District. It appears, from its statement; that I am accused of the sordid and infamous crime of participating in the profits of a contract formed with the Government, through the Department of War, while I was entrusted with the discharge of its duties, and that the accusation has been officially presented as the basis of an official act of the War Department, and consequently to be placed among its records, as a lasting stigma on my character.

Conscious of my entire innocence in this and every other public act, and that I have ever been incapable, in the performance of duty, or being influenced by any other motive than a sacred regard to the public interest, and resolved, as far as human effort can extend, to leave an untarnished reputation to posterity, I challenge the freest investigation of the H., as the only means effectually to repel this premeditated attack to prostrate me, by destroying forever my character.

J. C. CALHOUN,

*Vice President of the United States.*  
WASHINGTON, Dec. 29th 1826.

The letter having been read, Mr. Floyd rose and made some remarks on its contents, and concluded by moving that the communication be referred to a select committee.

Mr. Cocke said, it would be collected by a number of the mem-

bers of the House, present, that the contract out of which the present application grew, was bro't to the notice of the House on his call. When this Rip Rap contract, as it is called, was laid before the House, I examined it (said Mr. C.) with the greatest scrutiny, and with the closest application; and I take this occasion to declare, that I did not discover the most trivial circumstance going to show that the then Secretary of War was in the remotest degree improperly concerned in it. This contract was examined by me, not once only, but four different times, and it is just that I should make this early disclosure, that I entertain not the remotest suspicion of impropriety against that officer, in the transaction. I shall most readily vote for the investigation, said Mr. C. but not with the view of satisfying my mind on the subject.

The question then being put on Mr. Floyd's motion, it was agreed to, with scarcely a dissenting voice. A Committee of seven Members was ordered; and empowered to send for persons and papers.

[The following gentlemen compose the committee—Messrs. Floyd, Wright, Williams, Campbell, Clarke, Ingersoll, & Spague.]

Foreign.

**Europe.**—The mails for some time have brought no later intelligence from Europe. Our dates from Liverpool and Havre are to the 16th November—at which period there appeared to be much in the political as well as commercial state of Europe to create solicitude. We need not however look for short passages at this season.

**South America.**—The National Gazette gives extracts from Mexican papers to the 25th Nov. The most important intelligence which they contain, is the occurrences of serious disorders in Guatemala or the Republic of Central America. The Aguila of the 13th ult. furnishes a long decree and a very earnest address on the subject, dated 10th Oct. by the President of the Republic. He recites in the preamble to the decree—That the State of Honduras was entirely disorganized, being without legislative assembly, representative council, or court of justice. That in the State of Nicaragua, the executive department was at extreme variance with the legislature; and the citizens, inflamed by an old spirit of discord, arming against each other. That the executive government of the State of Guatemala had conspired against the general government of the Republic: seized the federal revenue: levied forces and organized civil war in aid of a criminal stranger, attacking the troops of the Republic, and committing various other flagrant acts of usurpation and revolt. That the Federal Congress, at the close of their session, the present year, was incomplete as to representation, and doubtful of the validity of its proceedings; that on this account the delegations of the States of Salvador and Costarica had withdrawn; and that other delegations

were deficient. That the new regular Congress, convoked for the 1st October, could not then meet, and would not be able to assemble at all, for want of regular representation and harmony. That the Senate of the Republic was not in existence, practically, not having the constitutional number, and of course the Executive was deprived of its constitutional council and aid. That public opinion called imperatively for remedial measures, but these were beyond the legal faculties of the Executive alone. In consequence of all these evils, he convokes, by his Decree, an Extraordinary National Congress, to be fully empowered by the people for the restoration of Constitutional order, and to meet in the city of Cojutepeque as soon as a proper number of representatives should be freely elected, at the rate of two for every thirty thousand inhabitants.

The Correo de la Federacion America mentions that the deputies to the Congress of Panama, or Tacubaya, were doing nothing, and that their business or discussions were deemed suspended for a considerable time. Sr. Michelena, one of the Mexican deputies, had tendered his resignation to the Executive, but it was not accepted. The Correo accuses the latter, in consequence, of wasting the public money. According to the same paper, the treaties, conventions, &c. made at the Congress of Panama had been transmitted to the Chamber of Deputies, after remaining a month and a half in the hands of the President and his Cabinet. The Congress of Tucubaya may earn the name of introuvable.

**Defeat of the Brazilians.**—A letter from the coast of Brazil has just reached us, (says the Baltimore Gazette,) which contains information unpleasant to the cause of the Emperor. It is dated Santos, Sept. 26, and to this effect:

"There has been a serious conflict between the Buenos Ayrean troops and the Brazilians, near Montevideo, in which the latter were defeated with the loss, it is here currently reported, of 1700 prisoners, the number of killed and wounded not mentioned; but, as the contest is supposed to have been a sanguinary one, the loss must have been excessive."

**Peru.**—A young gentleman of Montreal, now in Lima, writes as follows, under date of August 6. "This country is a mixture of all kinds, and more despotic than that of Russia.—Though every republic has its President, as Peru, Chili and Colombia, yet Bolivar is at the head of all; they call him there Liberator, and if he says such a man must die, nothing can save him. It is true the Colombians assisted them in gaining their independence, but as the enemy has gone out of the country, the Peruvians think the Colombians have no longer any right to meddle with, or to govern them: in fact every one wants to rule, and no one is capable; they are all Spaniards still. They have no rule to carry on business, neither have they the sense or stability; and I have no doubt but that another war will intervene, before the country is completely settled."