

Congress.

[The following is a summary of the proceedings of Congress, of a public nature, from the 7th to the 13th inst. inclusive:]

SENATE.

A proposition of Mr. Johnson, of Ky. to print a document containing the names of officers and soldiers of the Revolution that were entitled to bounty lands, was taken up for consideration. On this subject, an animated discussion took place, as to the best means of securing the object which all had in view, viz: to secure to the officers and soldiers the bounty of the government, without suffering it to be lost thro' the avidity of speculators. Mr. Johnson was anxious to have the document printed, in order that an end might be put to speculation, and that those who were in justice entitled to these lands, or their representatives, might avail themselves of their right. Mr. Branch had no objection to the publication of the document: he did not rise with a view to throw obstacles in the way of that very meritorious class of persons, our revolutionary soldiers; but, he did fear that, while we were attempting to serve them, even the justice which the government contemplated might be rendered abortive. [The document was, on motion of Mr. Macon, referred to the committee on manufactures, and ordered to be printed.]

Mr. Smith, of S. C. said he was instructed by the legislature of his State, to present certain resolutions accompanied by a report, which had passed that body by a majority very large and decided, similar in its character, in which instructing the Senators and Representatives in Congress, from Carolina—indeed he had been its advocate, and was aware of the many frauds that had grown out where the object was not revenue; of it. It had been said, that information relating to this document had been obtained to a limited extent. If such were the fact, he thought it prudent to conceal the document from public view; certainly no evil could grow out of a greater degree of caution in the motion. It might be referred to the committee on the Judiciary, and a plan suggested by which the claimants could derive the necessary knowledge, without being subject to imposition. [The proposition was laid on the table.]

Mr. Macon presented a report from the Legislature of North-Carolina, which he prefaced with some few remarks the reporter could not hear. The report in question was read by the Secretary. It went on to state that the committee are aware that there is no portion of the American people more attached to the Union, and more deeply sensible of the great benefits which might be expected to flow from it, conducted upon the principles upon which it was first formed, than the people of North-Carolina: they have never at any period of our history, even under the strongest political excitement, endeavored to embarrass the government, or the administration of those to whom it was intrusted, otherwise than by the right of suffrage. They have seldom expressed a legislative opinion upon the measures of the General Government, being at all times willing to give a full and fair opportunity to those charged with the management of public affairs of being "judged by their measures." But a crisis has ar-

sen in the political affairs of our country, which demands a prompt and decisive expression of public opinion. Under such circumstances, silence would be injustice to ourselves, and a want of candor to the other States of the Union. The committee are of opinion, that interest, either pecuniary or political, is the great point of union, from the smallest association up to the confederacy of these United States, and that whenever a system of policy is pursued by the General Government, which strikes at the very foundation of the Union, it is the right of every member of the confederacy to call their attention to the fundamental principles upon which the government was formed; and if they persist in measures ruinous in themselves, the question may fairly be discussed, whether the checks and balances of the government have not been overthrown; whether they have been instrumental in producing so onerous an effect, and whether the benefits of the Union are not more than counterbalanced by the evils! [The document was, on motion of Mr. Macon, referred to the committee on manufactures, and ordered to be printed.]

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Mr. Branch, communicated an act of the Legislature of North-Carolina, entitled to incorporate the Occacock Navigation Company. Referred to the committee on Finance.

The bill to abolish imprisonment for debt was taken up, and passed—yeas 25, nays 16.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. Mitchell, of Tenn. presented the petition of Uriah Brown, praying that Congress will examine an invention of his for defending the coasts and harbors of the United States, by a certain steam vessel darting flames.

Mr. Bryan moved a resolution directing the Secretary of War to lay before this House, the survey of the swash in Pamlico Sound, North-Carolina, made under an act of Congress, by a brigade of U. S. Engineers, and their report thereupon.

Mr. Hamilton, of S. C. submitted a resolution instructing the committee on the Library to inquire into the expediency of having an historical picture of the Battle of New-Orleans painted and placed in one of the pannels of the Rotunda. [After a long and rather amusing debate, the resolution was finally negatived.]



Tarborough,

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 1828.

We have received another anonymous communication, unaccompanied by the name of the author or a reference. We have heretofore given our views on this subject, and now state them more explicitly—we do not require the names of our correspondents for the purpose of gratifying idle curiosity—individuals are sometimes implicated in an ambiguous manner, totally imperceptible to those unacquainted with the parties or the circumstances referred to; when we are satisfied of this fact, and are called upon by the person who considers himself injured, we feel it our duty to give the name of the author, for the sole purpose of placing the responsibility upon the right person. It is with this view, that we require either the name of the author, or a reference to some person by whom he is known, before we give place to anonymous productions.

Supreme Court.—Since our last, Mr. Spier Whitaker of Halifax, has received license to practice in the Superior Courts...*Reg.*

Petersburg, Jan. 13.—We learn by a gentleman of respectability and veracity, just from North-Carolina, that at the meeting of the Stockholders of the Bank of Cape Fear, held at Wilmington on Monday the 7th inst. every thing in the management of the institution being found correct, it was resolved to continue operations, and forthwith to resume the *payment of specie*. Our informant further states, that the Directors, &c. of the State Bank of North-Carolina were making preparations to follow the example.—*Int.*

We should like to hear some tidings equally favorable from the Newbern Bank. There is a large amount of its notes *stagnant* here, as holders do not seem disposed to run them off at 12 or 15 per cent. discount after receiving them at par.—*Norfolk Herald.*

Presidential.—The Jackson Conventions in Virginia, Pennsylvania, New-Jersey, &c. have nominated John C. Calhoun, as their candidate for the Vice-Presidency. The Administration Conventions, in the same states, have nominated Richard Rush, for that office.

Kentucky.—In August last Dr. Young, friendly to the Administration, was re-elected to Congress from one of the districts in Kentucky, without any opposition from the friends of Gen. Jackson; consequently it was boldly asserted, that there were "no Jackson men in the district." The death of Dr. Young made it necessary to have another election, and in October, Mr. Calhoun was bro't

before the people as the Administration candidate, and Mr. Chilton as the Jackson candidate—the result was a majority of 25 votes for Mr. Chilton; but, in consequence of some informality, one of the polls was rejected, and Mr. Calhoun declared elected by a majority of 35 votes. The parties, however, agreed to make another trial, which has just terminated, giving Mr. Chilton, the Jackson candidate, a majority of 33 votes—53 more than he received at the preceding election.—Mr. Chilton has taken his seat in Congress. The Kentucky delegation now stands 4 for the Administration, and 10 in the Opposition including both the Senators.

Slaves.—Our readers will no doubt be surprised to learn, that the question has been seriously discussed in Congress, "whether a slave can be considered as private property or not?" The debate arose upon an amendment offered by Mr. Livingston to a report of the committee of claims upon the petition of Marigny D'Auterive, whose slave had been pressed into the service of the United States at New-Orleans, during the last war and was then injured. The committee were willing to remunerate Mr. D'Auterive for some other property injured at the same time, but not for his slave. Mr. Livingston's amendment was to allow him remuneration for the slave also. The following are some of the remarks offered on the occasion:

Mr. Clarke, of N. Y. one of the committee said he regarded slaves as persons not as property. He was of opinion that the right of government to use slaves for public defence was yielded by the States when the Constitution was formed. The right of impressment under this concession, he was of opinion, resided in the government. They were not to stop, in a moment of imminent danger, to ask if a man was white or black, but merely if he was able to wield a musket and bayonet.

Mr. Randolph said, that he had been absent by indisposition, when that subject was before the Committee. His motive now in throwing himself on the House was earnestly to request—almost to adjure—but certainly to ask that no member south of the Ohio or west of the Mississippi, would debate that question—would deign to debate that question. I mean, said he, whether persons can or cannot be property, or allow that the Federal Government either directly or indirectly can tend it. This is a question upon which the moment this government lays its unallowed hand, it ceases to be a government. Property is the creature of the law—has its existence in the law. You cannot unmake it any more than you can extinguish the British national debt, or any thing else you choose to determine. Who told us that the Constitution is to protect this species of property? Such protection would be like the protection which the wolf gives to the lamb. Mr. R. hoped that no member, coming from within the limits he had mentioned, would deign to discuss or debate that question. This was not the accepted time. If ever it should be a subject proper for debate, they would not be there—that the House would have become the den