

TO THE EDITORS.

WASHINGTON, May 13, 1826.

Gentlemen—On this day a bill passed the Senate appropriating \$15,000 to enable the President to hold a treaty with the Indians, claiming lands in Indiana, for the purpose of extinguishing their claim. The Secretary of War will send an Engineer early in the present year to survey the proposed canals in Indiana, embracing the one, to reach the Ohio river, at or near Lawrenceburgh from the waters of the Wabash, &c. passing through the valley of White-water. Also, to survey the most practicable route on the Indiana side, at the falls of Ohio. Mr. Shriver, at Wheeling, will be the Engineer.

Respectfully,
JAS. NOBLE.CONGRESSIONAL
IN SENATE.

MONDAY, MAY 8, 1826.

Amendment to the Constitution.

The Senate then took up the resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States as it respects the election of President and Vice President of the U. States.

Mr. BENTON said it was very well understood throughout the Senate, that this resolution was not to be acted on during the present session. The reason would be apparent to every one. The resolution was reported in the Senate at an early day, and was put off from day to day, and from week to week, upon the request of gentlemen, until the same subject had been taken up and discussed in the other branch of the Legislature. It was not, Mr. B. said, deemed advisable to carry on a duplicate debate at the same time; and the issue of the discussion in the House had been such that it was not deemed advisable to take any further step to get a definitive vote on it this session; but it was deemed advisable to keep the subject in a situation for being acted upon at the earliest possible day at the next session, earnestly and vigorously, and to have it decided one way or the other. It was with a view to this resolution, and some other subjects of importance, which it was probable would not be finished at this session, the subjects remaining for discussion to the next session, that he had conceived the idea of continuing over all the subjects remaining for discussion to the next session, that they might then be taken up, without loss of time. Mr. B. said, should not this rule pass, he pledged himself to the Senate, and to the American People, that he would again move the reference of the subject to a committee, and have it disposed of as early as possible. It was here, Mr. B. said, as it was with their great prototype the British Parliament—the greatest difficulty in getting any thing done, was to find the right time for doing it. When the great question of reforming the British House of Commons was brought up, it was agreed all around that the representation ought to be reformed, but the difficulty was as to the right time of accomplishing it. During the American war, it was the wrong time, and after the French Revolution, broke out, it was the wrong time still. This resolution, Mr. B. said, was introduced two years ago and it was then deemed an improper time, because the Presidential Election would soon come on. It was again introduced soon after, & then it was an improper time—it was soon after the election, & it might have a bearing on the events of that Election, and he considered as personally offensive; therefore, as it was impossible to find a time which should be free from objection, Mr. B. said he would pledge himself to the Senate and to the American People, to continue the subject with all the energy he was master of, till he brought it to a conclusion. He would endeavor to get a decisive vote on the principle which the resolution contained; he did not do it from a spirit of reckless perseverance, but from a conviction that the principle itself was correct and one which was approved by an immense majority of the American People, so far as he had any opportunity of learning their sentiments, and if they could get a chance of voting on it, it was one which they would carry. Mr. B. concluded by saying, that if he could not get it before the People, upon a proposition submitted by Congress, he would transfer his exertions to a different theatre—to the theatre of the People themselves, and urge the call of a national convention.

Mr. VAN BUREN said, that, being a member of the committee by whom the resolution, under consideration, had been reported, he would add a few words to the observations made by the Chairman. He concurred in the propriety of the disposition of the resolution proposed by that course, but he had further reasons. The progress which had been made in the subject in the other House, was well known to the Senate. The result of its deliberation satisfied him, that, if there was time sufficient to act definitively upon the subject here, nothing efficient

could be done at the present session. He would, if his life was spared, unite his exertions with those of the Chairman, to press the matter to a favorable conclusion early in the next session; and notwithstanding that the question would have to be decided by the same House of Representatives, he would do so in full confidence, that their labors would be crowned with complete success. He would briefly state his reasons for that belief. He was satisfied that there was no one point on which the People of the United States were more perfectly united, than upon the propriety, not to say, indispensable necessity, of taking the Election of President from the House of Representatives. The experience under the Constitution, as it stands, as well formerly as recently, had produced that impression, and he considered the vote of the House of Representatives as the strongest manifestation of its existence. In that respect, it would be of value, but beyond that, it could produce no results. Although it could, he thought, be satisfactorily shown, that the small States would, if nothing more was done, be better off than they are under the Constitution, as it stands, still all experience has shown that they do not think so. There is no reason to believe that they will ever consent to give up the power they now have without a resort to the principle upon which the constitution was founded—that of compromise. The equivalent with which they ought to be satisfied, is the breaking up of the consolidated strength of the large States, by the establishment of the district system. It is in vain, therefore, for gentlemen to be, or to affect to be, in favor of taking the Election from the House, unless they are willing to do that also, without which the leading object cannot be effected—without that, all is empty profession. We must, for the purpose of the Election, make all the states of the same size, which would be the effect of the district system and then, and then only, can we give the election of President and Vice President to the People, preserve the purity of the system, and, in reality, restore the balance of power among the States to the footing on which it stood at the adoption of the Constitution. Believing that the desire to take the election from the House had sunk deep in the public mind—knowing the all-powerful agency which public sentiment fortunately had in our Government—he had the strongest hopes that the correct sentiments which now happily existed upon this one point would be able to carry the other with it. He hoped, and believed that the People of the United States would, in the coming recess, in all constitutional forms, express their opinion upon this subject. If they did so, and if they really desired the election of their Chief Magistrate, and were true to themselves, another session would not pass by without an opportunity being furnished to the State to express their opinion upon this most interesting subject; a subject with which, in his opinion, the future welfare of the country, and the liberties of its citizens, were more closely connected than any other which had been agitated in Congress since the adoption of the Constitution.

Mr. JOHNSON, of Ky. said he had never seen the time, since he had read the Federal Constitution, but what it had been prudent, without respect to time, place or person, to vote for the amendment to this part of the Constitution of the United States; and he would pledge himself to himself, and he would pledge himself to the gentlemen who had spoken, if he thought they would pledge themselves to him at the next session. He referred to the subject of abolition of imprisonment for debt, which he wished to go *pari passu* with these other great measures. There were three things, Mr. J. said, which were necessary to perpetuate this Government: To give to the People—whether in the district or general ticket—to give to the People the selection of their rulers; and, when the People proved recreant and could not govern themselves at the polls, without the intervention of a third party, he said, let the government go down. Another subject was, the abolition of imprisonment for debt. He wished that the liberty of the American citizen, as regarded his personal safety, should be more sacred than that of the Roman citizen. The third of these important subjects was, the revival of, what he knew never would be revived, the old compensation law. He wished now to inquire, whether it would be in order (supposing the rule lately proposed by the gentleman from Missouri not to pass) to refer this subject to a certain day, say, the second Monday of December next? because he wished to call up the subject of imprisonment for debt, and refer it to a certain day at the next session of Congress.

The CHAIR said, according to the present state of the rules, such a motion would not be in order.

Mr. MAISON said there was no time now for the discussion of this question. He never wished great questions such as this, to be taken up when the members were exhausted; but he was very willing to take it up at the first day of the next session, and go on with it till it was decided. Mr. M. said he had been uniformly in favor of the district system, but on such a mighty question—and this was one that increased daily in magnitude—it could hardly be expected that in a Government like this it could be done at once. The gentleman from Missouri might satisfy himself that this question must be decided by Congress some time or other. The cases he had cited in England were certainly true, but the comparison did not hold with the character of the two Governments, and the power of the People. In England the right of voting was limited to a few, and there were many boroughs which had but a single vote. Here, nothing of that kind existed; here, every body votes. No person has the power of sending a member here; therefore, the difficulties were not, he thought, so great in this country as in England. The idea of reform is gone in England at present. Though it was known in the earliest part of the Revolutionary war, such is the character of man, such his unwillingness to part with it, that it was not till the year 1781 that the Articles of Confederation were signed; there was no National Government till then. The moment peace came—indeed before the peace took place—every man in the United States was convinced that the Federal Government could not answer the purpose for which it was intended. It was then the year 1787, before an attempt was made to revise the Government. Still the opinion had progressed that the Federal Government must be altered. Mr. M. said when they looked back and saw how things progressed, the gentleman should not despair of his measure, but give time for this principle to progress through this extensive country. He did not know whether he could go so far with the gentleman from Ky. as that gentleman wished. If the thing was right, all that was necessary was perseverance. If the People were capable of self government we ought never to despair of carrying measures that were calculated to promote their happiness. No great events were ever brought about but by perseverance. So in these amendments, we ought not to despair, but to persevere.

[After some further remarks by Mr. MAISON, followed by Mr. BRANCH, the resolution was laid on the table.]

FRIDAY, MAY 21.

Executive Patronage.

The Senate next took up the bill to regulate the publication of the Laws of the United States and of public advertisements.

Mr. BENTON said this bill was one of a series relating to the same general subject, which had been reported under a resolution submitted by a gentleman from North Carolina, whom he saw in his seat (Mr. MAISON). That gentleman would take an interest in the discussion and passage of the bill, but Mr. B. said, to his certain knowledge, that gentleman was unable from indisposition, to take any part in the discussion. Under these circumstances, he, for one, thought it his duty to consult him. He was at the bottom of the whole affair; he had collected a variety of facts; he had matured the subject, and he thought it right that the wishes of that gentleman should prevail.

Mr. MAISON said, the subject of diminishing of the patronage of the Executive, was one which he had reflected on for many years, but at this time he was unable to enter into the discussion of it; his health was at present so bad, that he would not be able to speak for ten minutes in succession. He should move, therefore, that the bill be laid on the table; which motion prevailed, and

The same course was adopted with respect to the other bills relating to the same subject.

Western Collection Districts.

The Senate then resumed the consideration of the bill "to establish certain collection districts in the States of Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Missouri."

Mr. HARRISON offered a few remarks, urging the benefits that would be derived by the People of the Western country from the passage of the bill.

Mr. TAZEWELL inquired whether there was a single sea vessel owned in the State of Ohio, or a single merchant importing goods from a foreign country. If there was not, what was the use of establishing a custom house at Cincinnati?

Mr. HARRISON answered, there was no person who owned a sea-vessel, nor was there, to his knowledge, a merchant importing goods from a foreign country, but there were merchants of a great capital, ready to embark in the business, and who were only waiting the passage of this bill to enter into operations in that way. There were also steamboats of considerable size at Cincinnati, capable of going to Havana, as soon as the difficulty of passing the Falls should be obviated.

A short discussion took place between Messrs. FLOYD, HOLMES, and BENTON, relative to the danger likely to arise to the revenue from the passage of the bill. The latter gentleman stated that he had seen statements, from which it appeared that goods had been imported into Cincinnati from Leeds and Liverpool, and other ports, and that, at St. Louis, the merchants transacted all their business with England direct. They had likewise exporting merchants who wished to

send their tobacco direct to Liverpool, without stopping at New Orleans, and to carry on a trade with the West India Islands, and that a steamboat had arrived at St. Louis from Philadelphia. Mr. CHANDLER then moved to strike out Cincinnati & Louisville, so as to confine the operation of the bill to St. Louis; as the bill was allowed to be an experiment, it ought to be tried on as contracted a scale as possible.

After some discussion, in which Messrs. FINDLAY, HOLMES, SMITH, HARRISON, TAZEWELL, and BROWN took a part, a division of the question being called for, it was first taken on striking out Cincinnati, and decided in the negative, ayes 13, noes 18: it was then taken on the other part of the amendment, and decided in the negative.

[The bill was then, after some further discussion, postponed till the first Monday in December next, by the following vote:]—

Yea—Messrs. BARTON, BERRIEN, BOUTWORTH, BRANCH, CHANDLER, CLAYTON, DICKERSON, EATON, FINDLAY, HARPER, HAYNE, HOLMES, KING, MARKS, REED, SMITH, TAZEWELL, VAN BUREN, WHITE, WILLIAMS, WOODBURY—21.

Nay—Messrs. BENTON, CHASE, EDWARDS, HARRISON, HENDRICKS, JOHNSTON, LOU. KANE, LLOYD, ROBBINS, ROWAN, RUGGLES, SANFORD—12.

And then the Senate adjourned.

FROM THE MUSEUM.

The Plague.—During the great Plague in London, in 1665, Dr. HODGES was one of the persons appointed by the College of Physicians to visit the sick. The great Sydenham quitted London to avoid the contagion, but at length returned, apparently ashamed of his cowardice. Many physicians volunteered their services on this occasion; among those was the celebrated Dr. GLISSON. Out of the number employed in this benevolent task, nine perished. HODGES survived, and has given the following account of the means by which he believes he preserved himself from the infection. "As soon as I rose in the morning early, I took the quantity of a nutmeg of the antipestilential electuary; then, after the dispatch of the private concerns of my family, I ventured into a large room, where crowds of citizens used to be in waiting for me, and there I commonly spent two or three hours, as in an hospital, examining the several conditions and circumstances of all who came thither, some of which had ulcers yet uncured, and others to be advised under the first symptoms of seizure; all which I endeavored to dispatch, with all possible care to their various exigencies. As soon as this crowd could be discharged, I judged it not proper to go abroad fast, and therefore got my breakfast; after which, till dinner time, I visited the sick at their houses; whereupon, entering their houses, I immediately had burnt some proper thing upon coals, and also kept in my mouth some lozenges all the while I was examining them. But they are mistaken who report that physicians used on such occasions very hot things, as myrrh, zedoary, angelica, ginger, &c. for many, deceived thereby, raised inflammations upon their tonsils, and greatly endangered their lungs. I further took care not to go into the rooms of the sick when I was sweated, or was short-breathed with walking, and kept my mind as composed as possible, being sufficiently warned by such who had grievously suffered in that respect. After some hours visiting in this manner, I returned home. Before dinner, I always drank a glass of sack to warm the stomach, refresh the spirits, and dissipate any beginning judgment of the infection. I chose meats for my table that yielded an easy and generous nourishment, roasted before boiled, and pickles not only suitable to the meats, but the nature of the distemper (and, indeed, in this melancholy time, the city greatly abounded with variety of all good things of that nature.) I seldom, likewise, rose from dinner without drinking more wine. After this, I had also many persons who came for advice; and, as soon as I could dispatch them, I again visited till eight or nine at night, and then concluded the evening at home, by drinking to cheerfulness of my old favourite liquor, which encouraged sleep, and an easy breathing through the pores all night. But if in the day-time I found the least approaches of the infection upon me, as by giddiness, loathing at stomach, and faintness, I immediately had recourse to a glass of this wine, which easily drove these beginning disorders away by transpiration. Yet in the whole course of the infection, I found myself ill but twice, but was soon again cleared of its approaches by these means, and the help of such antidotes as I kept always by me."

In another part of his history of the Plague, he gives the following extraordinary account. Speaking of the nurses who attended the sick, he adds, "These wretches, out of greediness to plunder the dead, would strangle their patients, and charge it to the distemper in their throats; others would secretly convey the pestilential taint from sores of the infected to those who were well. The case of a worthy citizen was very remarkable, who being suspected dying

by his nurse, was beforehand stripped by her; but recovering again, he came a second time into the world naked."

Taking tea in Persia.—After dinner the Ameezadah, who knew that I usually took tea, asked me if I chose to have it with or without cream? On my requesting to have it in the former way, a dish was brought to me covered with the most beautiful cream; but to my surprise upon tasting it, I discovered it had been seasoned with salt instead of sugar. I expressed my surprise at this, and was informed that it was the Oosbeck custom to sweeten only the tea which is drank plain, but if milk or cream be added, salt is used instead of sugar. I drank my saline beverage, nor was it very disagreeable; but I bargained for a dish with both cream and sugar in it. Tea is much used by the Oosbecks in various shapes; boiled with water, with a great deal of fine sugar, it is drank in the forenoon, and presented to guests boiled with salt and thickened with its own leaves, and bread and butter broken amongst it, sometimes with the bread and butter alone, it forms a common article of diet, particularly for breakfast; and made with cream and salt, as above, it is taken as a wholesome and refreshing restorative.

Fraser's Khorassan.

Colts.—We often hear it lamented that our breed of horses is so bad. But I am convinced, as our colts are managed if we had any other breed, we should soon make it appear to be as mean as our own, if not worse. The abusing of colts in the first winter, is the principal cause of their proving so bad. For our farmers seldom or ever allow their colts any food besides hay, and that is not always the best kind. So that they seldom fail being stunted in their growth in the first winter, to such a degree that they never get the better of it. A colt that is foaled late, should not be weaned till February or March, and should have oats during the whole of the winter. In some countries they allow a young colt fifteen bushels. We need not grudge to feed them with meal, oats and bran, besides the best of clover hay—for they will pay for it in the growth. After the first winter, they will need no extraordinary feeding till they are grown up. Were the above directions observed, we should soon see an improvement of our breed of horses. They would be capable of doing much greater service, and be likely to hold out to a greater age."

N. E. Farmer.

In a late case of seduction in England, the court room was thronged with ladies. Baron Garrow, who presided, said, "I do not desire the ladies to wait in court to hear any thing that might shock their modesty, unless they like it." The paper adds, "one or two ladies then retired, but the remainder kept their seats." What a fine thing for the Quarterly Review, if such an occurrence had taken place in the United States! The testimony, even as reported in the newspapers, is such as no American lady would voluntarily listen to.—*Ad.*

MUSEUM

OF
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Is just published by

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The subscription is \$6 a year, payable in advance. It will be sent to any part of the United States by mail, upon a payment of five dollars, on account, being received by the publisher.

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