

Twentieth Congress:

SECOND SESSION.

December 17. In the Senate, to-day, a long discussion took place on Mr. Eaton's joint resolution to change the mode of electing the printer of the Senate, so as to make a majority of all the votes given necessary to a choice. Mr. KNOTT's amendment, providing that before the election proposals should be received by the Clerk of the House, and the Secretary of the Senate, for the execution of the printing of Congress, was rejected. An amendment offered by Mr. CHAMBERS, going to annul the joint resolution of 24th May, 1819, was negatived. The original resolution was adopted.

The House of Representatives to-day ordered the resolutions offered by Mr. HALL, of North Carolina, on the preceding day, relative to the Constitutional power of Congress to erect toll gates, &c. to be laid on the table. An unsuccessful motion was made by the mover to refer them to the Committee of the whole on the state of the Union, and a motion, with a similar result, was made to refer them to the Committee on the Judiciary. Several other resolutions, of no public importance, were submitted and adopted. Afterwards, the House took up the bill relative to the addition of drawback on Sugar refined in the United States. Some opposition being made to the passage of the bill, a discussion took place, which lasted about an hour, when the question was taken, and the bill was passed, by a large majority.

December 18. In the Senate, to-day, the Joint Resolution altering the mode of electing printers to Congress was passed. The Bills for causing certain reserved lead mines in Missouri, and also certain reserved salt springs, to be exposed to public sale, were severally ordered to a third reading.

In the House of Representatives, to-day, the resolution offered by Mr. VERPLANCK, on the preceding day, asking of the President information on the subject of the attempted frauds on the revenue, which have called for the military movements towards the Niagara frontier, was taken up and agreed to. Several other resolutions were offered and adopted. The House then passed several bills which had been previously ordered for engrossment; and the other bills which on the preceding day were passed in the Senate, were acted on. The House then, in Committee of the whole on the state of the Union, took up the general appropriation bill for the first quarter of the year 1829, and filled the blanks; after which, the bill was reported and ordered to be engrossed and read a third time to-day. In committee, the House then took up Mr. SMITH's resolution on the subject of an amendment of the Constitution, on which Mr. SMITH spoke at some length; after which, the Committee rose, and the House then adjourned.

December 19. The Senate did not sit to-day.

Nothing of public interest transacted in the House of Representatives to-day. A joint resolution authorizing the use of one of the Committee rooms, by the Columbia Institute, was read a third time and passed. The general appropriation bill, for the support of Government for the first quarter of the year 1829, was read a third time and passed. A resolution was introduced by Mr. J. C. WRIGHT relative to an inquiry into the price of paper for the public printing, which was opposed by Mr. WICKLIFFE, who moved to lay it on the table. On this motion, Mr. WRIGHT demanded the Ayes and Noes; but before the call was acted upon, the hour having expired, the question remained undecided. The House then went into Committee of the Whole on the reports made by the Committee of Claims, on the subject of repayment for a horse. A motion was made by Mr. WICKLIFFE to strike out so much of the report as was unfavorable to the petitioner, and to insert instructions to the Committee to report a specific remuneration in each case, which amendment was carried in Committee, and concurred in by the House. The House then adjourned till Monday.

December 22. In the Senate, to-day, the bill allowing an additional drawback on sugar refined in the United States and exported therefrom was read a second time and referred to the Committee on Finance. A memorial from certain citizens of Baltimore was presented by Mr. SMITH, of Md., praying that Congress will authorize a subscription of Stock on the part of the United States to the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road Company. The bill authorizing the sale of certain reserved Lead-mines, and lands contiguous thereto, in the State of Missouri, was passed. The bill amending the Act, of March 23, 1821, entitled an act to reduce and fix the Military Peace Establishment of the United States, was read a third time, and passed. The principal object of this bill is to fill the vacancy in the colonelcy of the second Regiment of Artillery by arranging thereto Col. Daniel Bissel. The bill compensating Susan Decatur and oth-

ers, for the capture of the Frigate Philadelphia, in the harbour of Tripoli, which bill passed the Senate last year, but failed in the House of Representatives for want of time, was taken up, and, on motion of Mr. PAINCE, postponed till to-morrow. Mr. SMITH, of Md., submitted a Joint Resolution for the adjournment of the two Houses of Congress from Wednesday next to the following Monday.

In the House of Representatives, to-day, after the petitions had been called for, the House took up the resolution offered by Mr. J. C. WRIGHT, on Friday, on the subject of the prices of printing. —Mr. WICKLIFFE, who had desired the subject to be at rest until it could be brought before the House by the Committee of Retrenchment appointed at the last session, moved to lay the resolution on the table, on which the ayes and noes were taken at the call of Mr. WRIGHT, and the motion was negatived by a vote of 121 to 55. The ayes and noes were then called on the passage of the resolution, which was carried in the affirmative — Ayes 165, Noes 8. The House then took up the bill authorizing the establishment of the Territorial Government of Huron, when the amendments made in Committee of the whole were, with a slight variation, concurred in. Something like opposition having then manifested itself to the bill, the question on the engrossment was delayed, until near three o'clock, when the House adjourned without coming to a decision.

December 23. In the Senate, to-day, Mr. FREDELL, Senator from North Carolina, appeared and took his seat. The bill authorizing the relinquishment of the school lands in Alabama, and the entry of other lands in lieu thereof, was, after some debate, ordered to a third reading. Mr. Eaton submitted a resolution for changing the mode of electing the standing Committees of the Senate, by authorizing their appointment by the President *pro tem.* of the Senate, when there is a President *pro tem.* The present mode of appointment is by ballot. The resolution contemplates no change of the rule when the Vice President is in the chair, as the presiding officer of the Senate.

In the House of Representatives, to-day, a great number of resolutions were submitted. One resolution, offered by Mr. RICHARDSON, of Massachusetts, referring it to a select Committee to inquire into the expediency of appropriating the proceeds of the duty on Spirits to the endowment of Schools, was laid on the table. The various bills from the Senate were forwarded in their various stages. —The joint resolution to adjourn both Houses from this day to Monday next, was read three times, and finally passed, by a vote of 94 to 79. The bill authorizing the establishment of the Territorial Government of Huron was postponed, with the consent of the Chairman of the Committee of Territories, until the third Tuesday in January. The House then resolved itself into Committee of the whole on the state of the Union, and took up the bill to establish a territorial government at the mouth of the Oregon river. Mr. FLOYD gave his views on the subject. The blanks in the bill were then filled, and Mr. GURLEY proposed an amendment, on which the Committee rose and reported progress, and the amendment was ordered to be printed. —*Nat. Journal.*

Indiana Legislature.

December 20. In the Senate, a Memorial to the Congress of the United States, on the subject of the cession to the State of Indiana, of the lands within her limits, passed yesterday by an almost unanimous vote. The bill to amend the act regulating Judicial Circuits, &c. (which provides for two additional circuits, and for an additional term in each county,) has been twice in committee of the whole. All, with two or three exceptions, agree that some alteration is absolutely necessary. Some members however, are in favor of two additional circuits, some of one—and there is a disagreement among those, whether or not there should be an additional term of the Courts. A great diversity of opinion also exists with regard to the arrangement of the Circuits. An able and animated discussion took place yesterday on a motion to postpone indefinitely a bill to repeal the second and third section of an act now in force, regulating the interest of money. The bill was postponed. Mr. Maxwell from the committee on Education, this day reported a bill providing for a sale of the school sections, with the provisions of which we are unacquainted; 100 copies were ordered to be printed.

In the House on Wednesday Mr. Judah ch'n of the canal committee brought in a report too voluminous for our columns at present. It recommends a loan, on the faith of the state—A sale of lands to meet the payment of interest, and the undertaking of the canal by sections at a time: it was followed by a bill, and also a joint resolution for the appointment of a commissioner to treat with Ohio relative to donated lands. Whatever may be the fate of the bill, the joint resolution will likely pass. A bill was yesterday reported by Mr. Bassett, chairman

of the committee on education, providing for a sale of the school sections and organization of district schools. Various propositions have been made to change the system of working roads. A resolution was adopted yesterday instructing the Judiciary committee to report a bill for the formation of a probate court, in each county, to consist of one judge. A spirited debate ensued to-day, on the offering of a resolution to prohibit the sale or gift of spirituous liquors, on the day of general election: the resolution was lost by a large majority. Many private bills have passed.

December 24. —In the Senate, a bill has been reported, twice read, and committed to the whole Senate, providing for establishing the road from Lake Michigan to some convenient point on the Ohio river. The bill provides for establishing the road from the lake to Indianapolis on the route surveyed by the commissioners appointed by an act of the last session, and leaves the point on the Ohio river blank, to be filled up by the Senate. The bill providing for additional circuits has been lost. The Senate refusing to engross it for a third reading. The bill amendatory of the militia law, has also been lost. —A bill providing for building wings to the Governor's house and converting it into a State House, was in committee of the whole to-day. Considerable discussion took place on a motion to strike it out from the enacting clause. The fate of the bill is uncertain.

The House have had the Michigan road bill twice under consideration this week. On Monday the motion to amend in the same way as had been done in committee of the whole, which amendment had not been reported when the committee was discharged, was renewed by Mr. DUNN—Many motions to fill the remaining blank in the first section were negatived, when the motion of Mr. Pollock to insert the words "Madison via Greensburgh and Nepoleon," prevailed by a majority of one vote. The consideration of the bill was resumed on Tuesday, and the House refused to adopt the amended amendment. The bill now stands as when first introduced. To-day the Judiciary committee reported a bill for the formation of two new circuits. Bills to reorganize the Probate System, and the Road Laws, are in a course of preparation by the appropriate committees. Considerable discussion was had on Monday, upon the constitutional power of the states to regulate the discipline of militia. Much local business has been despatched. The committee on the affairs of the town of Indianapolis has reported in favor of the conversion of the Gov't's House into a State House; a bill for that purpose has passed the first reading. —*Ind. Journal.*

FOREIGN NEWS.

Great Britain and Ireland.—The excitement about the Catholic question is increasing: proceedings have been instituted by the government against several persons of character and rank in the counties of Monaghan and Kerry. At the great meeting in Kent, mentioned in our last number, Mr. O'Connell is said to have pledged himself to reject all offers of emancipation that were clogged with restrictions.

A number of emigrants, returning to England in the packet ship New England, belonging to New York, were guilty of great disorders and mutinous conduct; in consequence of which, on their arrival in Liverpool, the ringleaders, with five of the crew of the ship, were committed to prison in order to await the penalty of the law.

France.—The vintage has proved to be abundant in the upper Pyrenees. At Bar-sur-Aube it was five times more abundant than usual. The difficulties between France and Brazil are said to have been settled by an explanatory article to the treaty of 1826, relative to belligerents and neutrals. Troops have been despatched from Brest to supply vacancies occasioned by disease in the corps stationed in the Antilles.

Between Oct. 13th and 17th seven vessels with corn from the Baltic, on government account, arrived at Calais. That lately landed at Havre is in bond; and on the 24th 5 or 6,000 hectolitres of wheat were sold there for England, at 27 or 28 francs.

The porte is said to have been highly exasperated by the invasion of the Morea by the French, and with difficulty restrained from making a formal declaration of war.

Spain.—The infant Don Carlos has claims on the treasury for more than nine millions of reals, and has demanded immediate payment. It is said that England offered a loan, on conditions of having secured one half the revenue of the post office, the lottery, snuff and tobacco. The count Villamar has been arrested at the gates of Madrid.

Couriers were very active from Madrid to Lisbon, and other courts. The government has required Spaniards who left their country voluntarily, to return in four months. A life pension will be granted to those who wish to remain abroad.

Foreigners who have settled in Barce-

lona since 1822, were to leave in six days.

The fever was still committing great havoc at Gibraltar. The king of Spain has tendered 10,000 fanegas of Wheat for the use of the indigent sufferers by the sickness.

Portugal.—The constitutional Guerillas have entered Villa Real and released all the constitutionalists that were in prison—and, at the last advices were menacing an attack upon Oporto, at which place the troops were beginning to manifest a preference for Don Pedro. An order has been issued forbidding the privy council from consulting, in appointments to office, persons who are not in favor of the existing order of things. The northern provinces of that kingdom are greatly convulsed. We have notices of arrests, spies and prison, which appear to be greatly in requisition, and exhibiting the country as distracted as could be wished by its greatest enemies, the present state of affairs cannot long remain.

An insurrection has broken out in the island of Terceira, in favor of Don Pedro. Manoel and Almeida, who placed themselves at the head, are said to have collected a body of 3000 Guerilla troops, have received a check.

A letter from London of Oct 15th, says that the pope's nuncio and senior Campuzano, the Spanish ministers, are endeavoring to persuade Don Miguel to marry the young queen, but without effect. It was also said that he appeared willing, but that the queen mother would not allow it.

Russia, Turkey, &c.—The emperor has left Varna for St. Petersburg. The army were about going into winter quarters. Large magazines are to be formed at Varna, and it is to be strongly fortified. In Asia the Russians have gained some additional advantages over the Turks, and garrisoned several fortresses taken from them. The new levy for the Russian army will raise it upwards of 900,000 men, including those of the military colonies. Of this large force it is said it will be in the power of the emperor to march 400,000 against the Turks in the approaching campaign, without weakening the armies which it would be necessary to leave as a check upon Austria and Sweden.

The Havre Phare of the 3d mentions a report, that, after the fall of Varna, Omar Vriane effected his retreat, and was pursued by the prince Eugene of Wirtemberg.

It is stated that Coron was delivered up to the French without any opposition.

Near Canea, in Canadia, the Greeks lately took a fort from the Turks, and fought a long time before they were dispossessed.

35 more cannon are to be sent to the Morea from France, to fortify the strong places. There is said to be a scarcity of provisions.

The Russians have obtained the island of Samos of the Greek government, to establish their head quarters; and it is supposed that the English and French will have rallying places in other positions. The expedition for Prevesa has left Patros. It will amount to about 35 sail.

The president of Greece has issued orders for the formation of six battalions of artillery, on a nucleus of the two battalions now existing.

It is asserted that the French troops will not retire from the Morea until peace is established between Russia and the porte—and that when the fortresses, still occupied by the enemies of Greece, shall be in the power of the French, a regular Greek army shall be organized and armed with muskets, sent from France at the same time as the expedition.

Lieutenant Brand, of the British Navy gives in his book of recent travels in South America, the following graphic account of the effects of an earthquake, which he felt at Lima.

"During my short stay, Lima was visited by several temblores, or earthquakes, one of which was very severe, and occurred in the evening, when the streets were full of people. In my life I never experienced a sensation more awful; a noise resembling thunder was underneath my feet,—the earth shook and trembled—a sickly sensation came over me, and I was nearly knocked down by men, women and children, flying out of their houses, screaming temblor! temblor! and running to and fro in all directions, some lay down on their faces; most of the men were kneeling, and crossing themselves, and praying their Saints for protection. Children were clinging to their mothers, and screaming with all their might; the dogs howled most piteously, and crouching among the crowd, seemed to ask for protection: the horses stood trembling with their riders by their sides, and the birds fluttered about in the air as if their wings were useless. And after three successive shocks, a deathlike silence prevailed, and every one appeared rivetted to the spot where they stood. All heads were uncovered; and the different attitude of standing, kneeling, and laying, impressed me with feelings,

which I think will never be erased from my memory. This shock happened on October 30th, 1827, and was registered by many as being the smartest ever felt without doing damage or causing the loss of lives."

Buffalo.—We have a little table showing the clearances made at the port of Buffalo, in each year from 1815 to 1827 inclusive—amount in the first given year only 64, and in the last 561!—and probably in the present will exceed 650. Buffalo, 1812, was a point as far remote, in the estimation, or for want of means of access, as the most western post that we have located on the great lakes. Perhaps, seemingly as far from the city of New York, as the Rocky Mountains now appear to be from St. Louis. These things mark the glorious progress of our country. The hitherto rude and profitless mountains of Vermont teem with busy men, and the brisk hum of wheels is heard in parts in Maine but lately as wild as when our country was first settled. The march of the west is gigantic — & parts of the south, especially Alabama, Louisiana, and Florida are advancing most rapidly in population and wealth. The next census will shew us wonderful things. We hope that the law requiring it to be made, will contain a liberal provision to ascertain other statistics hardly less interesting, and essential to an enlightened legislation, as to employment of persons, and the products of their industry—agricultural, mechanical or manufacturing. The capital vested and profits made, perhaps, cannot be ascertained—but no one will object to make some general statements of great interest to the community, when collected and presented in a proper manner. —*[Niles Reg.]*

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT. From the Postmaster general's Report, which accompanied the President's Message to Congress, it appears that the number of persons employed by the Department, including postmaster, clerks, contractors and persons engaged in transporting the mail, is about twenty-six thousand nine hundred and fifty six. There are about seventeen thousand five hundred and eighty four horses employed, and two thousand eight hundred and seventy-nine carriages, including two hundred and forty-three sulkies and wagons.

The circular brick Tower erected by the Phoenix Company for making Shot, at the corner of Front and Pitt streets, Baltimore, says the American, has reached the intended elevation, being two hundred and thirty-four feet, three inches high from the pavement. Its diameter at the bottom is forty feet, and at the top, twenty. The stone foundation wall is ten feet thick at the bottom, and six at the top. The brick work, which commences at the surface, is five feet and a half thick, of which thickness it continues for the height of nearly fifty feet, when it diminishes four inches in every story, being twenty inches thick at the top of the parapet, three feet in height, which crowns the summit. This huge structure, which is an excellent piece of brick work, was commenced on the 2d of June, and finished on the 25th of November, and was built without scaffolding. The parapet at the top is white, and somewhat resembles in its appearance a mural crown; and as the tower is well proportioned, the whole edifice is an ornamental feature in the prospect in the city. —*N. Y. Gaz.*

Antarctic Expedition.—From the tone of the public journals, the proceedings and recommendation of the Secretary of the Navy, on the subject of the national expedition to the South Seas, appears to meet universal approbation; and we may hope, that liberal appropriations will be voted by Congress at an early period of the present session. In the result of an enterprise of this magnitude, the reputation of the country is at stake, and no reasonable expense should be spared to give efficiency to the judicious plans which have been adopted. So far as our observation has extended, the preparatory arrangements are wholly unexceptionable. Vessels admirably fitted for such service, and men of the first talents and attainments in Natural Science have been designated for an expedition, which we have reason to believe will extend the sphere of useful knowledge, open new channels to commerce, and shed lustre upon the character of our country. —*N. Y. Statesman.*

Milledgeville, Ga. Dec. 13.—Between nine and ten o'clock on the morning of the 11th instant, a slight shock was felt in Milledgeville. It continued about five seconds, and was preceded by a rumbling noise proceeding from the west and resembling distant thunder. The concussion affected the windows and doors so as to produce some rattling. The weather was unusually calm; not a breath of wind was perceptible; the atmosphere was warm, and changed with a slight haze assuming in the western horizon the appearance of dense smoke or clouds.

The latest Baltimore prices current quotes flour at \$8 per barrel.