

the maritime, and the tax on tobacco, which was very high in general, whilst in some of the provinces the use of the article was altogether free. The consequence was that the standing army of patrols against smuggling had swelled to the number of twenty-three thousand; the annual arrest of men, women and children, engaged in smuggling, to five thousand five hundred and fifty; and the number annually arrested on account of salt and tobacco alone, to seventeen or eighteen hundred, more than three hundred of whom were consigned to the terrible punishment of the Gallies.

May it not be regarded as among the providential blessings of these States, that their geographical relations, multiplied as they will be by artificial channels of intercourse, give such additional force to the many obligations to cherish that union which alone secures their peace, their safety, and their prosperity! Apart from the more obvious and awful consequences of their entire separation into independent sovereignties, it is worthy of special consideration, that divided, from each other as they must be by narrow waters and territorial lines merely, the facility of surreptitious introductions of contraband articles, would defeat every attempt at revenue in the easy and indirect modes of impost and excise; so that whilst their expenditures would be necessarily and vastly increased by their new situation, they would, in providing for them, be limited to direct taxes on land or other property, to arbitrary assessments on invisible funds, and to the odious tax on persons.

You will observe that I have confined myself, in what has been said, to the constitutionality and expediency of the power in Congress to encourage domestic products by regulations of commerce. In the exercise of the power, they are responsible to their constituents, whose right and duty it is, in that as in all other cases, to bring their measures to the test of justice and of the general good.

With great esteem and cordial regard
JAMES MADISON.
JOS. C. CABELL, Esq.

Twentieth Congress: SECOND SESSION.

December 30. In the senate, to-day the bill making appropriations for the service of the Government in the first quarter of the year 1829 was passed. Mr. Foot presented a memorial from sundry inhabitants of Worthington, in the State of Connecticut, praying that the transportation of the mail on the Sabbath may be discontinued. The memorial was referred to the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads. The bill allowing an additional drawback on imported sugar refined in this country, and exported therefrom, was taken up and discussed for about two hours.

The House of Representatives, after disposing of the various resolutions which were submitted, resumed, in Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, the consideration of the Bill to authorize the occupation of the Oregon Territory. Mr. MITCHELL spoke in opposition to the bill, taking principally the ground that its remoteness, difficulty of access and sterility, rendered the idea of its settlement by civilized citizens wild and visionary. Mr. GORHAM succeeded in opposition to the bill, chiefly on the ground that it would be an infringement of the Convention between this country and Great Britain entered into in 1818, and renewed in 1827. Mr. RICHARDSON, a member of the Committee which reported the bill, advocated its passage, and went into details to show the validity of our title to the Territory about the mouth of the Oregon, and to disprove the statements in relation to its sterility. He was succeeded by Mr. DRAYTON, who objected to the bill in its present shape, and suggested that a discretion should be vested in the President to state adequate measures for the protection of such citizens as may migrate to this Territory. Mr. STONE then obtained the floor, but yielded to Mr. POLK, who suggested that the Committee should rise, and be discharged from the further consideration of the subject, and that the bill should be recommitted with instructions. The Committee, on motion of Mr. STONE, then rose and reported progress. Mr. POLK then moved that the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union be discharged from the further consideration of the bill, and that it be referred to the Committee on the Territories, (the Committee which reported the bill having ceased to exist,) with instructions to amend it by introducing a clause extending the jurisdiction of the Courts of Michigan to the Territory, and also authorizing the sending out of a party of exploration, to survey and make report of the condition and character of the country. Before any question was taken on this motion, the House adjourned.

December 31. In the Senate, to-day, the bill for the continuation of the Cumberland Road was ordered to a third reading. The bill allowing an additional drawback on refined sugar was, after some discussion, ordered to a third reading by a decisive vote. The Senate adjourned over to Friday.

In the House of Representatives, to-day, after various resolutions were offered and adopted, the House took up the consideration of the bill to authorize the occupation of the Oregon territory. Mr. POLK withdrew his motion to recommit the bill, in order to allow Mr. FLOYD an opportunity, which he requested, to amend it so as to meet the wishes of the House. The House then resolved itself into Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, and resumed the discussion of the subject. Mr. STONE spoke against the bill, as containing provisions which would infringe upon the existing convention of Great Britain. Mr. STONE also opposed the bill on the same ground. The amendment offered by Mr. LYON was rejected; and, after an explanation by Mr. GURLEY of the amendment he had submitted, that also was negatively. Mr. WEEMS made some observations in opposition to the bill; and Mr. RICHARDSON offered a brief explanation on the subject of the convention, contending that it could not be violated by the provisions of the bill. Mr. DRAYTON moved to amend the bill by striking out all its material sections, and inserting a substitute, which provides that an exploring party shall be sent out, and that the President shall be authorized to send a part of the army, not to exceed four hundred men, for the protection of such citizens as shall settle there. Mr. FLOYD spoke in reply to the objections urged against the bill, and was replied to by Mr. BATES of Missouri. Mr. TAYLOR then moved an amendment to the amendment of Mr. DRAYTON; and with a view to have the several amendments printed, Mr. WARD moved that the Committee rise, which was agreed to. The amendments were then ordered to be printed.

January 2. In the Senate, to-day, Mr. CHANDLER's resolution for an inquiry into the expediency of continuing the military road from Marshall to the mouth of Madawaska, in the State of Maine; and his resolution for an inquiry into the expediency of abolishing the office of Major General in the army of the United States were agreed to. Mr. DICKERSON's bill for distributing a portion of the revenue of the United States, among the several States, was made the special order of the day for Thursday next. Mr. D. laid on the table a statement showing the time in which the national debt would be extinguished under the present system, and also the time in which it would be paid under the system which he proposed. Some time was spent in the consideration of executive business. The Senate adjourned over to Monday.

In the House of Representatives, a bill was reported by Mr. P. P. BARBON, from the Committee on the Judiciary, concerning the Supreme Court. Some discussion took place on a motion made by Mr. WICKLIFFE to print 3,000 copies of the report of the committee, which was carried in the affirmative. It was opposed on the ground that the circulation of this extra number of copies of the report, in case their should be no legislative action on the subject, would unsettle that public confidence in the Judiciary which was its firm basis. The House then took up the consideration of private business. The unfavorable report of the Committee of Claims, standing over from the last session, on the subject of the claims of certain citizens of the State of Georgia, was taken up in Committee of the Whole, and underwent a brief discussion; but, on motion of Mr. WALDE, the Committee rose, reported progress, and obtained leave to sit again. A message was received from the President of the United States, covering a report from the Secretary of War, in reply to a resolution of the House asking for information as to the intended frauds upon the revenue, referred to in the Message of the President.

January 5. In the Senate, to-day, the Bill authorizing the citizens of Arkansas to elect certain officers, &c. was ordered to a third reading. At one o'clock the Senate proceeded to the consideration of Executive business.

In the House of Representatives, an unusual number of petitions were presented. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury was laid before the House. It enclosed the estimates for the ensuing year, and was referred to the Committee of Ways and Means. Mr. POLK having obtained the floor, made a successful motion to take up the bill, laid on the table at the last session, to authorize the State of Tennessee to make grants and perfect titles. Mr. CROCKETT moved an amendment—after an amendment had been engrafted into the bill, on motion of Mr. POLK—to strike out the whole of the original bill, & substitute an amendment which he had prepared. Some discussion took place on this amendment, the object of which was, instead of making the grants to the State, to make them directly to the settlers who are upon the lands, in the first instance. No question was taken on the amendment, which was ordered to be printed, before the House adjourned.

January 6. In the Senate, to-day, Mr. FOOT presented a memorial from sundry Warrant Offices of the United States Navy, praying additional compensation.

Mr. CHAMBERS gave notice of his intention to introduce a bill for settling the claims of several States for interest due to them from the United States, on moneys advanced by those States, during the late war with Great Britain. A similar bill passed the Senate last session, but was not taken up in the House for want of time. Mr. BENTON's resolution relative to the redemption of the Public Debt, and diminution of the amount of duties on imports, was taken up, and supported by Mr. B. in a speech of two hours length.

In the House of Representatives, to-day, a number of Resolutions were offered. Among others, a resolution was offered by Mr. MINER, on the subject of slavery, and the treatment of slaves, in the District of Columbia; to which a preamble was prefixed detailing a number of outrages committed on slaves. Mr. MINER had just commenced some observations on the subject, when he was obliged to postpone his remarks, in consequence of the expiration of the hour. On motion of Mr. LEA, the further consideration of the bill to authorize the State of Tennessee to issue grants, &c. was postponed until Monday. The House then resolved itself into committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, and took up the bill to authorize the occupation of the Oregon. Some discussion ensued, in which Mr. DRAYTON, Mr. FLOYD, Mr. EVERETT, Mr. BATES of Missouri, Mr. CAMPBELL, and Mr. TAYLOR took part; the question being on a proposition by Mr. TAYLOR to amend the amendment moved by Mr. DRAYTON, (both of which propositions will be found in our report of proceedings.) A division then took place, when it was found that a quorum was not present; on which the Committee rose and reported progress. The House then adjourned.

Indiana Legislature.

January 3. In the senate, the bill giving two additional senators and three representatives to the frontier counties, which was mentioned in the last Journal as having been lost, was, on motion of Mr. Rariden, re-considered and passed by a majority of one vote. The Michigan road bill, which passed the senate some days ago, was amended in the house of representatives, so as to change entirely its route and its termination, and was to-day sent back to the senate for their concurrence. It has not been acted on. The bill providing for a new circuit in the west in a progressive state, and the indications of its passing the senate are very strong. The canal bill has not yet reached that state at which its merits will be acted on. The "eminent domain" resolutions, claiming for the state the right of soil within its boundaries, which had previously passed the house of representatives, was, this day, read a third time and passed, there being but two votes in the negative. An animated discussion took place this afternoon on a bill which had passed the house of representatives, in relation to the rights & powers of courts and juries.

In the house, the joint resolution which originated there, relative to the domain of the public lands, was passed on Wednesday evening, by a handsome majority. On Thursday a resolution passed instructing the judiciary committee to inquire into the expediency of laying off all the territory of the state yet unorganized, into counties. The Michigan road bill was under consideration on Thursday, Friday, and to-day, when it passed in rather a doubtful shape. The first section provides that the road shall go to the Falls; the others that the commissioners shall commence their survey at Madison, continuing the same towards Napoleon, &c. and file a return thereof in the clerks' offices of Decatur, Ripley, and Jefferson counties. Its destiny is yet uncertain—it has created intense interest so often as it has come up, each representative adhering to the point most favorable to his constituents. A bill has been introduced by Mr. Dumont, for the incorporation of agricultural societies. The canal bill was in committee of the whole to-day; the same commissioners were continued, Mr. Burr being named as the acting commissioner; the per diem allowance of the fund commissioners was fixed at \$2. No further progress was made, and the committee has leave to sit again. The bill giving additional representation to the northern counties, passed to-day, by a vote of forty to sixteen. Much local business has been daily transacted.

January 7. The senate, on Monday, proceeded to consider the amendment proposed by the house of representatives to the Michigan road bill. The first amendment was to strike out Shelbyville and Greensburg as intermediate points, and insert Columbus. In this the senate concurred by a large majority. The second amendment was to strike out Madison, and make the Falls of the Ohio the point at which the road should terminate. In this amendment the senate refused to concur—8 for and 13 against it. The house refused to recede, and the senate to concur, and a committee of free conference was appointed, consisting, on the part of the senate, of Messrs. Sering and

Claypool. The committee has not reported. Nothing determinate has yet been done in relation to the school lands. Considerable discussion took place on a motion to postpone the subject until the first Monday in December next, on the ground that the legislature was not prepared to act efficiently, which motion was however withdrawn. The afternoon of Monday and Tuesday was occupied in the discussion of a bill "declaratory of the rights of juries." The 3d section was stricken out, the 4th amended, and the whole bill lost by a refusal to engross it. The discussion took a wide and extensive range, in which the origin of courts and juries, their value as the palladium of our rights and liberties, the necessity of protecting each in the exercise of its constitutional powers, and the danger on the one hand of restraining the court in the exercise of its legitimate functions, and on the other of destroying them subservient to the views of the court, were most glowingly depicted. The canal bill was in committee of the whole this day. Mr. Linton proposed an entire new substitute for the bill, materially different in some respects from the original bill. The sense of the senate has not been taken on the adoption of the substitute. Sundry local bills have been passed.

In the house, on Monday, Mr. Lomas, chairman of the committee on roads, reported a general bill on the subject of opening and repairing highways—the bill now lies on the table. The house insisted on their amendment to the Michigan road bill, which made the Falls the terminating point—a committee of free conference has been appointed, but have not yet reported. Joint resolutions were introduced, recommending an amendment to the constitution of the U. States, so that the president shall be chosen directly by the people, and be ineligible but for one term. The two houses appointed Jeremiah Sullivan, esq. of Madison, as commissioner to Ohio. Mr. Dunn from a select committee, reported on yesterday, a bill to establish an ad valorem system of taxation. The canal bill was yesterday and to-day under consideration—important amendments were made, the purport of which we have not learned, further than they propose a different arrangement in the sale of the lands, and that such parts of the bill as pledged the faith of the state for part of the money loaned, were stricken out.—The bill is ordered to be engrossed. The school bill was in committee of the whole to-day, but no progress was made. The judiciary committee reported an amendment to the act concerning fugitives from justice.

Ind. Journal.

MICHIGAN ROAD.

The bill from the senate to locate and continue the Michigan road to the Ohio river, was under consideration in the house of representatives on the 1st, 2d & 3d inst. and the following proceedings had upon it:

The bill was amended, on motion of Mr. Sweetser, by striking out Shelbyville and Greensburg—ayes 35, noes 23.

Mr. Palmer moved to make Columbus an intermediate point—ayes 40, noes 18.

Mr. Levenworth moved to strike out "Madison" and insert "mouth of Blue river, via Brownstown and Salem."

A division of the question being called for, Madison was stricken out by a vote of 29 to 27. The question recurring on inserting "the mouth of Blue river," &c. was decided in the negative—ayes 24, noes 34.

Mr. Child moved to fill the blank with the words "Falls of Ohio;" adopted—ayes 37, noes 21.

Mr. Marshall moved to insert after Columbus, "via Salem, &c." adopted—ayes 38, noes 20.

Mr. Pennington moved to make Greenville an intermediate point; adopted—ayes 41, noes 17.

Mr. Levenworth moved to reconsider the vote on striking out "Madison;" lost—ayes 26, noes 32. The bill with the amendments were then ordered to be engrossed and read a third time—ayes 36, noes 20.

The bill being read a third time, Mr. Levenworth moved to recommit it to a select committee, with instructions so to amend the same as to extend the road to the Horse Shoe bend.

Mr. Dunn moved to amend the instructions by adding "via Bloomington;" adopted.

Mr. Williams moved further to amend it by making Bedford a point; adopted.

Mr. Mathok moved further to amend, by making Martinsville a point; adopted.

Mr. Robb moved to add to the instructions that the committee strike out so much as relates to the selection of the land; rejected.

Mr. Pabody moved to amend the instructions, so that the committee be directed to strike out so much as relates to the correspondence with the general government; rejected.

The question recurring on the motion of Mr. Levenworth, was decided in the negative—ayes 22, noes 36.

Mr. Craig moved to recommit to a select committee, with instructions to continue the road to Lawrenceburgh, via

Shelbyville, Greensburg and Napoleon; rejected—ayes 26, noes 32.

Mr. Hillis moved to recommit to a select committee with instructions to continue the road to Madison, via Columbus.

Mr. Bassett moved to amend the instructions by striking out "Columbus" and inserting Shelbyville, &c."

The previous question was called, and sustained—ayes 32, noes 26.

And the question being, "Shall the bill pass?" was decided in the affirmative—ayes 48, noes 10.

Washington, Dec. 31.

The question of the establishment of a new territorial government at the mouth of the Oregon (or Columbia) river, now seriously occupies the attention of the house of representatives.

It is a question of complex character. First, it is a question of expediency as regards the effect of such a measure upon our political system. It is difficult to determine how far it is expedient to establish states, hereafter to claim admission into this Union, at so great a distance from the seat of government as to make it doubtful whether they could be adequately represented in the councils, or identified with the general interests of the Union.

Secondly, it is a question of political power, whether the eastern and middle and southern states shall agree to receive into the political limits of the Union other western territories, in addition to those already existing, and which it is already necessary to subdivide, to form a new tier of states, whose influence in the government will lessen more and more those of the old thirteen states.

Thirdly, it is a question of boundary between the United States and a foreign power, which it appears to us to be of more importance to settle than either of the preceding.

By a serious decision upon the pending bill, however, it might happen that all three of these questions would be determined. It is not surprising, therefore, that it invites grave debate. [Nat. Intel.

The following letter from the Postmaster General, addressed to a Postmaster in this vicinity, was handed us for publication, and may give information to some connected with the transportation of mails.

Hartford Times.

General Post Office, 10th Dec. 1828.

SIR: The mail must not in any case whatever be in the custody of a colored person. If a colored person is employed to lift the mail from the stage into the post office, it does not pass into his custody; but the labor is performed in the presence and under the immediate direction of the white person who has it in custody; but if a colored person takes it from a tavern and carries it himself to the post office, it comes into his custody during the time of carrying it, which is contrary to law.

I am very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN McLEAN.

A dreadful accident occurred at New Market, Dorchester county, in this state, on the night of the 25th ult. From a paragraph in the Cambridge Chronicle, it appears that some persons were amusing themselves with exploding fire crackers, when one of them fell into a keg of powder in the store of Charles Smith, jr. The house was instantaneously blown to atoms, two persons were killed, and one so much injured that his life is despaired of. There were but four persons in the house, at the time of the explosion, one of whom, the owner, escaped unhurt.

Baltimore Amer.

A resolution is before the Legislature of Pennsylvania abolishing Military Parades—laying a Military Capitation Tax of one dollar, providing for the education of Officers—giving encouragement to volunteers—and appropriating \$50,000 from the Military Tax, to defray expenses.—Phil. Chron.

Awful Event.—A letter from Brussels (Piedmont) dated 15th September, gives the following details, respecting the dreadful effects of lightning in a neighboring commune:—"Yesterday, the 14th instant, they celebrated mass in the chapel of Romole, situated in the middle of an extensive meadow. About 3 o'clock, in the day, soon after they had commenced Vespers, a violent storm arose, and the lightning striking the choir of the chapel, killed four priests and two seculars. The Archpriest of Frescarolo, aged 60, was struck dead, but appeared sitting in the attitude of one who meditated. Near him they found upon the earth the Archpriest of Sernonva, aged 50, without any exterior wound; also a tailor, aged 36. They found, likewise, near the door of the choir, an individual, whose appearance was that of a man who had died quietly. By the side of the pulpit lay extended upon the earth the Archpriest of Spigalaro, blackened; his face, hands, and hair burnt; his clothes were in rags. Near the body appeared that of the Cure of Romole, in a sitting posture, the countenance expressed great pain and suffering, but no wound was visible."