

Twentieth Congress:

SECOND SESSION.

January 7. In the Senate, to-day, the memorial of sundry citizens of Connecticut was presented praying that the practice of transporting the U. States Mail, on the Sabbath, be discontinued. The Committee on Military Affairs made a report on the memorial of Major General Scott, concluding with a recommendation that the prayer of the memorialist be not granted.

In the House of Representatives to-day, Mr. MINER concluded his observations on the condition of slaves and the subject of slavery in this District. He was succeeded by Mr. WEEMS, who opposed his reasoning in a few brief remarks, when, the hour having expired, the discussion was again arrested. The House then proceeded, in Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, to the consideration of the bill relative to the settlement of the Oregon. The amendment moved by Mr. TAYLOR was negatived by a vote of 60 to 59. Mr. DRAYTON's amendment was then modified by himself, so as to strike out the limitation as to the number of persons to compose the party, and also adding a provision that a military escort should accompany the surveyors. It was further amended, on motion of Mr. INGERSOLL, by adding a section providing that the jurisdiction of the United States Courts should be extended to the Territory, so as to embrace all criminals among the citizens of the United States. In this shape the amendment was adopted, in lieu of the original bill. An attempt was made by Mr. RAMSAY to add a section empowering the President to select a part of this region as a place to which persons convicted of criminal offences might be transported, but the proposition was not sustained.

The committee then took up the bill for the preservation and repair of the Cumberland Road, merely for the purpose of filling the blanks; having done which, the committee rose, and reported the bill concerning the Oregon Territory as amended, and reported progress on the other bill.

January 8. In the senate, to-day, the bill to compensate sundry citizens of Arkansas, for losses sustained from Indian depredations, was ordered to a third reading. After a sitting of half an hour, the Senate adjourned until Monday.

The discussion on Mr. MINER's resolution relative to slavery, and the treatment of slaves, in the District of Columbia, was to-day resumed in the House of Representatives. Mr. WEEMS closed his remarks, when Mr. WILDE called for the previous question. Mr. ALEXANDER then moved to lay the preamble and resolution on the table, on which question the ayes and noes being taken, there appeared—Ayes 66, Noes 107. The motion being decided in the negative, the discussion was arrested, in consequence of the expiration of the hour. The House then concurred in certain amendments (with a slight modification) made by the Senate in a bill to authorize the citizens of Arkansas and Florida to elect certain officers. The other morning business having been disposed of, the House proceeded to the consideration of the bill concerning the occupation of the Oregon river. An amendment, moved by Mr. FLOYD, to direct that one of the forts should be built within the region of tide water, was adopted. Mr. TAYLOR renewed his motion to amend, on which the ayes and noes were taken, when it was decided in the negative—Ayes 72, Noes 84. No other question was taken before the House adjourned.

January 9. The Senate did not sit to-day.

Mr. MINER's resolution was finally acted on to-day in the House of Representatives. The preamble, setting forth various instances of outrage, was modified on motion of Mr. J. C. WRIGHT, and was then rejected by a vote of—ayes 37, noes 141. Mr. WRIGHT having also amended the resolution by substituting two distinct resolutions for the one originally moved, the question was taken separately on the two, and both were agreed to, the first by a vote of 120 to 59, and the second, having reference to the abolition of slavery, generally, in the District, by a vote of 115 to 65. The House then resumed the consideration of the bill relating to the settlement at the mouth of the Oregon, being the unfinished business of the preceding day, when the bill was rejected, on the motion that it be engrossed for a third reading—the vote being for the motion 75, against it 99. The House then resumed the consideration, in Committee of the Whole, of the unfavorable report of the Committee on Indian Affairs, on the claims of certain citizens of Georgia. The question being on a motion made by Mr. THOMPSON, to reverse the decision of the Committee, Mr. WILDE made some remarks, but before he had concluded, the Committee rose, reported progress, and obtained leave to sit again; and the House then adjourned till Monday.

Nat. Journal.

There are one hundred and thirty one students in the University of Virginia.

Indiana Legislature.

January 10. The Canal bill, and the bill providing for the sale of school lands, have occupied a large portion of the attention of the Senate since our last publication. It is impossible now to tell the shape in which either will finally pass, a considerable contrariety of opinion existing in regard to their features and details. Some days ago, the Canal bill was committed to a select committee, by whom a substitute not differing very materially from the original bill, was reported by way of amendment. On this substitute the Senate was occupied this afternoon. Various amendments were proposed, most of which were negatived. One proposition to amend, which was considered somewhat important, and which did not prevail, was to strike out that part of the bill which reserves to the state the use of timber and stone on the line of the canal. Mr. LINTON moved so to amend it as to provide for the sale of but half the land, which was negatived. Another important amendment which did prevail, was offered by Mr. LINTON, providing that one fourth of the purchase money should be paid down. Mr. EWING then moved to lay the bill on the table, for the purpose of having a full vote on the above proposition, which he conceived very important. It was laid on the table.

The House has not acted finally upon much business of general interest, since our last. On Thursday the road bill was taken from the table, and attempts were made to re-commit it with specific instructions; the views on this subject were almost as various as there were members: the chief enquiry however was, whether it were better by a new enactment to cover the whole ground and repeal former laws, or attempt to amend the existing statutes—the bill is committed to a committee of the whole house. Mr. BROWN, on Friday offered a resolution to adjourn (if the Senate concur,) on the 24th instant, which was laid on the table. The bill from the Senate to amend the act concerning crimes and punishments, was in committee of the whole yesterday, when some discussion was had, confined principally to that part which makes a distinction between grand and petit larceny—the sum requisite to constitute the former is fixed at \$5. The school bill, to-day, in committee of the whole was shorn of some of its most important provisions, viz. the appropriation of part of the state revenue towards the fund, and the power to enforce the building of school houses. Mr. SWEETSER offered a substitute, which provided simply for the appointment of a county officer, to be called the Commissioner of the School lands, whose duty it should be to sell the school land and fund the money. Much ability on both sides was displayed in the argument upon this amendment. It did not prevail. The canal bill has passed in its amended shape.

January 14. In the Senate, the Canal bill was, to-day, read a third time and passed, as amended. The vote on the amendment, mentioned in our last summary as having been adopted, providing that one fourth of the purchase-money should be required in hand, was, on Monday, re-considered, and after undergoing a thorough discussion, was again adopted by a large majority. The debate on this proposition, which is considered an important feature in the bill, we shall endeavour to publish hereafter. That part of the bill which reserved to the state the use of the timber and stone on the line of the Canal, was, by common consent, stricken out. The bill from the House of Representatives, together with the substitute offered by Mr. STEVENS, lies on the table. A bill from the House of Representatives, for the payment of the Michigan Road Commissioners, was yesterday agreed to in the Senate. It allowed them one dollar and seventy-five cents per diem for their services, together with the expenses incurred. The Senate is now in committee of the whole on the school bill.

The House on Monday passed the bill providing for the sale of school land and for other purposes. A bill has passed the House which provides that in cases of divorce a decree releasing one party from the matrimonial contract shall operate as a release to both. The bill from the Senate concerning Congressional elections was warmly debated on Monday, it being contended on the one side that the law would be inoperative, that the old states would not submit to our increased representation until we have fulfilled five Congresses under the present ratio, and that the census and return made to Congress would not be in time for our Legislature to arrange the districts so as to give us the additional representative in the Congress next ensuing; these propositions were denied by the friends of the bill who urged that Congress would probably pass a law pursuant to the late recommendation of the President to effect the returns by the Marshalls at a day sufficiently early for our legislature to act upon the subject. On yesterday Mr. HILLIS from the committee of Ways and Means, reported a detailed & very favorable statement of the financial concerns of the

state, and also the general appropriation bill for 1829. The bill to subject trust estates, &c. to execution, and the militia bill were under consideration yesterday and to-day. The House refused to engross the former—ayes 27 noes 29. Mr. ALLEN introduced a joint resolution on this morning, providing for appropriating the 3 per cent fund in the new counties, until its distribution shall have been equalized between the new counties and the old. It has been rejected after the first reading by a vote of 28 to 26.

SOUTHERN FEELINGS.

The following Protest of the Legislature of Georgia was communicated, by the Chair, to the Senate of the U. States, on the 12th inst.

STATE OF GEORGIA.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
Milledgeville, Dec 30th, 1828.

SIR: The enclosed Protest is transmitted to you, to be laid before the Senate of the United States.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN FORSYTH.

Hon. JOHN C. CALHOUN,
Vice President of the U. States.

From a painful conviction that a manifestation of the public sentiment, in the most imposing and impressive form, is called for by the present agitated state of the Southern section of the Union, the General Assembly of the State of Georgia have deemed it their duty to adopt the novel expedient of addressing, in the name of the State, the Senate of the Congress of the United States.

In her sovereign character, the State of Georgia protests against the act of the last session of Congress, entitled "An act in alteration of the several acts imposing duties on imports" as deceptive in its title, fraudulent in its pretences, oppressive in its exactions, partial and unjust in its operations, unconstitutional in its well known objects, ruinous to commerce and agriculture, to secure a hazardous monopoly to a combination of unprincipled manufacturers.

Demanding the repeal of an act which has already disturbed the Union and endangered the public tranquility, weakened the confidence of whole States in the Federal Government, and diminished the affection of large masses of the People to the Union itself, and the abandonment of the degrading system in which considers the People as incapable of wisely directing their own enterprise, which sets up the servants of the People in Congress as the exclusive judges of what pursuits are most advantageous and suitable for those by whom they were elected, the State of Georgia expects that, in perpetual testimony thereof, the deliberate and solemn expression of her opinion will be carefully preserved among the archives of the Senate, and in justification of her character to the present generation, and to posterity, if, unfortunately, Congress, disregarding the protest, and continuing to prevent powers granted for clearly defined and well understood purposes, to effect objects never intended by the great parties to whom the Constitution was framed, to be entrusted to the controlling guardianship of the Federal Government, should render necessary measures of a decisive character, for the protection of the People of the State, and the vindication of the Constitution of the United States.

IRBY HUDSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

JOHN A. STOKES,
President of the Senate.

JOHN FULTON, Governor.

Mr. BERRIEN said that the announcement made from the Chair, imposed a duty on his colleague and himself, which, with his assent, he would perform, by giving a direction, with the sanction of the Senate, to the document, which had been just announced. I am not willing, Sir, [said Mr. B.] to see an act so grave and interesting in its character, pass away with those mere every day events which are forgotten almost in the instant of their occurrence. In order, therefore, that it may be distinctly presented to the notice of the Senate, before I submit the motion which it calls for, I will state its purport, and avail myself of the occasion to make a very brief remark.

That document, sir, of which an official copy has been transmitted to my colleague and myself, is the protest of the State of Georgia, made through her constitutional organs, to this assembly of the Representatives of States, against the "act, in alteration of the several acts laying duties on imports," passed at the late session of the Congress of the U. States. In her sovereign character, as one of the original members of this confederacy, by whom this Government was called into existence, that State protests against this act, on the several grounds, which are specifically set forth, in that instrument, which is attested by the signatures of her Legislative and Executive functionaries, and authenticated under her public seal.

It is now delivered to this Department of the Federal Government, to be deposited in its archives, in perpetuum rei memoriam, to serve whenever the occasion may require it, as an authentic testimony of the solemn dissent of one of the Sovereign States of this Union from the act therein protested against, as an infraction of the constitutional compact by which she is united to the other members of this Confederacy.

It is difficult, Sir, to repress—it is, perhaps, still more difficult appropriately to express the feelings which belong to such an occasion as the present. I have been educated in sentiments of reverence for our Federal Union, and, through life, I have habitually cherished these sentiments. As an individual citizen, therefore, it is painful to recur to that disastrous policy which has imposed on the State in which I live the stern necessity of assuming this relation to the Government of this Confederacy.

As one of the Representatives on this floor of that State, whose citizens have

always been forward to manifest a profound and devoted attachment to this Union—of a patriotic and gallant People, who would freely yield their treasure, and unsparingly shed their blood in its defence; the occasion is one of deep and unmingled humiliation, which demands the deposite, in the Registry of the Senate, of this record of their wrongs. There may those, sir, who will look to this act with indifference—perhaps with levity; who will consider it as the result of momentary excitement—and see, or think they see in it, merely, the effusion of impassioned, but evanescent feeling. I implore those gentlemen not to deceive themselves, on a subject, in relation to which error may be alike dangerous to us all.

Forty years of successful experiment have proved the efficiency of this Government to sustain us in an honorable intercourse with the other nations of the world. Externally, in peace and in war, amid the fluctuations of commerce, and the strife of arms, it has protected our interests and defended our rights. One trial, one fearful trial, yet remains to be made. It is one, under the apprehension of which the bravest may tremble—which the wise and the good will anxiously endeavor to avoid. It is that experiment which shall test the competency of this Government to preserve our internal peace, whenever a question vitally affecting the bond, which unites us as one People, shall come to be solemnly agitated between the sovereign members of this Confederacy. In proportion to its dangers, should be our solicitude to avoid it, by abstaining on the one hand from acts of doubtful legislation, as well as by the manner of resistance on the other, to those which are deemed unconstitutional. Between the independent members of this Confederacy, sir, there can be no common arbiter. They are necessarily remitted to their own sovereign will, deliberately expressed, in the exercise of those reserved rights of sovereignty, the delegation of which would have been an act of political suicide. The designation of such an arbiter, sir, was, by the force of invincible necessity, *casus omissus*, among the provisions of a Constitution conferring limited powers, the interpretation of which was to be confided to the subordinate agents, created by those who were entrusted to administer it.

I earnestly hope that the wise and conciliatory spirit of this Government, and of those of the several States, will postpone, to a period far distant, the day which will summon us to so fearful a trial. If we are indeed doomed to encounter it, I as earnestly hope that it may be entered upon in the spirit of peace, and with cherished recollections of former amity. But the occasion which shall impel the sovereign People of even one of the members of this Confederacy, to resolve, that they are not bound by its acts, is one to which no patriot can look with levity, or yet with indifference. Whatever men and freemen may do to avert it, the People of Georgia will do. Deeply as they feel the wrongs which they suffer, they will yet bear and forbear. Though their complaints have been hitherto disregarded, and their remonstrances have been heretofore set at naught, they will still look with confidence to the returning justice of this Government.

I fulfil my duty, sir, on this occasion, with a cherished reliance on that justice—with a deep and abiding conviction of the patriotism and forbearance of that People by whom it is demanded—with a humble, but unwavering trust in the mercy of Heaven.

On motion of Mr. BERRIEN, the letter and protest were then ordered to be printed, for the use of the Senate.

[While on this subject, we will give the following extract from the "Cheraw Radical," a paper printed in South Carolina.]

"Although we do think, and we fearlessly express it, that South Carolina is virtually absolved from all obligations to this Confederacy. The end for which this government was instituted has been defeated, and it must of necessity resolve itself into its original elements. The compact has been broken, & not by us. National, like individual, compacts are null and void, so soon as there is a failure of compliance with the requisitions on the part of either of the parties. With the passage of the tariff bill, the ligatures that bound this nation together were severed asunder. We are no longer bound by any other ties than those of natural affection, or such as may arise from any other extraneous causes. There is no moral or legal compulsion, by which we may be constrained to keep up this unnatural and unequal alliance. We look upon the union now solely as a matter of policy. The only question now before us, is, whether it is our interest to secede, and set up a separate government for ourselves. Or, in other words, whether it would be more advantageous to us to secede from the union, or to adhere to it, and bear and writhe under our present oppressions. We should not hesitate to choose between these alternatives. We are willing to suffer yet a little longer in the hope that the advocates of this sys-

tem may see the error of their way, and abandon it. But if they continue to persevere in it, we can only say—that we have warned you against the 'Rattlesnake of the South.' Beware of its deadly blow. The cup of forbearance has been well nigh exhausted. Before we will be compelled to drink the bitter dregs of slavery, we will say, 'give us liberty or give us death.'

Principal events of 1828. The battle of Navarin and the liberation of Greece by the French troops.

The invasion of Turkey by the Russians and the unexpected vigor and success of the Turks in defence.

The usurpation of Don Miguel in Portugal and the submission of the Portuguese.

The fall the minister Villele and his party in France, and the comparative triumph of liberal principles throughout the French government.

The rapid changes in the British ministry, and the final ascendancy and elevation of the Duke of Wellington.

The repeal of the Test Acts by the British parliament; the election of O'Connell, in Ireland, to the exclusion of Fitzgerald; the diffusion and completion of the project of Catholic Association in that country; the general progress in Great Britain of the cause of Catholic emancipation or religious right.

The peace between Buenos Ayres and Brazil, including the establishment of the independent state of Montevideo, under the auspices of Great Britain.

The convulsions in the republic of Colombia; the overthrow of her constitution; the assumption of the supreme power by the military chief, Bolivar.

The various revolutions in Peru and Chili, adverse to the plans and power of Bolivar, and the subversion of his Bolivian constitution in Upper Peru; the declaration of war between Colombia and Peru.

The conspiracies and rebellions in Mexico; the failure of Bravo's plot, and his banishment; the election of Pedraza to the exclusion of general Victoria; the insurrection of gen. Santa Anna.

In the United States—the adoption of a tariff; the violence of the opposition to it in the South; the proceedings thereon of the legislatures of South Carolina and Georgia; the violence of the contest for the office of president; the abuse of the liberty of the press by incessant invective and calumny; the publication of private letters; the reports of private conversations; the election of gen. Jackson to the exclusion of Mr. Adams; the general and easy submission to the will of the majority; the new evidence of almost universal trust in the efficacy of our institutions, and the spirit of the country.—The chief glory of the end of the year 1828, is the situation of this Union. [Nat. Gaz.]

The ceremony of wishing a happy new year, originated with the Romans during the joint reign of Romulus and Tatius the Sabine. On the first day of every January, the people presented gifts to each other, and sacrificed to the gods for the health and welfare of their relatives and friends. Figs and dates, covered with a thin coating of beaten gold, together with honey and newly opened flowers, were the most frequent offerings from one to another. At a subsequent period, the British Druids were accustomed on this occasion to cut the sacred mistletoe with the golden knife, and distribute it among the people.—In the latter part of the 14th century, pins were considered very acceptable presents to the ladies on a new year's day. At that time the wooden skewers with which the dress used to be adjusted, began to go out of fashion. It is recorded that, during the reign of Henry 8th, among the gifts received by that monarch on a new year's day, was a copy of the Bible, with a leaf turned down at one of the verses of the 13th chapter of Hebrews. The book came from Latimer, who was not in the habit of flattering people. In Queen Elizabeth's day, all the lords, temporal and spiritual, together with the officers of her household, were obliged to deposit new year's gifts at the foot of the throne. Goossius used to say that in this way her majesty replenished her wardrobe, and that though she scrupulously made a return for these compliments to every individual by whom they were paid, yet that the balance was always in her own favor. In England, the ushering in of the new year was formerly attended with great ceremony. The young men and maids of every village, used to assemble at a very early hour, and awake the inhabitants with a merry rustic song, and tender to such as admitted them into the house their spiced wassail bowl.

Boston Adv.

Gen. Jackson.—We are informed that Gen. Jackson will set out from the Hermitage, for Washington City, about the 29th inst. Should the Ohio River be open and navigable by steam boats, he will pass through Louisville, and ascend the river to Wheeling or Pittsburgh; otherwise he will travel through Virginia, to Washington. If the weather should continue cold, he will necessarily be constrained to take the last mentioned route.—Louis. Pub. Adv.