

lar per diem for and during their attendance on Circuit and Probate Courts.

Mr. Proffit moved the following resolution which was also negatived:

Resolved, That the committee on the Judiciary be instructed to inquire into the expediency of so amending the law as to abolish the punishment by death, in cases where our statute inflicts such punishment.

A Bill was presented by Mr. Culley, supplemental to an act confirming to John J. Akin, Alexander Walker, and John Livingston, certain rights.

Which Bill passed to a second reading on to-morrow.

IN SENATE.

MONDAY, Jan. 2, 1832.

On motion of Mr. Ewing, The resolution offered on Saturday, by Mr. Lomax, and laid on the table, on the subject of districting the state for Congressional purposes, was taken up.

Mr. Lomax moved to amend the same by changing the reference thereto mentioned from the Judiciary, to a select Committee consisting of one member from each judicial district.

Which motion prevailed, and the resolution as amended, was adopted.

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 4.

Mr. Pollock presented the petition of Samuel Jelley and other citizens of Dearborn county, praying an act reinstating the record of a state road leading from Madison via Vevay, Rising Sun, and Aurora to Lawrenceburgh; which was read and referred to the committee on roads.

Mr. Whitcomb, from the committee on education, to which was referred two bills on the subject of incorporating congressional townships, now reported the same with several amendments, which were concurred in, and the bill and amendments committed to a committee of the whole and made the order of the day for to-morrow.

On motion of Mr. Morgan it was,

Resolved, That the judiciary committee be instructed to inquire and report to the Senate, whether colored persons who are freeholders or householders, are entitled or not to vote for or against a public school, in their respective school districts.

Mr. Dumont obtained leave to introduce a bill to provide for building a bridge over Laughery creek in Ripley county; which was read twice, and on motion of Mr. Sering committed to a committee of the whole Senate and made the order of the day for to-morrow.

THURSDAY, Jan. 5.

On motion of Mr. Ewing, Resolved, That our Secretary be directed to procure of the clerk of the United States District Court, a certified abstract of the late census returned to his office by the marshal, showing the aggregate population of each county and district of territory within this state; and the fee thereby incurred shall be allowed in the specific appropriation bill.

On motion of Mr. Whitcomb, Resolved, That a select committee be appointed to inquire into the expediency of memorializing Congress for the passage of a law by that body, providing for the sale of public lands, in tracts of forty acres, if wished by the purchasers, by an equal division of half quarter sections of land; and also by a division of fractions where the same may amount to more than 80 acres.

FRIDAY, Dec. 6.

A message was received from the House informing the Senate, that the amendments made by the Senate to the act to provide for changing a part of the state road leading from New Albany to Vincennes, and the act to change a part of the state road leading from Indianapolis and Rockville to Montezuma, have been agreed to by the House of Representatives.

A message was received from the House of Representatives informing the Senate that the House had adopted a resolution requiring the committee on public buildings to enquire into the expediency of appointing a commissioner to superintend the building of a state house, and the putting said house under contract the ensuing summer.

HOUSE.

FRIDAY, Jan. 6.

Mr. Caeey, from the committee on military affairs to which was referred so much of the Governor's Message as relates to the militia, reported that it is deemed inexpedient to legislate on that subject at this time.

Mr. Wilson, from the committee on roads to which was referred a petition praying a change in the state road from Indianapolis to Madison, reported against the expediency of legislating on that subject, and reported a bill authorizing applications for changes in state roads to be made to the Circuit Courts.

Mr. Henley, from the select committee to which was referred a petition on that subject, reported a bill to incorporate the Ohio and Wabash Rail-road Company, which was read and passed to a second reading.

REPORT OF THE Postmaster General.

Post Office Department
27th November, 1831.

To the President of the United States:

SIR: The following report of the progress and condition of this Department is respectfully submitted:

The revenues of the Department, being the amount of postages within the year, commencing on the first of July, 1830, and ending the 30th June, 1831, were \$1,997,811 54

The expenditures of the Department, within the same period, were 1,935,539 36

Being for compensation to Postmasters, \$635,028 48

For transportation of mail, 1,252,226 44

For incidental expenses, 48,304 44

Leaving an excess of revenue beyond the expenses of the Department, amounting to 62,252 18

Of this sum there have been paid into the Treasury (being irregularly deposited by collecting officers) 563 51

Showing a balance in favor of the Department, of 61,688 67

The surplus of revenue on the 1st of July, 1830, as stated in the report of last year, amounted to 148,724 22

Thus the surplus revenue at the disposal of the department on the 1st of July, 1831, was \$310,412 89

This surplus, reported as available, and at the disposal of the department, is founded on a statement in the report of the late Postmaster General, of 1828, and on the assumption that all the postages which have accrued since my first report in 1829, will have been collected. Of the postages returned within that time, it is confidently believed the losses in collection, will not amount to one-fourth of *one per centum*.

The whole amount of postages from July 1st, 1828, to July 1st, 1829, was \$1,707,418 42

From July 1st, 1829, to July 1st, 1830 1,850,583 10

From July 1st, 1830, to July 1st, 1831 1,997,811 54

The increase of postage within the year ending July 1st, 1829, above the amount of the year preceding, was \$108,540 47

The increase of the year ending July 1st, 1830, above the amount of the preceding year, was 143,164 68

The increase of the year ending July 1st, 1831, above the amount of the year preceding, was 147,228 44

The expenses of the department for the year preceding July 1st, 1828, exceeded its revenues in the sum of \$25,015 80

For the year preceding July 1st, 1829 74,714 15

For the year preceding July 1st, 1830 82,124 85

But for the year preceding July 1st, 1831, the revenues of the Department have exceeded its expenditures in the sum of 62,252 18

The favorable terms upon which the contracts were last year made for the transportation of the mail in the southern division, commencing on the first day of January last, have assisted in producing the result exhibited by the following fact: The revenue of the department for the half year beginning with the first of January last, exceeded the expenditure for the same period in the sum of \$75,475 91

Whereas for the half year preceding the first of January, 1831, the expenditure exceeded the revenue in the sum of 13,223 73

The difference in which results constitutes the excess of revenue over disbursement for the year now reported, of 62,252 18

From the first of July, 1830, to the first of July, 1831, the transportation of the mail was increased, in stages, equal to 834,450 miles a year. Horseback and sulkies, 134,252 miles a year. Making an annual increase of transportation equal to 968,702 miles beyond the amount of any former period.

Many routes have also been improved by substituting stages for horse mails, to the annual amount of 362,321 miles.

The total annual increase of stage transportation from July 1st, 1830, to July 1st, 1831, was 1,196,771 miles.

The annual decrease of transportation, on horseback, within the same time by substituting stages, was 228,069 miles.

Making the annual increase as above, 968,702 miles.

On the first of July, 1831, the annual transportation of the mail was, In stages and steamboats 10,728,358 m. Horseback and in sulkies 4,740,344 m.

Making the whole annual transportation 15,468,692 m.

Other improvements are also determined on, in which remote parts of the country are immediately interested; among them are, the establishment of a regular steamboat mail on the river Ohio, between Guyandotte, in Virginia, Cincinnati, in Ohio, and Louisville, in Kentucky; to form a daily connection with the line of post coaches from this place, and from Richmond, in Virginia, to Guyandotte; and the improvement of the route to a daily line between Macon, in Georgia; Mobile, in Alabama; and New Orleans, so as to constitute a daily intercourse between New Orleans and the Atlantic cities, and with a dispatch of twelve days between New Orleans and this city.

These two improvements are already in a state of progress, and it is expected will soon be in complete operation.

The contracts for transporting the mails in the middle division of the Union, comprising the states of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Kentucky, and Ohio, and the Territory of Michigan, will end with the present year. In renewing the contracts for this division, provision has been made for stage accommodation over 560 miles of post roads, on which the mail had before been carried on horseback, and on which the annual transportation in stages will, from the first of January next, amount to 62,365 miles. On 1,803 miles of post roads, where the mail is already carried in stages, the frequency of trips will also be increased to the annual amount of 407,524 miles. By these arrangements, an annual increase of stage transportation is secured, from the first of January next, of 469,889 miles on that section. The value of these improvements, at the lowest estimate, is as follows:

469,889 miles of stage transportation, at nine cents per mile, \$42,299 01.

Deduct 62,365 miles of horse transportation superceded by stages, at 4 cent per mile, 2,494 60

Nett value of improvements, \$39,795 41

The acceptances for the new contracts, besides the securing of these improvements are not so great as the amount now paid for the transportation on that division, by \$51,787 18. The renewal of the contracts therefore, saves in money, to the department, the sum of 51,787 18

Which, added to the value of the improvements, effects a saving of \$91,582 50

Other improvements, highly important in their character, are proposed, the decisions on which have been deferred for further consideration. It is, however, anticipated, from the saving which has been effected in renewing the contracts, that the Department will possess the ability to make some further improvements in this division of mail routes.

There were, on the first of July last, 8,686 post offices.

To the plan adopted for their supervision, and the vigilance with which it is observed, together with the system of finance which is strictly adhered to, may be attributed, in no small degree, the increasing prosperity of the Department.

I have the honor to be,

With high regard

Your obedient servant,

W. T. BARRY.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

The following is the Report of the minority of the Committee on Federal Relations, in the Legislature of South Carolina, to whom was referred so much of the Governor's Message as

refers to the correspondence between the President of the United States and sundry citizens of Charleston:

The minority, two out of thirteen, of the Committee on Federal Relations, beg leave to submit their report on so much of the Governor's message as refers to the correspondence between the President of the United States and a large and respectable portion of the citizens of Charleston.

They deem it perfectly in accordance with the character of the first magistrate of the United States, to inculcate sentiments of attachment to the union, and to promote the practice of moderation and forbearance in the contentions of party.

That the letter of the President dated 14th June, 1831, was evidently designed to dispose all parties to peace and content, therefore be considered a denunciation of either.

It is but too well known that the citizens of this state are at variance among themselves on questions growing out of the same controversy that prevails between them and the general government. No one

can deny that these disputes have elicited feelings of distrust and jealousy

which every patriot must regard with pain.

The good dispositions, which are the foundation of social peace and order, become liable in cases of strong excitement to lose their influence. It is against this danger the President with the best intentions, undertook to caution our fellow citizens, in language mild and becoming his station. His letter is dictated in the same spirit with the invitation to which it returned an answer. No conspiracy or ill designs were imputed to any citizens in the invitation to the President. They stated that, of which no one can be ignorant, who is acquainted with the principles of human nature, or the theory of free government. He deprecated the tendency of a long continued and bitter controversy to loosen the ties of a government depending altogether on opinion.

The answer of the President gives the highest assurance of his desire to restore tranquility by removing the causes of complaint, and to embrace the opportunity of doing so, which is afforded by the approaching extinction of the public debt.

As a further inducement for the exercise of forbearance, he has in the same letter presented the consequences of a separation of the United States, considered as the alternative of forbearance, and expresses the opinion, certainly not improbable, that it would begin with civil discord, and end in colonial dependence on a foreign Power. It is to be hoped that an occasion will never occur for testing the correctness of this opinion, but the expression of it cannot be regarded as offensive even by those who may think it mistaken.

Exception has been taken to another sentiment expressed by the President, namely, "that high and sacred duties, which must and will at all hazards be performed, present an insurmountable barrier to the success of any plan of disorganization," but it is supererogation to infer from this expression the President intended to menace the constituted authorities of the State with the military force of the General Government.

The sovereign State of South Carolina is not named or referred to. No one can deny that "any plan of disorganization" coming within the purview of the constitutional powers of the President, would impose on him "the obligation of high and sacred duties;" and it is little to be doubted that, in such an exigency, those duties would be performed at any hazard.

But the respect which the President has uniformly shown for the rights of the States, forbids the supposition that he ever entertained the idea of military aggression against the *peaceful, yet sovereign* authority of South Carolina. When it is considered that this letter was addressed to private citizens, and that the scope and tendency of it is to allay the violence of resentment, and to inspire sentiments of mutual confidence and attachment to the Union, it must be concluded that any other construction is as much at variance with the intention of the writer as the imputation to the State of treason, privy conspiracy or rebellion, would be groundless and unjust.

Therefore, Resolved, That the letter of the President, dated 14th June, 1831, was dictated by an honest anxiety for the welfare of his native State, and deserves the approbation of every one attached to the union of the States, and devoted to the honor and happiness of South Carolina.

HUGER.

Mr. Van Buren and the opposition. It is quite amusing to note the contortions—the wishes—the hopes—the fears and all that sort of thing in the ranks of the opposition respecting the confirmation of Mr. VAN BUREN as Minister to England. Some are afraid to reject him, others call loudly for his rejection—some hide their chagrin by uttering a stale jest—others show their bitter temper by gross abuse. The editor of the Richmond Whig cries out: "for Heaven's sake don't reject Van—he is quite harmless in England, but here he would be the very devil."

"No," says he of the New York American "if it makes Van Buren Vice President next year, and President hereafter, reject him at once—who's afraid?" Up jumps Cock Robin of the anti-masonic Evening Journal "I am half of your opinion Mr. American and half against it—but for policy's sake he is better in England than here—let him be confirmed."

"What's all this about?" says the Ex-Mayor of Washington—"it's a good joke is it not to reject Van?" "A joke," says Duff Green "let him be rejected and Secretary McLane also—they are both equally culpable in regaining the Colonial Trade—I'll punish them both afterwards with my battery—what say you Mr. American and half against it?"

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not to reject him. Mr. Webster it is said, is very busy arranging parties in the Senate so as to make it a tie and let the Vice President have the casting vote. He says to Mr. Tazewell—"Sir his resignation will depend on you—if you want him rejected say so, and our troops will go the whole"—"Ditto" says Mr. Clay.

Now the question which creates such a sensation among nations is viewed with perfect indifference by the democratic party. Not a man—not a journal that we have seen, cares a fig whether Mr. Van Buren is rejected or not. His standing among the people—his unquestionable talents—his firm republican character cannot be affected by any opposition from the nation, or any course they may pursue. Engaged in the British capital with one of the most important negotiations that ever was originated between two powerful countries—the independence of the United States on the ocean in war and peace—he is unassailable—and unconquerable. The brilliant success of his administration of the State Department during the period he held it, cannot be obliterated by political prescription. The rejection of Mr. Van Buren is meditated by the opposition principally to give a blow to General Jackson, and impair the public confidence in his administration. If the opposition Senators venture on such a measure, they will repent it in sack cloth and ashes. As to Mr. Van Buren's friends they