

SPEAKER presided a letter from Mr. *Duponceau*, on the subject of the bill in relation to the culture of silk, &c., which was referred. Mr. *Ellsworth*, from the Committee on Manufactures, reported a bill punishing the making and transporting counterfeit foreign coins, which was read twice and committed. Mr. *JARVIS*, from the Committee on Commerce, reported a bill repealing in part the 5th section of the act to establish ports of delivery at Pochertrain and Delaware city, and for other purposes, which was read twice and committed. Mr. *MASON*, from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, reported a bill for the relief of John W. Flowers and others, which was read twice and committed.

[The house resumed the consideration of the Houston case, and again adjourned without coming to a decision.]

MAY 12. In the *Senate*, yesterday, the bill to give effect to the commercial arrangement, concluded with the government of Colombia, was ordered to a third reading. Much private business was disposed of. The Post Office bill was taken up, the question being on ordering the bill to be read a third time. Mr. *BROWN* renewed his motion to amend the bill by adding a clause, abolishing postage on newspapers from and after the 31st day of July next. The question being taken, it was decided in the negative, as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. *Bell*, *Bibb*, *Clay*, *Ewing*, *Foot*, *Frelighs*, *Hayne*, *Holmes*, *Johnston*, *Knight*, *Miller*, *Moore*, *Naudain*, *Poindexter*, *Prentiss*, *Robbins*, *Ruggles*, *Seymour*, *Silsbee*, *Sprague*, *Tomlinson*, *Waggaman*.—22.

NAYS—Messrs. *Benton*, *Brown*, *Buckner*, *Dallas*, *Dickerson*, *Dudley*, *Ellis*, *Forsyth*, *Grundy*, *Hendricks*, *Hill*, *Kane*, *King*, *Mangum*, *Marcy*, *Robinson*, *Sinith*, *Tazewell*, *Tipton*, *Troup*, *Tyler*, *White*, *Wilkins*.—23.

The bill was then ordered to a third reading. The Pension Bill was taken up, the question being on the motion to recommit the bill with instructions to amend it so as to provide for those officers and soldiers who fought in the Indian wars, prior to the year 1795. Messrs. *Foot*, *Holmes*, and *CLAY* spoke against the motion and in favor of the bill, and Mr. *Brown* spoke briefly in opposition to the bill. The *Senate*, on motion of Mr. *Holmes*, adjourned to Monday, by a vote of 22 to 16.

In the *House of Representatives*, Mr. *DODDRIDGE*, moved the further postponement of the motion to reconsider the vote upon the bill in favor of taking a part of the stock of the Alexandria Canal Company, until Tuesday next, which was agreed to.

BANK OF THE UNITED STATES.

Mr. *McDUFFIE*, in behalf of the minority of the Committee upon the United States Bank, offered a counter report, which he moved might be laid on the table and printed.

Mr. *CAMBERLENG* hoped the gentleman from South Carolina [Mr. *McDuffie*] would withdraw his motion to lay the Report upon the table—which being done, Mr. *C.* enquired whether the answers of the President of the Bank, to the questions submitted by him, were appended to the Report?

Mr. *McDUFFIE* replied, they were.

Mr. *CAMBERLENG* said he would submit a remark in relation to these answers. In consequence of their character, he should be obliged to submit other questions to the President of the Bank. He had hoped that these examinations would have been made in Philadelphia, when he could have examined the President orally and prevented the necessity of any further enquiries. He had, however, waived the advantage of a personal examination and left the questions with the President of the Bank, to be answered at his leisure. In taking such a course, he had not supposed that any advantage would be taken by the President of the Bank of the United States—that he would deny, without explanation, many statements founded on the monthly returns, annually transmitted to the Treasury—and that by putting his own construction upon questions, or by misapprehending them, he would answer enquiries which had never been submitted, apparently for the purpose of making them appear ridiculous. He only rose for the purpose of stating his intention to submit other questions to the President of the Bank, growing out of his answers, which he should hereafter present to the House.

Mr. *McDUFFIE* said he had attentively read the answers, and they appeared to be full replies to the questions propounded. If any mistake or misapprehension had occurred, it was, most probably, on the part of the gentleman from New-York.

Mr. *CAMBERLENG* said in reply, that, if the gentleman from South Carolina would take the trouble to examine the questions and answers with him, he thought he could satisfy him that many of the questions had not been answered—that statements were denied which were founded on documents received from the Bank annually—and that the President of the Bank had, whether from misconstruction or not, answered questions which it certainly never was his intention to submit to him or to any one else. In answering the questions too, a spirit somewhat tart had been displayed, which he had not anticipated, on such an occasion, and particularly from the President of the Bank of the United States, on subjects so seriously affecting the public interest.

Mr. *McDUFFIE* said, as the interrogatories and the replies would be printed at length, the members of the House would be able to judge, for themselves, whether the answers were fairly given. He would move to refer the papers to the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, to which the subject was referred—which was agreed to.

Mr. *ADAMS* said, in consequence of his peculiar situation upon the Committee, he had found himself obliged to draw up his own views of the investigation—which he hoped to be able to present to the House on Monday.

Mr. *CLAYTON* enquired whether it would

be now in order to move the printing of an extra number of both reports?

The **SPEAKER** suggested that, as the report of the gentleman from Massachusetts would probably be presented from Monday, the motion had better be deferred—to which Mr. *CLAYTON* assented.

[The Houston case was then taken up, and decided, as reported under date of the 14th.]

MAY 14. Neither House of Congress sat on Saturday.

On Friday night the case of Gen. Houston, which was before the House of Representatives when our paper went to press, was not disposed of till nearly eleven o'clock. After Mr. *KERR* concluded his speech, Mr. *DICKSON* took the floor, in support of the amendment, and addressed the House at length. When he had concluded a call of the House was ordered—193 members answered to their names. The question was then taken on Mr. *HUNTINGDON*'s amendment, declaring Gen. Houston guilty of a contempt and breach of privilege, which was carried—aye 106, nays 89.

Mr. *CLAY* then moved the following resolution:

Resolved, That it is inexpedient to proceed further in the case of Samuel Houston, and that he be discharged from the custody of the Sergeant-at-Arms.

Mr. *C.* said, quite time enough had been already spent in the discussion, and he would not detain the House by any remarks upon the propriety of the resolution.

Mr. *HUNTINGDON* moved the following amendment—strike out all after the word *resolved* and insert—

That Samuel Houston be brought to the bar of the House, on Monday next, at 12 o'clock, and be there reprimanded by the **SPEAKER**, for the contempt and violation of the privileges of the House, of which he has been guilty; and that he be then discharged from the custody of the Sergeant-at-Arms.

Resolved, That Samuel Houston be excluded from the exercise of the privilege conferred by the 13th standing rule of the House.

Whereupon Mr. *DAVIS*, of South Carolina, rose to enquire of the Chair whether the second resolution was in order under the rules of the House?

The **SPEAKER** decided that the second resolution was not in order, under the 13th and 105th rules of the House. By the 13th rule, every individual who has been a member of either branch of the legislature, has the right of admission to the privileged seats within the Hall. This is one of the standing rules of the House. By the 105th rule, it is declared that no standing rule or order of the House shall be rescinded or changed without one day's notice being given therefor. The Chair regarded the second resolution, of the gentleman from Connecticut, (Mr. *Huntingdon*), as effectually changing this 13th rule, to which it expressly refers in terms. It is therefore a proposition to change a standing rule and order of the House, under cover of an amendment, without *one day's notice*, and in direct violation of another rule of the House. The 105th rule expressly forbids its being done. The resolution, therefore, in the opinion of the Chair, is not in order without one day's notice.

From this decision Mr. *MERCER* appealed, and the decision of the Chair was reversed. So the amendment was decided by the House to be in order.

Mr. *LAMAR* called for a division of the question. The question was stated upon the first member of the amendment directing Gen. Houston to be reprimanded and discharged.

Mr. *ARCHER* thought the majority of the House, who had solemnly asserted the power of unlimited punishment, were now creeping out from the consequences of that decision.—The penalty proposed might be proper for an idle school boy—but, in this case, it was altogether childish. He hoped gentlemen would now show firmness enough to impose imprisonment, at least, upon the accused, in order that the question of power could be brought before a Court of Justice.

Mr. *HUNTINGDON* said, the gentleman from Virginia could move an amendment imposing imprisonment, if he thought proper. The two resolutions together, expressed the strongest censure he could conceive of on the part of the House.

Mr. *W. THOMPSON* said, after so much time as had been spent in the affair, gentlemen ought not to shrink from the responsibility of playing the game out. The offence charged against the accused, had been characterized as of the most flagitious nature. If such was the fact, after assuming the power of punishment, the dignity of the House required some infliction. These resolutions inflicted no punishment whatever, and only turned the whole course of proceeding into ridicule.

The question was then taken on the first member of the amendment, and was carried—aye 106, nays 89.

The question on the second member of the amendment was then stated as follows:

Resolved, That Samuel Houston be excluded from exercise of the privilege conferred by the 13th standing rule of the House.

Mr. *McDUFFIE* said, as the interrogatories and the replies would be printed at length, the members of the House would be able to judge, for themselves, whether the answers were fairly given. He would move to refer the papers to the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, to which the subject was referred—which was agreed to.

Mr. *HUNTINGDON* considered this branch of the amendment as consequent upon that already adopted. It was the practical enforcement of the privileges of the House against the person who had been guilty of a contempt of the House.

Mr. *ADAMS* said, in consequence of his peculiar situation upon the Committee, he had found himself obliged to draw up his own views of the investigation—which he hoped to be able to present to the House on Monday.

Mr. *CLAYTON* enquired whether it would

House could do, was to imprison, during the remainder of the session. He would prefer that, to fixing this punishment, during life, upon an individual who had served his country with credit both in the field and on this floor.

Mr. *COKE* replied to Mr. *CAMBERLENG*.—The accused enjoyed this right only under the rule of the House. He was not disposed to permit the person who had been so evidently adjudged guilty of a contempt of the House, to walk into this Hall—a privilege denied the mass of our fellow citizens.

Mr. *CRAIG* could perceive no beneficial result from this part of the amendment, and should vote against it.

Mr. *BLAIR*, of South Carolina, said, he had voted against the accused so far, from a sense of duty, and at the expense of his personal feelings. The accused was his friend, and had conducted himself in this affair, like a man of honor. He had gone thus far to sustain the power of the House, but would go no further.

The amendment was further opposed by Messrs. *Clayton* and *Burd*, when the question was taken and was negatived.—Yeas 90, Nays 101.

The question was then taken upon agreeing to the resolution as amended by the first clause above stated which was carried as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. *Adams*, *C. Allan*, *Allison*, *Appleton*, *Armstrong*, *Babcock*, *Banks*, *J. S. Barbour*, *Barnwell*, *Barringer*, *Barstow*, *L. C. Bates*, *James Blair*, *Briggs*, *Bullard*, *Burd*, *Burges*, *Caahon*, *Choate*, *Coke*, *L. Condict*, *S. Condict*, *E. Cooke*, *B. Cooke*, *Corwin*, *Coulter*, *Crane*, *Crawford*, *Creighton*, *Daniel*, *J. Davis*, *Dearborn*, *Denny*, *Dewart*, *Dickson*, *Doddridge*, *Duncan*, *Ellsworth*, *G. Evans*, *J. Evans*, *E. Everett*, *H. Everett*, *Felder*, *Grenell*, *Griffin*, *Heister*, *Hodges*, *Hughes*, *Huntington*, *Ihrie*, *Ingersoll*, *Irvin*, *Jenifer*, *Kendall*, *Kerr*, *Letcher*, *Marshall*, *maxwell*, *R. McCoy*, *McDuffie*, *McKay*, *McKenna*, *mercer*, *milligan*, *Newton*, *Pearce*, *Pendleton*, *Potts*, *Randolph*, *J. Reed*, *Rencher*, *Russell*, *Semmes*, *W. B. Shepard*, *A. H. Sheppard*, *Slade*, *Smith*, *Southard*, *Stewart*, *Storrs*, *Sutherland*, *Taylor*, *Tompson*, *Tracy*, *Vance*, *Verplanck*, *Vinton*, *Washington*, *Watmouth*, *Wilkin*, *E. Whittlesey*, *F. Whittlesey*, *E. D. White*, *Wickliffe*, *Williams*, *Young*.—96.

NAYS—Messrs. *Alexander*, *R. Allen*, *Anderson*, *Angel*, *Archer*, *Arnold*, *J. Bates*, *Beardsley*, *Bell*, *Bergen*, *Bethune*, *John Blair*, *Bouck*, *Bouldin*, *J. Broadhead*, *J. C. Broadhead*, *Bucher*, *Cambræleng*, *Carr*, *Carson*, *Chandler*, *Clairbone*, *Clay*, *Clayton*, *Craig*, *Davenport*, *Doubleday*, *Drayton*, *Fitzgerald*, *Ford*, *Foster*, *Gaither*, *Gilmore*, *Gordon*, *T. H. Hall*, *W. Hall*, *Hammons*, *Harper*, *Hawes*, *Hawkins*, *Hoffman*, *Hogan*, *Holland*, *Horn*, *Hubbard*, *Jarvis*, *Jewett*, *R. M. Johnson*, *C. C. Johnston*, *Kavanah*, *A. King*, *J. King*, *Lamar*, *Lansing*, *Leavitt*, *Leconte*, *Lent*, *Lewis*, *Mann*, *Mardis*, *Mason*, *McCarty*, *W. McCoy*, *McIntire*, *T. R. Mitchell*, *Muhlenberg*, *Nuckolls*, *Pierson*, *Polk*, *E. C. Reed*, *Roane*, *Speight*, *Standifer*, *Stephens*, *F. Thomas*, *P. Thomas*, *W. Thompson*, *J. Thomson*, *Ward*, *Wardwell*, *Wayne*, *Weeks*, *Wheeler*, *Worthington*.—84

Apportionment Bill. The amendment offered by Mr. *Webster*, in the *Senate*, to this bill and adopted, has been disagreed to in the house, by a vote of 2 to 1. The *Senate*, we learn, have receded from their amendment and the bill, of course, only wants the sanction of the president to make it a law. This bill, it will be recollected, fixes the ratio at 47,700, and gives Indiana 7 representatives in the next congress, and 9 electoral votes in November next, for president and vice-president.

War with the Indians! A report has

reached Cincinnati of the defeat of a detachment of about 250 mounted militia, ordered

from Illinois to the aid of gen. *Atkinson* on the Mississippi, by a body of *Sac* and *Fox*

Indians near Rock river. The detachment

lost three of its principal officers and about

50 privates. It is feared that several keel

boats, ascending the Mississippi with pro-

visions for gen. *Atkinson*, have been taken

by the Indians and the crews murdered.

Another Breach! A man by the name of

Heard lately made an attack on T. D. *Arnold*, member of the house, and attempted to

knock him down with a stick, but failing in

that, he then drew a pistol and discharged it at Mr. *A.* The ball passed through his coat

sleeve and slightly cut the flesh. Mr. *A.* then closed in on *H.* and cut him right and

left dreadfully over the face and head with a sword cane, and was in the act of thrusting it through his body, when his arm was arrested

by a person coming up at the moment.

Heard has been indicted in the district court,

and Mr. *Arnold* refuses, we learn, to ask

the house to resent the insult offered to him.

The Season. The weather for some time

past has been cloudy, cool and dry, and very

unfavorable to the growth of vegetation.

A great portion of the corn planted has

perished in the ground, and that which came

up, grows but little. Should the season

change and become favorable, moderate