

## TWENTY-THIRD CONGRESS.

In Senate, Feb. 19.—Mr. TIRROX, from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported a bill for the relief of Richard Onis.

Mr. TIRROX presented resolutions of the Legislature of Indiana, asking an appropriation by Congress for the improvement of the Wabash river; which was referred to the Committee on Roads and Canals.

On motion of Mr. TIRROX:

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Public Lands be directed to inquire into the expediency of authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to correct an erroneous entry of the numbers of three sections of the lands granted to aid the State of Indiana in constructing a road from the Ohio river to Lake Michigan.

Feb. 22.—Mr. TIRROX, from the Committee of Claims, reported a bill for the relief of James Taylor; which was read and on motion of Mr. TIRROX, the report was ordered to be printed.

Feb. 27.—Mr. HENDRICKS presented the joint resolutions of the Legislature of Indiana, praying that Congress would pass a law compensating persons who lost horses in the recent campaign with the Indians; which were referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Also the joint resolutions of the same Legislature, stating the sparseness of the population of the Wabash country north of the town of Lawrenceburg; attributing it to the difficulties of intercourse, and praying aid in constructing a railroad; which resolutions were referred to the Committee on Roads and Canals.

Also, another resolution of the same Legislature, of a similar character of that first presented, on the subject of compensation for loss of horses; which had the same reference as the former.

Feb. 28.—Mr. TIRROX presented a memorial of the Legislative Council of Michigan, praying that Congress would take measures to enable the inhabitants of that Territory to form a Constitution, preparatory to their admission into the Union upon the footing of a sovereign State. The memorial was referred to the Select Committee upon that subject.

Mr. TIRROX presented the joint resolutions of the General Assembly of Indiana, expressive of the wish of that Legislature that law might be passed graduating and reducing the price of public lands; which Mr. TIRROX moved to refer to the Committee on Public Lands, but, on the suggestion of Mr. POINDEXTER, chairman of that committee, they were laid upon the table.

Mr. TIRROX from the Committee on Indian Affairs reported a bill for the relief of James Pye; which was read, and ordered to a second reading.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—Feb. 7.

Mr. EWING of Indiana submitted the following, which, when the bill to reduce and graduate the price of the public lands shall be taken up for consideration, he will move as an

### AMENDMENT:

A bill to graduate the price and to appropriate the net proceeds of the public lands within the Territories, and for other purposes.

*Be it enacted*, &c. That, from and after the thirtieth day of December, in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and thirty-two, the net proceeds of all the public lands within the Territories, where-er constituted, which shall be sold subsequent to the said thirtieth day of December, shall be divided among the twenty-four States of the Union, according to their respective federal representative population, as ascertained by the last census, to be applied by the Legislatures of said States to objects of education, internal improvement, colonization of free persons of color or reimbursement of any existing debt contracted for internal improvements, as the said Legislatures may severally designate and authorize.

SEC. 2. That from and after the said thirtieth day of December, the net proceeds of the public lands within the States shall be paid to the States respectively in which such lands may lie, at the Treasury of the United States, half-yearly, to such person or persons as the respective Legislatures of the said States may authorize and direct.

SEC. 3. That this act shall continue and be in force for the term of five years from the said thirtieth day of December, unless the United States shall become involved in war with any foreign Power; in which event, from the commencement of hostilities, this distribution of sales of territorial lands shall cease and be no longer in force.

SEC. 4. That from and after the passage of this act, all the lands of the United States which have been offered at public sale to the highest bidder, and have remained unsold fifteen years and up to twenty-five years, shall be subject to sale by private entry, at fifty cents per acre, and those which shall be offered in like manner, at public sale, and shall remain unsold twenty-five years, at twenty-five cents per acre; and for all lands which shall not have been fifteen years in market, the minimum price shall remain as heretofore.

SEC. 5. That all the lands of the United States which may hereafter be offered at public sale to the highest bidder, and shall remain unsold fifteen years and up to twenty-five years, shall be subject to sale by private entry, at fifty cents per acre, and those which shall be offered in like manner, at public sale, and shall remain unsold twenty-five years, at twenty-five cents per acre; and for all lands which shall not have been fifteen years in market, the minimum price shall remain as heretofore.

SEC. 6. That all actual settlers upon any lands of the United States at the time of any reduction of price, provided for in this act, shall have the right of pre-emption for the term of six months from and after the time of such reduction, to any quantity not exceeding one hundred and sixty acres, in contiguous subdivisions, to include his or her improvement, under like regulations and restrictions with those provided by an act entitled "an act to grant pre-emption rights to settlers on the public lands," approved on the twenty-ninth of May, eighteen hundred and thirty.

SEC. 7. That whenever, for two successive years, it shall appear to the Secretary of the Treasury that the net proceeds of the sales of the public lands within any land district now established, or which may hereafter be established by law, shall not be sufficient to discharge the salaries of the officers employed by the United States within such district, he may discontinue such offices, and the lands contained in such district remaining unsold, and afterwards captured by the Tripolitan gun-boats. Mrs. Decatur, the widow of Com. Decatur, is one of the principal claimants—the claim has been before Congress several sessions. No vote has been taken on the subject yet which indicates what its success may now be.

The great question of reference, of the Secretary of the Treasury's reasons for the removal of the deposits, to the committee of ways and means, over which so much debate has taken place during near 70 days, has at last been decided. The vote was taken last Tuesday, late in the afternoon, after a call of the previous question, and amidst considerable excitement. It stood yeas 130 Nays

08, giving a majority in favor of the reference of 32. This may be considered decisive of these two points—that the deposits will not be returned, nor the bank rechartered during this Session.

There are several vacancies which may be filled by opposition members, but the result will not be changed. There will be between fifteen and twenty in support of the removal and against the re-charter of the Bank, when every member is in his seat.

That the question has been taken should be gratifying to all; for it has been the declaration from all sides that the hope of the country depended more upon the speedy settlement of the question, than the way it might be decided. Discussion will doubtless arise again upon the bringing in of the report; but for all political purposes the question may now be considered as settled for this Session—for this Congress.

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*A Black Snake in a Man's Stomach.*—Last Saturday we were informed of a singular operation performed on a sailor in Essex street the day previous by Dr. Moot of this city, viz: extracting a *black snake* from the man's stomach. We called on a gentleman who was present at the time, from whom we learned the following particulars which may be depended on as a fact. The man's name is Frederick Williams, and he has boarded in Essex st. near the market, for the last three months. About 18 months since, while in Jamaica, he was one day drinking water from a spring, at the bottom of which he observed several small hair snakes of the length of one or two inches—and from a kind of tickling in his throat at the time, he concluded that he must have swallowed one of them. He immediately applied to a physician, who administered to him an emetic—and he borrowed no more trouble about it. In about six months he began to feel (as he expressed it himself) "a kind of crawling on his stomach"—and in a few days more the lower part, or *pit* of his stomach began to project out. His appetite became so exceedingly keen that he was forced to eat hearty food four or five times a day. He continued in this state for several weeks, when the occurrence at the spring in Jamaica came to his mind accompanied with the horrible conviction that he was carrying in his stomach a loathsome reptile. The protuberance on his chest continued to increase in size,—and he was frequently choked for breath by the reptile attempting to crawl out of his throat, which sensation threw the miserable man into convulsive fits. The learned doctor mentioned above, was called and the case described to him. After examining the projection on the man's body he pronounced the snake to be the cause, and was of the opinion that it could be taken out by an incision in the stomach without any danger to the man's life. But Williams could not be prevailed on to submit to this operation. A plan was then hit upon to pull the snake from the mouth. He partook of no food for two or three days, and the movements of the snake were constantly watched by the physician. Towards night, the third day, the almost distracted man informed the physician and his friends in attendance that, from the feeling in his stomach and throat, he judged the snake was attempting to crawl out. He immediately went into a convulsive fit, was placed on a bed, and his mouth pried open. A bowl of warm milk was then put near his mouth. The face of the insensible man assumed a dark and ghastly appearance—and the snake forced its head from his mouth, and tasted of the milk.—The bowl was gently drawn away, and the snake as gently crawled towards it. The friend who stood by now seized the reptile with his hand and suddenly drew it from its den, in which it had grown to its present almost incredible size. It was immediately killed, and we understand has been preserved by the doctor as a wonderful curiosity. It measured four feet and five inches in length—is nearly of a bigness from head to tail; and is of a jet black color. Williams was with great difficulty restored, and was removed to the hospital, where is now doing well. We hope the case of this man may serve as a warning to any person who shall have occasion to slake his thirst from brooks and springs on marshy ground. A recent London Medical work gives an account of a man suffering in this manner from having a *live lizard* in his stomach for more than two years—and who at length died in consequence of the convulsive fits into which he was thrown by the reptile attempting to crawl out of his throat.

An event of a novel character took place in the Senate on this morning; the second of the kind which has ever occurred in that body. The resignation of Mr. RIVES, of Va. Mr. RIVES, has always supported the measures of this administration; and during the present session has made one of the ablest speeches, which has been delivered in defense of the removal of the deposits. On Friday he received instructions from the legislature of Va. to vote for their restoration. Feeling conscious that the interests of his country demanded that he should not do so, but still more unwilling to disobey the instructions of his state, he came into the Senate this morning and presented his resignation, stating at the same time in a very emphatic and appropriate address his reasons and motives for doing so. The scene was interesting, imposing. And to the conduct of several members of the Senate, must have inflicted the keenest rebuke. Six opposition Senators were present who had some time previous received from their respective legislatures instructions to sustain the Secretary in his removal of the deposits, but who disregarding their pointed instructions, were holding on to their offices and using all their efforts against their instructions.

Mr. Adams, during the embargo, was the first Senator who could not obey. And he has expressed his opinion that every Senator who has received instructions, if he cannot obey them, ought immediately to resign.

There has been three hundred and thirty bills reported to the House. A large portion of them are, of course, private bills and have been finally disposed of. The most important bill of this class is one now before the committee of the whole, proposing to grant \$100,000 as prize money to the crew which cut out of the Port of Tripoli, in 1814, and burnt the Frigate Philadelphia, which had been unfortunately ran aground, and afterwards captured by the Tripolitan gun-boats. Mrs. Decatur, the widow of Com. Decatur, is one of the principal claimants—the claim has been before Congress several sessions. No vote has been taken on the subject yet which indicates what its success may now be.

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