

not be under nine, then, if our calculation be correct, that two hundred and forty thousand dollars is the annual excess of cost, by the present conveyance, an injury will be sustained by the State, equal to one million, six hundred and forty thousand dollars; or rather, by completing this work six years sooner, one million and a half will be saved and added to the capital of the country.

The view taken of the importance of this matter has been so far entirely confined to the interest of the country between Indianapolis and the Ohio. But this is altogether too sectional. Equally interested are the people from this point to the Lake. Indeed, the work contemplated is, but one link of the great chain of rail ways that is to connect the sea coast with upper Illinois, Missouri, and the Mississippi;—and will, ere long, be as much the highway of nations as those now making from the Ohio to the Atlantic.

In conclusion, the Board would say, that in making the application for State assistance, which is hereby done, there is no wish to limit the Legislature in the exercise of its own discretion as to the manner in which this assistance is to be afforded. And that whether it shall be the desire of the State to take upon herself the whole work, or, to obtain a control over the operations of the Company by the subscription of a majority of its stock, or with a less subscription, to aid the stockholders with the use of her credit, a hearty concurrence will be given by those whom we have the honour to represent. By order.

JAMES BLAKE,  
Pres. pro tem. L. and I. R. R. Com'y.  
Indianapolis, Dec. 5, 1834.

### Indiana Legislature.

On Wednesday last, in the House of Representatives, most of the day was occupied in a general and desultory debate, in committee of the whole, on the resolution offered by Mr. Vawter, providing for a loan of \$1,400,000 for internal improvements. The resolution offered by Mr. Vawter, had been stricken out at a previous sitting of the committee, and a motion was pending to insert in lieu thereof an amendment offered by Mr. Thompson, providing for a loan of \$1,500,000 to be appropriated to any rail-road, canal, or turnpike road, now begun or chartered, or hereafter to be begun or chartered—the Governor to be authorized to subscribe *double* the amount subscribed by individuals; provided no sum shall be subscribed, on the part of the State for the construction of any rail-road, canal or turnpike, until the sum of \$30,000 shall be subscribed on the part of individuals, nor until the payment of the same is secured to the satisfaction of the Treasurer and Auditor of State, who are to decide on the sufficiency of the security offered; and afterwards, to subscribe a proportionate amount, on the part of the State, until the objects so commenced shall be completed. To this amendment Mr. Vawter proposed an amendment, to strike out "double" and insert "equal"—the amount of stock to be taken by the State and individuals. Messrs. Kelso, Evans, Nave, Vawter, Shaw, Conwell, Thompson, Marshall, Ray, Smith of F., and Crume addressed the committee. The debate took a wide range, and a variety of plans were urged by different gentlemen. Messrs. Conwell, Ray, Crume, and Smith of F. were in favor of the State embarking in a system, without individual subscription. The other gentlemen favored individual subscription; but were divided as to the details of a system of improvement. The object of the discussion appeared to be mainly for the purpose of a general interchange of opinions. It was admitted, on all hands, that the time had now arrived, when the wants, the interests and growing importance of the State, demanded that some general system of internal improvement should be adopted. The final issue of this question still remains doubtful; but a general disposition seems to manifest itself to act with energy and liberality in this matter. The committee rose with leave to sit again.

On yesterday, Mr. Chapman from the select committee to which was referred, the petitions on that subject, made a detailed report, on the subject of a Rail Road from Maumee Bay to the Rapids of the Illinois, accompanied by two memorials and a bill. A memorial and joint resolution to the Legislatures of Ohio and Illinois, on the subject of said road; which was twice read and passed to a third reading. 2d. A memorial and joint resolution to the Congress of the United States, asking for one section of the public lands for each mile of said road; which was twice read and passed to a third reading. 3d. A bill to provide for the Buffalo and Mississippi Rail-Road Company; which was read and passed to a second reading. Mr. Crume from the committee of ways and means reported a bill to abolish the Agent of the 3 per cent. fund, and transferring his duties to the Treasurer of State—allowing said Treasurer an additional compensation of \$100; which bill was three times read and passed. An interesting discussion was taking place on yesterday afternoon, at the time our paper was put to press, on a resolution offered by Mr. Newman, instructing the judiciary committee to report a bill transferring the Probate business to the Circuit Court, and allowing three terms in each year. Mr. Vawter moved to strike out three terms, and after some discussion thereon, Mr. Smith of Ripley moved to postpone the resolution indefinitely; which motion was pending when we left the House. Considerable interest is felt in the issue of the above resolution, as it will be considered a test vote whether any alteration will take place in the Probate system at the present session.

Indiana Democrat, Dec. 19.

On Tuesday last Mr. Crume from the committee of ways and means, to which had been referred a resolution directing an inquiry into the property of repealing the law of last session imposing a tax on Michigan road lands, reported that after the most careful deliberation a majority had come to the conclusion that the law should not be repealed. On the question of concurring in the report considerable debate took place. Messrs. Liston, Evans, Kelso, Smith of F., Bigger, Newman, and Chapman opposing the concurrence; and Messrs. Crume, Wallace, Conwell, and Vawter supporting it. It was contended by those who opposed concurrence in the report, among other arguments, that there was no propriety nor justice in the immediate taxing of her lands, acquired by gift, and which it was desirable should be sold as rapidly as possible, whilst the lands of the general government are exempted for five years; that it would operate hard only upon poor settlers whose means were exhausted by the purchase of their land; that speculators would deem the tax as an advantage to them inasmuch as it would operate to prevent the purchase of the lands by those in indigent circumstances, and consequently lessen the competition in the purchase; that the imposition of a tax short of five years was an implied violation of public faith so far as it concerned prior purchasers, &c. &c. On the other hand it was contended, in support of the report, that the greater part of this land has been purchased by resident and non-resident speculators who never intended to settle on them, the latter of whom can be taxed in no other way, and neither of which should in justice be permitted to hold so much valuable property without paying something for the privilege; that no prayer for the repeal of the tax had been received from the purchasers of the lands; that the repeal of the tax would operate onerously upon the counties in

which the lands lie, inasmuch as it would greatly reduce the objects of taxation for county and road purposes, increase the burdens of the citizens, &c. &c. The question on concurring in the report of the committee was decided in the affirmative by a large majority; so that question, we suppose, is settled for this session.

The greater portion of Wednesday was occupied by the H. of R., in committee of the whole, in the consideration of the resolution heretofore moved by Mr. Vawter on the subject of a loan by the state in aid of internal improvements. The reader will recollect that on a former day the original resolution was struck out from the resolving clause and a substitute offered by Mr. Thompson, the substance of which has been heretofore stated, and that the pending question was a motion to reduce the amount of stock to be taken by the state in any incorporated company from *two thirds* to *one half*. A very interesting and extended debate took place, as well upon the whole question as upon the proposed amendment, in which Messrs. Vawter, Evans, Thompson, Shaw, Ray, Crume, Marshall, Smith of F., and perhaps other gentlemen, participated. Before any question was taken the committee rose, and obtained leave to sit again.

A bill was yesterday reported from the judiciary committee providing for abolishing imprisonment for debt; which was twice read and committed to a select committee. *Ind. Journal*, Dec. 19.

On yesterday, in the House of Representatives, on motion of Mr. Evans, the committee of the whole was discharged from the further consideration of the resolution offered by Mr. Vawter, on the subject of a loan for internal improvements. The question, under this proceeding, recurred on the adoption of the resolution as originally introduced by Mr. Vawter. Mr. Evans moved to strike out said resolution from the resolving clause, and insert in lieu thereof the following:—"That the committee on canals and internal improvements be directed to bring in a bill, providing a loan of \$1,500,000, to be borrowed at a rate of interest not exceeding 5 per cent, redeemable in not less than 30 nor more than 50 years; said sum to be applied to the construction of important works of internal improvements, within this state." A discussion now took place in which several gentlemen participated. At the suggestion of Mr. Wallace, Mr. Evans so modified his amendment that the resolution be referred to a select committee of thirteen—and at the suggestion of Mr. Smith of Ripley, he also modified the same so as to direct the committee to inquire into the expediency of reporting a bill. A division of the question being called for, was first put on striking out the resolution offered by Mr. Vawter; which was decided in the affirmative, ayes 57, nays 18—and on the question of adopting the amendment proposed by Mr. Evans as modified, it was also decided in the affirmative, ayes 56, nays 19. The resolution, as amended, was then adopted. The Speaker then appointed Messrs. Evans, Wallace, Vawter, Bell, Crume, Newman, Wilson of H., Green, Shaw, Thompson, Lowe, Liston, and Angle, a select committee in pursuance of the resolution. The House agreed to adjourn over from Wednesday until Monday next (the Senate concurring) by a vote of 41 to 34. The balance of the day was consumed in discussing a resolution, offered by Mr. Crume on Saturday, providing for a change in the Probate system, so as to provide for Circuit Probate Judges. Several amendments were proposed which will hereafter be given in our report of proceedings. A motion was made to indefinitely postpone the resolution and proposed amendments; which was considered as testing the propriety of a change in the probate system, and decided in the negative, ayes 34, nays 37. The resolution as introduced by Mr. Crume was struck out, and an amendment was offered by Mr. Newman, transferring the Probate business to the Circuit Court, & providing for three terms, and on the question of adopting the same was decided in the negative, ayes 28, nays 44. A motion was now made by Mr. Ray to reconsider the vote striking out Mr. Crume's proposition, providing for Probate Circuits; which was decided in the affirmative. Before any further proceeding, the House adjourned. If any change takes place in the Probate system, it may be fairly inferred it will be to provide for Circuit Probate Courts and Judges, equal to the present number of Circuit Courts.

Ind. Democrat, Dec. 23.

MR. WALKER moved the following resolution in the house of representatives, on the 9th inst.

*Resolved*, That the committee on education be instructed to inquire into the expediency of extending the right of taxation for school purposes according to the present mode of assessing and collecting tax for the support of district schools, so as to include the vendor of merchandise and the loaner of money; with leave to report by bill or otherwise.

Which was read, when Mr. Vandever moved to confine the enquiry to Dearborn county; which motion did not prevail.

And on the question to adopt said resolution, it was carried in the affirmative.

In House, Dec. 13. On motion of Mr. Cook,

*Resolved*, That the committee on the judiciary be instructed to inquire into the expediency of so amending the act entitled "an act to amend an act entitled an act regulating the interest of money," approved Feb. 2, 1833, as to make six per cent, the legal interest on money when no contract is specially made between the parties; and that the said committee do take further into consideration the propriety of repealing so much of said act as subjects any person receiving more than six per cent, to indictment where the contract was specially made for more, even for any amount; with leave to report by bill or otherwise.

It seems to us that the first branch of this resolution proposes no change in the present law:—But there is no harm, we suppose, in law makers ascertaining what the laws are, before they attempt to amend them; and so far the inquiry may be well enough.]

Mr. Torbet submitted the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the committee on the judiciary be instructed to inquire into the expediency of providing by law that when any note, bond, or obligation shall express on its face at the time of making such note, bond or obligation, that there shall be no stay of execution, the judgment shall issue without stay in pursuance of such contract, and no stay of execution shall be had; subject, however, to appeal as in other cases; with leave to report by bill or otherwise.

In House, Dec. 15. Mr. Walker presented the petition of W. J. Ward and others, praying for a state road from the mouth of Hogan creek to intersect a state road from Lawrenceburg to Napoleon, at a point in Manchester township, in Dearborn county.

On motion of Mr. Crume,

*Resolved*, That the judiciary committee be instructed to inquire into the expediency of so amending the law regulating the duties of the board doing county business, as to authorize said board to sit five

days at each term, if the business before such board require it.

In Senate, Dec. 18. On motion of Mr. Hillis,

*Resolved*, That the committee on the judiciary be instructed to inquire into the expediency of amending the law prohibiting the circulation of bank bills of a less denomination than five dollars, so as to more effectually guard against the violation of its provisions; with leave to report by bill or otherwise.

On Monday last, Mr. Kirkby made a beautiful ascension in a balloon from the corner of Tenth and Plum streets, in this city;—at about half past two o'clock we had our first view of the balloon, which then appeared to be well inflated and seemed impatient to bear its aerial adventure into the regions of space. Thousands of spectators were assembled in, and around the arena which enclosed the balloon; and the roofs of the adjacent buildings were literally stung with flesh and blood. At a few minutes past 4, he left terra firma, evidently in good spirits, and rose gradually until above the roofs of the buildings when he bore off in a north-easterly direction, until beyond the reach of our vision.

For further particulars, concerning this aerial tour, we refer our readers to the annexed letter, which was handed us by Mr. Kirkby, for publication.

*Courier.*

BALLOON ASCENSION.

DENNISON'S HOTEL, Cincinnati, December 17, 1834.

Mr. Barnum:—In conformity with an established usage, I have concluded to furnish for publication, an account of my late Aerial Excursion, which I hope will prove somewhat interesting to your readers.

I had advertised to leave at three o'clock on the 15th instant; but in consequence of an improper calculation of the necessary time to arrange my apparatus, I was detained until 16 minutes after 4 o'clock, according to my watch. The wind blew in nearly a north-east direction, which of course I followed. In a few minutes I found myself over the hills which form the eastern boundary to my city. My elevation I then conceived to be about three quarters of a mile. A new and higher current of air, running as well as I could judge in an exact easterly direction, carried me nearly over Columbia; which, so great the elevation I had then attained, I could barely discern, as a confused mass of buildings without any specific outline. I here found a perceptible change in the degree of the heat of the atmosphere. The cold became so intense that I was compelled to put on my over coat, and resort to a draught of the generous cordial I had in my car as a companion. Before going further with this imperfect and hastily drawn sketch of my excursion, I must endeavor to convey to you as well as I can, the appearance your city had when I had passed the eastern hills. It was indescribably beautiful. The regularity of its plat, the bright light cast upon it by the setting sun, covering the roofs of the houses with apparently a tissue of silver, contrasted with the black lines which marked the street running north and south, and the sombre shade of those laid out east and west—the landscape of the country surrounding it, drawn out in miniature, dotted by the cheerful hand of industry with innumerable farms;—the beautiful Ohio appearing like a silver cord carelessly thrown upon the picture. The scene, in all gave me an exultation of delight, which I cannot convey to you but in a poor and imperfect manner. True, a singular action of my Balloon, which few aeronauts have experienced lessened the pleasurable effects of the scene.—The Balloon was in a constant *whirl*. I would fix my gaze in a particular direction from the car, and in a minute's time I had taken in my view twenty or thirty miles space of country. The sensation was highly disagreeable; but it was incapable of depriving me of the pleasurable sensations which the occasion elicited.

Over the citizens of Columbia I waved my "stars and stripes." I threw out ballast for the third time and arrived at my greatest height, which could not have been less than two miles and a half, fifteen miles distant from the city. As night began to approach, I thought it proper to descend and soon found myself descending in the current of air in which I started. I passed Milford to the right and Batavia to the left, and finally alighted upon the woodland part of Mr. Samuel Riley's farm, three miles beyond Williamsburg, in Clermont Co. Ohio, at two minutes after five o'clock. I would have gone further but perceiving a large swamp in advance of me, I was compelled to descend with what facility I could, or become benighted in the midst of it. I in person reached the ground without assistance, but was compelled to have the aid of one or two individuals, to cut away the timber, to get my balloon secured. To Mr. Riley, who so kindly assisted me in securing my apparatus, & who afterwards so hospitably received me in his house, I feel under deep obligations. Dr. Slack, Dr. Riddle, and Dr. Flagg, and the other scientific gentlemen who assisted me in the inflation, have my heart-felt thanks; and to the public—the citizens of Cincinnati generally, who so kindly favored me with their presence, and their indulgence in the unpleasant and trying situation in which I was placed upon a former occasion, I owe a lasting debt of gratitude. I fully appreciate their forbearance.

To the police officers of the city, I return my thanks for their attention, and the promptitude with which they discharged their duties.

I reached the city on Tuesday morning, between ten and eleven o'clock. The reception I met with, can never be erased from my memory.

Respectfully,

THOMAS KIRKBY.

*What Letters should be.* Many people and well informed people too, sit down to write a letter, as if they were about to construct a legal document, or government despatch. Precision, formality, and carefully worded and rounded periods are considered all essential, even though the epistle be intended for a familiar friend. Others appear to be writing for publication, or for posterity, instead of making epistolary communication a simple converse between friends. Away with such labored productions. A letter on business should be brief—to a friend, familiar and easy. We like Hannah Moore's ideas upon this subject. She used to say, "If I want wisdom, sentiment or information, I can find them better in books. What I want in a letter is the picture of my friend's mind, and the common sense of his life. I want to know what he is saying and doing; I want him to turn out the inside of his heart to me, without disguise, without appearing better than he is; without writing for a character. I have the same feeling in writing to him. My letter is, therefore, worth nothing to an indifferent person, but it is of value to the friend who cares for me." She added that letters among near relatives were family newspapers, meant to convey paragraphs of intelligence, and advertisements of projects, and not sentimental essays.

On motion of Mr. LANE,

*Resolved*, That the said bill be committed to the Committee of the whole on the State of the Union. On motion of Mr. CARR,

*Resolved*, That all the memorials, petitions, &c. together with an estimate made by Capt. Henry Shriver, by order of the Secretary of War, of the probable cost of improving the navigation through the Falls of the Ohio river, and heretofore referred to the Committee on Roads and Canals, be again so referred, and that said Committee be instructed to inquire into the expediency of making an appropriation for the above-named purpose, with leave to report, by bill or otherwise.

On motion of Mr. LANE,

*Resolved*, That the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads be instructed to inquire into the propriety of establishing a post route from Burlington, Boone county, Ky. to Versailles, in Ripley county, Indiana, by way of the Rising Sun, in the county of Dearborn.

On motion of Mr. LANE,

*Resolved*, That the Committee on the Public Lands be instructed to inquire into the propriety of permitting any person not owners of land, for actual settlement, and those who are cultivators and owners of land, to add to his or her farms, to enter any quantity of the public land at fifty cents per acre, not exceeding one-quarter section. *Provided*, such land shall have been offered at public sale and been subject to entry for twenty years and upwards, and shall remain unsold at the time of such entry.

U. S. Gaz.

A man named Kain, has been brought before the police magistrate, charged with instigating his own son to robbery. The fellow is worse than his old namesake.

Boston Galaxy.

A man named Kain, has been brought before the police magistrate, charged with instigating his own son to robbery. The fellow is worse than his old namesake.

U. S. Gaz.

### 23d Congress.....2d Session.

#### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Dec. 8. The following Standing Committees were appointed by the Speaker, pursuant to the order of the House:

*Elections*—Messrs. Claiborne, Griffin, Hawkins, Vanderpool, Hannegan, Hard, Burns, Bouldin, Kilgore.

*Ways and Means*—Messrs. Polk, Wilde, Cambreleng, McKim, Binney, Loyall, McKinley, Hubbard, Corwin.

*Claims*—Messrs. Whittlesey of Ohio, Barbour, McIntire, Gholson, Forster, Stoddert, Banks, Foulton, Miner.

*Commerce*—Messrs. Sutherland, Harper of New Hampshire, Pinckney, Pearce of Rhode Island, Gillett, Phillips, Johnson of Louisiana, Morgan.

*Public Lands*—Messrs. Clay, Boon, Shadie, Ashley, Ingle, Williams, Lincoln, Casey, Clayton.

*Post Office and Post Roads*—Messrs. Connor, Kavanaugh, Thomas of Louisiana, Briggs, Murphy, Lane, Laporte, Hall of Maine, Schley.

*Districts of Columbia*—Messrs. Chinn, W. B. Shepard, McKenna, Allen of Virginia, Heister, Fillmore, King, Vanderpool, Steele.

*Judiciary*—Messrs. Foster, Gordon, Beardsey, Thomas of Maryland, Hardin, Parks, Pierce of New Hampshire, Robertson, Hamer.

*Revolutionary Claims*—Messrs. Muhlenberg, Crane, Bates, Standifer, Marshall, Young, Baylies, Turrill, Kinnard.

*Private Land Claims*—Messrs. Johnson of Tennessee, Mardis, Carr, Galbraith, Mann of New York, Bull, Chambers, Davis of Kentucky, May.

*Manufactures*—Messrs. Adams of Massachusetts, Denny, Dickerson of New Jersey, Martindale, McComas, Osgood, Clowney, Cramer, Jackson of Connecticut.