

Mr. Morris rose to propose a substitute to Mr. Stevenson's resolutions; but as it was late in the day, he hoped the house would adjourn. The question of adjournment was put and carried.

Yesterday, after some other business was done in the house, a motion was made to take up the resolutions on the U. States Bank, &c.—Another motion was made to take up the James River bill—the former prevailed.

Mr. Morris then read his substitute, which after going into much argumentative matter, concludes with two specific propositions (in the shape of resolutions,) for amending the federal constitution; 1st, to establish a tribunal for the decision of all questions which regard the conflicting powers of the government of the Union and its members, to be organized by bringing together the highest member of the judiciary of each state, or if the highest judicial body consists of more than one member, then the majority of the court to select one, to attend the said tribunal; 2d. To prohibit the general and state governments from creating in future any corporation with banking powers.

Mr. Baldwin then proposed an amendment to his substitute, which the house were in the act of considering—when Mr. Chamberlayne rose, and after speaking of the multiplicity of propositions before the house, which he thought ought to be digested in committee, moved the reference of the whole subject to a select committee, which was carried without a division; and the following were named on the committee, viz. Messrs. Stevenson, Morris of Hanover, Baldwin, Chamberlayne, Bassett, Selden, Rives, Gordon, Bowyer, Archer, Branham, Loyal and Miller.

Congressional Proceedings.

Tuesday, Feb. 15.

IN SENATE.

MISSOURI SUBJECT.

Mr. Pinkney, of Maryland, rose and addressed the senate nearly three hours against the restriction, and in reply to the remarks of Mr. King of New York. When he had concluded, the subject was postponed on motion of Mr. Otis; and

The senate adjourned.

House of Representatives.

On motion of Mr. Pindall, it was

Resolved, That the letter from the secretary of state of the 7th Feb. 1820, transmitting a list of the news papers in which the laws of the United States are published, and an estimate of the expense of such publication, be referred to a select committee, and that the same committee enquire into the expediency of repealing or amending the acts requiring the publication of the laws in the newspapers.

This motion of Mr. P. was grounded on the belief that the expenses of promulgating the acts of congress in newspapers had increased to an unreasonable and improper extent, and that the laws on the subject required repeal or modification, so as to reduce this expense.

The resolution was referred to a committee of three members.

On motion of Mr. Walker, of N. C. it was

Resolved, That the committee on the public lands be instructed to enquire into the expediency of limiting the quantity of public lands hereafter to be exposed to sale at the sever-

al land offices of the United States.

Mr. Cook submitted the following resolution for consideration:

Resolved, That the committee of ways and means be instructed to enquire into the expediency of repealing so much of the first section of an act entitled "An act making appropriations for the support of government for the year 1819," as pledges the fund reserved for laying out and making roads to the states of Indiana and Illinois, for the repayment of the monies appropriated and advanced by the U. States, for constructing the U. States' road from Cumberland to the Ohio river, and of appropriating the same to defray the expenses of laying out and making a road from the Ohio river opposite to Wheeling, by Columbus, in the state of Ohio, and by the permanent seat of government of Indiana, on the most eligible route, to Vandalia, in the state of Illinois.

The resolution was considered and adopted, without a division.

The speaker laid before the house a report from the secretary of the treasury, made in obedience to the resolution of the 24th instant, offered by Mr. Randolph, directing the secretary of the treasury to report such measures as in his opinion may be expedient to enforce the more speedy payment of public monies due from individuals and corporate bodies in the U. States.

These reports were respectively ordered to lie on the table.

MISSOURI BILL.

The house then again resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. Baldwin in the chair, on this bill.

Mr. Rankin, of Mississippi took the floor, and spoke more than an hour against the restriction.

Mr. Hendricks, of Indiana, took the other side of the question, and spoke about an hour in favor of the restriction.

Mr. Cuthbert, of Georgia, followed, and occupied the floor also about an hour against the restriction; when

The committee rose, on motion of Mr. Johnson, of Virginia, (who has the floor to-morrow,) and the house adjourned.

Wednesday, February 16.

IN SENATE.

The senate then resumed, as in committee of the whole, Mr. Burrill in the chair, the consideration of the

NEW STATES BILL.

Mr. King of N. York again rose and spoke more than one hour in support of the opinions which he had previously advanced on the right and expediency of restricting Missouri as to slavery, and in answer to the gentlemen who had replied to his previous remarks.

Mr. Logan, of Kentucky, followed, and spoke a short time in reply to Mr. King.

Mr. Smith, of S. C. also spoke about half an hour in reply to Mr. King.

Mr. Lloyd likewise spoke a short time in reply to Mr. King. Mr. King, of New-York Mr. Pinkney, Mr. Barbour, and Mr. Mellen, respectively added a few remarks; when

The question was taken on concurring in the amendment reported by the judiciary committee (to unite the Maine and Missouri bills in one bill) and decided in the affirmative by yeas and nays, as follows:

For uniting the bills 23

Against uniting the bills 21

Mr. Thomas, of Illinois, then offered an amendment to the Missouri branch of the bill, proposing in substance, to prohibit slavery in all the territory beyond the Mississippi, north of 36 1/2 degrees of north latitude, excepting within the limits of the proposed State of Missouri.

Mr. Barbour, of Va. moved to amend the amendment by striking out 36 and a half degrees, and inserting, as the line, north of which slavery should hereafter be excluded, the fortieth degree of north latitude.

The motion was supported by the mover, and opposed by Mr. Edwards of Illinois; and after a short discussion,

The motion was negatived—three or four only rising in favor of it.

Mr. Eaton then offered, as a substitute to Mr. Thomas's amendment, a section prescribing the same limits beyond which slavery shall not be allowed, but made applicable to the same, only "while said portion of country remains a territory." A substitute for the amendment not being in order, according to the rules of the senate, Mr. E. withdrew his proposition.

Mr. Trimble, of Ohio, next proposed to amend Mr. Thomas's amendment, substantially, by making it to apply to all the country west of the Mississippi, except so much as is comprehended within the state of Louisiana and the proposed state of Missouri. But, before any question was taken on this motion, it was also withdrawn by the mover.

After considerable discussion, but before the question, was put on the amendment of Mr. Thomas, the subject was postponed until to-morrow; and

The senate adjourned

Thursday, Feb. 17.

Mr. Noble laid before the senate certain resolutions of the legislature of Indiana, requesting her senators and representatives in congress to attempt to obtain provisions by law for the extension of the national road from Wheeling to the seats of government of Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, and thence to St. Charles in Missouri; which resolutions were read.

The senate then resumed the consideration of

THE NEW STATES BILL.

The amendment offered by Mr. Thomas, and pending when the senate adjourned yesterday, being still under consideration.

Mr. Thomas rose and withdrew this amendment, and in lieu thereof offered a substitute embracing the same limits, beyond which slavery shall be excluded; and varying from it, only in defining its intent by express words, and omitting all reference to the ordinance of 1787, (the same as the amendment offered by him on the 3d inst. and withdrawn.)

Mr. Trimble, whose amendment yesterday was rejected, and not withdrawn, as stated, moved to amend Mr. Thomas's amendment, by striking out so much thereof as defines the line of separation, and to insert the following: "all that part of Louisiana (as ceded by France to the U. States,) which lies west of the Mississippi river, except that part which is contained in the state of Louisiana, and except that part of the territory which lies north of the state of Louisiana, and east of the 17th or 24th degree of west longitude, (agreeably to Melish's map) and south of the line which may be established for the northern boundary for the proposed state of Missouri;" (in substance, to exclude slavery from the whole country west of

the Mississippi, except in Louisiana, Arkansas, and Missouri.)

This motion was, after some discussion, decided in the negative, by yeas and nays, as follows:

For Mr. Trimble's amendment 20

Against it 24

The question then recurred on Mr. Thomas's amendment, which is in the following words:

And be it further enacted, That in all that territory ceded by France to the U. States, under the name of Louisiana, which lies north of 36 degrees and thirty minutes north latitude excepting only such part thereof as is included within the limits of the state contemplated by this act, slavery and involuntary servitude, otherwise than in the punishment of crimes whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall be and is hereby forever prohibited: Provided, always, That any person escaping into the same, from whom labor or service is lawfully claimed in any state or territory of the United States, such fugitive may be lawfully reclaimed, and conveyed to the person claiming his or her labor or service, as aforesaid."

On the adoption of this amendment the question was taken by yeas and nays, and determined in the affirmative, as follows:

For the amendment 34

Against the amendment 19

After some other amendments necessary to make the parts of the bill conform to each other,

The question was taken on ordering the bill as amended, to be engrossed and read a third time; and decided by yeas and nays, as follows:

Yeas—Messrs. Barbour, Brown, Eaton, Edwards, Elliot, Gailard, Horsey, Hunter, Johnson of Kentucky, Johnson, of Louisiana, King, of Alabama, Leake, Lloyd, Logan, Parrot, Pinkney, Pleasants, Stokes, Thomas, Van Dyke, Walker, of Alabama, Walker, of Georgia, Williams, of Mississippi, Williams, of Tennessee—24.

Noes—Messrs. Burrill, Dana, Dickerson, King, of N. York, Lanman, Lowrie, Macon, Mellen, Morrill, Noble, Otis, Palmer, Roberts, Ruggles, Sanford, Smith, Taylor, Tichenor, Trimble, Wilson—20.

So the bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time to-morrow; and having postponed the remaining order of the day,

The Senate adjourned.

Friday, Feb. 18.

The bill for the admission of Maine into the Union was read a third time as amended (by incorporating therein the provisions respecting a state government for Missouri) passed, and sent to the house of representatives for concurrence in the amendment.

House of Representatives.

Saturday, Feb. 20.

NEW STATES BILL.

The house took up the amendments of the senate to the bill for the admission of Maine—which amendments propose to authorize, by the same bill, the people of Missouri to form a state government (without the slave restriction, but containing a clause to exclude slavery from all the territory west of the Mississippi, which lies north of 36 1/2 degrees of north latitude except the proposed state of Missouri.)

Mr. Taylor moved that the a-

mendments of the senate be agreed to by the house.

Mr. Scott of Missouri moved that they be committed to the committee of the whole, which at present has under consideration the Missouri bill of this House, (which motion had precedence of the motion to disagree.)

After some debate, the question was taken on committing the bill and amendments, and decided in the negative.

Mr. Smyth, of Va. then moved to lay the amendments on the table, and print them, that the house might at least see what it was called on to decide, which motion was also lost—yeas 77, noes 96.

The question recurring on the motion to disagree to the amendments:

Mr. Simpkins moved that the amendments be postponed to Tuesday and be printed; declaring that he was wholly unprepared at present to vote on the subject; and supported his motion in a speech of some length. The motion was assented to by Mr. Taylor, and supported by Messrs. Rhea, Culpepper, Stevens, Storrs, and Baldwin; the last named gentleman, among other remarks, denying that the amendment called a compromise, could be called so with propriety, inasmuch as it was consistent with the constitution and the whole course of legislation for thirty years.

The motion to postpone was opposed by Messrs. Whiting, Lavermore, and Holmes, because they were opposed to any delay, as it might endanger the fate of the Maine bill, which they desired to have separated from the other subject immediately, and disposed of as justice and fairness required.

The question being taken on postponing the bill to Tuesday, and printing the amendments, and was carried by a large majority.

February 21.

OUR AFFAIRS WITH SPAIN.

Mr. Reid of Georgia, submitted for consideration the following resolution:

Resolved, That the president of the United States be requested to impart to this House any communications touching the Florida treaty, which may have been received from our minister Plenipotentiary at the court of Spain, which have not been heretofore communicated, and which, in his opinion, it may not be inconsistent with the public interest to communicate.]

The concluding clause was adopted with the consent of the mover, on the suggestion of Mr. Taylor, of New York.

Mr. Cooke moved to extend the scope of the motion to communications from any other sources than our minister in Spain.

Mr. Reid objecting to the form of the proposed amendment, rather than to its object—

Mr. Cooke moved to lay the proposition on the table:

Which motion was carried, 65 to 62.

MISSOURI BILL.

The house then resumed, in committee of the whole, Mr. Baldwin in the chair, the consideration of this bill and the proposed amendment.

Mr. Plumer of New Hampshire, rose and spoke more than two hours in favor of the restriction.

Mr. Edwards of Connecticut, followed on the same side, and spoke half an hour; when

The committee rose; and

The house adjourned.

Tuesday, Feb. 22.

Mr. Anderson, from the committee on public lands, to whom