

PUBLIC LEGER.

PRESIDENTIAL.

Extract of a letter to the Editor of the Public Leger, dated,

NEW ORLEANS, April 24, 1824.

The Presidential question was a fruitful subject for conversation, during our passage down—the sentiments of the Cabin passengers were ascertained, and a decided majority of the whole number declared themselves in favor of JOHN Q. ADAMS, as our next President—and the vote for Vice-President was nearly unanimous, in favor of Gen. ANDREW JACKSON, (the Crawfordites only dissenting, of which there were two natives of Virginia.)

On the Presidential question there were three Clayites [two from Kentucky and one from Scotland via West Indies.] Jackson had some partisans chiefly from Tennessee. Among the supporters of ADAMS were two from New York, one from New Jersey, two from Pennsylvania, two from Ohio, three from Indiana, one from Tennessee, one from Virginia; some from Mississippi, Alabama, and the eastern states. From conversations had with gentlemen of respectability and intelligence, from Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana it appears that, Mr. ADAMS is the second choice of these states;—in this state Mr. ADAMS is far more popular than Mr. Clay;—in Mississippi ADAMS and JACKSON are thought to be about equal—no other candidates are named. As far as the sentiments of the ADAMS and JACKSON parties could be ascertained, they entertain and cultivate reciprocal respect for each other, the favorite candidate of one party is the second of the other. There is little or no doubt in this quarter but, that the choice will ultimately, fall on JOHN QUINCY ADAMS, or on ANDREW JACKSON. Mr. Clay is out of the question, and Mr. Crawford is "hors du combat."

The editor of the National Republican, speaking of the meeting lately held in Cincinnati by the friends of Mr. Clay, says:

"We consider the result of this meeting as decisive of the fate of that candidate, in this section of the state, and as a strong evidence that his prospect of obtaining the Presidential votes of Ohio is now weakened to the slightest probability. We have never believed, for a moment, since the attempt of the Caucus Junta at Columbus to pledge the state to his interest and views, that Mr. Clay could obtain the Electoral votes of Ohio. The means which have been adopted to carry this state for him, have materially affected his popularity among our citizens, and will contribute essentially to his defeat. His sanguine and ever zealous friends have so often asserted that he is the favorite candidate in Ohio,—that nothing could prevent his obtaining our Electoral votes, and that no other candidate would receive any considerable support,—it is time to speak out, and undeceive his friends and the people of other states, by a statement which accords with the public sentiment, and which will be found correct at the election, in Nov. next. By great and extraordinary exertions the friends of Mr. Clay have obtained, in this city, 127 votes in his favor, and although we have no doubt some few were absent at the late meeting, yet we do not believe they will be able to increase that number at any meeting or election, in Cincinnati, on the subject of the Presidency. The great contest in Ohio, will be between GENERAL JACKSON & MR. ADAMS, and to one of these candidates there can be no doubt the Presidential votes of this state will be given.—Mr. Clay cannot, under present circumstances, receive a support equal to either of the others; and it will be for his friends and supporters to say, whether they will throw their weight into the scale of Gen. Jackson or into that of Mr. Adams.

We publish to-day, by request, resolutions, adopted by a meeting held in Liberty in this county on the first inst. in favor of Gen. Andrew Jackson President, and John Todd, Esq. Vice president of the U. States.

From the personal conversations which we have since had with some of the respectable and influential individuals composing that meeting, we are glad to learn that they are not remarkably tenacious of their preference for the General, and that Mr. ADAMS is their second choice. When they shall have ascertained that their votes will be lost if given for Gen. Jackson, (and surely they will ascertain this before the election) we have no doubt they will go for Mr. Adams. In truth, the friends of Mr. Adams are much more numerous in this State than we had anticipated. His supporters are not among the boasting, boisterous part of the population; consequently in the noise and clamor which has been made, his strength has not been fairly represented. However, as the election approaches they

are beginning to speak freely of their preference, and they are found among that sober reflecting part of the community whose opinions and arguments will not be without their due influence. We do not mean to deceive ourselves with respect to the prospects of Mr. Adams, in the state of Ohio, nor do we think that we are deceived, when we state with sincerity and confidence our firm belief that he will receive the support of this state.—Miami Rep.

It is reported, that Mr. Adams utterly refused his assent to anything in the shape of a Caucus for him; and said further, that he would not accept the chair if lifted into it by one. If this be true it is a long, stiff home-made, ungenteel republican "feather in his cap," and there let it stick. The wind can't bend it, and the rain can't hurt it; and every son of a seventy-sixer, that has inherited from his Bunker Hill ancestors, the same taste and ornament, will be for Adams. Then again J. Q. Adams speaks only when he is spoken to, attacks nobody, either directly or by his agents; he does not seem to practise the game that his rivals play on him, & on each other. He keeps in his office and minds his business; and it is only when the tides of these political freshets come over the threshold of his seclusion, that he comes out; and then he comes, not as a fox drowned out of his hole—not as a bear smoked from his hiding place; but as a lion from the swelling of Jordan. We'll leave it to Gen. Smyth, to Mr. Clay, to Gen. Jackson, to the British commissioners at Ghent, to Don Onis—we'll leave it to the country to say, if it is not true. He was a federalist once, so was Madison; he once made a poor oration, so did Demosthenes; he once wrote poetry, so did Mansfield and Blackstone; and if it will help him, be it known, that he was altogether the poorest poet of the three. He fights no duels, tells no lies, and drinks very little, if any whiskey. He is a man of business and literature. His life has been spent abroad with republican Quakerism, and he has brought no foreign fashions home. His greatest faults are such as will best recommend him to the majority of the American people. Much may be said in favour of all the candidates, but all this may be said of him.

Connecticut Mirror.

CONGRESS OF THE U. S.

SENATE.

Wednesday, April 28.—The senate proceeded to consider, in committee of the whole, the bill from the house of representatives, "to amend the several acts for imposing duties on imports," together with the amendments proposed thereto, by the committee on Commerce & Manufactures of the senate, which were agreed to by the committee of the whole. Mr. Mills then moved to amend the bill, by striking out the following clause:—"On iron in bars or bolts, not manufactured, in whole or in part, by rolling, 90 cents per hundred and twelve pounds weight." An animated debate took place on this amendment; the question was then taken, and decided in the affirmative, yeas, 24; nays, 23.

In pursuance of notice given yesterday, Mr. Benton asked leave to introduce the following bill:

A bill to sell and dispose of the refuse lands belonging to the United States.

Be it enacted, &c. That the lands belonging to the United States, which have been heretofore, or shall be hereafter, offered at public sale, and shall remain five years thereafter without being sold at the minimum price of one dollar twenty-five cents per acre, shall be again offered at public sale, but shall not be sold for a less sum than fifty cents per acre.

SEC. 2. And be it further enacted, That any head of a family, or young man, above twenty-one years of age, or widow, being citizens of the United States, may demand and receive from the register and receiver of the proper land office a written permission to take possession of, and settle upon, any half quarter section of land, which shall remain unsold after having been offered for sale at the minimum price of fifty cents per acre, and upon inhabiting and cultivating the same for three successive years, shall be entitled to receive a patent therefor, as a donation from the United States.

SEC. 3. And be it further enacted, That the lands which shall remain unsold, after having been offered for sale at the minimum price of fifty cents per acre, may be sold at private sale for that sum, at any time before permission shall have been to settle on the same.

In asking leave to introduce this bill, Mr. Benton said this was not the time to discuss it—probably the time would not come during the present session. In that event, what was done now would operate as a notice for the next session; would turn the minds of the senators to the changes contemplated, and would prevent the ne-

cessity of delay. He believed that a change in the manner of selling public lands was called for both by the voice of the people and the interest of the government. By the present rule, said Mr. B. the good and the bad land are held at the same price. The best can be got for one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre; the worst cannot be had for less. The minimum price of one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre for all sorts of land was arbitrary and unjust to the people because it prevented them from getting the inferior land at a fair price; unjust to the states, because it checked their population, and deprived them of their right of taxation; unjust to the nation, because it prevented the public treasury from receiving the money which such land was worth, and for which it would sell. The continuance of the rule would give to the United States the fabled position of the dog in the manger. The rule should be changed. The United States is a great land seller, and she should follow the practice of all other sellers; she should apportion her price to the quality of her land. When a quarter section has been offered for years at one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre, and nobody will give that sum, it is a proof that it is not worth it and justice to the people, the states and the treasury, requires that it should be offered again at a less price. The bill introduced assumes fifty cents per acre, as the second minimum at which such lands should be offered; and it proposes to give away, without price, to such poor persons as may be willing to take and cultivate them, the refuse lands which will not sell for that sum.

The leave was given to introduce the bill, which was read, and ordered to be printed.

April 29.—The senate then resumed, as in committee of the whole, the unfinished business of yesterday, being the consideration of the bill from the house of representatives "to amend the several acts for imposing duties on imports." Mr. King, of Alabama, was called to the chair. Mr. Lloyd, of Mass. moved to amend the bill, by striking out the following clause: "On hemp, two cents per pound," which motion after considerable discussion, was carried in the affirmative; yeas, 24; noes, 23.

April 30.—The senate resumed the consideration of the bill "to amend the several acts laying duties on imports."—Mr. King, of Alabama in the chair. Mr. Kelly moved to amend the bill by striking out after the words, "cotton bagging, 4 1-2 cts. per square yard," the following—"until the 30th day of June, 1825; and afterwards a duty of 5 1-2 cts. per square yard." The amendment was adopted.—Mr. Holmes, of Maine, moved to except from the following clause,—“on all manufactures not herein specified, of cotton, silk, flax or hemp, or of which either of these materials shall be a component part, a duty of 24 per cent. ad valorem,” the following articles, "Russia, Holland, and Ravens duck, and Russia sheeting," which motion was carried. Mr. Barbour moved also to except from the same clause, Osnaburghs, and German linens. This amendment was opposed by Mr. Dickerson; but before taking the question, on motion of Mr. Talbot, the bill was laid on the table, and the senate proceeded to the consideration of Executive business.

Saturday, May 1.—The senate resumed the consideration of the bill to amend the several acts for imposing duties on imports, Mr. King of Alabama, in the chair. The question pending was a motion to except from the clause, "on all manufactures, not herein specified, of cotton, silk, flax, or hemp, or of which either of these materials shall be a component part, a duty of 25 per cent. ad valorem," the following articles, Russia, Holland, and Ravens Duck and Russia Sheetting." Mr. Barbour moved to amend the amendment by adding "osnaburghs, ticklenburgs, and burlaps."—On this motion along discussion took place between Messrs. Barbour, Dickerson, H. Johnson of Lou. Hayne, Branch, Smith, Mills, Macon, Holmes of Ma. Van Dyke, D'Wolf, Taylor of Va. Talbot, and Johnson of Ken. Mr. Barbour called for the yeas and noes on the question, and the result was—yeas—23; noes—24. So the amendment was rejected. The question then recurred on the original amendment,—on which some remarks were made by Messrs. Lloyd of Mass. and Barbour; but, on motion of Mr. Barbour, the senate adjourned without coming to any decision.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

About 22 relief bills were passed, and sent to the senate for concurrence, and 18 were passed to a third reading.

April 29.—The house was principally engaged to-day, in the consideration of relief bills, many of which were passed.

April 30.—Mr. A. Stevenson, from the select committee, to whom the message of the President on the subject was referred, reported a bill making an appropriation for the payment of the claim of Daniel D.

Tompkins, which was read and committed. A large number of bills, for the relief of individuals, and for other purposes, of general importance, were passed, and others acted on.

May 1.—The house was exclusively engaged in disposing of private bills.

FOREIGN.

[Selected from various Eastern Papers.]

FROM PORTUGAL.—Capt. Budd, of the ship Mary Ann, arrived at Antigua on the 17th ult. in 44 days from Lisbon, confirming the report that the assassination of the Prime Minister of Portugal was attributed to the king's second son, and that the country was in a state of commotion. The officers and troops had positively refused serving under Marshal Beresford, who had consequently been deprived of his command. The people evinced the most manly feelings of hostility towards the United States, in consequence of the language adopted by the President in his message to congress.

Accounts from Martinique say, that the coloured people of that island were slipping away with as much despatch as possible. No distinction was made among them. Whether high or low, rich or poor, whether guilty or innocent; whether implicated or not in the late premeditated surrection, the sentence of banishment was the same. The hue of the skin was no sufficient, and a passport was politely handed to every one whose name and residence was known, as well as to those who were only known abroad, in the public streets and high-ways. A considerable number of these people had arrived at Trinidad, where they met with an unmolested refuge.

THE GREEKS AND TURKS.—The Greeks are said to have effected another landing near Caroburu in Macedonia, that all them who were in prison at Salonichi had been released, & that they had supplied various points of Thessaly with arms. A loan of two millions and a half sterling for the services of the ancient Kingdom of Guzmala, or the United Provinces of Central America, had unexpectedly appeared in the London market.—The advices from Odessa, to March 10, give accounts from Constantinople to the 27th Feb. when nothing certain was known respecting the revolt of the Pacha of Egypt. It was however ascertained that he had withdrawn his troops which were to act against Greece from the Island of Crete, and the Sultan was so much exasperated at his conduct, that he had sent an agent to Cairo to bring him the head of the viceroy. A letter from Zante, of March 2d, states, that Lord Byron had negotiated a reconciliation between some of the contending Greek chiefs and had induced Theodore Colcotroni to evacuate the important fortress of Napuaie, which was now occupied by the Patriots.

SPAIN.—The Old Spanish bonds were gradually sinking in London—it having been ascertained that Ferdinand had determined not to sanction the constitutional loan. An article in a Paris paper mentions as a rumor from Madrid, that a consultation had been held in that city by the Foreign Ambassadors, on the subject of establishing a constitutional government.—It was said that C. Bourmont, the French Commander in Chief—had been asked whether he would be able to support the plans proposed; to which he replied that considering the spirit that predominated in the provinces, the forces under his command were insufficient; and that he should require reinforcements to the amount of 50 or 60,000 men, to maintain order and tranquility; to which it was added, that he should have whatever force he desired.—Something extraordinary was expected to take place, and it was positively asserted that there had been a discussion on the establishment of a government which was not to the taste of the absolute party of the monks. That the dissatisfaction which was known to exist in the provinces, should have led to a consultation as to the best remedy to be applied to the evil, we have little doubt. But that any thing like a constitutional government was contemplated, after the violent measures which have been pursued against the patriots, is what appears altogether improbable. If Spain is ever to have a free Constitution, other means must be resorted to, in order to effect this than a conference of the agents of crowned heads, or the ministers of an imbecile monarch, who is altogether under the control of monks and friars.

The King of Spain has declined the mediation of England between him and his late American provinces, and announces his determination to use every effort to recover them, beginning with Mexico. A British squadron, under Admiral Neale, was blockading Algiers Feb. 25. The advices from Madrid were to the 24th Feb. The King had dismissed 14 of his Counsellors of state. It is said the Greeks have again made a landing 26 leagues north of Smyrna; that