

TWENTIETH CONGRESS.

FIRST SESSION.

Saturday, February 23.

The Senate did not sit to-day.

In the House of Representatives, Mr. Chilton made some further observations on his resolution relative to the reduction of the West Point Academy, when the resolution was, on motion of Mr. Stewart, laid on the table, and a profitless discussion happily arrested. The House then proceeded to the consideration of private bills, several of which went through the committee of the whole.

Monday, February 25.

In the House of Representatives, the number of petitions presented was as many as usual. Mr. Gilmer presented a resolution to appoint a select committee to inquire into the expediency of reducing the number of cadets at West Point, but it was laid on the table by a vote of 90 to 65. The House then passed the private bills which went through the committee on the whole on Saturday, with one exception. The House took up the bill making appropriations for Internal Improvements. Mr. Taylor moved an amendment in the clause relative to the Cumberland road—to replace the money expended on it from the two per cent. fund—which was agreed to. An amendment was then moved by Mr. Haynes, but the question was not taken before the House adjourned.—Some discussion, in which Messrs. Allen, Conner, Whittlescy, Culpeper, Buchanan, Ingham, Storrs, and Smith, of Ind. participated, took place on a bill for the relief of Joseph Young; when the bill was laid on the table.

Tuesday, February 26.

The House was engaged with the bill making appropriations for internal improvements. After some remarks, the amendment offered yesterday by Mr. Haynes, was withdrawn. The amendment of the committee of the whole, filling the blank, with \$175,000, for the continuation of the Cumberland Road, was agreed to—yeas 128, nays 54.

On the question to fill the blank making an appropriation for surveys, with 30,000 dollars.

Mr. Drayton moved to amend this clause by inserting the following words:

“Provided that no part thereof be expended upon any surveys excepting such as have already been contracted for, or where the surveys hereafter made are preparatory to the construction of roads or canals for the transportation of the public mail, or for military purposes.”

On this proposition a protracted debate took place.

Thursday, February 23.

In the SENATE, a resolution was offered by Mr. Harrison proposing an inquiry into the expediency of granting a pension to the family of the late Major Gen. Brown. Mr. Chandler submitted a resolution contemplating the abolition of the office of Major General of the army. The Process bill was taken up, amended, and passed to a third reading, when on motion of Mr. Webster, it was recommended. Some time was spent in the consideration of executive business.

In the House, the resolution offered by Mr. Gilmer, relative to the West Point Academy, was again taken up, the discussion upon it being arrested on Thursday, by the expiration of the hour. After a brief explanation of the character of the Academy by Mr. Dwight and Mr. Vance, on motion of Mr. Ward the resolution was again laid on the table, by a vote of 80 to 50. Mr. Tucker made another unsuccessful motion to consider his resolution providing for an earlier hour for the daily meeting of Congress. The House then resumed the consideration of the bill making appropriations for internal improvements, the question being on the proposition of Mr. Drayton to amend the clause relative to the surveys, so as to limit them to such roads as may be for the transportation of the mail, or for military purposes. Considerable discussion occurred, but no decision was made.

Friday, February 29.

In the SENATE, Mr. Harrison introduced a bill for the relief of the widow of the late Gen. Jacob Brown, which was twice read and referred. The resolution offered by Mr. Chandler, for abolishing the office of Major General of the Army, was considered, and after considerable discussion, was, on motion of Berrien, modified so as to propose an inquiry only.

In the HOUSE, Mr. Mallory gave notice that he should on Monday next move the House to take up the Tariff bill, whether the appropriation bill should be carried through or not. The house then proceeded to the unfinished business of the preceding day, being the bill making appropriations for internal improvements.—Some further discussion took place on Mr. Drayton's motion to amend the clause re-

lating to surveys, by restricting them to routes necessary in a military view, or for the transportation of the mail, in which Messrs. Wilde, Gorham, Rives, Stewart, and Mercer participated. The question was then taken on Mr. Drayton's amendment, which was negatived by an immense majority. Mr. Oakley, then moved to amend the clause by restricting the appropriation to such surveys as have been commenced.

Mr. Jennings, from the committee on public lands, reported a bill giving the right of pre-emption in the purchase of and to certain settlers contiguous to the big St. Joseph's in the southern limits of the Territory of Michigan, and in the northern limits of the State of Indiana; which was twice read and committed to a committee of the whole house.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

Selected from Eastern Papers.

MEXICO.

A brief account given of the result of the late insurrection in Mexico, in an article which we copied yesterday from a Baltimore paper. This morning we received a variety of newspapers from the Mexican capital, down to the 10th ult., containing details of the attempt at civil war, and its victorious suppression. The faction that had long been making efforts to destroy the free institutions and federal system of the Mexican Republic, at length appealed to arms and has been signally defeated. The contest lasted but ten days. General Bravo, the Vice President, who put himself at the head of the malcontents, was taken prisoner, with twenty-five officers, by General Guerrero.—Barragan and Santa Anna have been deserted by their followers, and are fugitives. General Arana has been shot, and Padre Martinez, and the rest of the chiefs, or prominent agents, in the revolt, will experience the same fate, after having been tried. The capture of Bravo is considered as the termination of the struggle, the occurrence of which may be deemed fortunate on the whole, since it leaves the government stronger than it ever was, and the tranquility of the country on a more solid basis. The faction proclaimed that the present congress were illegally chosen, and the laws of the 10th May and 30th December, against the Spaniards, contrary to the Constitution and formal contracts. The physical and generally the moral force of the nation is on the side of the present authorities, but the treasury is empty.

The Congress, 74 gun ship, joined Commodore Porter's squadron, at Vera Cruz, in the first week of last month.—*Nat. Gaz.*

CENTRAL AMERICA.

Salem, February 19.—Accounts from this country to January 1st, received here by letter, concur in representing the state of affairs to be most deplorable. The civil war which had been for two years devastating the interior provinces, continued with unabated violence. The provinces of Nicaragua, St. Salvador, and Guatemala, were the principal theaters of action. The cities of Leon and Granada were engaged in a most sanguinary and devastating civil war against the cities of Nicaragua and Menagua, and St. Salvador against Guatemala. The Nicaraguans (or Government party,) had captured the fort of St. Carlos, (entrance of Lake Nicaragua,) and thereby cut off all communications with St. Johns and the interior. The troops of the president 'Acre' had gained repeated advantages over the Grenadians, but owing to the want of ammunition &c. &c. were unable to follow them up. The commerce of the country was almost annihilated. The contending armies were pillaging and robbing the cattle, haciendas &c. Agriculture was neglected. The crop of Indigo for this year, 1822 was computed at only 2300 to 2500 cerroons (about 350,000 lbs.)—falling short one half from last year. There was no prospect of a speedy termination of the war; the limited means of both parties preventing any decisive movements. In fine the treasury was exhausted, and the country presented a scene of distress unparalleled in the annals of history.—*Gazette.*

PERU, BOLIVIA, &c.

We have been favored by a commercial friend with a file of Lima papers to the 8th of November.

The Congress of Peru was in session, & proceeding harmoniously. The new constitution was before them, and its discussion suspended by an order to print it, about the last of October. We are much pleased with some of the features of those parts we have seen in the papers. One article expressly forbids municipal authorities to interfere with national questions. This was probably suggested by the unwarrantable and dangerous measures taken by the towns and cities of Colombia, in connection with the rebellion.

BOLIVIA.—A circular from the War department of Bolivia was issued to the generals of the auxiliary troops from Columbia, on the 29th of September, requesting them to use their diligence to withdraw the last of their divisions in December. The government had previously fixed on that period for the departure of the second battalion only; and they had resolved to hasten the departure of all the foreign troops partly on account of the amicable expressions of Peru since general Lamar has been installed her president, and partly out of a wish to have the country left to herself at the meeting of the national representation, which President Sucre has long been anxious again to convocate. This is a very good omen; and the circular, which is long shows that the country is perfectly pacified, and that no apprehension is to be entertained of any difficulty rising from that quarter at present.—*N. Y. American.*

TURKEY & GREECE.—By a late arrival at New York, London papers to the 7th, and Liverpool to the 8th January have been received. They announce the important fact that the allied ambassadors had quitted the Turkish capital. Mr. Canning departed on the 8th December for Smyrna, and was proceeding on for London. M. de Ribaupierre had removed to Odessa, and Gen. Guillemont was on his way to Toulon. Previous to the departure of the ambassadors an extraordinary council had been held, when the Porte again refused to accept of the intervention, in consequence of which they demanded their passports, which the Reis effendi would not grant; expressing a willingness, however, to deliver them if they could shew instructions from their government for the step they were about to take; but orders were given to respect the vessels in which they might depart. M. de Ribaupierre, it is said gave his two colleagues, before his departure, the assurance that if the porte respected in its full extent the convention of Ackerman, and did not by some inconsiderate step, compromise the protectorate of Russia over the two principalities, the Russian cabinet would conscientiously execute the convention of 6th July. But all accounts from Turkey represent the government as making active preparations for war, and that the Russian army was about to cross the Pruth.

In consequence of the warlike movements on the Russian frontiers, the agent of Austria, M. Aqueneru, who resides in Bucharest, has just given orders to the *mocons* (shepherds of Transylvania, who bring their flocks into the plains of Wallachia to pass the winter), to quit the banks of the Danube, and to retire with their flocks towards the frontiers of their own country. The government is also augmenting its troops in Transylvania and Bannat.

The news from Greece is of little interest. There is a report that Patras had fallen into the hands of the Greeks.

GREAT BRITAIN.—There has been a defalcation in the British revenue for the quarter ending the 5th January, which has accrued in the excise. A ministerial paper says the decline will amount to between 300,000 and 400,000*l.*

COLOMBIA.—The inhabitants of the coast have been much alarmed by the appearance of some Spanish vessels of war, and an attack at some point was anticipated. Com. Labarre had landed 50 Colombian sailors at Lagaira for exchange and a courteous correspondence took place between him and Gen. Paz.

It is reported that a body of Peruvian troops have entered the Colombian territory, by way of Tina. The affairs of Colombia are still unsettled and feverish.

FROM CUBA, &c. The following account of a desperate naval battle is received via Key West—

On the 14th February, information was received at Key West, from Havana, that the Guerrero (Mexican brig of war) had, on the 9th, fallen in with and captured, after a short engagement, two Spanish Guineaman brigs, which she manned. On Sunday, the 10th, she fell in with two Spanish men of war brigs, the Marte and Maria Amelia, one of 18 guns and 180 men, the other of 10 guns and 130 men, both of which she beat; they succeeded, however, in making their escape into Mariel. The Guerrero mounted 22 guns, and had a crew of 136 men. In this engagement, she suffered much in her spars and rigging, and it was supposed the Spanish loss was very heavy.

The firing, in this action, was heard in Havana, when the frigate *Lealtad*, of 54 guns and five hundred men, immediately put to sea. She is said to be a remarkable fast sailer, and the brig being in a very crippled state, was soon overtaken by the frigate, when a desperate fight ensued which lasted two hours and twenty minutes, one hour and a quarter of which time, the two

vessels were within speaking distance. During the engagement, the colors of the Guerrero were twice shot away & replaced. The two previous engagements, and this long and close fight, exhausted the whole of the powder and shot of the Guerrero, when as a consequence, she ceased firing, and being so crippled in spars and rigging, capt. Porter determined to strike his colors. The frigate supposing they were again shot away, continued her fire, until the brig had surrendered, and capt. Porter was killed, by a grape shot passing through his body.

LIBERIA.—Eight of the crew of the Ontario sloop of war were paid off, and left at cape Mesurado, by their own request. The Ontario remained at the establishment seven days, and the officers were treated with much attention, and entertained in a handsome manner by the colonists. They appeared to be in flourishing condition, possessing all the comforts and many of the luxuries of life. Some of them had become quite versed in a trade and intercourse was established for a distance of 100 miles in the interior, and perfect harmony exist between the and the natives.—*N. Y. Geo.*

The editors of newspapers published in the city of Mexico, pronounce the conduct of commodore Porter. Their opinion particularly the unbombed conduct of the people and government in its judgment, and intrepidity; and add, that his general management and regulations have brought the naval force into great favor. It is stated that, as soon as General Vives, Governor of the island, heard of his having been appointed to command of the Mexican squadron, made the strongest representations to the cabinet of Madrid, concerning the dangers to which the island and its commerce would be exposed, and the necessity of reinforcements.—*Nat. Gaz.*

THE TURKISH CAPITAL.

Constantinople is now a confused mass of ill-built wooden houses, rising one above the other from the water side, and surrounded by numerous domes and minarets; altogether there is a more sumptuous than in any other place I have yet visited there is but one square, no good street, very few public buildings of note, and the houses almost entirely in the same style of architecture; they are exclusively built of wood, one story projecting beyond the other; the exterior is generally a dirty red, and the windows which are seldomly are covered with a grating so closely articulated as barely to emit the light. The interior is divided into two parts, the appropriated to the women is termed *harem*, and is never entered, even by male relatives of the wives. The shops are all open warehouses; the pavement sits cross-legged near the entrance. The principal articles of merchandise are, silks, drelery, sweetmeats, and tobacco—the great staples of Turkish commerce. The streets are very narrow, and so badly paved that they are not passable in any thing whatever. The roof of the houses nearly meet so that the air or sunlight have scarcely any ingress where, and all places in the world they are most crowded.

Salt.—The manufactures of this article have taken alarm at the proposition to reduce the duty on foreign salt, and memorialized Congress pleading for the continuance of the protection. Although we are friendly to the protective system, we are not at all displeased at the prohibition of the salt manufactures, as it will have some salutary effect in future, convincing them that the system of monopolizing pursued by them to oppress the community, will ultimately result to their disadvantage than that of the public. We hope they have already been convinced of their ill advised policy, by retracing it, and propitiating an injured public, avert a resort to that which, to them might prove injurious.—*Ind. Poll.*

RIGHT ABOUT.

Mr. Marthens the editor of the *Western Journal* at Pittsburg, formerly a steady supporter of the cause of General Jackson on the grounds as he believed of a bargain and sale between Mr. Adams and Mr. Clay, has lately become convinced of the injustice of the charge, by the gentleman, and with a manly business opinion of all imitation, has abjured his former opinions & come out for the administration of morality and honor, which every one ought to hold sacred, to rectify the wrong into which we have been betrayed and do justice to two distinguished men, who stood highest on the list of American worthies.