

TWENTIETH CONGRESS.

FIRST SESSION.

Tuesday, March 25.

In the SENATE, the bill providing for the final settlement of the land claims in several States and territories was taken up, and after some consideration of the substitute offered by Mr. Berrien, it was laid on the table. The bill for graduating the price of the public lands was taken up, Mr. Hendricks' motion to amend still pending. Mr. Barton spoke at great length against the bill and the amendment.

In the HOUSE, a resolution was adopted, on motion of Mr. Hall, referring it to the Committee on the District of Columbia to inquire into the expediency of adopting some measures in relation to the varioloid disease which has made its appearance in the city. The house then, in committee of the whole, resumed the discussion of the Tariff, when Mr. Hoffman concluded the remarks on the subject commenced by him on Thursday. Mr. Bates of Massachusetts then took the floor in reply, but, as the hour of adjournment had nearly arrived, on his motion the committee rose and reported progress.

Wednesday, March 26.

In the SENATE, the bill "providing for the settlement of land claims in several States and Territories," was considered, amended and ordered to a third reading. The bill for graduating the price of public lands, and ceding the refuse to the States in which they lie," was considered, and discussed at great length. Some time was spent in the consideration of executive business.

In the HOUSE, a resolution was laid on the table by Mr. Tucker, of South Carolina, for the appointment of a committee to meet such committee as the Senate might appoint, to fix a day for the adjournment of Congress. Mr. Floyd then moved the consideration of his resolution on the same subject; but withdrew the motion at the request of Mr. McDuffie. The House in committee of the whole on the state of the Union, resumed the discussion of the Tariff, when Mr. Bates, of Massachusetts spoke for about two hours against the original bill, and in favor of the amendment. He was followed by Mr. Forward on the other side; but, before Mr. Forward had gone through, the Committee rose and reported progress.

Thursday, March 27.

In the SENATE, the bill for the relief of the widow of the late Gen. Brown—giving her \$5,000 dollars, the amount of pay, emolument and allowances from the time of his death to the end of the present year—was after some discussion, ordered to a third reading.

While this bill was under consideration Mr. Noble said he knew it would be of no use to say a word in opposition to the bill. But the cry of misery and poverty arose from every corner of the western country; he could not but raise his voice against a bill which appropriated the money of the people to favorites. General Brown was a distinguished officer. But shall we pension his family, and neglect the families of others who have also fought and bled in the service of the country. Shall we, under the idea of what was done in Athens, have pensioned favorites? Sir, what become of Athens? It was shattered. Gen. Brown did not, with his single arm, win battles. He was supported by thousands of the brave yeomanry of the country. He would offer an amendment to the bill providing for their widows; but the gentleman, [Mr. Harrison] had told us the other day, that he did not associate soldiers with the officers. This bill was but an entering wedge; next, we should pension civil favorites. Distinguished members of Congress might, perhaps be put on the list. But whose money was it we talked of dispensing in bounty? Our own, or the people's? What right had we to dispose of the property of others, without their authority? While we are boasting of liberty, we are, by such enactments as these, forging the fetters of Despotism.

Establish this precedent, and you must pension the families of all your officers and soldiers. In this case, we had not even waited for a petition. It was said that the late general had left his family in reduced circumstances. Was it our duty to indemnify him for the expenses incurred by his mode of life? If a soldier or officer be disabled in the service, put him on the pension list. If he dies let that be the end of it.

In the HOUSE, Mr. Tucker moved the consideration of the resolution he offered on the preceding day, to appoint a joint committee to fix a day for the adjournment of Congress, and the ayes and noes being called for by Mr. Storrs, the House refused to consider it: Ayes 78, Noes 37.—The House, in committee of the whole on the state of the Union, resumed the discussion of the tariff. Mr. Forward having

concluded his remarks, was succeeded by Mr. Storrs, Mr. Burges and Mr. Anderson, all against the bill, and in favor of the amendment. After some remarks from Mr. Randolph, the question was then taken on Mr. Mallary's amendment, which was rejected—Ayes 78, Noes 102. Mr. Mallary then moved another amendment, to which an amendment was moved by Mr. Buchanan. The committee then rose and the amendments were ordered to be printed.

Friday, March 28.

In the SENATE, the bill for the relief of Mrs. Brown, widow of the late Gen. Brown was passed. The bill granting a township of land to Kenyon College, in the State of Ohio was discussed, and ordered to a third reading. Some time was spent in the consideration of executive business.

In the HOUSE, the House in committee of the whole on the state of the Union, resumed the consideration of the Tariff.—The question before the committee was the amendment offered by Mr. Buchanan to the amendment proposed on the preceding day by Mr. Mallary. After various observations by Messrs. Buchanan, Dwight Mallary, Storrs, S. Wright and Davis, the amendment was negatived. Mr. Miller then moved another amendment, aimed like that of Mr. Buchanan, at the destruction of the minimum system, which was also negatived. The question was then taken on the amendment offered by Mr. Mallary which was also rejected—Ayes 77, Noes 93. Mr. Sprague had then risen to address the committee on some other items of the bill, when the Committee rose.

AMERICAN COLONY AT LIBERIA.

Copy of a Letter from Capt. Nicolson, of the U. S. Navy, to the Hon. H. Clay.

WASHINGTON, March 17, 1826.

SIR: Having visited the Colony of Liberia, on my return to the United States, from a cruise in the Mediterranean, I cheerfully comply with your request, by presenting to you such views of its present condition and probable growth, as occurred to me in the course of that visit.

The soil in the possession of the Colonists is rich, and will produce a superabundance for the support of the Colony, as well as for external commerce. Sugar, cotton, coffee, rice, and various trees and plants, yielding valuable dyes, and medicinal gums, can be cultivated with success.

The population is now 1,200, and is healthy and thriving. The children who are born in the country are fine looking, and I presume can be raised as easily as those of the natives. All the Colonists with whom I had any communication, (and with nearly the whole I did communicate in person, or by my officers) expressed their decided wish to remain in their present situation, rather than to return again to the U. S. I cannot give you better evidence of the prosperity of the Colony, than by mentioning that eight of my crew, (colored mechanics) after going on shore, two several days, applied for, and received their discharge, in order to remain as permanent settlers. These men had been absent from their country upwards of three years, and had, among them, nearly two thousand dollars in clothes and money.—Had they not been thoroughly convinced that their happiness and prosperity would be better promoted by remaining among their free brethren in Liberia, they would not have determined on so momentous a step as quitting the U. S. perhaps forever, where they all had left friends and relatives.

The appearance of all the Colonists, those of Monrovia as well as those of Caldwell, indicated more than contentment.—Their manners were those of freemen, who experienced the blessings of liberty, and appreciated the boon. Many of them had by trade, accumulated a competency, if the possession of from three to five thousand dollars may be called so. As a proof of the growing importance of the commerce of the country, more than 100 hogheads of tobacco had been used during the last year, and the demand was increasing. Ivory and camwood are now the prominent articles received in exchange for foreign imports; other dyewoods, and many medicinal gums and roots will be hereafter brought in, as they are already known to exist in the interior.

I take this occasion to suggest the propriety of permitting any of the Colonists to purchase an additional number of acres of land from the Agent. By permitting this, the more enterprising will be enabled to turn their attention to the culture of the coffee tree, which grows spontaneously in the vicinity of Monrovia. In fact, the soil will produce every thing which a tropical climate will allow to arrive at maturity.

From the good order and military discipline which appear to prevail among the Colonists, I am induced to believe they could easily repel any attack which could

be made upon them by any native force. They have arms, and having associated themselves in volunteer companies, have acquired the knowledge of using them with effect, against any probable force which might be brought to bear upon them, by undisciplined and scattering tribes in their vicinity. It is true, they have no harbors for large vessels, as all their rivers are obstructed by bars. This is not of much consequence to their coasting trade, as they have many harbors and inlets, which are accessible to small vessels. Large vessels have also one advantage, that most of the heavy winds are off the coast, which gives them a lee and a smooth sea. Off Cape Mesurado, there is a good anchorage, and on the pitch of the Cape they have planted a battery, which will protect any vessel that may need it, from piratical depredations.

I would respectfully suggest, for your consideration, the propriety of making the principal Agent of the Colony a "Commercial Agent," as cases have occurred on the coast when such an appointment might have proved the means of rescuing American property from the hands of foreigners, who have maintained possession of it in consequence of there being no legalized American Agent on the coast.

The importance of this Colony, as regards the native tribes of the coast, is, in my estimation, great. They already begin to perceive that it is civilization and the blessings of religion, which give superiority to man over his fellow man.—They had supposed it was the white skin; but now they see, in their neighborhood, men of their own color, enjoying all those advantages hitherto deemed peculiar to the former. This has elicited a spirit of inquiry, which must tend to their benefit. The philanthropist may anticipate the day when our language and religion will spread over this now benighted land.—The slave trade will cease, as the Colony progresses, and extends its settlements.—The very spot, where now exists a free People, was a depot for the reception of manacled slaves. This fact alone is entitled to consideration, and ought to arouse the zeal of the friends of humanity every where.

Our large cities complain of the number of free blacks who have, by their petty crimes, filled their penitentiaries. Would not the colony be benefited, by the labor of these men, and the community relieved by their transportation? I certainly think the colony sufficiently strong, both morally and physically, to prevent any injury from their admission. I do not pretend to point out the mode or character in which they ought to be received. This I leave to those who are more able to judge on the subject. I see that the colony is, now, in want of numbers, to clear and cultivate a country, which will amply repay them for the labor.

I take leave to mention, that the climate is much like that of all similar latitudes; and, as the land is rich, and most of it still in woods, we may expect that bilious fevers will sometimes prevail, but I do not think it more unhealthy to the colored people than our extreme Southern coast; and as the soil of the coast is cleared and cultivated, I have no doubt it will be found as healthy as any other Southern latitude. It was, I believe, never intended, that the white man should inhabit this region of the globe; at least we know that the diseases of this climate are more fatal to him, than to the man of color.

I confess sir, that, since I have visited this Colony, I have felt a strong interest in its prosperity, and hope that it will thrive under the auspices of a society, among whom are some of our most distinguished citizens.

If what I have communicated shall prove instrumental in the slightest degree, to sustain you in the cause of humanity, and of this degraded race, I shall rejoice that my duty called me to witness the growing prosperity of the Colony of Liberia.

With sentiments of high respect, I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

JNO. B. NICOLSON.

Late Commander of the U. S. Ship Ontario.

The Hon. HENRY CLAY,

Vice President of the Colonization Society.

From "We the People."

THE SIX MILITIA MEN SHOT:

And one hundred and eighty seven half shaved and drummed out of Camp.

The documents called for by the House in relation to these unfortunate men, have at length issued from the press.

The trembling solicitude evinced by the partisans of Gen. Jackson, and their frequent but abortive attempts, first to arrest their publication, and then to veil the truth under a report of a committee principally composed of the ardent supporters of the General, and to which report these documents were appended, induced us to fear that facts would be disclosed from which every mind, not insensible to the

claims of justice and humanity, would turn away with abhorrence. A single but at the same time as attentive perusal, has more than confirmed our anticipations, but our fears—fears, for the honor of our country—for the honor of human nature—lest our early annals should be stained with a deed of barbarism and of blood.

We do not intend to enter at this time into a minute examination of all the facts connected with these trials. We are incapacitated to do so. The perusal alone has filled us with sensations of such unutterable anguish—that American citizens, who had exposed their lives in defense of their country, who at most were misled but not intentionally culpable, should have been compelled to expiate imaginary offenses, by the severest indictments known to the Laws—a perpetual stigma upon the survivors; drumming from the camp, and death by shooting—that we are absolutely disqualified from attempting more than the publication of the record, which will speak for itself and the following brief outline of the points which will bear the test of an impartial examination of the documents themselves.

1. That the letters of Gov. Blount unequivocally show that three months was the longest term of service that the Tennessee militia were willing to render; and that the militia volunteers, who had been called out the year before, had returned of their own accord after a service of less than three months, were nevertheless upon the application of Gov. Blount to the War Department, paid for their services and honorably discharged.

2. That the law of April, 1814, under which it was alleged that these men were called into service, required from the militia only a term of service of three months; and provided only for their being compelled to serve a period of six months when, "in the opinion of the President of the United States, the public interest might require it."

3. That being mustered under a law limiting their time of service to three months, unless in the case specifically excepted, the men had a right to the most certain evidence that their services were required by the President of the United States, if called on to remain for a longer period.

4. That their services of six months were never required by the President, or by any person acting by his authority.

5. That at the expiration of three months term of service, both officers and men were impressed with the belief that they were not bound to remain. That this opinion was expressed by Capt. Strother, whose men principally left the army, publicly and repeatedly. That more than a month before the alleged mutiny, Capt. Strother was heard by some of the men to ask of Col. Pipkin, the President of the Court Martial, to show him the law or the authority for six months service. That Col. Pipkin, replying that he could not, was informed by Capt. Strother that he ought to be able to show the authority for a departure from that law which the militia might consider as the rule of service.

6. That these unfortunate citizen soldiers, not having been shown the authority for their detention, and knowing only the law limiting their service to three months, considered themselves as discharged by law, upon their fulfillment of the legal term; that some of those found guilty, rendered their arms, obtained receipts, and acted as men who thought themselves free from any obligation whatever to remain.

7. That the Captain who if mutiny was committed, was the principal ringleader, because he had openly declared his ignorance of any law compelling a longer service than three months and took no measures to suppress the determination to return, experienced the lenity of the Court, and the commanding General, and was only dismissed the service; while the men, who had been fortified in their impressions by his repeated declarations, and misled by his example, were made to suffer the punishment of DEATH.

8. That the Court Martial for the trial of these men was ordered by General Jackson: That it was composed of barely six officers enough to fulfill the requirements of law: That the majority of the Court were young officers, a Lieutenant and two Captains who might be desirous of promotion, and willing to gratify the known wishes, expressed opinions of the commanding General, and:

9. That the awful sentence of death, ignominy, involving not only the immediate parties, but their families and descendants, was ordered by General Jackson to be carried into almost instantaneous execution; giving too much reason to believe that their fate had been sealed before the day of trial; and that a delay of four days was only permitted to intervene, lest the fate of these intended victims should be arrested, and the cry of Justice and humanity be heard in their behalf.