

TWENTIETH CONGRESS.

FIRST SESSION.

IN SENATE.

Tuesday, April 22.

On motion of Mr. Noble, the Senate resumed the consideration of the bill for the continuation of the Cumberland Road through Indiana.

The amendment reported by the Committee on Roads and Canals having been agreed to—

Mr. Noble explained at considerable length, the advantages and circumstances connected with this bill. It was one of the greatest importance to the States of Ohio, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Maryland. The origin of the road did not commence with the new States; it was commenced within the thirteen States, under the provisions of an act of March, 1806.

[Mr. N. read the act of 1806, authorizing the formation of the road from Cumberland to the river Ohio.] This act was followed up by subsequent acts. Ohio was admitted into the Union in 1802. Three per cent. was withheld out of the produce of the public lands, for the purpose of making roads within that State. Indiana was admitted into the Union the 19th. 1816. The two per cent. allowed by this State, was applied to the making of the road across the mountains to Ohio. In breach of the public faith, Congress have done nothing for Ohio. They did not say they would make a turnpike or a military road, it is true; and, not having designated the kind of road, they have made none. This misapplication of the public money was a breach of confidence, and an usurpation of power over the State of Indiana. Congress are bound by their compact to discharge the obligation they owe to Indiana. It is no argument to say that Ohio was then in the Union. It would advance the commerce of the northern country. It is a military road, because, if all the low countries were invaded, it would facilitate and open a passage for your military force. His over zeal for the Government was the imperious cause which induced him to urge the performance of an act of justice, by the application of the 2 per cent. to this State, in such way as they have applied their 3 per cent.

Mr. N. proposed to allow the superintendent a salary of \$4000. He felt anxious for the passage of the bill. He would freely relinquish his eight dollars per diem, and give it to the work. For the western people, it was essential that the road should be continued. It would promote the settlement of the country, and facilitate communication between the different parts of the western country.

After some remarks from Messrs. Chandler, Noble, and Hendricks,

The question was taken on ordering the bill to a third reading, and decided in the affirmative, as follows:

YEAS.—Messrs. Barnard, Barton Bateman, Benton, Chase, Eaton, Harrison, Hendricks, Johnson, Ky. Johnston, Le. K. Knight, McKimley, McLane, Marks, Noble, Ridgely, Robbins, R. van, Ruggles, Seymour, Silsbee, Smith, Md. Thomas, Webster, Williams.—26

NAYS.—Messrs. Branch, Chandler, Cobb, Dickerson, Ellis, Foot, Hayne, Macon, Parris, Smith, S. C. Tazewell, Tyler, Van Buren, White, Woodbury.—15.

Thursday, April 24.

The following resolution was submitted by Mr. Noble:

Resolved, That Congress does possess the power to make roads and canals within the respective States.

Friday, April 25.

The resolution submitted yesterday by Mr. Noble was taken up for consideration.

Mr. Noble in explaining the resolution, said he rose for the purpose of making a brief, but not a set speech, which, justice to the people of that portion of the country which he represented required. The question embraced in this resolution was an abstract, simple proposition, merely stating in substance that the power vested in Congress to authorize the making of rail roads within each and all of the States. It was true Indiana was but an infant, compared to New York. In the first session of the Nineteenth Congress, on the 19th of December, the proposition was stated that Congress had not the power to make these roads within the States. The subject was then allowed to sleep within the lids of the journal. He will now set up for himself, and sin no more, if he can avoid it. What his humble and abstract proposition goes to prove—is the power of Congress—in which he is borne out by authority. The feeling of the mercantile interest of the South has been aroused by the apprehension which the discussion then created, that Congress had not the power. Georgia declared, in glowing colors, the power of Congress—Georgia was open

and magnanimous in the assertion of its feelings. South Carolina decently avowed the power, and is therefore entitled to respect; no secret lay lurking behind the curtain; these States got up and owned the power, let other States possess a like spirit and candor. He was for stripping every man of dead weight—he should run free. Ohio says we have the power.—Indiana says so, loudly—New York can act on the principles of the tariff. He would speak honestly, he was for supporting the constitution, and would while he lived.—Not a Jackson man, within the limits of Indiana, that is not in favor of the proposition. He is a manufacturing man and a tariff man, but is no less a lover of liberty. There is iron enough in the country, but your manufacturers are screwed down by laws, and down they must lie. If my proposition requires consideration, I have no objection the resolution should be laid on the table.

Mr. Johnson, of Kentucky, thought it right to take time to deliberate, so as to arrive at a proper conclusion; he therefore moved that the resolution for the present be laid on the table. Agreed.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Saturday April 19.

On motion of Mr. Smith, of Indiana, it was,

Resolved, That the Committee on the Judiciary be instructed to inquire what amendments, if any, are necessary to be made to the act of 12th Feb. 1793 respecting fugitives from justice, and persons escaping from the service of their masters to secure, the perfect liberty of the free man of color and, at the same time, afford an ample remedy to the slave-holder in securing the fugitive slaves.

Extract of a letter to the editor of the N. Y. American, dated Washington, April 15.

The next piece of information I have for you, is, that Mr. John Adams, the son, and Secretary of the President of the U. S. was this morning, while on his way from the House, where he had just delivered a message from the President, to the Senate, where he was to deliver the same message, followed by Mr. Jarvis, the partner in printing & villification of Duff Green, & violently assaulted. The assault took place in the Rotunda, Jarvis was prevented from further violence by the interposition of Mr. Dorsey, of the House of Representatives. Mr. Adams defended himself with his cane; but was prevented from inflicting even a blow on his cowardly assailant, by the instantaneous interposition of Mr. Dorsey. The cause of this affray was that Mr. Jarvis, having gone to one of the drawing rooms of the President, was received—as he should have been—with great coolness, and young Adams having made the remark, that “if he had been a gentleman he would not have made his appearance there,” it is said that Jarvis wrote a note to Adams, inquiring whether he made the remark, to which no answer was given, and that this indication of contempt was the cause of his assault upon Adams.

I leave you and the public to make whatever comments may be suggested by this high-handed outrage upon the Secretary of the President, while conveying, in the discharge of his duty, a message from the Chief Magistrate to the coordinate branches of the Government, at the very threshold of the Representatives Hall.

My opinion is, that it is a direct insult offered to the Government, and more particularly to the President of the United States, who seems in every manner destined to be insulted and abused. I understand that it is so considered by the members of Congress generally; and that something is to be done in regard to it, tomorrow, which troubles the Jackson party not a little.—The great Jackson game is going on as it should go—and my predictions are fast becoming real, that their own acts, will destroy them.

The INDIAN AGENCY, at Fort Wayne, has recently been removed from that place to the Mouth of Eel River, on the Wabash.—The Agent, GEN. TIPTON, with his family, &c. left the former for the latter place, some days since.

The removal has been induced principally, it is presumed, from the fact of the location at the Mouth of Eel River being contiguous to the Pottawatomie and Miami tribes of Indians.—Indiana Journal.

ALBANY, APRIL 17.

Great Fire.—At half past 12 o'clock last night, a fire broke out in Aspinwall's bell foundry, in Beaver street, which spread with great rapidity, and before it was subdued destroyed between thirty and forty buildings, in Beaver, Green, and Hudson streets.

Destructive Fire.—On the morning of the 14th inst. a number of valuable stores, in the town of Rochester, New York, on the Canal, were, with the most of their contents, destroyed by Fire.

Richmond.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 1828.

EDITORIAL EXCURSION.

Having been delegated to the Administration Central Committee of Indiana, I left home for Salem on the 17th April and rode to Connersville, the weather cloudy and portentous.

From Connersville I had the company of the Delegate from that county. On the 18th, we rode to Greensburgh, the seat of Justice for Decatur county, a distance of 35 miles. For 12 miles we travelled in the rich level valley of the West fork of Whitewater—some of it so low as to be inundated; but much of it improved.—After we left this valley, our route lay across a country, but thinly settled, somewhat broken by the little streams; second rate land, and heavily timbered, principally with beech. The table land between the creeks falling into the Whitewater and those running into White river is flat and wet—a general characteristic throughout the western country. Here and there we passed a new settlement, where some sturdy workmen had commenced the felling of the enormous trees, which, tho' now so plentiful, may some day be extremely rare, and give room for a future Cowper to sing.

“No want of timber then was felt or feared.

The lumber stood

Ponderous and fixed by its own massy weight.”

The road, in general, was a mere path, but was beguiled, for two or three hours, by the company of a Methodist minister, who explained to us the doctrines of his sect; attempted to prove the divine origin of the Sabbath as now observed; and evinced no little vanity in repeating some of his invincible arguments against those who differ from him in opinion.

Greensburgh is situated near one of the forks of Sand creek; is well laid out; has a brick court house, a stanc jail, 2 taverns, 3 stores, and has a thriving appearance. It was laid out in 1824, and contains now 45 families.

Decatur county, in general, has an excellent body of land, capable of very fine improvement. Much of it yet belongs to the U. States. It is watered by Flat Rock, Clifty, and Sand creeks, all of them Mill streams, and the former a very considerable one.

We were detained by rain, the next morning, but our time and attention were completely absorbed by the Presidential question, the almost exclusive topic of inquiry and conversation throughout our route. About nine we started and travelled down the valley of Sand creek, which presented some fine land, and good settlements. This creek has a considerable course and falls into the Driftwood fork of White river, some miles above Brownstown. It is much swollen by rains, but is nearly dry in the summer. Boats descend it a considerable distance; and there are but few mills on it. After a few miles the route to Geneva, a deserted village, 25 miles below Greensburgh, was rather dreary. Near the creek the land is broken, and thinly settled, while beyond the brow of the hill it is wet, unsettled, and unpromising. The creek was too full for safe fording, and dashed along its rocky bed, a threatening object to the stranger's eye. In one place we rode 8 miles without passing a house, part of the distance singularly wild and gloomy, the little creeks foaming and dashing, from the recent rains. The settlements along this creek were commenced about 10 years since—many of the inhabitants are squatters—and the appearance of the country and settlers is far from agreeable.

We put up at a little cabin just below Geneva, where the ability to accommodate was not equal to the disposition. We joined our host in ordinary conversation, willing in this secluded spot by any means

“To palliate dulness, and give time a shore.”

20th.—The weather was cloudy, chilly and disagreeable. For 12 miles our road lay through a country much broken by sink holes; but little settled, tho' some of it

is quite fertile. After this we entered upon a sandy soil, interspersed with numerous little swamps, which were now full of water. The land is said to be quite productive, and settlements are numerous. As far as Brownstown, 18 miles, the road run within a mile of the Driftwood, but never in sight of it. This river is described in boats a great distance, and is on this account, of great benefit to the interior of our State. On our left, as we rode along, we could see a range of hills, of a romantic appearance.

Brownstown is the seat of justice for Jackson county; has about 18 families, a tavern, one or two stores, a brick court house; but has not a thriving appearance. Four miles below we passed Verona, a hamlet of 3 or 4 houses, and once an Indian town. From this to the crossing of the Muscackitack, 6 miles, the country is sandy, rolling, full of little swamps, but is tolerably thickly settled.

The Muscackitack, which we crossed on a bridge, is a long rapid stream; some of its branches rising near the Ohio, in Jefferson county, and being actually navigable from a point 10 miles north of Madison. It falls into the Driftwood below Brownstown; and waters in its course an extensive body of country, some of which is well improved.

After crossing this river, we immediately ascended the Knobs, a range of high lands, 3 or 400 feet above the ordinary level of the country, and presenting many picturesque and romantic scenes. They commence on the north of the Driftwood, and after crossing it range up along the Muscackitack, then, bending southward, approach the Ohio below the Falls. The country, after ascending the Knobs, is generally uneven, but fertile and thickly settled.

21st.—Arrived at Salem to breakfast, and remained there, engaged in the business upon which we went, until after dinner of the succeeding day.

Salem, the seat of justice for Washington county, is situated on a lively site, and thus presents a varied aspect to the eye. It contains about 800 inhabitants; most of the building are of brick, and the town wears a thriving appearance. It has a large and handsome brick court house now completing; a large brick building for the County Seminary; 2 cotton factories, both in handsome brick buildings, driven by horse power—one of 126 and the other of 84 spindles; fulling mill and carding machine, grist and saw mill, all driven by horse power; 8 good stores; 1 drug store; 3 taverns; 1 tobacco manufactory, and the usual mechanics.

At 2 o'clock, on the 22d left Salem for Madison, my former companion intending to return through Brownstown. For 10 or 12 miles the country is quite rolling, and most of the way, thickly settled, having many good farms and houses. Again I found myself upon the Knobs, elevated more than 300 feet above the country below, over which my eyes wandered without an elevation to oppose them, the prospect in front being bounded only by the horizon. All below is one vast plain in appearance, made dark and sombre by the interminable woods. A whole county could be surveyed at a glance, and a cloud of smoke designated the position of its seat of justice. Upon our left, the successive projections of the Knobs, presented many a bold and varied prospect, and the portion of the range to the north of the Driftwood, appeared like a blue embankment against the distant horizon. Upon our right, a long and narrow cape intercepted any further view. Immediately upon our left was an insulated mound-like hill, which reared its wood crowned head to an equal elevation with the highest of singular range.

In 3 or 4 miles we passed the Pigeon Roost, an early frontier settlement, now deserted, at which place, upon some provocation, twenty one white persons were massacred by the Indians, in the spring of 1813. The country from the Knobs to New Lexington, the seat of justice of Scott county, is but sparsely populated, though it appears capable of profitable improvement.

New Lexington is pleasantly situated but is not thriving. It has about 45 families; 4 stores; brick court house, but in miserable repair; a small market house; 1 tavern, &c.

From Lexington to Madison, where I arrived on the 23d, there is a pleasant road, passing much of the way through fine settlements, of well improved farms. A number of the houses are of stone. The land is uneven, and the soil second rate.

Madison is the most populous town in the State, and, from its position, most eventually secure to itself the trade of a