

INDIANA LEGISLATURE.

[Condensed from the Indianapolis Papers.]

SENATE.

Dec. 16.—Mr. Clark submitted the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Judiciary Committee be instructed to inquire, whether it be practicable to devise legislative enactments, more effectually to restrain gambling; other than those now in force, in relation to that subject.

Mr. Clark said: Before moving the adoption of the resolution I beg leave to say, that I have purposely proposed the subject to the consideration of the committee, in the indefinite language of the resolution. I have purposely omitted to point out the particular enactments which I might conceive most efficient in restraining a vice which prevails to a lamentable extent. A vice, involving in its fascinations, like minds of the noblest mould and those of the most degraded cast. A vice, not only pernicious in itself; but associated with, and leading inevitably, if persisted in, to others highly criminal, and debasing men to the utmost depravity.

I am persuaded that the committee will give the subject that attention which its importance demands. I wish to place the matter before them and leave them untrammelled in their deliberations. Twice, since I have had the honor of a seat in this body, I have offered such remedies, as in my judgment would restrain this growing and serious evil; but I failed to convince the Senate of their propriety or necessity. I discharged what I conceived to be my duty to the country; and a like sense of duty now impels me again to notice the subject.

The enormous evils connected with this practice, unrestrained by our laws, have in some of the adjoining states driven the people to take the matter into their own hands, and to make and execute laws against offenders. And thus committing a greater evil, disregarding and destroying the supremacy and sanctity of the law. These occurrences admonish us of the necessity of anticipating the evil, by guarding the community, as far as practicable, against the alternative of seeing the land overrun with vice and immorality, or of wresting from the authorized powers of the state, the office of punishing offences.

The resolution was then adopted by consent.

Mr. Dumont moved the following resolution:

Resolved, That it is inexpedient and impolitic to legislate on the subject of divorces, any further than to clothe the courts with power to decree divorces in all proper cases.

Previous to any disposition being made of the resolution, considerable discussion took place, in which Messrs. Hillis, Clark, Payne, Plummer, Boon, Colerick and Dumont participated.

On the question of adopting the resolution, the Senate being equally divided, the chair decided it in the affirmative.

Dec. 18.—Mr. Shaw submitted the following resolution:

Resolved, That the committee on Military Affairs be instructed to inquire into the expediency of instructing our Senators, and requesting our Representatives in Congress, to vote against any appropriations of the public money to the Military Academy, located at West Point; and to advocate a repeal of all laws, or parts of laws now in force, in relation to that unnecessary and expensive institution.

After considerable discussion, and several amendments being proposed, the resolution was adopted, in its original shape, by a vote of ayes 13, noes 10.

On the 19th, Mr. Griffith introduced a resolution something different in its character from the above, on the same institution, which also called forth considerable debate, but being put to the Senate, was lost. Mr. Griffith's resolution was for inquiring into the abuses of said institution, and of memorializing Congress for the correction of them; and not for abolishing the institution.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Dec. 16.—Mr. Walker of D. reported a bill to locate a state road from Dillsborough to Aurora, in Dearborn county; and Mr. Gregg, a bill to incorporate a company to construct a turnpike from Lawrenceburgh to Harrison—each of which were passed to a second reading.

Dec. 17.—Mr. Gregg presented the petition of the corporation of Lawrenceburgh, praying for a repeal or suspension of an act removing the seat of justice of Dearborn county.

Mr. Gregg reported a bill to amend an act for the formation of Congressional Districts, for the election of Senators,

and Representatives in Congress; read and passed to a second reading.

Dec. 18.—Col. Stansberry, U. S. Assistant Engineer, made a detailed report of the various rail road surveys in this state, which were ordered to be printed. Mr. Walker of Shelby, offered a resolution for the appointment of a committee to enquire into the expediency of fixing the ratio for Representatives at 1,000, to which Mr. Graham proposed an amendment, "that each organized county, with six hundred voters, shall be entitled to one Representative"—when the resolution and amendment were laid on the table. Mr. Liston preferred charges against Judge Everetts, which were sent to the Judiciary committee, with power to send for persons and papers.

INDIANA AND MICHIGAN.

To the Editors of the National Intelligencer.

GENTLEMEN: In looking over your paper of Saturday, I observe an article headed, "The case of Michigan," and I see that you have promised to publish in your next paper an opinion of the Attorney General of the United States on the right of the people of Arkansas to form a Constitution and State Government, and you state that the President of the United States thinks the opinion of the Attorney General applicable to both Territories. It is not my purpose to attempt a refutation of the doctrine advanced by the opinion referred to, or to oppose the admission of both Michigan and Arkansas into the Union on the principles contemplated in the ordinance of Congress of 13th July, 1787, and in conformity to subsequent acts of Congress. In my humble opinion the people of Michigan have assumed for themselves power and authority that they did not possess under the existing laws of Congress, and that on the presentation of their Constitution in its present form, a grave question will be raised, which must be settled before Michigan can be admitted into the Union as an independent State. If I understand her Constitution it includes within the boundaries of the contemplated State of Michigan a portion of the State of Indiana; thus we find that the constitution makers of Michigan have overstepped the legitimate bounds of their territory, and assumed the power of framing a Constitution for a portion of a sovereign State of the Union. The people residing in that part of Indiana could not, if they had desired it, (which they did not,) take part in the election of Delegate, or other steps taken by the people of Michigan proper, and yet strange to tell, Michigan, we are informed, is about to present a Constitution embracing a strip of country ten miles wide, and extending from Lake Michigan to the east boundary of Indiana, a distance of more than one hundred miles.

By the second section of an act of Congress of the 19th of April, 1816, entitled "an act to enable the people of the Indiana Territory to form a Constitution and State Government, and for the admission of such State into the Union, on an equal footing with the original States, it is provided, that the said State shall consist of the Territory included within the following boundaries, to wit: bounded on the east by the meridian line which forms the western boundary of the State of Ohio, on the south by the river Ohio, from the mouth of the Great Miami river to the mouth of the river Wabash, on the west by a line drawn along the middle of the Wabash from its mouth to the point where a due north line drawn from the town of Vincennes will last touch the northwestern shore of the said river, and from thence by a due north line until the same shall intersect an east and west line drawn through a point ten miles north of the southern extreme of Lake Michigan on the north by the said east and west line until the same shall intersect the first mentioned meridian line, which forms the western boundary of the State of Ohio, provided that the Convention hereinafter provided for, when formed, shall ratify the boundaries aforesaid, otherwise they shall be and remain as now prescribed by the ordinance for the government of the territory northwest of the river Ohio."

The boundaries thus proposed and defined by Congress, were ratified by a Convention of the people of Indiana, and became part and parcel of the compact between the United States and the State of Indiana, over which the people of Michigan Territory can have no control, Congress possessing the power to legislate for them.

The northern boundary of Indiana was surveyed, marked, and designated agreeably to the foregoing boundary, under the provisions of an act of Congress of 2d March, 1827. The State of Indiana has been in the quiet possession of this part of her territory near 20 years. I ask how is it possible to admit Michigan under her present constitu-

tion? Will not her admission, under such circumstances, be followed by serious collisions? And an appeal to the courts of the country, or to arms, will be unavoidable. This will produce a state of things that every patriot should avoid.

The article published in your paper, it appears to me, was intended to induce the President of the United States to follow the example of General Washington, and to submit the constitution of Michigan without, perhaps, referring to the existing laws and the facts of this case. This, I trust, will not be done. Michigan will be called on to revise and amend or alter her constitution so as to bring her action within her legitimate sphere. Then, and in that case, no one is more anxious than the writer of this article to see her admitted into the Union as an independent State.

INDIANA.

From the Indiana Journal.

OUR NORTHERN BOUNDARY.

Although it may not be generally known to your readers, it is nevertheless true, that in the constitution which the people of Michigan have recently adopted, a portion of our territory, of great value to us, is included and made a part of the proposed new state of Michigan. The constitution to which I refer, begins as follows, to wit:

"We the people of the Territory of Michigan, as established by the act of Congress of the eleventh of January, eighteen hundred and five, in conformity to the fifth article of the ordinance, &c."

For the proposed boundaries of Michigan, we have therefore only to refer to the act of 1805. According to all just rules of construction, the limits fixed at that time for the territorial government, are the boundaries intended by the constitution for the new state.

But what are the boundaries prescribed for the territory by the act of 1805? The first section of that act reads as follows, to wit:

"Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That from and after the thirteenth day of June next, all that part of the Indiana territory which lies north of a line drawn east from the southerly bend or extreme of Lake Michigan, until it shall intersect Lake Erie, and east of a line drawn from the said southerly bend through the middle of said lake to its northern extremity, and thence due north to the northern boundary of the United States, shall, for the purpose of temporary government, constitute a separate territory, and be called Michigan."

Be it recollected too, that with this constitution, which takes from us a strip of territory ten miles in width, and deprives us of access to the lake, Michigan is at this moment urging her admission into the Union as an independent state; that she has already elected her senators and representative in congress; and that by having one of her own citizens at the head of the War Department she has the advantage of a powerful influence in her favor.

Under these circumstances, can it be supposed that Indiana will remain silent? We say let her voice be heard through the Legislature, in the maintenance of her just rights. Let her say to congress and to the nation—and let it be said with all the force which language can give—with all that firmness and decision becoming a sovereign state, whose rights are threatened—that she will not yield her territory, and with it all her lake privileges, while there remains within her reach any means of resistance that can be exerted consistently with her duty to the Union.

EQUAL RIGHTS.

Dec. 16, 1835.

ACCIDENT.—On Thursday afternoon last, a flat boat loaded with hay, caught fire while floating down the river, opposite this town, and continued burning as long as she remained in sight. The boat and cargo were entirely consumed. The crew escaped in the small boat, without saving even their clothes.

Madison Republican, Dec. 24.

A bill has passed the Legislature of South Carolina to prevent any colored merchant or tradesman, whether bond or free, to carry on work on their own account and if any white person employ such persons in contravention of the law, they are subject to fine and imprisonment, at the discretion of the court.

That no free negro or person of color shall hold a slave or slaves, as master, nor shall any white person hold a slave in trust for any free negro or person of color.

That no person or persons shall keep a school for instructing any free negro or person of color to read and write, under very severe penalty.

NEW YORK.—The population of the city is found to be, by a census just taken, 264,000.

RISEING SUN:

SATURDAY MORNING, JAN. 2, 1836.

LETTERS FROM WASHINGTON—No. 2.

[Correspondence of the Rising Sun Times.]

GADSBY'S, No. —, 16th Dec. 1835.

Dear Glenn—Since my last letter, which I believe was of the 8th instant, (I keep no copy) both Houses of Congress have attended the funerals of Mr. Smith of Connecticut, and Mr. Kane of Illinois, of the Senate; and Mr. Wildman of Connecticut, of the House of Representatives. Yesterday, the Senate elected Mr. Haight of Vermont, and Mr. Shackford of Missouri, Doorkeeper and Assistant. In the House, Mr. Dorsey of Maryland, was elected Sergeant-at-Arms. To-day, the Senate has been engaged in the election of its Standing Committees. Being a mere spectator in the Gallery, I noted the result of the balloting, first, for the Chairmen, and then for the members of the different Committees. The results are curious, and affords us room for curious reflections. Can it be possible that grave Senators of both parties, in this most dignified body, have been conversing? It would seem so; and it may be borne in mind that two years ago the opposition to General Jackson, took the appointing of Committees out of the hands of the presiding officer of the Senate, where it had been for several years, and by changing a rule of the Senate, that body are now enabled to shape their Committees as they please, and to produce reports to embarrass the Executive, and cast suspicion on any public functionary they may wish to injure.

The appointing of the Senate's Committees has been postponed from day to day for three days. Last night Messrs. Calhoun and Preston arrived, which gave the opposition a majority, they having 22 votes, and the administration party 17, sometimes 18, which you will see by the result of the different ballottings, which I send you. It is substantially correct. You will observe that I have stated the vote given to the two highest candidates, without noticing scattering shots—15 votes constantly, sometimes 17 or 18, on the administration side, and 22 on the side of the opposition. If both parties happened to hit on the same man, he run quite a head: this seldom happened.

The people who favor this administration should unite and pull together. There can be no doubt of a majority of the people being for the administration, and why not show their strength? The Senators have set an example of concert. Will the people follow it up? We shall see.

I send you the result of the different ballottings for Chairmen of the Senate's Committees. It shows the first trials of the strength of parties in the Senate. I will not take the labor of putting down the different ballots for members of the Committees—if you want them look to the newspapers.

It looks like doing what you call in the West a small business, to talk so much about the election of Committees; but see the issue. Here, for instance, is Mr. —, the rival of General Jackson, and of every other prominent candidate for the Presidency—he is put at the head of the Committee of —. If he can possibly embroil us with a foreign nation, will he not do so, to embarrass the administration, and to prostrate the prospects of a rival for the Presidency? Would it not have been more liberal, more just, and safer, to have placed Mr. Buchanan of Pennsylvania, at the head of that Committee? He is a man of talent, great experience, has the confidence of the country and of the President.

Mr. Ewing of Ohio, is Chairman of the Committee on Public Lands. He is opposed to the settlers in the new country, and is unfriendly to the reduction of the price of Public Lands. Why not put some man from a new State, who would know your interests and serve the poor Pioneer, at the head of this most important Committee?

I have become acquainted with some of your Representatives, but have not as yet been introduced to your Senators. I see them in their seats.

We hear that Mr. Niles, a Jackson man, has been appointed by the Governor, to fill the vacancy of Mr. Smith of Connecticut. He is expected this week. No certain news of the final result of the late election in Mississippi. Both parties look with anxiety for the Senators from Louisiana and Mississippi. Mr. Cuthbert of Georgia, has not yet arrived.

Yours truly,

Ballottings for Chairmen of Committees in the Senate, on the 16th of December.

Chairman Committee on Foreign Relations—Mr. Clay 22 votes, Mr. King of Ala. 15 votes.

Finance—Webster 25, Wright 17.

Commerce—Davis 22, Hill 17.

Manufactures—King 22, Wall 13.

Agriculture—Brown 25, Tipton 15.

Military Affairs—Benton 29, Wall 3, Preston 3, Tipton 1.

Militia—Robinson 26, Goldsborough 1.

Naval Affairs—Southard 25, Talmadge 17.

Public Lands—Ewing 22, Morris 15.

Private Land Claims—Black 24, Linn 17.

Indian Affairs—White 26, Cuthbert 1.

Claims—Naudain 21, Shepley 15.

Judiciary—Clayton 22, Buchanan 16.

Post Offices, &c.—Grundy 25, Ewing 14.

Roads & Canals—Hendricks 39, Robinson 1.

Pensions—Tomlinson 23, Brown 16.

Dis. of Columbia—Tyler 23, King of Geo. 16.

Revolutionary Claims—Moore 20, Hubbard 14.

Accounts—McKean 22, Ruggles 14, Knight 2.

Engrossed Bills—Shepley 22, McKean 17.

—We take the liberty of saying that the Hon. AMOS LANE is not our Washington correspondent; nor did he write the letters published in our last, and in to-day's paper; and we feel confident that Mr. LANE is ignorant of who the writer is. We make this statement to contradict the assertions of some of the knowing

ones, who think they know as much, if not more, about our correspondent, than we do. It is also hinted that our correspondent resides in Rising Sun. This is not the fact either; but he is what he pretends to be—a mere looker on; a friend of ours, who expects to spend the winter and spring at Washington, and who has promised to send us an occasional letter.

The big papers at the East have their regular correspondents at Washington, and it seems to us rather singular that a little paper at the West cannot endeavor to follow them, without a great fuss being kicked up about it. We say it is singular—Verbum sat.

—The Editor of the Times presents to his Patrons the compliments of the season—and most sincerely does he return his heartfelt acknowledgements to those who have been punctual, through the year that is past, in furnishing him with the means of prosecuting his business. He hopes that those who are still in arrears from the commencement of the paper, will not be backward in making payment.

FIRE IN NEW YORK.

We are indebted to a friend for a copy of the Cincinnati Gazette extra, dated on yesterday week, containing an account of a most awful conflagration in the City of New York, and which the reader will find in to-day's paper. We believe this is the most destructive fire which has ever happened in the United States. The total loss it will be seen, is estimated at TWENTY MILLIONS OF DOLLARS!

—We are indebted to Messrs HENDRICKS and TITTON, our Senators, and to Mr. LANE, our Representative in Congress, for sundry congressional documents. Mr. HOWARD, of our State Legislature, will please accept our thanks for sundry state papers.

TEXAS.

The news from Texas continues to be of the most cheering character; and is hailed throughout our country with the greatest joy by those who feel a desire to see the onward march of civil and religious liberty. Although no decisive action has taken place, yet success has attended the Texian arms in every engagement. On the 18th November, a party of 35 Texians fell in with 150 Mexican cavalry, and completely repulsed them, killing 5, and wounding a number of their enemy. On the 23rd October, 400 Mexicans sallied out from San Antonio and attacked a party of 90 Texians, under Capt. Bowie; and after an engagement of three hours, the Mexicans were driven back with the loss of 18 killed, one piece of artillery, and forty muskets. "The entire Mexican forces within the walls of San Antonio, now number only 800, while the Texian Army without, are 2500 strong, well armed and in good spirits."

The Texians have formed a Provisional Government. Delegates met in general consultation, at San Felipe de Austin, on the 3d November, and adopted a Bill of Rights, and a plan of Government. Henry Smith was chosen Governor, and J. W. Robinson, Lieutenant Governor.

CONGRESS.

We have not as yet seen any thing of interest in the proceedings of Congress. It will take them three or four weeks, we suppose, to get a start. We find the following in the proceedings of the Senate, on the 16th December:

Mr. TITTON offered the following resolutions, which lie over for consideration:

Resolved, That the Committee on Commerce be instructed to inquire into the expediency of an appropriation for constructing a harbor at Michigan City, in Michigan, Indiana.

Resolved, That the Secretary of War be requested to cause to be prepared, and laid before the Senate, a plan and estimate for the construction of a harbor at Michigan City in the State of Indiana.

INDIANA INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS.

The following just and appropriate remarks in relation to Internal Improvements in this State, are copied from the (Paoli) Indiana Patriot. They meet with our entire approbation. We are friendly to Internal Improvement; but we are opposed to the State borrowing millions of money to make rail roads and canals.

"While we frankly express our sentiments in favor of the construction of Internal Improvements, we are equally decided in the opinion, that it is visionary, extravagant, and premature, for the young state of Indiana to enter into a system, and attempt the construction of works of that magnitude, which would be deemed inexpedient, and of doubtful policy, by the populous and wealthy State of New York or Pennsylvania. Twenty years hence, will be time soon enough for Indiana to embark in the heavy work of cutting canals and making rail-roads on the various routes designated. The great zeal manifested by the people in the northern and eastern sections of the state, together with the unqualified sanction of the Governor, will serve, no doubt, as a sufficient pretext for the Legislature, to authorize the borrowing of a sum sufficient to complete the work. And whether it will be the means for the advancement of 'the best interests of the State,' time alone will develop."

MARRIED.

On the 17th ult. by Davis Weaver, Esq. Mr. HARVEY PEASE, of Randolph township, to Miss ELIZA LEMON, of Caesar creek township.