

1st session, 22d Con.

Washington, January 23

In the senate on Friday Mr. Benton, in pursuance of notice, asked leave to introduce a resolution, declaring that the currency of the bank of the United States in the form of paper issued by the cashiers of its branches, the parent bank, and other branches to be authorized by its charter, and contrary to law. Mr. Benton addressed the senate in a speech of considerable length in favor of the resolution, and was followed by Messrs. Tyler, Forsyth, Miller, Marcy and Kane, who supported, and by Messrs. Dallas, Buckner, Chambers, Webster, Wilkins, and Bibb, who opposed the introduction of the resolution. Mr. Clayton, and after him Mr. King, suggested to the mover of the resolution so to modify it, as to divest it of its declaratory character, and make it a subject of inquiry, either by the select committee appointed on the bank memorial, or by some other committee of the senate. This requiring unanimous consent, and being objected to, the question was taken on granting leave to introduce the resolution, and was decided in the negative, yeas 16, nays 25. No other business of importance was transacted. The senate adjourned to Monday next.

In the house of representatives, Mr. Wickliffe from the committee on public lands, reported a resolution of inquiry respecting a memorial of the legislature of Mississippi, on the subject of injury to the public domain by the speculation of monied capitalists in reserved lands. It was agreed to by the house. Several other resolutions were introduced, and various bills reported and acted upon. The house resumed the consideration of Mr. Bonhams resolution respecting ad valorem duties, and Mr. Mitchell took the floor in its support until the hour expired, and the house passed to the order of the day.

January 25.

In the senate yesterday Mr. Poincote, who has been confined at home for some days by indisposition, resumed his seat. The resolutions submitted on Monday by Messrs. Benton and Moore, on the subject of the bank of the United States, were considered and agreed to. Among the memorials and petitions presented, was one from Maine, presented by Mr. Sprague, praying for the abolition of the postage on news papers and pamphlets, and the reduction of postage on letters, and one from Philadelphia presented by Mr. Dallas, praying for the renewal of the charter of the bank of the United States. After the morning business had been gone through, the senate, on motion of Mr. Forsyth, went into secret session, and continued there until it adjourned.

In the house of representatives, the committee on military affairs was, on motion of Mr. Drayton, discharged from the consideration of the claims of Maryland, for expenses incurred for the public defence during the late war, and the same was referred to a select committee of seven members. Mr. Washington from the committee for the District of Columbia, reported a bill to incorporate the Methodist Protestant church in Georgetown, which was read twice and committed. Mr. Watmouth from the committee on naval affairs, introduced two bills, one relative to naval schools, and the other authorizing the revision and extension of the rules and regulations of the naval service. They were severally read a first and second time and committed to a committee of the whole on the state of the union. The resolution submitted some days ago by Mr. Jenifer, for the appointment of a select committee to inquire into the expediency of making appropriations for the removal from the country of free persons of color, was taken up and discussed by Mr. Jenifer in favor of, and by Mr. Coke against, the proposition, until the expiration of the hour, when the house proceeded to the order of the day. A message was received from the president of the United States, with information called for by a resolution from the committee on public lands on the subject of the memorial of the Mississippi state legislature, concerning certain reserved lands, and the message and accompanying documents were referred to that committee. A variety of private bills were introduced and acted upon, after which the house went into committee of the whole on the state of the union. Mr. Hoffman in the chair, and took up the apportionment of representation bill. Mr. Wayne addressed the committee in favor of the establishment of a low ratio, in order to preserve the popular character and pure representative principle of the house. Before he had concluded, the committee, on motion of Mr. Crawford, rose and reported, and the house adjourned.

January 26.

The senate yesterday postponed until to-day the further consideration of Mr. Clay's resolution on the subject of the tariff, in order to go into the consideration of executive business. Proceeding to closing the doors, in addition to a considerable portion of morning business that was transacted, Mr. Benton submitted resolutions calling for important information with regard to the bank of the United States. Resolutions were also submitted. The senate continued in secret session to a late hour of the day.

In the house of representatives, a variety of bills were introduced from the respective committees, and read a first and second time, and committed. Mr. Ellsworth from the committee

on the judiciary, reported a bill to provide for the further compensation of the marshals of the district of Delaware, and a bill in addition to an act for the relief of insolvent debtors of the United States, which was read twice and postponed till Monday. Mr. Everett of Massachusetts, reported a bill from the committee on the library, making an appropriation to procure copies of historical documents from the public offices in Great Britain, which was read twice and committed to a committee of the whole on the state of the union. The bill introduced on the preceding day by Mr. Watmouth, authorizing the revision and extension of the naval rules and regulations, was read a third time and passed. The further consideration of the resolution on the subject of removing the free people of color, was postponed till to-day; and the house, after the introduction of nearly twenty resolutions, went into committee of the whole on the state of the union, Mr. Hoffman in the chair, and took up the apportionment bill. Mr. Wayne concluded his argument against the establishment of 43,000 as the ratio, and Messrs. Hunt, Ball, Patton, and Polk, addressed the committee. The question on Mr. Hubbard's proposition to fix the ratio at 44,000, was negatived by a vote of ayes 105, nays 81. Mr. Howard moved an amendment to change the time of the bill going into operation, from the 2d to the 6th of March, in order that the present weight of the several states might be preserved in the electoral colleges, on the ensuing presidential election, but before the question was disposed of, the committee rose and reported, and the house adjourned.

EXPLOITS OF PUTNAM.

As recorded in the veracious history of Connecticut, by the Rev. Sam. Peters.

The wonderful exploits of General Putnam, as related by other historians, are but trifling and commonplace, compared with the version of them given in Peters' History of Connecticut. The story of the bear is altogether more heroic than that of the wolf; inasmuch as the exploit was performed by himself alone, in the dead of night, and with the primitive weapon so much used by Hercules, to wit, a club. The going over the falls, surpasses any thing that has fallen from the pens of his professed biographers; and his hanging three days on a tree without food, is a matter of fact that many a writer, a little fastidious about the truth, might have hesitated to relate. But listen to Rev. historian:

We read that David slew a lion and a bear, and afterwards that Saul trusted him to fight Goliath. In Pomfret lives Col. Isaac Putnam, who slew a bear and her two cubs with a billet of wood. The bravery of this action brought him into public notice; and it seems he is one of fortune's favorites. The story is as follows:—In 1754, a large she bear came in the night from her den which was three miles from Mr. Putnam's house, and took a sow out of a pen of his. The sow, by squeaking, awoke Mr. Putnam, who hastily ran to the poor creature's relief; but before he could reach the pen, the bear had left it, and was trotting away with the sow in her mouth. Mr. Putnam took up a billet of wood, and followed the screamings of the sow, till he came to the foot of the mountain where the den was. Dauntless he entered the horrid cavern; and after walking and crawling upon his hands and knees for fifty yards, came to a roomy cell, where the bear met him with great fury. He saw nothing but the fire of her eyes; but that was sufficient for our hero, he accordingly directed his blow, which at once proved fatal to the bear and saved his own life at a most critical moment. Putnam then discovered and killed two cubs; and having, though in Egyptian darkness, dragged them and the dead sow, one by one, out of the cave, he went home, and calmly reported to his family what had happened. The neighbors declared, on viewing the place by torch-light, that his exploit exceeded those of Samson or David. Soon afterwards the general assembly appointed Mr. Putnam a Lieutenant in the army marching against Canada. His courage and good conduct raised him to the rank of Captain the next year. The third year he was made a Major; and the fourth a Colonel. Putnam and Rogers were the heroes during the last war. Putnam was so hardy at a time when the Indians had killed all his men, and completely hemmed him in upon a river, as to leap into a stream, which in a minute carried him down a stupendous fall, where no tree could pass without being torn in pieces. The Indians reasonably concluded that Putnam, their terrible enemy, was dead, and made report accordingly at Ticonderoga; but soon after, a scouting party found their sad mistake in a bloody rencontre. Some few that got off, declared that Putnam was yet living, and that he was the first son of Hobbamockow, and therefore immortal. However, at length, the Indians took this terrible warrior prisoner, and tied him to a tree; where he hung three days without food or drink. They did not attempt to kill him for fear of offending Hobbamockow; but they sold him to the French at a great price. The name of Putnam was more alarming to the Indians than cannon, and the men would not fight him after his escape from the falls. He was afterwards redeemed by the English.

* French war—Peters left this country in 1774, and wrote his History in the time of the American Revolution. He was a staunch Tory.

To contradict a man in argument, is to knock at his door to see if he is any body at home.

STEALING FRUIT.

An esteemed friend presented me with *Webster's Elementary Spelling Book* for examination; and among the great number of useful remarks which this indefatigable author has selected or prepared for the instruction of children, I was particularly pleased to find the following:—*It is no more right to steal apples or water melons from another's garden or orchard than it is to steal money from his desk. Besides, it is the meanest of all low tricks to creep into a man's enclosure to take his property.* For this service if I lived near *North Webster*, I would treat him to the earliest and best fruit of my garden.

Much as I am pleased with the course taken by our Legislature for suppressing the plundering of gardens and orchards, and much as might be done by editors and periodical papers, I am satisfied that to eradicate the evil, the axe ought to be laid to the root—that is, it ought to be imperatively enjoined on all teachers who derive any part of their pay from the funds of the state, to lecture their scholars on the leading principles of morality; and as stealing fruit is the most common of all larcenies, that its enormities should be particularly pointed out. We might then hope in a few years that the fruit in a garden, or an orchard, would be as safe as the clevis on a plough in the field, or an axe in the door yard.

It is said that a clevis or an axe would be more easily detected; and that it is harder to resist temptation when it leads to immediate enjoyment—let it be remembered that the temptation is no greater than what is hourly presented to the youth of a city, and that a craving appetite is only one of the motives that lead to the plundering of fruit; a frolic, and the idea of doing something smart or cunning is no inconsiderable inducement with many grown boys. Let public opinion render this vice as disgraceful as the robbing of hen-roosts—which might be done by proper lectures in common schools—and one branch of iniquity would be lopped.

It is not surprising that in a new state, where all the fruits were so recently wild like the cranberry on the marsh or the huckleberry on the hill, and free for every hand that could find them—that no proper distinction has been made between these and the fruits of the orchard or garden; and that no legislative protection, commensurate with the evil, should be immediately extended. Whenever the subject however shall demand the attention of wise statesmen, must see that the indulgence of predatory habits, has a natural tendency to lead on to crimes of a higher order; and that he who commences with the stealing of melons and peaches, unless timely arrested, is a very fair and promising candidate for the state's prison.

In good governments, every industrious and virtuous citizen will be protected in his rights and property; and the wretch that wrongs him will be hunted and punished. How has that been with us? and how has it been with our neighbors in Ohio? The trader may hang out his merchandise at the window—the mechanic may expose his wares at the side of the street, and wo-betide him that feloniously touches them. The gardener or orchardist, however, may toil and expend his hard earnings in improvements; he may endeavor to secure the fruits of his labor behind fences and hedges, but the ravager wrests from him the means of subsistence is only to be arraigned as a debtor! The vilest vagabond allowed to contract debts *vi et armis* at his own discretion! Such a state of things is incompatible with the existence of a virtuous population. It operates as a direct premium on vice; and those who would refine the manners of a rising people, and adorn the country with useful and elegant improvements, are discouraged.

A PRACTICAL JOKE.

During the last summer two elderly gentlemen of rather austere manners, who were strangers to each other, were in the habit of occasionally visiting a celebrated Coffee house in London. Being both rather niggardly in their habits, the waiter had never received from either his accustomed fee; and indignant at thus being neglected, the rascal only waited for an opportunity to play off upon them a practical joke. This opportunity soon arrived.

One afternoon Mr. Jenkins, one of the gentlemen in question, came to the public room, but finding it occupied by a set of jovial fellows, who were somewhat disposed to be noisy, he turned in disgust to the waiter, and requested him to show him into a private apartment, and furnish him with a cup of coffee, a pipe, and a newspaper. Soon after, Mr. Jones, the other gentleman who had rendered himself obnoxious to the waiter, also came in, and made a similar request. The waiter expressed regret that it was not in his power to comply with his request, as the apartments were all occupied. "But," said he, as if the idea suddenly occurred to him, "there is a gentleman in No. 5, who, I presume, would have no objection to sharing his room with you—but, perhaps, you may not be pleased with his company, as unfortunately he is quite deaf."

"O, that is of little consequence," said Mr. Jones. "Give my respects to the gentleman, and ask him if he will admit me into his company."

The waiter departed, and entered into the apartment where Mr. Jenkins was waiting through a tremendous paragraph relating to the French Revolution. "Sir," said the wag, there is a very respectable elderly gentleman below, who

is desirous of retiring to a private apartment; but unfortunately our rooms are all filled with company. If you will be so obliging as to—

"Send him up," replied Mr. Jenkins. "I shall be happy to have his company."

"But," resumed the waiter, the poor man has been under a great infirmity, he is as deaf as a post."

"I am sorry for that," said Mr. Jenkins, as I wished to have some particular chat about the extraordinary event which have recently taken place in France. But never mind, send him up."

Mr. Jones was accordingly introduced. The two gentlemen bowed, looked hard at each other without speaking, and pulled away at their pipes for some time.

At last Mr. Jenkins bawled out, "Well, sir, what do you think of Lafayette?"

"I think he is a most extraordinary man, and an honor to the human race," screamed Mr. Jones, at the top of his voice.

"He is an extraordinary man sir, he is a great man—he is the hero of three Revolutions I would not exchange his fame for that of any name on record," continued Mr. Jenkins, still bawling to the infinite jeopardy of his lungs.

"Good god! my dear sir," said Mr. Jones with the voice of a Sutor, "you need not bawl so loud. You absolutely stun me—I am not deaf."

"That rascal of a waiter told me you were," said Mr. Jenkins in his natural voice.

"He told me the same story about you, hoarsely vociferated Mr. Jones.

"Spare me, my dear sir," exclaimed Mr. Jenkins, holding up both his hands—"or the drums of my ears will burst. I am no more deaf than yourself!"

Indignant at the trick which was played them they rung the bell for the waiter; and when he appeared with a provoking leer upon his features, they asked him what he deserved for such impertinent conduct.

"I suppose, gentlemen, I deserve what I am in the habit of receiving from you."

"What is that?"

"Nothing." So saying he coolly walked off.

—*Exeter News Letter*

A Souvenir. The following is a true bill.—We have suppressed names, but the facts are as recorded. Mr. Blank, a wag residing at the South End, got up betimes on New-Year's day, some seven years since, and going into a carpenter's shop, caught his neighbor by surprise with a happy New Year! "Happy New Year, friend Foreplane." "The same to you," says Mr. F. "If I had fourpence handy I would give it to you, but as I have not, lay down here and I will measure you for a coffin." Blank, nothing daunted, disposed his length on the workbench, toes up and arms crossed, whilst Foreplane chalked him him out. In 24 hours after the shell was sent home; mahogany, with silver plate; name engraved, and space left for his age time when, &c. It occasioned some little trepidation in the family, when they saw it brought into the house; but the matter being explained, it was locked up for safe preservation, until needed. Since then the coffin has been annually rubbed and varnished, the plate polished and exhibited to the donee's friends.—*Boston Transcript.*

Advantage of tight lacing.—A very influential physician in a populous town in Massachusetts, was once appealed to by a gentleman to have him use his influence in bringing to disuse the practice of tight lacing which was carried on to a great extent by the ladies in the town. The doctor heard the appeal very quietly, and then returned for answer that he could not conscientiously engage in any undertaking of the nature, for said he, "I think this practice a great public benefit." "A great public benefit!" exclaimed the astonished philanthropist, "why, how can that be, do you not see that a great many of our young ladies are ruining their health, and losing their lives?" "Yes, yes," returned the doctor, "but my dear fellow, do you not see that it kills off only the fools, and we shall be wise ones by and by?"

Cold comfort.—We have heard it remarked that no winter has commenced with so much rigor as the present, since 1793. By reference to the file of our papers of that year, we find that on the 18th Nov. a violent snow storm commenced, which continued with little intermission for four hours. "The quantity of snow which fell seemed almost incredible, and the oldest persons assert that they never knew such a storm so early in the season."

The country posts inform us that they were obliged to ride through fields for miles together, and in some places where paths had been shovelled the snow on both sides was as high as their heads when on horseback. In some instances arches were made under the snow for entrances to houses.

In the paper of April 6, 1799, we find the following extract from the Portland papers of March 28.

"Here in this district of Maine, we have had above 40 heavy snow storms since the 13th Nov. and we yet feel all the severity of winter. A great quantity of snow covers the earth, and from appearances we may be led to anticipate good sleighing until May or June! So severe a winter has not been experienced since 1722."—*Portland Times.*