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THE PAST—THE PRESENT—FOR THE FUTURE.

EDITED, PRINTED AND PUBLISHED, BY WILLIAM OGDEN NILES, AT \$5 PER ANNUM, PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

NORTH-WESTERN INDIANS. Major Taliaferro, the veteran and intelligent United States Indian agent at St. Peters, reached this city yesterday, the 15th instant, with a delegation of twenty-six Sioux, from the north-west, representing the Midawaukauntou, Sussoeton, Wahpeeton and Wahpaakoota bands of that nation. This delegation is in advance of several others, formed under the orders of governor Dodge for the purpose of entering into some important arrangements for the future security of the north-western frontier, &c. &c. They comprise some of the best specimens of the north-western Indians that have been seen in this city. Their forms are of the most noble mould, and the grace and majesty of their movements, despite of the gaudy and grotesque trappings which encumber them, are subjects of general remark. Several are more than six feet high, straight as an arrow, with thews and sinews that seem to set fatigue at defiance, but with hands and feet of the most royal proportions. When we visited them this morning they were engaged at their "toilet," and never did a fair one bestow more care in adjusting her costume, than they did in painting their faces. The "ground color," to speak in painter's phrase, is a bright vermilion: on this they daub spots of white and green. Some dandies, however, draw a circle of white or black around one eye, which gives a very ferocious expression to that orb. Their demeanor is mild and friendly, and they seem greatly attached to major Taliaferro and the interpreters. The united delegations, amounting to about one hundred and fifty, will form an interesting spectacle, and attract a vast concourse of visitors.

OPINIONS OF MR. CALHOUN. Rumor has been busily attributing certain opinions to Mr. Calhoun in relation to the message of the president and the sub-treasury system. From the following extract of a letter from him to the editor of the Alexandria Gazette, which we find in that paper of yesterday, the public may soon expect an avowal of the opinions of this distinguished statesman, with his characteristic frankness and ability.

"On the highly important subjects on which congress has been called to deliberate, I shall express my views and opinions in my place in the senate.

"As to the calumnies which may be circulated to my prejudice, they are not unexpected. It is my rule to pass them unnoticed, leaving it to my conduct to put them down.

"How strange, that any man who knows me, should imagine it possible for me to be driven or seduced from my position! I live but to carry out the great principles for which I have been contending since 1824, and which I have maintained under every danger and difficulty. In their defence I have acted with and against every party, without blending with any. Mr. Van Buren has been driven into a position favorable to their advancement; and shall I not avail myself of the opportunity which it affords me to accomplish my object? Shall I permit him to drive me from my position because he has been driven on it? All I ask is to be heard. My confidence, in every juncture, is in the force of truth and integrity."

NORTH-EASTERN BOUNDARY. We stated, a few weeks since, that Mr. Greely, the agent of the U. States employed to take the census of the inhabitants in the disputed territory on our north-eastern boundary, who was imprisoned by the British authorities, had been released on the demand of the president. We now learn that Mr. Greely has been again imprisoned, but under what circumstances is not stated. The following from the St. John's Gazette may throw some light on the subject:

From the St. John's Gazette.

We have been politely favored with the following extract of a letter, dated Woodstock, August 31st, 1837. "Mr. Greely is here, on his route to Madawaska. The fellow wishes rather to be taken into custody before he proceeds upward. The solicitor general and the warden of the forests have just arrived from Fredericton, and while I am writing they have left the room (in company with the sheriff) on business of importance, relative to the Greely affair. Greely sits by me at present;—he informs me that the brave sons of Maine are actually embodied for the purpose of rescuing him, should he be again arrested: and that he will be, there is no

doubt, as the warden (capt. Maclaughlan) had come up from head quarters expressly for the purpose of conveying the gentleman to Fredericton, as soon as he commences counting pates in the disputed territory. Greely farther informs me that his government have adopted this measure (taking the census,) and will persevere in the same in order to bring the boundary question to an issue—and I am convinced that this disputed point will ere long occupy the attention of the two general governments.

HEALTH OF NEW ORLEANS. The yellow fever is raging with great violence in New Orleans. In the three days previous to the 12th inst. the deaths were not less than two hundred. Business is completely at a stand, and all had fled from the city who were able to do so. The municipalities had been very active in relieving the sick, but their means are limited; and in addition to the claims of their own citizens, late arrivals had brought nearly five hundred strangers, who are exposed to the disease, and for whom no provision has been made. The weather continued hot and dry, and there was no hope that the disease would be ameliorated until the city was visited with a sharp frost. The newspaper offices have been greatly embarrassed by the sickness and death of their workmen. In the office of the "True American" all the hands but one had been taken down, and he was complaining; and the editor of that paper says, in apology for its non appearance at the usual time—"Sickness in our own family, among our friends whom we are obliged to attend to, our employees and their families, prevents us from bestowing any attention upon our paper: our subscribers will receive it for a few days with indulgence."—The names of all persons who died in New Orleans from the 1st July to 1st September, are published by the "Bee." The total number is 721.

CONGRESS—BUSINESS OF THE WEEK.

Senate. Under the proper head (p. 40) we have given full details of the proceedings up to Thursday the 14th inst. On that day, in the senate, three bills were reported by Mr. Wright, viz. a bill to authorize the issue of treasury notes, limiting the notes to a denomination of not less than 100 dollars, to be redeemable at the expiration of one year, and after that date to bear an interest for one year; a bill to authorize further postponement of payment on duty bonds, extending the time to six months from the first of October next—and a bill to adjust the remaining claims on the deposit banks. All these bills were ordered to a second reading. The bill to postpone the transfer of the 4th instalment of the surplus revenue came up for discussion. In a preliminary debate Mr. Rives declared himself opposed to the entire system of measures which had been reported, and promised a scheme of his own. Mr. Calhoun considered all the measures which had been reported as nothing, and regarded the country as in a situation more gloomy than any of the scenes through which it had passed for the last 24 years. When the bill to postpone the transfer was taken up, it was discussed by Messrs. Webster, Wright, Calhoun, and Buchanan. The ground taken by Mr. Webster was, that the states, on the faith of the distribution law, had entered into extensive improvements, contracted for loans &c.; that there was a quasi contract, if not a perfect contract, existing between the United States government and the states by this law; and that it would be easy for the secretary of the treasury, while issuing treasury notes, to issue a sufficiency to cover the amount of the fourth instalment, in preference to breaking faith with the states, and putting them to inconvenience. He touched, with some severity, the recommendation of the executive, and of the secretary of the treasury, to issue treasury notes without interest, and not redeemable at any fixed period, and thanked the majority of the committee on finance for having repudiated a scheme to revive the old continental currency, such as has never been heard of since the days of the old confederation. The only remedy in which he placed confidence, as tending to the restoration of a sound currency, and its proper regulations, was a medium with which the government, in some way or other, should be connected, and to that we must return. Mr. Wright turned to the act of 1815, to show that then an issue of treasury notes, without interest, was sanctioned. To this, Mr. Webster replied by reading another

section, to show that although nominally without interest, the holders were authorized to fund these notes, in sums of not less than one hundred dollars, whenever they thought proper to do so, at an interest of seven per centum. The discussion was not extended to great length. Mr. Buchanan moved an amendment to the bill, securing the states in the possession of the three instalments already paid, against any demand, except by a provision of law, which was adopted. An amendment by Mr. Tallmadge, the effect of which was to cause the fourth instalment to be placed on the same ground of security as the three other instalments. This was rejected by a vote of 27 to 18, and by a vote of 28 to 17 the bill was ordered to be engrossed. On the passage of the bill on Friday, the discussion was renewed by Mr. Preston, who took the ground, that if the treasury required nine millions from the states, the proper way would have been, to recall one of the instalments already paid, in which case the states could have availed themselves of the benefits of the deposit bill, by refunding at stated periods and in prescribed instalments. It was contended by Mr. Brown and Mr. Walker, that to issue treasury notes, and at the same time to pay the instalment becoming due, would be to create a debt for the purpose of loaning it to the states, which would be an unconstitutional act. To this it was replied by Mr. Preston, that the payment to the states was merely in redemption of the pledged faith of the government, out of a treasury not yet exhausted, and that if the treasury should then be empty, the creation of a debt would be for the purpose of carrying on the fortifications and improvements for which extravagant appropriations had been made, and not to loan it to the states. The bill was then passed—28 to 17.

The bill to authorize issues of treasury notes was then taken up in committee of the whole, and after the blanks were filled by inserting ten millions as the amount to be issued, and 20,000 dollars for expenses, the senate adjourned without further action on it.

In house of representatives on Thursday, after the usual morning business, Mr. Cambreleng, from the committee of ways and means, presented a bill authorizing a further postponement of the payment of duty bonds, and for other purposes. Mr. Garland submitted resolutions calling upon the secretary of the treasury for all orders issued to, and correspondence with the deposit banks in reference to the transfer and payment of the several instalments due to the state governments—also, that he communicate monthly statements of the condition of the deposit banks from the first of January last to this time, with a statement of each draft, and in whose name drawn, upon which specie was demanded and protested for non-payment by any deposit bank; also, each state government, which has made a demand of specie and not been paid, and the time when—which resolutions were agreed to. The house then proceeded to the special order of the day. The report of the select committee on the rules of the house, then occupied their attention until they adjourned. On Friday, after the reception of petitions, Mr. Cambreleng, from the committee of ways and means, reported a bill imposing additional duties, as depositories in certain cases, upon public officers. This bill is similar to the one for the same purpose reported in the senate, with the exception of an additional clause, which shall be inserted at length in our next. Mr. Cambreleng, also from the same committee, reported a bill for adjusting the remaining claims upon the late deposit banks; read twice, and committed to a committee of the whole on the state of the union. This bill is also similar to that on the same subject, noticed in this day's proceedings of the senate. Mr. Cambreleng then stated that the committee of ways and means had now only two more bills remaining for the consideration of the house, which would certainly be reported on Monday next, when—after a brief discussion between Messrs. Garland, Bell, and Cambreleng, during which the first named gave notice of his design to submit a counter project—the house proceeded to consider the report of the select committee on the rules and orders. The amendments were adopted and ordered to be printed, when, on motion of Mr. Harlan, it was ordered that when the house adjourn it adjourn to meet on Monday next. Some other business was transacted, which will be noticed fully in our next; after which the house adjourned.

A COUNTERMAND. *From the Kentucky Commentator.* In our last paper we published a notification from the department of war to the executive of this state, directing his excellency to take the preparatory steps for mustering into service, without delay, a brigade of Kentucky volunteers.—Scarcely has our paper, with the OFFICIAL ORDER contained therein, had time to reach the subscribers, ere a COUNTERMAND to the call is received at the executive office. This extraordinary document is in the following words:

War department, Sept. 2, 1837.

Sir: Since I had the honor to address you on the 25th ultimo, on the subject of volunteers from Kentucky, to serve in Florida, I have ascertained that a number of efficient men, equal to that of those offered from your state, can be raised without delay in Louisiana.

In providing troops for the prosecution of the next campaign in Florida, it is very important that those should be procured who can best resist the influences of the climate, and who are nearest the scene of operations; and as those of Louisiana are accustomed to a climate similar to that of Florida, and so much nearer the point where their services will be necessary, than the volunteers of Kentucky, that they will be able to reach there at an earlier period, and at a much less expense, I have concluded to accept their services, and to countermand the order to employ those of your state.

The department places the most implicit confidence in the patriotism of the citizens of Kentucky; and were it necessary to accept their aid in Florida, entire reliance would be placed upon their zeal and their ability to render valuable services to the government. Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

J. R. POINSETT.

His excellency James Clark, governor of Kentucky, Frankfort, Ky.

LETTER FROM THE HON. JAMES GARLAND. The following letter was addressed to the editors of the "Lynchburg Virginian," by Mr. Garland, a member of the house of representatives from Virginia.

To the editors of the Lynchburg Virginian.

Your paper of the 25th inst. contains a long commentary on an explanatory article of the "Virginia Advocate," in reference to my opinions upon the sub-treasury scheme—in which you have drawn conclusions from my remarks to the editor, which I never drew from it myself. I now repeat, if I were compelled to choose between the scheme of a national bank or the sub-treasury scheme, I should choose the latter, because it would be constitutional; yet I should choose between them with the same reluctance that I would choose between a rope and a grape vine, with which it was proposed to hang me. In this expression to the editor of the "Advocate," I had no design to intimate that there was, would, or could be, such an alternative presented, in the present state of things, or that I intended to vote for either; for, sirs, I was then, as I am now, inflexibly determined to vote against a national bank in any form—and also the sub-treasury scheme. The alternative will not, and cannot be presented; and I know of no more effectual way to prevent it than a firm and decided opposition to both.

Your assumption that I have changed my position is not warranted by my own feelings, and the assumption that gen. Jackson's recent letter has produced a change is entirely gratuitous. When I made the remark to the editor of the Advocate, which was one week before it was published, gen. Jackson's letter had not been published, nor had I seen the remark of the "Richmond Enquirer" to which you allude.

I am neither "shivering in the wind," nor, as insinuated in the "Richmond Whig," "backing out." I have taken my position after mature deliberation, and will neither be led, driven, or seduced from it, by any arts.

I extremely regret the necessity of thus obtruding my humble name upon the public, and more regret the misinterpretation which has rendered it necessary. My confidence that you are not disposed to do me injustice induces me to address this letter to you. With respect, your obed't. serv't.

J. GARLAND.

ARMY AND NAVY INTELLIGENCE. "Lima, June 26, 1837. The U. S. ship North Carolina arrived here on the 26th of May, in eight days from Valparaiso, at which port she remained only three days. "There will be a number of transfers made on board the ship to-morrow, but as the brig Lady Adams will sail in the evening, it will be impossible for me to give you a correct list by this opportunity.

"Enclosed you have a list of the officers of the ship Peacock, now in Callao harbor; she arrived here from Valparaiso on the 21st May.

"Edmund P. Kennedy, commodore commanding the East India and Asiatic squadron.

C. K. Stribling, acting commander.

Lieutenants, C. C. Turner, R. L. Page, S. W. Godon; T. R. Rootes (acting).

W. S. W. Ruschenberger, fleet surgeon. D. Harlan, assistant surgeon. W. Leigh, acting master. E. S. Whelen, acting purser and commodore's secretary.

Midshipmen, W. S. Drayton, C. Richardson, G. W. Chapman, E. S. Hutter, H. Cadwalader, L. McLane, jr. W. G. Benham, R. D. Izard.

John Clar, captain's clerk. V. R. Hall, boatswain.

A. S. Lewis, gunner. J. Ferguson, sailmaker. N. S. Lee, carpenter. Oscar F. Scott, purser's steward."

The following officers were attached to the U. S. schooner Enterprise. Part of them have already returned home, others have taken passage in the Peacock.

"G. N. Hollins, lieutenant commanding. Murray Mason, lieutenant. John D. Gibson, acting purser. W. F. McClenehan, assistant surgeon. John J. Forbes, midshipman. Holt Wilson, captain's clerk. Hiram Frier, gunner.

Four companies of the 2d infantry, U. S. A. under the command of major W. Hoffman, arrived at Fort Hamilton, New York harbor, on Thursday last, from Fort Howard, Green Bay, having traveled the whole distance in the short space of twelve days. Their ultimate destination is Florida.

The sloop of war John Adams, now at N. York, has been selected to accompany the frigate Columbia to the East Indies, under the command of com. T. W. Wyman. [Army and Navy Chronicle.

THE U. S. SHIP ERIE, bearing the broad pendant of commodore Renshaw, arrived at Holmes' Hole, on Sunday the 10th inst. from Rio de Janeiro [via St. Salvador], bound to Boston. The Erie has just returned from a cruise of thirty-nine months on the coast of Brazil. We subjoin a list of her officers:

Commodore, James Renshaw; commander, Wm. E. McKenney; lieutenants, James H. Rowan, Alfred Taylor; acting do. Jno. R. Tucker, John A. Winslow; acting master, M. S. Pitcher; fleet surgeon, Charles Chase; assistant do. Ninian Pinkney; purser, Wm. A. Bloodgood; chaplain, Addison Searle; professor of Mathematics, Wm. Torrey; secretary, Ferdinand Coxie; midshipmen, Wm. E. L. Roy, F. A. Winslow, Reed Werdon, S. J. Shipley, Geo. Wells, Henry A. Wise, J. L. Worden, E. T. Star, Wm. H. Hudson; boatswain, Crocker; gunner, Martin; carpenter, Marples; sailmaker, Reed.

FACTORIES IN THE EASTERN STATES. *New York, September 5.* We can state, and have already done so, on the best authority, that, in the eastern states, nine-tenths of the factories have been stopped, and the same proportion of men, women, and children, discharged from service. The commercial difficulties distressing our country are acknowledged by all parties; and however the press may dispute upon the measures for restoring prosperity, they should never deny troubles which actually exist, or endeavor to annoy sufferers by ridiculing their disasters. We agree with no party, and do not wish to be considered as belonging to any; yet we think there is much sound doctrine held by each, with a great deal of nonsense, and views that must prove injurious if successful. With regard to the measures for restoring commerce and confidence, we have already given our opinions, while we have not withheld a full statement of the existing distress among the poor. We shall not now hold out false statements, and sincerely hope congress may be made acquainted with all the difficulties; and to the wisdom of that body we shall look anxiously for some enactment to improve the condition of the country, and extend the means of support to those who cannot now provide their families with daily food.—*New Era.*

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

The following are among the documents which accompanied the report of the secretary of the treasury:

List of deposit banks discontinued under the deposit act of June, 1836.

Mercantile bank, Bangor, Maine.
Maine bank, Portland, Maine.
Cumberland bank, Portland, Maine.
Granite bank, Augusta, Maine.
York bank, Saco, Maine.
New Hampshire bank, Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

Commercial bank, Portsmouth, New Hampshire.
Portsmouth bank, Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

Piscataqua bank, Portsmouth, New Hampshire.
Merrimack county bank, Concord, New Hampshire.

Mechanics' bank, Concord, New Hampshire.
Merchants' bank, Boston, Massachusetts.
Commonwealth bank, Boston, Massachusetts.
Franklin bank, Boston, Massachusetts.
Fulton bank, Boston, Massachusetts.
Hancock bank, Boston, Massachusetts.
Phoenix bank, Charlestown, Massachusetts.
Bank of Burlington, Vermont.
Bank of Windsor, Windsor, Vermont.
Quinebaug bank, Norwich, Connecticut.
Farmers and Mechanics' bank, Hartford, Connecticut.

Mechanics' bank, New Haven, Connecticut.
Arcade bank, Providence, Rhode Island.
Rhode Island Union bank, Newport, Rhode Island.
Mechanics' and Farmers' bank, Albany N. York.
Manhattan company, New York, N. Y.

Bank of America, New York, N. Y.
Mechanics' bank, New York, N. Y.
Seventh Ward bank, New York, N. Y.
Lafayette bank, New York, N. Y.
Phoenix bank, New York, N. Y.

Leather Manufactures' bank, New York, N. Y.
Tradesmen's bank, New York, N. Y.
Dry Dock company, New York, N. Y.
Merchants' bank, New York, N. Y.

Union Bank, New York, N. Y.
National bank, New York, N. Y.
Merchants' Exchange bank, New York, N. Y.
Brooklyn bank, Brooklyn, New York.
Commercial bank, Buffalo, New York.

Troy bank, Troy, New York.
Trenton Banking Company, New Jersey.
State bank, Newark, New Jersey.
State bank, Elizabeth, New Jersey.
Girard bank, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Moyamensing bank, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
Merchants' and Manufacturers' bank, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
Bank of Wilmington and Brandywine, Wilmington, Delaware.

Bank of Delaware, Wilmington, Delaware.
Union bank of Maryland, Baltimore, Maryland.
Franklin bank, Baltimore, Maryland.
Bank of the Metropolis, District of Columbia.

Bank of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.
Farmers' bank of Virginia, at Richmond, Va.
Bank of the state of North Carolina, Raleigh, North Carolina.

Planters' and Mechanics' bank, Charleston, South Carolina.
Bank of Charleston, Charleston, South Carolina.
Bank of Augusta, Georgia.
Branch bank of Alabama, Mobile, Alabama.

Union bank of Louisiana, and branches, New Orleans, Louisiana.
Commercial bank, New Orleans, Louisiana.
Planters' bank of Mississippi and branches, Natchez, Mississippi.

Agricultural bank and branches, Natchez, Mississippi.
Union bank of Tennessee, Nashville, Tennessee.
Planters' bank and branches, Nashville, Tennessee.

Bank of Kentucky and branches, Louisville, Kentucky.
Northern bank of Kentucky, at Lexington, and branch at Louisville, Kentucky.
Clinton bank of Columbus, Ohio.

Franklin bank of Columbus, Ohio.
Bank of Chillicothe, Ohio.
Franklin bank, Cincinnati, Ohio.
Commercial bank, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Agency of Commercial Bank at St. Louis, Missouri.
Bank of Zanesville, Ohio.
Bank of Wooster, Ohio.
Commercial bank of Lake Erie, at Cleveland, Ohio.

Bank of Cleveland, at Cleveland, Ohio.
State bank of Indiana, Indianapolis, Indiana.
Illinois bank, at Shawneetown, Illinois.
Bank of Michigan, Detroit, Michigan.

Farmers' and Mechanics' bank of Detroit, Michigan.
*Bank of river Raisin, Michigan.
List of present deposit banks under the act of June, 1836.

People's bank, Bangor, Maine.
†Brooklyn bank, Brooklyn, New York.
Planters' bank of Georgia, Savannah, Georgia.
Insurance bank of Columbus, Georgia.
Louisville Savings institution, Kentucky.
Bank of the state of Missouri, St. Louis.

*Discontinued by its request, before the suspension of specie payments.
†Reappointed when resumed specie payments.

DEPOSITE BANKS.

Treasurer's weekly statement, showing the amount at his credit in the various banks of public deposite and the mint, by the returns received to Monday, August 28, 1837, the amount for which drafts and warrants have been issued, and were then unpaid, and the amount then remaining subject to his draft.

Date of bank returns.	In what banks.	On deposite, by last returns.	Warrants heretofore drawn, but not yet paid, though payable.	Subject to draft, exclusive of transfers, not entered by banks.
August 19	Maine Bank, Portland, Maine, - - -	\$54,245 33	\$35,639 53	\$18,605 75
19	Cumberland Bank, do. do. - - -	23,859 15	15,250 00	8,609 15
19	People's Bank, Bangor, do. - - -	20,537 97	8,000 00	12,537 97
19	York Bank, Saco, do. do. - - -	82 42	82 42	-
19	New Hampshire Bank, Portsmouth, N. H.	7,843 54	7,843 54	-
19	Commercial Bank, do. do. - - -	23,777 81	20 00	28,757 81
19	Portsmouth Bank, do. do. - - -	8,814 50	8,814 50	-
14	Piscataqua Bank, do. do. - - -	22,578 46	10,148 96	12,429 50
21	Merrimack County Bank, Concord, do.	23,732 00	8,200 00	15,532 00
19	Mechanics Bank, do. do. - - -	22,275 00	9,700 00	12,575 00
19	Merchants Bank, Boston, Massachusetts,	21,820 75	21,820 75	-
19	Commonwealth Bank, do. do. - - -	24,920 98	18,236 97	6,684 01
July 8	Franklin Bank, do. do. - - -	16,800 00	-	16,800 00
August 19	Fulton Bank, do. do. - - -	17,736 67	17,736 67	-
19	Bank of Burlington, Vermont, - - -	85 49	85 49	-
5	Bank of Windsor, Windsor, do. - - -	503 15	503 15	-
19	Mercantile Bank, Bangor, Maine, - - -	18,318 08	15,150 00	3,168 08
23	Metropolis. Special, - - -	140,541 62	-	140,541 62
28	Quinebaug Bank, Norwich, Connecticut,	12,734 11	8,390 00	4,394 11
21	Mechanics Bank, New Haven, do. - - -	18,345 07	14,930 00	3,915 07
19	Arcade Bank, Providence, Rhode Island,	1,616 25	1,616 25	-
19	Rhode Island Union Bank, Newport, R. I.	3,816 81	301 55	3,515 26
19	Mechanics and Farmers Bank, Albany, N. Y.	21,024 88	21,024 88	-
21	Manhattan Company, New York, do.	226,880 92	137,699 97	89,180 95
19	Bank of America, do. do. - - -	429,027 16	217,144 45	211,883 11
21	Mechanics' Bank, do. do. - - -	255,044 82	278,886 66	-
12	Lafayette Bank, do. do. - - -	39,000 00	50,000 00	-
21	Phenix Bank, do. do. - - -	8,438 08	8,438 08	-
26	Tradesmen's Bank, do. do. - - -	21,000 00	6,000 00	15,000 00
18	Dry Dock Company, do. do. - - -	40,000 00	20,000 00	20,000 00
19	Merchants Bank, do. do. - - -	62,500 00	52,317 17	10,182 83
19	Union Bank, do. do. - - -	52,758 93	36,030 00	16,728 93
19	National Bank, do. do. - - -	21,994 12	1,500 00	20,494 12
19	Merchants Exchange Bank, do. do.	15,000 00	15,000 00	-
12	Brooklyn Bank at Brooklyn, do. do.	94,616 35	5,040 00	89,576 35
May 20	Commercial Bank at Buffalo, do. do.	99,613 76	37,775 88	61,837 88
August 19	Troy Bank at Troy, New York, - - -	20 00	20 00	-
19	Trenton Banking Company, New Jersey,	24,756 50	24,756 00	50
19	State Bank at Newark, do. do. - - -	50,750 42	26,044 00	24,706 42
15	State Bank at Elizabeth, do. do. - - -	20,000 00	16,796 00	3,204 00
19	Girard Bank, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania,	249,924 35	159,866 98	90,057 37
19	Moyamensing Bank, do. do. - - -	5,521 57	-	5,521 57
July 31	Bank of Delaware, at Wilmington, Delaware,	2,906 67	2,906 67	-
August 19	Union Bank of Maryland, Baltimore, Md.	219,283 06	86,336 28	132,946 78
26	Franklin Bank, do. do. - - -	60,915 19	42,280 03	18,670 16
23	Bank of the Metropolis, District of Columbia,	2,162 83	2,153 79	9 04
26	Bank of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia, -	72,426 98	231 50	72,195 48
19	Branch Bank of Virginia at Norfolk, Virginia,	174,905 76	11,565 36	163,340 40
21	Farmers Bank of Virginia at Richmond, do.	148,467 35	46,179 03	102,288 32
July 29	Farmers Bank of Va. at Winchester, do.	7,336 88	7,336 88	-
August 19	Bank of the State of N. Carolina, Raleigh, N. C.	146,030 12	59,610 00	86,420 12
19	Planters & Mechanics Bank, Charleston, S. C.	50,646 78	50,044 74	242 04
21	Bank of Charleston, Charleston, do. do.	60,943 23	61,737 12	-
19	Planters Bank of Georgia, Savannah, Ga.	130,065 17	75,395 65	54,669 52
12	Bank of Augusta, Georgia, - - -	37,169 52	37,169 52	-
12	Insurance Bank of Columbus, Columbus, Ga.	5,035 00	5,035 00	-
12	Branch Bank of Alabama, Mobile, Alabama.	1,020,856 26	213,932 59	806,923 67
July 22	Union Bank of La. and branches, N. Orleans,	586,066 05	54,995 16	531,070 89
August 25	Commercial Bank, New Orleans, Louisiana,	863,956 98	234,178 45	629,778 53
July 31	Planters B'k of Miss. and branches, Natchez,	895,308 67	37,716 08	857,592 59
August 5	Agricultural B'k and branches, Natchez, Mi.	849,065 04	170,595 00	678,470 04
12	Union Bank of Tennessee, Nashville, -	242,885 61	213,897 95	28,987 66
12	Planters Bank and branches, Nashville, Ten.	271,630 87	223,459 34	48,171 53
19	Bank of Kentucky and branches, Louisville,	601,112 17	69,151 26	531,960 91
19	Louisville Savings Institution, Kentucky,	85,463 34	6,750 00	78,713 34
19	Northern Bank of Kentucky, Louisville, -	105,231 45	-	105,231 45
19	Do. do. Lexington, - - -	51,439 82	60,000 00	-
19	Clinton Bank of Columbus, Ohio, - - -	419 73	359 73	30 00
19	Franklin Bank of Columbus, do. do. - - -	52,631 83	16,110 27	36,521 56
19	Bank of Chillicothe, do. do. - - -	193,882 00	142,500 00	56,382 00
19	Franklin Bank, Cincinnati, do. do. - - -	403,103 18	33,000 00	370,103 18
19	Commercial Bank, do. do. - - -	347,941 54	44,590 07	303,351 47
5	Agency of do. at St. Louis, Missouri, -	589,327 63	257,204 10	332,123 53
19	Bank of Wooster, Ohio, - - -	44,221 05	27,250 00	16,971 05
19	Com'l Bank of Lake Erie, Cleaveland, Ohio,	60,682 75	-	60,682 75
21	Bank of Cleaveland, do. do. - - -	20,097 42	13,211 52	6,885 90
12	Branch of State Bank of Indiana, Indianapolis,	11,757 97	630 92	11,127 05
19	Branch of State B'k of Indiana at Madison, In.	139,375 87	-	139,375 87
19	Branch of State Bank at New Albany, do.	249,202 33	-	249,202 33
12	Branch of State Bank at Lawrenceburg, do.	322,793 46	634 08	322,159 38
19	Branch of State Bank at Richmond, do.	20,000 00	-	20,000 00
5	Illinois Bank at Shawneetown, Illinois,	39,795 90	870 60	38,925 30
12	Bank of Michigan, Detroit, Michigan, -	621,993 22	204,535 00	417,458 22
19	Farmers and Mechanics B'k of Detroit, Mich.	376,057 62	44,710 00	331,347 62
26	Mint to procure metal for coining - - -	835,875 00	2,000 00	833,875 00
		\$13,253,916 32	\$3,877,468 19	*\$9,420,644 04

*In consequence of outstanding transfer drafts between banks not yet entered upon those returns, there is a difference between this sum and the true amount, which is \$9,332,068 13. Deducting the amount of state transfers for the third instalment issued in favor of the states and unpaid, which is \$1,165,575 28, there remains in the banks, subject to draft, the sum of \$8,166,492 85.

Treasurer's office, August 30, 1837.

JOHN CAMPBELL.

USE OF BOWIE KNIVES.

The following act has passed the legislature of Alabama:

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of the state of Alabama in general assembly convened, That if any person carrying any knife or weapon, known as Bowie knives, or Arkansas tooth picks, on a sudden encounter, shall cut or stab another with such a knife, by reason of which he dies, it shall be adjudged murder, and the offender shall suffer the same, as if the killing had been by malice and aforethought.

SEC. 2. And be it further enacted, That for every such weapon sold or given, or otherwise disposed of in this state, the person selling, giving or disposing of the same, shall pay a tax of one hundred dollars, to be paid into the county treasury; and if any person so selling, giving or disposing of such weapon, shall fail to give in the same, in his list of taxable property, he shall be subject to the pains and penalties of perjury.

Approved, June 30, 1837.

A similar act has passed in the state of Mississippi.

VICTORIA.

The following is published as the lineal descent of Queen Victoria, from William the conqueror:

- A. D. 1066. William I.
- 1100. Henry I.
- Matilda, Empress of Germany.
- 1154. Henry II.
- 1199. John
- 1216. Henry III.
- 1272. Edward I.
- 1307. Edward II.
- 1327. Edward III.
- Lionel, Duke of Clarence.
- Philipa, Countess of March.
- Roger, Earl of March.
- Ann, Countess of Cambridge.
- Richard, Duke of York.
- 1461. Edward IV.
- Elizabeth, Queen of Henry VII.
- Margaret, Queen of James IV. of Scotland.
- James V. of Scotland.
- Mary, Queen of Scots.
- 1603. James I.
- Elizabeth, Queen of Bohemia.
- Sophia, Electress of Hanover.
- 1714. George I.
- 1727. George II.
- Frederick, Prince of Wales.
- 1760. George III.
- Edward, Duke of Kent.
- 1837. Victoria.

The Queen being twenty-seventh in regular descent from the conqueror, and at the same time thirty-sixth sovereign in succession from the conquest, gives nearly twenty-nine years to a generation, and twenty-one years to a reign, in respect of the seven hundred and seventy-two years which have elapsed since that period. The commonly received average is thirty years to a generation, and twenty years to a reign; according to which it appears, that the cares or luxuries, or both, of a crown, occasion a sacrifice to the wearer of it of one year of life, as compared with ordinary mortals.—N. Y. Express.

THE CAPITOL.

From the National Intelligencer.

Believing that it will serve to gratify thousands of our fellow-citizens, who reside in distant parts of the union, to hear of the improvements which have been in progress for months past, in and around the great national edifice which is on the eve of being opened for congress in an extra session, we have taken some pains to ascertain by actual observation, what has been done, not merely for the convenience and accommodation of the members of the two branches of the national legislature, but to render the capitol of the United States an object of gratification to the numerous citizens who visit the metropolis, as well as those strangers and foreigners who temporarily sojourn at the seat of the general government.

In a visit to the hall of representatives, on Monday last, as we passed through the spacious rotundo, we observed that the plastering of the interior of the dome (a very difficult, troublesome, and laborious job, which required extensive and lofty scaffolding) was completed in a very handsome and effectual manner, conducing much to the improved appearance of that noble structure. Passing from the rotundo into the lobbies, we found them, both on the right and left of the speaker's chair, newly and handsomely painted and carpeted. As we ascended the staircase on the right of the main entrance to the lobbies, we observed that a new circular window

had been introduced, which serves to cast light upon the stairs leading to the document rooms as well as into the lobby near the post-office, which, it will be remembered, had, until now, a very gloomy appearance. The document rooms are provided with galleries, which are well secured with an iron railing: there is a communication by means of a door between the galleries in each room. Ample shelves are provided in each gallery for the piles of documents that are placed on them. The old planked floors of the document and folding rooms have been taken up, and new floors substituted, which are made of a new composition of hydraulic cement, lime, and sand. This composition appears to be as hard and impenetrable as stone; it is quite smooth on its surface, and looks well.

At the head of the opposite staircase is the library of the house—that convenient receptacle of books which are constantly wanted for use and reference by the members while engaged in debate, and which is only accessible to themselves. This room has also been newly painted, and fitted up with a gallery, iron railing, and floor of hydraulic cement, like that in the document rooms. The rooms occupied by the speaker and the sergeant-at-arms, have also been handsomely carpeted and painted.

In the hall of the house of representatives we observed no new arrangements. It is, however, fitted with its matted floor cloth, which gives it a light, cool and summer appearance. The speaker's chair is beautifully burnished and varnished; as indeed are every niche and corner of the hall which seem to require the aid of gilt, paint and varnish. The *coup d'œil* of the hall is as grand and imposing as ever.

In the senate chamber we noticed some alterations, which are thought to be decided improvements. The first which struck us in this light was the removal of the portrait of the father of his country from its side position, on the right of the president's chair, to a central point in the gallery immediately above the president, and fronting the main entrance to the senate chamber.

The large clock has been removed from its old stand in the senate chamber to the lobby. A smaller one is intended to be placed over the main entrance, immediately in front of the president's chair. All the senators' desks have been newly varnished. A new matted floor cloth, of the same kind as that used in the hall of the house of representatives, has been placed in the senate chamber. The placing of marble slabs near the side doors is alike ornamental and convenient. The senate chamber, which has been at all times the subject of admiration for its elegance and simplicity, appears to be greatly improved in its general appearance by these alterations and additions. Passing from the senate chamber, through the eastern portico, into the spacious yard in front of it, we found the latter newly gravelled, and in the finest order for carriages, horsemen, or foot-passengers.

Leaving the spacious yard opposite the east front of the capitol, we passed with Mr. Maher, the capitol gardener, into the eastern enclosure, where, after viewing the large reservoir* and admiring the numerous yellow perch that sported in it, we remained for a short time, gratifying our senses with the odoriferous and beautiful flowers and shrubs which are found on every side of its ample walks and verdant greens. Returning to the front gate, we traversed the entire round of the capitol, which now includes the new grounds enclosed since the adjournment of congress last March, and takes in all that space on which stood the old botanical garden, as far as First street and south of Pennsylvania avenue. In describing these improvements of the public grounds west of the capitol, we shall take the liberty of being somewhat minute, presuming that the public will be especially desirous to learn what *new objects* have been introduced within the western enclosure. The length of the paved walk around the capitol, on the outside of the stone wall and iron railing, is precisely three quarters of a mile and eleven hundred and twenty-nine feet. There are no less than sixty-nine lamps fixed on the edge of the pavement encircling the capitol grounds. A considerable portion of this pavement and the macadamized road, which adjoins it, has been made in a very substantial manner, within the last few weeks. The road has been made on an elevation of from twelve to fifteen feet. The stone wall and iron railing are completed; and the foot pavement, all the way round the capitol, is now within a few yards of its completion. It is altogether a noble and safe walk, both by night and day. In a few years, when the trees which have been recently planted, attain their foliage and ma-

turity, it will be an umbrageous walk of great beauty, the resort of thousands, and the admiration of all.

In entering the western enclosure, the first grand object that engaged our attention, was the new reservoir (constructed upon the newly enclosed ground), in the centre of which is a beautiful *JET D'EAU*, which throws its pellucid and sparkling water to the height of twelve or fourteen feet, in the shape of a champagne glass, spreading all round its brilliant and pearl-like showers. During our stay, through the politeness of major Noland, the commissioner of public buildings, under whose scientific and able supervision the recent improvements at the capitol have been got up and matured, we witnessed the power of the *JET D'EAU* to throw its water to the height of twenty-five feet. Seen, however, at half that height, its effect upon the eye of the beholder appeared to us much more beautiful and brilliant. We understand there is another *Jet d'Eau* occasionally attached to the fountain of this reservoir, which is in the form of a chandelier, whose effect upon the eye is still more brilliant than that which we had the pleasure to witness.

Leaving this delightful fountain, which imparts a refreshing coolness to the air in the hottest weather, we traversed the new, broad, graveled walk, which already extends from the summerhouse at the northwest corner of the western enclosure to the gateway on First street, opposite Pennsylvania avenue. This beautiful gravel walk is 18 feet in breadth, and is flanked on each side with a substantial brick gutter, which is used for carrying off the heavy rain or the water which is obtained in dry weather from a fire-plug erected near the summerhouse. We have never seen a handsomer walk than this. It is topped with white point gravel, and is rolled with so much care and nicety that not a wrinkle or an indentation appears on its surface. We are assured that a heavy rain of 48 hours duration has not affected its consistence and durability. We consider it as a masterly piece of gravelling, and we do not marvel that it has excited the surprise and admiration of strangers and foreigners who have lately examined it. It certainly reflects great credit upon Mr. Maher and the industrious laborers who have worked upon it under his direction. But the floral and vernal beauties of the new enclosure, which are seen to much advantage from the broad gravel walk, are still to be noticed. We have not space for a particular description. We understand that all the beautiful and innumerable flowers that grace the beds and parterres of the new enclosure are seedlings, which were planted there in April and May last. Who that sees the beautiful dahlias, hibiscus, marigolds, prince's feather, balsams, and almost every other flower and shrub that can gratify the senses by their color, beauty, or fragrance, can believe it possible that all this could have been produced in so short a time? But so it is; and the garden itself, though far from being finished, affords, even at this early period, abundant evidence of the skill and industry of those who have been employed in making it.

The old main gateway and the two lodges have been removed to the extremity of the enclosure on First street. Two other entrances or gateways are opened, the one fronting Pennsylvania avenue, the other (which is not yet completed) opposite Maryland avenue. Some of the flagged walks from First street to the capitol are not yet completed; and much of the new ground on the south side of the western enclosure remains to be laid out by the public gardener. It is not, perhaps, too much to say that, when all the improvements now in progress are completed, the capitol of the union, and the public grounds adjacent to it, will present a spectacle at once grand and imposing, and every way worthy of the great nation which has provided them with such munificent liberality. We understand that the capitol square contains no less than thirty acres of ground.

In the foregoing hasty and imperfect sketch, we have omitted to name many individuals, to whom, we doubt not, great credit is due, both as artists and mechanics, for the good taste and excellent workmanship which are apparent in the improvements which have been lately made in and around the capitol. It would be a pleasing, though perhaps invidious, task to give the names of such persons. Suffice it to remark, that we hope that no one who is entitled to praise or reward will fail to receive it, in the most acceptable and substantial form, from those who are more able than ourselves to appreciate and reward real merit.

JUDICIAL DECISION.

Judge Greer, of Pittsburgh, held a special court here, which commenced on Monday the 14th, and terminated on Thursday the 24th ult.; Basil Brownfield, plaintiff vs. Dr. John F. Braddee, defendant.

This was an action of debt, involving the sum of nearly eight thousand dollars, for which sum plaintiff held sundry judgment bonds, executed in 1832, and entered upon record about two years subsequently. Upon entering up said judgments by plaintiff, the defendant made oath that they were satisfied and paid, and besought the regular court to open them and grant him a trial upon the issue tendered. The application was refused from time to time, and plaintiff finally petitioned the legislature, who granted him a trial, and (in the event of the court refusing to act) provided and empowered his honor Judge Greer to try the issue. A case involving such a large sum of money, would naturally elicit a high degree of interest. The present trial was peculiarly so, on the tapis, and as the learned judge himself said, the "mysterious and unaccountable" circumstances attending it. It had so far enlisted public feeling, as to make every man in the country more or less a partizan, and however great the disappointment of the vanquished party, there is a comparative general satisfaction that the vexed cause has reached its termination. More than one hundred witnesses were examined. The defendant alleged payment in full, and produced a receipt corresponding with that allegation, and subscribed by two witnesses. Nearly every gentleman of the Uniontown bar were engaged, besides Messrs. Veech and Forward, of Pittsburgh. The court reviewed the evidence minutely, and with ability—admonished the jury that if they believed the receipt to be genuine, and the subscribing witnesses to it entitled to credence, they should render a verdict for defendant—on the contrary, if they believed the receipt not to be genuine, and the witnesses not entitled to credit, they should render a verdict for plaintiff. The jury returned a verdict, confirming the judgments on record.—*Uniontown Dem.*

ANOTHER LETTER FROM JUDGE COOPER.

From the *American Sentinel* of September 9.

We publish this morning a letter which we have just received from Judge Cooper, of South Carolina, in reply to some remarks which appeared in the *Philadelphia Gazette* on a previous letter from the judge, in reference to the United States bank.

Limestone Springs, Spartanburgh district, S. C.
August 23, 1837.

To the editor of the *American Sentinel*:

MR. EDITOR: A *Philadelphia Gazette* of August 11th, was received by me at this place, to-day. I am now between 80 and 90 miles from my own home, my books, papers, and memoranda: I can therefore only reply to X. Y. Z., from recollection. But I have a distinct, and, to myself, a satisfactory recollection, that during the first discussion on the constitutionality of a bank of the United States, in which Mr. Madison took a prominent part against it, he stated the fact that a proposal to incorporate a bank was among the rejected proposals made to the convention. I know this was often spoken of, during the two discussions concerning a national bank, as a fact well known. I have more than once published the same fact myself; and I have never seen it denied or heard of its having been by any one, at any time disputed. As I was much in the habit of frequenting Mr. Dallas and his hospitable family, after he succeeded to Mr. Gallatin—as I was in constant habits of intimacy with Mr. Edward Fox, of Philadelphia, at whose request I drew up the series of papers in defence of captain Jones—the affairs of the bank of the United States occurred to me for two or three years as a subject of more interest than to most other citizens.

When I wrote to you, sir, I wrote from what I then considered, and do now consider as a distinct recollection of past facts. I am not aware of any errors that I ought to acknowledge or amend in that communication. If Mr. X. Y. Z. will take the trouble of reading carefully the *minutes of the convention* published by Mr. Monroe, under a resolution of congress, and since republished by Mr. Elliot, he will find rejected proposals to allow congress the power of erecting corporations, that are pregnant with the proposal which he doubts about. More distinct and accurate minutes of what passed at that convention we must wait for, till the papers of Mr. Madison and major Jackson, shall be published. Col. Hamilton and the nationalists in that convention, who were joined by the speculators in certificates, were not at that time insensible of the importance of giving congress the power in question; and I have no doubt, the *corporation motions* had that object in view. The bill establishing a bank of the United States, was long withheld by general Washington, and signed at last by him, not without reluctance.

I shall not reach my own home before the ensuing session of congress, but how the fact con-

*This reservoir contains 111,241½ gallons. The distance from waste pipe of Tiber creek to reservoir is 199.3 feet.

sidered so important by X. Y. Z. can affect that body, I know not. Let them read the minutes of the convention, and they will be satisfied on this head. But were I a member of the ensuing congress, I should consider it as of very little importance.

I would not condescend to reason with a man who would be desirous of abolishing the banking system altogether. As it exists at present, it is bad enough; but I see no reason why we should not try to amend it. We have had experience of Mr. Biddle's bank; and for many years, we went on so smoothly, and so prosperously with this institution, as the fly-wheel to the machine, that little was left to be desired to put our currency on as good a footing as a reasonable man could wish. It was, moreover, an independent bank: a bank controlled by the stockholders alone. When are we likely to have another independent bank to aid in managing the fiscal concerns of the Union? We have wandered away from a pleasant, a plain, and a safe road; we have driven the carriage among ravines and quagmires; we are at a loss what course to take. Shall we go back to the good and safe road we have quitted, and along which we travelled smoothly and well—or shall we hunt out some new and unexplored path, in a district of country with which we are unacquainted? Age perhaps may have made me over cautious, but I preferred the tried to the untried; and I vote for retracing our steps.

Doubts, and very honest doubts, may be entertained as to the constitutionality of a Bank of the United States. I have been compelled to renounce the doubts I once entertained on this subject. But the commercial world is now in a situation that could not have been foreseen in 1787, and measures are now necessary that could not then have been adopted. No merchant, no commercial dealer, will for a moment consent to renounce the banking system altogether. We must try, therefore, not to pull down a building for which we cannot provide a substitute, but try to amend and improve it, as circumstances point out the necessity and the means of so doing. It is the crying sin, even of honest radicalism, that it levels to the ground where it might beneficially amend, and goes headlong to the work of destruction, without providing the means of doing better than before.

Some propose calling a convention to give congress a power which, after so many experiments, I am satisfied it possesses already. As an implied power necessary to fiscal operations, an United States bank may be erected. Such is my opinion at least. Among the hundred plans that have been and will be suggested, my own is, to take advantage of past experience, and prudently amend past errors and defects; preserving what has been proved beneficial, as carefully as we would cut out the rotten parts of the present system. I am, sir, your obedient servant, THOMAS COOPER, M. D.

LETTERS FROM MR. RUSH.

To the editors of the *Globe*.

London, August 7, 1837.

Gentlemen:—For having aided in a reprint here last autumn of part of a calm, argumentative, and highly important letter, from the late vice president of the United States to the hon. Sherron Williams, member of congress from Kentucky, which discussed public questions of the broadest nature, and deepest interest to the welfare of the union, and which contained not a single harsh word, much less calumnious one, of the bank or its officers, although the contrary has so often been affirmed of it, I have been the subject of reiterated abuse; much of it saying or insinuating that the opinions I have expressed of the bank's conduct have been influenced by other than genuine convictions. I have replied to none of this anonymous scurrillity, but will make an exception in the case of an article in the *National Gazette*, published in Philadelphia on the 9th of June, because the author has sent it under seal across the sea, with a message in manuscript specially commending it to my perusal, (by which he has sought to thrust his rudeness upon me personally,) and because, also, I have an impression that I know its source, though I cannot be certain, or from this distance make inquiries, except through obstacles and delays that I may reasonably object to encountering. I therefore request you to publish the subjoined reply to him. I would send it to the paper in which his piece appeared, but that journal has so long been in the habit of doing me injustice, whether I am abroad or at home, that I should have no confidence in the dispositions of those who conduct it to publish any thing from me designed to repel its aggressions; and I may safely infer that, through the medium of a paper circulating as widely as yours, my reply cannot but become known to the author, whoever he may be. I

pray you to insert it with this introduction, and remain respectfully, your obedient servant,

RICHARD RUSH.

To the author of the leading article in the *Philadelphia National Gazette*, of Friday, the 9th of June, 1837:

SIR:—In an article filling more than a column of the paper above specified, you have taken improper liberties with my name, and sent the paper here under an envelope, with a written message commending it to my perusal, but hiding your name; for which low work I pronounce you a calumniator, and no gentleman. The piece fairly earns both epithets, apart from your mode of sending it.

Debased as you are in my estimation, and will be with all honorable men, by your skulking act, if you object to my terms, I will still be willing, when back in the United States, to make you any atonement you may have had anterior titles to claim from me; but as, with an ocean between us, you have chosen the press as the medium of the effusions you were so anxious I should read in London, you cannot complain that I resort to it to express my opinions of you that they may be read in Philadelphia.

I add, that it was only day before yesterday I got your enclosure, through a channel you will understand when you see this reply, which goes to you at my earliest convenience by the first ship.

RICHARD RUSH.

London, August 7, 1837.

GENERAL GAINES.

From the *Missouri Republican*.

We have received a copy of the following correspondence, with the request that it should be published. It seems to have been a long time delayed on the way, but will not be found to be the less interesting on that account. The sentiments of general Gaines will be responded to in the breast of every one who knows the character of the pioneers of the west.

Major general Edmund P. Gaines,

SIR: The citizens of Clay and the Platte country, in consideration of the high estimation in which they hold your personal character as well as your distinguished services in the army of the United States, and the prompt and efficient aid which you are now rendering in removing the Indians from our border, have determined to tender you a public dinner, at Liberty, at such time as will meet your convenience.

Joel Turnham, Shubael Allen, Peter H. Burnett, Edward Clark, James Duncan, committee of Clay. Z. Martin, J. Venyard, A. B. Holt, committee of Platte.

Independence, Missouri, July 20, 1837.

GENTLEMEN: I accept with great pleasure the kind invitation with which the citizens of Clay and the Platte country have honored me, through you, to a public dinner. Duties requiring my immediate attention oblige me to deny myself the pleasure of complying with your wishes at this time. I will, however, take the earliest occasion in my power, to apprise you of the time of my return to this frontier, to fix a day for meeting my friends and countrymen of this land of promise at the festive board, in time to partake with them of the corn and fruits of the present season.

I have made arrangements for the whole of the Indians now within the limits of the Platte country to leave it in the course of the next week. They go not only without a murmur, but with willingness and apparent pleasure, because they were assured by me that all the promises made to them by the United States in their treaties, will be faithfully complied with. Upon this point the late sudden stoppage of their rations had filled them with doubt and apprehension, which I have reason to believe, would, in the course of a few days have produced, on the part of the Indians, all the distressing scenes of starvation, or consequent robbery and war, such as our frontier citizens have too often experienced from violation of our treaties.

All the human family, from the highest grades of civilization to the lowest ranks of barbarism, appreciate more or less—and the savage more sensitively than the civilized man—the maxim, that

"Truth is the basis of all excellence."

This maxim should be regarded by civilized man in his intercourse with the savage, even more strictly to the letter and the spirit, than with civilized nations. The savages of our country were taught by our beloved Washington himself, and by those who followed the plain straight forward path of public duty marked out by that greatest and best of men, that the word of the United States government as given to the Indians in the form of a treaty, should be held sacred as an oath registered in the Heaven above! The Indians now near you had been thus told when by treaty they ceded their valu-

able lands in the states of Illinois and Michigan, for those of the far west, that they should receive bread and meat for their subsistence, on their way to their new homes and for one year thereafter. This all-important promise (without the fulfillment of which, the Indians could not live,) they deemed to be broken as soon as the public supply of subsistence was withheld from them—as they were apprised that the tract of country ceded to them, afforded little or no means for subsistence by the chase.

My duty under these circumstances, was plain and simple. I had little or nothing to do but to see, and to assure them that the treaty stipulations were not to be regarded as lies, but would be respected and fulfilled in the spirit of truth and honor. I accordingly ordered their supply with rations, and their immediate removal. They were satisfied and happy.

I have been honored with the confidence of my country in the United States service ever since I was grown, near thirty-nine years past—during the greater part of the time my duties have been confined to different sections of the frontier, upon which I had previously carried my rifle in the performance of militia duty, before I had seen the eighteenth year of my age. You will readily infer, therefore, that I have had the means of witnessing the privations and exposures, and of appreciating the value to our beloved union, of this class of the American community, which may with strict military propriety be designated the *National Pioneers* of the republic.

Often have I, when hungry and worn down with excessive fatigue, approached the cabin, or the camp of the Pioneer, from the frontier of Georgia and Florida to the Sabine border of Louisiana—thence to the great northern lakes, and from thence to the St. Lawrence and state of Maine, inclusively, and never without receiving a hearty welcome, and being cordially invited to partake of the comforts of their fireside and table. They have grown up and strengthened with the growth and strength of the nation. The other parts of the nation could not have existed without them, any more than the human body could exist without the head and heart and arms. The people of the interior may well say to the border Pioneers, "we are flesh of one flesh and bone of one bone." How, then, can I feel indifferent to the interests of my countrymen, thus occupying the post of danger?—the post of honor!—When I neglect or forget my duty to the American pioneers, and their families, then may the recording angel of justice and gratitude forget me!

EDMOND P. GAINES.

To Joel Turnham, &c.

OFFICIAL PAPERS.

From the *Nassau Royal Gazette* of August 16, 1837.

We publish the following by desire of George Huyler, esq. consul of the United States:

Nassau, August 15, 1837.

SIR: It is with much regret that I have to inform you that the accompanying papers of the American ship *Heraclide* were found upon the beach, in a broken writing-desk, upon my property, on the south side of Grand Bahama, about three miles from the south point; and that, from the appearance of a large quantity of pieces of a large vessel, as well as her long boat, and small boat, with her name upon it, there is, I much fear, but little hope of the preservation of either the vessel or crew. There has, I have reason to believe, been other papers picked up, but in consequence of my absence from home, have not yet reached me. Her long boat I have desired to be carried to my landing; her small boat is all to pieces. One hogshead and one bale tobacco was all that had reached the shore. Should there be any further information which I can afford, I shall feel most happy in so doing.

I remain, sir, your ob't serv't,

WILLIAM HAMILTON.

Ship *Heraclide*, 347 tons, owned by Samuel and David Devens, of Charlestown; Francis A. Winn, master. This ship was from New Orleans, bound to Bremen.

The crew consisted of Elkanah Crosby, Daniel W. Brookhouse, Samuel Devens, Henry Williams, George Williams, Wm. Stevens, Wm. Johnson, Edward Harrington, Louis Reby, Wm. Dixon, Henry Chester, and John McDowell. [*Globe*.

Translation of an extract from a letter from Don Felipe Arana, minister of foreign relations of the government of Buenos Ayres, to the secretary of state.

Buenos Ayres, June 29, 1837.

The undersigned minister of foreign relations, by order of his government, has the honor to enclose to his excellency, the minister of the corresponding

department of the United States of North America, a printed copy of a decree and proclamation which have been issued in the name, and with the assent, of the provinces of the Argentine Confederation, on the 19th instant, declaring that from considerations therein expressed, the Argentine republic is at war with the government of general Santa Cruz and his supporters.

Translation of a decree published in the Buenos Ayres Gazette Mercantil of June 30, 1837.

VIVA LA FEDERACION!

Department of foreign relations, of Buenos Ayres, June 28, 1837.

The 28th year of liberty, the 22d of independence and the 8th of the Argentine Confederacy.

The government charged with the foreign relations of the Argentine Confederacy, has determined and does decree—

Article 1. Brigadier general Don Carlos Maria de Alvear is appointed envoy extraordinary near the government of the republic of the United States of North America, with the salary and appointments set forth in the budget of the present year, approved by the representative junta.

Article 2. Let his credentials be made out, and let the present decree be communicated, published, and inserted in the official register.

ROSAS.

FELIPE ARANA.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS.

From the Cincinnati Gazette.

Mr. EDITOR—There have been, since the organization of our government, thirteen presidential elections. The following is a correct statement of the number of votes received by each principal candidate, for president and vice president, at each of said elections; and as it will be found on examination to have been compiled from good authority, it may perhaps be worthy of a place in your columns.

First election, 1788. No. of electors 69. George Washington received 69 votes; John Adams 34, and John Jay 9. Washington was elected president, and John Adams vice president.

Second election, 1792. No. of electors 135. George Washington received 132 votes; John Adams 77, and George Clinton 50. Washington and Adams were both re-elected.

Third election, 1796. No. of electors 138. John Adams received 71 votes; Thomas Jefferson 69; Thomas Pinckney 59, and Aaron Burr 30. Adams was elected president, and Jefferson vice president.

Fourth election, 1800. No. of electors 138. Thos. Jefferson and Aaron Burr received each 73 votes; John Adams 65, and Charles C. Pinckney 64. As there was no choice of president in the college of electors, the election devolved on the house of representatives, and after balloting 36 times, Jefferson was elected by a majority of one state. Burr was elected vice president.

Fifth election, 1804. No. of electors 176. The present plan of voting separately for president and vice president was now adopted.

Thomas Jefferson received 162 votes for president, and Charles C. Pinckney 14. George Clinton received 162 votes for vice president, and Rufus King 14. Jefferson and Clinton were elected.

Sixth election, 1808. No. of electors 176. James Madison received 122 votes for president, and Chas. C. Pinckney 47. George Clinton received 113 votes for vice president, and Rufus King 47. Madison and Clinton were elected.

Seventh election, 1812. No. of electors 217. James Madison received 128 votes for president, and De Witt Clinton 89. Elbridge Gerry received 131 votes for vice president, and Jared Ingersoll 86. Madison and Gerry were elected.

Eighth election, 1816. No. of electors 217. James Monroe received 183 votes for president, and Rufus King 34. Daniel D. Tompkins received 183 votes for vice president, and John E. Howard 22. Monroe and Tompkins were elected.

Ninth election, 1820. No. of electors 232. James Monroe received 232 votes for president, and Daniel D. Tompkins 218 for vice president.

Tenth election, 1824. No. of electors 261. Andrew Jackson received 99 votes for president; John Q. Adams 84; Wm. H. Crawford 41, and Henry Clay 37. As neither candidate had a majority, the election was carried into the house, where John Q. Adams having received the votes of 13 states out of 23, was elected president. John C. Calhoun received 182 electoral votes for vice president; N. Sanford 30, and Nathaniel Macon 24. Calhoun was elected vice president.

Eleventh election, 1828. No. of electors 261. Andrew Jackson received 178 votes for president, and John Q. Adams 82. John C. Calhoun received 171 votes for vice president, and Richard Rush 83. Jackson and Calhoun were elected.

Twelfth election, 1832. No. of electors 288. Andrew Jackson received 219 votes for president; Henry Clay 49; John Floyd 11, and Wm. Wirt 7. Martin Van Buren received 189 votes for vice president; John Sergeant 49; Wm. Wilkins 30; Henry Lee 11, and Amos Ellmaker 7. Jackson and Van Buren were elected.

Thirteenth election, 1836. No. of electors 294, (including those of Michigan.) Martin Van Buren received 170 votes for president; Wm. H. Harrison 73; Hugh L. White 26; Daniel Webster 14, and Willie P. Mangum 11. Richard M. Johnson received 147 votes for vice president; Francis Granger 77; John Tyler 47, and Wm. Smith 23. As neither of the candidates for vice president received a majority of the electoral votes, and as Richard M. Johnson and Francis Granger received more votes than any other two, the senate proceeded to elect one of these candidates vice president. In the senate Richard M. Johnson received 33 votes, and Francis Granger 16. Van Buren and Johnson were elected.

THE SITTINGS OF CONGRESS.

From the National Intelligencer.

The following statement will, at the present moment, be interesting, if not useful, to many of our readers:

STATEMENT showing the commencement and termination of each session of congress held under the present constitution, with the number of days in each.

CONGRESS.	SESSION.	FROM	TO	YEAR OF INDEPENDENCE.	NO. OF DAYS IN EACH SESSION.	WHERE HELD.
1	1	Mar. 4, 1789	Sept. 29, 1789	13	210	New York.
	2	Jan. 4, 1790	Aug. 12, 1790	14	291	do.
	3	Dec. 6, 1790	Mar. 3, 1791	15	88	Philadelphia.
2	1	Oct. 24, 1791	May 8, 1792	16	98	do.
	2	Nov. 5, 1792	Mar. 2, 1793	17	119	do.
3	1	Dec. 2, 1793	June 9, 1794	17	190	do.
	2	Nov. 3, 1794	Mar. 3, 1795	19	121	do.
4	1	Dec. 7, 1795	June 3, 1796	20	178	do.
	2	Dec. 5, 1796	Mar. 3, 1797	21	89	do.
5	1	May 15, 1797	July 10, 1797	21	57	do.
	2	Nov. 13, 1797	July 16, 1798	22	246	do.
6	1	Dec. 3, 1798	Mar. 3, 1799	23	90	do.
	2	Dec. 2, 1799	May 14, 1800	24	165	do.
7	1	Nov. 17, 1800	Mar. 3, 1801	25	107	Washington.
	2	Dec. 7, 1801	May 3, 1802	26	148	do.
8	1	Dec. 6, 1802	Mar. 3, 1803	27	88	do.
	2	Oct. 17, 1803	Mar. 27, 1804	28	163	do.
9	1	Nov. 5, 1804	Mar. 3, 1805	29	119	do.
	2	Dec. 2, 1805	April 21, 1806	30	141	do.
10	1	Dec. 1, 1806	Mar. 3, 1807	31	93	do.
	2	Oct. 26, 1807	April 25, 1808	32	183	do.
11	1	Nov. 7, 1808	Mar. 3, 1809	33	117	do.
	2	May 22, 1809	June 28, 1809	33	38	do.
12	1	Nov. 27, 1809	May 1, 1810	34	156	do.
	2	Dec. 3, 1810	Mar. 3, 1811	35	91	do.
13	1	Nov. 4, 1811	July 6, 1812	36	246	do.
	2	Nov. 2, 1812	Mar. 3, 1813	37	122	do.
14	1	May 24, 1813	Aug. 2, 1813	37	71	do.
	2	Dec. 6, 1813	April 18, 1814	38	134	do.
15	1	Sept. 19, 1814	Mar. 3, 1815	39	166	do.
	2	Dec. 4, 1815	April 30, 1816	40	149	do.
16	1	Dec. 2, 1816	Mar. 3, 1817	41	92	do.
	2	Dec. 1, 1817	April 30, 1818	42	141	do.
17	1	Nov. 16, 1818	Mar. 3, 1819	43	108	do.
	2	Dec. 6, 1819	May 15, 1820	44	162	do.
18	1	Nov. 13, 1820	Mar. 3, 1821	45	111	do.
	2	Dec. 3, 1821	May 8, 1822	46	157	do.
19	1	Dec. 2, 1822	Mar. 3, 1823	47	92	do.
	2	Dec. 1, 1823	May 27, 1824	48	179	do.
20	1	Dec. 6, 1824	Mar. 3, 1825	49	88	do.
	2	Dec. 5, 1825	May 22, 1826	50	169	do.
21	1	Dec. 4, 1826	Mar. 3, 1827	51	90	do.
	2	Dec. 3, 1827	May 26, 1828	52	176	do.
22	1	Dec. 1, 1828	Mar. 3, 1829	53	93	do.
	2	Dec. 7, 1829	Mar. 31, 1830	54	176	do.
23	1	Dec. 6, 1830	Mar. 3, 1831	55	88	do.
	2	Dec. 5, 1831	July 16, 1832	56	225	do.
24	1	Dec. 3, 1832	Mar. 3, 1833	57	91	do.
	2	Dec. 2, 1833	June 30, 1834	58	211	do.
25	1	Dec. 1, 1834	Mar. 3, 1835	59	93	do.
	2	Dec. 7, 1835	July 4, 1836	60	211	do.
26	1	Dec. 5, 1836	Mar. 3, 1837	61	89	do.

SPEECH OF MR. CUSHING OF MASS.

Mr. Cushing arrived at Lowell, Mass. on the 22d ult. and was waited upon by a large number of his constituents. At their request, he agreed to meet the citizens at the City Hall, in the evening, where he delivered the following speech in reply to an address of welcome from the mayor.

Mr. Cushing said: I receive, with sincere gratitude, the welcome presented to me by my respected friend, the mayor, in behalf of his assembled fellow-citizens. It is peculiarly satisfactory to me to have such an opportunity of meeting my constituents of the city of Lowell, inasmuch as, residing in another part of the district, I do not possess the power to mingle with them in the daily intercourse of business and of casual association. If any apology be needed for the publicity of the present interview, this fact will, I hope, be deemed a sufficient one.

I had the honor, nearly two years since, to address my constituents in this hall on a similar occasion,

just previous to first entering upon my place as a member of the house of representatives. To you, gentlemen, who had given to me your confidence, I pledged myself to enter congress in the fixed resolution to discharge that important trust conscientiously, and according to my best knowledge of the interests of my constituents and of the country, regardless of personal consequences. I went there, armed with no strength, except the purpose to do my duty, so far as in me lay, to the people who sent me. You, fellow-citizens, are that people; and I stand now before you to render a reckoning of my stewardship. If there be one man here, who has aught of exception to any act or vote of mine as his representative in congress, I hold myself ready, at this or any other time, here and every where, to make explanation in regard thereto. I will not undertake to recapitulate the doings of the last congress. They are familiarly known to you all. It has been my constant aim, in the part I myself have taken, while maintaining the relations of honor and of good faith to my particular friends, to do this not in the spirit of blind adhesion to party as such, but rather in obedience to the great principles of public policy, which I sincerely professed, and conscientiously entertained, in common with my party associates. And I repeat, if there be any person here, who desires explanation of whatever act done by me in his name and behalf, I do most cheerfully tender it to him, and to the whole people of the district.

Gentlemen, I am about to take my seat in the twenty-fifth congress, specially convened by the president of the United States to consider of a remedy for the existing public troubles. It may be expected that something should be said by me, on this occasion, respecting those great questions, which now agitate the country. In doing so I must beg your indulgent attention; since it is a subject not to be lightly turned off with a passing remark. It will be my endeavor, also, to speak of it dispassionately, as befits this audience. And if there be any of the friends of the administration present, I trust they will hear me in candor, where I differ from them, especially as I do not propose to indulge in reflections upon the past, seeking to understand the true nature of the difficulties which now oppress the country, and to study the means of removing them, rather than the causes by which they were brought upon us. Those difficulties exist; whether by the fault of the government or of the people, is not here the question; but what they are, and how to be relieved.

All business is at a stand. The country is flooded with irredeemable bank paper. Gold and silver have disappeared, except as articles of merchandise. The universal suspension of specie payments, not by the banks only, but by the government itself, affords a spectacle of commercial and financial disaster unparalleled in the history of the republic. And it is a period of disordered opinions, as well as disordered currency. All things, in relation to the interests of property, are unsettled. Nothing is taken as fixed and established. Facts, reasonings, purposes, opinions, are adrift on the deep sea of agitation, to be tossed hither and thither upon its troubled waters without chart or rudder.

In this general collision of the elements, two extremes present themselves in regard to the great questions of the day.

One extreme is an exclusive metallic medium of exchanges. I say at once that I hold this to be as impracticable in fact as it is absurd in theory. Gold and silver possess intrinsic value as property. But they constitute only a small part of the property of the community. How is it possible, then, that they should be made to be worth as much as all the rest of the property in existence? You cannot begin to render one article of property equal in value to every thing else, without producing a total revolution in the value of every thing else. If you attempt this, it is impossible to accomplish it. If you could accomplish this, it would be to drive the world back again to the barbarism of savage life, where all traffic is barter; or to bring upon us the desolation of oriental despotism. Doubtless the scheme would destroy all banks, if that is our object; but it would destroy, at the same time, all credit, all prosperity, all industry, all business, and all traffic, except for the sheer necessities of the lowest animal existence. But I will not dwell on this mad scheme. It is disavowed alike by administration and opposition. To maintain it in any way, is the mere extravagance of wickedness or folly.

The other extreme is paper money; a limitless, unregulated, fluctuating, irresponsible issue of irredeemable bank paper, choking the avenues of business, and overturning the landmarks of property and of labor. It is the existing condition of things; a condition abhorrent to every maxim of

political philosophy, and abhorrent also to the constitution and the laws of the land. I condemn it as emphatically as any radical among us.

Each of these two extremes of opinion or of fact, I hold to be mischievous to the last degree. They differ in this: one of them is a wild conception of the visionary and the bad, a voluntary mischief, while the other is the inevitable calamitous result of events no longer subject to human control: one a misfortune to be prevented and repelled; the other a misfortune to be removed and relieved.

What, then, is the plain practical truth? common sense tells us to deal with the facts we find about us, and to look at them as reasonable men, anxious to do right according to the knowledge given us. The constitutional currency, or rather the constitutional standard of property and of contract, is gold and silver. But the law does not compel me, when I sell an article, to take payment in gold or silver. The law permits, and the necessities of business require, that the community should have a paper representative, or rather conventional symbol, of property, which the buyer and seller may employ as the medium of exchange if they choose. This is a bill of exchange or promissory note. Whether signed by an individual, or issued by a bank, its legal character is the same. Its circulation is the voluntary act of business men, sanctioned and protected by law, for the convenience of business men. With us, the paper circulated is incorporated bank paper, the particular sanction of the law having been given to this kind of paper, simply because it has been found by experience to be the kind of paper most worthy of such sanction. That is, whatever failures may have happened to incorporated banks, they have happened with infinitely greater frequency to individuals doing business in other ways.

Gentlemen, I have stated thus carefully the precise legal character of bank paper, for the reason that great confusion of mind seems to me to pervade the ideas of the clamorers against banks. They all either distinctly admit, or at any rate take it for granted, that *banking* is to continue to exist as a branch of business. From the maker of books to the maker of paragraphs, nobody, that thinks or reasons on the subject, pretends that *banking* is to cease. Well, how shall we have *banking* without *banks*? That is manifestly impossible. And so these wiseacres proceed to talk of *private banking*.

Well, what is private banking? Go to New York or Philadelphia, at the present time, and you will see what private banking is. It is the *skin plaster system*. In Massachusetts, we have no paper but incorporated bank paper. It is the only paper circulation sanctioned by the law in, I believe, any of the states. But, in the present derangement of the currency, every body in Philadelphia and New York, who chooses, issues a paper circulation in defiance of law. Each man banks for himself. Is this a wholesome state of things? At any rate, it is that millennium of private banking, which the anti-bank men profess to long for. Certainly it is a very odd way of diminishing the evils of paper currency. It might be legalized by a law with a preamble somewhat as follows: "Whereas it is found by sad experience that one thousand banks are too many, therefore, it is enacted that there be one million banks."

Gentlemen, these political agitators tell us of the dangerous power of banks. But would Nicholas Biddle be less powerful or less dangerous if banking upon thirty-five millions of his own, than as the agent of others? No, infinitely more. They have great private bankers in the monarchies of Europe; men, who, like the Rothschilds, make peace or war as they choose, and wield at will the destiny of empires. Do we wish for a state of things here, which may confer such power on a few overgrown capitalists?

Gentlemen, I repeat, every man of common sense in the country, each of the great parties into which it is divided, admits that banks and banking are to continue, admits that a credit circulation is useful, is necessary. The men and the journals of the administration disavow the adverse doctrine as decidedly as those of the opposition do.

What, then, are the particulars, concerning which sensible men and honest men, differ? They are,

1. The relative proportions of more or less, in which a credit circulation and a metallic circulation may well coexist.
2. The agency by which the paper part of the currency is to be supplied.
3. The mode by which the due relation of both is to be maintained and regulated.

Starting, therefore, with the fact that there is, and is to be, a mixed currency of paper and of specie, just as there will be dealings in credit and dealings in cash, according as the interests of trade shall prescribe, the first question is, what shall be the *relative*

quantity of cash? It is the contrariety of opinion on this point, which distinguishes the specie currency school from the credit currency school, each of them running into extremes in the support of its own particular doctrine. It is, I think, the prevailing conviction,—it certainly is mine,—that it would be well to augment the proportion of gold and silver in the permanent circulation of the country. I do not speak of the present state of things— all paper and no specie. It should be the aim of all of us to restore the regular administration of the laws, and the faculty of paying debts, as well by individuals as by banks, in the only legal tender recognized by the constitution. The present condition of the currency should continue no longer than the uncontrollable necessity out of which it arose. What I mean, is, that, when the regular train of business shall return, it may be proper and wise to concede something to the opinions of those, who desire, as I do, a diminution of the quantity of small bank paper, and the consequent augmentation of the quantity of specie to be held at all times suspended in circulation. This, at any rate, is a question of of more or less only, of mere expediency, not of principle.

But how shall the paper circulation be supplied? And how regulated? The plain, obvious, straight forward course would be, to hearken to the voice of experience, and to follow out the analogies of our political institutions. Twice, for long periods of time, have we tried a national bank; and in each period it has fulfilled its appointed purpose of supplying a safe and equal currency, and of regulating and controlling the issues of the state banks. Twice have we tried for a few years to drag on without a national bank, and each of these experiments has been a season of disaster and confusion. Moreover, it is the nature of our public system, that most of the functions and powers of government should remain with the states, but that, in those respects in which they have mutual relations covering the whole country, the requisite general power should reside in the agents of the federal government.

It is objected that the late bank of the U. States had too much power. Very well; then make a new one with less power, and subject, like the banks of the states, to the summary visitation of the government. I am no advocate of a bank-parlor despotism, holding itself above the law.

And suppose that, guard it as you will, such a bank should, by the amount of capital it possessed, have considerable indirect power. In that view of the subject, it would be, at worst, a case for the choice of evils. For there is a certain end, which, by general consent, it is *necessary* to attain; namely, the supply of an equal currency, and the due regulation of it. If you will not do this by means of a national bank, how will you do it?

We have just come to the winding up of an experiment to do this by means of the banks of twenty-nine legislative bodies, acting each independently of the other, and conspiring only in one purpose, and that is, inflating the bubble until it has burst, and thrown all the affairs of the country into confusion worse confounded. This is the pet bank system, which, when it was organized, undertook to give us a better currency, more equal, more stable, more safe, than a national bank could. Well, General Jackson now pronounces the experiment to be a failure; and if he is not a competent judge of the working of his own experiment, I do not know who should be. He now denounces the whole set of pet banks, in terms of obloquy, which I shall not presume to apply to them, and which, indeed, I do not think they merit. He is a bold man, who, after this, shall undertake to recombine the scattered fragments of the pet bank system. We may throw out of view that scheme, as a device tried and condemned past redemption.

Gentlemen, I ask again, if we are not to have a national bank, what shall we have? I do not profess to know. It is not for me to propose. I look to the administration, which is responsible for the conduct of public affairs, to suggest some way to get us out of the present difficulties, and to provide for the future wants of the country. What is that way?

Some well-meaning persons, who have not very accurately studied either the constitution or the history of the country, propose to convert the federal government into a great loan office, which shall issue fifty or a hundred millions of government paper, and loan it to the state banks, to bolster up their broken credit, and to supply a paper currency in lieu of theirs. Whatever doubts there may be of the constitutionality of a national bank, there can be none of the unconstitutionality of this project. And our own province of Massachusetts Bay, to say nothing of other parts of the country, had ample experience of the impolicy of such means of relief for temporary commercial distresses. Whatever trans-

ferrable paper the exigencies of the government itself require it to issue, may well be thus applied; but no more.

If any thing else worth considering has been proposed, I am not aware what it is. Meanwhile, I repeat, what substitute for a national bank, what remedy for existing evils, does the administration propose?

Gentlemen, so far as I can gather, they do propose no substitute, no remedy. All they propose to do is, like a cowardly master of a sinking ship, to take possession of the long boat and provisions, cut off, and leave the ship's company and passengers to their fate. They talk of throwing you, the people, overboard, to sink or swim as you may, in the vexed tide of the times. I say they talk of it— for the leading men and the leading presses of the administration are at this time engaged in discussing, pro and con, this profligate scheme; and whether they will have the rashness to attempt, or the strength to carry through, this "untried experiment," remains to be seen.

Indeed, my instinctive distrust of this plan, and conviction of its iniquity, have been greatly confirmed by articles published in those very orthodox democratic prints, the *Richmond Inquirer* and the *New York Times*. It is the plan of a section only of the friends of the administration. It is spoken of in the journals of the opposition as a treasury bank; but this name affords an incorrect, or at least imperfect, idea of its nature. As fully developed in the *Globe*, the scheme is to establish a system of sub-treasuries scattered over the country, by and through which to receive, keep, disburse, and transmit, the moneys of the government; and to do this without the use of banks or bank paper, and by specie only, or government paper in lieu of specie.

Gentlemen, if this plan should be adopted by congress, its consequences will, in my apprehension, be altogether disastrous; and I venture to trespass on your indulgence a few moments longer, while I touch upon some of the objections to the plan which occur to my mind.

It would be a palpable dereliction of the duty of the federal government. It supposes the banks to be abandoned to their fate, the currency abandoned, the people abandoned. Can the twenty-eight states and territories regulate the currency? Impossible. You might as well think to give up the customs to the states, and hope to see them agree on the duties to be imposed on imported merchandise. It is just the old question between the confederation and the union. The federal government, and that alone, has power to regulate commerce and the currency, so as to give equality and uniformity to the medium of exchange in all parts of the United States; and it is the bounden duty of the federal government to exert its powers in this respect.

This gross abandonment of the duty of the federal government is sought to be glossed over by a plausible watchword or party cry,—the separation, as it is called, of bank and state. I think with Mr. James Garland, of Virginia, that this idea is more plausible than sound; or rather, it is a mere catchword for the ear, totally devoid of sense or sound meaning. You mean to separate bank and state, and leave the currency to shift for itself. Very well; why not separate court and state, and leave the administration of justice to shift for itself? Or law and state, and leave the law to make itself? Or custom-house and state, and leave the duties to be regulated without the care of the federal government? There would be as much sense and reason in one as in the other.

It would vastly augment the power of the executive. To use an expression, which I see applied to it in the *New York Times*, it *reeks with despotism*. Who shall undertake to describe the added power which it would give to one man! The multitude of new offices and officers, the new salaries, the pensioned partisans, which this cockatrice's egg of perdition will hatch, if it be not promptly crushed under foot by you, the people, whose welfare and liberty it menaces! Should this plan take effect, the executive will have inconceivable facilities of corruption and abuse, in the permanent use, for that purpose, of all the resources of the treasury. It may be a separation of bank and state; but it is a perpetual union of the purse and the sword in the hands of the president.

The public moneys would be unsafe. How many cases of defalcation, think you, there have been in the post office during the last eight years? The number of defaulters (sureties included) counts in THOUSANDS. If these men had been intrusted with millions of money, instead of hundreds each, would they have rendered a better account of it? Again: how are the individuals to be intrusted with the millions of public revenue to give security for its safe keeping? How many men are there in Massachusetts, or any other of the states, able to give

security to the amount of millions? How many of such men would be willing to become bound as surety for such vast amounts? Again: the government deposits its money now in the hands of companies or persons called banks, who, together, possess capital enough to respond to the requisite amount of the millions deposited. Will individuals, if there be any having such large capitals of their own, wish to become deputy postmasters and collectors? Again: which is the best security, three men associated as a collector and his sureties, or three hundred, associated as a bank? Finally, where do individuals, who have large sums of money on hand, go for a place of deposit? To individuals or to banks? The conduct, which every man of sense pursues in his own affairs, demonstrates the absurdity of this new experiment.

It is impracticable, in a country like ours, to have one medium for the government, and another for the people; an appreciated currency for the use of the privileged order of office holders, and a depreciated currency for the people at large. The undertaking would produce insurrection in monarchies: it would produce a political revolution here.

While for so many general reasons the scheme would be unwise and unjust, it is eminently impolitic in reference to the existing state of parties. The new house of representatives will be all but equally divided, between opposition and administration members. Add to which, the friends of the administration in the senate and the house are divided from each other. Some of them are for clinging desperately to the old humbug, some for getting up a new one. Others, more wise or more patriotic, wish to stay the progress of destruction while they have power, and before the demon of radicalism, which by their incantations has been evoked from the abyss, shall turn and rend the master magician as well as his followers. If the president of the United States were here before me, I would exhort him to beware how he enters upon this new project of mischief, which, while it afflicts and distresses the country, must eventuate in the downfall of his party and his friends.

In general Jackson's unsparing denunciation of the pet banks, composed for the chief part of his own zealous partisans and coadjutors in the overthrow of the United States bank, there seems to be a kind of visitation of Providence upon those, who, some by their active agency, others by their willing co-operation, have contributed to bring on the train of disasters of which the suspension of specie payments is the consummation. The fact is remarkable in itself; but I became casually acquainted, some time since, with a still more striking series of events of the same nature. Let me pluck a leaf from the unwritten history of the times.

In the executive journals of the senate of the United States will be found, under the proper dates, the following items:

On the 18th day of December, 1828, there came to the senate a message from the president, under date of the day before, containing the following words:

"I nominate John J. Crittenden, of Kentucky, to be a judge of the supreme court of the United States.

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS."

This nomination was referred to the committee on the judiciary, which reported:

"That it is not expedient to act upon the nomination of John J. Crittenden, as a justice of the supreme court of the United States, during the present session of congress."

This report was debated on successive days in the senate, and was finally adopted on the 12th of February, 1829.

Those who voted in the affirmative are—Messrs. Barnard, Benton, Berrien, Branch, Chandler, Dickerson, Dudley, Eaton, Hayne, Iredell, Kane, McKinley, McLane, Prince, Ridgely, Rowan, Sanford, Smith of S. C., Tazewell, Thomas, White, Woodbury—23.

Those who voted in the negative are—Messrs. Bell, Boulingny, Burnet, Chambers, Chase, Foot, Holmes, Johnson of Louisiana, Knight, Marks, Noble, Robbins, Ruggles, Seymour, Silsbee, Webster, Willey—17.

Gentlemen, this may seem, at first blush, to be a very dry detail of names. But think of it again; couple the names with the fact, and reflect on what has transpired in their history since, and you will see that every word of that record is instinct with a thousand memories. That vote, by which the nomination of John J. Crittenden was virtually rejected, is one of the most memorable in the annals of our country. Its object was to keep vacant the office of judge, and, by parity of reasoning, all other offices, for partisans of the coming administration. The debate, which ended in that vote, occurred in the secret chamber of executive session; but it was then and there, in and by this vote of

the senate, that the *spoils doctrine* was introduced into the practices of the government. And mark well the result. Think over the names I have read to you. Where are now the men who constituted that majority of twenty-three? Some of them have utterly vanished from public affairs. They have sunk into such absolute forgetfulness, that you can scarce find them in our political history. They have been crushed, destroyed, annihilated, by the juggernaut of party, which they themselves rolled in upon the prostrate country. Others, more manly in spirit, or more uncompromising in their hatred of misrule, are at this hour, in the country, and in congress, among the leaders and rallying points of the opposition.

Gentlemen, this fact is a deeply impressive lesson to all of us. It is full of admonition to every public man, to beware how he sacrifices principle to party. It may serve to warn those confident men in the senate and the house of representatives, who are for hurrying us into the "untried expedient"—the new nostrum of political quackery—of the *destiny in reserve for them*.

Fellow-citizens, in conclusion, permit me to say that, while it is impossible for me to predict what congress may do at the approaching session, yet for myself I go there determined to welcome any just and reasonable proposition, from whatever quarter it may come. If the administration testifies a sincere purpose to relieve the public difficulties, no man will applaud more loudly than myself; and, on the other hand, I will yield to none, in steady resistance to all empirical experiments on the health and prosperity of the country. And, happen what may, let us not despair of the republic. She is young and vigorous; and will in time rally from her present depression, to give to us a new career of prosperity and peace; which time God grant may speedily arrive.

TWENTY-FIFTH CONGRESS.

FIRST SESSION—SENATE.

September 11. The chair stated the order of the day to be the election of a secretary of the senate; whereupon, the senate proceeded to ballot for secretary, and at the first ballot *Asbury Dickens*, esq. received 39 votes out of 40, and was declared duly elected.

On motion of Mr. *Grundy*, the senate then proceeded to the election of chaplain, when, after four ballotings, the number of candidates being twenty-one, the Rev. Mr. *Slizer*, of the Methodist church, Georgetown, received a majority of the votes, and was declared duly elected.

Mr. *Wright*, chairman of the committee on finance, to which was referred that part of the message of the president of the United States relating to the distribution of the surplus revenue, and other matters, reported a bill for the postponement of the 4th instalment of the deposit to the states, till further provision therefor by law.

Mr. *Wright* said, that as the time the committee had had was but short, he should now merely report the above bill, which he would move to be read a first time, and ordered to a second reading, with a view to take it up to-morrow, when he expected the committee would be able to report further.

Mr. *Calhoun* said he hoped this bill would not be pressed so rapidly. It was due to the senate to have the whole subject before them, and he therefore hoped that this bill would be suffered to rest until it should be seen what other measures the committee might propose.

Mr. *Webster* said he rose to express a wish that, whether the measures proposed were to be considered separately, or whether they were to be considered 'all together, they might be considered and decided upon with all the promptness and despatch consistent with considerate legislation. It was not his good fortune to concur with the committee, nor did he think the measure suited to the exigencies and condition of the country; but, whatever measure might be introduced here for the purpose of meeting the existing exigency of the government and the wide distress of the country, should receive no hindrance, obstruction, or delay from him.

Mr. *W.* would content himself with a short statement of his views, when the measure came up; and he should leave it in the hands of the majority known to be favorable to the existing administration, both in the senate and in the house; but he would beseech those majorities to pronounce their judgment in form of law. They have the power, and they have the responsibility also. I (said Mr. *W.*) shall do nothing to obstruct them in the prompt exercise of their power; nor will I do any thing tending to diminish their responsibility. He was connected with the manufacturing and with the mercantile interest, and thought he saw oppression on the labor and industry of the country, which required relief. He saw things connected with the

government which demanded from government an efficient as well as a prompt relief. He thought it not necessary that all these measures should be considered together; but the earlier they were considered the better.

Mr. *Calhoun* explained that he did not desire any delay; on the contrary, he agreed with the senator from Massachusetts (Mr. *Webster*,) in the necessity of an early and full decision on the several points recommended.

The bill as reported by Mr. *Wright*, was then ordered to a second reading.

Mr. *Linn* laid on the table the following resolution:

Resolved, That the joint library committee be instructed to inquire into the expediency of causing the manuscripts of the late James Madison, deposited in the department of state, to be printed.

Mr. *Benton* presented a memorial and petition from the chamber of commerce of St. Louis, Missouri, praying for the incorporation of a national bank; which was referred to the committee on finance, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. *Black* presented a petition from the citizens of Carrollton, Carroll county, Mississippi, praying for the incorporation of a national bank; which was also referred to the same committee, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. *Allen* presented three several petitions from citizens of Columbiana county, Ohio, praying, 1st, against the charter of a national bank; 2d, in favor of dissociating the government from all banks; and, 3d, in favor of collecting the public dues in metal; which were referred to the committee on finance, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. *Ruggles* presented the petition of J. H. Hall, praying to be remunerated for labor and time expended in making improvements on fire-arms; which was referred to the committee on military affairs, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. *Hubbard* presented three private petitions, and moved their reference to the committee on naval affairs.

Mr. *Calhoun* adverted to the importance of despatching the special business now before congress, and expressed the hope that all ordinary business would be postponed till that purpose should be accomplished.

Mr. *Hubbard* explained the nature of the petitions which he had presented, and remarked that they might be referred without interrupting more important business, and might be acted upon either at this, or the ensuing session of congress.

Mr. *Buchanan* said he entirely concurred with the senators from Massachusetts and South Carolina, in regard to the course which business ought to take at the present session of congress. He believed it was not expected by the country, and it would be inconvenient to both houses of congress to continue this session up to the regular time for the next. If petitions should be sent to the standing committees, it would be regarded as conclusive evidence of a design to proceed to ordinary business; and if this should be done, congress would be here till June. Mr. *B.* would not object to considering any special and important matters at this session; but he was in favor of postponing the ordinary business till the usual time; and in order to try what course the senate meant to pursue, he moved to lay the petitions on the table; and it was so ordered.

Mr. *Clay*, of Alabama, presented the following resolution, which lies over one day:

Resolved, That the committee on the judiciary be instructed to inquire into the expediency of restoring the district court of the United States for the northern district of Alabama, to its former jurisdiction.

Mr. *King*, of Alabama, said he was in favor of considering special matters of moment at this session; and the subject of this resolution he considered both important and demanding to be acted upon as early as possible. It was necessary to the proper administration of justice.

Mr. *Clay* also offered the following resolution, which he represented as important, and yet more pressing; and he therefore asked that it might be now considered:

Resolved, That the committee on the judiciary be instructed to inquire into the expediency of altering the time for holding the United States courts of the ninth judicial circuit.

This resolution was accordingly adopted.

On motion of Mr. *Preston* the senate adjourned.

September 12. Mr. *Southard*, a senator from New Jersey, appeared to-day and took his seat.

A message was received from the president of the United States through Mr. *A. Van Buren*, his private secretary.

Mr. *McKean* presented a memorial, remonstrating against the annexation of Texas to the United States.

A similar memorial was also presented by Mr. *Buchanan* from citizens of the city and county of Philadelphia, which memorials were severally laid on the table.

Mr. *Linn* offered a resolution, authorizing the appointment of three senators as members of a joint committee of congress to direct the expenditure of money appropriated for the library of congress; which was adopted by unanimous consent, and the chair was authorized to make the appointment on the part of the senate.

The resolution offered yesterday by Mr. *Clay*, of Alabama, instituting an inquiry as to the expediency of restoring the district court of the United States for the northern district of Alabama to its former jurisdiction, coming up in its order,

Mr. *Clay* briefly explained the bearing, and urged the expediency of the measure proposed.

Mr. *Grundy* expressed some doubt as to the expediency of thus breaking in upon the general judiciary system; but was willing that the resolution should go to the committee, who would consider the subject according to its merits.

Mr. *Sevier* offered an amendment for an inquiry as to restoring the United States district court for Arkansas to its former jurisdiction; and the resolution, so amended, was adopted.

The bill to postpone the payment of the fourth instalment of the deposits with the States came up as the special order.

Mr. *Wright* said the committee on finance had expected to report further on the subject this morning, and the committee had omitted no effort for that purpose. But two of their number were absent from their meeting this morning, one of them being necessarily detained by his family affairs, and the other by sickness. The committee, however, confidently hoped to be able to report farther to-morrow, and fully on Thursday.

After a few remarks by Messrs. *Calhoun*, *Wright*, *Preston*, and *Hubbard*, the bill was read a second time; and, on motion of Mr. *Hubbard*, the farther consideration of the subject was postponed till to-morrow.

On motion of Mr. *Buchanan* the senate spent some time in executive business, and then adjourned.

September 13. Mr. *Benton* presented a memorial from Dr. *Feuchtwanger*, of New York, proposing to furnish the mint with new dies for cent pieces, accompanied with specimens. The memorial was referred to the committee on finance, and ordered to be printed.

Petitions were further presented by Messrs. *Tip-ton*, *Smith*, of Indiana, *Hubbard*, *Morris*, and *Norvell*, (the purport of which could not be heard,) all of which were laid on the table.

Mr. *Wright*, from the committee on finance, reported the following bill, authorizing the issue of treasury notes, which was read a first time and ordered to a second reading.

A bill to authorize the issuing of treasury notes.

Be it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of the U. States of America in congress assembled, That the president of the United States be, and he is hereby, authorized to cause treasury notes, for such sum or sums as he may think expedient, but not exceeding, in the whole amount of notes issued, the sum of _____ millions of dollars, and of denominations not less than one hundred dollars for any one note, to be prepared, signed, and issued in the manner hereafter provided.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the said treasury notes, authorized to be issued by the first section of this act, shall be reimbursed and redeemed by the United States, at the treasury thereof, after the expiration of one year from the dates of the said notes, respectively; from which said dates, for the term of one year, and no longer, they shall bear such interest as shall be expressed upon the face of the said notes; which rate of interest, upon each several issue of the said notes, shall be fixed by the secretary of the treasury, by and with the advice and approbation of the president; but shall in no case exceed the rate of interest of six per centum per annum. The reimbursement herein provided for shall be made at the treasury of the United States, to the holders of the said notes, respectively, upon presentment, and shall include the principal of each note, and the interest due thereon at the time of payment. For this reimbursement, at the time and times herein specified, the faith of the U. States is hereby solemnly pledged.

Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the said treasury notes shall be prepared under the direction of the secretary of the treasury, and shall be respectively signed, on behalf of the United States, by the treasurer thereof, and countersigned by the register of the treasury. And that those officers respectively shall, as checks upon each other, and to secure the public safety, keep separate, full, and accurate

accounts of the number, date, denomination, and amount of all the notes signed and countersigned by them, respectively; which said accounts shall be carefully preserved and placed on file in the treasury department; and also similar accounts, kept and preserved in the same manner, of all the said notes redeemed, as the same shall be returned and cancelled; and the treasurer shall further account, quarterly, for all such notes delivered to him for signature, or issue, by the register. The treasurer and register of the treasury are hereby authorized, by and with the consent and approbation of the secretary of the treasury, to employ such additional temporary clerks as the duties enjoined upon them by this section may render necessary; the compensation of each clerk so employed to be fixed by the secretary.

Sec. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That the secretary of the treasury be, and he is hereby authorized, with the approbation of the president of the United States, to cause to be issued such portion of the said treasury notes as the president may think expedient, in payment of debts due by the United States to such public creditors or other persons as may choose to receive such notes in payment, as aforesaid, at par. And the secretary of the treasury is further authorized, with the approbation of the president of the United States, to borrow, from time to time, not under par, such sums as the president may think expedient, on the credit of such notes.

Sec. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That the said treasury notes shall be transferable, by delivery and assignment endorsed thereon, by the person to whose order the same shall, on the face thereof, have been made payable.

Sec. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That the said treasury notes shall be everywhere received in payment of all duties and taxes laid by the authority of the United States, of all public lands sold by the said authority, and of all debts due to the United States, of any character whatsoever. And, on every such payment, credit shall be given for the amount of the principal and interest which, on the day of such payment, may be due on the note or notes thus given in payment.

Sec. 7. *And be it further enacted*, That the secretary of the treasury be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to cause to be reimbursed and paid the principal and interest of the treasury notes which may be issued by virtue of this act, at the several time and times when the same, according to the provisions of this act, should be thus reimbursed and paid. And the said secretary is further authorized to make purchases of the said notes, at a price not exceeding par, for the amount of the principal and interest due at the time of purchase on such notes. And so much of any moneys in the treasury, not otherwise appropriated, as may be necessary for that purpose, is hereby appropriated, for paying the principal and interest of said notes.

Sec. 8. *And be it further enacted*, That a sum of thousand dollars, to be paid out of any moneys in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, be, and the same is hereby, appropriated, for defraying the expense of preparing, printing, engraving, signing, and otherwise incident to the issuing of the treasury notes authorized by this act.

Sec. 9. *And be it further enacted*, That if any person shall falsely make, forge, or counterfeit, or cause or procure to be falsely made, forged, or counterfeited, or willingly aid or assist in falsely making, forging, or counterfeiting, any note, in imitation of, or purporting to be a treasury note aforesaid; or shall falsely alter, or cause or procure to be falsely altered, or willingly aid or assist in falsely altering, any treasury note issued as aforesaid; or shall pass, utter, or publish, or attempt to pass, utter, or publish, as true, any false, forged, or counterfeited note, purporting to be a treasury note as aforesaid, knowing the same to be falsely forged or counterfeited; or shall pass, utter, or publish, or attempt to pass, utter, or publish, as true, any falsely altered treasury note, issued as aforesaid, knowing the same to be falsely altered, every such person shall be deemed and adjudged guilty of felony, and being therefore convicted by due course of law, shall be sentenced to be imprisoned and kept to hard labor for a period not less than three years, nor more than ten years, and be fined in a sum not exceeding five thousand dollars.

Sec. 10. *And be it further enacted*, That the secretary of the treasury be, and he is hereby, authorized to make and issue, from time to time, such instructions, rules and regulations to the several collectors, receivers of public money, depositories, and all others who may be authorized to receive the said treasury notes on behalf of, and as agents in any capacity for, the United States, as to the safe keeping, disposition, return, and cancelling of the said

notes so paid to and received by them respectively, and as to their accounts and returns to the department of all such receipts as may seem to him best calculated to promote the public interests and convenience, and secure the United States and the holders of the said notes against frauds and losses.

Sec. 11. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall be, and hereby is made the duty of the secretary of the treasury to cause a statement to be published, monthly, of the amount of all treasury notes issued or redeemed in pursuance of the provisions of this act.

Mr. *Wright*, from the same committee, also reported the following bill, which was read a first time and ordered to a second reading.

A bill authorizing a further postponement of payment upon duty bonds.

Be it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of the United States of America in congress assembled, That the secretary of the treasury be, and he hereby is, authorized to grant such further extension of credit upon all bonds for duties now outstanding, as shall make the whole extension of credit upon each bond six months from the time when the original bond became due and payable, making the extension in each case to depend upon the same conditions as to additional security, the payment of interest, and other terms, which have been prescribed by the treasury department to the extension of revenue bonds since May last: *Provided*, That nothing herein contained shall be construed to include any existing bonds, where the parties to the same have not, since the bonds became payable, given additional security, or made part payment, and are, by the proper officers of the government, considered insolvent, or unsafe securities for the payment of their bonds.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the additional credit of six months, granted by the first section of this act, upon outstanding duty bonds, shall be upon the same terms and conditions granted upon all bonds for duties which may be given during the period of one year from and after the first day of October, in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty-seven.

Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That where the security in any bond which has been, or may hereafter be postponed, is entirely satisfactory, the principal or sureties in the same shall not be disabled from being in the mean time, till the period of postponement provided for by this act expires, received as principal or sureties in other bonds for duties, notwithstanding the bond first given may not have been actually paid, discharged, or extended before or on the day it fell due: *Provided*, That such principal and sureties shall be found, in all other respects, safe and satisfactory security for the bonds to which they may be proposed as parties.

Sec. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That the operation of all prior laws, and parts of laws, so far as inconsistent with this act, be suspended in the particulars in which they may conflict with, or differ from, its provisions, until this act shall cease by its own limitation.

Mr. *Wright* further reported from the same committee, the following bill for adjusting claims upon the deposit banks.

A bill for adjusting the remaining claims upon the deposit banks.

Be it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of the United States of America in congress assembled, That the secretary of the treasury be, and he is hereby, authorized to continue to withdraw the public moneys now remaining in any of the former deposit banks, in a manner as gradual and convenient to the institutions as shall be consistent with the pecuniary wants of the government, and the safety of the funds thus to be drawn; and that no further interest than that required by the deposit act of the twenty-third of June, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-six, under which those deposits were made, shall be demanded of any bank which has met, or shall hereafter meet, the requisitions of the department. This provision shall also extend to such public moneys as may remain in any of the said banks, whether standing to the credit of the treasurer of the United States, or of any disbursing or other public officer of the government.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That in case of neglect or refusal by any of the said banks to comply with the requisitions of the secretary of the treasury, as he shall make them, in conformity with the first section of this act, suits shall be instituted, where that has not already been done, to recover the amounts due to the United States, unless the defaulting bank shall forthwith cause to be executed and delivered to the secretary of the treasury a bond, with security to be approved by the solicitor of the treasury, to pay to the United States the whole moneys due from it, in three instalments;

the first to be paid at the expiration of two months from the passage of this act, the second at the expiration of five months, and the remaining instalment at the expiration of eight months from the same period; and interest thereupon at the rate of six per centum per annum, from the time of default, together with any damages which may have accrued to the United States from protests of drafts drawn upon it, or from any other consequence of its failure to fulfill its obligations to the public treasury.

The special order of the day, being the bill to postpone the 4th instalment of the deposits to the states—

Mr. Calhoun said he hoped that this bill would not now be acted upon. It was his wish that no action should be had on any of these measures proposed by the committee on finance until a report had been made. He hoped, therefore, that the chairman of the committee (Mr. Wright,) would consent to a postponement until all the contemplated measures should have been reported.

Mr. Wright said he had no strong desire upon the subject other than to expedite, as far as was possible, the business before the senate and congress. He was not aware that any bills yet to be reported by the committee would affect the question on the present bill; he, however, felt no strong desire to press this bill in particular, as he hoped the committee would complete the business before it to-morrow.

On motion of Mr. Calhoun, the bill was then postponed until to-morrow; and
The senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Monday, Sept. 11. The following gentlemen appeared to-day, were sworn, and took their seats.

From Tennessee—Richard Cheatham.

From Alabama—Dixon H. Lewis.

From Arkansas—Archibald Yell.

From Michigan—Isaac E. Crary.

The chair announced the following gentlemen as having been appointed members of the respective standing committees, pursuant to the order of the house, viz:

Of ways and means. Messrs. Cambreleng, McKim, Owens, Sergeant, Hamer, Jones, of Virginia, Fletcher, of Massachusetts, Atherton, and Rhett.

On claims. Messrs. Whittlesey, of Ohio, Grennell, Chambers, Darlington, Graham, Russell, Campbell, of Tennessee, Clark, and Carter, of Maine.

On commerce. Messrs. Smith, Phillips, Johnson, of Louisiana, Cushman, De Graff, Legare, Toland, Curtis, and Mason, of Virginia.

On the public lands. Messrs. Boon, Williams, of North Carolina, Lincoln, Casey, Chapman, Harrison, Anderson, Duncan, and Turney.

On the post office. Messrs. Connor, Briggs, Hall, Cleveland, Hopkins, Hubley, Calhoun, of Kentucky, Palmer, and Worthington.

Of elections. Messrs. Buchanan, Griffin, Hawkins, Kilgore, Maury, Towns, Bronson, Pennybacker, and Hastings.

On the District of Columbia. Messrs. Bouldin, A. H. Shepherd, Jenifer, Dawson, Cilley, Prentiss, Beirne, C. H. Williams, of Tennessee, and Hunter, of Ohio.

On the judiciary. Messrs. Thomas, Robertson, Toucey, Martin, Corwin, Bynum, Garland, of Virginia, Hoffman, and Potter.

On revolutionary claims. Messrs. Muhlenberg, Craig, Underwood, Taliaferro, Elmore, Foster, Parmenter, Harper, of Ohio, and Birdsall.

On public expenditures. Messrs. Haley, Ogle, Alexander, Titus, Stratton, Rumsey, Fletcher, of Vermont, Crockett, and Patterson.

On private land claims. Messrs. May, Garland, of Louisiana, Calhoun, of Massachusetts, Harlan, Bryn, Mallory, Beatty, Rariden, and Leadbetter.

On manufactures. Messrs. Adams, Webster, Whittlesey, of Connecticut, Holsey, Slade, Biddle, Tillinghast, Vail, and Naylor.

On agriculture. Messrs. Deberry, Logan, Phelps, Weeks, Spencer, Noyes, Davies, Randolph, and Mitchell.

On Indian affairs. Messrs. Bell, Everett, Haynes, Chaney, Montgomery, Parker, Campbell, of South Carolina, Murray, of Kentucky, and S. W. Morris, of Pennsylvania.

On military affairs. Messrs. McKay, Coles, Glascock, Thompson, Gholson, Miller, Rives, Kemble, and McClellan, of Tennessee.

On the militia. Messrs. Glascock, Wagner, Carter, of Tennessee, Holt, Hammond, Pratt, Hunter, Halstead, and Allen, of Ohio.

On naval affairs. Messrs. Ingham, Milligan, Reed, Wise, Grantland, Moore, Richardson, Paynter, and Williams, of New Hampshire.

On foreign affairs. Messrs. Howard, Hamer, Cushing, Jackson, Dromgoole, Rencher, Pope, Claiborne, and Fairfield.

On the territories. Messrs. Patton, Potts, Pickens, Pierce, Borden, Graves, Davee, Jones, of New York, and Farrington.

On revolutionary pensions. Messrs. Morgan, Klingensmith, Bond, Fry, Johnson of Virginia, Sibley, Ewing, Gray, and Loomis, of Ohio.

On invalid pensions. Messrs. Taylor, Williams, of Kentucky, Allen, of Vermont, McClellan, of New York, Petriken, Stewart, Herod, Riley, and Stanley.

On roads and canals. Messrs. Mercer, Evans, McKennan, Snyder, White, of Kentucky, Fillmore, of New York, Johnson, of Maryland, Bicknell, White, of Indiana.

On revisal and unfinished business. Messrs. Mason, of Ohio, Noble, Southgate, Henry, and Peck.

On accounts. Messrs. Johnson, of Virginia, Grant, McClure, Shepard, of North Carolina, and Johnson of Maryland.

On expenditures of the department of state. Messrs. Morris, of Pennsylvania, Jackson, of New York, Shepler, Yorke, and Andrews.

On expenditures of the department of the treasury. Messrs. Allen, of Vermont, Sheffer, Ayerigg, Gray, and Holsey.

On expenditures of the war department. Messrs. Clowney, Vandever, Holt, Morris, of Ohio, and Marvin.

On expenditures of the navy department. Messrs. Brodhead, Maxwell, Goode, Edwards, and Graham, of Indiana.

On expenditures of the post office department. Messrs. Childs, Dennis, Hawes, Gallup, and Plummer.

On expenditures of the public buildings. Messrs. Sawyer, Cranston, Menifee, Dunn, and Ridgway.

The chair announced that petitions would not be called for to-day under the rule, but would be considered to be in order to-morrow.

The resolution offered on Thursday last by Mr. Biddle, of Pennsylvania, and lying on the speaker's table, having been again read, as follows:

“Resolved, That the secretary of the treasury report to this house whether a letter, purporting to be addressed by him to the clerk of the house of representatives, offering payment in specie to members of congress, is authentic; if so, to what other claimants on the treasury a similar offer has been made, and what principle of discrimination, if any, has been adopted in the medium of payment to the public creditors.”

Mr. Biddle said that the letter referred to in the resolution had struck him, on first reading, as exceptionable, and further reflection had tended to confirm that impression. He had, therefore, seized the earliest opportunity of calling to it the attention of the house.

If the offer it conveyed was a matter of grace on the part of the secretary of the treasury; if his mere discretion could determine how the limited specie funds of the government should be disposed of, it followed, of course, that the offer might, at any time be withdrawn. It might be withdrawn from the whole house, or merely from obnoxious members. The specie could be diverted at pleasure from us and given to other claimants on the treasury whom it might suit the interests of the hour to conciliate or to reward. The secretary might take it from us, and give it, for example, to the judges of the supreme court, who are now paid in paper; thus increasing or diminishing their compensation by his fiat. He might have given it to the judges of the circuit court of the District of Columbia whilst the mandamus case was pending. He may yet allow or disallow it to them. Undeniably, as matters now stand, the people see, with astonishment, that the amount of pay receivable by their representatives on this floor depends on the will of an executive officer, and may fluctuate with his caprice. Was it consistent with the dignity of the house or the safety of the country, that our position in this matter should be thus precarious?

But he was disposed to look at the subject in another point of view. We had been specially convened to consider the state of the currency. The president desires that our attention shall be confined to this one topic. We are supposed to be here fresh from the people, and to bear with us an active sympathy for the vexation and inconvenience to which every part of the country is subjected by irredeemable promises to pay. At home, or on our way here, we had seen and felt the evils under which the people labor. We had shared those evils. We found ourselves detained upon the highways, at every step, in decyphering and interchanging mysterious looking scrolls—a currency not merely uncontrolled by the necessity of redemption in specie, but which had escaped from the restraint of even decent type, paper, and engraving. Why, then, was each member met here by this extraordinary offer? Was it not calculated

—he did not say *designed*, for he wished to infuse no bitterness into the discussion—was it not calculated to efface the impressions made upon us whilst we were in the midst of the people? Did it not tend to disguise from us the suffering of the country at large? Did it not, at once, erect us into a favored class exempt from all the evils which are now pressing upon our constituents?

Nay, sir, I go farther. I ask, and I ask it with that due respect for the opinions and sensibilities of others, which I shall endeavor to preserve and to cultivate—I ask whether any member of congress, who closes with that offer, does not create for himself a direct pecuniary interest in the *continuance* of a depreciated currency—an interest in *perpetuating* the evils we are called here to remedy? The specie received can be disposed of, at a high premium, for paper which will readily discharge all engagements in this city, or pay debts at home, as we are exempt from postage. This premium will increase with the depreciation of paper. But even now the premium received will, in some cases, suffice to meet all the personal expenses of the member. The entire fifty-six dollars per week, therefore, together with about nine-tenths of what is called *mileage*, may be laid up in notes of the banks of Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York, Boston or Pittsburgh. The circulation then of specie would amount to this: the people buy it of the brokers, to pay postages and duties; it is then given to us; we sell it to the brokers, from whom the people are again obliged to buy, at an advance; and thus it continues to run the round. The people are the purveyors of specie for us. They have the handling of it on their way from the broker's to the post office or the custom house. This state of things, so comfortable to members of congress, will cease the moment specie payments are resumed. So far then as mercenary motives go, we are made, by this discrimination in our favor, to feel an interest in catching at any pretext; falling in with any scheme, however wild, that may tend to postpone the resumption. Well may we consent to let things take their own course, to regulate themselves, and to await the result of that process with the most exemplary patience. But assuredly we stand in a singular position towards the country we represent, and with whose interests we profess to be identified. We see before us the loss of a profitable traffic the moment we achieve the purpose that brings us here. Such is the penalty of success in our labors! We and the specie brokers on the Avenue will be thrown out of business at the same moment. Would any man, in private life, consent to place in such a position an agent, however pure and upright, with any hope of being promptly and faithfully served?

Mr. B. went on to say that he believed this to be a matter of deep import. It was not connected with party. It appealed to higher interests and to higher thoughts. Nothing (said he) can be more fatal to the usefulness and influence of this house than a belief that we are actuated by a sordid, grasping spirit. Public indignation is especially vigilant here, because that indignation is the only check upon abuse. We all saw how strikingly this was illustrated in the spontaneous movement on the subject of the compensation law. That was treated in this house as a small matter—too small for the notice of the people. But a different lesson was taught. We all remember the storm that burst over the whole country. Mr. Jefferson, in one of his letters, refers to the quick sensibility of the people on that occasion as triumphant evidence of their capacity for self government. We must bear in mind that our respective states have been paid their claims upon the treasury in bank paper, or a bank credit twelve per cent. worse than specie. They could not get one dollar in hard money. The laborer upon the public works, who sweats all day over his mattock for one-sixteenth part of our per diem allowance, we pay in paper. I say we pay, because, will any one here pretend to deny that congress is responsible? The widows and the orphans of those who fell in their country's service, on the deck or the battle-field, we pay in paper. In the city and county which I represent there are many revolutionary soldiers. If one of these venerable men has occasion to take a letter out of one of your post offices, from a son absent in the public service, he must sell to a broker, at a great loss, the money with which we pay his scanty pittance. So it is with the army and the navy. Only the other day, an officer from Florida found himself here with money so worthless that he could not sell it, at any discount, so as to raise specie enough to take up the letters lying for him at the post office. How is it that the secretary of war can suffer these gallant men to be thus treated—soured and disgusted with the service—whilst another secretary, having no more legitimate control over the subject, parades, as if in mockery, an offer of specie, through the

newspapers, to those who pay no postage, and whose necessities are the least urgent? On what principle can it be of honor, or honesty, or bare decency, that the only public creditors whom the treasury exempts from the pressure of a common calamity are those whose exclusive duty it is to provide the common remedy?

Suppose (said Mr. B.) a joint resolution were offered insisting, openly and manfully, that the compensation of members of congress be paid in a medium denied to our respective states, and to other claimants on the treasury. How many would be found, in the face of the country, to record their votes for it? And yet the course we are invited to pursue involves all the offensiveness of such a resolution without the courage of assuming the responsibility. We would get at the same thing by the bounty of the secretary of the treasury. We add to cupidity the crime against our political institutions, of giving to the executive a hold upon the hopes and fears of this house.

Mr. B. repeated the expression of his hope that the house would look anxiously to its standing with the country. The eyes of that country (said he) are on us. Our situation may well be deemed a trying one. The counsels of this body, on critical occasions, have long been repelled rather than invited. The great object was to give it the go-by. It has even been denounced as venal and treacherous on questions connected with the currency. And yet, whilst thus forced to rely on the courage and skill of those who had seized the helm, we are now suddenly called up, at midnight, to receive a hasty surrender of all responsibility into our hands. And this in the midst of darkness, and with breakers around us in every direction! Let us then, sir, so bear ourselves as to rally the full confidence of those who are embarked with us for life or for death.

Mr. Robertson now moved to amend the resolution moved by Mr. Biddle, by adding thereto the following, as proposed by him when the subject was up on Thursday, expressing his hope that the mover of the original resolution would accept of it as a modification:

"Also, that he report so far as now ascertained, the amount of specie received by the government since the first day of May last; the sources from whence derived, and the amount from each; the regulations under which the same, or any part thereof, has been disbursed; the persons to whom paid, and the sums paid to each; the amount now on hand, and where deposited; also, whether, since the data above, the public dues, or any portion thereof, have been received in protested drafts, or any funds other than those prescribed by the joint resolution of April 30, 1816."

Mr. Biddle said that, although he could not oppose the amendment laid upon the table of the house on Thursday by the honorable gentleman from Virginia, it had disturbed the simplicity which he desired his proposition to wear. He wanted a plain answer to a plain question. The secretary ought to be able to state, in a few words, his principles of discrimination without the delay which would attend the preparation of tables, &c. On that answer Mr. B.'s own course with regard to pay would turn. He would not accept any thing as a boon which the secretary might give or withhold at pleasure. He would not dare to carry home to his generous and confiding, but high-spirited and intelligent constituents, bags of specie thus acquired. He knew what those constituents had suffered; he knew what was before them and their families during the next dreadful, dreadful winter. How, then, could he have the heart to enter their workshops and their manufactories to tell them exultingly that congress could not contrive to do any thing for their relief, but that he had, through the kindness of an executive officer, managed to fill his own pockets, and that he was soon going back to reap another golden harvest.

Mr. Hamer, of Ohio, observed that it was not usual to enter into debate on a mere resolution of inquiry; but, as some remarks had been made by the gentleman from Pennsylvania, (Mr. Biddle,) which seemed to require a slight notice, he should trouble the house with a few words in reply. He should take leave to say that, if the house adopted the resolution, the secretary of the treasury would very promptly reply to the inquiries it proposed to him, by saying whether the circular letter published in his name was authentic, and, if it was, what were his reasons for addressing such a letter to the members of congress. But it did seem to him that it would have been no more than fair and candid in the gentleman if he had waited for the response of the secretary before he had undertaken to condemn him. The gentleman, said Mr. H., seems to take it for granted that this is a gratuity, a boon, offered by the secretary on his own responsibility, and in-

tended to induce the members of congress to perpetuate the existing state of things in relation to the currency. So far am I from concurring with him, that I have a better opinion of the members of this house than to believe for one moment that the poor paltry per centage which they might get through a broker for the specie paid to them would influence the course of any gentleman on this floor. If I could suppose that my constituents believed so of me, I would resign my seat before the sun goes down. I have not, however, the slightest objection to the passage of the resolution.

Mr. McKay said he would vote for the resolution, but the gentleman had accompanied it with some remarks, which Mr. McK. wished explained before they went to the country. The gentleman had said that this offer of specie payment to members was a mere gratuity on the part of the secretary, and intended to influence the house in its course of legislation. But if the gentleman had taken the trouble to look into the law, he would have discovered that the secretary, in this step, was simply discharging his official duty. [Mr. McK. here quoted the law of 1836.]

This was the law now binding on all the secretaries, and it forbade the offer of any thing but specie, or its equivalent. Now, members of congress were but one class of the public creditors. Suppose the secretary should offer them their pay in bank notes, if those notes were convertible at pleasure into specie, it would be according to law, but not otherwise. The gentleman had told the house that the states were paid the debts due to them in paper at a large discount. The gentleman was mistaken. No state was under obligation to receive its dues in any paper that was not at par. And as to all the other classes of public creditors, the soldiers, and widows and orphans, of which the gentleman had spoken so pathetically, were they obliged to accept any thing else? The law applied equally to them. Mr. McK. said he understood that in New York the very merchants who had thrown every possible obstacle in the way of government, and whose bonds had been extended, went forward with their debenture certificates, drew the specie, and then turned round and reviled the government as bankrupt. At New Orleans, it was the same: and there the merchants had re-exported their goods to the Havana, or some other neighboring port, with a view immediately to re-import them and get the benefit of the credit allowed by law.

Those who had been here some time could not but remember that one of the charges brought against the bank of the United States was, that it had furnished members of congress with drafts on terms different from those required of other creditors. The bank claimed to be the treasury. He would not go into the details, but they might be found in the Register of Debates. Members could then get three and four per cent. on their drafts. But that was all right—perfectly right. But now, that the bank was not the treasury, all was wrong. He would admit that Mr. Woodbury had not done a prudent act in publishing that letter; but still it was no more, in substance, than had been done by the bank of the United States. It was commended in the bank, but reproached in him.

Mr. Biddle rejoined. He thought that all the censure which had been cast by any one, on the present occasion, upon the secretary of the treasury, had been cast upon him by the gentleman from North Carolina, (Mr. McKay.) That gentleman had now told the house that he considered the publication of the circular as an imprudent step. No doubt the gentleman considered it expedient that the whole thing should have been kept quiet, and that the members should have been simply apprised, as they came, that they might touch the specie for their pay. Mr. B. had passed no such censure upon the secretary. He, on the contrary, had said that the publication of the letter was perfectly right; but that having discerned in it what he thought was at least very liable to perversion, he had offered an inquiry to know if the letter were genuine. He had cast no censure. He had spoken merely of the bearings and tendency of such a measure. As to the law of 1836, that was intended to apply equally to all creditors of the government. If so, and this offer was but a compliance with that law, why was not a similar offer made to all the other creditors of the government? Would the gentleman pretend that it had been? The secretary himself admitted the contrary, and in his report had told congress that he was utterly unable to do any such thing. Such being the case, Mr. B. wanted to know, and this was precisely the point of his inquiry, how the secretary came to exercise the tremendous power of DISCRIMINATING between public creditors? On that question the gentleman had carefully abstained from saying one word. What a mockery was it to say that the creditor was

not obliged to receive any note in payment which was not equivalent to specie? Suppose such a note offered to one of your officers in Florida, and he should say "I will not take that;" what was the consequence? He must take his chance for the means of support. How comfortable to be turned off with such an alternative!

The gentleman said the law allowed all the creditors of the government to get specie for their demands: but was any such offer made to the states? No such thing. They could not get a single dollar. The creditor may refuse payment in paper! yes: and is the poor laborer, when paper or nothing is his alternative, to say, "I refuse to receive paper," and to let his family starve while he stands on the law of 1836? What was this but adding insult to injury? Was it not a mockery of the public distresses? And was it not the duty of this house to ask the secretary of the treasury on what principle it was that he exercised this discretionary power? He had put the inquiry in order that when they got the reply, they might act in such a manner as the dignity of that house should require.

Mr. McKay. He says, that no such offer was made to the states. True; and for a very good reason, that no debts is due to the states. It is only a transfer of the surplus revenue from one part of the treasury to another: from the strong box here to the strong boxes in other places. But here is a better answer. Here is the same identical offer made to the states. Here is the copy of a circular from the secretary which I will read to the house. [Mr. McK. here quoted an extract declaring that no one of the states was required to accept her quota in any money which was not at par, and which she would not be willing so to credit in account.]

As to the remark of the gentleman, that I conceded the publication of the secretary's letter was not prudent, I only meant it so far as his own reputation was concerned: as it offered an opportunity for gentlemen to misinterpret it in the way which has now been done. The letter says nothing more than the law of 1836.

Mr. Biddle. It perhaps would not altogether become me to engage in a struggle with the gentleman from North Carolina for the last word. I only ask the house to compare this circular to the states with the circular to us. Is there any thing in the letter to us about the embarrassments of the country? Not a word. The states indeed are told they need not accept paper, save at par: but we are told that we shall touch the specie. The states, if they refused paper, might be put off indefinitely, but our pay was to be in hard cash. This is the result of the comparison.

Mr. McKay called for the reading of the whole circular to the states; and it was read accordingly.

The resolution, as modified, was then agreed to.

Mr. Bell, of Tennessee, offered the following resolution; which lies for consideration one day:

Resolved, That the secretary of the treasury be directed, with as little delay as possible, to communicate to this house the amount of the appropriations of the past and present year remaining unexpended: the amount required to fulfil all existing engagements contracted prior to the 1st day of June last, and all existing engagements contracted since that time. Also, the amount of moneys drawn from the treasury and placed in the hands of disbursing officers or agents on the 1st day of May last, and at the present time. And that he also report what objects of public expenditure can, with the least injury to the public service, be either wholly dispensed with during the present year, or have any material reduction.

The house then, on motion of Mr. Cambreleng, went into committee of the whole on the president's message.

The house being in committee of the whole, (Mr. Adams, of Massachusetts, in the chair), Mr. Cambreleng offered resolutions referring the message to appropriate committees.

The resolutions were agreed to without debate.

Mr. Cambreleng moved that the committee rise and report the resolutions adopted. Carried.

The house concurred with the committee of the whole in the resolutions as passed.

Mr. Cambreleng then moved the following resolution:

Resolved, That so much of the report of the secretary of the treasury as relates to the finances of the country be referred to a select committee, and that so much as relates to a bankrupt law be referred to the committee on the judiciary.

Mr. Ewing, of Indiana, moved an amendment, as follows:

Strike out the reference of the first member of the resolution and insert:

"With power to inquire into existing laws in connexion with orders and regulations adopted by the treasury, war, and post office departments, which

now tend to prolong the embarrassments of the people, and extend injurious influences throughout the political as well as the agricultural, commercial, and manufacturing interests of the union; and to provide such judicious restraints upon the abuses of executive power, confined by legislation, in relation to the currency, revenue, and patronage hereafter, as may be deemed proper to afford permanent and general relief, said committee to consist of one member of each state, appointed by a vote of the house."

Mr. *Ewing* sustained this amendment in a few words, when it was rejected.

Mr. *Cambreng's* resolution was agreed to.

Mr. *Whittlesey* of Ohio, on leave, introduced the following resolution:

Resolved, That the clerk of this house, under the general order to print, be directed not to have any map accompanying documents printed without the special direction of the house.

The resolution was agreed to.

Mr. *F. O. J. Smith*, of Maine, rose, and said that he wished to ascertain the sense of the house as to what was to be the business of the session before it; and asked leave to introduce a resolution which he held in his hand. Leave was given, and the following resolution was introduced:

Resolved, That the action of the several standing committees of this house, on all matters not embraced by the message of the president of the United States to the two houses of congress, communicated on the second day of the current session, be suspended until the commencement of the annual session of congress in December next, and that the consideration of all petitions on such suspended matters be also postponed to the period above specified."

Mr. *Smith* referred to some remarks of Mr. *Whittlesey* of Ohio, during last week, with regard to the expediency of taking up and considering certain claims during the present session, and opposed to that position the opinion that the session should be devoted to the special purpose for which it was called, and that alone. It could hardly be expected that any other business than that marked out in the message of the president, and the report of the secretary of the treasury, could possibly be matured during the extra session of Congress; and it was to be remarked, that the president had studiously refrained from advising congress as to the usual matters of general legislation; of course, the usual data, estimates, &c. were not at hand, as the basis of such legislation; and if the house determined to go into a variety of business, it would become necessary to call on the president for further and more extended information; a course which, he presumed, no member would seriously advocate. As to private claims, for which the gentleman from Ohio had ever manifested a most laudable regard, he was of opinion that the claimants themselves could hardly expect that, called for such purposes as this session has been, private matters can claim much of its time. There was certainly not time to consider all the business of that character which would come before the house, and none should have precedence. He thought it better for the country, situated as it is at present, to understand that congress, especially the popular branch, was awaiting the action of the two great committees [the ways and means, and judiciary] upon the important matters committed to them, and to confine their consideration to the subject of their reports exclusively. The responsibility of delay was great, and rested on each member alike. The anxiety of their constituents was as great, for the result of their deliberations; and he thought it even better that the country at large should know that nothing at all could be done at the present session for its relief, (if such indeed is the dilemma in which congress were placed) than to protract the session, by keeping public expectation needlessly on the stretch, without ultimately gratifying it.

Mr. *Whittlesey*, of Ohio, showed that there was a standing rule of the house fixing certain business as the order of that body, and he conceived that Mr. *Smith's* resolution not only does not consist with, but does not amend that rule, or do away its effect. He considered it no objection to the course he had indicated, on a former occasion, as that for the house to pursue during the present session, that the president had not recommended it in his message; for it was not customary to allude to the class of business referred to in that document. It was the business of the house to inquire into the expediency of such legislation, and if, in their judgment, it were necessary, the proper estimates would doubtless be forthcoming from the executive. He considered that such should be the course of the house, even though the session should not endure six weeks; for there were many claimants who were actually at the mercy of those from whom, upon

their credit as employees of the government, they obtained their subsistence, in consequence of the usual late period at which the appropriation bills were passed. In either aspect, as to the interests of the claimants, or to those of the public, he deemed immediate legislation upon these subjects absolutely necessary.

Mr. *Williams*, of North Carolina, moved to postpone the resolution until Wednesday; declaring that he did not think the house was at that moment prepared to act upon it.

Mr. *Bell* was willing to vote for the motion of Mr. *Williams*, did he think that the committees of ways and means and judiciary would probably report in the mean time. He did not—no one could—doubt that there was enough of importance in the message and report, referred to the appropriate committees, to occupy all the time of the session if it could once be gotten fairly before that body. The desire to make the proper references of those documents had prevented him from making any remarks upon their subject matter when first presented; but he could not now avoid inquiring of the gentleman from New York who sat behind him, (Mr. *Cambreng*), or any other member in the secret, as to what course was likely to be pursued in reference to the important topics touched upon in the most extraordinary message which had been committed to the ways and means. He viewed the project set forth in that document as most extraordinary, and such as no administration and no majority in that house could possibly undertake, with seriousness, to bring forward and support, in such a shape, and at such a time. The majority dare not urge it seriously upon the country. It was a project obviously impracticable, and must be rejected as surely as it should be urged upon the house by the committee of ways and means. If it were brought forward by that committee, he conceived that the session would be a very short one, and that members might soon be on their way home again. But, on the other hand, if a modified proposition were to be recommended for the relief of the country from its present state of deep distress and embarrassment, he thought every member would agree that it was far better to proceed at once, and exclusively, to its consideration. Before he could give an understanding vote, then, upon the motion pending, Mr. *Bell* declared that he must be informed of the intentions of the committee in this respect.

Mr. *Cambreng* replied. The gentleman from Tennessee had called on him for information as to what course the committee of ways and means would pursue in relation to the subjects referred to them. Though not strictly in order, he would say a word in reply. Yet he could do no more than answer for himself, and express his own opinion that the action of that committee would be prompt and immediate upon the president's message, and that there was no room for doubt, in his mind, that that action would be such as to meet with the support of the house. He hoped that the house would determine to confine its action to the substantive propositions laid down in the message and secretary's report. In the mean time, he had but a word to say in regard to some other topics touched upon by gentlemen in the course of this debate. He said he was willing to meet these topics in the committee, in the house, or before the country; and hoped that gentlemen in opposition would be equally bold and frank with the president of the United States in declaring their opinions. He invited them to come forward with their views. As they disliked non-committalism so much, it was for them, consistently, to offer their propositions in relation to the present state of affairs in the country. They were invited to take up "the glove" he now threw them, and show their ground of intended action. Perhaps they were not now ready to bring forward their favorite project of a new national bank, thinking, doubtless, that such a proposition were more prudently postponed until after the fall elections. Yet that was to be the final issue between them and the administration, he doubted not—the issue whether the treasury should be dissevered from all connexion with banking institutions.

In fine, Mr. *C* remarked that it was now for the house to say whether or not the session should endure longer than three or four weeks.

Mr. *Bell* avowed that he, certainly, had taken his seat in this extra session of the house with no favorite project of the kind intimated by the gentleman from New York, (Mr. *Cambreng*), nor any other project. Even before he had left home he had had occasion to say to his constituents, in view of his duties here, that it would not be in the power of any institution which congress could charter to relieve the country from its present embarrassments. If other gentlemen have such projects, he doubted not that they would bring them forward, without such pre-emptory challenge as had been addressed to them

by the chairman of the committee of ways and means. For himself, he was ready to aid any man or men in any practicable measure for the bringing this relief, whether the authors of such measures were his own political friends or the coadjutors of the administration, and he earnestly hoped that such measures would be offered.

Mr. *Wise* remarked, that the opportunity of discussing this subject had been passed by in committee of the whole, where there was a chance of freedom of debate, and had been started in the house, where, at any moment, at the nod of the chairman of ways and means, a stop could be put to it by the previous question. But still he would say a word upon it, as he had the floor. He demanded what kind of challenge was that which had been thrown out by the gentleman from New York, occupying the station he did? What should have been, he asked, the language of that gentleman to the opposition, situated as parties are in that house? Gentlemen, come up to our help; this is our plan, our project; we deem it the best for the country in its present predicament, and we ask your aid in effecting it. But instead of this, what have we had? A challenge! "A glove" thrown down! And to whom? A powerless minority! Sir, (said Mr. *W*.) you have the power. You can, if you will, carry out your own measure, whatever it may be. You have given us a plan which we can understand. It is before us; there it stands, bone, sinew, and muscle; and, in proper time, I, for one, shall attempt to give my opinion of that plan. It is one which I have told my constituents, and which I firmly believe can never be seriously intended by its projectors to be carried out. It is an *ad captandum* project, and perhaps intended as a ruse, to entrap the opposition into bringing forward some such measure as a national bank. If so, the author of it will find himself mistaken in his calculations. As far as he, (Mr. *W*.) knew, there was no such plan, and no other plan in projection by the opposition. You, (continued he), you are wise, and doubtless "wisdom will die with you." Then give us your plan! Let us see your project!

Sir, (continued Mr. *W*.) there is no danger that ultimately, and that not late, reform will reach the administration of this government. The great reformer, public opinion, that paramount relief giver, is already abroad, scourge in hand. In due time this Hercules will come up to the relief of the country, and the remedy of its abuses. But to this session of congress he did not look for this relief or this remedy; for it had now become clear that this congress was to do—nothing! And this reminded him of, and enforced upon his convictions the startling fact, already often animadverted upon, that, from the very moment the president of the U. States possessed himself of the custody of the public treasury, congress had degenerated into a mere ratifier of the executive will. For two sessions of that branch of the government, this had been notoriously the case, through all the executive vacillation with regard to the bank, the deposits, the pet bank system, &c. and now, again, it is called on to ratify the *sic volo* of the executive. This system, it is hoped by the party in power, is still to go on, and perhaps such would be the case for the present. In the mean time, he, like his friend from Tennessee, (Mr. *Bell*), should await the day and hour when the president, by his organ here, will give us his plan, his system; and, if he liked it, he should cheerfully vote for its adoption—if not, he should avail himself of any opportunity that might offer to give his reasons why.

Mr. *Smith*, of Maine, remarked, that his object in introducing the resolution under debate was to prevent the course of business which it would doubtless take to-morrow, but for some preventive action of the house. Petitions upon the abolition question, and upon Texian affairs, and other matters, would doubtless be brought forward, leading to exciting discussion, and implicating the house in such debates as would prevent the house from bringing its responsibility to the country to bear directly upon the single great and important point which was the sole object of the session. If, however, the box of Pandora were destined to be thrown open, he was prepared to meet whatever the sense of the house should indicate as the proper course of business to be pursued. But he avowed that it was under other expectations he had come there, and he wished ardently to present this simple question to the house, as the sole object of the resolution he had introduced—whether they would put a present stop to all others than the great quarrel which was now agitating the country? The house had been told of the operation of "party" in this matter; that "the party in power" have a project, and the opposite none; and that the responsibility rested upon the former, being in majority there. Whether this were or were not so, he hoped that the contest would by no means be postponed

or embarrassed; and that all, of every party, would at once and promptly, come up to the question. He conceived that it could not be the work of many days for the committee of ways and means to act on the subjects referred to them, and the interim could hardly be more than enough to permit the arrangement of the necessary rules and orders of the house.

Mr. Jenifer, of Maryland, was of the opinion that some attention might be bestowed to a portion of the private claims actually before congress, while the measures to be proposed by the committees were maturing. But he expressed himself willing to proceed at once to that more important business whenever the committees shall report, and then to the exclusion of all other topics.

Mr. Cushing, of Massachusetts, declared himself pleased to hear such frank and open avowals of their plans of proceeding with the important business of the session, as had fallen from the gentlemen from New York, (Mr. Cambreleng,) and Maine, (Mr. Smith.) For himself, he had come to his seat, this session, ready to join in any measure of relief to the country, from what quarter soever it might proceed. He was ready to act on such measure dispassionately, according to its merits, and the amount of relief it might propose, be it much or be it little. But he did not come here to do nothing. Nor had he come prepared to listen to a message to congress, advising that nothing was to be done. He joined with other gentlemen in the hope that some specific proposition would emanate speedily from those to whose hands it had been committed to make such proposition. The president, in his proclamation convening congress, had assigned "great and extraordinary causes" as the existing motives, inducing him to issue that proclamation. That proclamation had been obeyed, and the proposition of the executive had been awaited; and the two houses were in possession of it, as well as of that to which the chairman of the committee of ways and means had avowed himself favorable. That gentleman, in taking the chair of that committee, had assumed the responsibility of proposing the ground of action for the house, in relation to these important matters. What are these objects, as declared in the message? Is the necessity for relief, under which the country manifestly labors, alluded to in that document? Incidentally, covertly, perhaps, it is alluded to—but not specifically, or in reference to any proposed action of congress upon the subject. We are scarcely told, said Mr. Cushing, of those exigencies under which the whole land is suffering. We are told, it is true, that the executive is embarrassed in the collection of the revenue of the country, and in the necessary transfer and payment of the public dues. But the people, and the people's troubles, are not once alluded to.

Mr. C. could not but allude to the memorable declaration of the late executive upon leaving the chair of state, that "he had left the country peaceful and prosperous;" and that this declaration was made on the 3d day of March last! Now, asked Mr. C., what is the situation of that country, when the immediate successor of that executive tells us that all we have to do is to provide for the relief of government from impending serious embarrassments in the management of its financial concerns? It had happened to him (Mr. Cushing) to have been one of those deputed to carry the usual parting communication from the house to the president of the United States at the close of the session, upon the occasion referred to, and he could not but sympathize with the obvious feeling of self-gratulation with which the executive expressed the sentiment he had quoted. The next day we were told of the prosperity of the country in the parting address of one president, and the inaugural of the other; and it did then seem to be prosperous. But this seeming proved to have been hollow and delusive. It had been followed by an explosion in the commercial credits of the country, which had been, and still is going on, carrying ruin in its train, and enveloping in that ruin even the treasury of the country. And now we are asked by the chairman of the committee of ways and means to come forward with our plans of relief, instead of offering the house his own.

Mr. Cambreleng here interposed a few words of explanation. He had not declared that he had no plan to offer; on the contrary, he had his own ideas on the subject, and professed to agree with the president's opinions as declared in the message, that the general affairs of the country were those with which congress had alone to deal at its present session.

Mr. Cushing had before understood the gentleman as he now understood him. It was a mere temporary relief for the present embarrassment of the treasury—for three, perhaps for six months—that was shadowed forth as the probable recommendation of the committee. No more than before,

had this amendment of the gentleman's observations contained any reference to the general relief of the country, in all its relations. There was, to be sure, a suggestion of "a paper money provision" for carrying on the financial affairs of the country, temporarily, and for the extension of payments of bonds at the custom-houses. Mr. Cushing was ready to welcome any thing favoring in the least of relief, as far as it should go; but he asked for more than had been suggested. The extension of bonds would prove a beneficial measure to the mercantile interests of the country, but so would it also eventually prove to the government—to the treasury. All that is proposed for relieving this temporary embarrassment of the treasury, the treasury could itself have done. This specific object would not have seemed to him an adequate cause for convening congress. It was the permanent advantages and benefits to be derived from legislation, which he had anticipated would result from that session. If the administration, however, should virtually say that it proposes nothing—undertakes nothing, but the building up of sub-treasury systems, extending custom-house bonds, and withholding the fourth instalment of the surplus revenue distribution from the states, he, for one, was ready to go back to his constituents at once. Our people, he remarked, are asking us for bread, and we proposed to offer them a stone! We are told by the executive that we should not, as we are apt to do, "expect too much from the government!" And we do not expect much from an administration that professes to "tread in the footsteps of Andrew Jackson;" but we do expect that they who have brought us hither shall lift a hand in aid of encouragement of others to do something for the general relief of a distressed country. Mr. Cushing understood the peculiarly advantageous attitude in which the president stood in relation to this subject. He calls on congress to do certain specific things: knowing full well that congress, as at present constituted, cannot comply, and that they are not prepared to put their stamp of approval on the disorganizing and dangerous recommendations of his message. Knowing this, how stand matters? Precisely, said Mr. C., in 1837-'8 as they stood in 1833-'4. President Jackson then removed the deposits and placed them where he chose, thus leaving the public treasure in the possession of the executive, in the event of congress doing nothing in relation to it. And suppose that nothing is now done in regard to the recommendations of the message; then who doubts that this sub-treasury system will be the system—the policy of the administration? That system exists now, *de facto*, and will continue most probably.

A few remarks from Mr. Duncan, of Ohio, and Mr. Boon, of Indiana, closed this discussion. Their remarks were brief, and chiefly of a political and local character.

Mr. Duncan, sustaining the resolution, admitted that there was some slight commercial embarrassment in the cities of the country, but denied that there was any general pervading distress. He attributed the troubles under which a portion of the people were laboring, to "eating too much, drinking too much, and wearing too costly apparel," and that all they had to do to relieve themselves was to retrench themselves in these particulars, and "to go to the plough tail;" for, said he, to that they must at last come, such was the agricultural tendency of the country. Mr. Boon was for calling the attention of the house to the single subject treated of in the message.

After some ineffectual attempts, from various quarters to introduce amendments, the resolution of Mr. Smith was adopted without a division of the house.

Tuesday, Sept. 12. The following are among the petitions presented to-day.

By Mr. Slade: a memorial of inhabitants of Vergennes, in the state of Vermont, praying for the incorporation of a national bank. By Mr. Bronson: the like from the inhabitants of the county of Jefferson, New York. By Mr. Allen of Ohio: the like from inhabitants of Cleveland, Ohio. By Mr. Graham, of Indiana: the like from inhabitants of Indiana. By Mr. Casey: the like from Georgetown, Illinois. By Mr. Petriken, a memorial of the anti-bank convention of the state of Pennsylvania, convened at Harrisburg, the 4th of July last; praying for the adoption, without delay, of the measures recommended in the president's message relative to a separation of the financial concerns of the government from all banks, and the restoration of a metallic currency.

Mr. Cambreleng, from the committee of ways and means, reported a bill "to postpone the fourth instalment of deposit with the states;" which was read twice and referred to the committee of the whole on the state of the union

Mr. C. intimated that the committee would probably be prepared to report two more bills to-morrow. The house then, on motion of Mr. Garland, of Virginia, went into the election of a chaplain.

Mr. Garland, of Virginia, nominated the rev. Mr. Tuston. Mr. McKim nominated the rev. Mr. Reese. Mr. Holt nominated the rev. Mr. Fisk. Mr. Bronson nominated the rev. Mr. McCallam. Mr. Taylor, of New York, nominated the rev. Mr. Comstock. Mr. Wagener nominated the rev. Mr. Ebaugh. Mr. Everett nominated the rev. Mr. Adams. The result of the ballotings was as follows:

	First ballot.	Second ballot.
Whole number of votes	205	283
Necessary to a choice	103	102
Mr. Tuston,	94	135
Reese	25	7
Fisk	29	31
McCallam	12	5
Comstock	10	3
Ebaugh	16	11
Adams	10	7
Blanks	9	4

So the rev. Mr. Tuston was declared to be duly elected.

Mr. Adams offered for consideration the three following resolutions.

Resolved, That the president of the United States be requested to communicate to this house, so far as may be consistent with the public interest, all the correspondence between the government of the United States and that of Mexico concerning the boundary between them, and particularly concerning any proposition for a cession of territory belonging to the Mexican confederation to the United States; and also all correspondence relating thereto between the department of state and the diplomatic representatives of the United States in Mexico, and of the said department with those of the Mexican republic accredited to the government of the United States.

Resolved, That the president of the United States be requested to communicate to this house whether any proposition has been made on the part of the republic of Texas to the government of the United States for the annexation of the said republic of Texas to this Union, and if such proposition has been made, what answer has been returned, and all correspondence which has taken place relating thereto.

Resolved, That the president of the United States be requested to communicate to this house, so far as the public interest will permit, the correspondence between the government of the United States and that of Great Britain relating to the northeastern boundary of the United States, since the message of the late president to the senate of the United States of the 15th of June, 1836.

The resolutions lie one day, according to the rules, before being acted upon.

Mr. Johnson, of Maryland, presented a memorial of Littleton Dennis Teackle, of the state of Maryland, accompanied by a report of a select committee of the house of delegates of the said state, containing the principles and details of a plan designed to remove the present embarrassing condition of monetary affairs, and to avoid the recurrence of similar evils by the interposition of an adequate and ample circulating medium, in connexion with the custody, transmission, and disbursement of the revenue, and praying that the said plan may be considered and adopted by congress. Referred to the committee of ways and means.

Mr. Herod presented memorials of inhabitants of Mooresville and Plainfield, in the state of Indiana, praying for the incorporation of a national bank, obligated to perform such fiscal duties as may be required by government, and whose energies and resources shall chiefly be directed to the collection of monies and furnishing of drafts on all parts of the United States, so as to effect an equalization of exchanges throughout the country. Referred to the committee of ways and means.

Mr. Johnson, of Louisiana, presented a memorial from the chamber of commerce of New Orleans, praying for the establishment of a national bank; which was referred to the committee of ways and means. The house then adjourned.

Wednesday, Sept. 13. The speaker stated, that having considered the extent of the resolution adopted by the house on Monday, touching the course of its business, and compared it with the 16th rule of order, which requires the calling for petitions, he had been constrained to come to the conclusion that it was his duty, under that rule, to call the house, by states, for petitions; but that, if any should be presented which had no immediate relation to the special subjects recommended in the president's message to the attention of congress, at its present session, the house could enter into no action concerning them, but that they must, as of course, lie

on the table until the period of the regular session on the first Monday of December next.

Under this decision, the states were thereupon called on for petitions, and a very few were presented which had no reference to the currency; while a number were offered which did relate to that subject, and the prayer of which was either in favor of, or adverse to, the establishment of a national bank; and which were referred to the committee of ways and means; several of them were ordered to be printed.

Mr. *Cambreling*, from the committee of ways and means, reported the following bill:

A bill to authorize the issuing of treasury notes.

Be it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of the United States of America in congress assembled, That the president of the United States be, and he is hereby, authorized to cause treasury notes, not bearing interest, for such sum or sums as he may think expedient, but not exceeding, in the whole amount of notes issued, the sum of twelve millions of dollars, and of denominations not less than one hundred dollars for any one note, to be prepared, signed, and issued in the manner hereinafter provided.

Sec. . And be it further enacted, That the said treasury notes authorized to be issued by the first section of this act shall be reimbursed and redeemed by the United States at the treasury thereof, after the expiration of one year from the dates of the said notes, respectively. The reimbursement herein provided for shall be made at the treasury of the United States, to the holders of the said notes respectively, upon presentment; and in case of presentment and non-payment of said notes after they become due, the holder or holders shall be entitled to receive interest at the rate of five per cent. per annum from the date of demand of payment; and for this reimbursement, according to the provisions of this act, the faith of the United States is hereby solemnly pledged.

Sec. . And be it further enacted, That the said treasury notes shall be prepared under the direction of the secretary of the treasury, and shall be respectively signed, on behalf of the United States by the treasurer thereof, and countersigned by the register of the treasury; and that those officers respectively shall, as checks upon each other, and to secure the public safety, keep separate, full, and accurate accounts of the number, date, denomination and amount of all the notes signed and countersigned by them respectively, which said accounts shall be carefully preserved and placed on file in the treasury department; and also similar accounts, kept and preserved in the same manner, of all the said notes redeemed, as the same shall be returned and cancelled; and the treasurer shall further account, quarterly, for all such notes delivered to him for signature or issue by the register. The treasurer and register of the treasury are hereby authorized, by and with the consent and approbation of the secretary of the treasury, to employ such additional temporary clerks as the duties enjoined upon them by this section may render necessary, the compensation of each clerk so employed to be fixed by the secretary.

Sec. . And be it further enacted, That the secretary of the treasury be, and he is hereby, authorized, with the approbation of the president of the United States, to cause to be issued such portion of the said treasury notes as the president may think expedient, in payment of debts due by the United States to such public creditors, or other persons, as may choose to receive such notes in payment as aforesaid, at par.

Sec. . And be it further enacted, That the said treasury notes shall be issued payable to order or bearer, as the said secretary, with the approbation of the president, shall direct; and shall be transferrable by delivery, if made payable to bearer, and by the endorsement of the original payee if made payable to order, without other or further assignment or evidence of a transfer of property.

Sec. . And be it further enacted, That the said treasury notes shall be every where received in payment of all dues and taxes laid by the authority of the United States; of all public lands sold by the said authority, and of all debts due to the United States of any character whatsoever. And on every such payment credit shall be given for the amount of the principal and interest, if any should accrue under the provisions of this act, which, on the day of such payment, may be due on the note or notes thus given in payment.

Sec. . And be it further enacted, That the secretary of the treasury be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to cause to be reimbursed and paid the principal and interest of the treasury notes which may be issued by virtue of this act, at the several time and times when the same, according to the provisions of this act, should be thus reimbursed

and paid. And the said secretary is further authorized to make purchases of the said notes at a price not exceeding par, for the amount of the principal and interest due at the time of purchase on such notes; and so much of any moneys in the treasury, not otherwise appropriated, as may be necessary for that purpose, is hereby appropriated, for paying the principal and interest of said notes.

Sec. . And be it further enacted, That a sum of — thousand dollars, to be paid out of any moneys in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, be, and the same is hereby, appropriated, for defraying the expense of preparing, engraving, signing, and all other expenses incident to the issuing of the treasury notes authorized by this act.

Sec. . And be it further enacted, That if any person shall falsely make, forge, or counterfeit, or cause, or procure to be, falsely made, forged, or counterfeited, or willingly aid or assist in falsely making, forging, or counterfeiting, any note, in imitation of, or purporting to be, a treasury note aforesaid; or shall falsely alter, or cause or procure to be falsely altered, or willingly aid or assist in falsely altering, any treasury note issued as aforesaid; or shall pass, utter, or publish, or attempt to pass, utter, or publish, as true, any false, forged, or counterfeited note, purporting to be a treasury note as aforesaid, knowing the same to be falsely forged or counterfeited; or shall pass, utter, or publish, or attempt to pass, utter, or publish, as true, any falsely altered treasury note, issued as aforesaid, knowing the same to be falsely altered, every such person shall be deemed and adjudged guilty of felony, and, being thereof convicted by due course of law, shall be sentenced to be imprisoned and kept to hard labor for a period not less than three years, nor more than ten years, and be fined in a sum not exceeding five thousand dollars.

Sec. . If any person shall make or engrave, or cause, or procure to be made or engraved, or shall have in his custody or possession any metallic plate, engraved after the similitude of any plate from which any notes issued as aforesaid, shall have been printed, with intent to use such plate, or to cause, or suffer the same to be used in forging or counterfeiting any of the notes issued as aforesaid; or shall have in his custody or possession any bank note or notes, engraved and printed after the similitude of any notes issued as aforesaid, with intent to use such blanks, or cause, or suffer the same to be used in forging or counterfeiting any of the notes issued as aforesaid; or shall have in his custody or possession any paper adapted to the making of notes, and similar to the paper upon which any such notes shall have been issued, with intent to use such paper, or cause, or suffer the same to be used in forging or counterfeiting any of the notes issued as aforesaid, every such person, being thereof convicted, by due course of law, shall be sentenced to be imprisoned, and kept to hard labor, for a term not less than three nor more than ten years, and fined in a sum not exceeding five thousand dollars.

Sec. . And be it further enacted, That the secretary of the treasury be, and he is hereby, authorized to make and issue, from time to time, such instructions, rules, and regulations, to the several collectors, receivers of public money, depositories, and all others who may be authorized to receive the said treasury notes on behalf of, and as agents in any capacity for the United States, as to the safe-keeping, disposition, return, and cancelling of the said notes so paid to, and received by them respectively, and as to their accounts and returns to the department of all such receipts as may seem to him best calculated to promote the public interests and convenience, and to secure the United States and the holders of the said notes against frauds and losses.

Sec. . And be it further enacted, That it shall be, and is hereby made, the duty of the secretary of the treasury to cause a statement to be published monthly of the amount of all treasury notes issued or returned in pursuance of the provisions of this act.

The bill was read twice, and referred to the committee of the whole on the state of the union.

Mr. *Mercer*, from the special committee on the standing rules of the house, made a report, in part, and the report was ordered to be printed, and made the special order for to-morrow.

The resolutions moved yesterday by Mr. *Adams*, coming up in course, the first was read, when Mr. *Adams* observed that as this was merely a call for information, if no opposition should be made to its adoption, he should content himself with simply asking a vote of the house upon it, without accompanying it with any remarks.

Mr. *Howard*, (chairman of the committee on foreign relations), said, that if the gentleman from Massachusetts wished for this correspondence merely that it might be printed, and thrown before the house and the country, he should make no opposition to the call; but if it was his intention to move

for its reference to a committee, in violation of the plan which had been chalked out by the house for the course of its business at the present session, he should certainly oppose the adoption of the resolution. In the mean while, he hoped to be permitted to add a word or two in reference to the first of the resolutions. He would suggest whether the house, by merely passing a silent vote adopting the resolution, might not find itself to have established a precedent which might hereafter prove very inconvenient. He did not exactly comprehend what the object of the honorable gentleman could be in going back to the old question of our Mexican boundary, now that an intermediate province had been interposed between us and Mexico. No doubt the gentleman had good reasons, which would appear in due time.

Mr. *Adams* said it was not his intention to bring the subject of our relations with Mexico into discussion at this time; but merely to obtain the information called for in the resolution, and have it printed for the use of the house and of the nation. As the gentleman from Maryland had signified that in that case he should make no opposition, to save the time of the house Mr. A. was willing the question should immediately be taken, without debate.

The question was accordingly put, and the resolution agreed to.

The second resolution offered by Mr. *Adams*, was now read.

Mr. *Wise* said he should vote against the resolution; his reason was that he was in possession of information from a high source, and on which he could explicitly, positively rely, that the correspondence referred to was not in a condition to be made public, and that it might be injurious to the public interest should it now be disclosed.

Mr. *Haynes* suggested to the mover to modify his resolution by the annexation of the ordinary qualifying clause, "if the communication of the same shall, in his opinion, be consistent with the public interest."

Mr. *Adams*. The reason why I did not append a clause of that kind to the resolution is, that I considered the call as referring to a simple matter of fact. He did not conceive that any question could arise whether its communication would be compatible with the public interest: it was a simple inquiry whether any proposition had been made by the government of Texas on the subject of the annexation of that province to the United States. That the legislature of Texas had ordered such a communication to be made, was a matter of public notoriety, and he wished merely to know whether it had been done. This was one reason why he had not added such a clause as was suggested by the gentleman from Georgia. Another reason was, that he considered the proposition itself, of the proposed annexation, as utterly unconstitutional. Neither the president of the United States, nor this house, nor congress, had any right to receive or to consider such a proposition. It is a new thing (said Mr. A.) in the history of our nation—a new thing in the history of the world. It is a totally different thing from what has taken place heretofore in cases of the cession of territory to the United States. On the first occasion of such cession, viz: in the case of Louisiana, it was objected to at the time as being contrary to the constitution. So far, indeed, as the mere cession of territory was concerned, it was my opinion, (and you will find that opinion recorded on the journals of the senate,) that it was within the powers of congress to form such a treaty; but in that treaty there was also provisions as to the inhabitants of the ceded territory, which secured to them privileges and advantages, such as I thought the constitution did not authorize the government of the United States to confer.

Nor was this my opinion only: it was also the opinion of the then president of the United States, as is well known to the world from letters of his written at the time: it was also the opinion of his successor, the then secretary of state, as avowed by him personally to me: and in consequence I did then introduce a resolution that the rights of citizens of the United States should be secured to the inhabitants of Louisiana by that power which alone could confer those rights, viz: by all the people of the United States. I did propose an amendment to the constitution to effect that object, in the senate: I was overruled: and notwithstanding the opinion of the president and of the secretary of state, congress did carry the treaty into full effect, thereby exercising functions which, in my humble opinion, pertain exclusively to the people of the United States. Now, the case is changed. If, from a response to the first resolution, it should appear that a proposition had been made to the republic of Mexico to cede a portion of its territory to the United States, and if it had been accepted, and a treaty entered into by virtue of which the inhabi-

tants of the portion thus ceded should enjoy the rights of citizens of this Union, and should be admitted as a state, or as states, then that treaty would come before the house, and the precedents of Louisiana and Florida might be advanced to answer objections which might be urged on constitutional grounds.

But here the case is totally different. This is not the case of a foreign government ceding territory and stipulating for the enjoyment of certain privileges by its citizens, but where a whole nation has proposed to be admitted to the rights of citizens of this union. This is totally different from receiving a cession of territory; and I here declare in the face of God, that no power on earth, is capable of effecting such a thing, but the people of Texas on the one hand, and the people of the United States on the other. The people of Texas have not conferred on their legislature the power to make such a proposition. I have read their constitution attentively, and it contains no such power: and there is no such authority in the president of the United States, or in congress. It is a matter of which the people of the United States alone are competent judges. If such a proposition had been made to the president, the only answer he could have given must be that he had no power to receive it: and if the same proposition had been addressed to congress, its only answer must have been, we have no power under the constitution to receive it.

These are the reasons why I did not add the restrictive clause often appended to calls for executive information. I do not admit it to be possible that the president should consider it incompatible with the public interest to answer the call. It is a subject in which the whole people of the United States have a deep, deep, deep interest; it is a question so deep as to involve that of union itself: for there is a large portion of the people of the United States who would prefer a dissolution of the union to the act of annexation of Texas.

As to the reason suggested by the gentleman from Virginia, (Mr. Wise), that there is such a correspondence, but that it is not in a condition to be laid before the public, so far from being a valid reason against this call, it is, on the contrary, an additional reason why it should be made. I demand, in the name of the people of the United States, and in the name of this house, that they know what that correspondence contains, the object of which is to palm on them a whole nation to enjoy their rights, and to take rights away from them. Still, however, if the house prefer that the qualifying clause shall be added to the resolution, it will use its pleasure. I am willing to take the resolution, even with that clause appended; for I desire, above all things, that this whole people should know what disposal is to be made of the whole affair.

Mr. Haynes now moved to amend the resolution by adding the clause: "if, in his opinion, the communication thereof, will not be incompatible with the public interest."

Mr. Thompson, of South Carolina, said he should vote against the whole resolution, however it might be amended. He referred to the exciting character of the subject, and expressed the opinion that no good could arise from calling for the correspondence referred to, in its present inchoate state. He did not intend to enter at large upon the topics referred to by the gentleman from Massachusetts, but would say a word or two in reply. It would be remembered that some remarks had been made by him last session on the honorable course of that gentleman when secretary of state, touching our Mexican boundary. The gentleman had then been in favor of a boundary line which would include a large part, if not the whole, of the present province of Texas; it was not then included, however; and yet now the house was told, by the same gentleman, that there existed no power in the government to get back what was at that time improperly ceded. The position seemed to him to be monstrous. A government, it seemed, might cede away this province, (though it had, in fact, no more right to cede it than to cede the state of Maine), but it was not competent to receive back, by treaty, that which it had thus given away.

The gentleman had farther said that the government of Texas had no right to make this proposition to that of this country. The gentleman was a distinguished diplomatist, and Mr. T. felt modest in expressing a difference of opinion on such a question; but it did seem to him to be going very far when a government proposed to negotiate with us on a certain subject, that we should look into the internal structure of that government to see whether it was possessed of power to do what it proposed. Such a practice would lead us into infinite difficulty. We must be under the necessity of studying the structure of all foreign governments—

a thing we were not in circumstances to do. The gentleman, in his statement, had omitted one very important fact, viz: that every man in Texas had voted to authorize the government of that country to make the proposition referred to. So that, if the gentleman did insist on looking behind the official communication of the Texian government to find its authority for making such an order, he would find that it had the positive instructions of every man in Texas. Those who thought with the gentleman on the Texian question were in the habit of representing the revolution in that country as a mere rebellious scramble for plunder and power, but that the rightful dominion over the province was still in Mexico, whose right had not been divested * * *

[Here the chair interposed, and reminded Mr. Thompson that he was wandering beyond the question before the house.]

Mr. T. said he had been only replying to the gentleman from Massachusetts. However, he should go no farther into the subject; but notified his intention hereafter to move to lay the resolution on the table.

Mr. Pickens had no objection that this whole question, with all that pertained to it, should go before the American people, and that its issues should be fully considered. His colleague was mistaken as to the existing state of the correspondence called for in the resolution. As a friend to the cause of Texas, and to its annexation also, he was willing the whole should be presented to the public, that, at the approaching regular session in December, they might be prepared to go fully into the discussion of the entire subject. He, however, must be permitted to render his thanks to the honorable gentleman from Massachusetts for the position he had assumed, and for that candor and frankness with which he had taken his position in advance. He wished the attention of the house and of the country to be specially directed to that position; and he desired it to be recollected from what quarter the doctrine had been avowed. The gentleman had said that the people of the United States would prefer disunion—yes, would prefer a dissolution of the union to the annexation of Texas to the United States.

Mr. Adams. I said a very large proportion of them would.

Very good. That was still better. He presumed the gentleman had spoken this from his intimate knowledge of the sentiments of that portion of the country which he represented. If such, said Mr. P., is their declaration in advance, we are ready to meet them. Let it be remembered that this language comes from a quarter which lately sang hallelujahs to the union. I rose chiefly to call the notice of the house to the remarkable issue which has been made, and to the quarter whence it comes. Yes, sir, there are great questions involved in this matter. It is a novel spectacle to see constitutional restriction advocated from that quarter; and I rejoice in it. It is the first time I ever witnessed any thing of the kind.

There are some questions, it seems, which the gentleman considers as constitutional. Now, I hope he will not raise the constitution as an impenetrable shield to cover his own doctrines, and then immediately dash it down again the moment it is claimed as a covering for doctrines advocated in other sections of the union. It is new doctrine, and I rejoice from my soul to hear it advanced from that quarter.

I again repeat, that from what I have been informed, (and the information comes from the very highest quarter), the friends of Texas have nothing to fear from an answer to this call. The correspondence referred to is ready to be presented, and I hope and trust the country will be fully prepared to meet the great issue.

Mr. Petriken now moved to lay both the resolution and amendment on the table.

On this motion, Mr. Adams demanded the yeas and nays, and, being taken, they stood as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Atherton, Beatty, Beirne, Bell, Bicknell, Birdsall, Brodhead, Bruyn, Buchanan, William B. Campbell, John Campbell, William B. Carter, Casey, Chaney, Chapman, Cheatham, Cibley, Craig, Crary, Crockett, Cushman, Davee, Deberry, Dromgoole, Duncan, Edwards, Elmore, Farrington, Gallup, James Garland, James Graham, Grantland, Griffin, Hammond, Hopkins, Robert M. T. Hunter, Joseph Johnson, John W. Jones, Legare, James M. Mason, Martin, May, Abraham McClellan, Miller, Morgan, Samuel W. Morris, Muhlenberg, Noble, Parker, Patton, Paynter, Pennybacker, Petriken, Plummer, Rhett, Rives, Robertson, Sheffer, Shepler, Smith, Southgate, Spencer, Stewart, Thompson, Titus, Towns, Turney, Vanderveer, Wagener, Weeks, Thomas T. Whittlesey, Jared W. Williams, Christopher H. Williams—73.

NAYS—Messrs. Adams, Alexander, Heman Allen, John W. Allen, Andrews, Aycrigg, Biddle, Bond, Borden, Briggs, Bronson, Bynum, William B. Calhoun, John Calhoun, Cambreleng, Timothy J. Carter, Chambers, Childs, Clark, Cleveland, Coles, Conner, Corwin, Cranston, Curtis, Cushing, Darlington, Dawson, Davies, Dennis, Dunn, Evans, Everett, Ewing, Fairfield, Richard Fletcher, Fillmore, Foster, Fry, Rice Garland, Goode, William Graham, Grant, Graves, Gray, Grennell, Haley, Hall, Halstead, Hamer, Harlan, Harrison, Harper, Hastings, Hawes, Hawkins, Haynes, Henry, Herod, Hoffman, Holsely, Holt, Howard, Hubley, William H. Hunter, Ingham, Thomas B. Jackson, Jabez Jackson, Jenifer, Henry Johnson, William C. Johnson, Nathaniel Jones, Kemble, Kilgore, Klingensmith, Leadbetter, Lewis, Lincoln, Logan, Arphaxad Loomis, Andrew W. Loomis, Mallory, Marvin, Samson Mason, Maurey, Maxwell, McKay, Robert McClellan, McClure, McKim, McKennan, Menifee, Mercer, Milligan, Montgomery, Matthias Morris, Calvary Morris, Murray, Naylor, Noyes, Ogle, Owens, Palmer, Parmenter, Patterson, Peck, Phelps, Phillips, Pickens, Pope, Potts, Potter, Prentiss, Rariden, Randolph, Reed, Reily, Rencher, Richardson, Ridgway, Rumsey, Russell, Sawyer, Sergeant, Augustine H. Shepherd, Charles Shepard, Sibley, Slade, Snyder, Stanley, Stratton, Taliaferro, Taylor, Thomas, Tillinghast, Toland, Toucey, Underwood, Vail, Webster, Albert S. White, John White, Elisha Whittlesey, Lewis Williams, Sherrord Williams, Wise, Worthington, Yell, Yorke—149.

So the motion to lay on the table was rejected.

Mr. Howard considered the amendment as of little consequence; indeed, he had rather that the resolution should pass without than with it. He should not suffer himself to be drawn into the debate; but he would observe, that if the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Wise) had in his possession any information going to show that the correspondence called for was not in a condition to see the light, he possessed more knowledge on the subject than Mr. H., for he certainly had no such information; and he must be permitted to say, that he did not think there was any thing in relation to the whole subject which the government was either afraid or ashamed to exhibit before the house and the nation.

With great respect for the gentleman from Massachusetts, he must take leave to say, that he thought it would have been quite as well if the gentleman had postponed the offering of such a resolution until the president of the United States had enjoyed a more fitting opportunity of making to the house a communication of his views touching our foreign relations. Yet, as the call had been made, he was not disposed to refuse to gratify the gentleman's wishes. He hoped the house would suffer the resolution to pass; and as to the qualifying clause, he considered it as quite immaterial.

Mr. Grennell was glad his colleague had presented such a call; and the discussion which the resolution had elicited, made him still more anxious to look into the matter. The house and the nation ought to know the height and depth, the length and breadth of our involvement in the affairs of this revolted province of Mexico. He should vote in favor of the resolution, and against the restrictive clause. He could not possibly see how it could be incompatible with the public interest to respond to the call. Indeed, he had been astonished at the announcement that a correspondence was actually going on, tending to a monstrous event, which he viewed with dread and horror. * * *

The chair here interposed. The latitude had been allowed unavoidably to the two first speakers; the chair could not permit it to extend any farther.

Mr. G. cheerfully submitted, and said that he should vote to make the call absolute and unconditional, for our position was novel and alarming; a proposition like that which had been adverted to, threatened to involve not only the interests of the states, but of the nation also; our relations with Mexico, and perhaps with Europe; for it was not to be supposed that the European governments would view with indifference transactions of this importance. It was called an annexation; and such, indeed, it was; but it was an act which cast in our lot with that of the Texians, and merging our interests with theirs.

The chair here again interposed, and Mr. Grennell concluded by insisting that it should not be left at the discretion of the executive to respond or not, but that the call be made imperative.

Mr. Bynum regretted that the question had been introduced at this time, and could not conceive what beneficial result could possibly ensue. He should, however, vote for the resolution if the restrictive clause were retained; otherwise he should oppose it. The gentleman from Massachusetts was the very last man in that house who should have brought

forward a resolution of this character. It was a direct trespass—a trespass on the executive power and discretion. The executive department had the sole jurisdiction over the formation of treaties, to be ratified, it was true, by the senate. The two gentlemen had presumed too much: they had presumed on conclusions without evidence. There were proprieties and improprieties in a communication of this kind to the house, and though those gentlemen might take the ground that the executive had no control over a subject like that which had been referred to, there were others in that house who could not jump so rapidly to conclusions. He did not subscribe to their doctrines, and he did not believe that they had, at this moment, one-twentieth of the American people with them in sentiment. It was very probable a communication of such a correspondence as was called for might thwart important measures, and jeopard valuable public interests. The gentlemen seemed to assume that the country had already decided against the question of annexation—but they would find themselves mistaken. There was no cause for any great excitement on the subject, and he hoped that when the subject did come up, they would discuss it coolly and calmly, as became statesmen.

Mr. Wise explained, that since he last spoke he had obtained further information which induced him to withdraw all opposition to the resolution. The gentleman from Massachusetts had taken several different occasions to discuss the Texian question in advance, and *ex parte*; and those who were opposed to the Texian cause had the advantage of his arguments and of his name. Mr. W. was ready to meet the subject now, or at any other time. He entirely agreed with that gentleman that it was a deep, a very deep question; one which vitally affected the interests of this Union: but he regretted to hear some of his remarks. He wished to call the attention of nobody to the man who was prepared to weigh the question of union or disunion of the confederacy. For himself, he should stand by the constitution.

Mr. Bell said he did not rise to discuss the resolution in any shape. He trusted that other members would come to the same determination. It was a subject which could not be agitated without a degree of feeling that would cause its discussion, if now indulged in, to supersede the more important and pressing business of the session, even to the overruling of all the orders by which the business of this house was regulated. It must be obvious to gentlemen that, when this subject shall be opened upon that floor, its agitation could not easily be checked. How many had already sprung simultaneously to their feet, at the bare mention of it. And he could not but express his astonishment at the vote which had been given upon the motion to lay this question for a time aside. All subjects discussed, then, come at once to be matters of interest and attention to the country, and much importance would be attached to every movement upon this subject.

He well knew that many gentlemen deemed this a question paramount, in importance, to all others. He, himself, attached great consequence to it, and held himself ready, whenever it should be proper to do so, to express his views upon the matter. At present, he should use the same forbearance in this respect which he had recommended to others. He was opposed to any further attention to this resolution, at the present time, for, if longer discussed, he anticipated that the debate would attain such a point, as to place it beyond the power of a majority of the house to repress it, in time to allow the more pressing business of the session its due share of attention. He begged that one little month might be exclusively devoted to the great projects already on foot, and which are of so much importance to the interests, welfare, perhaps to the liberty of the country. The bill introduced this morning, by the committee of ways and means, does that, he asked, demand no immediate attention? Enough is before the house demanding attention, as involving the most important interests of the country, and he was opposed to the introduction of any thing which was calculated to distract or divide the attention of the house. He therefore moved that the house proceed to the orders of the day.

Mr. Adams begged the gentleman from Tennessee to permit some specific action upon the resolution to be had at that time.

The speaker suggested that it would come up in course on to-morrow, during the first hour of the sitting.

Mr. Adams would, if permitted, prefer that it should be at once acted upon.

Mr. Cambreleng said he had intended to move the orders of the day, which he should have done, but that he was unwilling that this matter should come up again to-morrow, as on that day he was in

hopes there would be no interruption to the business already assigned for that time. He was, therefore, in favor of the settlement of the subject immediately before the house to-day.

Mr. Bell remarked that the gentleman last up had been singularly out of order in introducing a formal argument against a proposition by the rules of order not debatable.

Mr. Bell's motion to go to the orders of the day was lost.

Mr. Holsey, of Georgia, gave his hearty concurrence to the views of his friend from North Carolina, who had addressed the house upon the subject before it, [Mr. Bynum.] He was surprised that a proposition like that now under debate should have emanated from the experienced member from Massachusetts, [Mr. Adams,]—a proposition totally at variance, as he conceived, with the constitution, which vests in the president the treaty-making power—and the discretionary power to treat on all subjects of the kind. Why such vestment of discretion, he would ask, if the president were liable to be called on in this manner, peremptorily, to disclose to the house what in that discretion, he may deem improper to make known? Mr. Holsey gave some parallel cases which might occur, wherein serious injury to the public interests might occur by the establishment of a precedent like that proposed. He was in favor of the usual proviso affixed to resolutions of inquiry; and suggested that that discretion which the constitution vested in the president, and which provision he eulogized as eminently useful in its plan and operation, would yet have the action of both branches of congress upon it, so that there was no danger of any irresponsible or rash proceeding in the matter. He reiterated his astonishment that the gentleman from Massachusetts, having performed successively all the executive offices of the government, and knowing, as he must, intimately, the true relations of the different branches of that government to each other, should introduce a proposition to make an order upon the president of the United States, in relation to such a subject, in terms so peremptory. Secrecy and despatch, in making treaties with foreign governments, the great objects in such diplomacy, were contravened by such a resolution. He should vote for his colleague's [Mr. Haynes'] amendment, which he hoped would prevail.

Mr. Cushing, of Massachusetts, had not risen to debate the question before the house: for he agreed that it would be as injudicious as it was certainly out of order to do so, at that time. He would withhold his views upon the subject till the proper period for expressing them. But he had risen to propound a question to the gentleman from Virginia, (Mr. Wise.) There exists, it had been said, certain secret correspondence on the subject-matter of this resolution—confidential correspondence. Several gentlemen, among whom were two from Georgia, (Messrs. Haynes and Holsey,) had based their assent or dissent entirely on this hypothetical character of the correspondence between the executives of Texas and the United States.

Mr. Haynes rose to explain. His reason for supporting the proposed amendment was that he viewed the peremptory style of the resolution offered by Mr. Adams as extraordinary, and different from any call for information ever heretofore made by the house of representatives upon the executive. He had never, he said, been before apprised that any such correspondence existed. It was not his object to shield the executive from responsibility.

Mr. Cushing resumed the floor. He only knew the correspondence in question had been referred to as a secret or confidential correspondence: and the question he had intimated it as his intention to ask of Mr. Wise was one which he admitted he had no right to insist upon, and which that gentleman was of course perfectly free to answer or not. He demanded only of his courtesy. And he respectfully inquired, through what channel there can have come to the knowledge of a member of the house, what was the substance of a correspondence thus characterized?

Mr. Wise remarked, in reply, that the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. C.) was certainly tolerated by courtesy in making the question he had done, and doubted not he would in like manner respect the right he acknowledged himself to possess to refuse to answer that question. If (said Mr. Wise) I can discover from the secretary of state, or any of his friends, or any of the friends of Texas, in confidence, any secret matter in relation to the political relations existing between the countries, I certainly have a right to do so, and, having done it, am bound to treat the information with respect. In justice, however, to those individuals, he would say, in passing, that none have been guilty of the slightest impropriety or breach of duty in relation to the matter.

Mr. Biddle, of Pa. had endeavored, he said, at various stages of the discussion, to obtain the floor, for the purpose of addressing the house. By a decision of the chair, restricting the debate to the simple question of inquiry, he had been prevented from doing this until after the general range, permitted in the opening of it, had been restricted. To that decision he acquiesced with the same willingness as that manifested by the gentleman from Virginia, (Mr. Wise), and, like him, was ready at the proper time to give his views of the subject-matter in debate. As there had been some confusion thrown around the subject, in all its progress, as to the disposition of the question, &c. he felt constrained to express very distinctly the general opinion he entertained on the subject of the annexation of Texas to the union, and that opinion was the warmest aversion to the proposition.

The speaker remarked that this was somewhat touching on the rules of the house, and suggested that remarks on the subject-matter of the proposed resolution were not now in order.

Mr. Calhoun, of Ky. deemed it his duty to meet every such question boldly, as soon as it presented itself; and expressed an opinion decidedly the reverse of that expressed by the gentleman from Pennsylvania, (Mr. Biddle).

The speaker interposed the same suggestion as before.

Mr. Dawson, of Ga. begged the mover of the resolution to accept the proposed amendment, and was going into the merits of the subject involved in the proposition, when

The speaker again checked the debate as out of order.

Mr. Haynes's amendment prevailed, and then the resolution of Mr. Adams, thus amended was adopted.

Mr. Adams's resolution, offered yesterday, in relation to the northeastern boundary, was then taken up. It is in these words:

Resolved, That the president of the United States be requested to communicate to this house, so far as the public interest will permit, the correspondence between the government of the United States and that of Great Britain relating to the northeastern boundary of the United States, since the message of the late president to the senate of the United States on the 15th of June, 1836.

Mr. Howard, of Maryland, moved to amend the same by adding to it the following: "And all the correspondence which has taken place since that period between the government of the United States and the governor of the state of Maine, on the subject of alleged aggressions upon the rights of Maine by the British authorities."

Mr. Adams accepted this amendment as a modification of his resolution. And, thus amended, the resolution was adopted.

Mr. Adams had leave to introduce the following resolution:

Resolved, That the clerk of this house do procure and cause to be printed for the use of the members of this house, copies of all the acts of the general state legislatures of this union, enacted since the 10th day of May last, authorizing or relating to the suspension of specie payments by the banks, or any of them, chartered by the said state legislatures, respectively. The resolution was agreed to.

On motion of Mr. Gholson, it was

Resolved, That the resolution of this house, adopted on the 9th of September instant, for the government of the standing committees of this house, be rescinded, so far as the same relates to the committee of elections.

Mr. Snyder offered for the consideration of the house the following resolution; which lies one day on the table:

Resolved, That the secretary of the treasury inform this house at what time the bank of the state of Missouri was made a deposit bank, and what amount of its own notes said bank had in circulation, and what amount of specie it had in its vaults when it was selected; also, what amount of money is now in the hands of the receivers of public moneys in Illinois, and where the same is now ordered to be deposited.

Mr. Loomis offered the following; which lies one day:

Resolved, That the secretary of the treasury prepare and report to this house as soon as may be, a statement showing what methods have been adopted for the safe-keeping of the public funds since the organization of the government, under the constitution, the length of time that each method has been in use, designating the several changes, and when made, and what losses under such method have been sustained by the treasury in consequence of defalcation of agents or officers so entrusted with the funds for safe-keeping.

And then the house adjourned.