

CONGRESS.

MONDAY, Dec. 19.

SENATE. Mr. Clay, by leave introduced a bill to appropriate for a limited time the proceeds of the public lands, and granting land to certain States. He explained the difference between this, and the former bills introduced by him for the same object. It proposes to begin with the last of the present year, and to end with the year 1841, when the biennial reduction of duties under the compromise act will cease. On motion of Mr. Calhoun, so much of the President's Message as relates to the reduction of the revenue was referred to the committee of Finance. A committee was appointed to consider and report what measures should be adopted to repair the loss occasioned by the destruction of the Patent Office. Mr. Ewing's motion for recinding the Treasury order was taken up, and Mr. Benton addressed the Senate in defence of the order until 4 o'clock, when the Senate adjourned.

In the House of Representatives, leave was granted to the committee on the burning of the Post Office to sit during the session of the House. The question of reference of the petition from Boston for a reduction of the coal duty was resumed. After some discussion the motion to refer to the committee of Manufactures was negatived, yeas 88, nays 124, and it was referred to the Committee of Ways and Means. The rest of the day was occupied in the reception and reference of resolutions and petitions.

TUESDAY, Dec. 20.

SENATE. After the presentation of a number of private petitions— Mr. Webster offered the following Resolutions, and called for their consideration at this time.

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Treasury communicate to the Senate the latest statement made at or for the Treasury, of the condition of the Deposit Banks, exhibiting among other particulars, the names and places of all Deposit Banks, appointed since the 23d of June last—their capitals, and the amounts of public monies actually transferred, or ordered to be transferred, to those Banks respectively.

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Treasury communicate to the Senate a detailed statement of all transfers of public monies, ordered since the 23d of June last, for the purpose of executing the Act of that date, for regulating the Deposits of the Public Money, showing the dates and amounts of such transfers—from what place to what place—from what Bank to what Bank—and the times advised for such transfers, respectively. Also, a particular statement of all transfers other than such as were made in execution of the aforesaid act.

He reminded the two Houses that the people of Texas had adopted a resolution to apply to the United States for admission into the Union, as soon as the United States shall have recognised her independence of Mexico. This circumstance is treated as one which involves the delicacy of our situation, and renders it more especially incumbent on us to act with the greatest coolness, prudence and deliberation. After a full view of all the circumstances the President arrives at the conclusion that prudence requires of us to stand aloof for the present, and wait to see how the coming struggle will eventuate. The President, in conclusion, expresses his entire willingness to coincide with the Senate in any course which that body may think most conformable to the true interests of the country.

He stated that he had taken the steps towards recognition, and that the proceedings which he has instituted are entirely in consequence of the resolutions of the two Houses at the last session. The disproportion between the physical force of Mexico and that of Texas is quoted as one of the reasons for apprehending that the establishment of Texan independence will not be effected without a still further doubtful struggle. Under a new President, Mexico is preparing a new armament to pour down upon Texas, and our usual prudence and the policy on which it is founded, prescribe to us that we shall make no precipitate movement, but await the issue of this new attack.

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TREASURY REPORT.

The annual report of the Secretary of the Treasury is a much longer document than the President's Message, occupying over eight columns, in small type, of the Official Gazette at Washington. The National Intelligencer gives the following abstract of its contents:

Receipts and Expenditures for 1836—The balance in the Treasury on the 1st of January last was \$26,749,803. The receipts for 1836 are estimated at \$47,691,898, of which the receipts from Customs for the three first quarters have been \$17,526,151, and the receipts from Lands \$20,048,029.—The expenditures for 1836 are ascertained and estimated at \$31,435,932, of which the payments for the military service, (including fortifications,) during the three first quarters, have amounted to \$13,010,061.

Deducting the expenditures of the year, ascertained and probable, from the receipts, the balance which will be in the Treasury on the 1st of January, 1837, is estimated at \$43,005,669, and, deducting the "unavailable funds" of \$1,080,000, leaving "the available balance" \$41,925,669. [This does not include the balance to the credit of the Post Office Department at the end of the year, estimated at \$513,929.]

Revenue and Expenditures for 1837.—The receipts are estimated as follows: Customs, \$16,500,000; Lands, \$5,000,000; Bank Stock and Miscellaneous, \$2,500,000. The expenditures (including \$1,000,000 for usual exercise of appropriations beyond estimates) are estimated at \$26,755,831.

Imports and Exports.—The Imports during the year ending 30th September, 1836, are ascertained and estimated at \$173,540,000, showing an increase, compared with the preceding year, of \$23,644,258.—The Exports during the same period are ascertained and estimated at \$121,789,000, of which \$101,105,000 were domestic products, and the residue foreign, exhibiting an aggregate increase, compared with the preceding year, of \$35,423, and an amount exceeding the average of the last three years by \$5,829,150.

The Surplus Revenue.—The recommendations of the last Annual Report are renewed, and reductions suggested of duties on raw materials of foreign origin used in some of our important manufactures, and next on articles of comfort and necessity for the people generally. A prohibition of the sale of the public domain to any but actual settlers is also mentioned as another mode of curtailing the revenue.

The Public Money.—An account is given of the measures adopted in pursuance of the act of June 23d, 1835, to regulate the deposits of the public money, and some recommendations are made of prospective provisions on the subject, such as authority to discontinue as deposit banks, when no longer necessary, those selected under the late act, &c.

The Mint and the Currency.—The coinage of the Mint, from the 1st of January to the 1st of November, 1836, has been, of gold, \$3,619,440, and of silver, \$2,877,000. The establishment of a gold coin of one dollar is again urged upon Congress. The quantity of gold coin now in the country is estimated at \$15,000,000. The Secretary of the Treasury calculates the whole specie in the country in October, 1833, at thirty millions of dollars, and the whole specie now in the country at seventy-three millions. Various speculations on the subject occupy a number of pages in this part of the report.

Miscellaneous.—The report concludes with several suggestions of a miscellaneous character, among which the renewed recommendation of the adoption of measures for regulating Steamboat Navigation must meet with very general approbation from all those who have as much horror as we have of those appalling catastrophes which class themselves under the head of "Steamboat Disasters!"

Splicing Newspapers.—We have seen a reason given by a poor fellow for marrying. It was that the winter was coming on, and he had but a single blanket, his Dolly also had but one, and they proposed to put the two together, and round both of them.—The printers in this State are finding this policy necessary these hard times. The Wiscasset and Bath papers have united; the Brunswick Regulator has stopped; the China Orb has struck into a new comet at Belfast; the Working Men's Advocate has joined the Bangoree, and both together have united with the Mechanic and Farmer; the old Hollowell Advocate, after swallowing up first the Working Men's Advocate at Augusta, has then the Free Press at Hallowell, has finally been merged in the Kennebec Journal; the Christian Pilot and Goshel Banner have united; and now the Bangor Whig tells us that the People's Press and the Commercial Advertiser at Bangor (Van Buren papers) are to be united.

This reduction in the number of presses is inevitable, unless the prices are raised. Kennebec Jour.

Melancholy Occurrence.—Mr Lewis E. Washburn, of Westford in this county, a man much esteemed and respected and of good habits, was killed in the most shocking manner while employed in his Grist Mill.—He went to his mill on Tuesday morning last, accompanied by his son about 20 years of age, and after they had got it in operation, told his son he might return to the house, that he being accustomed to the mill could superintend it alone. While he was engaged he went below probably to examine or secure some of the machinery, and was caught by the spur-wheel that carries a tread run of stone and the iron-cogged wheel that carries one of them, and was hurled in with such tremendous force as to throw the mill out of gear, and cause his immediate death. He was found about noon by his son with his breast confined in the cogs of the wheels, lacerated to the heart. This is another awful admonition to those who are engaged with machinery which is propelled by strong water power, to beware of their danger.—Osage Rep.

POST OFFICE REPORT.—The Report of the Post Master General is a business document of only tolerable length—and represents that Department as in a very flourishing condition. We learn from this paper that on the first of July last, the Post roads in this country were about 113,000 miles in extent, and the annual transportation of the mails at the rate of 27,578,620. Within the quarter ending September 30th, last, improvements were ordered on old mail routes, increasing the rate of annual transportation, 375,824 miles. The number of Post Offices in the United States on the first of December, was 11,100. During the year ending June 30, last, 665 post offices were established, 345 discontinued—and there were 1844 changes of Postmasters. The number of Post Offices will be greatly increased the coming year, in consequence of the great extension of mail routes.

The accruing revenue of the department for the year ending the 30th of June last was \$3,398,455. The engagements and liabilities of the department for the same year were \$2,755,623. Thus the excess of revenue over the engagements and liabilities of the department was \$642,831. The accounts of the Postmasters are rendered, and the quarterly balances paid by them with admirable promptitude—more than ninety-five per cent. of the revenue of the department being collected within thirty days after the close of the quarters in which it accrues, without any expense.

The increase of revenue for the quarter ending the thirtieth of September last, over the corresponding quarter of last year, was about sixteen per cent. And it is expected that in consequence of the many improvements in the mail routes, &c., there will be, during the year ending June 30, 1838, an advance in the income of the department of at least fifteen per cent. over that of the current year.

In view of these facts and extracts, the Post Master General recommends a revision of the present rates of postage, to take effect on the 1st of July next, with a view to a reduction of about twenty per cent. To this end he suggests the following scale of letter postage in lieu of the present, viz:

Table with 2 columns: Distance and Postage rate. 75 miles and over, 5 cents; 150 miles and over 75, 10 cents; 300 miles and over 150, 15 cents; 600 miles and over 300, 20 cents; Over 600 miles, 25 cents.

The Post Master General doubts the policy of reducing the postage on newspapers generally—but thinks the postage on newspapers should be graduated according to the size and weight of the matter to be conveyed—and recommends that newspapers containing 550 square inches or under, should be carried not over 200 miles nor out of the State, for half a cent—over 200 miles and out of the State for 1 cent. Newspapers 550 inches square, and not over 920, to be carried not over 200 miles and not out of the State, one cent—over 200 miles, one and a half cents. Newspapers over 920 inches square, not over 200 miles, one and a half cents—over 200 miles two cents. It is recommended that the rates of postage of periodical pamphlets be regulated on the same principles as those suggested for newspapers—and reduced to the lowest rate which will pay the price of transportation.

The abuse of the franking privilege by members of Congress is alluded to, and the practice severely censured.

An Unnatural Mother.—Yesterday, a woman with an uncommonly interesting infant of only two or three weeks old in her arms, went on board the steamboat Union, Captain Tuttle, at Sing Sing, and came down to this city. On the way, she was observed to treat her infant badly, and when told she would kill her child, she said she did not care if she did. As soon as the steamboat touched the wharf, at the old States Prison dock, the monster of a mother leaving her child on board, hastened on shore, and when told by the cabin maid that the boat would be off in a moment, the unfeeling mother replied that she would be back in time. The child was heavily dosed with laudanum, and slept through the hour of its desecration, and when the boat came to land below, Captain Tuttle had the infant conveyed to the Alms House office, where it is well taken care of. As the mother evidently intended to desert her child, and she can be identified by several ladies who were on board, Captain Tuttle has determined, if possible, to find out the unfeeling wretch, and have her, if possible, brought to condign punishment.

Early Depravity.—Shocking Murder.—One of the most cold blooded and inhuman murders we recollect ever to have heard of, was committed on Monday last, by a servant girl 12 or 13 years old, belonging to Mr Abraham D. Mitchell, of Cecil county. It appears that some offence had been given to the girl by the mother of a very young black child, just able to stand alone; and the wretch seizing an opportunity when the mother was absent and the child alone, with the most unheard of cruelty, gave the child a blow with a fire shovel on the head, which deprived it instantly of life. Having accomplished her diabolical purpose, she carried the child some distance from the house and covered it over with fodder. When the mother returned, the child being missed, a search was made but without effect. The girl at last confessed the crime and produced the body. She is now lodged in jail. Elkton (Md.) Courier.

Arrest of the Captain of the Brilliant.—Mr Repelle, deputy U. S. marshal, on Tuesday evening arrested Joao Evangeliste de Souza, master of the Portuguese brig Brilliant, lying at the foot of Market street, on a charge of importing slaves into this port.—This is the same brig which was the subject of a paragraph in the Sun of Tuesday, and which was supposed to be a regular slave. The five slaves whom we mentioned as being in the brig, were also arrested, and are in confinement as witnesses. Souza also was in custody yesterday, being held to bail in the sum of \$5000. Neither the mate nor any of the crew, who are white Portuguese, were arrested.—N. Y. Sun.

VERMONT PHENIX.

BRATTLEBORO, VT. FRIDAY MORNING, December 30, 1836.

We publish on our first page the highly interesting letter of Mr Biddle to John Quincy Adams on the Currency, which we commend to the careful perusal of every reader of the Phoenix, man, woman, and child; for it is a document so perspicuous that a child can understand it.

We think without controversy, Nicholas Biddle must be acknowledged the greatest financier which our country has produced, if we except perhaps, Alexander Hamilton.

We found this opinion on the signal success which has attended his administration of the affairs of the United States Bank ever since he became President of that Institution. The Galaxy contains the following remarks on the above mentioned letter:—"The surmises of all parties are laid aside before this brighter, clearer light—and we only wish to enquire, why, when all either openly or tacitly acknowledge its truth, is it excusable or even desirable in the opponents of Mr Biddle and the U. S. Bank, to withhold assent? Let it be allowed that Mr Woodbury is a man of talent—does it degrade from his general merits that he has made a false step? Not in the least. And the President—must his word and thought be idolized because he is the great head of a party? We opine not. Attachment to Party may be fully exhibited without a blind submission to every decree—for that manifests a servile cringing for something more than the love and furtherance of truth. If then, Mr Biddle's letter be based on immutable truth as clear as the daylight, instead of a fawning and ignominious silence, let the party papers come nobly and boldly forward and acknowledge that the Government has taken a false step, and urge for the good of the community that it should be retracted? But we feel that we are advocating chimeras. We shall be told that 'all is fair in politics'—that a step once taken can never be retraced—that the leaders of a party must be upheld as infallible—that whatever emanates from them must be seized as though it were an oracle; but that party spirit must carry it against truth, propriety and justice."

Mexico.—We learn by the late papers that our Flag has been insulted in some of the Mexican ports, and several American seamen had been imprisoned. It appears the Mexicans had taken possession of a Baltimore Brig in the harbor of Vera Cruz, and hauled down our stripes and stars while our Consul was on board. He immediately applied to the Commander of the Boston Sloop of War then lying at Sacrificios, the usual place of anchorage for armed vessels, who remonstrating with the Mexican officers, they were at last induced to intimate that they would return the vessel to the Captain provided he would promise not again to hoist his flag in the port. This promise the Captain of the Boston would not give, and in consequence the Mexicans retained possession of her and sent her to sea with 60 new recruits.

With the Sloop of War Natchez, an unpleasant occurrence has taken place. She was at anchor at Sacrificios, when one of her boat's crew had a dispute with some fishermen.—The Mexican military guard interfered and imprisoned the Americans, where they remained 23 days, and Capt. Merwin was compelled to put to sea without them. They were at last given up to the Consul.

Military Court of Inquiry.—The Court of Inquiry at Frederic, adjourned on Friday last to Jan. 4. On Thursday the 23d inst. Gen. Clinch was under examination. In reply to the question, what in his opinion caused the failure of the Florida campaign, under Gen. Scott, he gave the following answer:

The want of energy and political forecast in the late head of the War Department. The necessity of providing against Indian outrage, and enabling troops to act promptly and efficiently against them, was long ago suggested to that high functionary. It was not until too late that he awoke from his dreams of political preferment, and turned his attention to bleeding Florida. It was then impossible to do more than expose a handful of regulars to massacre; our ill provided and gallant troops to disease and starvation; the inability of our government to suppress a savage insurrection, and the character of our gallant officers to serious animadversion.

WHIG TRIUMPH.—An election for a member of the State Legislature to fill a vacancy, has just terminated in the city of New-York, and resulted in the choice of Morris Franklin, the Whig candidate, by a majority of more than two to one.

A letter from Washington, dated on Saturday, says:—"It is reported that Gen. Santa Ana will be here to-night. The jury in the case of White, is now out. Mr Clay, I understand, has consented to remain in the Senate six years longer."—Boston Centinel.

I have read with high satisfaction, (says a correspondent in the Troy Whig) Mr. McGuire's "Religious opinions and character of Washington." The author deserves well of his country. There is enough of incident in the work to give it interest, enough of discussion and reasoning to give it value. He has turned his materials to good account. No young man can read it without profit. Let the patriotic and the good, be as zealous to distribute such works as the unprincipled are to circulate writings of an opposite character.

Prescription for a BITTER COLD DAY.—Harrington of the Galaxy, advises all persons to get into a towering passion until the cold snap is over, and avoid cool contemplations and poetic ease. Old Bachelors should procure a situation in some kitchen to stir hasty-pudding, and attend the toasting machine.

Fourteen hundred hogs, averaging 200 lbs net, have been bought in this market within two or three days, at \$5.87 1-2 and \$6. This may be said to have fixed the price of this great staple for the season.—Cincinnati Post.

Correspondence of the Journal of Commerce.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.

It is admitted on all hands that the new government must recruit from the ranks of the Whigs—and that Mr Van Buren is sitting at the South—in which quarter the recent elections have told him he is much suspected. In a conversation the other day in the mansion of the President, he said with uncommon emphasis—"the South shall be convinced of my orthodoxy on the subject of Slavery. I will make it the great end and principle of my whole administration—and will accomplish it. Mr Rives is, of all the Southern men I have ever known, least sensitive on the subject of slavery—and it perhaps the most judicious statesman on the subject in the whole South. He is indeed, so far as I can judge from occasional conversation more of an Abolitionist than Mr Van Buren, and I heard him myself censure the latter not to suppose the South a nation of madmen.

There can be no question of the fact that there is much chagrin among the supporters of the Administration, on account of the unwillingness of Mr Van Buren to be advised, or rather instructed, as to the policy of his future government. He has chosen plainly that he will be independent—and Senators and Representatives have both learnt it at the expense of their personal vanity. I am confident from what I have seen—more than from what I have heard—that he will not be guided by party motives, either in his appointment to offices, or in the great measures of his administration.

The great difficulty in the way of a Cabinet of compromise, is the distance between the prominent leaders of the two great parties. Who shall move first? and if the President Elect tenders office, will it be accepted? or will it not be indignantly rejected? There are, fortunately, among the personal friends of Mr Van Buren, many gentlemen of high character, and I will name one to whom the country may yet be indebted for a most honorable agency in mitigating the asperity of party rancor.—Mr Senator King of Alabama. This gentleman has evinced unusual solicitude on the subject of the new Cabinet—and I am also from personal knowledge to say, that his conduct has been most disinterested and honorable. I heard him state a few days since to a noisy office holder of one of the departments, that the day would soon be when clerks and editors would be able to control Secretaries and Major Generals—and this he stated with such emphasis as to silence the damogogue at once.

The city is unusually full for the season. Office seekers are here by the dozen from every part of the world. There is a meeting nearly every day at the White House on the subject of the new cabinet—and in short the exciting pulse in the frame of the old hero—who now dreams of little else. It is entirely through him that the Kitchen Cabinet faction hope to reach the President elect and to retain their office and their influence.

There was a scene about the General's day or two since, which created much excitement. There had been an intimation (perhaps an application) made to the President some months ago, that the present postmaster at Boston, Mr Greene, had enjoyed office long enough—that he had become ill &c. and that the Hon. Alexander Everett was desirous to obtain the office. It was one which would suit his literary habits and pursuits. The subject was referred to him a few days since, and the old hero got into a passion, and read a letter he had received from Boston, detailing Mr Everett's former bitterness and abuse—and declared he must be tried long before he could be trusted. The old chief said, "I tell you sir, I have read more literature than you imagine, and know all about the character of the 11th hour."

There can be no doubt of Mr Kendall's being retained in his present office, and the story of Mr Rives having made his own condition precedent to his entering into the Cabinet, is entirely untrue. Mr Rives has already signified his readiness to accept office, the present Secretary of the Treasury will, if he retires, go to Russia, the War Department has been offered to Jones of North Carolina; and so the news are certain, no further. It is probable under a new Judiciary Law, there will be three new Judges of the Supreme Court appointed.

South Carolina and Texas.—A committee of the House of Representatives on the subject of Texas, made a report on that subject on the 18th inst. which related to the views of the Government on the subject. This report was agreed to by the House. In the Senate the same subject was referred to a committee of which Mr Hamilton, the late Governor, was chairman. He made a report of a directly opposite character, expressing a strong sympathy in favor of Texas, and recommending its concurrent in the report adopted by the House.—Boston Dai. Adv.

Patent Office.—We observe from the report of the commissioner of Public Buildings that the foundation is already laid for the Patent Office. The extent of the proposed building is 270 feet in length and 60 feet in width. Besides the facings, the granite facings on the basement story, on both the north and south fronts is laid, and a considerable