

Sundry petitions were this day presented; amongst them was one by Mr. Wilson from certain manufacturers of copperas in New-Jersey, praying for the protection of Congress to the domestic article.

Mr. Leake, of Mississippi, laid upon the table the following motion:

Resolved, That the committee on public lands be instructed to enquire into the expediency of so altering the laws concerning public lands, as to divide the sections and fractions of sections into half quarter sections. And also, where lands have reverted to the United States for non-payment, to direct the sale thereof again at public auction, upon terms and conditions of other public sales. And also, that, from and after the day of — credit shall not be given on sales of public land, but the same shall be sold for money only.

Two or three bills were read a second time in course; and the Senate adjourned.

Mr. Noble submitted for consideration the following resolution:

Resolved, That the committee on Public Lands be instructed to enquire into the expediency of continuing in force the act entitled "An act to suspend for a limited time the sale or forfeiture of lands for failure in completing the payments thereon," until the 31st March, 1822.

The Senate resumed the consideration of the motion for instructing the committee on Public Lands to enquire into the expediency of altering the sale of Public Land, and agreed thereto.

The Senate resumed the consideration of the motion for the sale of the old furniture of the Senate Chamber, and referred the subject to the committee on the public buildings.

The bill authorising the purchase of a certain number of copies of Binn's Declaration of Independence, was ordered to a third reading.

House of Representatives.

Numerous petitions were presented this morning, and referred in course; amongst them were several from northern towns, praying additional encouragement and protection for domestic manufactures, one of which, that from the "convention of the friends of national industry, assembled at New-York," was, by a close vote, ordered to be printed. There were also several from commercial sections of the country, praying the enactment of a general system of bankruptcy.

Mr. Sergeant, from the select committee appointed on the memorial of the surviving Officers of the Revolutionary Army made a report thereon, favorable to the prayer of the petitions, accompanied by a bill for their relief; which bill was twice read, and committed.

The following Message was received from the President of the United States, by the hands of Mr. J. J. Monroe, his Secretary.

To the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States.

Some doubt being entertained respecting the true intent and meaning of the act of the last session, entitled "An act in addition to the acts prohibiting the slave trade," as to the duties of the agents to be appointed, on the coast of Africa. I think it proper to state the interpretation which has been given of the act, and the measures adopted to carry it into effect. That Congress may, should it be deemed advisable, amend the same, before further proceeding is had under it.

The obligation to instruct the commanders of all our armed vessels to seize and bring into port all ships or vessels of the United States, where-soever found, having on board any negro, mulatto, or person of color, in violation of former acts for the suspension of the slave trade, being

imperative, was executed without delay. No seizures have yet been made, but as they were contemplated by the law, and might be presumed, it seemed proper to make the necessary regulations applicable to such seizures, for carrying the several provisions of the act into effect.

It is enjoined on the executive to cause all negroes, mulattoes, or persons of color, who may be taken under the act, to be removed to Africa. It is the obvious import of the law, that none of the persons thus taken should remain within the United States: and no place other than the coast of Africa being designated, their removal or delivery, whether carried from the United States or landed immediately from the vessels in which they were taken, was supposed to be confined to that coast. No settlement or station being specified, the whole coast was thought to be left open for the selection of a proper place, at which the persons thus taken should be delivered. The executive is authorised to appoint one or more agents, residing there to receive such persons, and one hundred thousand dollars are appropriated for the general purposes of the law.

On due consideration of the several sections of the act, of its humane policy, it was supposed to be the intention of Congress, that all the persons above described, who might be taken under it and landed in Africa, should be aided in their return to their former homes, or in their establishment at or near the place where landed. Some shelter and food would be necessary for them there, as soon as landed, let their subsequent disposition be what it might. Should they be landed without such provision having been previously made, they must perish. It was supposed, by the authority given to the Executive to appoint agents residing on that coast, that they should provide such shelter and food, and perform the other beneficent and charitable offices; contemplated by the act.—The coast of Africa having been little explored, and no persons residing there, who possessed the requisite qualifications to entitle them to the trust, being known to the executive, to none such could it be committed. It was believed that citizens only, who would go hence, well instructed in the views of their Government, and zealous to give them effect, would be competent to these duties, and that it was not the intention of the law to preclude their appointment. It was obvious that the longer these persons should be detained in the U. States, in the hands of the marshals, the greater would be the expense, and that for the same term would the main purpose of the law be suspended. It seemed, therefore, to be incumbent on me to make the necessary arrangements for carrying this act into effect in Africa, in time to meet the delivery of any persons who might be taken by our public vessels, and landed there under it.

On this view of the policy and sanctions of the law, it has been decided to send a public ship to the coast of Africa, with two such agents, who will take with them tools and other implements necessary for the purposes above mentioned. To each of these agents a small salary has been allowed. 4500 dollars to the principal, and 1200 to the other. All our public agents on the coast of Africa receive salaries for their services, and it was understood that none of our citizens, possessing the requisite qualifications, would accept these trusts, by which they would be confined to parts the least frequented and civilized, without a reasonable compensation. Such allowance, therefore, seemed to be indispensable to the execution of the act.

It is intended also to subject a portion of the sum appropriated, to the order of the principal agent, for the special objects above stated, amounting in the whole, including the salary of the agents for one year, to not less than one third of the appropriation. Special instructions will be given to these agents, defin-

ing, in precise terms, their duties in regard to the persons thus delivered to them; the disbursement of the money by the principal agent; and his accountability for the same.—They will also have power to select the most suitable place on the coast of Africa, at which all persons who may be taken under this act, shall be delivered to them, with an express injunction to exercise no power founded on the principle of colonization, or other power than that of performing the benevolent offices above recited, by the permission and sanction of the existing government, under which they may establish themselves. Orders will be given to the commander of the public ship, in which they will sail, to cruise along the coast, to give the more complete effect to the principal object of the act.

JAMES MONROE.

Washington, Dec. 17, 1819.

The Message was read, and, on motion of Mr. Lincoln, referred to the committee on the slave trade, and ordered to be printed.

The following Message was also received from the President of the United States:

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States.

In compliance with a resolution of Congress, of 27th March, 1818, the journal, acts, and proceedings of the Convention which formed the present Constitution of the United States, have been published. The resolution directs that one thousand copies should be printed, of which one copy should be furnished to each member of the Fifteenth Congress, and the residue to be subject to the future disposition of Congress. The number of copies sufficient to supply the members of the late Congress having been reserved for that purpose, the remainder are now deposited at the department of State, subject to the orders of Congress.—The other documents mentioned in the resolution of 27th March 1818, are in the process of publication.

JAMES MONROE.

Which message was read, and ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Holmes, of Mass. from the select committee appointed on the subject, reported a bill providing for the admission of the District of Maine into the union, on an equal footing with the original states.

Mr. Floyd, of Va. moved that the bill be made the order of the day for the second Monday in January, and committed to the same committee of the whole house as the bill for admitting the Territory of Missouri into the union.

This motion was opposed by Mr. Holmes, and was negatived—ayes about 20, and the bill was then made the order of the day for tomorrow.

Mr. Cannon, of Tenn. submitted the following resolution.

Resolved, That a committee on military affairs be instructed to enquire into the expediency of extending to the widows and orphans who have been placed on the pension list of the United States, or who may hereafter be placed on said pension list, under the provisions of the act of April 16, 1816, making further provision for military services during the late war, a further provision so as to allow to each orphan, whether an officer or soldier, after the expiration of the five years' pay allowed by the provisions of the before recited act, a certain sum to be paid annually until they arrive at a sufficient age to provide for themselves, also, to allow each widow, whether of an officer or soldier, a certain sum to be paid annually during life, or to the time of her inter marriage, or to make such other provisions for said widows and orphans as may be thought just and necessary.

The question being taken on agreeing to this resolution, it was decided in the negative.

On motion of Mr. Whitman, it was resolved, that the committee on Revolutionary Pensions be directed to enquire as to providing by law for

the application for pensions, under "An act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War,"—approved March 18, 1818, by guardian, in case of the incapacity of the person entitled thereto.

On motion of Mr. Shaw, it was

Resolved, That the President of the United States be requested to lay before this House, at as early a day as may be convenient, an account of the expenditure of the several sums appropriated for building fortifications, from the year 1816 to the year 1819, both inclusive, indicating the places at which works of defence have been begun, the magnitude of the works contemplated at each place, their present condition, the amount already expended, and the estimated sum requisite for the completion of each; also the mode by which the fortifications are built, whether by contract, or otherwise.

On motion of Mr. Foot, it was

Resolved, That the committee on Public Expenditures be instructed to enquire and report to this House, the amount of the several items which are charged upon the contingent fund; and whether, in their opinion, the expenditure may not in future be diminished, consistently with the public interest and the accommodation of the two Houses of Congress.

On motion of Mr. Foot, it was

Resolved, That the several committees on so much of the public accounts and expenditures as relates to the Department of State, Treasury, War, Navy, Post-Office, and Public Buildings, be instructed to enquire and report to this House, whether, in their opinion, the expenditures in those Departments may not be diminished, without prejudice to the public interest.

Mr. Bloomfield offered a joint resolution, proposing that the two Houses should adjourn from the 24th inst. to Monday the 3d of January.

This resolution was supported by the mover, and by Messrs. Nelson, Va. and Warfield, on the ground that the time proposed was necessary to allow certain alterations of the Hall and arrangements necessary to enable the House to proceed with any kind of facility or comfort, in the public business, and that, so far from its being a waste of time, it would be the reverse in its consequences, &c.

The question on ordering the resolution to a third reading, was decided in the negative, by yeas and nays—ayes 59, noes 100.

On motion of Mr. Cocke of Tenn. it was *Resolved*, that the committee on Military Affairs be instructed to enquire into the allowances which have been made to the officers of the army of the United States, for the transportation of baggage, quarters, and fuel since the first day of January 1818; and also into the expediency of regulating the same in future.

On motion of Mr. Cocke, it was also *Resolved*, That the committee on Military Affairs be instructed to enquire into and report to this House the objects intended to be accomplished by the expedition ordered to the mouth of the Yellow Stone, on the Missouri river.

The House then went into committee of the whole, Mr. Smith in the chair, on the bill for the relief of William M'Donald—which was reported to the House, and ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

Losses in the Seminole War.

The House then resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. Livermore in the chair, on the bill to provide for the payment of horses and other property lost, captured or destroyed, during the Seminole war.

This bill gave rise to considerable discussion, and was reported from the committee of the whole house—when

A motion was made by Mr. Storrs to postpone the bill indefinitely, on the ground that the principle of the bill was incorrect, and not the less so because of there being no precedent for it.

The house adjourned before deciding on Mr. Storrs' motion.

We have before us the annual Report of the Secretary of the Treasury.—The public will be gratified to learn, that the national expenditure has hitherto not exceeded the means of the Treasury. The receipts during the present year, including the small balance remaining from last year, are estimated by the Secretary at \$25,827,384 63 cts.; and the expenditure at \$25,492,285 43 cts.; leaving a balance for next year of \$331,996 90 cts. For the next year, however, for reasons which are explained in the Report, the Revenue is estimated at \$22,000,000; while the expenditure will amount to \$27,000,000, leaving a deficit of \$5,000,000.—Unless Congress should reduce the expenditure; the Secretary proposes to supply this deficit, by an issue of Treasury Notes, not bearing interest. The total sales of Public Lands, since the opening of the offices, are stated to exceed 17,000,000 of acres, and 44,000,000 of dollars; of which upwards of 4300,000 acres, and more than 14,600,000 dollars, are for the year ending 30th September last. It is stated that an important Report on the Currency, by the Secretary of the Treasury, in pursuance of a Resolution of Congress, may be shortly expected.

Arkansas Territory.—The new government has gone into effect.—The judges, who are by law the legislature, met at the Post, and passed a judicial law. James Bates, Esq. is appointed circuit judge.—The people are petitioning to be changed into the second grade of government. The emigrations and improvements in the territory are immense, and the time is rapidly approaching, when the population will justify the establishment of a new state.

Miss. Gaz.

Emigration to Cuba.—The Philadelphia Daily Advertiser of the 2d inst. says "The schooner Thre-sallys, capt. Warner, sailed from this city on Sunday last, for Fernandina de Yuaga, a new port and settlement on the south side of Cuba, with 101 passengers, principally respectable mechanics, and their families, and late residents of this city."

Singular Enterprise.—During the revolutionary war, two British vessels were sunk near New-York, one of which had on board, it is believed, a million of Dollars. It is now proposed to descend to the vessel by means of a diving bell, peculiarly constructed for the purpose, and which, from experiment can easily be effected. The projector of the enterprise, Mr. Samuel Davis of Baltimore, submits the plan to his fellow citizens, through the newspapers, and proposes to create a stock to procure the machinery by subscription. He has rated the shares at 15 dollars each, so that almost any person who may have sufficient confidence in the chance of success, may become a stockholder. Application is to be made to Mr. D. at the Coffee House, Baltimore.

On Saturday evening last, a waggoner, from Buncombe, by the name of Jacob Hickam, while riding on horseback near his waggon, in this place, received a blow from some hand as yet unknown, which fractured his skull, and occasioned his death in a few hours afterwards; the instrument used by the assassin, is believed to have been a brick-bat.—Mr. Hickam's son, a lad of 16 or 18 years of age, was driving the waggon, and saw the blow given by a person on horseback. The suspected person has been arrested and committed, and a more full investigation of the transaction is now going forward.

The following persons were placed on the pension list, at the last session of the legislature of this State, viz: