

perceived, and an exchange requested by nearly all the states. The Digest prepared by Judge Brevard, offers you a ready mode of furnishing such laws as have been enacted, prior to its publication. Those subsequently enacted can be also conveniently procured.

Two events have occurred, during the present year, which required a resort to military force. A few runaway negroes, concealing themselves in the swamp and marshes contiguous to Combahee and Ashepoo rivers, not having been interrupted in their petty plunderings for a long time, formed the nucleus, round which, all the ill-disposed and audacious near them gathered, until at length, their robberies became too serious to be suffered with impunity. Attempts were then made to disperse them, which, either from insufficiency of numbers, or bad arrangement, served by their failure only to encourage a wanton destruction of property. Their force now became alarming, not less from its numbers, than from the arms and ammunition with which it was supplied. The peculiar situation of the whole of that portion of our coast, rendered access to them difficult, while the numerous creeks and water courses through the marshes and round the islands, furnished them easy opportunities to plunder, not only the planters in open day, but the inland coasting trade also, without leaving a trace of their movements, by which they could be pursued. There was but one more stage, to a state of things, altogether intolerable, to prevent which, I felt it my duty to use the public force and the public money. I therefore ordered Colonel, now Major General Wm. Youngblood, to take the necessary measures for suppressing them, and authorised him to incur the customary expences of such an expedition. This was immediately executed. By a judicious employment of the militia under his command, he either captured, or destroyed the whole body. As the amount of the expences authorised, has not yet been ascertained, and of course not paid, I ask of the Legislature to put at the disposal of my successor, a sum adequate to redeem my promise.—The other event happened in the neighbourhood of Camden. It appears that a scheme for organizing insurrection among the slaves, had been for years contemplated by a few desperate characters there. They had nearly matured their plans, when a communication of them was made, in the latter part of June last, to a faithful servant, belonging to a gentleman in that neighbourhood. By him I was immediately advised of the plot, whereupon I directed one of my Aids, Lieut. Colonel James Chesnut, to adopt such a course as would lead, not only to a satisfactory knowledge of their whole project, but to its effectual prevention. His measures corresponded with my confidence. They were as successful as they were judicious. Through the instrumentality of the good servant alluded to, he carried on a counter plot, by which he was enabled to procure ample testimony to convict the principles, without resorting to the evidence of the servant who made the disclosure, and to seize upon all who were implicated, before the slightest suspicion of their guilt was entertained by any one, except those engaged with him to prevent it. They were immediately delivered up to the civil authority, and have been all punished except one, whom the court pardoned.

However certain of failure every such project must ultimately prove, from the circumstances in which we now find ourselves placed, it can scarcely be doubted, that but for the loyalty of the servant mentioned, that much injury would have been sustained, prior to the final destruction of those, who so rashly, plunged themselves into ruin. If he has saved the life of a single person, or the house of one individual from fire, for massacre and conflagration were both embraced in the project, his services to the public are so important as to form a strong claim on your generosity. He has always supported a good character, and been for a course of years intrusted with the care of a great portion of his master's property. All that his master can do, to better his situation, without proclaiming his case to the neighbourhood, from which he is restrained by a promise has been already done. Short of his freedom, his reward will not be ample, and this is more becoming the legislature, than any other. His name and every circumstance connected with his case, will be fully communicated, to any committee of your body, should they be required for the purpose of providing for his freedom.

These incidents admonish us to a careful revival of our patrol system. Perhaps the agents selected for its execution are proper; but the responsibility under which they act, is believed to be inadequate to a just administration of it. If the duties to be performed by these agents, are to be considered of a military nature wholly, as by some they have been, no evil could result from requiring superior officers to superintend their execution; if of a civil character, the aid of the courts of law

might be successfully resorted to, by adding an additional clause to the oath administered to the grand jurors.—These events, together with the occurrence of Boxly's insurrection in Virginia, induced certain enquiries of the attorney general; his letter in reply, marked 12, is laid before you for your consideration. It is not possible, that your deliberations on these subjects can be concluded before that remorseless, merciless traffic which brings among us slaves of all descriptions from other states, and which is a reproach to our morals, and an outrage to our feelings shall press on you for correction. It is time the course of ceaseless cupidity, alike regardless of country and consequences should be arrested, high time, that our streets and highways should be freed from the crowds of suffering victims, that are constantly dragged through them, to avarice. The lights of humanity—a wise policy—the prayers of the just, all require that the delightful avocations of domestic life, should be no longer defiled by the presence of convicts and malefactors.

The time has passed, when all our feelings were excited in relation to militia drafts by the general government. We then saw the efficiency of our institutions paralyzed; the public order threatened; "the veil of the temple"—of the constitution "rent in twain"—Yet the redeeming spirit of the people, without disorder or commotion, patiently struggled through the difficulty. The period has now come, when we can deliberately, and without passion and prejudice, review the progress of events, touching this interesting subject, and decide, whether it be not necessary by timely provision, to guard against similar occurrences in future. It can scarcely be denied, that a power ought to be lodged somewhere, competent to call out the physical force of the nation, for national emergencies. However inexpedient and dangerous it would be to stop the state government of all authority over the militia, and vest it exclusively in the general government, it can be neither to give to this last, complete power over it, for the specific purposes enumerated in the constitution. Such a power appears to be a necessary attribute of sovereignty, and essential to its preservation. Whether, militia drafts were improperly withheld or not, by some of the states, during the late war, is not necessary now to discuss; it is sufficient, for all good purposes, that we know contests concerning the exercise of authority over them during a state of war, have arisen and may again occur, not only in relation to the constitutional right to call for them, but also, as to the sphere in which they may be employed. Such an evil ought to be removed. This is not an affair involving party considerations at all—it is the great business of the nation, to provide for the nation's safety. Whatever may be the political character of congress, it ought to have full power "to provide for the calling forth the militia to execute the laws of the union, suppress insurrections, and repel invasions"—to defend the sacred soil of their country, without the possibility of its being eluded by quibbling reasons or factious arguments. I therefore recommended an amendment of the constitution of the United States on this subject, to your most serious deliberation.

You have again assembled, fellow citizens, under the most propitious political circumstances.—The peace of the nation undisturbed, its character elevated and revered abroad—the empire of the laws perfect at home—blessed with a government, instituted by the people, and administered for their benefit, which like the atmosphere pervades every thing, yet, is no where felt—secured alike in the full exercise of our religious and our civil rights—enjoying all the happiness of legal liberty—the poor educated—the educated happy—the people virtuous and every where industrious, prosperous and contented. That such a rich stream of blessings should be poured out to us, at a time when all the nations of the earth with whom we have intercourse, are made to eat the bread of bitterness and sorrow, call for the most grateful and earnest thanksgivings to the great Author of every good. Under such circumstances, you have come up to the appointed house of the people, with none but dispositions faithfully to do the work of them who sent you, in which may you be so enlightened, with "that wisdom which is from above" that all your acts may advance your personal character and the public good.

DAVID R. WILLIAMS.

#### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 26.

The following resolution was considered and agreed to, viz. Resolved, that in future the chair dispense with the reading of petitions, except in those cases where a member may request it, and assign his reasons for doing so.

A message No. 1 was received from his Excellency the Governor, 500 copies of which, together with certain documents relative to Cherokee lands, accompanying the same, were ordered to be printed.

Wednesday, November 27.

Mr. John L. Wilson, pursuant to notice given, introduced a bill to abolish the court of equity, establish a court of supreme appellate jurisdiction, and for other purposes, which was read a first time, and referred to the judiciary committee.

Mr. Lance, pursuant to notice given, introduced a bill to amend an act entitled an act to afford landlords, or lessors, an expeditious and summary mode of gaining repossession from tenants or lessees, who shall hold over after the determination of their leases; which was read a first time and referred to the committee on the judiciary.

Mr. Wilson, pursuant to notice, introduced a bill to authorise a sale of the public lands to which the Indian title has been extinguished; to call in one third of the paper medium loan office bonds, and establish a branch Bank at Georgetown, which was read a first time and referred to the committee of ways and means.

A message was ordered to be sent to the Senate proposing to proceed on Friday and Saturday next to the election of all public officers to be elected during the present session, except governor, lieutenant-governor, senator in congress, and electors of president and vice-president; and informing that they had appointed Messrs Spann, Simons, Savage, Rowell, Harper and Rhodes a committee to join a committee of the Senate, to report what offices are vacant, and also proposing to proceed on Wednesday next to the election of governor and lieutenant-governor, senator in congress, and electors of president and vice-president.

A message, No. 2, was received from the governor, accompanied by the comptroller's report and exhibits; referred to the committee of ways and means, with instructions to have such of the said exhibits printed as they might deem necessary.

The following resolution, submitted by Mr. Mitchell, was ordered for consideration to-morrow, viz. "Resolved, that it is expedient to establish a Penitentiary in this State."

Thursday, November 28.

A message was received from the Senate informing that they had appointed certain gentlemen a committee to enquire into the expediency of establishing a Penitentiary in this State; requesting that a committee might be appointed on the part of this House; whereupon a committee was appointed to confer with the committee of the Senate on that subject.

Mr. Hayne, agreeably to notice, called up the bill to alter the 3d section of the 10th article of the constitution; which, after an animated and interesting debate was read a first time and ordered to two readings to-morrow.

Saturday, November 30.

The committee appointed to count out the votes for Attorney-General of the State, reported that John S. Richardson had a majority of votes, who was accordingly declared duly elected.

Mr. Hayne submitted the following resolution, which was considered and agreed to:—"Resolved, That the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives, be authorised to appoint a suitable person as Librarian of the Legislature, who shall give constant attendance at the Library Room, during the sessions of the Legislature, to furnish books to the members, &c. and that the librarian receive a compensation of \$100 per annum."

A committee appointed to count the ballots for tax collectors, reported that the following persons had a majority of votes: For Clermont, James Caldwell—Clarendon, Stephen Ross—Orange, Jacob Rickensbaker—Salem, W. Wilson—Laurens, John Hitch—Marlboro', Charles Strother—Edgefield, John Key—Fairfield, James Beatty—Pendleton, Jas. Douthet—Spartanburg, Thos. Poole—Abbeville, W. H. Caldwell, St. Peters and St. Michael, S. Burger—Marion, Richard Godfrey—St. Lukes, Huguenon—York, R. Davidson. Whereupon the above persons were declared duly elected tax collectors for their respective districts.

The committee appointed to count the votes for Comptroller Gen. reported that R. Creswell had a majority of votes; who was declared duly elected.

Columbia, December 3.

#### COMMENCEMENT

The Commencement of the South-Carolina College took place on Monday the 2d inst. At about ten in the morning, the procession formed in the College campus and proceeded to the Governor's House, where it was joined by the Trustees; whence it proceeded to the Capitol, and received the addition of the members of both branches of the Legislature, who had previously adjourned for the occasion. From the Capitol the whole procession moved to the College Chapel, where a brilliant assemblage of ladies had already convened. The exercises of the day were opened with a prayer by the President.—Then followed 1. Salutatory Addresses in Latin and an Oration in English on the utility of Ma-

thematical Science, by Henry A. Gibbs. 2. An Oration on the Feudal System, by Saml. G. Barker. 3. Dispute on this question—Which is the most desirable character, the Scholar, the Hero, or the Patriot? by Samuel D. Gourdin, Lewis B. Holloway and Theodore Gourdin. 4. An Oration on Duelling, by Arthur Buis. 5. An Oration on Literary Enterprise, by Wm. S. Wilson. 6. Discussion of the comparative advantages of the study of History and Chemistry—History, by James H. Irby and David Campbell; Chemistry, by James Hibben and Jas. Paris. 7. An Oration on Despotism, by Wm. S. Campbell. 8. An Oration on the influence of Education on the stability of the Government of the United States, by Charles I. McDonald.

The degree of A. B. was then conferred on the following young Gentlemen, all alumni of the college: Wade Anderson, S. G. Barker, Joseph V. Bevan, John W. Bird, John Blake, Edward C. Brevard, Arthur Buis, James Campbell, Wm. S. Campbell, Mitchell Cook, Henry Deas, James Paris, Patrick H. Foker, George E. Ford, Simpson Foster, Henry A. Gibbs, Samuel Gourdin, Theodore Gourdin, James Hibben, Lewis Holloway, Wm. Irby, Edward D. C. Jenkins, Charles I. McDonald, John J. Mauger, Richard F. Simpson, John P. Thomas, Thomas W. Thomas, David L. Wardlaw, John N. Williams, William S. Wilson.

The degree of *Master of arts*, was conferred on the following graduates of the College, viz. Jephtha Dyson, Robert Means, Richard Manning, Benjamin T. Elmore, John B. O'neal, John G. Brown, Baynes J. Earle, David R. Means, Wm. A. Bull, Arthur H. O'Hara, Wyatt Stark; and Mr. Rene Godard a graduate of the University of Nantz, was admitted *ad eundem*.

President Maxcy then delivered to the Graduates an elegant, appropriate and truly classical address, and the exercises were closed by 9. An Oration on the benefits which men of Genius and Learning confer upon Society, with the Valedictory Addresses, by David L. Wardlaw.

From Niles' Weekly Register.

#### CHANGE OF HABITS.

It was well observed in a late British paper that a rapid change was quietly taking place in America [i. e. the United States] as to the use and consumption of British manufactures; and the writer went on to state the probability that, in a very little time, the present great market for their goods would be lost to them, &c.—I have mislaid the article, and quote from memory only; but such was the substance of his remarks.

Of the change spoken of, not one in a thousand, perhaps of our own people are fully sensible—but the change is taking place, and will take place, notwithstanding the present superficial appearance of things is so much against it. The importation of British goods is yet enormous, and they are selling at prices insufficient to pay costs and charges—the pound sterling of the invoice is often, it is said, fairly sold for the pound currency at *New-York*; and all, or nearly all, of our large manufacturing establishments have more or less, suspended business.\* But the state of the first cannot last—there must be an end to these vast sacrifices; and the other has but little affect, indeed, in a national or general view; though it is a deeply interesting subject, and one which excites the best feeling of the patriot.

Mr. Isaac Briggs, who, perhaps, understood the matter as well as any man in the United States, in his admirable and invaluable essay, laid before the committee of commerce and manufactures, at the last session of Congress, and inserted in the IXth volume of the *WEEKLY REGISTER*, page 289, &c. gave it as his opinion "that if a reasonable encouragement were afforded, we might assume as a fair average of the whole of the present year (1815) 600,000 spindles operating on cotton." The probability, however, is, from many causes needless to recapitulate, that not more than half that number ever were actually operating on cotton in the U. States, at any one time; but it is difficult to conjecture the number now—many of the old mills having nearly stopped work, whilst some new ones have commenced business.

The following estimate was handed to me at my request, by a gentleman of great respectability and much experience in cotton manufacture, and may be relied on for our present purpose.—He supposes that No. 12, of spun cotton, is the average number wove in the United States; and says that 1000 spindles will spin 1750 hanks in a day, equal to 146 lbs. [No. 12] which 146 lbs. of yarn will make 440 yards of cloth, and give employment to about 50 looms.

These are the data on which we pro-

\* Chiefly those on the sea-board. The lesser, but more numerous works, in the interior, have gone on about as usual, and have also extensively increased.