

and with that view, he wished the subject to be referred to a permanent committee, to deliberate, and regularly report thereon; that there was a universal sentiment in the country, in favor of these great objects of domestic improvement; and that whatever doubts might exist as to the constitutional power of Congress to legislate on the subject, the states would never urge that objection, but would always cordially co-operate in objects so promotive of their advantage and convenience. &c. He was not, however, anxious to press the subject at this time, in the way he had proposed, in opposition to the wishes of gentlemen, and would therefore withdraw his motion.

The whole subject was then postponed to Monday.

STATE OF INDIANA.

Mr. Morrow from the select committee, to whom was referred the resolution for admitting the state of Indiana into the Union, reported the same in an amended shape; which report was twice read, and by general consent ordered to be engrossed for a third reading this day; was accordingly subsequently read the third time, and passed, unanimously, as follows:—

Whereas, in pursuance of an act of the Congress of the United States, passed on the 19th day of April, 1816, entitled "An act to enable the people of the Indiana Territory to form a State Government, and for the admission of that State into the Union, the people of the said territory did, on the 29th day of June, in the present year, by a convention called for that purpose, form for themselves a constitution and state government; which constitution and state government, so formed, is republican, and in conformity to the principles of the articles of compact between the original states and the people, and states in the territory north-west of the river Ohio, passed on the 13th day of July; Therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the state of Indiana shall be one and is hereby declared to be one of the U. S. of America, and admitted into the Union on an equal footing with the original states in all respects whatever.

The Rev. Mr. Glendy was elected, on the part of the Senate, Chaplain for the present session; and then

The Senate adjourned to Monday.

House of Representatives.

Wednesday, Dec 14.

Constitutional Amendment.

Mr. Pickens, of N. C. rose to propose an amendment to the constitution of the U. S. on which having on former occasions expressed his views, he would now only remark, that only once had the question ever been really tried in this House, and that was at a moment of great public embarrassment, not favorable to a mature deliberation on its merits. This was the first fair occasion of presenting the subject fully for consideration. Several of the states had, since the first agitation of the question in the House, given to the proposition their sanction and recommendation, among which were Massachusetts, North-Carolina, and Virginia; and it had, at one session received the sanction of the Senate of the United States. If ever there was a period favorable to a proper amendment of the constitution, it was the present moment, when we are literally at peace, at home and abroad. Mr. P. then introduced the following resolution:

Resolved, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, two thirds of both houses concurring therein, That the following amendment to the constitution of the United States be proposed to the Legislatures of the several States, which, when ratified by the Legislatures of three fourths of the said States, shall be valid, to all intents and purposes, as a part of the said constitution.

For the purpose of choosing of Representatives, in the Congress of the United States, each State shall be divided, by its Legislature, into a number of districts, equal to the number of Representatives to which the State may be entitled.

Each district shall contain, as nearly as may be, equal numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole number of free persons, including those bound to service for a term of years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other persons.

In each district the qualified voters shall elect one Representative.

For the purpose of choosing Electors of President and Vice-President of the United States, each State shall be divided, by its Legislature into a number of districts, equal to the number of Electors to which the State may be entitled. Each district shall contain, as nearly as may be, equal numbers; which shall be determined by adding to the whole number of free persons including those bound to serve for a term of years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other persons. In each district, the persons qualified to vote

for Representatives in the Congress of the United States, shall choose one Elector, the Legislature of each State shall have power to regulate the manner of holding elections, and making returns of the Electors chosen. In case all the Electors shall not meet at the time and place appointed for giving their votes, a majority of the Electors met shall have power, and forthwith shall proceed to supply the vacancy.

A division of the States into district, for choosing Representatives in the Congress of the United States, shall take place, as soon as conveniently may be, after each enumeration and apportionments of Representatives shall be made, which districts shall remain unaltered, until after the succeeding enumeration and apportionment of Representatives.

The resolution was read a first and second time, and referred to a committee of the whole House on the state of the Union.

Legislature of S. Carolina.

The following resolution, submitted by Mr. J. L. Wilson on the 11th instant, was concurred in by both branches of the Legislature, viz.

Whereas, the highest tribute of respect which a Republican government can pay its officers, is the approbation of its free men, unequivocally and candidly expressed; and whereas JAMES MADISON, has, with wisdom, firmness and patriotism, exercised for near eight years, the high and important office of President of the United States, preserving and supporting the character of the nation, in peace and war; and is soon about to return to the peaceful shades of retired life:

Resolved unanimously, That the Legislature of South-Carolina recalled, with grateful recollections, the past services of JAMES MADISON, president of the United States; and whilst they, in common, yield this favorable statesman and patriot, to retirement, discharged from those arduous public duties, so long faithfully, wisely and promptly rendered the republic; they request he will receive their unfeigned approbation and regard; assuring him their fervent benedictions, and best affections accompany him to the scenes of private life.

Resolved, That the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives, communicate this resolution to JAMES MADISON President of the United States.

On Saturday last, at 12 o'clock, His Excellency ANDREW PICKENS, Esq. Governor elect, appeared in the Hall of Representatives, where both Houses of the Legislature were assembled, for the purpose of qualifying—previously to which ceremony, he addressed them as follows:

"Fellow Citizens of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives.

Called by you to a highly honorable station, I take this opportunity of offering my acknowledgements for the honor conferred, and the confidence reposed. If it should be my good fortune to gratify the wishes and expectations of my friends, the measure of my happiness will be full; but in pursuing what I believe to be my public duty, neither the gratification of friends, nor the censure of enemies, shall divert me from my purposes.

The public and general interest, shall be my ruling principle, and personal independence my constant guide. I rely, gentlemen, upon your candor and liberality, and the candor and liberality of our fellow-citizens, in judging of my official conduct.

If my errors, for errors I will most certainly commit, proceed from the head and not from the heart, the white mantle of charity should cover them. but if they can be traced to a depraved mind

and a corrupt heart, then let the censure and reprobation of all rest upon me. I am now ready to qualify."

His Excellency then took the oath of office, and was installed and proclaimed with due solemnity.

Columbia, December 17.

Solicitors Elected yesterday,—For the Northern Circuit—*Josiah Evans*—For the Southern Circuit—*Robert Stark*.

Turner Richardson, Esq. was on Friday last elected commissioner in Equity for Washington district.

At the annual communication of the Grand Lodge of South Carolina A. Y. Masons, held at Columbia, in December, 1816, the following Grand Officers were duly elected for the ensuing year:—*His Honor C. J. Colcock*, R. W. Grand Master.

Col. John Geddes, Deputy Grand Master. *William Harper*, Senior Grand Warden. *Eliab Kingman*, Junior Grand Warden, *Charles Holmes*, Grand Treasurer. *Alexander Herbrmont*, Grand Secretary. *Thomas Godbolt*, Grand Marshall. *Archy Mason*, Grand Inspector. *Urban Cooper*, Rt. Rev. Grand Chaplain.

The following ADDRESS was delivered by His Honor, *J. C. Colcock*, R. W. G. M.

Brethren—When I was honored with the office which I now hold, and found that the friendly attempts to affect a union had entirely failed, and that an unhappy spirit of discord prevailed between the two Grand Lodges, I viewed with the deepest regret, this state of things; and it then was, and still continues to be, my most earnest wish to remove, if possible, the causes of dissension, and to affect that object which must be so desirable to every philanthropic mind. It is not my intention on the present occasion to take a retrospect of the occurrences which took place during the attempt to affect a union; but briefly to place before you my views of this subject. I conceive that it will not be a difficult task to convince every unprejudiced brother that a union may be effected without any reference to what has passed on the subject. If we recur to those unsuccessful attempts which have been made, I am aware that difficulties will be presented which can never be surmounted. Propositions which have undergone so much discussion and been rejected, will not now be acceded to; let us then turn our backs upon all that has passed; take a view of the present state of things, and determine whether the object cannot still be effected. The Grand Lodge of South-Carolina is composed of some of the members of the Grand Lodge of Ancient York Masons, and of some of those called Moderns, who have been incorporated by taking the test or oath of secrecy; and this is now the most important objection to a union. Thus constituted I am authorized to say that they work as Ancient York Masons, and in all respects as we do. They no longer admit under the sanction of the test oath; but according to the ancient usage.

I lay it down as a fundamental principle of all societies as well as governments, that there is an inherent unalienable right at any time when it shall be deemed necessary by the members of the body to alter their constitution, or these first principles by which they agreed to be governed. Nor will it be necessary, I presume, to go at length into argument to prove a position so perfectly self evident, and so universally acted upon. If this were not so, it would be to fix as unalterable that which must be forever progressive, the improvement of the human mind. What a few years ago was considered as beneficial to mankind, may now be discovered to be the source of evil; nay, with the same sentiments and in the same state of improvement, we find that experience is the best test of wisdom. If then this position be admitted, why may we not say that a Mason may be made by one obligation instead of three. And here let me observe, that the difference between those of the modern and those of the ancient craft, is no other or greater than that of entering the same temple at different doors, when within all being worshipers of the same Deity. And on this point, every brother must agree who has been properly instructed. It is then, not even admitting or making Masons under the solemnity of a single obligation. But it is conforming in those who have been made in a different manner to our order. It is said however that this is contrary to the principles and usages of our Lodge, and will be a removal of the ancient land marks of masonry. Upon this, I confess that I once entertained great doubts, and that when the proposition was first made, I was opposed to it; but after a diligent investigation of the subject and a reference to the most learned

brethren with whom I am acquainted, as well as a recurrence to the most approved writers on masonry, I am persuaded that the contemplated union will not infringe any of those principles, and does not in the smallest degree affect those ancient land marks so justly estimated. Can the fact be denied that an intercourse has taken place between the two orders as of late years established in our state? It cannot. Many living witnesses can attest the truth of it, and by reference to that luminous and excellent writer brother Preston, we shall find that in Europe at different periods in the history of masonry, there has existed occasional division, and occasional re-union. Will any brother, instructed on this subject, say that there is not in the history of masonry, the most irrefragable proof that we all sprung from one source? I presume not. I am aware that by some, it is said that an oath has been administered on their admission, forbidding them even to sit in a lodge with a modern Mason, or to admit one to enter a lodge, knowing him to be such. When a separation took place in England, all that was done was to resolve that those who seceded, (and who these were may admit a doubt) should not be admitted, except on terms: such an oath was never incorporated into the constitution of Ancient York Masons, nor ever prescribed by the Grand Lodge; it has therefore been introduced without authority; is illegal, and not binding. But as I am disposed to meet the scruples of the most conscientious, and to effect the union on a basis which can never be shaken, I will endeavour to obviate the objection in a manner still more satisfactory. Every obligation resulting from an oath, may be released within a legal and moral point of view "unlawful directions are countermanded by the authority, which declares them unlawful." Members of Colleges in the Universities, and of other ancient foundations, are required to swear to the observance of their respective statutes; which observance is become in some cases unlawful, in others, impracticable, in others, useless, in others, inconvenient." Mr. Paley says, they are released from such obligations. May not then the voice of a majority, or two thirds of the masonic body, now forming a union, dissolve the obligations so imposed? It cannot be doubted. Again! Can those who have been admitted under the sanction of the test oath, (if we give validity to that,) be any longer considered as modern masons? Surely they cannot. This objection, I trust, may be thus overcome. Now, as to the second objection, that it is removing the ancient land marks of masonry. How fatally have men been deluded in all ages, by the misapplication of terms. What are the ancient land marks of masonry? The obligations? Surely not! For if so, it may be confidently said, that they have never been stable. No two masters ever administering them in the same words.—The ancient land marks are the words, signs, and grips, and it is not contemplated to make any alteration in these. For as observed at first, the Grand Lodge of South-Carolina now work as we do, and admit according to the ancient usages. Let us then no longer be kept asunder by an adherence to form. Our brethren throughout the world are united. Can it be expected that the craft can flourish while these disagreements continue? It is impossible. The well disposed part of mankind are astonished and distracted, while the wicked laugh us to scorn, saying how can that institution be conducive to the happiness of man which destroys the peace of its own members. Let us rise superior to all improper prejudices, and approaching in one body the grand architect of the universe, sacrifice on the altar of universal philanthropy every discordant sentiment. Preston.

We regret to learn, that a serious accident happened to Col. *Hawkins*, on the 25th ult. in his passage down the Mokawh river. Himself and Major *Robardeau*, returning from Lake Superior, embarked on board an open boat at Utica, on account of the convenience of transporting their baggage. At night the boat grounded on a sand bar, and the deck being covered with ice, Col. H. in attempting to get off, fell and broke three of his ribs. Alb. Argus.

It is stated by the intercepted papers received at the Patriot office, Baltimore, that the famous General *Tejada*, has been bribed by the Spanish Government to desert the cause of the South American Patriots.

Gen. "Wilkinson's Memoirs," commencing with events in 1776, and continued to the year 1815, are nearly ready for sale.

The "Life of Gen. Jackson" is printing in Tennessee.

Major General *GAINES*, of the army of the United States, and Gen. *P. PORTER*, one of the Commissioners under the treaty with Great Britain, are at present on a visit at the seat of government.

National Intelligencer.