

CONGRESS. THE ANNUAL MESSAGE, CALIFORNIA.

Mr. Bayly moved that the rules be suspended and that the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, with a view to dispose of the President's Message. It was important (Mr. B. said) that that message should be acted upon.

The motion having been taken and decided in the affirmative—

The House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union, (Mr. Boyd in the chair,) and resumed the consideration of the resolution referring to the appropriate committees the various subjects embraced in the Annual Message of the President of the United States.

Mr. Brown of Mississippi was entitled to the floor.

He said he would occupy a very few minutes, in presenting some views which he should have presented the other day, but for the expiration of his hour.

Having already taken his position against the President's recommendation of the California constitution, and having expressed his abhorrence of the whole series of movements, which led to its adoption by the people in that country, he should not further allude to the President or Cabinet in that connection.

A new character had presented himself, as one of the champions of this new and extraordinary political movement. He alluded to General Cass, the late democratic candidate for the Presidency. That distinguished gentleman had redeemed his pledge, and the pledge of his friends, on the subject of the Wilnot Proviso. He had spoken against it. He had expressed his determination not to vote for it. With this he was satisfied. He would go further, and say, that the speech, so far as it related to the proviso, challenged his admiration and excited his gratitude. It was replete with sound views, eloquently and happily expressed. And no one could read it attentively without conceding to its author great ability. If the distinguished gentleman had closed his speech with his argument against the proviso, there would not have been a man in the country more willing than himself to award him the highest honors. But the speech was marred by the expression of opinions, in its closing paragraphs, to which he, (Mr. B.) and the southern people generally would dissent. General Cass had (if Mr. B. correctly understood him) avowed his opinion to be, that the people of the territories had the right to exclude slavery; and he was understood to sustain the action of the people in California in forming a State government. Against all these parts of the speech of General Cass, (Mr. B.) entered his solemn protest. He felt bound to do this, because in the late Presidential canvass he had, as the friend of Gen. Cass, given a different interpretation to his views, as foreshadowed in the Nicholson letter. True, he had not done this without some misgivings, at first, of its correctness. But gentlemen nearer the person of Gen. Cass than himself had interpreted the Nicholson letter to mean, that when the people of a territory to form a State constitution, they could then admit or exclude slavery at will, and whether they did the one thing or the other was not a matter to be questioned by Congress.

He now conceded, as he had done in the Presidential canvass, that whenever a people duly authorized to form a State constitution, have exercised this authority and asked admission into the Union, it is not properly a subject of inquiry whether their constitution admits or excludes slavery from the proposed State. But he understood Gen. Cass as going further this—to the extent of giving to the people of the Territories the right to exclude slavery during their territorial existence, and indeed before government of any sort had been established by Congress. He understood the doctrine as advanced by Gen. Cass to be, that the occupants of the soil where no government existed—as in New Mexico, California, Deseret, &c.—had the right to exclude slavery; and against this doctrine he raised his humble voice; and though he might stand alone, without one other southern representative to sustain him, he would protest against it to the last.

In the late Presidential canvass, men of all parties had assailed this doctrine. The Whigs charged Gen. Cass with entertaining these views, and the Democrats had vindicated him against the charge. The doctrine was universally denounced by men of all parties in the South; and now we were startled with the intelligence that Gen. Cass and Gen. Taylor both approve it. For himself, no earthly consideration should keep him silent on such a question. No consideration personal to himself—no party ties nor political obligations, should seal his lips, when his country was about to be betrayed and sacrificed. He had denounced this doctrine before his constituents, he now denounced it before the House. He would not consume time, and prevent other gentlemen from speaking, by going into an argument on the subject. He had felt it due to his own position—to the cause of truth and justice, to make known at the first convenient moment, that what he condemned in Gen. Taylor he equally condemned in Gen. Cass; and having done this, he was satisfied.

THE RESULTS OF ABOLITIONISM.

The following is the conclusion of the article in the *Southern Quarterly* for January on the "British West India Islands." We commend the whole essay to the careful and attentive perusal of all:

"The additions that foreign immigration makes to the population of the Western territories, and the rapid increase to the States of the Union, from that cause and in that quarter, place before us, at no distant day, the prospect of two-thirds of the States of the Union as non-slaveholding States. What will then prevent amendments to the Constitution, for the removal of all the guarantees to the institution of slavery, and the destruction of the institution itself.

"The party at the North, which originated and which conducts this movement, declare that they will not stop short, except at that result. They say, 'we have disenchanted the minds of the people to a good measure, as to the divinity of their parchment idol. We have taught men to calculate the value of the Union. It is beginning to be looked upon as a matter of business, a partnership in trade; and multitudes who walk not with us here, have been taught by their own experience to curse the Constitution as a delusion and a snare. We have no quarrel with the constitution, because it is a basis of a confederated Union of States; but only because we see in it an alliance, offensive and defensive, between those States, for the perpetuation of slavery; and consequently, the greatest of obstacles to its abolition, as long as its obligations are in force.'"

"Does any one suppose that the clause of the constitution which allows a representation for the slave population would withstand six months' agitation in the Northern States? What

is the practical operation of that clause of the constitution that provides the restitution of fugitive slaves!

"Can the Southern people be deceived to the conclusion that the constitution is the basis of an Union of equal States, after the exclusion of their property from the common territories of the Union?

"Should a servile insurrection arise, think you that Northern representative in Congress would vote you men and money for its suppression?"

"The abolitionists tell us truly that the terms loyalty and allegiance have ceased to have any meaning with reference to this constitution; it is looked on as the articles of a trading partnership."

"We have traced the picture of a community, whose domestic institutions have been overturned by an agitation, which commenced abroad, and which finally reached their firesides."

"We have traced it, that our people might see in advance the end, of which we now see the beginning."

KEOWEE COURIER

Saturday, March 9, 1850.

With a view of accommodating our Subscribers who live at a distance, the following gentlemen are authorized and requested to act as agents in receiving and forwarding Subscriptions to the KEOWEE COURIER, viz:

MAJ. W. S. GRISHAM, at West Union.
EDWARD HUGHES, Esq., "Horse Shoe."
E. P. VERNER, Esq., "Bachelor's Retreat."
M. F. MITCHELL, Esq., "Pickensville."
J. E. HAGOOD, "Twelve Mile."
T. J. WEBB, for Anderson District.

We are requested to state that there will be preaching at this place on the 5th Sunday of this month. Rev. Kennedy, Humphreys, and Gaillard are expected. The Elders of the Presbyterian Church at Bachelors Retreat, Richland, and Bethel are especially invited to attend for the purpose of devising ways and means whereby those Churches may be supplied with a Preacher. For several years they have been only partially supplied, which we hope will not be the case any longer—Elders and members should interest themselves more than usual in this behalf—they should remember that Sabbath after Sabbath is desecrated, chiefly because there is no preaching to go to, and that much of this crying sin rests upon those whose duty it is to endeavor to have preaching in every neighborhood.

THE CALIFORNIA AMBASSADOR.

The Hon. T. Butler King publishes a card in the National Intelligencer, setting himself right before the public, on the subject of his California mission. He complains of bitter persecutions and misrepresentations, and wholly denies that the President, or any of his Cabinet ever gave him any instructions on the subject of slavery, or any other subject—that he did not attempt to influence the people to decide one way or the other on that subject.

Innocent man, that, what did he go for! Why did the administration pay him \$8 per diem, besides all his travelling expenses, if he had no business there! What right has the President to pay an individual out of the public treasury, to go upon a pleasure excursion to California! But, aside from secret instructions, Mr. Clayton says to him in his letter of instructions, "you are fully possessed of the President's views, and can with propriety suggest to the people of California the adoption of measures to give them effect." Was he to do nothing, was he a mere passive agent?—He knew the views of the President, and California formed a constitution in accordance therewith, which must indeed have been a strange coincidence—and Mr. King contributed to carrying out those views, or he was untrue to his charge. In either he occupies no enviable position before the community.

MR. CALHOUN.

It was intimated through the letter writers that Mr. Calhoun's speech would be read in the Senate this week, by his colleague, provided the delicate state of his health forbid the delivery of it himself. His speech is looked to with the most intense interest from all parts of the United States, and considering his splendid talents and devotion to his country that expectation will not be disappointed.

THE LEGISLATURE OF GEORGIA.

This body adjourned on 23rd ult, in good order, (and we regret that the same spirit of good order did not prevail throughout the Session) a vote of unanimous thanks was given to the Speaker, Jno. W. Anderson, for the ability with which he presided over their deliberations. During the session 468 bills and 56 joint resolutions were passed. Of these, 461 have been sanctioned by the Executive and 7 are still under consideration.

THE WEATHER.

With the exception of two or three days, this week has been more like April than March weather. The forepart of the days has been calm and mild, the wind rising in the evening to an unpleasant height. We have scarcely any ice this week, and vegetation begins to assume a growing appearance.

Attention is being drawn to the raising of the Palma Christi, or easter-oil bean in Alabama. A consignment of the oil made in Marengo county, in that State has recently been received in Mobile, and sold readily at \$2.00 per gallon.

Correspondence of the Baltimore American-CONGRESSIONAL.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25, 1850.

SENATE.

The resolutions of Mr. Foote, in relation to the establishment of the Territories of California, New Mexico, and Deseret, were taken up. He moved to refer the same to a select committee of thirteen—six from slave States and six from free States, and one more to be chosen by them.

Mr. Turney rose to make a correction as to the acts of the Tennessee Legislature. He referred to an article in the Intelligencer, on the subject of the resolutions passed by the House in opposition to the Southern Convention.

Mr. Turney said the statement was untrue. The extract was erroneously attributed to the Nashville Union. The Union was strongly in favor of the Southern Convention. Again, the resolutions were misreported and tended to give an erroneous impression. The only important part of the resolutions was omitted.—The statement assumed that the legislature condemned the object of the convention. This was untrue. The democrats had a majority in the House and the whigs in the Senate. The House took ground against the admission of California, and appointed delegates to the convention. The whig Senate took the ground that the people should select the delegates to the convention if they chose to be represented in it. Why does the Intelligencer select one side of these statements? That is not the way to preserve the Union. The Union is not to be preserved by the carrying out of the views of Northern fanatics, and the submission of the South.

The people of Tennessee are devoted to the Union, but the Legislature says it can only be preserved by the preservation of the constitution, and the Legislature pledged themselves to resist encroachments on them to the last extremity and at every hazard. The Intelligencer must appeal to the Northern people as well as the South, if they would preserve the Union.

Mr. Downings said it had been stated that the municipal authorities had disapproved the assemblage of the convention, and that Gen. Armstrong would resist it.

Mr. Turney said both statements were untrue; for he had conversed with Gen. Armstrong on the subject.

Mr. Foote's resolution in relation to the organization of territories was taken up.

Mr. Foote urged the appointment of a committee as the only means of adjustment.

Mr. Butler had little hope of any good result from a protracted discussion. He would consent to no compromise which did not recognize the equality of the South.

Mr. Foote was certain that no plan of an adjustment could be agreed on by the committee which was not fair and just. If it was not approved, the gentleman would vote against it. If we would do anything here of a practical character, he had assurances that the House would sustain it by a large majority. The general feeling was in favor of compromise, and there was prevailing a full belief that the Union is in danger.

Let us give the committee a week to act; and next Saturday a plan can, I am certain, be matured, which the whole Senate would ratify. Each member of the committee would be sustained by the other twelve, and their opinions and acts would be respected by the whole Senate, the House, and the whole people. The experiment was worth trying.

Mr. Walker made some remarks as to the views of the South; and declared that no committee could ever agree to them. He referred particularly to the alternative presented by the Senator from Mississippi (Davis).

Mr. Davis explained; he had great hope from a committee.

Mr. Butler said that if the committee failed to agree, it would aggravate the difficulty; it would become a source of contention. He was opposed to precipitate action; let us move cautiously, step by step. An imprudent measure might produce embarrassment. He (Butler) had fixed upon an ultimatum. He had no spirit of defiance. He would impose guards on himself, and would not, unless assailed, on any point recede. He believed that a report of a committee would only serve to entangle us the more.

Mr. Walker did not wish to throw down the gauntlet or any other defiance.

Mr. Badger was decidedly in favor of the proposition of the gentleman from Mississippi.

Mr. Clemens suggested that the difficulty would be to get a committee that would satisfy the country. He would not vote for the committee unless the six southern men were elected by the southern Senators.

Mr. Badger could see no difficulty as likely to arise from the appointment of a committee.

Mr. Dayton thought a committee would do more harm than good. Let us discuss the matter first.

Mr. Clemens urged the expediency of arresting agitation. If the discussion went on three weeks longer there would be no hope for the Union.

Mr. Benton made some remarks in opposition to the immediate adoption of the resolution.

The subject was passed over, and the Senate adjourned.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27, 1850.

SENATE.

A message was received from the President on Executive subjects.

Mr. Clay's compromise resolutions were taken up. Mr. Benton wished, before Mr. Hunter took the floor, to explain a legal point which the resolutions involved.

The resolutions asserted that slavery did not by law exist in California. He was one of those who believed that slavery was abolished by the Republic of Mexico. He wished to produce documentary testimony of this fact—the decrees, executive and legislative, on the subject, &c.

After Mr. Benton concluded, Mr. Rusk took the floor and made his expected speech upon the subject of the Texas boundary.

Mr. Rusk fortified his statements with documentary evidence. Being unwell and somewhat exhausted, he gave way to motion to adjourn, without concluding, and the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. Johnson, of Tenn., by unanimous consent, introduced a bill to provide a homestead of 160 acres of the public domain for every man, the head of a family, a citizen of the United States, and every widow, the mother of a minor child or children, who may become the occupants and cultivators of the soil—which was twice read and referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

Mr. Moore, of Pennsylvania, submitted a bill of a similar character, which was similarly disposed of.

Mr. Ashmun introduced a bill to reduce the rates of postage and to abolish the franking privilege, which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads.

Mr. Briggs, of New York, introduced a bill to establish a branch mint of the United States in the city of New York, which was read twice and referred to the Committee of Ways and Means.

On motion of Mr. Thompson, of Mississippi, the rules were suspended, and the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union, to take up the resolutions to refer the President's annual message.

Mr. Tombs, who was entitled to the floor moved to take up the President's special message upon the subject of California. It was taken up, when

Mr. Doty submitted the following:

An act to admit the State of California into the Union.

Whereas, the people of California have formed for themselves a constitution and State government, and applied for admission into the Union as a State;

And whereas, the said constitution has been officially communicated to Congress, and is republican. Therefore,

Section 1. Be it enacted, &c., That the State of California, with the boundaries described in the said constitution, be one, and is hereby declared to be one of the United States of America, and admitted into the Union on an equal footing with the original States, in all respects whatever.

Sec. 2. The State of California shall never interfere with the primary disposal of the soil within the same by the United States, nor with any regulations Congress may make for securing the title in such soil to bona fide purchasers thereof; and no tax shall be imposed on lands the property of the United States; which said provisions are hereby declared to be fundamental conditions upon which the said State is admitted into the Union.

Mr. Green, of Mo., gave notice of an amendment, to adopt as a compromise the Missouri line of 36 30.

Mr. Tombs took the floor, and spoke an hour upon the slave question. He alluded to the history of the origin of the government, and pointed out the extreme jealousy which then existed on the part of the slave States, in regard to their property in slaves. That these States did not consent to come into the Union until protection was given by the Constitution to this species of property. This protection was given by that clause allowing this property to be represented in the federal legislature; and also by the clause providing for the reclamation of fugitive slaves. The Union, he maintained, would never have been formed except for this protection; and the provisions of the Constitution had in every sense stamped this government as a pro-slavery government. The abolitionists who met at Faneuil Hall and said that this was a pro-slavery government were consistent; and hence they ask that we may relieve them from the constitutional obligation to support slavery. These men are at least consistent in their purposes, and honest in their means to accomplish their end. He warned gentlemen that in this question was involved \$1,600,000,000 of property, so recognised by the Constitution, and that any government that came in hostility with the property of the people, could not, ought not, and would not stand. He maintained that what was property was to be determined by each

State of the Union, and it was the duty of the Federal Government to protect that property; and further whatever was determined by the States in their separate capacity to be property, the possessors of it could carry it with them into any of the territories belonging to the United States; and that it was the duty of the Federal Government to protect this property there to the extent that other property was protected, until such territory be admitted as States into the Union; when the property would become subject to the action of domestic legislation. He declared his opposition to the admission of California as a State under its present organization.

The House was also addressed by Mr. Baker and Mr. Lane, after which Mr. Conrad took the floor, but gave way to a motion that the committee rise. The committee then rose, and the House adjourned.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28, 1850.

A challenge passed yesterday between Col. Bissell, a Representative from Illinois, and the Hon. Jefferson Davis, Senator from Mississippi, in consequence of the derogatory remarks of the former respecting the conduct of the Mississippi troops at the battle of Buena Vista. The weapons selected were muskets, at fifteen paces. Through the personal intervention of President Taylor the matter has been amicably adjusted.—*Charleston Mercury.*

The case of Mrs. Gaines, which has been in the courts so long, has been at last decided in the U. S. Circuit Court at New Orleans, and against her claim. The testimony in the case showed not only a curious state of affairs in the domestic history of some of the parties concerned, but also some singular facts respecting social and moral life in New Orleans previous to its admission into the Union. It was proved during the trial that the mother of Mrs. Gaines was married to three different persons, each living at the same time. Mrs. G. was the child of the second husband, and claimed all his large estates, but the decision of the Court leaves its possession in the hands of the present owners.

THE WORK COMMENCED.—It affords us sincere pleasure to be enabled to announce the gratifying intelligence, that the work of grading our Railroad has been commenced; and we trust, now, that the good work has been entered upon, that it will be vigorously prosecuted and speedily completed. The first earth was turned by the hands of our fellow townsman, Dr. John W. Simpson, who commenced operations on the 26th inst.

The exceedingly unfavorable weather we have experienced for the past two months, has greatly retarded the efforts of the Engineer, who anticipated having the survey completed ere this. Spite of the rain, however, the Road is now located to the Laurens line, and no exertions will be spared on the part of the Engineer to finish it the earliest possible period.—*Laurensville Herald.*

Defaulter Absconded.—We were shown yesterday, a despatch from the President of the Central Railroad Bank of Savannah, in which it was stated, that Geo. J. Bulloch, Cashier of that institution had absconded with a large amount of its funds. The amount is not mentioned, but a reward of Five Thousand Dollars is offered for his apprehension.—*Constitutionalist.*

INDIAN REVENGE.—The Springfield (Illinois) Journal has the following paragraph, copied from the Lacon Gazette:

"Among the overland emigrants for California, last spring, was Mr. Green, of 'Green's Woollen Factory,' Fox river, and two of his sons, the youngest a youth. It is reported that while passing through a tribe of Indians, this youth, who was naturally full of mischief, killed a squaw. The tribe having been well advised of the fact, hastened after and overtook the company, and demanded the murderer. At first the demand was resisted; but after the Indians had informed them that they would destroy the company if their request was not granted, the youth was surrendered into their hands. They then stripped him, and in the presence of his father and the whole company, they skinned him from his head to his feet! He lived four hours after he was thus flayed. This should be a warning to all interested, not to trifle with the unfortunate sons of the forest."

BANK NOTES.

SOUTH CAROLINA.
Commercial Bank of Columbia par
Bank of Hamburg " "
M. Bank of Orange " "
Bank of Georgetown " "
Bank of Camden " "
South Western R. R. Bank, Knox.
North Carolina 2 to 2 1/2 discount.
Virginia 3 to 5
Alabama 3 to 5
GEORGIA.
Savannah City Bank par
State Branch Banks 1 to 1 1/2
Athens G. R. R. Co. 1 to 1 1/2
Augusta Branch Bank par
Bank of St. Mary's 1 to 1 1/2
Milledgeville 1 to 1 1/2
Georgia bills, payable in Savannah and Augusta are at par.