

(Correspondence of the Charleston Courier.)

WASHINGTON, DEC. 17.

The new Speaker has already proved himself full of business. He is placed in a situation that would try the capacities of a veteran presiding officer. The House has plunged into the consideration of the New Jersey case, without ever adopting any rules for proceeding. Of course, the debate may last for three or four months, if the opposition choose. In fact, I see no reason why the organization of the House may not be arrested permanently, at its present stage.

Mr. HUNTER, at the opening of the sitting, addressed the House in a neat and appropriate speech, in the course of which he remarked that he was chosen, less from his own merits, than from the independence of his position and that he should consider himself, as Speaker of the whole House, and not of a party. He should endeavor, he said, to forward the great principles to which he stood pledged, before the country, and, at the same time, endeavor to afford an opportunity for every section and interest, in the country, to be fully and fairly represented. The members were then sworn in by States.—Mr. RANDOLPH when New Jersey was called, did not appear and the State was passed over; but after all the other members had been sworn, Mr. RANDOLPH appeared, and he and his five colleagues, (Messrs. AYCRIGG, MAXWELL, STRATT N. YORKE and HALSTEAD,) presented themselves, and declared to be sworn. The Speaker stated that he could administer the oath to only one of them, Mr. RANDOLPH, but he would submit a question to the House as to the right of the others to be sworn. The Speaker stated the question to the House, accordingly, remarking that had the question now been presented to him for the first time, he would without hesitation, have administered the oath; but by the proceedings which the House had already gone into, he was prevented from taking that course. Mr. WISE moved, in order to test the sense of the House, on the subject that Messrs. MAXWELL, YORKE, STRATTON, HALSTEAD and AYCRIGG are not entitled to seats in this House, contending that unless the House adopted this motion they must be sworn in of course. The Speaker decided the motion to be in order. A very long and able debate sprang up, thereupon, which is still in progress, and is likely to continue.

It was known, this morning, that this question would arise, and therefore, Mr. DROMGOOLE moved that the rules and orders of the former House be adopted for this House, but it was laid on the table by the casting vote of the Speaker. The vote was a strict party vote, and was yeas 116, nays 116, of course there can be no previous question, and forty propositions may be made one upon another.

The election of Robert Moscov Taliaferro Hunter, of Caroline County, Virginia, has no doubt created great astonishment throughout the country, but you can form no idea of the wonder of the people here, as well as the members themselves, at a result so entirely unlooked for by every one—to use a sporting phrase, "the knowing ones were all taken in" by it.

In order to explain this matter fully, it will be necessary to take a retrospect, from the commencement of the agitation on the question of Speaker. Some eight months since, a nomination of Mr. Pickens was made through one of the Virginia papers, which was generally responded to by the Administration press throughout the country; a short time after the name of Mr. Francis Thomas, of Maryland, was mentioned in some of the journals, and on the arrival of the members here, no one had been spoken of for the office save these two gentlemen, and Mr. Dixon H. Lewis, of Alabama. In order to make a selection, therefore, a large Caucus of the Democratic members was held on the night previous to the first day of the session, and for the first time, it was discovered that the New York members and leaders had come with instructions to support Mr. Jones, of Virginia, a gentleman never before thought of, even by his own colleagues. In forwarding the nomination of Mr. J. it was said that the old leader of the Administration party in the other Houses had taken occasion to protest against the idea entertained of choosing a friend of Mr. Calhoun for any office, while on the other hand some of the most moderate contended that it was due to the followers of Mr. C. that a selection should be made from the State Rights Party, who were acting with them on leading measures, though not strictly forming a part of the Democratic fold.

This was the state of affairs, then, on holding the first caucus, and the vote by viva voce, resulted as follows: J. W. Jones, 59; D. H. Lewis, 40; Care Johnson, of Tennessee, 5; Francis Thomas, 2; and as the wires was fixed that Mr. J. should be the first candidate, the meeting adjourned. A little incident, however, created some ill feeling among the nullifiers, and two or three of Mr. Lewis' friends thought he had not been treated right. It was this: three gentlemen of the party who were favorable to Mr. L. asked leave to vote, on the announcement of the result, as they had been unavoidably detained from coming sooner, this was refused to them, and they therefore considered themselves bound to assume an independent stand, and you will perceive, on reference to the votes, that they did so.

Nothing further was said, however, un-

til the election took place in the House, when it was found, after the sixth ballot, that these gentlemen held the balance of power, and would, under no circumstances, vote for Jones, though solicited to do so by Mr. Lewis himself, in order to ensure the election of a friend of the Administration. The mass of the party were obliged, therefore, to turn on Mr. Lewis, who lacked only three votes to succeed; but here a new difficulty arose, some of the democrats, three of whom were aspirants for the Chair. (Messrs. F. Thomas, C. Johnson, and Dr. Ingoulee,) refused, under any circumstances, to vote for Mr. L. when either their votes or absence would have elected him! The other opponents of Mr. L. were Messrs. P. F. Thomas, H. W. Connor, Turney and Blockwell. Hence the split in the party—the votes of the Nullifiers and consequent election of a gentleman whom nobody had previously heard of.

Mr. Hunter is quite young, not more than 32. He is a native of Virginia, and, in a word, as to politics he is an entire Calhoun man. This is the second session, and he was elected to Congress by a mixed vote of Nullifiers, Democrats and Whigs.

The conduct of Messrs. Thomas and Johnson alluded to above, reminds one forcibly of a most detestable Welsh epithet, furnished us by a member of the Administration party:

"His shall never come again to me, But we shall surely one day go to be."

The key may be found in my account of their actions while a Speaker was being elected.

The Senate this morning after receiving notice of several bills to be introduced by Messrs. Benton, C. C. Clay, and one of the Indiana Senators, went into Secret Session, and afterwards adjourned.

MISSOURI BOUNDARY WAR.

ST. LOUIS, DEC. 5.

We learn that Major General Willcock, of the 4th division of Missouri militia, having received official intelligence that the sheriff of Clark county, in this State, had been arrested whilst executing some legal process under the authority of Missouri, within the disputed territory, and was committed to prison by the authorities of Iowa, has marched with a portion of his forces to his release. In the meantime to make assurance doubly sure, as well as to obey the general order of the Governor of Missouri, requiring him to support and protect the civil officers of Clark county in the discharge of their duties within the disputed territory, he has required the Generals commanding the 11th, 12th and 13th divisions to hold a portion of their respective commands in readiness to march at a moment's warning. In pursuance to this order, we understand that troops in St. Charles, Lincoln, Pike, Ralls, and probably some other counties, are awaiting orders to march to the disputed territory, if their services are needed.—Republican.

The trade between the United States of America and Germany is gradually and rapidly increasing. The recent large emigrations from Germany to this country have introduced a taste for the manufactures and productions of that country which is gaining ground every day.

The attention of our Government has been directed to this subject, and a strong effort is making, which has in part succeeded, to put the trade between the two countries on a footing of equal advantage to both. Some of our most important staples are loaded on their introduction into Germany with duties which almost amount to a prohibition, while on our part the products of Germany are subjected to a very moderate impost. The consequence is, that the importations from Germany into the United States are much greater than the importations from the United States into Germany.

We have lately conversed with Mr. Joshua D. Oge, who, for the last ten years and a half, has been employed by our Government as its diplomatic agent in Germany, and who returned the other day in the British Queen. Mr. D. Oge visited all the countries included in the German Commercial Confederation, and himself acquainted with the extent of their commerce, direct and indirect, with the United States, entered into communication with their several Governments and with the assembly of deputies of the Confederation, and endeavored to impress them with the necessity of placing this commerce upon a footing of the fairest reciprocity, in order to retain and improve it. His labors have not been without success.

The Governments of the Confederation have been brought to look upon the trade with America as more important than they had hitherto considered it, both to their agriculture and to their growing manufactures, and as likely within a few years, if properly cherished, to grow into far greater importance. In consequence of this, an important reduction has been made in the duties on rice, which have recently been diminished one-third; namely, from three Prussian thalers per centner, or 100 German pounds, to two Prussian thalers per centner. The duty on tobacco, one of our most important staples, remains, however, at the enormous rate of 5 1/2 thalers per centner, notwithstanding this commodity is so much consumed by the Germans, who are always smoking. The representations made by Mr. Dodge, however, who has spared no industry to collect and digest information on this subject, and lay it before the German Govern-

ments, will, it is expected, procure a reduction of this duty also.

The attention of our Government to the German trade has already been attended with no trifling advantages; and, if through its exertions, this entire branch of our commerce shall be placed on a footing of mutual liberality, we shall have cause to congratulate the country. The arrangements for this purpose can be best made now, while the trade is comparatively in its infancy, and while there are fewest obstacles of habit and interest to set aside. New York Post.

Dreadful death from spontaneous combustion.—An unfortunate being residing in a miserable abode in Eldridge street, N. Y. was on Monday burned to death, it is supposed by spontaneous combustion. Between 12 and 1 o'clock the neighbors were alarmed by volumes of smoke issuing from the windows of the victim's apartment. On rushing in they discovered the woman lying on her bed enveloped in flames, the bed partially consumed and still burning. With great difficulty the fire was extinguished, and the woman conveyed to the Hospital, where at about 5 o'clock last evening she died. No cause for the fire can be given. The woman was discovered lying in bed—herself and the centre of the bed in flames—but no traces of how the fire was communicated could be distinguished. It is therefore presumed that the miserable woman lost her life by that well attested, but very rare occurrence, spontaneous combustion.

The name of the burned woman did not transpire, as it was unknown to those who conveyed her to the hospital, and she herself was speechless from the extent of her sufferings. An inquest was held on the body, and the jury returned a verdict that the deceased unknown woman was burned to death.—N. Y. Express.

Mrs. Gore, in one of her beautiful stories, pays the following merited tribute to Napoleon's excellence as a man.

"Though notoriously the victim of Josephine's coquetry during their early days of marriage, how fervent and honorable is the affection poured forth by the husband; in the correspondence between them published by her daughter Hortense! What truth, what simplicity, in every expression! What nobleness of purpose in every counsel imparted! While the finical and minauderie Ex-Viscountess addressed herself to the task of conciliating the French nation by the graces of her smile and the richness of her laces and her cachemieres, he was bidding her be generous but economical—economical of her money, which was the people's; of her tenderness, which ought to have been his; and of her time, which she was too apt to bestow upon every obsequious courtier and gossiping swayer. How patient, too, did he show himself under the thwartings occasioned by the intriguing spirit of his brothers! How blinded by his affection for his sisters! And when enlightened by the officious jealousy of Josephine, how susceptible to their shame—how gentle in their condemnation? Above all, how dutifully, how thoroughly, a father!"

Singular fact connected with the Jews.

—With relation to the singular people the Jews, the general fact of their dispersion among all nations are well known, and need not to be repeated. Although the extract subjoined does not verify any particular prophecy, the singularity of the circumstance has been recorded and noticed by two eminent writers. Lord Rosseton says, with reference to Korox bazaar. "This place is remarkable for being the only Jewish town without a mixture of Christians in the world. They are all manufacturers and sell their wares through the Crimea, and are generally esteemed for a honorable people. They are of the sect called Karaites, and look on the Jews as heretical; for they acknowledge only the text of the Old Testament and reject the traditions which the others consider of equal force with the law.—This circumstance led me to imagine that their name was derived from the Hebrew Kara, (to read); whereas I am well convinced it is from the Turkish Kara (black); for they wear a long black dress peculiar to themselves, and the name of their town in Tartar or Turkish, which, are only different dialects, means the Black Market? They have settled in Crim Tartary from time immemorial, and assert that they settled there before the Babylonish captivity, which I myself am inclined to believe, for they not only reject the Rabbinical interpretation, but also the Chaldee paraphrase, which was necessary after the return from Babylon, when the people had forgotten Hebrew." Of the same colony Dr. E. Clarke speaks thus:—"We are highly interested by the singularity of having found one Jewish settlement, perhaps the only one on earth, where that people exist separate from the rest of mankind, in the free exercise of their ancient customs and peculiarities." Can the history of this extraordinary people be examined without impressing the mind with the exact and determinate fulfilment of ancient prophecy, and leave the mind unconvinced of God's certain retribution on national religion as on individual transgression?—(The Churchman.)

THE Subscriber having declined the agency of Waldie's Circulating Library, and the Lady's Book, published by L. A. Godey, Philadelphia; will not receive subscriptions for either the above periodicals, for the ensuing year.

ALEXANDER YOUNG.

The Editor of the Telescope publishes his valedictory in his paper of the 20th inst., that being the last number which is to be issued. It is to be succeeded by the Carolina Planter, the prospectus of which will be found in another part of this paper. It is to be edited by Dr. R. W. GIBBES, a gentleman, we understand, eminently qualified for the task.

FARMER'S GAZETTE.—We insert on our first page to-day, the prospectus of this paper, published at Cheraw, by Dr. M. MACLEAN, editor and proprietor. We are pleased to perceive a growing interest in this State to promote the publication of Agricultural periodicals, and hope it will continue. Our farmers must necessarily be largely benefitted and improved by their general circulation,—more particularly when conducted as they are now, and are likely to be, in South Carolina. Dr. MACLEAN is well known for his devotion to the interests of agriculture, while editing the Cheraw Gazette, and his talents are such as cannot fail to make the "Farmer's Gazette" not only useful, but interesting to its readers.

SOUTH CAROLINA LEGISLATURE.

We publish to-day, a list of Acts passed at the late session of our Legislature, and although they are not very numerous, there are a number of them very important. If the Legislature had done nothing but pass the Bills drawn up during the summer, by the Solicitors, their time would have been well employed, and the people have no reason to complain of their public servants. No one, we believe, has ever filled any of the District offices, from the highest to the lowest, but frequently have felt the necessity of just such enactments as have been made. Their various duties and liabilities are recorded in so many different statutes, scattered through the legislation of the last half century, so that unless a Sheriff, Clerk, or Magistrate was a lawyer by profession, it was impossible for him to know what were his duties and liabilities in many cases; and we have sometimes even found lawyers at the bar, at fault on the subject. These bills remedy this great evil, and are therefore important not only to the officers whose duties they define, but also to the whole people, who are all interested in a faithful discharge of their obligations by every public officer. The Bills drawn up by the Solicitors, have, we believe, all become laws, except the one establishing a District Police, and we have no doubt this will also pass at some succeeding session. No one, we think, after reading the bill, and having some knowledge of how the duties are now discharged, which are provided for in this bill, can hesitate to adopt its provisions. The Military Bill which employed the talents of some of our most eminent military men, during the last summer, was lost, it is said, for want of time. The act to provide for an advance by the State, of six hundred thousand dollars on its subscription to the Louisville, Cincinnati and Charleston Rail Road Company, authorises, for this purpose, the issue of six per cent. State Stock to that amount.—The Act to apportion the representation of this State, gives to this District but two Representatives, instead of three as heretofore.

About two years since, our readers will remember, that a large majority of the people of South Carolina were placed in what is commonly called a quandary—and it was some time before a good many of them knew exactly where they were. We distinctly recollect that numbers were at a loss to know to which of the great political parties they were attached. This state of things was produced by the rather sudden, unexpected & unceremonious change of position made by the Hon. JOHN C. CALHOUN, whom it is said, by some slanderers of the independent people of S. Carolina, they are obliged to follow, whenever they can find out which way he is going, which, by the by, we confess, is sometimes a very difficult task; particularly, as, like an able and skillful general, the first intimation of a charge or a retreat is, that the thing has been done.

That the people of South Carolina, or at least that portion of them, (and we take the liberty of saying they are the best portion too,) who read the Journal may not be taken all aback, as they were at the time above referred to, we beg leave to give them the benefit of the rumours which are abroad. What foundation they have, we

have no means of knowing, and do not therefore, pretend to judge. It is rumoured that Mr. CALHOUN is about to quit the administration and go over to Gen. HARRISON. It is now said that the inducements, to Mr. CALHOUN's adding his forces to that of VAN BUREN, was to put down Mr. CLAY, whose star was getting too much in the ascendant to suit his views. That since the Harrisburg Convention has nominated Gen. HARRISON, and thus postponed indefinitely, the claims of Mr. CLAY, Mr. CALHOUN is said to have manifested a decided preference for the General, over Mr. VAN BUREN. The opposition, which it is stated in letters from Washington, Mr. BENTON exhibited to the election of Mr. PICKENS and Mr. LEWIS, as Speaker, probably facilitated the change. The whigs are in high spirits at the prospect of again having Mr. CALHOUN in their ranks. Are the people of South Carolina prepared to aid in placing Gen. HARRISON in the Presidential Chair?

The Hon. F. H. ELMORE has been elected President of the Bank of the State, and the following gentlemen Directors for the ensuing year, viz:—

D. C. Webb, W. A. Carson, G. H. Ingraham, Neil McNeil, J. L. Nowell, N. T. Mendenhall, S. Burger, — Lowndes, A. McDonald, L. Bowie, James Robertson, R. Caldwell.

CONGRESS.

This body has at last succeeded in electing a Speaker, after a discussion of more than two weeks, fruitless in every thing else but words, excited feeling, and an expense to the country little short of a hundred thousand dollars. R. M. T. Hunter is the man selected, to preside over the deliberations of the House. He is said to be quite a young man, and not long a member of Congress. Since the election of Speaker, the whole time has been occupied in discussing the New Jersey question, and its termination seems as remote, at our latest date, the 20th instant, as when it first commenced. The opposition it is said are speaking against time, so as to put off the decision of the claims of the different candidates from New Jersey until a vacancy from Massachusetts is filled which it is expected will give the Whigs the ascendancy.

We call the attention of our readers to the Report of the special joint committee of the late Legislature, to whom was referred the various memorials and presentations on the subject of Temperance. It is an exceedingly well written and interesting document. We do not concur entirely however, in all its conclusions and shall hereafter at some convenient season, examine it more carefully, and endeavour to show, in what we believe it to be erroneous. We regret however that the legislature did not adopt its recommendations, at least so far as to repeal the Suttlers law, and pass the resolution which it suggests. With respect to the latter however, we believe it to be almost the universal opinion among lawyers, that the Commissioners of Roads and others who have the power of granting licenses, have also the right to refuse, when application is made. An expression of the opinion of the legislature on this point would however have settled the question beyond dispute, and we regret that it did not pass.

VIOLENT GALE.—We have received an account of a severe storm on the eastern coast of Massachusetts. At Boston, the shipping was greatly damaged and several lives lost. At Gloucester, twenty coasting vessels were driven ashore, sixteen of which, went to pieces; it is thought about one fourth of the persons on board perished—seventeen dead bodies were seen at one time lying on the beach. Of twenty-one vessels which remained in the harbour, but seven had their masts left standing. At Sandy Bay a schooner struck, went to pieces, and it was thought all on board lost. At Marble Head, every vessel but one, went ashore—no lives lost. The particulars of this awful devastation, occupies about two columns closely printed. We extract the following; account from Gloucester, the scene of the greatest suffering:—

"It is impossible to say at present precisely how many have perished, but all agree that the number cannot be less than FIFTY. The northern shore of our harbour presents a scene that makes the very heart bleed—strewn as it is with the wrecks and cargoes of twenty or twenty-five vessels, and here and there with the lifeless and bleeding bodies of unfortunate mariners. Our whole community are in mourning, while sympathy and benevolence are actively alive to the wants of the surviving sufferers.

Charleston, also, on Saturday last, was