

(Correspondence of the Mercury.)

WASHINGTON, July 14th.

The new Tax bill has come in to day from the Committee of Ways and Means. It lays 20 per cent duty on all articles now free, excepting a list continued free for the exclusive benefit of manufacturers.—Now you will be able in some degree to comprehend what a Whig or Federal domination is. 1st. They sign a debt. 2nd. Make it, by calling an Extra Session and passing large new appropriations.—3rd. Vote out of the Treasury, as a gift, from three to five millions of dollars. 4th. Fill it by taxes on imports; and to make sure of plenty of money for all extravagance, they, lastly, borrow twelve millions of dollars. And all this is done by a party who kept up a perpetual clamor about the extravagance of the former administration, and promised to reform it. No one here is surprised at these things, for it was obvious here, that all the appropriations of a doubtful character were carried by them, two to one; but will not the sober people who trusted to those professions, be startled by their barefaced abandonment?

I do not think the Bill will pass, and if it does, it will pass with modifications, worse for us, and better for the North.—It is not in the power of Government to collect 20 per cent on fine linens and silks. Smuggling will inevitably defeat the tax. The French and Russian Governments will most probably retaliate, and thus one of the most lucrative and advantageous trades of the South be oppressed or destroyed.—Don't let your patience give out—you must endeavor to be magnanimous! very!

WASHINGTON, N. July 14.

In the Senate, to-day, Mr. Tappan moved to amend the bank bill by adding a section providing that nothing contained in the act should be considered a denial of the power of Congress to modify or repeal the charter, which he advocated in a very elaborate argument. At the suggestion of Mr. Buchanan, the amendment was then laid on the table for his present. An amendment was then offered, declaring that the notes of the Bank should cease to be received at the Treasury in case of suspending payment.

Mr. Clay, of Kentucky, moved to modify this by restricting the prohibition to the period during which the suspension continued.

This was opposed by Messrs. Clay, of Alabama, Calhoun, Benton and Allen, on the ground that if adopted, it would be a solemn recognition of the right of the Bank to suspend, and would enable it to play fast and loose with the Government and people; stop five years, and resume for a month, and in the latter event resume the right to pour in on the Treasury any amount of its paper with an intention to fail again, and throw the loss of its irredeemable paper on the Treasury.

It was advocated by Mr. Clay, of Kentucky, and was carried—Ayes 25, Noes 22. The amendment as amended was then discussed at considerable length, being advocated by Mr. Clay, of Kentucky, and Messrs. Walker, Nicholson and Sevier, stating that they would vote for it on the ground that there was no provision in the bill which prohibited the reception of the notes at the Treasury, even when the Bank suspended payment, and that it was a restriction so far as it went.

Messrs. Calhoun, Clay, of Alabama, Benton and Allen, thought the recognition of the right of the Bank to suspend was a greater evil than the alternative, and were prepared to vote against it.

Mr. Clay, of Alabama, then offered an amendment to the amendment proposed by his namesake from Kentucky, to the effect that a suspension of payment was to be held and adjudged a cause of forfeiture of the charter.

This turned the flank of the Whig line, and after an effort of Mr. Clay, of Kentucky, to destroy it by an amendment, which the Chair declared to be out of order, it was adopted, and the amendment as amended was agreed to. Various other amendments were proposed, which were resisted by Mr. Clay, of Kentucky, and rejected.

In the House a Tax Bill was introduced with the title of a bill in relation to drawbacks on duties.

Mr. Pickens inquired whether the gag law was to be applied to prevent discussion upon this bill when it was taken up?

Mr. Fillmore replied evasively that the House would determine upon the proper course to be taken.

The Bill appropriating \$750,000 for a home squadron, was taken up and debated at some length, and laid aside without any definite question being taken on it. The Fortification Bill was taken up, and gave rise to a long discussion, in which Messrs. McKay, Holmes, and others participated, when, without coming to any conclusion on the bill, the House adjourned.

The decision of the Supreme Court of the State of New York in the case of McLeod, has excited much sensation here. Mr. Webster occupies a very unenviable position before the public—the Court deciding against all the principles advanced by him with such solemnity, which were controverted by Messrs. Buchanan, Calhoun and Benton, in the debate in the Senate, and affirming to the full extent the grounds assumed by the latter gentleman. The Secretary has the pleasant alternative of being considered a fool or (if the immunity of ignorance is denied to him) a traitor—a quack in the science of international law, or of having wilfully and knowingly taken sides against his own country, and in favor of a foreign power, and the latter is not without a precedent, in the life of the Hon. Daniel Webster.

WASHINGTON, July 15.

In the Senate, this morning, Mr. Clay, of Kentucky, expressed a wish that the Senate would take up the bill for a loan of twelve millions of dollars, as the exigencies of the Treasury rendered its prompt passage highly necessary.

Mr. Calhoun hoped they would dispose of the subject before them (the Bank Bill) before another was taken up.

Mr. Clay said he was much disposed to finish the Bank Bill as the Senator from South Carolina, but the condition of the Treasury was such that it was necessary to act on the Loan Bill immediately. At present there was in the Treasury but \$900,000, not enough for a single fortnight.

Mr. Calhoun asked if the necessity was so urgent, why the Loan Bill had not been acted on earlier, instead of repealing the Independent Treasury Bill, the Distribution Bill the Bank Bill, &c. But if the Senator wished a prompt relief to the Treasury, let him introduce a bill for the temporary issue of Treasury notes, and there would be no difficulty in passing it.

Mr. Clay scouted the idea of Treasury notes. The Senator might as well ask them to establish the Sub Treasury. As to the delay in this and other measures, it was attributable to the fact that the minority had the control of the business of the Senate. The House had passed several important bills, which were now lying on the table, and yet gentlemen evinced a determination to protract debate by useless amendments.

Mr. Calhoun replied to the remark as to the greater expedition in transacting business in the House. How had it been accomplished. By the act of despotic majority trampling on the rights of minority. By destroying the freedom of debate, in gagging the Representatives of the people. And there were indications that the same machinery was to be introduced into this body. But he warned the gentleman against making the attempt.

Mr. Clay spoke of the rule adopted in the House in terms of warm approbation, and he thought it would be necessary to resort to similar means in the Senate to give the majority a control of the business.

Mr. Calhoun would inform the Senator when he attempted it, he would not find it an easy matter to accomplish.

Mr. King repelled the intimation that the Democratic Senators were the cause of the delay in that body. The Senators on the opposite side had occupied considerably more than half the time of the Session, and the Senator from Kentucky had consumed more time than any two Senators on the floor. But he would say to the Senator if he wished to take a vote on his Bank Bill, the Democratic Senators are willing that it be taken on Saturday, but they would not be restricted in presenting their views on the momentous measures presented for their consideration. If it should be attempted, he, for one, would resist it to the death.

Mr. Benton thought the admission about long speeches came with an ill grace from the opposite side of the chamber. He would regard the introduction of a gag law in that chamber, as an utter subversion of the Constitution; that their business there would be, not to legislate for the country, but to register the edicts of a Dictator.

Mr. Clay again defended the gag law of the House, and said it was approved of by the country, who were tired of long speeches.

Mr. Calhoun could not help noticing similarity of the Senator's arguments to those formerly used for the passage of the Sedition Law.

Mr. Linn said that threatened men live long, and he trusted the liberties of the Senate would survive the threats of the Senator from Kentucky; but he wished the Senator would at once bring in his gag, and he would find the minority would defend their rights like men.

A motion was then made to go into Executive session, which was opposed by Mr. Calhoun, as a violation of the rule introduced by Mr. Clay, which made it imperative that the unfinished business of the day before should be taken up at 11 o'clock. The Chair (Mr. Southard), decided against Mr. Calhoun's point of order, and the latter appealed from the decision. At the request of some Senators, the appeal was then passed informally, and the Senate went into Executive session, and adjourned about 4 o'clock.—Most of the time I have been informed, was consumed in debate by the Whigs, in confirming the nomination of a notorious Abolitionist, which was not decided on at the adjournment.

In the House, the day was consumed in debating the Fortification bill. Mr. Rhett closed the sitting by some very eloquent remarks in reply to several Whigs who were now calling loudly for appropriations for the defence of the country, and had voted last week to distribute from three to five millions of the public revenue among the States. He said he would express no opinion upon the difficulty between this country and Great Britain in reference to Alexander McLeod. That subject was in agitation elsewhere, and he would wish, the hands of the Executive to be free in carrying out their own policy. But it was obvious, from the position assumed by the Secretary of State, in his late correspondence with the British Minister, that should McLeod be surrendered, the difficulty was not obviated. It was clear that redress, and ample redress, must be given by the British Government, or the honor of the American People be put in hazard; he would not stop to inquire who was right or wrong, or

whether the position taken by this Administration was exactly that which it ought to be. With his vote the Government should not be disgraced. Her honor should be maintained. And let it cost what it might, foreign nations must be taught to respect us. The gentleman had intimated that the former Administration had been dormant with regard to this outrage upon American rights; that its friends were formerly as dumb as balaam's ass; but that now they were loud in their declamation for redress. He thought the gentleman had done the late Administration injustice. In his opinion, our foreign relations, during that Administration, were never managed with more dignity and skill. This committee would recollect the Message of a former President upon the Maine Boundary Question, when every patriotic bosom in that Hall swelled with emotion at the lofty tone it had assumed. Congress met his recommendation by placing millions at his disposal, and the trust confided to him was properly administered. The difficulty in relation to McLeod, the gentleman should recollect, originated, properly speaking, with this Administration, and the former one had scarcely any thing to do with it.

The British minister intimated for the first time, to the former Administration, but a few weeks before it went out of power, that McLeod had acted under British authority. Our Government questioned the propriety of the British minister's demand, upon the ground that, in their correspondence with the British Government, it had not hitherto assumed that position, and, therefore, before it took decisive steps, it required to be more distinctly informed upon that point. The demand—the premature demand made by the British minister for the release of McLeod—was after he received renewed instructions from the British Government, in consequence of the correspondence with the former Administration, and was made upon President Harrison a few days after coming into power. This might be said to have been the beginning of the McLeod affair. Before that, there was nothing hostile or very serious in its aspect; but now, by the positions which each Government had assumed, and the tone of the subsequent correspondence, there was no question but what one nation or the other would be compelled to recede, or war was the alternative. As he (Mr. R.) had had no influence on the question heretofore he intended to have none in the future; but he trusted (although he might be supposed to be opposed to the present Administration) he would maintain it in the highest and firmest attitude it might assume in protecting the honor and the rights of the country. If the emergency should arise, which gentlemen seemed so strongly to allude to, he (Mr. R.) trusted that the patriotism of the country, which they so emphatically invoked upon this bill, would rise to meet it, and he, (Mr. R.) for one would give his support to this or any other Administration in its efforts to maintain the rights and honor of the American People.

The House without taking any question on the bill adjourned.

WASHINGTON, July 19, 1841.

The interest of the Session here is done. It is ascertained that Mr. Clay's Bank bill cannot pass the Senate—nor can the Distribution bill pass that body. To-day, the Loan bill passed by the strict party vote. The Bank bill was laid on the table, and this bill taken up in the Senate, to give the Whigs an opportunity of having the screws put to Mr. Merrick, by letters and remonstrances from the party in Maryland; but it is understood that Mr. Merrick says he does not intend to submit to this species of wriving; and if he did, it is supposed that others would be found who would aid to kill Clay's Bank. Webster is with the President, & it is not intended that he shall veto any thing. The currency committee in the House, have not reported their scheme of a Bank, but there is no doubt it will be substantially Mr. Clay's bill. The repeal of the Independent Treasury bill, will, probably be reported in the House at the same time the Bank bill will be reported, and there will be a strong effort made by the Whigs to couple the two together, in order that Tyler in vetoing the Bank, may be embarrassed by the responsibility of keeping the Independent Treasury scheme in operation.

It is said to-day, that on last Saturday Mr. Ewing made a huge sweep of the officers in the Land Office; but on renouance, the President has restored them, and there are symptoms of a general dissolution of the Cabinet. Such a result would surprise nobody here.

WASHINGTON, July 20.

In the Senate, this morning, the Resolution offered some weeks since by Mr. Buchanan, calling for names of the persons removed from office since the 4th of March last, was taken up, and Mr. Benton spoke for about an hour in favor of its adoption. He traced the system so broadly acted on by the present Administration for opinions sake, to the days of Sir Robert Walpole, who had issued a circular, which had served as a model for that of Mr. Webster. The course now pursued, of removing men upon secret charges, would fill the land with spies and informers, and make the public offices mere warehouses of calumny, in which a future Tory historian will find ample materials for painting the characters of the prominent Democrats of the present day in the darkest colors. At the conclusion of the remarks, the question was taken on the adoption of the Resolution, and it was agreed to without opposition.

The Bank bill was taken up, and Mr. Nicholson moved to amend the bill by giving the power to the States to tax the branches. This was supported by Messrs. Nicholson, Benton, Clay, of Alabama, and Sevier, and opposed by Messrs. Clay, of Kentucky, and Huntington, and negatived—Ayes 21, Noes 27.

Mr. Walker then moved an amendment, which would confine the operations of the bank to buying and selling Bills of Exchange having not more than 180 days to run. This, after considerable debate, was negatived—Ayes 9, Noes 28. The Senate then adjourned.

In the House, the bill making appropriations for fortifications, was passed by a vote 148 to 66—not a strict party vote.—All the Kentucky Whigs voting against it, and many of the Opposition in favor of it. The bill appropriates upwards of 100 millions five hundred thousand dollars, and with the unapplied balances in the War Department there are now \$4,250,000 applicable for the erection and repair of fortifications during the present year, an amount five times greater than the average annual expenditure for the last twelve years, thus exemplifying in a striking manner what has been so often maintained by Mr. Calhoun and others, that appropriations will always be made to the full extent of the means of the Treasury, and that the means form the limit to the expenditures. The bill would have had no chance of passing, but for the passage of the Loan Bill, and they form the first chapter of debt and extravagance, or as the moderns have it, of the economy and retrenchment of the new Administration.—The bill contains appropriations for Charleston Harbor for Fort Sumter, \$15,000; and for commencing a dike to Drunken Dick shoal for preservation of Sullivan's Island and site of Fort Moultrie \$30,000.

Mr. Wise gave notice that to-morrow he would move to take up the bill to provide a home squadron, and the House adjourned.

The Sea Serpent caught at Last!—We are happy to be able to announce that this distinguished individual, or a prominent member of his family, has been at last captured and killed on the coast of Guiana, by the officers and crew of the barque Jane, Capt. F. Nickerson, which vessel arrived yesterday from Surinam, and which has on board the skin of the reptile, on the principle that "the spoils of the vanquished belong to the victors."

It would seem that this Serene Snake-ship had probably got short of provisions, and being reluctant to enter any of our harbors for a supply, in consequence of the fierce war, which has for years been waged against him, bore up for a milder climate and steering for the coast of Guiana, was about to enter the port of Surinam. About two miles off the land however, at the mouth of the river, he discovered the Jane, snugly lying at anchor, and doubtless thought it prudent to board her for the purpose of obtaining information respecting the navigation of the river, the facilities for procuring supplies, and the disposition of the inhabitants towards strangers of quality. He, accordingly, without even disturbing the watch on deck, went quietly on board in the course of the night, probably through the rudder hole, and like a very quiet and peaceable snake, bivouached on the quarter deck, for the remainder of the night, where to the great surprise of all on board, he was discovered in the morning before he had finished his nap, with his folds arranged in a beautiful coil.

But we are compelled to record that he did not meet with the hospitable reception which he doubtless anticipated.—Instead of extending a friendly hand towards the stranger, and welcoming him on board, Capt. Nickerson, his officers and crew, regarded him as an unwelcome, obtrusive, and even a dangerous guest, and forthwith began to devise means for destroying him, even while he was recruiting his exhausted forces by sleep. The consequence of this conference, was, that Capt. Nickerson ordered his pistols on deck, and very coolly shot the unsuspecting stranger through the head! He was very tenacious of life, however, and exhibited much sorrow and astonishment at meeting with such unexpected treatment, and did not succumb until handspikes, capstan bars, and other destructive weapons had been brought against him.

His skin was of beautiful variegated colors—but the serpent was not quite so huge as has been represented by exaggerated statements in the newspapers—he being thirteen feet long, and as large round as a man's thigh. The e who affect to believe in the existence of a huge sea monster, described as having been seen from time to time in Boston Bay, say that this was not a sea serpent, but a land serpent, of the Constrictor species, which are sometimes found in the forests of Guiana, upwards of twenty feet long and that he had probably, while endeavoring to cross the river been swept by the current into the ocean and gladly availed himself of the opportunity which offered to quit the watery element.

Boston Merc. Journal.

STRENGTH OF PARTIES.—The Democratic party was never stronger than at this moment. Deceit has consolidated their union, and diffused through the whole a common sentiment, and a resolute iden-

tity of purpose. This was shown in the celebration the other day at Oxford, where, without the slightest effort to procure attendance, the democracy of that section of the country came together by hundreds, all determined to do their duty, regardless of consequences, of defeat or success. The same sentiment is universal, if we may judge from the tone of the democratic press, and the doings of public bodies. The party is also admirably represented in Congress. No Administration ever encountered so powerful and brilliant an opposition, as is now arrayed against the party in power, especially in the Senate. There is nothing factious in their opposition; it is the onward march of firm, harmonious, enlightened principles. Nothing can stand before such an antagonism.

Where are the Whigs! Split into factions. No opinion, sentiment, or purpose in common; and no strongly marked measure of policy, around which they all rally as a common centre. Some are for a Bank, and some are against it; some supporting, and some opposing each and every measure brought forward; some in office, and others striving to get in; and all drawing plans, and making calculations to circumvent each other in the next Presidential election. They may hold the government; but at present, the signs of the times are auspicious of the triumph of the Democratic party at no distant day.

Worcester (Mass.) Palladium.

We copy with pleasure, from the New York Commercial Advertiser, the following well-merited compliment to the gallant soldier and successful pacificator—Major Gen. Scott.

GEN. SCOTT.—The elevation of this distinguished and gallant officer to the first command in the army of the United States, as successor to Major Gen. Maccomb, is every where and by all parties greeted with the warmest expressions of approval—may mere, of rejoicing. But one solitary intimation of regret has been uttered, to our knowledge; and that intimation is in itself a high compliment, since it comes from N. Jersey, and gives utterance only to the sorrows it occasioned by the General's removal from that State, in which he has long resided. His neighbors grieve at losing him from among them; but they, and all his countrymen besides, are pleased at his elevation to a rank and an official station which he is so well fitted to adorn. Most gratifying to him must be the manner in which his appointment is received; for he can read in it only the spontaneous homage of an intelligent people to high abilities, to great moral worth, and to eminent public services, not in the field alone, but in diplomations which his sound judgment, his wise discretion, his promptitude, and it may be added his exalted personal character, have been effectual in disengangling. The people of the United States have forgotten neither Lundy's Lane nor the pacification of the boundary dispute, which at one time bore so threatening an aspect.

REV. E. K. AVERY. A correspondent of the Boston Traveller, writing from Rhode Island, states the following. The statements, if true, will have the effect of changing what has been public opinion for many years:—

The murder of Miss Cornell was committed, if committed at all, on the night of the 20th Dec, 1832, and on that night Mr. Avery was absent from his family in Bristol. He could not satisfactorily account for the time he was absent. In his examination, however, he said that on the evening of the 20th Dec. he was returning home from the coal mines, on the island of Rhode Island, and while on his way he saw and spoke to a man and boy, who were driving a flock of sheep. If he could have proved that he saw the man and boy at the time alleged, his innocence would have been established beyond a shadow of doubt or dispute. Unfortunately, in despite of every effort, they could not be found. I was conversing on this subject, a few days since, with a distinguished gentleman of Bristol, and he informed me of the astounding fact, that the man and boy have recently been discovered, and that the boy, now a full grown man by the way, has, by affidavit, substantiated every word Mr. Avery asserted on his examination! My information comes from a source too respectable to be doubted, and I impart it to you with great satisfaction.

Publish the affidavit then, by all means.

Dandies.—They are mere walking sticks for female flirts, ornamented with brass heads, and barely touched with the varnish of etiquette. Brass heads did I say? Nay, their caps are only half ripe muskmelons, with monstrous thick rinds, and all hollow inside, containing the seeds of foolishness, swimming about with a vast quantity of sap. Their moral garments are a double breasted coat of vanity, padded with pride, and lined with the silk of self-complacency; their other apparel is all in keeping and imported fresh from the devil's wholesale and ready-made clothing establishment.—Tinkered up with broad cloth, finger rings, safety chains, soft soder, vanity and impudence; they are no more silver than a plated spoon is solid silver. I detest a dandy, as a cat does a wet floor.