

shared in vain. The mischief he said, was done. It was thought a fine theme of declamation, and taken up accordingly by the prostituted presses of both sections of the country; but that excitement had in a great degree subsided. Mr. R. spoke of the importance of preserving the character of this House. We (said he) have nothing to give—we hold no levees—we have no retainers, no clients—the representatives are accountable essentially to their constituents, from which ordeal I feel no disposition to shrink, but which detracts something from the value of a seat in this House, or we should not so often see members vacating their seats here and taking seats in the other house—and, if members of this house, who have served their country with fidelity, perhaps with ability, are to be hunted down in their districts with every little matter pertaining rather to the ministerial administration of this House than to affairs of great national concernment, what will be the consequence? Who will accept a seat on this floor on these conditions? What man, he asked, would come, separating himself from his family, to live in narrow uncomfortable lodgings in this most uncomfortable and expensive place in the whole world—if he is to be called to severe account, for a vote, not upon questions of war, embargo, taxes, public debt, &c. but for giving the door-keeper a hundred dollars extra at the end of a session, or because he has received himself a pitiful compensation, beneath what any man would earn at any profession who is worthy of a seat here.

One objection had been made to his motion, that it might not perhaps be in the power of every member to make restitution. He should be sorry, he said, to think such was the situation of any honorable member on this floor—he believed, it was not. If not in his power at present, it would be to every man hereafter—and he would hold it as a debt of the highest dignity as a debt of honor, to be first paid. If there should be any one of this House in that predicament, in what respect would he differ from the hundred and thousands of debtors on the public books? In this: that he would have obtained the money he would owe agreeable to law, honestly, openly, fairly. If such were his own case, Mr. R. said he had no hesitation in saying, that if it went to the last particle of property he had in the world, not excepting further than absolutely necessary, his wearing apparel, he would refund to the last farthing the excess he had received, had the law of the last session not passed.

Mr. KING, of Massachusetts rose immediately after Mr. Randolph, and observed, that he felt under what advantages any gentleman rose after the honorable gentleman of Virginia; but that he had the satisfaction of agreeing with him as to the course which the House ought to pursue on this occasion: to wit, an immediate and absolute repeal of the compensation law of the last session; and, if agreeable to the honorable gentlemen, his opinion was, that the repeal should relate back to the beginning of this session, on the ground that the law of the last session had a similar retrospective operation. Mr. Chairman, I was in favor of the law of the last session; I voted for it; and took occasion then to remark, that I was not solicitous as to the impression which that law might make on the public. Nor, sir, shall I ever be solicitous as to the reception of a law, provided, at its passage, I deem it correct and expedient. I never shall attempt to feel my way through this, or any other part of legislation, by, beforehand, feeling the public pulse. At the same time, I acknowledge, that such is the nature of the government, if after the passage of any measure, it becomes generally unpopular; if, by any means, it be rendered odious to the great body of the people, that is a sufficient ground of repeal. The enquiry then is, is the compensation law of the last session unpopular; is it odious to the great body of the American people? I think it has become so. To decide this point, I shall not rely upon the intemperate resolves of self-created clubs or assemblies. I shall not trouble you with the impotent presentments of grand juries, however in other respects honorable. They had better confine their acts to the correction of crimes in their vicinity, than to extend their gratuitous labors to supposed national grievances, which they cannot correct; nor shall I dwell upon the ebullitions of factious prints, or factious demagogues, belonging to either party; but I shall rely on solemn legislative resolves, and the decision of the people themselves, in the election of members to this House.—Respecting these legislative resolves, I cannot, with some gentlemen, think them binding on the representative in all cases whatever, nor with others esteem them of trifling importance. I shall always receive them with great deference, as valuable and authentic sources of information; and when not against the common dictates of my own mind, follow them. And I am happy that those which I have received from the legislature of Massachusetts, point to a course in this business, which I with pleasure adopt. Many other states have also instructed their Senators and

requested their representatives to aid in the repeal of this law. But, sir, the people have decided this point; one half of the members of this House felt the effects of that decision; myself among the rest. Not that they have taken from me any thing which I sought after—not that they have taken from me either property, or happiness, by depriving me of a seat here. No, sir, they have by that act restored me, to both; to my profession, and the invaluable blessing of a beloved family.—Sir, is there any thing in a seat here, save the opportunity it affords of aiding to advance the interest of our country? Is there any other consideration? Is there any sum which could induce a man to submit to the privations, which members on this floor submit to—privations so eloquently described by the honorable gentleman from Virginia, (Mr. R.) from the loss of the society of family and friends, to that of life itself? Sir, I have personally endured all but the closing scene here; nothing but the request of friends, and an ardent desire to lend my feeble aid to measures for the good of our country, would induce me to remain another hour in this place. But it is said that the public sentiment is against the mode, not the amount of compensation. Do you suppose that the people cannot distinguish between form and substance? Do you suppose that all this discontent would have been manifested, if the amount had not been augmented? Believe me, Sir, you would have the same objections, if you had added two or four dollars per diem to the former allowance. But, sir, it is a matter of dollars and cents about which self respect might forbid us to dispute. I consider the law of the last session as an appeal to the American people; it was even presumed that they would applaud a provision, the tendency of which has to place their immediate representatives on an equality with compensation, with some of the officers of government; but they decided this appeal against us; it is appeal in the last resort, and I most cheerfully acquiesce in the decision.—I have nothing to ask—nothing to expect from government or people, except from government that protection of life, liberty and property, which, as an American citizen, I have a right to demand.

But, sir, there are other considerations since the passage of this law which show the inexpediency of its longer continuance. Hon. gentlemen remember, that, as soon as the law passed; nay, I believe, before it received the signature of the President, your table was crowded with petitions for increase of pay and salaries, on the ground that members, having increased their own pay, could not refuse to do the same for others, even where there was not the same equity, as in the case of members. How difficult was it to answer these applications? I must confess to you, for one, I could not. Resolved to us, then, the independence of discussing on all cases, which we had before the passage of this law. The high independent, honorable ground, on which Congress ought always to stand.

Another consideration: one reason for passing the law was, that our compensation had been, for some time, and was then, paid in a depreciated currency. Now, happily for the nation, the credit of the government is restored, and the currency of the country in a rapid course of improvement; members will no longer be defrauded by being paid in a depreciated medium.

There is another consideration, which my mind almost revolts from stating. Sir, I cannot receive, from any man, or body of men, any thing by way of compensation, which those who pay, or bear the burthen, think unreasonable. Dig, thank God, we can, but to beg except from thee, great Author of every good, and every perfect gift, I we ought to be ashamed.

It has lately been remarked by an honorable gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. Calhoun) to whom I always attend with great satisfaction, that this House is not the favorite with the American people; I do not know that it ought to be, nor the other branch either, except so far as they may aid the Executive in distributing the good things of the government (as some consider them.) Look at your powers under the constitution; see how many more opportunities you have to oppress, than to relieve the people, and I fear the fact, but too well answers the theory of the government. Your very first power is, "to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises," which you do with unsparring hand; "to borrow money on the credit of the United States," which power you at times have exhausted; "to regulate commerce," which you have sometimes destroyed by regulation; "to establish a uniform rule of naturalization, and uniform laws on the subject of bankruptcies." You have been much more anxious to give the freedom of your country to foreigners than to grant freedom to the oppressed of your own citizens. Yes, sir, you have passed law after law, on the subject of naturalization; but for a long time have maintained the silence of the grave, as to a system of bankruptcy, as to the relief of your own people, creditors as well as debtors; for I hold that a correct system of bank-

ruptcy is equally beneficial to both.—Look too at the bills reported at this session, for what has been called internal improvement, for universities, roads, canals and various other objects; started now, merely because the President happened, by the miscalculation of some inferior officer, to state that there was a large surplus in the national treasury—you pounce upon it like birds of prey upon their game. Sir, an overflowing in the treasury is not always a sign that the pockets of the citizens are full; the reverse is too often the case. Repeal your land tax, brush away your various other internal taxes—reduce the duties on importation one half—pay off your national debt—then, if you have a surplus in the treasury, apply it in any way authorized by the constitution, which shall render the people contented and happy. Remember, the greatest internal improvement you can make is in the condition of the people. Because some favored regions, in return for their valuable products, their cotton and tobacco, have gold showered down upon them, it is not the case generally. I can point you to other portions of our country, to others of our fellow citizens, equally deserving, who, instead of the ability of paying the heavy duties exacted of them by government, are, at this inclement season, surrounded by their suffering families—their children crying for bread. Yes, sir, a region which feels as little the benign rays of government, as the soil itself does those of the blessed sun, through the mountains of snow which now cover it. Do you expect them to be the favorite of the nation, unless you embrace a few of the many opportunities which occur, to promote the direct interest of the people, and render them contented and happy? An opportunity now offers—another will soon be presented, in the passage of the bankrupt bill, to do justice to the feelings and the expectations of the American people. But we are told that our consistency, our honor is at stake—that we ought not to yield this point to the people. By whom, and against whom is this contest? The representative against his constituents—the few against the many—one against thirty-five thousand? The issue of such a contest is by no means doubtful. And what is the stake? Whether you shall receive, two, or four, or six dollars per diem, in addition to the former compensation. Sir, it ought not to be a subject of a moment's deliberation. On this point, I beg leave to introduce what I deem a respectable authority. About the year 1752, a bill passed the parliament of Great Britain for the naturalization of Jews. I mean no disrespectful comparison. It was called the Jew Bill. The nation was in a ferment—church and state supposed in danger. As soon as parliament assembled, at the next session, a motion was made for the repeal of the obnoxious act. A distinguished member, who had voted for the Jew Bill, made the following among other pertinent observations:

Extract from Lord Littleton's speech on the repeal of the act called Jew Bill, in the year 1753.

Resolution and steadiness are excellent qualities; but it is the application of them upon which their value depends. A wise government will know where to yield, as well as where to resist; and there is no surer mark of littleness of mind in an administration, than obstinacy in trifles. Public wisdom, on some occasions, must descend to give way to popular excitement, especially in a free country, where the humor of the people must be considered as attentively as the humor of a king in an absolute monarchy. Under both forms of government a prudent and honest ministry will indulge a small folly, and resist a great one. Not to vouchsafe now and then a kind indulgence to the former, would discover an ignorance in human nature; not to resist the latter at all times, would be meanness and servility."

Shy a course I would recommend as to the compensation bill of the last session—an immediate and unconditional repeal.

Mr. HENDRICKS of Indiana, next made a short speech. He was decidedly in favor of a repeal of the law, & a restoration of the six dollars per day. He had been instructed by his constituents to use his influence in procuring the repeal of the act of last session; and, if he had not, he should have certainly pursued the same course. That law, he said, was viewed in a most odious light by the people of the state which he represented; and no wonder, since, in a country with so poor a market for its produce, and where money did not circulate in any quantity, even six dollars per day appeared a wonderful large compensation, &c. Mr. H. generally explained his views of this subject, which we have not at present room to give more at length.

(To be continued.)

#### JOHN PAULDING AND HIS ASSOCIATES.

WASHINGTON CITY, Jan. 14.  
An occurrence of some novelty took place in the House of Representatives. It seems that some time in the course of the present session, John Paulding of New York state, one of the three captors of the unfortunate Major Andre, whose history and fate are suffi-

ciently known, petitioned Congress for an increase of pension settled upon him for three years for that service.—The committee of pensions and revolutionary claims to whom this petition was referred, made a report upon it rejecting the application. Yesterday Mr. Campbell the chairman of that committee, brought up that report; when Mr. Wright made a motion to reverse the decision. On this a conversation arose, in the course of which Colonel Talmadge said he felt it to be his duty to lay some facts before the house in relation to that affair. Every one knows how favorably to the captors that incident is mentioned in history, and has hitherto been received by this nation, and judged by the world at large. Col. Talmadge, however felt himself constrained by his duty to state some circumstances that cast upon it a rather different complexion. He informed the house that at the time of the capture of Major Andre, he was an officer of the lines, and was with a detachment of our troops in advance of the army. Gen. Washington was going into New England, to Count Rochambeau, and wrote to Mr. Talmadge desiring him, if there were any communications from the enemy's lines to send them to General Arnold who commanded at West Point.—About that time, Mr. Talmadge received a letter from Arnold informing him, that John Anderson, was expected by him with intelligence of importance, and desiring Mr. T. to give him a safe escort. The petitioner and the two other captors who were at work, (I think Mr. T. said) stopping between the American and British lines, brought up to Mr. T's regiment the said John Anderson. Circumstances arose which induced a suspicion that this man was not what he pretended to be—papers which were found upon him were sent to Gen. Washington, and the prisoner who became impatient and abhorrent of remaining in his assumed character, soon confessed himself to be Major John Andre, Adjutant General of the British army; on which he was removed by order of General Washington, to West Point, and thence to the headquarters of the army. Mr. T. continued to state, that during the whole time from the day of Andre's being brought in a prisoner, up to the day of his execution, he was never out of his (Talmadge's) sight, and during that time he spoke freely and without disguise, of the manner of his being taken, and of the conduct of his captors to him, fully disclosed the offers he had made them, and the reason why they rejected them.

Major Andre related to him, that those who took him into the bushes, & with a view of pillaging him, drew off his boots, in which they found the papers; that he offered them his watch, with the small sum of money he had about him, and promised them on his word and honor a larger sum if they would let him escape—but the impossibility of his securing them the payment—and that they had no notion of trusting to his honor—that with the offer of his watch, and the two or three guineas he had, they hesitated and reasonably that he (Andre) was convinced that if he had the command of a few guineas they would have let him go.

The whole country not knowing any thing of this, regarded the transaction as an extraordinary act of patriotism, and lavished applause upon it, while it was certainly good policy in Congress to reward and hold it up as an example. Mr. Talmadge said he did not wish to detract from the merit of the act and of the value of the service rendered; but he considered those men as doing no more than it was the duty of every citizen in the United States under such circumstances to do. He could not consider the claim as standing on a footing with the services of a man who had been wounded in the field, and thought they had been most amply provided for since; while the mutilated soldier had even by the late increase, 92 dollars a year, those had 300 from the United States, besides a handsome donation of land from the state of New York.

From Col. Talmadge's account too it would appear that they were not, as was the received opinion, soldiers in the army, but were of a class of persons who lived in a kind of dubious state between the two armies—a kind of scouts—a class that as well as I could hear Mr. T. was called by the American army cow boys. At the same time Mr. Talmadge bore honorable testimony to the purity of Major Andre's character, which forbid all suspicion of his uttering a falsehood.

This account produced strong emotions in several members. General Smith declared it was novel to him; but he too bore still stronger testimony to the character of Major Andre, with whom he was long personally intimate, both in England and America; and he declared that he would rely on his word as firmly as on that of any man that ever lived. He therefore regarded it as major Andre's opinion only. Mr. Forsyth said he did not wish to call in question the word of Mr. Talmadge, and the character of Andre, except in the transaction which led to his fate, was honorable. The honorable gentleman from Connecticut had spoken from his personal knowledge, and yet the

account was so very different from that in history that he heard it with distrust and regret, and wished for examination. The fact of three soldiers being got out of mere patriotism; a magnificent bribe, was, he remarked, one of the loveliest incidents in our revolutionary history; he therefore wished the report to lie on the table in order to have an enquiry into the affair. After much conversation the report of the committee was agreed to, and the demand of the petitioner was conclusively rejected.—*Alexandria Gazette.*

#### INDIANA LEGISLATURE.

Wednesday, Dec. 13.

Mr. Lane introduced a bill to dissolve the marriage contract between Thomas Wardell and Maria H. Wardell his wife; which was read.

Mr. Lane then rose and said—Mr. Speaker, in reporting this bill I feel it a duty I owe to myself and this house, after having on several occasions so warmly and in such general terms reprobated the very idea of legislating on subjects of this kind, to give some reasons in justification of my present course. The senate have passed a bill on a similar subject, in which they have desired and obtained the concurrence of this house. Inasmuch then as I am well & personally acquainted with Mrs. Wardell, and with her unfortunate situation with her husband, I hesitate not in declaring to this house, that if there is a female on this earth, who has, from her situation and connexions, stronger claims on our consideration than Mrs. Wardell, that situation would exceed the grasp of my imagination, and forbid description. She is the daughter of Major Z. Pike, a hero of the revolution, who never tarnished his rank, disgraced his sword, or dishonored his country; but has faithfully served and greatly honored them all. She is sister of that gallant general Pike, who more than nobly fell at York. Mrs. Wardell, some nine years since, not yet in the bloom, but bud of youth, formed an acquaintance with and actually married Thomas Wardell; and however bright and promising the morning of their union, soon, alas! too soon was it overshadowed with clouds and darkness. He was every thing but what she had a right to expect—"within that rose there was a thorn." Instead of providing for her in health and in sickness, he neglected his business—lounged about the tavern—from which neither the charms of a wife, babes, nor friendship could allure or restrain him.—They were left alone, exposed to hunger, thirst and cold. In a father's house she was compelled to seek safety and protection. For years has she and her angelic babes, in number three, lived upon the bounty of an aged parent.—Wardell, the author of all those misfortunes, is, and has been for some time a citizen of the territory of Mississippi. Her case is one unprovided for by law—and though she has been the sport of fortune, should this house but grant relief, all may yet be forgotten. She has youth on her side, a reputation pure as the mountain snow, with a mind improved and refined by art, and softened by misfortune. She has a symmetry in her form, ease in her manners, and on her brow has virtue, meekness, patience, and modesty, erected their empire. In short, her situation not only merits the consideration of a state, but a nation—and while her misfortunes can but excite the commiseration of every sympathetic bosom, her virtue and meekness would seem to entitle her to an imperishable crown, that fadeth not away.

On motion of Mr. Lindley, that the further consideration of said bill be indefinitely postponed, the question was decided in the negative.

#### INDIAN NEWS.

Extract of a letter from John W. Johnson, Esq. United States Indian Factor, to Governor Edwards, dated, Prairie du Chien, Dec. 8, 1816.

SIR—A Sioux chief (French Crow) of the Yaton tribe, with fifty of his band, was here on the 5th inst. The chief informed me confidentially, that two Indians have lately arrived from Mackinaw, and informed him that the British had engaged 800 Chippawa Indians, who were to cross from Lake Superior to the head waters of the Mississippi, with their canoes during the winter to join other Indians unfriendly to the Americans, and strike on this place early next spring. Since hearing the above relation, Captain Duffy has received a letter from Capt. Martin at Rock river, (Mississippi) informing him that the Indians there presented a hostile front. This Sioux chief further stated he had promised to give you and Gov. Clark any information he thought to be important, and said he regretted very much to learn so many of the troops had left here, before the disposition of the red skin people was known, and recommended a reinforcement to be sent here before the ice broke. Thus, sir, you have the Indian story, whether our concerns with the British at this time, justifies such measures, I cannot say. You who receive the newspapers regularly, can judge with more correctness. Very few Indians have resided here during the winter; the few that came showed a friendly disposition.