

The following is a List of the Acts of a public nature, passed at the last session of Congress:

An act to authorize the President of the United States to lease, for the term therein mentioned, the new building on Capitol Hill, for the better accommodation of Congress.

Making additional appropriations to defray the expenses of the army and militia, during the late war with Great Britain.

To authorize the payment for property lost, captured or destroyed, by the enemy, while in the military service of the United States, and for other purposes.

Rewarding the officers and crew of the sloop of war Hornet, for the capture and destruction of the British sloop of war Penguin.

To enlarge the time for ascertaining the annual transfers and changes of property, subject to the Direct Tax, & for other purposes.

To regulate the commerce between the United States, and the territories of His Britannic Majesty, according to the convention, concluded the 3d July, 1815, and the ratifications of which were exchanged on the 22d December, 1815.

To enable the people of the Indiana territory to form a constitution & state government, and for the admission of such state into the Union, on an equal footing with the original states.

To incorporate the subscribers to the Bank of the United States.

For the relief of certain purchasers of public land in the Mississippi territory.

To authorize the President of the United States to lease the saline, near the Wabash river, for a term not exceeding seven years.

Making further provision for settling claims to land in the territory of Illinois.

Making further provision for military services during the late war, and for other purposes.

To continue in force the act, entitled "An act for imposing additional duties upon all goods, wares and merchandize, imported from any foreign port or place."

To continue in force an act, entitled "An act laying a duty on imported salt, granting a bounty on pickled fish exported, and allowances to certain vessels employed in the fisheries."

To repeal so much of an act passed on the 22d December, 1814, as imposes additional duties on postage.

Continuing in force certain acts laying duties on bank notes, refined sugars, and for other purposes.

Making appropriations for ordnance and ordnance stores, for the year one thousand eight hundred and sixteen.

To repeal the duties on certain articles manufactured within the United States.

Rewarding the officers and crew of the Constitution, for the capture of the British sloop of war Levant.

For organizing the general staff, and making further provision for the army of the United States.

To reduce the amount of the direct tax upon the United States, and the District of Columbia, for the year 1816, and to repeal in part, the act, entitled "An act to provide additional revenues for defraying the expenses of government, and maintaining the public credit; by laying a direct tax upon the U. States, and to provide for assessing & collecting the same," &c.

For the more convenient arrangement of the times and places of holding the Circuit Courts of the United States for the Districts of South Carolina and Georgia.

To authorize the sale of lands, forfeited to the United States, in the District of Jeffersonville, at the land office in said district.

Providing for the sale of a tract of land at the British fort at the Miami of the lake, at the foot of the rapids, and for other purposes.

Providing for the sale of the tract of land at the lower Rapids of Sandusky river.

For the payment of the militia, in the cases therein mentioned.

For the free importation of stereotype plates, and to encourage the printing and gratuitous distribution of the scriptures, by the Bible Societies within the United States.

To change the mode of compensation to the members of the Senate & House of Representatives, and the Delegates from territories.

To increase the pensions of invalids in certain cases; for the relief of invalids of the militia, and for the appointment of pension agents in those states where there is no Commissioner of Loans.

To repeal the act, entitled "An act to provide additional revenues for defraying the expenses of government, and maintaining the public credit by laying duties on household furniture, and on gold and silver watches."

To abolish the existing duties on spirits distilled within the U. States, and to lay other duties, in lieu of those at present imposed, on licences to distillers of spirituous liquors.

To regulate the duties on Imports and Tonnage.

Making appropriations for the support of government for the year 1816.

Supplementary to the act to provide

additional revenues for defraying the expenses of government, and maintaining the public credit, by laying a direct tax upon the United States, and to provide for assessing and collecting the same.

Providing for the distribution of one hundred thousand dollars, among the captors of the Algerine vessels, captured and restored to the Dey of Algiers.

Continuing the salaries of certain officers of government.

Making appropriations for the support of the Navy of the United States for the year 1816.

To fix the Commissions of the Collectors of the direct tax and internal duties, and to revive and continue in force "An act further to provide for the collection of duties on imports and tonnage."

Declaring the assent of Congress to an act of the General Assembly of the State of Virginia.

Making appropriations for rebuilding light houses, and for completing the plan of lighting them, according to the improvement of Winslow Lewis; for placing beacons and buoys; for preserving Little Gull Island, and for surveying the coast of the United States.

For the gradual increase of the Navy of the United States.

Making appropriations for carrying into effect a treaty between the U. S. and the Cherokee tribe of Indians, concluded at Washington on the 22d day of March 1816.

Making an appropriation for enclosing and improving the public square, near the capitol, and to abolish the office of commissioners of the public buildings, and of superintendent, and for the appointment of one commissioner for the public building.

For the confirmation of certain claims to land in the western district of the state of Louisiana.

Authorizing the judges of the circuit court, and the attorney for the district of Columbia, to prepare a code of jurisprudence for the said district.

To provide for the appointment of a surveyor of the public lands in the territories of Illinois and Missouri.

To authorize the survey of two millions of acres of the public lands, in lieu of that quantity heretofore authorized to be surveyed, in the territory of Michigan, as military bounty lands.

Concerning pre-emption rights given in the purchase of lands to certain settlers in the state of Louisiana, and in the territories of Missouri and Illinois.

Supplementary to an act making alterations in the treasury and war departments, passed the 8th day of May, 1792.

Declaring the consent of Congress to acts of the state of South Carolina, authorizing the city council of Charleston to impose and collect a duty on the tonnage of vessels from foreign ports; and to acts of the state of Georgia, authorizing the imposition and collection of a duty on the tonnage of vessels in the ports of Savannah and St. Mary's.

Providing for the sale of certain lands in the state of Ohio, formerly set apart for refugees from Canada and Nova Scotia.

Regulating the currency within the U. States of the gold coins of Great-Britain, France, Portugal and Spain, & the crowns of France, and five franc pieces.

Authorizing payment for persons captured by private armed vessels.

For reducing the duties on licenses to retailers of spirituous liquors, and foreign merchandize.

Making appropriations for the support of the military establishment of the U. States for the year 1816.

Supplementary to the act passed the thirteenth of March, 1802, to regulate trade and intercourse with the Indian tribes, and to preserve peace on the frontier.

Resolution to indemnify the sureties of Commodore John Rodgers.

Requesting the President of the U. States to present medals to captain Stewart, and the officers of the frigate Constitution.

Requesting the President to present medals to captain James Biddle and the officers of the sloop of war Hornet.

Requiring the Secretary of State to compile and print, once in every two years, a register of all officers and agents, civil, military and naval, in the service of the United States.

An act for the relief of Lieut. Col. Wm. Lawrence, of the army, and the officers, &c. composing the garrison of Fort Boyer in 1814.

Further supplementary to the act entitled "An act providing for the indemnification of certain claimants of public lands in the Mississippi Territory."

To increase the salary of the Register of the Treasury, providing for the settlement of certain accounts against the Library of Congress, for extending the privilege of using therein, and for establishing the salary of the Librarian.

Authorizing the sale of a lot of ground, belonging to the United States, situated in the town of Knoxville, Tennessee.

Resolution authorizing the President of the United States to alter the road laid out from the foot of the Rapids of the river Miami of Lake Erie to the Western line of the Connecticut reserve.

Authorizing a subscription for the printing of a second edition of the Public Documents.

Relative to evidence in cases of naturalization.

Relating to settlers on the lands of the U. States.

In addition to an act "in relation to the Navy pension fund."

Establishing a port of Delivery at the town of the Bayou St. John.

Further extending the time for issuing and locating military land warrants, and for other purposes.

Respecting the late officers and crew of the sloop of war Wasp.

Concerning certain courts of the District of New-York.

Concerning Invalid Pensioners.

To allow drawback of duties on spirits distilled and sugar refined within the U. States.

To fix the compensation of the Secretary of the Senate, Clerk of the House of Representatives, and Clerks employed in their offices.

Concerning the annual sum appropriated for arming and equipping the militia.

For settling the compensation of the Commissioners, clerk, and translator of the board for land claims in the Eastern and Western district of the territory of Orleans, now state of Louisiana.

Fixing the compensation of the Chaplains of Congress.

For the relief of John Holker formerly Consul general of France to the U. States.

Resolution for printing the laws relative to naturalization.

Concerning field officers of the militia.

Making further appropriations for the year 1816.

Resolution respecting the collection of the Public Revenue in lawful money of the United States.

Resolution authorizing the President of the United States to employ a skilful assistant in the corps of Engineers.

To increase the compensation of the Superintendants of the manufactories of arms at Springfield and Harpers Ferry.

Extract of a letter to the Editor of the Kentucky Gazette, dated

St. Louis, May 13.

Dear Sir—You will remember, no doubt, that at the adjournment of the American commissioners last fall, from Portage des Sioux, all the Indian tribes had not treated for peace. The Sacks and Foxes, who committed nearly all the rapine and murders upon this frontier, still remained obstinate and undetermined as to what course they would pursue. But recently they have changed their temper, and descended to this place for the purpose of yielding to terms. Last week the council opened, and the following conditions presented to them as a *sine qua non* to peace.

First—That all former treaties should be absolutely confirmed.

Second—That all property stolen since the conclusion of peace with G. Britain should be restored.

Third—That all persons should be released.

Fourth—That the annuity of \$800 formerly allowed to them, should be withheld until the restoration of property might take place.

After some hesitation on the part of the Indians, they accepted the conditions on Friday last; and on this day the treaty is signed in due and solemn form.

Every thing, therefore, is now tranquil on this frontier. Gen Smith with his command has ascended to Prairie du Chien, to establish military works. Yours, &c."

It is a leading principle of the British government to instruct their agents in the U. States, and in all foreign countries, to use every means in their power to injure, directly or indirectly, every American citizen who is in any way conspicuous in opposing their wicked policy towards our Government. We daily see instances enough of this at home, in the manner our most virtuous citizens, from our illustrious President down, are treated by the hirelings of British power. Among the Officers of the U. States in foreign countries who have suffered most from the machinations of British agents and subjects, is our Consul at Bordeaux, Mr. LEE. This gentleman has always been remarked for his attachment to his own country, his strenuous support of our institutions, and his pointed opposition to British policy. He has therefore been for years an object of British hatred and malice.

By several private letters from Bordeaux, we learn that this officer and his family, since the return of the English and the preponderance of their faction in that city, have suffered every species of abuse. Our countrymen there have shewn a praise-worthy national character on this occasion, by giving the Consul an honorable testimony of their esteem in an address they have presented him. We understand that the unfriendly disposition of the Royalists towards us has determined Mr. LEE to visit the U. States, with a view of fixing his family on their native soil. We will congratulate him on his return, for we have always considered him a valuable officer.—*Boston Patriot*.

Volcanic Eruption.

FROM THE JAVA GAZETTE.

We are at length enabled to give the public a full and interesting account of the volcanic eruption that has recently taken place on the Island of Sambawa.*

The distance of Batavia from the Tomboro mountain is between seven and eight hundred miles, which appears so enormous a space for sound to be conveyed over, that we cannot help supposing the volcano on Sambawa is in some degree connected with other volcanic mountains in this island.

We may probably be wrong in our conjectures upon this subject, but it certainly appears to us, that any sound which could be conveyed over a space of six or seven hundred miles, must have been insupportable at the distance of 35 paals from the Crater.

Extract of a private letter.

"On the 5th of April, a firing of cannon was heard at Macasser—the sound appeared to come from the southward, and continued at intervals all the afternoon. Towards sunset the reports seemed to approach much nearer, and sounded like heavy guns, occasionally with slighter reports between."

"During the night of the 11th, the firing was again heard, but much louder, and towards morning the reports were in quick succession—sometimes three or four guns fired together, and so heavy that they shook the ship as they did the houses in the fort. Some of the reports seemed so near, that I sent people to the mast head to look out for the flashes, and immediately as the day dawned, I weighed and stood to the southward with a view of ascertaining the cause."

"The morning was extremely dark and lowering, particularly to the southward and S. W.: the wind light and from the southward. Perceiving a large prow coming from the southward I sent a boat on board to get any intelligence she might have to give, as she was coming from the quarter from whence the firing had been heard.—The prow was from the island of Salayer. A Dutchman who commanded her stated that he heard the firing the whole night, but had seen no vessels or boats—he also stated that two days previous to his leaving Salayer, about the 4th or 5th, a heavy firing had been heard to the southward of the island; that the guns in the fort had been manned in consequence, conceiving it to be an attack by the pirates on some part of the island, but as no vessels or boats had appeared, it was at length concluded to be an eruption from the volcano on the island of Sambawa."

"In consequence of this information and being of the same opinion, I anchored the ship abreast of Macasser, and went on shore to the resident with the intelligence. I found that capt. Wood entertained the same opinion, as the houses at Macasser had been shook by some of the reports."

"Indeed by this time, which was about 8 A. M. it was very apparent that some extraordinary occurrence had taken place. The face of the heavens to the southward and westward had assumed a most dismal and lowering aspect, and it was much darker than when the sun rose; at first it had the appearance of a very heavy squall or storm approaching; but as it came nearer it assumed a dusky, red appearance, and continued to spread very fast over the heavens. By 10 it was so dark I could scarcely discern the ship from the shore, though not a mile distant. I then returned on board."

"It is now evident that an eruption had taken place from some volcano, and that the air was filled with ashes or volcanic dust, which already began to fall on the decks—by 11 the whole of the heavens were obscured, except a small space near the horizon to the eastward; the wind being from that quarter prevented for a short time the approach of the ashes; it appeared like a light at day break, the mountains of Celebes being clearly visible, while every other part of the horizon was enveloped in darkness. The ashes now began to fall in showers, and the appearance altogether was truly awful and alarming. By noon, the light that had remained in the eastern part of the horizon disappeared, and complete darkness now covered the face of day—our decks were soon covered with falling matter—the awnings were spread fore and aft, to prevent it as much as possible from getting below; but it was so light and subtle that it pervaded every part of the ship."

"The darkness was so profound during the remainder of the day, that I never saw any thing equal to it in the darkest night—it was impossible to see your hand when held up close to your eyes—the ashes continued to fall without intermission through the night.—At 6 the next morning when the sun ought to have been seen, it still continued as dark as ever, but at half past 7, I had the satisfaction to perceive that the darkness evidently decreased, and by 8, I could faintly discern objects on deck—from this time it began to get lighter very fast, and by half past nine, the shore was distinguishable; the ashes falling in considerable quantities, though not so heavily as before. The appearance of the ship, when day-light,

was most extraordinary; the rigging, decks, and every part being covered with the falling matter; the appearance of calcined pumice stone, nearly the color of wood—lay in heaps of a foot in depth in many parts of the deck, and I am convinced that several tons weight were thrown overboard; for although a fine impalpable powder or dust, when it fell, it was, when compressed, considerable weight, a pint measure was perfectly tasteless, and did not affect the eyes with any painful sensation—had a burnt smell, but nothing like sulphur."

"By noon, on the 12th, the sun appeared, but very faintly through a dusky atmosphere. The air still charged with the ashes, and which continued to fall lightly all that day, the succeeding one."

"On going on shore at Moressee, found the face of the country completely covered to the depth of an inch or a quarter—great fears were entertained for the crop of paddy that was in the ground; the young plants being completely beaten down and covered by it—the fish in the ponds at Moressee were killed and floating on the surface, and many small birds lying dead on the ground. It took several days to clear the ship of the ashes; which when mixed with water, formed a tenacious mud, difficult to be washed away. My chronometer stopped, owing I imagine, to some particles of dust having penetrated into it."

"From the 12th to the 15th, the atmosphere still continued very thick and dusty from the ashes that remained suspended; the rays of the sun scarce able to penetrate through it, with light or no wind the whole time."

"On the morning of the 15th, weighed for Macasser with a very light wind, and on the 18th made the island of Sambawa—on approaching the coast passed through great quantities of pumice stone floating on the sea, which first had the appearance of shoals; much so, that I love to and sent a boat to examine, which at the distance of less than a mile I took for a dry sand bank, upwards of 3 miles in length with black rocks upon several parts of it, concluding it to have been raised up during the eruption—it proved to be a complete mass of pumice floating on the sea, some inches in depth, with great numbers of large trunks of trees and logs among it, that appeared to be burnt, shivered as if blasted by lightning. The boat had much difficulty pulling through it, and until we got to the entrance of Bima bay, the sea was literally covered with shoals of pumice and floating timber."

"On the 19th arrived in Bima bay, in coming to anchor grounded on the bank off Bima town, shoaling suddenly from 6 fathoms, as the tide was raising, hove off again without any difficulty of damage. I imagine the anchorage at Bima must have altered considerably as where we grounded the Ternate cruiser a few months since lay at anchor in six fathoms. The shores of the bay had a most dreary appearance being entirely covered with ashes, even up to the summit of the mountains—the perpendicular depth of the ashes as measured in the vicinity of Bima town I found three inches and three quarters."

"From the account given me by the resident of Bima, it appears that the eruption proceeded from the Tomboro mountain, situated about 40 miles to the westward of Bima. On the night of the 11th, the explosion he represents as most terrific, and compared them to a heavy mortar fired close to his ear."

"The darkness commenced about 11 in the morning and continued until the middle of the day, 12 hours longer than it did at Macasser. The fall of ashes was so heavy as to break the roof of the residency house in many places, and render it uninhabitable, as well as many other houses in the town."

"The wind was still during the whole time, but the sea uncommonly agitated, the waves rolled in upon the shore and filled the lower part of the houses a foot deep; every prow and boat was forced from the anchorage and driven on shore; several large prows are now lying a considerable distance above high water mark."

"At the time of our arrival at Bima no account whatever had been received of the state of the country since the eruption; a messenger had been dispatched by the Resident to Sambawa three days before; another was sent off to Tomboro immediately after we landed; as he was expected to be back the third day, I determined to wait his return."

"On the 22d the Dispatch country ship arrived in the bay from Amboyna. This vessel had mistaken a bay called Dampoo Sanjier bay for Bima, and had gone into it; her boat was on shore at Sanjier, the Raja of which place informed the officer that the greater part of the town and a number of the people had been destroyed by the eruption; that the whole country was entirely desolated and the crops destroyed. The town of Sanjier is situated about four or five leagues to the southeast of Tomboro mountain; the officer found great difficulty in landing in the bay, a considerable distance from the shore being completely filled up with pumice stone, ashes and logs of timber; the

*Sambawa is in lat. 8, S. lon. 110. 47, E.