

draft a memorial to Congress relative to the subject. The chairman having stated the question on agreeing to the Preamble and Resolutions. Mr. JOHN RANDOLPH (of Roanoke) rose and said, that it had been properly observed by the chairman as well as by the gentleman from this district, that there was nothing in the proposition submitted to consideration which in the smallest degree touches another very important and delicate question, which ought to be left as much out of view as possible. But, Mr. R. said, it appeared, to him that it had not been sufficiently insisted on, with a view to obtain the co-operation of all the citizens of the United States, not only that this meeting does not in any wise affect the question of Negro slavery, but as far as it goes, must materially tend to secure the property of every master in the United States in, to, and over such slaves. It appeared to him that this aspect of the question had not been sufficiently presented to the public view. It was a notorious fact, he said, that the existence of this mixed and intermediate population of free negroes was viewed by every slave holder as one of the greatest sources of the insecurity, and also unprofitableness of slave property; that they serve to excite in their fellow beings a feeling of discontent, of repining at their situation, and that they act as channels of communication not only between different slaves, but between the slaves of different districts; that they are the depositories of stolen goods and the promoters of mischief. In a worldly sense of view then, without entering into the general question, apart from those higher and nobler motives which had been well presented to the meeting, the owners of slaves were interested in throwing this population out of the bosom of the people. Mr. R. said he had made these remarks because the gentleman from the district had rather alluded to the possibility that this proceeding might create jealousy in the minds of the slave holders. On the contrary, Mr. R. said, they above all other people were most interested in getting rid of this sort of population. As to the mode in which the object could be accomplished, he said he had not thought of it. He had not heard of this meeting until night; but he hoped measures would be taken to exonerate the country from what he considered not only as a disgrace, but as a grievous burthen. There was no fear, Mr. R. said, that this proposition would alarm the slave holders; they had been accustomed to think seriously of the subject. There was a popular work on agriculture, by John Taylor of Caroline, which was widely circulated and much confided in, in Virginia. In that book, much read because coming from a practical man, this description of people were pointed out as a great evil. They had indeed been held up as the greater bug-bear to every man who feels an inclination to emancipate his slaves, not to create in the bosom of his country so great a nuisance. If a place could be provided for their reception, and a mode of sending them hence, there were hundreds, nay thousands of citizens, who would, by manumitting their slaves, relieve themselves from the cares attendant on their possession. The great slave holder, Mr. R. said, was frequently a mere centry at his own door—bound to stay on his own plantation to see that his slaves were properly treated, &c. Mr. R. concluded by saying that he had thought it necessary to make these remarks, being a slave holder himself, to shew that so far from being connected with the abolition of slavery, the measure proposed would prove one of the greatest securities to enable the master to keep in possession his own property. Mr. ROBERT WRIGHT of Md. said he could not withhold his approbation of a measure, that had for its object the amelioration of the lot of any portion of the human race, particularly of the free people of color, whose degraded state robs them of the happiness of self government, so dear to the American people. And said he, as I discover the most delicate regard to the rights of property I shall with great pleasure lend my aid to restore this unfortunate people to the enjoyment of their liberty, but I fear gentlemen are too sanguine in their expectations, that they would be willing to abandon the land of their nativity, so dear to man. However I have no indisposition to give them that election by furnishing all the means contemplated by the honorable and benevolent propositions submitted to our consideration. But, sir, while we wish to promote the happiness of these free people of color, we ought to take care not to furnish the means of transporting out of the master his property; which, I am sorry to say, has by the seductive conduct of a certain set of people under the pretexts of religion and the natural rights of man been seduced from his service. At this time there are thousands of that class in Philadelphia and its vicinity, living in indolence and consequent poverty—nothing would have a stronger tendency to effect the contemplated relief of the free people of color than some efficient laws to secure the restoration of those not entitled to liberty, to their masters, whose rights ought to be protected by law, and who without

such law would be certainly sacrificed by the transportation of the free blacks with whom they would most certainly mix for that purpose. However, I feel no hesitation in saying I should be happy to see some plan for the gradual abolition of slavery, that would prepare the rising generation for that state, and remunerate the masters out of the funds of the nation, amply abundant for that purpose, without being felt by the people of America. Mr. F. S. KEY (of this District) suggested, that, with a view to exempt the object of the meeting from the possibility of misapprehension, there should be inserted in the resolves an express disavowal of any intention of the proposed association to touch the question of the abolition of slavery. The CHAIRMAN suggested that such a clause would never enter into the articles of association when formed. To which Mr. Key assenting— The question on adopting the Preamble and resolutions was taken and decided unanimously in the affirmative. The Chairman was then authorized to appoint the committee; which having done, the meeting adjourned to meet again on Saturday next.

TREASURY CIRCULAR. From the Enquirer. Treasury Department, Dec. 20, 1816.

SIR—I have received notice from the President and Directors of the Bank of the United States, that the Bank will commence its operations in Philadelphia, on the first day of the next year, and that they will be ready on that day to receive the public moneys deposited in the State Banks, and hold them subject to the orders of the Treasury. Like notices are expected upon the establishment of Branch Banks in the principal commercial cities. Before any definite decision is made upon this proposition, it is deemed expedient to ascertain the course which the state banks in those cities will pursue in relation to the resumption of specie payments. If the determination of the banks to resume specie payments on the 1st of July, 1817, which has been communicated to this department, is persevered in, there will be no hesitation in ordering the transfer to be made with as little delay as the interest of the community will admit. As an inducement to change that determination, it is proposed on the part of the Treasury, that if the state banks will resume specie payments on the 20th day of February next, that the public money now in their vaults shall not be transferred to those of the Bank of the United States, and that between that day and the 1st of July next as small a portion of that sum shall be drawn as the demands upon the Treasury will admit. As the receipts into the Treasury during the year will probably exceed the current demands upon the Treasury, it is proposed to discharge those demands principally from the current receipts, until after the 1st day of July, 1817; subsequent to that day, the money will be drawn for as the demands upon the treasury may require; but, in no case shall it be drawn for the purpose of being deposited in the Bank of the United States, except to sustain it against any pressure which may be attempted to be made upon it or its branches. The means of the Treasury to aid the operations of banks in effecting a revolution in the state of the currency, so imperiously necessary to the public interest, are considered ample, and the strongest disposition exists to apply them so as to produce the most beneficial results. The power of transferring such portion of the deposits, with a view to equalize the benefits resulting from them among the banking community, as the situation of the several banks may require, is expressly reserved. In making this proposition to the state banks, the strongest reliance is placed in their disposition to join in the effort necessary to relieve the community from the evils to which it has been subjected, by the disordered state of the circulating currency. It is confidently believed, that the interests of the banks and of the community are not in opposition to each other, and that any sacrifice which the effort may cost them will be compensated by the advantages and facilities which it is in the power of the Treasury to afford them. In deciding upon the question submitted to their consideration, the friendly character and disposition of the Bank of the United States towards them ought not to be overlooked. The deep interest which the Treasury has in the support of bank credit, and the connexion which it has with the Bank of the United States, would independent of the known disposition of that institution to conciliate the state banks, be sufficient to protect them against an illiberal policy on its part. In closing this communication, candor compels me to state, that there exists no reason to expect that the resolution of the last session of Congress relative to the collection of the revenue after the 20th of February next, will be rescinded. An early communication of the decision of the institution over which you preside is respectfully requested. W. M. H. CRAWFORD, Secretary of the Treasury. The President of the Bank of

CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. Friday, Jan. 10.

The House on motion of Mr. Lowndes, went into committee of the whole; Mr. Jackson in the chair, on the bill making a partial appropriation (in blank of course) for the subsistence of the army during the year 1817.

The reason stated by the committee of ways and means for reporting this bill at present was, that, it being usual to advance a certain sum to contractors for rations, it was necessary to make a partial appropriation, for facilitating the contracts about going into operation.

The blank was filled up with 400,000 dollars. Mr. Clay rose, not to object to the bill, but to observe, that the great expenditure annually required by the military department, which this year would probably exceed six millions, must have struck every one, and on the necessity there was that the House should be certain that a proper investigation and scrutiny into these expenditures should take place; as he believed there were committees who might each very properly consider the duty as devolving on them, &c.

Mr. Lowndes stated the course adopted by the committee of ways and means, in acting on the estimates for the military department; the limited power of that committee in controlling those estimates, &c.

Mr. Johnson of Ky. made some remarks, to shew that the appropriations heretofore made, were necessary for the military service; and stated the different branches of the war establishment, the Indian department, the ordinance department, fortifications, arsenals, &c. the expenses of which were defrayed out of the annual military appropriations—though the great loss in the destruction of military stores, and at the manufactories of arms, &c. had swelled the expenditures beyond what ought hereafter to exist; and expressing his anxiety for economy in every branch of the government, and his wish to reduce, as soon as practicable, the public burthens, &c.

Mr. Root explained the course adopted by the select committee, (of which he is the chairman) in examining the accounts of the War Department; their measures to prevent improper allowances; and their efforts to ascertain the possibility of, and to produce retrenchment in the public expenditure.

Mr. Clay still thought the government paid more money and got less military services than any other country in the world, and his object was to know if any proper examination had been made to ascertain whether the extraordinary expenditure of the military department, might not be retrenched, &c.

Mr. Randolph expressed his pleasure at hearing in this House the long exploded word economy, and at witnessing the most distant ray of promise of a return to old democratic principles; and then went into a pretty general view of what he termed the extraordinary expenditures of our military establishments, which, in the army, amounted to about 500 dollars a man, and in the navy to nearly 1000 dollars per man. He referred to his motion at the last session to reduce the army, and its failure, and the resolution he had taken to make, during the remainder of his public life, no further attempt to reform public abuses, &c.—He commented on the enormous amount of the civil expenditures of the government, which arose not from exorbitant salaries (for, he said, many of their officers were absolutely starving) but from the great number of officers, greater than in any other country, under the general and state governments. Having, as this House had, no patronage whatever, but only the odium of every obnoxious public measure, they ought still to feel the necessity of scrutinizing into the public expenditures; and as it was impossible, in the nature of legislation, divided into opposite parties, for a member of the minority to make any effectual attempts to correct abuses; he called on the members of the majority to perform that duty, and expressed his pleasure at hearing those gentlemen, (Messrs. Clay and Johnson) using the almost unparliamentary word economy, and talking about retrenchment, &c. To the bill under consideration, however, he had no sort of objection.

Mr. Clay, in reply, said that if he had been alluded to, his opinions had undergone no change, since he had voted on Mr. Randolph's motion at the last session; that he did not yet think the military establishment ought to be destroyed, but that now, as always, he desired to know whether the expenditures were requisite, whether appropriations were necessary and properly applied, and in what way the public money could be economised, &c.

Mr. Lowndes also replied to Mr. Randolph, as to the extraordinary expense alleged to be incurred by the government for each man in the military service. The military force might be so small, the number so few, that in dividing amongst them the whole expense of all the branches of the establishment, it might swell the cost of each man to what had been stated—but it would be

a most extraordinary mode of estimating the expense of the army—and he offered facts and arguments to shew that the expense of each man had not exceeded 400 dollars; that the amount of the army greatly exceeded the number of 7000, as surmised in the debate, and the less reason there consequently was to suspect a wasteful expenditure or excessive appropriations heretofore.

The committee of the whole then rose, and reported the bill as amended, in which the House concurred; and the bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

THE COMPENSATION LAW. Wednesday, Jan. 15.

The House resumed the consideration of the bill to repeal the act changing the mode of compensation of the Senators, Delegates, and Representatives in Congress.

After three or four hours further debate, the question was put on filling the blank (for the future daily compensation of the members) with nine dollars, and negatived.

The question was taken on filling the blank with eight dollars, and negatived as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Motion/Action and Count. For the motion 60, Against it 93. For the motion 84, Against it 74.

So it was determined by the committee (subject to the revision of the House) that the compensation be reduced to its old rate of six dollars per day.

Some other amendments were proposed, adopted or rejected. A motion was then made to amend the bill by striking out the whole bill and inserting in lieu thereof two sections, the one absolutely and simply repealing the compensation law; the other requiring that there shall be deducted from the amount received by each member during the past and present sessions of Congress, all the amount over and above what he would have received under the old compensation of six dollars per day.

Before this question was decided, the committee rose, reported progress, and obtained leave to sit again. And the House adjourned.

LATEST FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN. NEW-YORK, Jan. 15.

By the arrival of the brig Alexander, Captain Summers, we learn that Commodore Chauncey, in the Washington, 74, capt. Creighton, together with the United States, Capt. Shaw, and the Peacock sloop of war, Capt. Rodgers, were only waiting at Gibraltar for a wind to proceed up the Mediterranean, to join the remainder of the squadron, which were to rendezvous at Port Mahon, consisting of the Frigate Java, Capt. Perry, and Constellation, Capt. Crane, sloop Eire, Capt. Gamble, and Ontario, Capt. Downes; brig Spark Capt. Nicholson and schr. Hornet, lieutenant. Mr. Shaler, our Consul General for the Barbary States, was on board the Washington. It was the Commodore's intention to proceed to Algiers, to insist upon the ratification of the treaty with the Dey, and to blockade his ports in case of his adhering to his determination of not ratifying it, without the brig of war he demanded was given to him. It was the general opinion, that the Dey would persist in his demand, which would render a reinforcement of our squadron absolutely necessary, to carry the blockade rigidly into execution. From the moment Lord Exmouth's squadron left Algiers, the Algerines commenced repairing their fortifications under the direction of able engineers, which are nearly completed, and the defects which Lord Exmouth's attack pointed out are perfectly remedied. They have also erected furnaces to heat shot, so that the place may be considered very strong. In fact the Algerines already say, "let Lord Exmouth come again if he dare."

The Dey has purchased several vessels of war, and is actively employed in re-establishing his navy.

We also learn, that the Spanish government were making great exertions to retrieve their affairs in South America, and that General O'Donnel, had arrived at Port St. Mary's, with a portion of the troops (about 5000 men) destined to compose a strong expedition to Buenos Ayres, from which the most flattering results to the royal cause are expected.

From the impoverished state of the Treasury, and the deficiency of military supplies, some months must probably elapse before this expedition can be fitted out.

SPANISH PATRIOTS.

By the arrival yesterday of the schr. Felicity, Capt. Smart, in 20 days from St. Thomas, we learn that accounts had been received there from the Maine that the Patriot army under Gen. McGregor had defeated the Royalists in three different engagements, in the eastern part of the province of Venezuela. Generals Urdaneta and Ricarte had arrived at Calliposa, with 3000 men. All the Spanish inhabitants had removed their property from Porto Carvello and La Guira, and sent to Carracoea.

FROM ST. DOMINGO.

A respectable mercantile friend has put into our hands a French copy of the correspondence between Petion and the commissioners sent by Louis 18th to negotiate with him concerning the recolonization of Hayti. The following proclamation may be considered as exhibiting the spirit in which the negotiation was treated by Petion, and his resolute rejection of any attempt to encroach upon the liberty and independence of the people of whom he is the chief.—Balt. Pat.

LIBERTY. EQUALITY. Republic of Hayti.

PROCLAMATION. ALEXANDER PETION, President of Hayti, to the People and the Army.

The French flag has appeared in our coast, and the king of France has sent commissioners to Hayti.

Under what circumstances did the present themselves? at the moment that we were about consecrating the edifice of our laws!—At the moment that I was called by your choice to defend it! at the height of the enthusiasm of a nation the most jealous of its rights, have they proposed to compromise them! for what advantages? Are there any preferable to those we enjoy?—There does not exist a Haytian whose soul is sufficiently lukewarm to consent to retrace his steps in the path our glory has urged us on; our duties are pointed out; nature gave them birth; she has created us equal with other men; we will sustain them against all who dare conceive the criminal desire of subjugating us. They will only find on the shores ashes mixed in blood, the sword and an avenging climate.

On this occasion, as on that which preceded it, you have shewn the same circumspection and the same respect for the rights of men. You have calculated your strength, and in leaving to your magistrates the task of explaining your dearest interests, you have patiently awaited until they explained what they had done for you; your confidence shall never be betrayed.

The authority rests on your will, and it is your will to be free and independent; you shall be so, and we will give the terrible example to the universe of burying ourselves under the ruins of our country, sooner than return to servitude, even in its most modified form.

Whilst Europe entire unites at the call of philanthropy to annihilate the trace of that most dishonorable traffic; whilst the most polished nations mediate and plan a general emancipation of those who still groan under oppression; we observe with grief governments, who style themselves the most religious, nourishing principles which justice and humanity condemn.

Haytians, your protection is your arms; reserve them for those who may disturb you, and let your labor enrich a soil whose fruits you only shall collect.

I have printed my correspondence with the commissioners of the king; it will be placed under your eyes—have done my duty, and my duty yours.

Signed at the National Palace, Port-au-Prince, Nov. 12th, 1816, 13th year of the Independence of Hayti, &c. PETION.

B. Inginac, Secretary General.

CHARLESTON, Jan. 8.

By Captain Brookings, lately from New-Orleans, (via Havana) we learn that the brig Hibernia, Todd, (of Philadelphia) from this port, and 170 tons of vessels were left there on the 20th ult. Passed in the river, the U. S. Sloop Bull-Dog, with Commodore Patterson on board, returned from Congress frigate, which had gone in pursuit of a Carthaginian privateer. The frigate and brig Tom Bowler sailed to the westward in company, the 22d.

This morning, between the hours 4 and 5, was experienced in this city a severe shock of an earthquake. It lasted about 60 seconds, and came apparently from the northward. From its distinctness and length of the undulation which was felt throughout the Peninsula, and which, in this low country could only have been the echo of some other shock, we conceive a severe earthquake must have been experienced in the more mountainous parts of the state.

The weather has been for many days (we may say months) warm and delightful. The prediction of some European astronomers is now accomplished—that we should have our summer this year about Christmas.

MILLEDGEVILLE, Jan. 1, 1817.

Gen. THOMAS, of this place, has requested us to make known, that he will give two thousand dollars, and pay requisite expenses, to any person who will cure a CANCER in his mouth.

[The Members of Congress, who are personally acquainted with Gen. Thomas, have the most implicit confidence, (as we are desired to state) that he will honorably and promptly comply with his promise, and anxiously hope he will succeed in his object.]

Editors Nat. Intell.

Late news from S. America shew the Patriots to be successful.