

FARMERS REPOSITORY.

CHARLES-TOWN, (Jefferson County, Virginia,) PRINTED BY RICHARD WILLIAMS.

Vol. X.]

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1817.

[No. 507.]

in the employ of Spain against the colonies is not considered as a pirate, but engaged in the service of the colonies against Spain, he is. He did not know that this fact would have induced him to have brought the question before the house, but for the deep impression he felt of the justice and propriety of adopting the principle, abstracted from the existing state of things. But it was the more necessary to reduce the principle to legislation, because of the situation in which the want of it has placed us in regard to foreign nations.

The motion of Mr. Robertson was adopted without opposition, and without a division.

SLAVES.

On motion of Mr. Pindall, of Virginia, it was Resolved, that a committee be appointed to enquire into the expediency of providing more effectually, by law, for reclaiming servants or slaves escaping from one state into another; and that they have leave to report by bill or otherwise.

Mr. Harrison, of Ohio, offered the following resolution: That the committee on Military Affairs be, and they are hereby instructed to enquire into the expediency of continuing the Pensions which now are or have been heretofore allowed to the widows and orphans of the officers and soldiers who were killed or wounded in the service of the late war, for a term of five years beyond the periods when they shall respectively cease under existing laws.

The motion of Mr. Harrison was not opposed, and was adopted.

The House then resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. Basset in the chair, on the bill for the commutation of soldiers' pay.

Mr. Johnson, of Ky. as chairman of the military committee, stated a number of facts bearing on the subject of the bill. The number of men in the service at the close of the war was ascertained to have been 34,000; the number who died in service or were killed in battle was estimated at about 17,000; making in the whole about 50,000 soldiers (and heirs of soldiers) entitled to the bounty in land. For this number eight millions of acres would be required. But it was a number overrated; and he did not believe that 40,000 would come forward to claim the land bounty. Of the whole number of 50,000, he calculated that not more than half would commute for money; say 25,000; to pay this number the proposed commutation would require five millions of dollars, or 1,250,000 annually, for four years, which mode of payment had been selected, as well with a view to the benefit of these soldiers, as to the relief of the treasury. The committee, he said, had no doubt but the annual proceeds from the very land commuted would be sufficient to defray the whole amount; which would remove all objections of a financial nature—and he was not aware of any other. The measure, he hoped, would have the effect of cutting off all speculation, which there was so much complaint, and by which the soldier was deprived of his rights under the influence of his necessities.

A debate of some length arose on this bill, and particularly on its details, which did not, however, result in any final decision. A motion was made to strike out the first section of the bill. Mr. Holmes, of Mass. Mr. Stores, of New York, Mr. Smith, of Maryland, and Mr. Chagert, of New Hampshire, successively expressed their fears that it would be impossible so to arrange the details of the bill as to prevent its being converted to the benefit of the speculator. That the object of the bill is laudable, was allowed; but, in addition to the objections of detail, it was also suggested, by some one or other of the gentlemen, that Congress had done their duty liberally, and had no need to do more; that the public funds could be better employed, if to spare; and, finally, that if Congress once legislated on the subject, they would never see the end of supplementary laws, and individual claims for relief.

On the suggestion of Mr. Livermore, of N. H. the subject having been opened, and opinions interchanged on it, to give time to reflect more upon them, the committee rose, reported progress, and obtained leave to sit again. And the house adjourned.

NEW YORK, Dec. 12. Distressing fire at St. Johns, N. F.—By the schooner Parker, Capt. Boyd, in 8 days from Halifax, we learn that a great fire occurred in the latter part of Nov. at St. Johns, Newfoundland, which destroyed about two hundred and fifty buildings, including stores, dwelling houses, &c. In one of the stores belonging to Mr. Merchants, 800 barrels of flour were consumed. The loss in buildings, and other property, is estimated at 200,000 pounds sterling. Many of the inhabitants lost every thing; and the whole town, in consequence of the destruction of four and provisions, are suffering severe distress. The fire originated in a cooper's shop. The civil authority had laid an embargo on all vessels in port, and chartered them for the purpose of transporting those of the inhabitants who could leave the town, to other places for subsistence. Several of the vessels, filled with passengers, arrived at Halifax on the first inst. and the Governor, on learning the extent of their calamity, ordered a number of small vessels to proceed to St. Johns, with supplies for the remaining inhabitants.

In addition to the above, we have been favored with a Halifax paper of the 1st inst. containing several extracts of letters from St. Johns, which state that the fire occurred on the 7th of November, and originated in some dunnage in the store house of Wm. B. Thomas.

One letter says—“Every house, store, &c. between Church Hill and the King's wharf, have been laid in ashes, as great quantities of provisions, furniture and merchandise. Indeed upwards, I believe, of 200 houses, and other property of the value of 500,000 pounds—some say 1,000,000!—The prospect before us is dreadful!”

CAPTURE OF GEN. MINA.
BALTIMORE, DEC. 13.
By the arrival at this port this forenoon of the sch. Cuba, Capt. Cleaveker, in 12 days from Havana, we are enabled to present to our readers the following interesting intelligence, received at that place from Capt. Montgomery, just arrived from Vera Cruz.

TRANSLATION.
From the Mexico Gazette Extraordinary.
H. E. the Viceroy has just received by an extraordinary courier the following communication:
Most Excellent Sir—Long live the king. The count of Silas, under date of the 27th at 7 o'clock in the evening, writes me as follows:

Esteemed Sir—At last we have obtained the fruit of our labors—Mina has been taken alive, and is now entering this place. They also bring the head of Moreno; they have taken the two other Hereras, a Frenchman, and other officers of their infantry. We killed several when we attacked them, which was by surprise. All this has been achieved by Senor Orantia, who left at 10 o'clock at night with cavalry, for el Baradito, near la Hachiqueza; which news, so interesting, I communicate for the satisfaction of your excellency, and of all the good and loving subjects of our sovereign, and I shall consider it very complete if it gets to hand as expeditiously as I wish.

God preserve your excellency many years.
JUAN DE PERGUERA.
To H. E. the Viceroy Don Juan Ruiz de Apudata, Oct. 28, 1817, 2 A. M.
His excellency, not wishing to delay one moment the communication of such agreeable intelligence to the faithful vassals of the king our Lord, has commanded the immediate insertion of it in an extraordinary gazette, expecting every moment to receive the particulars of this important event.

Legislature of Virginia.

Extract from the Journal of the House of Delegates.
Monday, Dec. 8.

The speaker laid before the house a letter from the auditor of public accounts, which was read as follows:
AUDITOR'S OFFICE, Dec. 8.
Sir—In obedience to an act of assembly, relative to the duties of the auditor, I have the honor to transmit herewith, a statement of the revenue for the year one thousand eight hundred and seventeen; together with a list of the warrants drawn on the treasury, for the year ending the 30th September last, and an account of all monies paid into the Treasury, during the same period.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
JOHN BURFOOT, Auditor.
To the hon. Speaker of the House of Delegates.

A STATEMENT
Of the Commonwealth's Revenue for the year 1817.

Nett amount of the tax on lots, land and other property	\$ 461,986 24
Ditto surplus on tobacco shipped	11,415 20
Ditto on law process, &c.	28,763 13
Ditto register's fees	2,358 68
	\$ 504,500 25
Amount of the revenue, as above	\$ 504,500 25
Amount of expenditures charged on the revenue	\$ 562,873 23

Balance against the revenue, \$ 58,372 98
JNO. BURFOOT, Auditor.
Auditor's Office, 21st December, 1817.

AN ACT,
Concerning the bank of the Valley in Virginia, passed December 6th, 1817.
Be it enacted by the General Assembly, That whenever it shall be necessary to enter into the appointment of the directors for the Bank of the Valley in Virginia, the Chief Magistrate of this commonwealth, together with any four or a greater number of the executive Council, who are hereby appointed commissioners on the part of the Commonwealth for that purpose, shall and may, appoint three fit and proper persons as directors for the said Bank; which appointment shall be made at least fifteen days previous to each annual meeting of the Stockholders of said Bank and a list of the persons appointed immediately forwarded to the Mother Bank in Winchester.
This act shall be in force from and after the passage thereof.

THE REPOSITORY.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24.

A failure in receiving a timely supply of paper, has subjected us to the necessity of issuing but half a sheet this week; the deficiency shall be made up in the course of the winter.

The Eastern Mail, due on Monday, had not arrived when our paper went to press.

William Cobbett has intimated his intention of returning to England, and becoming a candidate for a seat in Parliament.

Letters received in Philadelphia, announce the loss of the Steam Boat Telegraph, on the Mississippi. She struck upon a snag in the night, and went down so suddenly that her whole cargo was lost, and melancholy to relate, four persons were drowned.

The great northern mail which arrived at New Orleans on the 3d of November, had been pillaged on its route—many letters had been opened, their contents taken out and resealed.

It will be seen by the letter of General Gaines to the Executive of Georgia, that the hostile Indians have been promised a British force to assist them, from New-Province. These promises have been made by Nichols and Woodbine, and we have no doubt of the correctness of them—for we were aware some days since of the fact, that Woodbine had purchased two brig, and was fitting them out at New Providence, destined for an expedition up the Apalachicola river. This is the aid alluded to by the Indians; and their recent conduct has not escaped the notice and consideration of the constituted authorities.

From the late military movements on our frontier; and the sailing of the U. S. ship John Adams, and schooners Enterprise and Lynx for the Gulf of Mexico, there is no question but our government have a knowledge of Woodbine's intended expedition; and have dispatched the latter force to intercept him.

We trust he may be secured; for a more infernal villain curses not the face of the earth—Savannah Republican.

Gale on Lake Erie.—The northern papers contain some particulars of a severe gale in the vicinity of Lake Erie, on the 12th ultimo. The bridge across Little Buffalo was entirely covered with water. Most of the fences, lumber and wood, were carried off. The dashing of the waves on the shores of Lake Erie, were tremendous. In many places it washed over the banks 40 feet high. The long wharf of Dunkirk sustained material damage.

MARRIED, on Sunday the 21st inst. Mr. William Crow, jun. to Miss Mary M. Carney, both of this place.

TRUSTEE'S SALE.
WILL be sold, to the highest bidder, for cash, before the door of Robert Fulton's Tavern, in Charleston, on Saturday the 3d of January next.

A Negro Woman & two Children, they having been conveyed to the undersigned in trust, to secure the payment of a debt due from Cyrus W. Murray to Robert R. Conrad.
T. H. GRIGGS, jun.
December 21.

NOTICE.
THE Directors of the Farmers, Mechanics and Merchants Bank of Jefferson County, Virginia, have ordered that the Agents (on the 27th instant,) refused to pay the Stockholders the money paid on the third instalment.
Published by order of the board of Directors.

JOHN YATES, Pres't.
Those persons concerned are requested to call at Mr. Worthington's Counting Room on that day.
December 24.

Negroes for Sale.
I will offer for sale, at Adam Moudy's tavern, in Smithfield, on the 30th instant, Two valuable Negro Women, one of which has a well grown male child.
JOSEPH MINGHINI.
December 24.

Negroes to Hire.
I will offer for hire, for the ensuing year, a Mr. Fulton's tavern in Charleston, on the 1st day of January next, several female negroes, two or three of them likely girls.
Wm. P. FLOOD.
December 24.

PUBLIC SALE.
WILL be sold, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on Friday the 26th inst. at Mr. Rezin Cross's, adjoining Mr. Thomas R. Hammond's, on the Shenandoah:
December 24.

INDIAN WAR.
MILLEDGEVILLE, Dec. 2.
The marching of troops to the frontier, and the other hostile preparations that are making, give to the approaching conflict, with the Senoiole Indians all the pomp and parade of war. Within a few days, several companies have passed through here, on their way to the place of rendezvous. The detachment from this state, amounting to nearly one thousand men, assembled at Fort Hawkins yesterday, and will resume their march in a day or two—500 friendly Creeks, headed by their distinguished warrior MISTOSH, have espoused our cause, and are hastening with alacrity to the scene of battle—General Gaines has with him, at Fort Scott, 700 regulars. The whole, when united, will be a formidable force in Indian warfare. On the other hand, the strength of the Senoioles have been also considerably increased by reinforcements, all the disaffected Creeks and Cherokees, and they are not a few, having gone to their assistance. A bloody conflict may therefore be expected, if the Indians determine to give us battle in an open and spirited manner; but if they seek refuge in the impenetrable swamps and other hiding places with which the country they inhabit abounds—Or, if the progress of our arms should be checked, by an unwillingness in the commanding general to enter the Spanish territory, the chastisement these savages merit, and which otherwise awaits them, may probably be averted.

WILLIAM HICKMAN.
December 17.
Negroes for Hire.
WILL be hired, on Monday the 25th instant, at the late residence of Jacob H. Manning, deceased, about five miles from Charles town, a number of negroes, consisting of men, women, boys and girls.

JAMES HITE, Agent
for the heirs of J. H. Manning.
December 17.

NEGROES TO HIRE.
TO be hired, at my place purchased of Caspar Weaver, about half a mile from Lee Town, and the same place I hired at last year, on Saturday the 27th instant, about Thirty Negroes, consisting of men, women, boys and girls.—No person need apply unless they shall have paid the preceding hire.

RICH'D BAYLOR,
Agent for the heirs of Wm. Daylor.
December 10.

Negroes for Hire.
AT Adam Moudy's Tavern in Smithfield, on the day after Christmas, I will hire out my Negroes—men, women and children, for one or five years.—It is hoped that all persons indebted to me for hire, will be prepared on that day to make payment.

MATTHEW WHITING
December 10.

A FEW NEGROES
For hire or sale. Enquire of the printer.
December 17.

Negroes for Hire and Sale.
ON Tuesday the 30th of December, will be hired for the ensuing year, at the house of Adam Moudy, in Smithfield, fifteen or eighteen negroes, several likely men, women and boys.

BACON BURWELL,
Wm. P. FLOOD.
N. B. I shall offer for sale on the same day for cash, or paper negotiable in sixty days at the Farmer's Bank in Winchester, a stout and healthy negro man, a most valuable female house servant and her female child 3 or 4 years old. Should I be instructed to all others, which I think probable, notice will be given.

WILLIAM P. FLOOD.
December 10.

Jefferson County, to wit.
November Court, 1817.
Thomas S. Bennett, Complainant,
vs.
James Anderson and William P. Craghill, Defendants.

IN CHANCERY.
THE Defendant James Anderson not having entered his appearance and given security agreeably to the act of assembly and the rules of this court; and it appearing to the satisfaction of the court that he is not an inhabitant of this commonwealth—On motion of the complainant by his counsel, it is ordered that the said defendant Anderson do appear here on the fourth Monday in January next, and answer the bill of the complainant; And it is further ordered, that the defendant Wm. P. Craghill do not pay, convey away, or secure any monies by him owing to, or goods or effects in his hands belonging to the absent defendant Anderson, until he do further order of this court; and that a copy of this order be forthwith published in the Farmer's Repository, printed in Charleston, for two months successively, and posted at the door of the court house of said county of Jefferson.

A Copy—Teste,
ROBERT G. HITE, Clk.
December 3.

WASHINGTON CITY, Dec. 15.
THE DRAWING-ROOM.
The opening of the drawing-room and the course which Mrs. Monroe means to adopt in receiving the ladies of the district and strangers, have for some time past, been a subject of much inquiry and debate, if we are not misinformed, among the fashionable circles of Washington. We have ourselves repeatedly witnessed the introduction of this subject upon the tapis, and it has never failed to excite considerable interest and various opinions, and of late the sensation has been considerable, on learning that Mrs. M. does not mean to return visits, but merely to receive company.

We must, in truth, admit that the preponderance of opinion, as far as we have heard it expressed, seems to set more against than in favor of the adoption of this measure, but, perhaps, this is owing to the want of giving the subject due reflection, and from the warmth which is excited in the discussion of a question in which female pride and prerogative bears so great an interest. We are far from advocating the introduction of courtly etiquettes and unnecessary ceremonies in our republican institutions, but we shall always uphold and contend for propriety of behaviour and respectful conduct.—We are far from wishing to decorate or encircle Mrs. Monroe, or any other Presidentess with royal insignia, but at the same time we hope we have too much justice to ask from the lady of our chief magistrate, a conduct and a sacrifice which we should consider as cruel to exact from the wife of any other citizen.

“What?” exclaimed a lady in the height of irritation, “and is Mrs. Monroe about to pursue a course so opposite to that of her predecessor? A course which made her so beloved by us all, and which rendered her so amiable in the eyes of every visitant at Washington. If such be her plans, I answer for one, she will not hold her popularity long.”

Reflecting on this speech, and not wishing that either our chief magistrate or his consort should lose their popularity unjustly, we gave some consideration to the subject, and we began first by tracing, in our mind, the origin of the drawing-room, which led us back to the days of our beloved Washington.

When all attempts at introducing a *compete* etiquette for the house of the chief magistrate was ridiculed on republican principles, and on the ground that the respect we should all ways entertain for the man of the people's choice, would in all cases govern our deportment towards him, and every individual of his family. Notwithstanding, however, that this subject had been fully discussed, and conclusion drawn therefrom, a few persons acted in contradiction thereto, and in fact to the very spirit of our government, and attempted to make comparison between the upper and lower houses, and between the wives of senators and those of representatives, and between them and the wives of the heads of department, and between these and the wives of citizens. Gen. Washington, to put an end to all these intrigues and cabals, established a levee for himself, and Mrs. Washington was instructed to visit the ladies of all the senators, members of the lower house, and those of respectable citizens without distinction. This was the origin of the drawing room.

When Mr. Adams succeeded to the presidency the same arrangements were observed, with this difference, that strict attention was paid that no gentleman could be admitted to the drawing room, who had not been previously introduced to the president at his levee. Parties running high at that time, some of the persons about president Adams and his lady gave such decided marks of disapprobation, when certain members of the opposition appeared, that they soon deserted the drawing room and levee, and rendered both arrangements unpopular. This probably introduced the idea that they savoured so much of aristocracy that when the sage of Monticello came into office he abolished both, and with all the deference and respect which we shall ever retain for the acts of that illustrious statesman, went, in our opinion, rather to the other extreme. He received any body, in his own body, in his cabinet, setting room, or breakfast room, whether dressed in his morning gown and slippers, just as they happened to call, and he cared not whether they came in boots or shoes, muddy or clean, with a black handkerchief or muslin cravat.

When Mr. Madison came into power, new arrangements were deemed necessary, and a middle course between General Washington's and Mr. Jefferson's mode was adopted. The levee of the former was abolished, and the drawing room preserved. As at this time the whole population of the United States scarcely comprised more inhabitants than is now contained in Georgetown, Mrs. Madison, in the bloom of health, and with a constitution capable of supporting any fatigue, commenced her career by visiting all the ladies of our citizens; as also those strangers who might arrive at the metropolis. With how much ease she acquitted herself, and with how much ease she stoop-

ed to conquer, is fresh in our remembrance, and will long continue as a pleasing recollection. But we must, all of us remember, at the same time, how many privations she suffered as our population increased and the influx of strangers augmented. What was begun as a pleasure became a serious and severe duty, and in the end a laborious task. She had commenced, however, and she could not retreat; and towards the end of Mr. Madison's administration, she had not an hour she could call her own, performing a tour of duty which not one woman of a thousand could support.

Having thus traced through four administrations the measures thought fit to be adopted, by which we were to arrive at the families of our chief magistrates, and observing each of them to vary with circumstances, why should we be so unjust as not to allow the same liberty of alteration at the present day? But let us even suppose that Mrs. Monroe could, without the sacrifice of her health and constitution, perform the fatiguing duty of driving all day long, through frost and snow, from the centre to every extreme of the district to return visits of courtesy; is it a task fitting to be imposed upon her? or is it desirable that the lady of the chief magistrate should be seen driving like an Estafette over the extensive grounds which include the district, in order to maintain a punctilious ceremony, in which, even taking the very horses into consideration, there is more virtue in “the breach than in the observance?”

Besides, the population of Washington and the district is rapidly and daily increasing, and this is a ceremony which must, from the nature of things, be, in time, abolished; which no human being, not even a Hercules, much less a delicate female, could accomplish.

This season, therefore, strikes us not only as being favorable to such an alteration, but as requiring it; and we have no hesitation to believe that even those who have expressed sentiments very ungenial to such an order of things will, upon cool consideration, see their moral fitness, and own, without hesitation, that to exact from the lady of the President sacrifices which no citizen, who had a regard for his wife, would suffer her to perform, would be an act of injustice of the highest grade, and instead of honoring the family of the man of the people's choice, would be treating it with contempt and degradation.

If we speak correctly in public society, and we have no reason to doubt it, Mrs. Monroe is at home in the morning to receive all those calls which the ladies of the district or strangers may please to make; and the President receives the heads of departments and the members of our government at all hours in the day, and strangers and citizens between one and two. In these receptions there is no display of unnecessary ceremony or etiquette, but every thing to prove that the attentions of their fellow citizens are grateful to their feelings and unostentatiously desired.—*Register.*

CONGRESS.
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.
Monday, December 17.

INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS.
Mr. Tucker, of Va. from the committee to whom was referred so much of the message of the President of the United States as relates to the subject of internal improvements, made a long and elaborate report, concluding with the following resolution:

Resolved, That, in order to promote and give security to the internal commerce among the several states; to facilitate the safe and expeditious transportation of the means of the respective States; to render more easy and less extensive the means and provisions necessary for the common defence, by the construction of military roads, with the like assent of the respective States; and for such other internal improvements as may be within the constitutional powers of the general government, it is expedient that the sum to be paid to the United States by the 20th section of the act to incorporate the subscribers to the Bank of the United States, and the dividends which shall arise from their shares in its capital stock, be constituted as a fund for internal improvements.

The report was read, and referred to a committee of the whole.

AMELIA ISLAND AND GALVEZTON.
The following message was received from the President of the U. States, by Mr. J. J. Monros, his Secretary.

To the House of Representatives.
In compliance with the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 6th of this month, I transmit, for the information of the House, a Report from the Secretary of State, with the documents referred to in it, containing all the information of the Executive,

which it is proper to disclose, relative to certain persons who lately took possession of Amelia Island and Galvezton.
WASHINGTON, Dec. 15, 1817.
DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
December 13, 1817.

The Secretary of State, to whom has been referred the Resolution of the House of Representatives of the 8th instant, requesting the President to lay before the House any information he may possess, and think proper to communicate, relative to the proceedings of certain persons who took possession of Amelia Island, at the mouth of St. Mary's River, in the summer of the present year, and made an establishment there; and relative to a similar establishment, previously made at Galvezton, has the honor to submit to the President the accompanying papers containing the information received at the respective Departments of State, the Treasury and the Navy, upon the subjects embraced in the resolution.

The above documents and accompanying papers, were ordered to be printed.

Tuesday, Dec. 16.
EXPATRIATION.
Mr. Robertson, of Louisiana, offered the following resolution to the House:
Resolved, That a committee be appointed to inquire into the expediency of providing by law for the exercise of the right of expatriation; and that they have leave to report by bill or otherwise.

Mr. Robertson, said that for a very considerable length of time he had wished this question to be decided by that tribunal to whom the decision of it belonged. He had, some years ago, offered a resolution similar to this, which was then not adopted; whether on account of the war in which we were then engaged, or for what other considerations, he had never been able to decide. The question which had arisen during the late war made a decision of it necessary. It would be well recollected, that among the soldiers of the United States were many individuals, natives of Great Britain, who were taken prisoners of war, and, according to the doctrine of the British government, an odious doctrine, repudiated, he believed, by every other government, were treated as traitors fighting against their government; and that, if this construction had been consummated, our government had incurred severe retaliation. But, with what consistency could the United States take the ground of retaliation, when they themselves had never recognized, in regard to our own citizens, what we demanded of Great Britain in regard to hers? So far as proceedings have been had on this point, Mr. R. said he was led to believe this right had been denied our citizens. He would not dwell on the particulars of the decision on this subject, by Judge Ely, some years ago, but merely state that Isaac Williams, a citizen of the United States, became a citizen of the French Republic, and was thereafter fined and imprisoned, by the decision of our courts, for making war on Great Britain, on the ground, that he could not divest himself of the allegiance he owed the United States. It was certainly proper, Mr. R. said, that there should be some decision of the Legislature on a question of this nature and magnitude, which at present depended on the opinions of the Judiciary; and, as far as the Congress can regulate judicial opinions, that such direction should be given on this head as he thought were obviously just and necessary. He had thought proper to make these remarks, because, although he believed the right to be clear, and that the government would maintain it—as they ought to do, if they possessed the respect which is professed for the principles of liberty and for civil rights—a decision of the Legislature on the subject was more important at this moment, from considerations growing out of the present relations between the United States and foreign nations. By the existing treaty with Spain, a citizen of the United States, holding a commission under any government at war with Spain, whilst we are at peace with her, is considered as a pirate. This extraordinary provision of the treaty must have escaped the attention of that power in our government which makes treaties, or it would have been rejected, as well for its cruelty as because it is an act of legislation to define and punish pirates, and not a power conferred to the treaty making authority. To say nothing more of that, however, Mr. R. observed, that he deemed it necessary to protect the citizens of the United States from punishment, due only to piracy, when found with commissions in their hands from any government at war with Spain. He wished to see our citizens at perfect liberty to become citizens of what nation they chose, on such terms as that nation should prescribe. It would appear, moreover, from what he had said, Mr. R. remarked, that there was not that neutrality in our conduct towards the two parties, in the war between Spain and her colonies, which we all profess. In this respect the parties were certainly not on the same footing; since a citizen of the United States

which it is proper to disclose, relative to certain persons who lately took possession of Amelia Island and Galvezton.
WASHINGTON, Dec. 15, 1817.
DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
December 13, 1817.

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Mr. Robertson, of Louisiana, offered the following resolution to the House:
Resolved, That a committee be appointed to inquire into the expediency of providing by law for the exercise of the right of expatriation; and that they have leave to report by bill or otherwise.

Mr. Robertson, said that for a very considerable length of time he had wished this question to be decided by that tribunal to whom the decision of it belonged. He had, some years ago, offered a resolution similar to this, which was then not adopted; whether on account of the war in which we were then engaged, or for what other considerations, he had never been able to decide. The question which had arisen during the late war made a decision of it necessary. It would be well recollected, that among the soldiers of the United States were many individuals, natives of Great Britain, who were taken prisoners of war, and, according to the doctrine of the British government, an odious doctrine, repudiated, he believed, by every other government, were treated as traitors fighting against their government; and that, if this construction had been consummated, our government had incurred severe retaliation. But, with what consistency could the United States take the ground of retaliation, when they themselves had never recognized, in regard to our own citizens, what we demanded of Great Britain in regard to hers? So far as proceedings have been had on this point, Mr. R. said he was led to believe this right had been denied our citizens. He would not dwell on the particulars of the decision on this subject, by Judge Ely, some years ago, but merely state that Isaac Williams, a citizen of the United States, became a citizen of the French Republic, and was thereafter fined and imprisoned, by the decision of our courts, for making war on Great Britain, on the ground, that he could not divest himself of the allegiance he owed the United States. It was certainly proper, Mr. R. said, that there should be some decision of the Legislature on a question of this nature and magnitude, which at present depended on the opinions of the Judiciary; and, as far as the Congress can regulate judicial opinions, that such direction should be given on this head as he thought were obviously just and necessary. He had thought proper to make these remarks, because, although he believed the right to be clear, and that the government would maintain it—as they ought to do, if they possessed the respect which is professed for the principles of liberty and for civil rights—a decision of the Legislature on the subject was more important at this moment, from considerations growing out of the present relations between the United States and foreign nations. By the existing treaty with Spain, a citizen of the United States, holding a commission under any government at war with Spain, whilst we are at peace with her, is considered as a pirate. This extraordinary provision of the treaty must have escaped the attention of that power in our government which makes treaties, or it would have been rejected, as well for its cruelty as because it is an act of legislation to define and punish pirates, and not a power conferred to the treaty making authority. To say nothing more of that, however, Mr. R. observed, that he deemed it necessary to protect the citizens of the United States from punishment, due only to piracy, when found with commissions in their hands from any government at war with Spain. He wished to see our citizens at perfect liberty to become citizens of what nation they chose, on such terms as that nation should prescribe. It would appear, moreover, from what he had said, Mr. R. remarked, that there was not that neutrality in our conduct towards the two parties, in the war between Spain and her colonies, which we all profess. In this respect the parties were certainly not on the same footing; since a citizen of the United States

FARMER'S REPOSITORY.

CHARLES-TOWN, (Jefferson County, Virginia,) PRINTED BY RICHARD WILLIAMS.

Vol. X.]

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1817.

[No. 508.]

TERMS OF THIS PAPER.

THE price of the FARMER'S REPOSITORY Two Dollars a year, one dollar to be paid at the commencement, and one at the expiration of the year. Distant subscribers will be required to pay the whole in advance. No paper will be discontinued, except at the option of the Editor, until arrearages are paid. Advertisements not exceeding a square, will be inserted three weeks for one dollar, and twenty five cents for every subsequent insertion. All advertisements sent to the office without having the number of times for which they are to be inserted, designated, will be continued until forbid, and charged accordingly. All communications to the Editor must be post paid.

From the Aurora.

CALCUTTA, April 4.
Horrid Superstition—On Wednesday last, a Sutee, or female sacrifice by burning, took place at Knaah Ghaut.
A devotee, who performed the diabolical ceremony of swinging, during the last *Charruck Poojah*, fell from the hook by which he was suspended, pitched upon his head, and expired on the spot.
EXPLANATIONS.
The *Charruck Poojah* is an annual festival, its particular nature has escaped theme, but the pictures of the worship, as it is, can never escape the recollection of those who have once witnessed them.—Various exercises of pain and torture, and even immolation are practised on this festival of poojah.

We have seen gangs of Hindoos variously and fantastically painted on this feast day; though no colors are used in any manner without some religious symbol intended thereby: thus men will be seen with their bodies painted all blue on the right side of the line passing vertically in the direction of the nose and nasal; and on the left side white, or yellow, or red; blue and red, and blue and white, are the most common.
A gang of these passing along a bazaar singing, clamorously, accompanied by tambourines, and the small tambour called *tom toms*, suddenly stopped, a parcel of cord as thick as the stem of a tobacco pipe was produced, and a sharp instrument with a triangular point—one of the principals among them, who led a young goat, soon lighted up a fire and the goat was sacrificed; while this sacrifice was performing, six or eight persons appeared dancing backward and forward on the line, their sides streaming with blood: the cord which had been produced had been thrust through a hole made in the flesh over the ribs, about four inches above the hip bone, and on each side of the body; the same cords passed in like manner through the sides of all those who were dancing; and they danced along, backward and forward, those cords passing through them, until it was no longer tolerable to see them.
Passing to a great cross road where a Fakir had erected a miniature temple to solicit alms, there a stout post about twenty feet high was fixed firm in the ground; on the top of this post a transverse piece was fixed of about sixteen feet in length; and through a hole therein in which was fixed an iron eye, a large iron pin, upon which the transverse piece transversed, retained it in that place, so that it could play round by means of a long rope affixed to one end of it, at the other end was fitted a rope in a swivel, which when the transverse piece was horizontal, touched the ground, and to the end of this rope were fixed a pair of hooks at the two ends of several strands of fine twine; these hooks were neatly polished, and of about the thickness of the prongs of a flesh hook, with an eye to each hook through which the strands of twine passed.
In the muscles which pass down the sides of the spine, on each side those hooks were fixed in the muscle, so that the hook embraced in its curve, about two inches diameter of the flesh; the points of the hooks appearing through the flesh, outward.
The cords at the ends of which the hooks were fixed, was now made fast to its double, to the rope which hung from the transverse piece being levered so that when pulled by the rope at the other end what was attached to it should be raised from the ground; as soon as the person was thus attached by means of the hooks in the back muscles, and the rope to the transverse piece, the Bramins give notice to clear the circle round the post, and an immense number seizing on the rope at the end opposite to that at which the man was hooked, and bearing upon it, the wretch at the other end was raised by his back muscles in the air, and the people at the opposite end running round, and the transverse piece admitting it horizontal and circular motion—the wretch was sent with arms and legs distending, swinging at the utmost rapidity round in the air, ten or twelve feet above the heads of the people.
In the course of a walk of two hours, above forty spectacles of this kind were seen; and it was no unusual occurrence that the miserable wretch was dashed to death.
The writer of this article conversed with a person who had repeatedly submitted to the performance of this species of worship, as the substitute of another, and was about to perform it again that year; the wounds on the muscles were visible of at least three operations within an inch of each other.
On the same *poojah* a vast *pagoda* was moved on wheels, drawn by a long cable and human force; in the fervor of religious phrenzy several persons threw themselves under the wheels of that *pagoda* as it was dragged along and were crushed to death.

CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Wednesday, Dec. 27.

Mr. Robertson, from the committee on public lands, reported a bill for the relief of Samuel Ackman, and a bill for the relief of Joseph Earwood, which were severally twice read and committed.
Mr. Williams of N. C. from the committee of claims, made an unfavorable report on the petition of John G. Mackell; which was read and concurred in.
The Speaker laid before the House the following communication from the Treasury Department, which was ordered to be printed, with the accompanying documents:

TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

December 17th, 1817.
Sir—I have the honor to transmit herewith for the information of the House of Representatives, an estimate of the appropriations for the service of the year 1818, amounting to \$10,925,191 62, viz:
For the Civil List, 1,070,708 02
Miscellaneous Expenses, 490,308 51
Intercourse with foreign nations, 487,666 61
The Military Establishment, including arrears, and Indian Department, 6,265,182 25
The Naval Establishment, including the Marine Corps, 2,611,376 20
\$10,925,191 62

The funds out of which the appropriations for the year 1818 may be discharged, are the following:

1. The sum of \$6,000,000, annually reserved by the act of the 4th August, 1790, out of the Duties and Customs, towards the expenses of government.
2. The proceeds of the Stamp Duties, and the duty on Sugar refined within the United States.
3. The surplus which may remain of the Customs and Internal Duties, after satisfying the pledge for which they are pledged and appropriated.
4. Any other unappropriated money which may come into the Treasury during the year 1818.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,
Your most obedient servant,
Wm. H. CRAWFORD.

The Hon. the Speaker

of the House of Representatives.

On motion of Mr. Holmes of Mass.
Resolved, That a committee be appointed to enquire into the expediency of providing by law for the pay of the members of the Senate and House of Representatives and the deputies from the territories of the United States—and that the said committee have leave to report by bill or otherwise.
Mr. Livermore, of New Hampshire, moved that this committee consist of twenty members, that one might be selected from each state, and thus bringing forward the views and impressions of the various parts of the country, might agree upon a report which would save the House the alternative of exhibiting itself before the world in the unpleasant attitude of debating its own compensation. This number being objected to by Mr. Holmes, who wished the usual number (of seven) to be appointed, Mr. Livermore withdrew his motion and a committee of seven was ordered to be appointed.
On motion of Mr. Harrison.
Resolved, That the Secretary of War be and he is hereby instructed to report to this House the amount of the pensions which have been granted to the widows and orphans of deceased officers and soldiers of the late war, specifying the number of each grade of officers to whose widows or children the pensions have been granted.

ORDER OF THE DAY.

The House then again resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. Bassett in the chair, on the bill to provide for commutation of the bounty lands of the soldiers of the late army, and the motion to strike out the first section being still under consideration.
The debate was resumed, and continued to a late hour, in which Messrs. Ball, Colston, Livermore, Storrs, Holmes, of M. and Beecher spoke against the bill, and Messrs. Anderson, of Ky. Baldwin, Harrison, Clay, and Johnson, of Ky. advocated it.
The committee rose and obtained leave to sit again.

INTERNAL DUTIES.

The amendments of the Senate to the bill to abolish the Internal Taxes, were taken up and severally agreed to; so that the bill now wants only the approbation of the President to become a law.
A resolution for distributing the public documents, was received from the Senate, read three times, and passed; and
The house adjourned.

Thursday, December 18.

Mr. Williams of N. C. from the committee of claims, to whom were referred sundry reports of facts, in particular cases submitted

for his decision, by the Commissioner of Claims for lost property, &c. made reports unfavorable to the cases of John Manning, for Caroline Penwick; of the Levy Court of Calvert County; of John I. Pattison; and of John Ireland; which reports were severally referred to a committee of the whole.
Mr. Little of Md. from the committee of accounts, presented a report as required by the order of the House, on the manner in which the printing of the House is executed, excupulating equally the clerk and contractor from blame. After some conversation, this report was laid on the table.
Mr. Taylor of N. Y. submitted for consideration the following resolution:
Resolved, That the Secretary for the Department of War, be instructed to report to this House a list of the persons who have been added to the pension list since the Report made to the House of Representatives from that Department bearing date May 28, 1813, designating the number of each pensioner as he stands on the roll of the respective districts or agencies, his rank or quality, and the amount of annual stipend at present to each person.
Mr. T. intimated his reasons for requiring this information. A proposition was now before the House for giving a bounty in land to the disbanded officers; it was fit that the House should know how many of those officers already stand on the pension list of the United States. A proposition was before the House, also, to extend for five years, the pension now allowed to sufferers by the late war: Mr. T. wished to know how many were those pensioners, and to what amount.
The motion was agreed to.
On motion of Mr. T. M. Nelson, of Virginia, it was

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to enquire into the expediency of providing by law for extinguishing the Indian title to certain lands South of Green River, in the State of Kentucky, which were set apart by the State of Virginia, for satisfying the claims of certain Revolutionary Officers to Military Bounty Lands, or of making such other provision, in relation thereto, as justice may recommend.
Resolved, That the same committee also enquire into the expediency of providing by law for satisfying the claims of those Revolutionary Officers who were entitled in virtue of sundry resolutions and acts of the General Assembly of Virginia to Military bounty Lands to be laid off on the North-West side of the River Ohio, between the River Miami and Scioto (now part of the state of Ohio) which claims remain unprovided for, in consequence of the quantity of arable land having proved insufficient therefor.
[This motion produced some debate. In the shape in which it was first offered by the mover, it proposed to declare the measure therein proposed, to be "expedient." To this it was objected, that it was expedient to investigate before deciding; and the mover consented to put his motion in the shape of an enquiry into the expediency of the proposed measure, and in that form the motion was finally adopted. Objection was made to it in its new shape by Mr. Pitkin, of Connecticut, and Mr. Poindexter, of Mississippi, (and doubts were expressed by Mr. Desha, of Kentucky) on the ground of defect of power in the House to pass an act for extinguishing Indian titles, which was of itself an Executive and not Legislative act. To which objections Mr. M. T. M. Nelson, Mr. Barbour, Mr. Garnett and Mr. Mercer, of Virginia, replied, that enquiry only was proposed, and not the expression of any opinion; that the enquiry would embrace as well the powers of Congress as the expediency of the measure, both of which, they contended, were unquestionable.]

COMMUTATION OF SOLDIERS' LANDS.

The House having again resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the bill for the commutation of soldiers' pay—
The question was taken on agreeing to the amendment of detail (being a substitute for the bill before the committee) proposed by Mr. Clay; and decided affirmatively, 96 rising in its favor.
The amendment of Mr. Clay being then open for amendment, was read over for that purpose.
Mr. T. M. Nelson having moved to fill the blank for the amount of commutation with 160 dollars (or one dollar per acre)—
The question was decided in the negative, by a majority of about twenty votes.
Mr. Claiborne, of Tenn. on the principle, that if the bill passed to which, however, he was altogether opposed) the government ought not to appallate on the soldier, by giving him less than its own price for the same acre, moved to fill the blank with 320 dollars, or two dollars per acre. Negated, yeas 25.
Mr. Cobb, of Geo. having moved to fill the blank with 120 dollars, (or 75 cents per acre) it was decided in the negative, yeas 18.
Mr. Harrison, of Ohio, moved 150, and Mr. Little, of Md. 150; both of which were negated.
Mr. Clay then moved to fill the blank with the sum, originally proposed by him, of

Negroes to Hire.

I will offer for hire, for the ensuing year, at Mr. Fulton's tavern in Charlestown, on the 1st day of January next, several female negroes, two or three of them likely girls.
Wm. P. FLOOD.
December 24.

PUBLIC SALE.

WILL be sold, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on Friday the 26th instant, at Mr. Rezin Cross's, adjoining Mr. Thomas R. Hammond's, on the Sheppard's:—
Three cows, a parcel of young steers and heifers, some sheep, a good plantation wagon, some work horses and a riding pony, a good wheat fan, an iron mould board plough, harrows, a good loom, a set of new wagon ladders for a light wagon, an excellent scythe and cradle, bees, a large cutting knife and steel, a walnut corner cupboard, wagon gears, and sundry other articles of plantation utensils. A credit will be given, on giving bond with approved security. Thirty-odd barrels of corn will also be sold on a short credit, for a note with good security, payable to major Lawrence Lewis.
The sale to commence at half past ten o'clock. Should the day prove unfit for the business, the sale will take place the next day.
WILLIAM HICKMAN.
December 17.

Negroes for Hire.

WILL be hired, on Monday the 29th instant, at the late residence of Jacob H. Manning, deceased, about five miles from Charles town, a number of negroes, consisting of men, women, boys and girls.
JAMES HITE, Agent for the heirs of J. H. Manning.
December 17.

TRUSTEE'S SALE.

WILL be sold to the highest bidder, for cash, before the door of Robert Fulton's Tavern, in Charlestown, on Saturday the 3d of January next,
A Negro Woman & two Children, they having been conveyed to the undersigned in trust, to secure the payment of a debt due from Cyrus W. Murray to Robert R. Conrad.
TH. GRIGGS, jun.
December 24.

NEW STORE.

THIRTEEN subscribers have commenced the mercantile business at Lcetown, where they are now opening, and for sale, a handsome assortment of
CHEAP GOODS,
consisting of every article suitable for the present season—all of which will be sold at the most reduced prices, for cash, or on a short credit to punctual customers.
All kinds of country produce will be received in exchange for goods, at the market price.
CHAS. & JOHN STRIDER.
December 17.

Negroes for Hire.

AT Adam Moudy's Tavern in Smithfield, on the day after Christmas, I will hire out my Negroes—men, women and children, for one or five years.—It is hoped that all persons indebted to me for hire, will be prepared on that day to make payment.
MATTHEW WHITING
December 10.

A FEW NEGROES

For hire or sale. Enquire of the printer.
December 17.

Negroes for Hire and Sale.

ON Tuesday the 30th of December, will be hired for the ensuing year, at the house of Adam Moudy, in Smithfield, fifteen or eighteen negroes, several likely men, women and boys.
BACON BURWELL,
Wm. P. FLOOD.
N. B. I shall offer for sale on the same day for cash, or paper negotiable in sixty days at the Farmer's Bank in Winchester, a stout and healthy negro man, a most valuable female house servant and her female child 3 or 4 years old. Should I be instructed to sell others, which I think probable, notice will be given.
WILLIAM P. FLOOD.
December 10.

Jefferson County, to wit.

Thomas S. Bennett, Complainant,
vs.
James Anderson and William P. Craghill, Defendants.
IN CHANCERY.
The Defendant James Anderson not having entered his appearance and given security agreeably to the act of assembly and the rules of this court; and it appearing to the satisfaction of the court that he is not an inhabitant of this commonwealth.—On motion of the complainant by his counsel, it is ordered that the said defendant Anderson do appear here on the fourth Monday in January next, and answer the bill of the complainant: And it is further ordered, that the defendant Wm. P. Craghill do not pay, convey away, or secrete any monies by him owing to, or goods or effects in his hands belonging to the absent defendant Anderson, until the further order of this court, and that a copy of this order be forthwith published in the Farmer's Repository, printed in Charlestown, for two months successively, and posted at the door of the court house of said county of Jefferson.
A Copy—Teste,
ROBERT G. HITE, Clk.
December 3.

NOTICE.

THE subscriber informs his old customers and the public generally, that he is about to commence the manufacturing of
LEATHER,
again, in Smithfield, directly opposite the tan yard which he occupied for twelve years past. He hopes by his assiduity and attention, and from his knowledge and experience in said business, to be able to give general satisfaction to those who may please to favor him with their custom. Having formed a Co-Partnership, the business will be carried on under the firm of
James Clark, and Co.
They will, in a few days have an assortment of well selected leather.
JAMES CLARK.
N. B. A generous price will be given for hides, Skins, and Bark.
Smithfield, Nov. 19.
December 3.

THE REPOSITORY.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24.

A failure in receiving a timely supply of paper, has subjected us to the necessity of issuing but half a sheet this week; the deficiency shall be made up in the course of the winter.

The Eastern Mail, due on Monday, had not arrived when our paper went to press.

William Cobbett has intimated his intention of returning to England, and becoming a candidate for a seat in Parliament.

Letters received in Philadelphia, announce the loss of the Steam Boat *Telegraph*, on the Mississippi. She struck upon a snag in the night, and went down so suddenly that her whole cargo was lost; and melancholy to relate, four persons were drowned.

The great northern mail which arrived at New Orleans on the 3d of November, had been pillaged on its route—many letters had been opened, their contents taken out and rescated.

It will be seen by the letter of General Gaines to the Executive of Georgia, that the hostile Indians have been promised a British force to assist them, from New-Province. These promises have been made by *Nichols and Woodbine!* and we have no doubt of the correctness of them—for we were aware some days since of the fact, that Woodbine had purchased two brigades, and was fitting them out at New Providence, destined for an expedition up the Appalachian river. This is the aid alluded to by the Indians; and their recent conduct has not escaped the notice and consideration of the constituted authorities. From the late military movements on our frontier; and the sailing of the U. S. ship John Adams, and schooners Enterprise and Lynx for the Gulf of Mexico, there is no question but our government have a knowledge of Woodbine's intended expedition; and have dispatched the latter force to intercept him. We trust he may be secured; for a more infernal villain could not be the face of the earth.—*Savannah Republican.*

Gale on Lake Erie.—The northern papers contain some particulars of a severe gale in the vicinity of Lake Erie, on the 12th ultimo. The bridge across Little Buffalo was entirely covered with water. Most of the fences, lumber and wood, were carried off. The dashing of the waves on the shores of Lake Erie, were tremendous. In many places it washed over the banks 40 feet high. The long wharf of Dunkirk sustained material damage.
IN Y. Daily Ado.

Legislature of Virginia.

Extract from the Journal of the House of Delegates.
Monday, Dec. 8.

The speaker laid before the house a letter from the auditor of public accounts, which was read as follows:
AUDITOR'S OFFICE, Dec. 8.
SIR—In obedience to an act of assembly, relative to the duties of the auditor, I have the honor to transmit herewith, a statement of the revenue for the year one thousand eight hundred and seventeen; together with a list of the warrants drawn on the treasury, for the year ending the 30th September last, and an account of all monies paid into the Treasury, during the same period.
I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
JOHN BURFOOT, Auditor.

A STATEMENT

Of the Commonwealth's Revenue for the year 1817.
Nett amount of the tax on lots, land and other property, \$ 461,986 24
Ditto surplus on tobacco shipped, 11,415 20
Do. tax on law process, &c. 28,763 13
Ditto register's fees 2,335 68
\$ 504,500 25

Amount of the revenue, as above, \$ 504,500 25
Amount of expenditures charged on the revenue, \$ 562,873 23
Balance against the revenue, \$ 68,372 98
JNO. BURFOOT, Auditor.

AUDITOR'S OFFICE,

1st December, 1817.

AN ACT,

Concerning the bank of the Valley in Virginia, passed December 6th, 1817.
Be it enacted by the General Assembly, That whenever it shall be necessary to enter into the appointment of the directors for the Bank of the Valley in Virginia, the Chief Magistrate of this commonwealth, together with any four or a greater number of the executive Council, who are hereby appointed commissioners on the part of the Commonwealth for that purpose, shall and may, appoint three fit and proper persons as directors for the said Bank, which appointment shall be made at least fifteen days, previous to each annual meeting of the Stockholders of said Bank and a list of the persons appointed immediately forwarded to the Mother Bank in Winchester.
This act shall be in force from and after the passage thereof.

Negroes for Sale.

I will offer for sale, at Adam Moudy's tavern, in Smithfield, on the 30th instant,
Two valuable Negro Women,
one of which has a well grown male child.
JOSEPH MINGHINI.
December 24.

in the employ of Spain against the colonies is not considered as a pirate, but engaged in the service of the colonies against Spain, he is. He did not know that this fact would have indeed him to have brought the question before the house, but for the deep impression he felt of the justice and propriety of adopting the principle, abstracted from the existing state of things. But it was the more necessary to reduce the principle to legislation, because of the situation in which the want of it has placed us in regard to foreign nations.
The motion of Mr. Robertson was adopted without opposition, and without a division.

SLAVES.

On motion of Mr. Pindall, of Virginia, it was Resolved, that a committee be appointed to enquire into the expediency of providing more effectually, by law, for reclaiming servants or slaves escaping from one state into another; and that they have leave to report by bill or otherwise.
Mr. Harrison, of Ohio, offered the following resolution:
Resolved, That the committee on Military Affairs be, and they are hereby instructed to enquire into the expediency of continuing the Pensions which now are or have been heretofore allowed to the widows and orphans of the officers and soldiers who were killed or wounded in the service of the late war, for a term of five years beyond the periods when they shall respectively cease under existing laws.

The motion of Mr. Harrison was not opposed, and was adopted. It was resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. Bassett in the chair, on the bill for the commutation of soldiers' pay.

Mr. Johnson, of Ky. as chairman of the military committee, stated a number of facts bearing on the subject of the bill. The number of men in the service at the close of the war was ascertained to have been 34,000; the number who died in service or were killed in battle was estimated at about 17,000; making in the whole about 50,000 soldiers (and heirs of soldiers) entitled to the bounty in land. For this number eight millions of acres would be required. But it was a number overrated, and he did not believe that 40,000 would come forward to claim the land bounty. Of the whole number of 50,000, he calculated that not more than half would commute for money, say 25,000; to pay this number the proposed commutation would require five millions of dollars, or 1,250,000, annually, for four years, which mode of payment had been selected, as well with a view to the benefit of these soldiers, as to the relief of the treasury. The committee, he said, had no doubt but the annual proceeds from the very land commuted would be sufficient to defray the whole amount; which would remove all objections of a financial nature—and he was not aware of any other. The measure, he hoped, would have the effect of cutting off all speculation, of which there was so much complaint, and by which the soldier was deprived of his rights under the influence of his necessities.

A debate of some length arose on this bill, and particularly on its details, which did not, however, result in any final decision.
A motion was made to strike out the first section of the bill. Mr. Holmes, of Mass. Mr. Storrs, of New York, Mr. Smith, of Maryland, and Mr. Claggett, of New Hampshire, successively expressed their fears that it would be impossible to arrange the details of the bill as to prevent its being converted to the benefit of the speculator. That the object of the bill is laudable, was allowed; but, in addition to the objections of mere detail, it was also suggested, by some one or other of the gentlemen, that Congress had done their duty liberally and had no need to do more; that the public funds could be better employed, if to spare; and, finally, that, if Congress once legislated on the subject, they would never see the end of supplemental laws, and individual claims for relief.
On the suggestion of Mr. Livermore, of N. H. the subject having been opened, and opinions interchanged on it, to give time to reflect more upon them, the committee rose, reported progress, and obtained leave to sit again. And the house adjourned.

NEW-YORK, Dec. 12.

Distressing fire at St. Johns, N. F.—By the schooner *Parker*, Capt. Boyd, in 8 days from Halifax, we learn that a great fire occurred in the latter part of Nov. at St. Johns, Newfoundland, which destroyed about two hundred and fifty buildings, including stores, dwelling houses, &c. In one of the stores belonging to Mr. Merchbanks, 800 barrels of flour were consumed. The loss in buildings and other property, is estimated at 200,000 pounds sterling. Many of the inhabitants lost every thing; and the whole town, in consequence of the destruction of flour and provisions, are suffering severe distress. The fire originated in a cooper's shop. The civil authority had laid an embargo on all vessels in port, and chartered them for the purpose of transporting those of the inhabitants who could leave the town, to other places for subsistence. Several of the vessels, filled with passengers, arrived at Halifax on the first inst. and the Governor, on learning the extent of their calamity, ordered a number of small vessels to proceed to St. Johns, with supplies for the remaining inhabitants.

In addition to the above, we have been favored with a Halifax paper of the 1st inst. containing several extracts of letters from St. Johns, which state that the fire occurred

on the 7th of November, and originated in some dunnages in the store house of Wm. B. Thomas.

One letter says—"Every house, store, &c. between Church Hill and the King's wharf, have been laid in ashes, as also great quantities of provisions, furniture and merchandises. Indeed upwards, I believe, of 200 houses, and other property of the value of 500,000 pounds—some say 1,000,000.—The prospect before us is dreadful!"

CAPTURE OF GEN. MINA.

BALTIMORE, DEC. 13.
By the arrival at this port this forenoon of the sch. *Cuba*, Capt. Clackbar, in 12 days from Havana, we are enabled to present to our readers the following interesting intelligence, received at that place from Capt. Montgomery, just arrived from Vera-Cruz.

From the Mexico Gazette Extraordinary.

TRANSLATION.

CAPTURE OF THE TRAITOR MINA, BY COL. ORRANTIA.

H. E. the Viceroy has just received by an extraordinary courier the following communication:
Most Excellent Sir.—Long live the king. The com. of Silas, under date of the 27th, at 7 o'clock in the evening, writes me as follows:

Dear General Sir.—At last we have obtained the fruit of our labors—Mina has been taken alive, and is now entering this place. They also bring the head of Moreno; they have taken the two other Herreras, a Frenchman, and other officers of their infantry. We killed several when we attacked them, which was by surprise. All this has been achieved by Senor Orrantia, who left at 10 o'clock at night with cavalry, for el Baradito, near la Hachiqueza; which news, so interesting, I communicate for the satisfaction of your excellency, and of all the good and loving subjects of our sovereign, and I shall consider it very complete if it gets to hand as expeditiously as I wish.
God preserve your excellency many years.
JUAN DE PERGUERA.
To H. E. the Viceroy Don Juan Ruiz de Apodaca.
Irapuato, Oct. 28, 1817, & A. M.

His excellency, not wishing to delay one moment the communication of such agreeable intelligence to the faithful vassals of the king our Lord, has commanded the immediate insertion of it in an extraordinary Gazette, expecting every moment to receive the particulars of this important event.

Legislature of Virginia.

Extract from the Journal of the House of Delegates.
Monday, Dec. 8.

The speaker laid before the house a letter from the auditor of public accounts, which was read as follows:
AUDITOR'S OFFICE, Dec. 8.
SIR—In obedience to an act of assembly, relative to the duties of the auditor, I have the honor to transmit herewith, a statement of the revenue for the year one thousand eight hundred and seventeen; together with a list of the warrants drawn on the treasury, for the year ending the 30th September last, and an account of all monies paid into the Treasury, during the same period.
I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
JOHN BURFOOT, Auditor.

A STATEMENT

Of the Commonwealth's Revenue for the year 1817.
Nett amount of the tax on lots, land and other property, \$ 461,986 24
Ditto surplus on tobacco shipped, 11,415 20
Do. tax on law process, &c. 28,763 13
Ditto register's fees 2,335 68
\$ 504,500 25

Amount of the revenue, as above, \$ 504,500 25
Amount of expenditures charged on the revenue, \$ 562,873 23
Balance against the revenue, \$ 68,372 98
JNO. BURFOOT, Auditor.

AUDITOR'S OFFICE,

1st December, 1817.

AN ACT,

Concerning the bank of the Valley in Virginia, passed December 6th, 1817.
Be it enacted by the General Assembly, That whenever it shall be necessary to enter into the appointment of the directors for the Bank of the Valley in Virginia, the Chief Magistrate of this commonwealth, together with any four or a greater number of the executive Council, who are hereby appointed commissioners on the part of the Commonwealth for that purpose, shall and may, appoint three fit and proper persons as directors for the said Bank, which appointment shall be made at least fifteen days, previous to each annual meeting of the Stockholders of said Bank and a list of the persons appointed immediately forwarded to the Mother Bank in Winchester.
This act shall be in force from and after the passage thereof.

Negroes for Sale.

I will offer for sale, at Adam Moudy's tavern, in Smithfield, on the 30th instant,
Two valuable Negro Women,
one of which has a well grown male child.
JOSEPH MINGHINI.
December 24.