

# Virginia Free Press

## FARMERS' REPOSITORY.

CHARLESTOWN, JEFFERSON COUNTY, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1850.

VOL. XXIII.

NO. 19.

### GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

The following Message of the Governor of Virginia was received in the Senate and House of Delegates, on the first day of the session, and read by the Clerk of each House.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, 2  
December 6th, 1850.  
Fellow Citizens of the Senate and of the House of Delegates.

I offer you my sincere salutations upon this your first assemblage under the new Constitution—To you belongs the task of giving the first impulse to the Government and you will not fail properly to appreciate the honor and magnitude of your station, or the difficult and responsible duties which have devolved upon you.

In the call of a Convention, its progress, and the ratification of the proposed Constitution by the people—Virginia has exhibited to the world another grand spectacle, of a nation's changing its fundamental law, without discord or difficulty, directed alone by reason, and making manifest to the universe the great truth, that man is capable of self government.

We lived, it is true, for more than half a century under the former Constitution, and enjoyed great tranquility, and a considerable share of prosperity. That many should have preferred it to any that could be substituted, is not a matter of surprise; when we consider how intimately it was blended with all the past in our history.

When that instrument was formed, the population of Virginia hardly extended beyond the great Allegheny. Since that period, large counties have been created in the west with a rich, numerous and increasing population. Inhabiting a steep, difficult and mountainous country far removed from the seat of government, and destitute of commercial facilities—it should afford a little matter of surprise, that the people of that region, should desire a change in the anticipation of much benefit.

In the change which has been made, it is, perhaps, only what might have been expected, that both sides should think they perceive some cause of dissatisfaction. The ones, in having lost more than was hoped, the others, in having gained less than was desired.

The contest is passed; let the triumph of victory, and the bitterness of defeat, be forgotten in an united effort to benefit our common country, and add new lustre to this the oldest of the Republics. To this we are encouraged, not less by the memory of the past, than the promise of the future.

Amongst the important duties, those of reorganizing the Judiciary, and introducing into the Judicial System such modifications as may tend to the cheap and more speedy administration of Justice, will demand your most anxious attention.

The various and somewhat conflicting opinions which are believed to prevail on this interesting subject, will be reconciled by your wisdom, and a full and perfect system be put, it is hoped, into harmonious and successful operation. The country reposes in safety upon your prudence and discernment.

Notwithstanding the arduous service which you will have to perform, in rendering more perfect our form of civil polity, I cannot fail to recommend to your attention the subject of our internal condition, in reference to the means of intercommunication between distant parts of the Commonwealth. By the bountiful dispensation of Providence, that beautiful and extensive region lying below the falls of our rivers, has afforded to it, all those facilities which open every market to the industry and enterprise of its inhabitants. This fortunate condition is denied to the inhabitants above tide water, and presses with unspendable weight upon our citizens residing beyond the mountains.

While this state of things is suffered to continue, the resources of the State admit of but partial development—lands of inexhaustible fertility, remain unclaimed, and the country is deprived of much of its efficiency—what is the inducement to reclaim the forest or cultivate the earth, if the means of obtaining remuneration for one's labor is denied? That argument, which in opposition to a judicious system of improvement is made to rest upon the inequality of contribution, either real or supposed, to be made by the different portions of the State, appears to me, to fail utterly in its object; it opposes the only means which can ever bring about that equality of contribution to the public chest which it seeks so earnestly to establish. Let markets be opened for the agricultural products of every county, and instantly the subjects of taxation will become common to it, and all other countries similarly circumstanced. But when

in connection with this, the improvement of the State is regarded as a work which the State may advert to with pleasure—yet there is in the arrangements, growing out of the terms of the law, some defect, as the commercial point on that frontier may be thrown beyond the jurisdiction of the State, and thus lose many of the contemplated benefits. This can readily be remedied by a new legislative enactment.

In this government there is no want of constitutional power over this subject—against a similar exercise of power, on the part of the Federal Government, Virginia has uniformly protested—and wisely. The exercise of such power by that government, has been deemed a usurpation, and a violation of the Constitution, in the highest degree—and an attentive observation of its effects, has been attended with a thorough conviction of its disastrous tendency. It is a cause of sincere congratulation, that the President should have done much in the exercise of his constitutional veto towards arresting this unfortunate system. We may certainly hope, that impelled by the United States, manifested by him upon repeated occasions, he will persevere in this course, until every vestige of this usurpation will be obliterated from the legislation of Congress. The States are competent to the improvement of their own domestic condition, and the obligation which rests upon them to do so, is high and imperative.

From the numerous works which have been brought to public view, those in which the State has become interested in part, or undertaken to construct at her own expense, justifies the public expectation that they will be resumed and prosecuted to their final completion.

Although many works have been projected, highly beneficial to large neighborhoods and even the counties in which they may be situated, yet there are few of magnitude or importance sufficient to entitle them to the character of state improvements.

In considering this subject, the mind cannot fail to contemplate the great commercial advantages which would be derived from the completion of those works already begun on the James River. Heretofore this seems to have been considered the first object, and of importance enough to justify the General Assembly in making it the exclusive property of the Commonwealth.

If then, private enterprise is prevented from carrying on this work, the obligation to finish it, becomes much more strong on the part of the government; and was its navigation rendered equal to that of similar works of other States, which are intended to serve as channels for the introduction of produce from the rich regions of the west, there cannot be a doubt, but that the exports of this river would be greatly augmented.

This fine river is the natural channel and the shortest and might be the easiest, cheapest and most certain route through which the inexhaustible abundance produced from the rich soil of the Western States could find its way to the Atlantic.

To invite the agricultural products of that country to their large cities, has been the object of those vast expenditures encountered by some of our sister States; and were success to attend their efforts, that trade would be cheaply acquired at the cost of additional millions: the products of the labor of three millions of people would then be secured, with a certainty of their increasing so long as the confederacy existed.

The improvements put upon this great channel to the West, not less important in the acquirement of that commerce, than to the trade of the interior of our own country, have been constructed at an enormous and unparalleled expense. This is deeply to be regretted—but it is nevertheless confidently believed, that by a judicious change in the mode of conducting this work, steam-boat navigation could be accomplished to Lynchburg, for about the sum of six hundred thousand dollars.

That part of the improvement which forms the road between Covington and Kanawha, was never well located, graduated or constructed, but with the exception of a few miles, which it will be indispensably necessary to pave, no expenditure will be required, other than to keep it in proper repair for some time.

The road which lies between the Great Falls of Kanawha and Charlestown has not been finished, owing to the failure of the contractors to comply with their engagements—the near approach of your session induced the James River Company to refrain from entering into new contracts until the subject could be fully presented to you.

The location of the residue of this road from Charlestown to Sandy, does great credit to the judgment and skill

of the principal Engineer, and will be a work which the State may advert to with pleasure—yet there is in the arrangements, growing out of the terms of the law, some defect, as the commercial point on that frontier may be thrown beyond the jurisdiction of the State, and thus lose many of the contemplated benefits. This can readily be remedied by a new legislative enactment.

The construction of the western part of the Turnpike has been contracted for and is in progress. Messrs. Conway, Rowe and Campbell, the undertakers, had finished about sixteen miles of it early in October last, in a manner highly satisfactory; and every expectation is confidently entertained, that they will faithfully and punctually perform their engagements.

The expenditure made for the improvement of the Kanawha River, the other branch of this channel to the west, have not been attended with all the benefits which were expected to flow from them.

In attempting to improve the bed of the river, it is perfectly obvious, that all the work would be performed whilst the river was at its greatest depression. At this stage of the water, the channel is often different from that observed by the current when there is but an inconsiderable freshet.

Whilst the navigation through shoals and rapids is benefited at this state of depression by deepening the bed of the river; and by the construction of wing dams, designed and calculated to throw a greater column of water into the channel, and will doubtless obtain the countenance of the Legislature.

To expedite the plans of improvement which the wisdom of the General Assembly may think expedient to resume or adopt, it is respectfully suggested that the State might be benefited by undertaking them exclusively upon her own resources—rendering it the duty of the Principal Engineer to inspect them, and placing the same under his direction and control.

I received a communication from John McCoy, Esq., a member of the Board of Public Works, under date of the 7th of October, announcing his determination to resign his official position as a member of the Board. As the labors of that body will commence on the first of January next; it may be well, at an early day, to appoint a successor.

The military force of the State is strong and increasing; the greatest harmony amongst the officers exists, every where, though some legislative enactments may be necessary, for its better discipline and prompt and effective action. The arms and ordnance are in excellent order, and can be used whenever necessity requires, without encountering expense or delay.

The strength of this force, together with the number, description, and condition of the arms and ordnance, will be seen by reference to the reports of the Adjutant General and Commandant of the Public Guard, herewith communicated.

The condition of the Treasury will be found to be as prosperous, as at any former period, though the amount on hand may be less, than on the corresponding day of the last year; this difference may, perhaps, be accounted for by the reduction on the taxes, made at the last session of the General Assembly. The unexpended balance in the Treasury, at the end of the fiscal year 1850, was \$86,996-19; that which remained at the end of the year 1850, being \$89,941-86—the actual amount in the Treasury on the 4th day of the present month, was \$334,893-80; being less than on the corresponding day of the last year, \$1,000-00.

The prosperous condition of our finances, had no farther calls upon the Treasury been expected, than the ordinary demands upon it, is such as would have justified even a further reduction in the tax annually levied upon the people, and still left means sufficient, on the money and labor at command, to have effected much for the improvement of the State; without the necessity of resorting to taxation—but there is the strongest probability, that in the course of the ensuing year, large and pressing demands will be made for the amount due to the officers of the revolution.

Under these circumstances, it will become necessary to provide for the payment of these claims as they are presented, which it is believed can be done without resorting to means at all burthensome to the State.

Many benefits, it is anticipated, might in time flow from an alteration in the mode of levying the taxes for the support of the government. All are desirous of knowing what they will annually have to contribute, which would only be the case, if the law imposing taxes were less liable to change. The

amount due to the officers of the revolution, would find their way to market through the James River.

Whilst reviewing this subject, in all its bearings upon the great interests of the State, it cannot escape the observation of any, that all that region of country which lies between Parkersburg and Winchester, is without any commercial facilities; a road judiciously located in that part of the State would benefit a large number of our fellow-citizens, and traverse an extensive and fertile country, and cannot fail to claim an indulgent consideration, and rank among the objects deserving the attention of the Commonwealth.

The Dismal Swamp Canal is a fine improvement, bringing benefits from above, and contributing much to the value and improvement of Norfolk, a town which Virginia will cherish as being the first Seaport on the Atlantic Coast, and which may at no distant day, when the commercial interests of the Union shall again be consulted, claim a comparison with any other; commerce has built all the cities in the world; the want of it has made the largest, the habitation for bats and for reptiles.

The enterprising citizens of Petersburg have projected a rail road from that town to the Roanoke river, which promises, when viewed as a part of the whole system, to be useful in forming a link of the chain intended to connect the trade of the southern region with the commerce of James River.

Other improvements of great importance will from time to time present themselves, and will doubtless obtain the countenance of the Legislature.

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**DRUGS, MANAGER.**  
Alum and fine Salt,  
by  
H. KEYES.

**DAILY NOTICE.**  
assigned; having positively deter-  
mined to leave Harpers Ferry, wishes  
business as speedily as possible.  
All those indebted to him, either  
by book account, will do well  
to make suitable arrangements in  
promptness, as he has given no  
aid will not be granted.

On hand, a large and general as-  
ortment of Groceries,  
and Quaker's, &c. which will  
sell at low prices.  
I offer you my STORE HOUSE  
for the term of three years,  
given on the 1st of April next.  
ISAAC N. CARTER.  
No. 1, Chesapeake,  
Nov. 13, 1850.

**BAR IRON.**  
subscriber has on hand, a large  
quantity of Bar Iron, which he will  
sell at low prices, by the purchaser taking  
500 lbs. Also, Sheet of all kinds,  
Sheet Iron—Mouldboards, &c.  
I. N. CARTER.  
Harpers Ferry, Nov. 10, 1850.

**LUMBER.**  
undersigned has on hand  
1000 FEET seasoned pine  
timber, in lengths of 10, 12, 14, 16,  
18, 20 feet, and sizes of 1-2, 3-4, 1-  
2, 3 and 3 inches thick—Sawn  
Joists of 12, 14, and 16 feet. All  
will be sold low.  
A. SHEPHERD.  
Waters, Nov. 10, 1850.

**HARRIS'S  
Balmic Liquid Extract,**  
cure of Colds, Consumptions, &c.  
preparation is perfectly mild and  
pleasant, and rarely fails to cure the  
most obstinate cases of colds, asthma,  
spitting of blood, and consump-  
tion, within the last six months, with-  
out producing, but in one instance,  
salutary and beneficial effects.  
A young case will show its efficacy. A  
man about the age of twenty, was sit-  
ting with a violent cold, which threw him  
into pulmonary affection. He made  
various remedies with little or no ef-  
fect. His strength rapidly declined—his  
breath became difficult, and labored, and  
with a short dry cough, and pain in  
his chest, he continued to grow worse.  
His friends expected every mo-  
ment a melancholy scene would be closed;  
but the use of some of this Balmic prepa-  
ration, left his chest, and pain in  
entirely restored to health. This  
preparation is a tea-spoonful  
day. It is better to take it in a wine  
glass of slippery-elm tea or gum arabic.

The above Extract can be obtained  
of Charlestown Book and Apothecary  
JAMES BROWN.  
1850.

**NOTICE.**  
MEMBERS of the Smithfield  
Company, and Harpers Ferry Turn-  
pike Company, residing in Smithfield  
and Harpers Ferry, are informed that  
Mr. Thomas STARR is authorized to receive the  
of their respective instalments.  
HUMPHREY KEYES, Treasurer,  
17, 1850.

**TWILLED BAGS.**  
best quality Twilled  
BAGS—just received and for sale by  
G. W. HAMMOND,  
13.

**TWILLED BAGS.**  
SALE BY  
HUMPHREY KEYES.  
13.

**PRIME LIQUORS.**  
subscriber has on hand, a quanti-  
ty of Old Whiskey, Peach and Apple  
Brandy, which has been in hogsheads for  
three or four years, in a dry room,  
of very superior quality. It will be  
sold for cash.  
I. N. CARTER.  
Harpers Ferry, Nov. 10, 1850.

**NOTICE.**  
The Stockholders of the Smith-  
field, Charlestown, and Harpers-  
Ferry Turnpike Company, are informed  
in instalment of five dollars on each  
share, payable on the first of this  
month.  
H. KEYES, Treasurer,  
Nov. 3, 1850.

**TOPELSE SHELL COMBS,**  
for sale by  
HUMPHREY KEYES.

**FAMILY FLOUR.**  
PERFINE white wheat family Flour,  
for sale by  
G. W. HAMMOND,  
Nov. 3, 1850.

**PAIR OF SADDLE BAGS.**  
were loaned by me to some of  
my friends—to whom, not recollect-  
ing they are much wanted at present,  
I return them.  
J. S. GALLAHER.

One pair has been returned—would  
be glad to see the other.

PERMANENTLY KEPT BY  
**H. S. GALLAHER.**

**CONDITIONS.**  
This Press is published weekly, at  
FIVE DOLLARS & FIFTY CTS.  
PER ANNUM.  
It is published in advance; but two Dollars  
will be received in payment in full, if  
entirely in advance. Should payment be  
deferred until the end of the year,  
Five Dollars will be invariably charged.  
All advertisements presented for in-  
sertion will be continued until forbidden,  
and accordingly, unless special directions  
to the contrary be given.



CONGRESS.

We now proceed to give an abstract of the proceedings of the second session of the 21st Congress, commencing with the first day.

From the National Journal.

In the Senate, precisely at 12 o'clock, Mr. Samuel Smith, of Md. took the Chair as President, pro tempore. Credentials from the Governor of the State of Illinois were read, certifying the appointment of David J. Baker, as a Senator from that State, in the room of John M'Lean, deceased. Credentials from the Governor of the State of Mississippi, certifying the appointment of George Poindexter, as a Senator from that State, in the room of Geo. Adams, deceased, were also read. Messrs. Baker and Poindexter advanced to the Secretary's table, qualified, and took their seats. A certificate from Governor Gilmer, of the re-election of John Forsyth, as a Senator from Georgia, for the term of six years from March, 1851, was also read. After which, Mr. Wm. R. King, of Alabama, suggested to the Chair that a quorum of the Senate was assembled. It was then ascertained that 34 Senators were present; when the President announced that the Senate should proceed to business. After it was ordered that the Secretary furnish each Senator with such newspapers as he may select; the expense not to exceed the cost of three daily papers for each member. On motion of Mr. King, the Senate adjourned till Tuesday, 12 o'clock.

In the House of Representatives, at 12 o'clock, the Speaker being absent, the Clerk of the House proceeded to call over the names of the members, when it appeared that 177 were present, a quorum of the whole House. Mr. Archer, of Va. stated to the House that the Speaker was prevented by indisposition from attending in his place to-day. Mr. Polk then stated that as there was a probability that the Speaker would be enabled to attend to-morrow, before the usual hour of the meeting of the House, he would move that the House do now adjourn. The House then adjourned till 12 o'clock, Tuesday.

TUESDAY, DEC. 7. The Message was received in the two Houses about five minutes past 1 o'clock, and occupied one hour and 35 minutes in the reading.

In the Senate, the various standing Committees were appointed, and 5000 copies of the Message ordered to be printed. In the House of Representatives, Mr. Stevenson, the Speaker, appeared and took his seat, though evidently labouring under indisposition, from a disease in the lungs. The daily hour of meeting was held for 12 o'clock, and a resolution to appoint Chaplains was adopted. The House ordered six thousand copies of the Message to be printed.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 8. In the Senate, no other business was transacted except the reference of the President's Message to the appropriate committees, and some notices of bills to be offered to-morrow. Two or three petitions were also presented, and referred.

In the House of Representatives, there was no business transacted. A motion was made by Mr. J. W. Taylor, that the House proceed to the appointment of the standing committees; but the resolution was laid on the table, on motion of Mr. Hoffman, who suggested, as the reason for his motion, that the recent arrival of the Speaker, and the state of indisposition in which he was, rendered him unfit for the labor, at this moment. The House then adjourned.

THURSDAY, DEC. 9. In the Senate, the only business of importance transacted was the appointment of a select committee, consisting of Messrs. Sanford, Iredell, Dickerson, Woodbury, and Clayton, to consider and report on the Current Coins. As a tribute of respect to the memory of the late Messrs. Adams and M'Lean, Senators from Mississippi and Illinois, who died since the last session of Congress, the Senate adjourned to Monday.

The House of Representatives was occupied in the adoption of the customary resolutions relative to the reference of the various subjects embraced in the message. Some discussion arose on a motion by Mr. Wayne of Georgia, to change the direction of so much of the message as refers to the United States Bank, from the committee of Ways and Means, and to give the subject to a select committee, but his motion was defeated in the House on a vote by ayes and noes, of 108 to 67.

FRIDAY, DEC. 10. The Senate did not sit to-day. In the House of Representatives, the committees were appointed. There were about thirty resolutions offered and adopted, but none of them were of such importance as to demand specific notice. The Speaker did not take the Chair, in consequence of indisposition. Mr. Wickliffe took the Chair in his stead. The House adjourned to Monday.

MONDAY, DEC. 13. In the Senate, several petitions and memorials were presented by different Senators, but none of any particular importance. The Senate, then, with considerable form and solemnity, resolved itself into a High Court of Im-

peachment in the case of Judge Peck, of Missouri. Three of the witnesses summoned on the part of Judge Peck, from their being elected members of the Legislature of Missouri, at present in session, refusing to attend, and their depositions having been taken in writing, to allow time to the Managers on the behalf of the House of Representatives to examine those depositions, and to consider their admissibility, as evidence, the Senate adjourned till 12 o'clock on the following Monday.

In the House of Representatives, the replication of the Committee of Managers to the answer of Judge Peck, was adopted, and the Managers then went up to the Senate. Various resolutions were adopted. A resolution was offered by Mr. Haynes, of Georgia, to repeal the duty on foreign sugar, but the question of consideration being demanded, and the ayes and noes ordered, the House refused to consider the resolution—ayes 83, noes 99. There were four ballotings for Chaplain, and on the last ballot the Rev. R. R. Gurley was elected.

TUESDAY, DEC. 14. In the Senate, various petitions and memorials were presented and referred to the different Committees, and some notices of the introduction of future bills were given. Among the latter was a notice from Mr. Robbins of Rhode Island, of a Bill to provide a mode of commencing, prosecuting, and deciding controversies between States, which is likely to create considerable attention. The Senate then went into executive business, after which it adjourned until to-morrow.

In the House of Representatives, a number of petitions and resolutions were presented. Among the resolutions, was one offered by Mr. Baringer of North Carolina, referring to the Committee of Ways and Means the expediency of reducing the duties on Iron, Cotton, Bagging, coarse Wool, Sugar, &c. on which the question of consideration was demanded, and the House refused to consider the resolution by a vote of 114 to 66. The other resolutions are not of sufficient importance to require distinct notice.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 15. In the Senate, the credentials of the election of Mr. Poindexter by the Legislature of the State of Mississippi, as a Senator for that State, were handed in. Some Reports from the Committee on Claims and several petitions were presented; and various Bills were read a first time, & passed to a second reading. On taking up the resolution submitted by Mr. Clayton on Tuesday, that a committee be appointed to examine and report the present condition of the Post Office Department, and in what manner the laws regulating the Department are administered, &c. An amendment was moved by Mr. White, that it be referred to the Standing Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads, which gave rise to considerable debate. A division took place, when the original resolution was carried, there being for the amendment 18, against it 20; and Messrs. Clayton, Holmes, Grundy, Woodbury, and Hendricks, were then appointed a Committee.

Nothing was done in the House of Representatives, beyond the presentation of petitions and the offering of resolutions, among which we noticed none of prominent interest.

THURSDAY, DEC. 16. In the Senate, little business of interest occurred. The President pro tempore presented the report of the Secretary of the Treasury on the state of the Finances, of which 1500 copies were ordered to be printed. A communication was received from the President of the United States, informing the Senate that owing to unforeseen circumstances, the Marshals had been unable to complete the returns for the Fifth Census on the first of December, as was provided for by the Bill, and recommending a new Bill to be passed, extending the time for the outstanding returns to be received. Several Bills underwent a second reading, and some were referred to various Committees for revision.

The House was occupied on the Bill to establish certain Post Offices, and to alter and to discontinue others, to which many amendments were made. Several resolutions were offered and adopted. A message was received from the President, stating that the Marshals employed in taking the census had in some instances failed to perfect their returns, and suggesting the propriety of a law to extend the time allowed for this duty. Some other communications were received, and, among them; one from Duff Green, proposing to stereotype the Laws and Treaties of the United States, and asking a subscription from Congress. The annual report of the Secretary of the Treasury was received, and 6000 copies were ordered to be printed.

FRIDAY, DEC. 17. In the Senate, some bills were passed through various stages, and some resolutions of minor importance were adopted. The Senate then adjourned till Monday, 11 o'clock.

The House was occupied in the consideration of petitions and resolutions. One or two private bills were reported by the Standing Committees; and also a bill to amend the several acts respecting copy rights, which was forwarded. The Post Office Bill, as a-

mended in Committee of the Whole, was then taken up, and considered; but before any question was taken, the House then adjourned, till Monday.

THE LEGISLATURE.

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.

RICHMOND, DEC. 9, 1850. The business of the House of Delegates, to-day, consisted of the consideration of petitions, resolutions, &c. The vacancy in the Board of Public Works, occasioned by the resignation of John McCoy, was filled by the joint vote of the two Houses: Edwin S. Duncan, Esq. of Harrison, was elected upon the first ballot. The votes stood, 21 for Edwin S. Duncan, 12 for C. Wilson, 43—Isaac Morris 9—and Presley Martin 75.

Thomas Ritchie was elected public printer for the ensuing year, without opposition. A proposition was made by Mr. Jackson, of West, to postpone the joint order for electing a member of the Board of Public Works, with a view to submit a resolution for abolishing the Board. This motion failed; but it is probable the Board will be abolished entirely, or so re-organized as to render it more efficient and useful. This institution now costs the State not less than \$5000 per annum; and if any real good has grown out of it, very few of the people have been able to discover it.

The Auditor's Report furnishes a cheering view of the finances of the State; and that officer anticipates the balance in the Treasury, on the 1st of October next, to be \$102,000. It is, however, estimated by him, that the yet unadjusted claims of revolutionary officers, for half pay, will amount to about \$600,000. If these claims should succeed, other resources, to meet them, will of course be necessary.

DEC. 10, 1850. The House had a short session to-day, very little of importance being presented for consideration. Some of the committees are most laboriously engaged, particularly that of privileges and elections, which sits during the session of the house, in order speedily to dispose of the contested cases now before that body. The committee is a very able one. The chairman (Mr. Morris of Hanover) is particularly noted for his urbanity and courtesy, and for his prompt and discriminating mind; and when the same of English and the public may rest assured of a thorough investigation of the subjects before it. A mere spectator, in the gallery or lobby, can have no idea of the amount of labor and research which some of the committees undergo. It is their business to digest and prepare, from the mass of projects and papers submitted to them, systems of polity for the people of a whole State, possessing diversified and various views and interests. To the responsibility of the members of courts of justice, the public has already alluded; and upon their efforts, more perhaps than upon those of any other body, are the eyes of the community now turned. May their exertions result in the creation of a system of jurisprudence which will at once meet the views, the wants, and the wishes of every portion of the State!

DEC. 11, 1850. The House of Delegates has not yet fairly entered upon the important business of the session, except by preliminary resolutions. Various instructions have been given to the committees; and the most important object of the session, the subject of the judiciary to sit its hearings, was referred to the committee of courts of justice. It will be some time before that committee can possibly report; and in the mean time a free interchange of opinion will take place among the members, whereby the sentiments of every portion of the State, upon the great subjects of reform, will be heard and considered. Mr. Keith, this day advised the most full and free communication of sentiment upon the subject, urging the members to lay their heads together, (quoting, as he said, a homely, but appropriate phrase), and to let no suggestion, however humble its source, be passed by unheeded. The committee of privileges again had a long session upon the Orange contest. Their room is the all-absorbing place of interest. It is open to every one who can find a place in it without incommencing the members. The committee of courts of justice have declared reasonable the proposition to change the time of holding a quarterly term of the county court of Jefferson, from the third Monday in June, to the third Monday in May. The committee of propositions and grievances have declared reasonable the petitions for separate elections at Harpers-Ferry and Smithfield. Bills will accordingly be reported forthwith.

DEC. 15, 1850. The House was occupied on the Bill to establish certain Post Offices, and to alter and to discontinue others, to which many amendments were made. Several resolutions were offered and adopted. A message was received from the President, stating that the Marshals employed in taking the census had in some instances failed to perfect their returns, and suggesting the propriety of a law to extend the time allowed for this duty. Some other communications were received, and, among them; one from Duff Green, proposing to stereotype the Laws and Treaties of the United States, and asking a subscription from Congress. The annual report of the Secretary of the Treasury was received, and 6000 copies were ordered to be printed.

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But little has yet been said about the selection of a Governor and Council. Gen. Floyd will, as a matter of course, be a candidate; and the terms of service, under the new Constitution, being for three years, his selection is almost certain. Gen. Taylor, of Norfolk, has been spoken of, by gentlemen who remember his many and republican course in the Convention; but what his prospects of success are, I am now unable to say. The Council, having to be necessarily reduced, will vacate a contest of more interest than usual; and many delegates, who have witnessed the urban and gentlemanly deportment of the present councillors, will some regret that the right cannot be contested, but that committee had better be employed a few days in each session, than that a large number of voters should be deprived of the privilege of their district and higher prerogative—that of a voice in the selection of their law-makers. Some plan of securing regularity and correctness in elections at separate polls, will certainly be adopted at this session, and surely, if it is capable of managing elections properly at the several places, selected generally for their great respectability, impartiality, and sagacity, any equally well qualified to conduct elections. He hoped the bill would be allowed to pass without further opposition.

Mr. LEIGHT said he knew something of the county of Jefferson, and did not believe there were more than 16 to 20 miles square; he asked if both of the proposed polls were not within eight miles of the court-house? If so, he could see no necessity for the passage of the bill, if Mr. GALLAHER's resolution, to situate one of these places in the town of the court-house, and the other within seven, but he put it to the gentleman, and the house, whether, if voters were without the assistance of traveling, they were not as effectively cut off by a distance of seven as of seventy miles? A portion of them would be as completely deprived of the exercise of their right, on many occasions, as had several, if their roads were employed in agriculture—as if they resided double that distance from the court-house.

Mr. WILSON believed that the policy which had dictated the first establishment of the county of Jefferson, was to relieve the people of large counties in the West, where the different sections were divided by high mountains, and deep and rapid streams. He believed, that the principle on which they were established, was that they should be so situated that the voters could go and return to their homes on the same day. Applying this principle to the people of the county of Jefferson, they did not seem entitled to the two new precincts, for they could certainly go and return in one day, a distance of only eight miles, on the same day, even if they went on foot. It was true, the roads might be muddy. But they would not regard that if they were determined to exercise their rights as voters. The evil effects of increasing the number of precincts had been already sufficiently shown, in the number of contested elections that had come before the legislature this session; and he trusted those evils would be allowed to go no farther.

Mr. GALLAHER again expressed his surprise at the objections started to this bill, when several had already passed, granting such privileges in counties much smaller than Jefferson. As there seemed, however, to be an incorrect impression to the bill, and as his colleague, who had been specially charged with one of the petitions, was not now in the hall, he engaged upon the committee of privileges and elections, the friends more to lay the bill on the table for the present, and await the decision of the house on similar applications.

On this question a count was taken, and it was decided in the affirmative, 62 to 30.

Mr. Brodnax submitted the following resolution: Resolved, That the committee of Courts of Justice be instructed to inquire whether the act of Assembly made to prevent Duelling, be now in force or not; and if not, into the expediency of re-enacting the same, or some other provisions on the same subject; and that they have leave to report by bill or otherwise.

The resolution was adopted. On motion of Mr. Chichester a resolution was adopted that the House will on Monday next proceed by joint vote with the Senate, to the election of a Brigadier General of the 6th Brigade, to supply the vacancy caused by the resignation of Gen. George Rust.

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WEDNESDAY, DEC. 15. Mr. Christian submitted the following resolution which was agreed to: Resolved, That the committee of Courts of Justice be instructed to inquire into the expediency of amending the law relating to the commissions of sheriffs and coroners, so to provide, that not more than one commission shall be allowed on the same debt, &c. (Adopted.)

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But little has yet been said about the selection of a Governor and Council. Gen. Floyd will, as a matter of course, be a candidate; and the terms of service, under the new Constitution, being for three years, his selection is almost certain. Gen. Taylor, of Norfolk, has been spoken of, by gentlemen who remember his many and republican course in the Convention; but what his prospects of success are, I am now unable to say. The Council, having to be necessarily reduced, will vacate a contest of more interest than usual; and many delegates, who have witnessed the urban and gentlemanly deportment of the present councillors, will some regret that the right cannot be contested, but that committee had better be employed a few days in each session, than that a large number of voters should be deprived of the privilege of their district and higher prerogative—that of a voice in the selection of their law-makers. Some plan of securing regularity and correctness in elections at separate polls, will certainly be adopted at this session, and surely, if it is capable of managing elections properly at the several places, selected generally for their great respectability, impartiality, and sagacity, any equally well qualified to conduct elections. He hoped the bill would be allowed to pass without further opposition.

Mr. LEIGHT said he knew something of the county of Jefferson, and did not believe there were more than 16 to 20 miles square; he asked if both of the proposed polls were not within eight miles of the court-house? If so, he could see no necessity for the passage of the bill, if Mr. GALLAHER's resolution, to situate one of these places in the town of the court-house, and the other within seven, but he put it to the gentleman, and the house, whether, if voters were without the assistance of traveling, they were not as effectively cut off by a distance of seven as of seventy miles? A portion of them would be as completely deprived of the exercise of their right, on many occasions, as had several, if their roads were employed in agriculture—as if they resided double that distance from the court-house.

Mr. WILSON believed that the policy which had dictated the first establishment of the county of Jefferson, was to relieve the people of large counties in the West, where the different sections were divided by high mountains, and deep and rapid streams. He believed, that the principle on which they were established, was that they should be so situated that the voters could go and return to their homes on the same day. Applying this principle to the people of the county of Jefferson, they did not seem entitled to the two new precincts, for they could certainly go and return in one day, a distance of only eight miles, on the same day, even if they went on foot. It was true, the roads might be muddy. But they would not regard that if they were determined to exercise their rights as voters. The evil effects of increasing the number of precincts had been already sufficiently shown, in the number of contested elections that had come before the legislature this session; and he trusted those evils would be allowed to go no farther.

Mr. GALLAHER again expressed his surprise at the objections started to this bill, when several had already passed, granting such privileges in counties much smaller than Jefferson. As there seemed, however, to be an incorrect impression to the bill, and as his colleague, who had been specially charged with one of the petitions, was not now in the hall, he engaged upon the committee of privileges and elections, the friends more to lay the bill on the table for the present, and await the decision of the house on similar applications.

On this question a count was taken, and it was decided in the affirmative, 62 to 30.

Mr. Brodnax submitted the following resolution: Resolved, That the committee of Courts of Justice be instructed to inquire whether the act of Assembly made to prevent Duelling, be now in force or not; and if not, into the expediency of re-enacting the same, or some other provisions on the same subject; and that they have leave to report by bill or otherwise.

The resolution was adopted. On motion of Mr. Chichester a resolution was adopted that the House will on Monday next proceed by joint vote with the Senate, to the election of a Brigadier General of the 6th Brigade, to supply the vacancy caused by the resignation of Gen. George Rust.

Mr. Gallaher submitted the following resolution which was adopted: Resolved, That the Committee of Roads and Internal Navigation, be instructed to inquire into the expediency of authorizing a subscription by the Board of Public Works of two-fifths of the capital stock of the Smithfield, Charlestown and Harpers-Ferry Turnpike Company, &c. &c.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 15. Mr. Christian submitted the following resolution which was agreed to: Resolved, That the committee of Courts of Justice be instructed to inquire into the expediency of amending the law relating to the commissions of sheriffs and coroners, so to provide, that not more than one commission shall be allowed on the same debt, &c. (Adopted.)

The House was occupied on the Bill to establish certain Post Offices, and to alter and to discontinue others, to which many amendments were made. Several resolutions were offered and adopted. A message was received from the President, stating that the Marshals employed in taking the census had in some instances failed to perfect their returns, and suggesting the propriety of a law to extend the time allowed for this duty. Some other communications were received, and, among them; one from Duff Green, proposing to stereotype the Laws and Treaties of the United States, and asking a subscription from Congress. The annual report of the Secretary of the Treasury was received, and 6000 copies were ordered to be printed.

FRIDAY, DEC. 17. In the Senate, some bills were passed through various stages, and some resolutions of minor importance were adopted. The Senate then adjourned till Monday, 11 o'clock.

The House was occupied in the consideration of petitions and resolutions. One or two private bills were reported by the Standing Committees; and also a bill to amend the several acts respecting copy rights, which was forwarded. The Post Office Bill, as a-

THE I... WEDNESD... We understand... House of Delegates... by our members... county, for the... We are informed... the Hon... copy of the Proceedings... documents. J. H. L., next... We are convinced... as well as from... only "half right... of the church at Elk... station was not... from want of... not have within... they reached us... our information... that it did not... have been made... to have been... It appears... chosen, jointly... ministerial duty... Mr. Gallaher... short article, in... graph, in which... readers who are... little matters, as... seen as the min... in this case, believe, correct... as I am inform... Our previous... have prevented... the congregational... present arrangements... have regular... the four. In... paper, you will... confer a favor... Your friend... "A traveler... me, finds... tance to con... for interested... the District... those cities... mond, are... cheap. Be... are running... steam boats... Washington... reaches here... same event... take the ma... licksburg, I... mond (68... ceasing dis... of 137 mil... occupies a... through... ler unaccus... steam-boat... somewhat... injured to... themselves... from Alex... a bold and... it is gener... ternal trad... ness the re... out a thr... whose gen... erful engi... steam, her... combined a... and cont... time and... with adm... these giga... nary power... fail to re... tion we are... that city learned... his wife had... gone to New... to receive him... The husband... immediately... carriage for... Providence, and... arrived here in... time to take... passage in the... Franklin; and... on his arrival... York was informed... that his wife... had proceeded... to Boston in... the Steamer... "land-tacks... on board," and... proceeded to... Boston; but... whether the... husband and... wife have yet... come together... is a question... we cannot answer... It is probable... however, that... they have, and... we wish them... much joy; and... all the happiness... that so long... separation of... their loves... pre-eminently... merits. This incident... is but one of... a thousand... that grow out... of the celebrity... that is afforded... travellers by... the introduction... of steam navigation. Providence paper. A battle came... ashore at Cuba... last month, containing... information of the... loss of the French... brig Caroline, Capt... J. B. Laine, Aug... 23







