

Virginia Free Press

CHARLESTOWN, JEFFERSON COUNTY, PRINTED AND PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY GALLAHER, NORTH & GALLAHER.

VOL. 29

THURSDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 11, 1836.

NO. 2

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for Rheumatism, etc.

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Portrait Painting.

JAMES MACQUEEN.

THE EXECUTION OF A DEBERTER.

NO. 1, BROWN ATTORNEY.

ISLAND MILL.

SEASONABLE GOODS.

DRUGS, MEDICINES.

Apothecary Store.

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THE INDIAN FORCE IS VARIOUSLY COMPUTED—RANGING FROM 1,000 TO 20,000 WARRIORS. If they have been joined by the Greeks, as is anticipated, I do not think the first number at all extravagant, and from the character of the country, in which they are, together with almost impregnable swamps and hammocks, it will require a large expenditure of blood and money to dislodge and conquer them.

"On to-morrow we have another draft for the war, and our good good luck expect to be one of the successful—in which case I will send my family to Savannah, via Charleston, in one of the regular packets, and take the field."

"We learn here that a call has been made by the President on your Government for 5000 militia. With this force I think the war will be of short duration."

It is positively asserted in a letter that at the battle of Oulachogue, in which the regulars were defeated, the British took to their heels and fled, and that their irregulars, who were not in the regulars' ranks, were the cause of the defeat and massacre of the regulars. It is added that one of the militia captains lost his sword in floating across the river, and intends to apply to Congress for remuneration."

FROM BARBADOS.

We have received a file of the Barbadian to the 23d December inclusive, but find in them little intelligence of interest.

The editor, who does not appear to be one of the wisest of men, speculates a little upon the prospect of an American war with France—or, as he describes it, between the republican king and the monarchial president of the respective countries.—(N. B. This analysis of epithets was borrowed from the London John Bull.)

It is stated on the authority of a letter from Martinique, that a number of blacks have arrived at that island from Barbados, having run away because they said they could not endure the new order of things, and preferred to live in a foreign land to the sort of slavery provided for them in their own country, which they would rather be slaves than apprentices.

The tread mill had been introduced in Barbados.

The Barbadian states that on the 16th December some offenders were indolently, with the assistance of a crowd of three men killed. One man, belonging to a steambot on the St. Johns, was shot on the wharf at Picolata, while engaged in getting wood. It was reported that the Indians had crossed the St. Johns, in three bodies, about 150 strong. Great fears were entertained for Capt. Drane's command, who had left Picolata some time previous, with about 60 men, as an escort to a quantity of provisions, &c. for Camp King. Nothing had been heard from Gen. Clinch, at the latter place.

A gentleman who arrived here last evening from Columbus, Geo., informs us that much excitement prevailed there on the subject of Indian hostilities—it was said that 500 of the Creek Indians had left the nation within a short time past, in small bodies, to join the Seminoles, in Florida.

Charleston Courier.

Reported Burning of Tallahassee, &c.—The Editor of the Georgia Courier says: We have seen the postscript to a letter, dated Columbus, Jan. 10th, to a gentleman here, stating the arrival of a rumor there, that Tallahassee had been taken by the Indians, burnt, and most of its inhabitants massacred. The writer does not himself believe the report, but says the citizens of Columbus were about meeting to adopt measures for the safety of the place.

There is no truth in the above. The Columbus (Geo.) Enquirer of the 23d ult. says: the report that Tallahassee in Florida, has been destroyed by the Seminoles, is all false. We question whether there has been a hostile Indian within an hundred miles of the place in six months.

Judge Randall, who has arrived at Washington city, states, that he left Tallahassee on the 20th, and says that all alarm had subsided, as to any depredations by the Indians, on Middle Florida; and he thinks that the forces now collecting will speedily prevent further injury in the vicinity of St. Augustine, and on the St. Johns.

From the Savannah Georgian.

Extract of a letter received in this city, dated—

TALLHASSEE, Jan. 21.

"I received your favour of the 14th inst. yesterday. We anticipate so little from the Indians in this part of Florida, that we do not now even mount guard at night—indeed there is little use for it; for excepting the fowling pieces kept by the inhabitants for their amusement, we have no arms whatever."

The General Government from a spirit of economy, I suppose, have refused every application for the supply of arms to the people of Florida, and we are in the most defenceless state you can possibly imagine. The troops who were sent from here and had one or two engagements with the enemy, were only armed with shot guns, and were half starved for want of provisions.

"Should we be attacked here by any force of Indians, you may expect to hear of a most gallant and desperate, but utterly unsuccessful, defence—but I do not at all apprehend such will be the case. The Indians cannot well penetrate here without a good deal of desperate fighting, and I do not think they desire it."

"Intelligence has reached us from the neighborhood of the upper Creeks this morning, that a large number of them have left their homes in small

detachment—their destination unknown, but from their course, presumed to be the seat of War in this Territory.

"The Indian force is variously computed—ranging from 1,000 to 20,000 Warriors. If they have been joined by the Greeks, as is anticipated, I do not think the first number at all extravagant, and from the character of the country, in which they are, together with almost impregnable swamps and hammocks, it will require a large expenditure of blood and money to dislodge and conquer them."

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"Intelligence has reached us from the neighborhood of the upper Creeks this morning, that a large number of them have left their homes in small

attachment for us in France, so that a war can be entered upon only with the utmost reluctance, and then it can never be made popular. The taunts, however, of Europeans who would delight in embroiling us, have their effect. It is a pleasant theme for English Tories of the stiffer cast, and Russian emissaries—in short, for all the subjects of despotism, so thick and disgusting are they.

Even well informed men here confess that "things look equally" and the thinking feel that a silly subject has become a serious one.

We have heretofore had occasion to refer to the New York Times, as unjustly possessing the confidence of the Government, and as having the advantage of access to sources of information not open to all, even of the friends of the Administration. Still under that impression, we read with the greatest pleasure the following note in that paper of Tuesday last, affording, as it does, in a shape as good as official, the most acceptable information:

Am. Int.

MEMORANDUM ACCEPTED.—A well informed correspondent writes as follows from Washington:

"The communication from England is a letter from the King of England to the President, offering Mediation. It has been accepted by the Administration, and a letter to the King will be written by the President, in which it will be stated that he did not design to menace nor insult France nor her King—and this will be done in language stronger even than that used in the Annual Message; but beyond that disavowal nothing."

The terms of the proffered mediation were of course such as it became this country to accept, and the intelligence is therefore most gratifying; it cannot be doubted that the intervention will be successful, and peace will be preserved.

The Government express, which reached here before the sailing of the packets yesterday, is supposed to have brought the letters of acceptance.

FROM FLORIDA.

The steamer John Stoney has reached Savannah, on her way back to Charleston, from St. Augustine. We learn by a passenger in the Wm. Seabrook, arrived this forenoon from Savannah, that he had conversed with a passenger in the Stoney, who informed him that the St. Augustine militia, stationed at Mosquito, about six miles South of that place, had had a skirmish with the Indians, in which

of this subject, and Mr. Brown of P. closed his remarks at a few minutes before 3 o'clock.

Mr. Daniel intimated his design to follow Mr. B.; but in consequence of the lateness of the hour, he moved that the Resolutions be laid on the table.

Shortly after, on motion of Mr. Watkins, the House adjourned.

On motion of Mr. Berry, leave was given to bring in a bill incorporating the trustees of the Charlestown Athenaeum and Female Academy.

On motion of Mr. Carter, the select committee on banks were instructed to inquire whether any of the chartered Banks or Savings Institutions of this Commonwealth, have so construed their chartered powers as to authorize them in any manner whatever to deal in bonds or other instruments under seal, for more than the legal rate of interest.

EXPUNGING.

The House resumed this subject.—Mr. Daniel supported the resolution in a speech of about two hours.

Mr. MANGUM'S RESOLUTIONS.—Mr. M. moved an amendment to the desire to deliver his address, and moved an adjournment at a quarter past 3, which was agreed to.

GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

MEDIATION BY G. BRITAIN.

We are happy, says the Alexandria Gazette, to say that there is no longer the least doubt that Great Britain has tendered an offer for settling the difficulties between France and the United States. What the final result will be, no one can tell. We hope for the best.

The Globe says:

"We understand that the British sloop of war Pantaloon, brought despatches to Mr. Bankhead, authorizing him to tender the good offices of the British Government as a mediator in adjusting the difficulties now existing between the United States and France. Whether any decision has been made upon this offer, or if so, what it is, we have not been advised; but we cannot but hope, that the good offices of Great Britain, in the character of a mediator, equally friendly to both the parties, may be so employed as to restore that amicable intercourse which has so long existed between the people and the Governments of the two countries, without any abandonment or prejudice to the principle on which our Government has taken its stand, and in a manner, satisfactory to France."

In any event, however, as a considerable period of time must elapse before the result of this mediation can be known, it is not obvious that the necessity for adopting the measure of defence recommended by the President in his special message, remains unchanged.

On this subject the London Morning Chronicle remarks:

"The only medium that now exists for an arrangement between France and America, is the Government of this country. We are happily upon terms of cordial friendship with both parties, and cannot be supposed to have any wish to see the honor of either injured in this affair. It becomes, therefore, the duty of our Government to assume the character of arbitrator between them—to assume it upon no ground of superiority, or upon any ground whatever, save that of the most disinterested amity towards the two nations, and our deep anxiety for the preservation of the general peace."

Under all the circumstances, and in the character just described, our Cabinet would be justified in stating, on one hand, to that of France, that the latter ought to pay the money on Mr. Livingston's first explanation; and on the other hand, to that of America, that the President ought officially to give the sanction of his authority to Mr. Livingston's explanation. Such a course would be the right one on both sides; it would stand the test of history, and defy the evils of the discontented, who are eager for a war at all hazards. Should our anticipations of a pacific issue to these misunderstandings be unfortunately not realized, should a law of reprisals be passed in America, which we should hear of with extreme regret, then a war must ensue, of which it will not be possible for us to remain long indifferent spectators. We, on account of our vast commerce, are deeply interested in the preservation of peace on the high seas. At all events, we shall be under the necessity of affording complete protection to our merchantmen, and consequently of augmenting our naval force without delay.

Perhaps it would be well in this connection to introduce the following extract from the last letter of Mr. Brooks, who is now in Paris, and attentively observing the course of events. He says:

"Perhaps you ask what is happening or what is to happen here. All are awaiting the President's Message. If that is not charged too full of electricity, we hope there will be no thunder here. The government of France, however, is now lying upon its oars, rather wishing to stop than to go ahead, in the American phrase. But it is not an easy thing, even in a monarchy, to control public opinion—especially in such a monarchy as that of France. I do not believe, judging from what I can see and hear, that a war with the United States would be unpopular with the lower classes of the French, and you well know that there is nothing for which all Frenchmen would fight sooner than for a point of honor, or even a point of etiquette. The intelligent Frenchman speaks of us with life and enthusiasm, as of allies—as a people who first taught the French to break the chains of a bad race of monarchs, and the worse chains of a hybrid social system. True they are reluctant to pay us this debt, and wifmore, the taunts of all the other European nations—that a young Republic has frightened one of the oldest kingdoms of Europe into dishonorable concessions, have tended to touch French

instructions in carrying this act into effect, as may not be contrary to law.

Sec. 5. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the deputy postmasters of the offices where the pamphlets, newspapers, handbills, or other papers, printed or written, or pictorial representations aforesaid, may be deposited, shall, under the instructions of the Postmaster General, from time to time, give notice to the owners so that they may be withdrawn by the person depositing them; and if not withdrawn in the space of one month thereafter, shall be burnt or otherwise destroyed.

Mr. Mangum moved the printing of the report and bill, and that 5,000 extra copies be printed.

Mr. Buchanan offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Rules of the Senate be so modified that each Senator may introduce not exceeding three bills, daily, into the circular lobby, under such regulations as the Vice President may direct.

All these resolutions lie over one day for consideration.

MR. BENTON'S RESOLUTIONS.—The Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions offered by Mr. Benton.

Mr. Mangum declined going further into the subject at this time.

Mr. Clayton addressed the Senate at length; but before he had concluded, the Senate adjourned.

In the House, not much done.

FRIDAY, FEB. 5

Correspondence of the Baltimore Patriot. WASHINGTON, FEB. 5, 1836.

Nothing to-day of consequence for narration. Upon my word I wish I had the power of making much out of nothing—which I certainly have not; I would spin out a very interesting story about a debate which took place in the House to-day in reference to a private claim, in which Abijah Mann played the first fiddle, and Mr. Hunt of Troy, made a long speech in favor, which operated against it. I would discourse to you, as if the subject were of the least consequence, of the fuss that took place in relation to Major Barry's scolding letter sent at the closing hour of the last Congress, to the House of Representatives, in consideration of the unfavorable report which a committee of the House, acting under a sense of duty, had found themselves obliged (his political friends though a majority of them were,) to make in relation to the manner in which his duties, as the head of a Department of the Government, had been performed; I would tell you at great length of the very important speech which Mr. S. made in introducing the resolution that this document be printed,—of the call that was made for its reading, of the learned doubts and objections of the little speaker in relation to the regularity of reading it,—of the solution of these doubts, and of the progress which the Clerk made in the reading, before the hour arrived for the taking up of the order of the day. I would detail to you the calls for divisions,—dwell upon the number of times the house was counted,—tell of the yeas and nays,—and inform you who were tellers to count the members as they passed through the aisles of the house, upon such vastly important questions, as "Shall the house adjourn till Monday, or till to-morrow?" &c. &c. &c. all these things would I glarily set off in order, could I dare to emulate the example of some of the corps correspondents at this place, in point of romantic detail. But I cannot; and it must suffice you to know that there was just nothing at all of interest in the general reader done in the House or Senate to-day.

Mr. Clayton did not go on with his speech to-day, in the Senate, that body being occupied to a late hour to unfinished business.

Both Houses adjourned until Monday. There is nothing new to-day.

O.

VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE.

The following preamble and resolutions, offered by Mr. Watkins, were referred to in the last letter from our correspondent, but a copy of them had not been received when our last paper went to press:

THURSDAY, JAN. 28.

Whereas the General Assembly of Virginia did, on the 11th day of February, in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty-four, agree to a "Preamble and Resolutions on the subject of the removal of the public deposits from the Bank of the United States, and against the power claimed by Congress to 'establish a United States Bank,' which are in the words and figures following, to wit:

"Whereas the General Assembly of Virginia deem it of the utmost importance that the power to control the public revenue, should be made to abide, in practice, where it has been vested by the Constitution, in the immediate representatives of the people, and of the states, in Congress assembled; and all experience of the practical operation of governments has proved, that arbitrary assumptions of power by them, or any officer of them, if silently acquiesced in, become precedents for further and still greater acts of usurpation; Therefore,

"1. Resolved, by the General Assembly, That the recent act of the President of the United States, exercising a control over the public deposits, by causing them to be withheld and withdrawn, on his own responsibility, from the U. S. Bank, in which they had been ordered to be placed by the act of Congress chartering said Bank, is, in the judgment of the General Assembly, a dangerous and alarming assumption of power by that officer, which cannot be too strongly condemned."

"2. Resolved, That while the General Assembly will ever be ready to sustain the President in the exercise of such powers as the constitution has confided to him, they nevertheless, cannot but regard with apprehension, and distrust the disposition to extend his official authority, beyond its just and

CONGRESS.

MONDAY, FEB. 1, 1836.

In the Senate, A joint resolution was received from the House, to authorize the President of the United States to issue warrants to those unfortunate persons who have been driven from their homes by Indian depredations in Florida, and which was passed through its various stages by the unanimous assent of the Senate.

Mr. Goldborough offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the President of the United States be requested to communicate to the Senate any information that may be in his possession relative to the origin and causes of the existing war in Florida, with the Seminole Indians, and also any other intelligence in relation to the same that he may have in his power to give and may think useful to impart.

The resolution of course lies over for consideration.

The special order was then taken up. This was Mr. Calhoun's bill to regulate the deposits of the public money in the Treasury.

On motion of Mr. Hubbard, the consideration of the bill was postponed until to-morrow, and the Senate agreed to take up the unfinished debate on Mr. Benton's resolution.

Mr. Buchanan then rose and spoke in favour of the three millions appropriation of the last session, and in censure of the course by which that appropriation was defeated. He laboured to show that the fault of the rejection of our claim on France was attributable to the French King, and not to the Chambers of France. He went on to defend the course of the President, which he viewed as remarkable for its moderation, and to criminate the French Government for their reluctance to do what justice required at their hands. Subsequently, he made a reply to Mr. Webster's observations, and objected to the conduct of the Senate in adhering to its disagreement to the appropriation of three millions.

Before he concluded the Senate adjourned.

In the House of Representatives, The House resumed the consideration of the unfinished business of last Monday, the motion to receive an abolition petition from sundry citizens of Massachusetts, presented by Mr. Cushing.

Mr. Hammond being entitled to the floor, spoke about two hours in reply to the remarks of the gentleman from Massachusetts, (Mr. Cushing) and in opposition to the motion to receive the petition.

Without taking the question, On motion of Mr. Patton, The House adjourned.

THURSDAY, FEB. 4.

INCIDENTAL PUBLICATIONS.

In the Senate, Mr. Calhoun, from the select committee to whom that part of the message of the President was referred, made a report of much length, accompanied by the following bill, which was read, and ordered to a second reading.

"That the printing of pamphlets, newspapers, handbills, or other papers, printed or written, or pictorial representations, touching the subject of slavery, addressed to any person or post-office, in any State, Territory, or District, where their circulation is prohibited, shall not be lawful for any deputy postmaster in any State, Territory, or District, knowingly to deliver to any person any such pamphlet, newspaper, handbill, or other paper, printed or written, or pictorial representation, to any person whatever, except to such person or persons as are duly authorized by the proper authority of such State, Territory, or District to receive the same."

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That it shall be the duty of the Postmaster General to dismiss from office any deputy postmaster offending in the premises, and such deputy postmaster shall on conviction thereof, be fined in any court having competent jurisdiction, be fined in any sum not less than—dollars, and not more than—dollars, according to the aggravation of the offence, at the discretion of the court.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That it shall be the duty of deputy postmasters, mail carriers, and other officers, and agents of the Post Office Department, to cooperate, as far as may be, to prevent the circulation of any pamphlet, newspaper, handbill, or other paper, printed or written, or pictorial representation, as aforesaid, in any State, Territory, or District, except in such State, Territory, or District, the same are prohibited, and that nothing in the acts of Congress to establish and regulate the Post Office Department shall be construed to protect any deputy postmaster, mail carrier, or other officer or agent of said Department convicted of knowingly circulating in any State, Territory, or District, as aforesaid, any such pamphlet, newspaper, handbill, or other paper, printed or written, or pictorial representation, forbidden by the laws of such State, Territory, or District.

Sec. 4. And be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of the Postmaster General to furnish to the deputy postmasters, and the agents and officers of the Department, copies of the laws of the several States, Territories and Districts, prohibiting the publication or circulation of any pamphlet, newspaper, handbill, or other paper, printed or written, or pictorial representation, within the limits of said States, Territories, or Districts, for their government in the premises, and make such regulations, and give such

