



# VIRGINIA FREE PRESS.

Thursday Morning, February 22.

## THE WHIG HANDBOOK.

HENRY CLAY AND AMERICAN INDUSTRY.

### THE NATIONAL TREASURY.

The President and his Secretary of the Treasury do not seem exactly to agree about the amount of money necessary for the present year, or how they may judge from their communications to Congress on that subject. The President, we think, is paving the way for a *extra session* of Congress, and the hint about a deficiency will be a sort of justification for the measure. He seems to be giving Congress a side-wipe for not adopting his Exchequer scheme, and he is evidently aiming to produce the impression that the failure to take his plan will be the cause of "distressing embarrassments" in business, and will create the necessity of "new burdens of taxation." He seems disposed to keep a fall-chance, come what will.

Mr. Forster estimates the balance in the Treasury and the income for the year at something more than twenty-three millions, and the expenditures at nearly that amount, save 290,000. But private bills and the payment of Treasury notes falling due will probably take nearly two and a half millions more. He therefore recommends duties on tea and coffee, and some other articles, to meet the deficiency in this respect. It will be recalled that the Anti-Tariff party would not agree to tax these articles, and there by the tax on protected subjects, as they are called, was necessarily made higher, to afford the grumblers a "bone to gnaw" during the year.

The public have a sample of the sincerity of the Loco Foco leaders. They have been crying against the late Tariff as odious and oppressive, and yet facts show that it yields but thirty millions of dollars, being fifteen millions less than Mr. Van Buren required during his last and therefore his economical year, for the support of government.

The truth is, the Tariff, so far from being oppressive, is lighter than any which we have had for the last thirty years. Between the two, it looks very much like a scheme of the President and his Secretary to deceive Congress, and prevent them from doing any thing effectual for the revenue at the present session. The excuse for calling the new Congress will be complete, if the worthies shall succeed in their apparent business of mystifying matters.

### CAUSE OF DEPRESSION.

The true origin of these "pinching times," will be found in the withdrawal from circulation the large amount of bank issues, to enable the banks to resume specie payments, in order to still the clamor of "a resumption" which went up from the Loco Foco ranks in such a boisterous tone. The Richmond correspondent of the Lynchburg Virginian makes the following statement of the amount of bank notes in circulation at the periods mentioned.

1st of Jan. 1842.	1st of Jan. 1843.
Bank of Virginia, \$2,730,472	\$1,901,754
Farmers' Bank, 2,666,378	1,828,575
Exchange Bank, 729,575	384,510
Valley Bank, 148,432	627,653
\$6,905,857	\$4,540,492

It will thus be seen that a curtailment of \$2,365,365 in circulation of these few banks alone has taken place—and carry this diminution of circulation, which we presume to be a fair ratio, to the other banks of the State, and we would have presented to our view truly an astounding statement. This result is none other than the result of the "pinching times" which would close on the heels of an immediate resumption—but heedless and reckless they dashed on, regardless of the real of the people, and a distressing party they have certainly brought us to: We now find that our farmers who twelve months ago gave "promises to pay," are compelled to make sacrifices of no ordinary character to be enabled to cancel them—bank accommodations are diminished; the curtailments being necessary to the salvation of the institutions themselves—to this misguided set of Loco policy there must be attributed the great scarcity of money, and the great reduction in value of the commodities of our producing community. The correspondent thinks that a legalized suspension for two or three years would be of much service in straightening up matters, so far as the question of immediate relief is concerned; but public sentiment has set so strongly against it, that a resort to it at this time could scarcely be deemed prudent or wise.

### THE LAND FUND.

We are inclined to think, from the demonstrations of the Loco Foco leaders in the House of Delegates, that the party are preparing to take the case of the Land Fund now pending at Washington. They first meant to pass resolutions condemnatory of the system of distribution, but they will finally receive the cash, with a protest—a sort of "O don't" submission to the "soft impeachment." They mean to place Old Virginia in the condition of a prude, who declaims loudly against the immorality proposed to her, yet giving up the contest with only a wry face or two, and a small derangement of the holiday dress put on for the occasion.

The alternative of money or taxes, is a little too severe for the nerves of the partisans who have been mauling it about the corrupting influences of the Land Fund. After a hundred days expenditure of words, they begin to feel the necessity, as the election day approaches, to do something more than merely to increase the public burthen. Well, his "better late than never," but we think the spectacle of holding out only as long as there was no pinch upon the Treasury, is rather a mortifying one, after the large talk which we have heard for a year past.

### RELIEF TO THE STATES.

The plan of Relief as proposed by Mr. Johnson, is becoming more and more popular, wherever the subject is examined and properly understood. As an indication of the popular feeling in Pennsylvania on the subject, the Lancaster Herald states, that a gentleman of that city circulated for a few days two memorials in support of this measure—one to Congress and the other to the State Legislature—and that he obtained over one thousand names in that city alone, among which are those of many of the most prominent men of both political parties. And the Uniontown Democrat, of the same State, says that memorials of like nature are in circulation in that place, and are signed by the tax-paying people of all parties with avidity. The editor adds, that he saw 240 citizens sign within a few hours belonging to both political parties.

The people are tired of taxation, and those who are trying to treat these burdens on their backs will soon find themselves in the rear ground.

The Loco Foco House of Representatives of Massachusetts have succeeded in passing a bill repealing the act prohibiting the intermarriage of blacks and whites. This has been done, in spite of the remonstrance of the fastidious wench, who fear that the poor white women will "cut them out" in the matrimonial market. We shall soon see, if the Senate agree to the matter, of what sort Governor Morton is made, whether he goes for the "mixed basis" or not.

By the way, it is not time he had answered Gov. McDuffie's demand for the slave Latham.

## DEATH OF COMMODORE HULL.

It is with the most unfeigned regret that we announce the demise of this veteran commander, who died in Philadelphia, on Monday the 13th inst., about sixty-eight years of age. It will be remembered that by his nautical skill he saved the frigate Constitution while hotly pursued by a British fleet. His victories over the foreign foe shortly after commenced, and the important and decisive beneficial results arising from his capture of the Guerriere, will ever be remembered with the most lively interest. He was among the first to break the chain of British invincibility on the ocean, and to teach his British Majesty that we had Nelson's among us also.

Thus it is that these gallant and heroic spirits of the late war are passing from the stage of action, one by one, until at length we shall be called upon to record the last honored name. Inseparable must be the heart that is not moved at the mournful intelligence of the death of such a man as Commodore Hull.

## DEATH OF BISHOP GREENWOOD.

The Boston Transcript of Thursday evening announces the melancholy intelligence of the sudden decease of the venerable and devoted pastor of that city, the Rev. Alexander Vics Greenwood, senior Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church. He fell dead whilst walking from his residence to that of Bishop Eastburn's, the cause of his death was a disease of the heart, from which he had occasionally suffered for some years. His age was 77. By this afflictive dispensation the Right Rev. Philander Chase attains the seniority of the Episcopal See.

The Washington correspondent of the Baltimore American states that on his entering the Hall of the House on Monday morning last, his attention was directed to the desk of Mr. Adams, on which was a real with a petition around it, half a mile in length, signed by fifty-one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three persons of South Massachusetts, asking Congress to pass such laws and to propose such amendments to the Constitution of the United States as may forever separate the people of Massachusetts from all connection with slavery. The venerable gentleman sat behind this petition "as calm as a summer's morning."

NEW HAMPSHIRE MORTGAGED!—It would appear by the subjoined extract, from the Concord (N. H.) Advocate of Democracy, that the "teeth and toe nail" State against Banks and Corporations of all character, has actually been put out under a "Deed of Trust," to the Money Brokers of Boston—the property and credit of the State has been put up in the shambles like cattle, and sold to the highest bidder. That paper says:

"We have been credibly informed that the New Hampshire State Treasurer has recently turned from Boston where he borrowed thirty thousand dollars from one of the Banks, and mortgaged the whole State of New Hampshire as security."

From a statement made by the Hon. Mr. Triplett in the House of Representatives, it appears that within the last two years there has been seventy-four steam boats lost on the Missouri, Mississippi and Arkansas rivers, amounting in value with their cargoes to about \$2,000,000. In connection with this statement Mr. T. remarked that seventy or eighty thousand dollars would have covered every snag from the channels of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers. Out of the seventy-four boats lost sixty-one of them perished on account of these obstructions—snags wrecks and sand-bars—the value of which with their cargoes was \$1,650,000!

Mr. Johnson of the Army bill with reference to his plan for the relief of the States; and he commended the report of the Committee on Ways and Means, because, while they admitted the ability and ease with which the Government could grant the aid solicited, they also admitted the indebtedness of the States, they recommended in the following manner:—"Placing myself in the hands of my fellow-citizens, I shall endeavor to confirm and to increase that confidence which they have so generously expressed in relation to my services in the councils of our nation and in the tented field."

LARD OIL.—Substituting Lard for Sperm Oil, and Candles, is gaining much favor with economists. We have had in use for a short time a lamp in which the substitute has been made and readily attest to its great superiority as a more clear and regular light is emitted. The saving is well to be considered, for a penny's worth of lard proves sufficient for one night's burning. Oil has also been found to be superior to olive or sperm oil for machinery, as well as for the manufacture of wools, &c. Upon a chemical analysis it has been found to be scarcely different in its elements from sperm oil.

The shock felt at Washington from the late Earthquake, was also experienced in Richmond and Wilmington, N. C.—at the former place but slight whilst at the latter place, several houses shook so as to cause the rattling of the windows, and the doors to open.

The Bridge over Little River, on the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad, near Taylorville, was burnt down on Monday night, the 13th, supposed to be the act of an incendiary.

The Globe has formally "read out" Isaac Hill, from the Loco Foco party. We suppose Isaac must now be considered in full communion with the Tyler political church.

An election took place in Massachusetts on Monday week in the Congressional District in which the people failed to elect at the November election. The Boston Atlas of Saturday states that there has been again no choice, in the Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Districts, although the Whig vote had increased near 800 in the latter District, since November.

We are indebted to the attention of our Representative, Hon. R. W. Barton, for several interesting public documents.

The Hon. George W. Summers, received an invitation to a public dinner, at Alexandria, on the 22d, but declined in consequence of his numerous pressing engagements.

The Washington Correspondent of the N. Y. Courier and Enquirer says—"Let no one be deceived, the Bankrupt Law will be repealed!"

The Hon. William B. Campbell, of Tennessee, has declined being a candidate for re-election.

Governor Jones, the present Whig Governor of Tennessee, has consented to be a candidate for the office which he holds at present.

We are indebted to the publishers of that spirited Temperance journal, the *Christal Fountain*, (N. Y.) for a copy of Temperance Melodies set to Music. They are arranged with considerable taste, and will prove to those whose vocal power permit of breathing "sweet strains" in behalf of the Cause, a valuable acquisition.

The Secretary of War, Mr. Spencer, (says the Washington correspondent of the Journal of Commerce,) is making preparations for an extensive official survey of the military posts on the Western and other frontiers during the summer of Congress.

## CONGRESS THE LAST WEEK.

On Tuesday, in Senate, the debate was further continued on Mr. McDuffie's resolutions by Mr. Evans, who jumped at once into the midst of his subject. He began with the Tariff law of the last session which had been personified as "Vandy Pardo's box of ink." He showed first that the Tariff had not time to work the evils complained of. He showed, too, that the prices of foreign goods had not increased under the tariff, and there had been no diminution of prosperity at home in consequence of the passage of that act. The Senator in discussing this way and the condition of the country. He expressed his belief that the Revenues of the year would amount to \$13,000,000 as estimated by the Secretary of the Treasury. The receipts at the N. York Custom House for January were \$500,000, and at that rate the receipts would be \$12,000,000. Besides the expenditures of the year were fast diminishing.

He did not believe the expenditures would exceed \$18,000,000 for this year, or \$22,000,000 for the 18 months, from January, 1843 to July, 1844.

The effects of the tariff had restored the credit of the General Government in some degree, it was also urged, in answer to the opposition of Mr. McDuffie to this measure. Government Stocks had been sold at par, and were at a premium. Treasury Notes had risen from 95 to 109 in consequence of the Tariff also.

The House were engaged in discussing the proposition of reducing the pay of Government officers 25 per cent, and also of making a reduction in their own pay.

In the Senate, on Wednesday, the resolutions of Mr. McDuffie, together with amendments, were laid on the table, by a vote of 24 to 23.

In the House, the bill reducing officers pay, Members of Congress pay, &c., was passed with amendments. (Its main features are given in another column.)

On Thursday, the resolutions of Mr. Rives being before the Senate, the purport of which was, against an assumption of State Debts that gentleman said, that the Debts—amounting to nearly two hundred millions of dollars—was so monstrous, that he thought the bare suggestion of it was enough to bring down general condemnation. Yet it was not a speculative idea. It had been introduced by a distinguished gentleman from Maryland in the other House last year, (Hon. W. C. Johnson) and was presented by the Chairman of the Committee on Finance to the Senate.

Mr. Merrick said he would not favor a direct assumption by the General Government, but he insisted that Congress was bound to do all in their power for the relief of the States, and to refrain from every thing calculated to injure and destroy their credit. He was, for himself, anxious to go into retirement, but if this war was to be renewed upon the credit of the States, and the prosperity of the people, he would ever be found battling as a private soldier against those who carried on such a war.

In the House, Mr. Adams, from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, reported the Senate and House bills for the occupation of the Oregon Territory, without amendments, and with the opinion that they ought soon to pass.

On Friday, in Senate, the bill to refund Gen. Jackson's Fine being in order, Linn spoke at length in favor of so doing. A reply to Mr. Miller.

In the House, the Army bill was further discussed.

Mr. Johnson of the Army bill with reference to his plan for the relief of the States; and he commended the report of the Committee on Ways and Means, because, while they admitted the ability and ease with which the Government could grant the aid solicited, they also admitted the indebtedness of the States, they recommended in the following manner:—"Placing myself in the hands of my fellow-citizens, I shall endeavor to confirm and to increase that confidence which they have so generously expressed in relation to my services in the councils of our nation and in the tented field."

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## VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE.

From our Richmond Correspondent.

Richmond, Feb. 17, 1843.

On Saturday, the Militia bill, under the patronage of Mr. Watts, which, it is stated by him, will save annually \$10,000, was read the third time and passed.

Some little discussion took place on the first reading of a bill reported from a select committee, requiring a poll to be taken at the spring elections, to take the sense of the people on calling a State Convention to amend the Constitution. The bill was ordered to be printed, but I have no expectation of its passage at the present session.

A debate of an hour or more took place on a report of the Committee of Courts of Justice, under an amendment of a law of the last session, concerning the administration of real assets—so as to place open accounts on the same footing with contracts in writing. Mr. Irving moved to reverse the report of the committee, so as to include accounts, and this motion was supported by Messrs. Anderson, Worthington, Hopkins and Stovall, and opposed by Messrs. Brown of Preston and Taliaferro. The House sustained the motion to reverse the report. Another struggle will doubtless occur when the bill comes in.

On Monday, several engrossed bills were passed—amongst them, one creating a new county out of parts of West, Lewis and Harrison—to be called, on motion of Mr. Elfe, "Elfe," in honor of the Editor of the Enquirer. Mr. R. modestly declined the honor, but his friends were inexorable, and "buckled the honor on his back" in spite of his blushes.

Some debate took place on a bill, providing that in certain cases when all the justices were summoned to attend a court, one-third might transact the business for which summoned. The bill was indefinitely postponed—ayes 84, noes 27.

A debate was had upon a bill leaving \$10,000 of the unappropriated surplus in the Literary Fund to Henry and Erory College (in the South West). The question was, whether this college, which educated boys for \$67 per annum should meet with the same aid from the fund which other institutions had received. Its friends urged the fairness of the claim, on the ground that the South West had contributed largely to the fund, and had received but little. It would only be so much diverted from the Common Schools, already provided for. The bill was finally agreed to, and was passed the next day by a large majority.

On Tuesday, a long debate occurred on a bill abolishing a matter of right, and the bill was passed by a vote of 56 to 54; but, upon a reconsideration it was rejected, 49 to 63.

Several bills of an unimportant character were passed.

On Wednesday, after the disposal of resolutions and petitions, Mr. Miller of Loudoun called up the bill extending the jurisdiction of magistrates upon plain bonds, notes, &c. to the sum of fifty dollars.

Mr. Gallaher, as one of the committee which framed the bill, was called upon to explain its provisions. He thought, as arranged, it would save a vast amount of costs to the debtor; and, although he had hitherto been opposed to the change, fearing that the justices would not undertake it, he was now in favor of it, for the sake of saving to debtors which he thought it would produce in these times of deep distress, he was willing to give it a trial. He said the interests of the creditor were amply secured by the bill, and he believed it would work well. Complicated matters of account were still left to the courts, and appeared to be a matter of course.

Mr. Leake of Albemarle, in a speech, said that either party could have a jury trial, if desired, upon payment of the original costs. Various amendments were proposed, to perfect the bill, some of which were adopted.

Mr. Byrd called for the reading of a petition from a portion of the people of Frederick, in favor of the measure.

Mr. Taliaferro moved to amend, so as to limit the jurisdiction of justices to sums of \$30, by way of compromise.

The bill was sustained by Messrs. Cowan, Hopkins, West, Miller of Loudoun, Moore of Cabell, and Byrd of Frederick—and opposed by Messrs. Williams, Taliaferro and Leake of Albemarle.

Mr. Taliaferro's amendment, (to limit to \$30,) was lost, by a vote of 43 to 69.

The proceedings which followed occupied a large portion of the sitting, and are thus briefly stated in the Enquirer.

Various other amendments were submitted by Messrs. Worthington, Leake of Goodland, and Hopkins. Mr. Taliaferro proposed to amend the bill, so as to require a tax of 50 cents on issuing the warrant, to be paid by the plaintiff, if on the present tax on the law process. He contended that the want of such a provision would prevent from 5 to 10,000 dollars going into the Treasury. Mr. Gallaher suggested, that it was best to reserve the laying of the tax, until they took up the revenue bill. This amendment was discussed by Messrs. Hopkins, Williams, Edmunds of H. Gallaher, Miller of L. Brown of P. Parks, Strother, and Powell of F. Mr. Edmunds of H. called for the ayes and noes upon the amendment—and it was rejected; ayes 47, noes 67.

Mr. Taliaferro then proposed to strike out the third, fourth, and fifth sections of the bill, and to substitute the following:

"Be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of every Justice of the Peace, whenever he shall render a judgment for the plaintiff, in any of the cases provided by this act, for a sum of money, or other thing of greater value than \$20, exclusive of interest, to return, at the expiration of—days, from the date of such judgment, all the papers, on which the said judgment shall be rendered, to the Clerk's office of the County Court of his county, with his judgment distinctly entered thereon—Whereupon, it shall be the duty of such Clerk, six months from the date of the judgment, to issue execution thereon in the manner now provided by law, which shall be subject to all the rules, proceedings, and consequences now provided by law for executions, issuing by virtue of judgments of the County Courts of this Commonwealth. And upon this execution, the clerk shall endorse "so securely to be taken."

Mr. Taliaferro fully supported this amendment at considerable length—and it was zealously opposed by Messrs. Cowan and Mann.

Mr. Bird of Pendleton called the previous question, which was carried—and the amendment was adopted, ayes 53, noes 52. But Mr. Goodson moved its reconsideration—and Mr. Hopkins called for the ayes and noes, and Mr. Carter moved the previous question (which was carried)—and the question of suspending the rule, in order to reconsider the amendment, was lost; ayes 57, noes 58.

The adoption of Mr. Taliaferro's amendment was considered by some of the friends of the measure as fatal to the bill.

Mr. Byrd of Frederick submitted a resolution, instructing the Committee for Courts of Justice to inquire into the expediency of abolishing, or at least diminishing, the costs upon forthcoming bonds, including the fee of \$20, for the motion to award execution thereon, and the Sheriff's commissions—also, into the expediency of authorizing the several Clerks of the Courts of this Commonwealth, upon such notice as may be deemed proper, to issue execution thereon, subject to be quashed for good and sufficient cause, by the Court from the office of which the same

## issued, on proper notice.—On Mr. Goodson's motion, this resolution was laid upon the table.

Mr. Byrd of Frederick submitted a resolution, instructing the Committee of Propositions and Grievances to enquire into the expediency of providing by law, that any one who has been a deputy sheriff for the term of four years, shall be ineligible to act as such in the same county, for four years, or some other period thereafter.

Mr. Leake's motion, this resolution was indefinitely postponed.

On Thursday, when the subject came up in its order, Mr. Gallaher suggested, that, as it was an important amendment, materially affecting the whole scheme, the bill ought to be laid on the table to give time for its critical examination; which motion was agreed to.

This was a business day. The House resolved to continue its sessions until 4 o'clock each day; and Mr. Gray's resolution, to adjourn, with the consent of the Senate, on the 6th of March, was agreed to.

Seven engrossed bills were passed, and other bills were put through their early stages. A large number of reports of committees were concurred in.

The most important subject of debate was on a report of the Committee of Courts of Justice, (on a resolution offered by Mr. Blue,) declaring it inexpedient to provide that the Sheriff's commission on executing forthcoming bonds shall be only half of what it now is, and that the attorney's fee for taking motion on forthcoming bonds be abolished.

Mr. Blue moved to amend the report by declaring it expedient to amend the law in this respect; and thought that this small measure of relief ought to be granted to a suffering people.

The motion was sustained by Messrs. Carter, Yerby, Powell of Fairfax, Gallaher and Taliaferro. Mr. Blue's motion was sustained in a very strong speech. [By the way, Mr. Taliaferro is one of the most courteous, efficient and pleasant speakers in the House, and his views are generally liberal and statesmanlike.]

Mr. Brown of Preston desired to reconsider the report, with a view to amend, by reducing the sheriff's commissions to 2 per cent. instead of the amount now allowed by law.

But the friends of the measure preferred to take a vote upon the motion to reverse, and Mr. Brown's amendment was rejected.

The vote was taken on the motion to amend, by declaring it expedient to reduce the commissions, &c., and decided in the affirmative by the overwhelming vote of 91 to 9.

So a bill will be reported accordingly.

On Friday, Mr. Hopkins reported a bill, from the Committee of Courts of Justice, on the resolution offered by Mr. Worthington some days since. The bill provides that, instead of the quarterly terms of the County and Corporation Courts, there shall in future be only semi-annual terms of said Courts, with all the powers and jurisdiction now possessed and exercised by them at the quarterly terms. It further provides that judgments on forthcoming bonds, taken by virtue of executions on judgments of the County Courts, shall be granted at the semi-annual, and not at the monthly terms of said courts.

When the bill shall come up for consideration, on its second reading, an amendment will be offered, making forthcoming bonds taken on executions from the Superior Courts returnable to the terms of said Courts, instead of to the County Court terms, as now provided.

The bill converting into Stock the State's loan to the Portsmouth and Roanoke Rail Road Company, was debated at some length by Messrs. Watts and Bolling, and other gentlemen, and laid on the table, with a view to print some amendments.

On motion of Mr. Leake of Albemarle, the resolution of Mr. Garrett, proposing to receive Virginia's quota of the public lands and District of Columbia, was adopted.

Mr. Leake of Albemarle offered an amendment, declaring against the whole policy of distribution; and Mr. Taliaferro read an amendment which he proposed to offer at a proper time.

Mr. Bowden said he would test the sincerity of gentlemen, in reference to this matter, by an amendment (which he read,) declaring it unconstitutional to retain the money received under the deposit act of 1837, and directing the Committee of Finance to devise some plan of repayment.

On motion of Mr. Gallaher, the latter amendment was ordered to be printed with the other amendments—and the whole subject, after some discussion by Messrs. Leake of Albemarle, Daniel, Garnett, and others, was laid on the table, by the order of the day for Friday the 24th inst.

Mr. Gallaher, by direction of the special committee on that subject, moved to take up the bill extending the jurisdiction of justices of the peace upon plain bonds, notes, &c., which, being agreed to, Mr. G. offered a general amendment to the whole substitute, and asked to have the substitute, as amended, and the committee's amendment printed.

Mr. Anderson moved to postpone the whole subject indefinitely—and this question being taken by ayes and noes, was decided in the negative—ayes 54, noes 69.

This vote, however, is no positive test, eleven members being absent; but the bill has evidently gained friends since it was put in the form to include only plain actions on notes, &c. The saving of cost, it is argued, will be from ten to fifteen dollars on a debt which goes through all the process of court to a forthcoming bond. The strongest objection stated was, the doubt whether the magistrates will undertake the additional labor without compensation. Indications from various parts of the State are in favor of the measure, and it now stands, but I think its passage exceedingly doubtful.

The House to-day despatched a large portion of the business on the table.

Mr. Randolph gave notice that he would tomorrow press the tax bills from day to day until finally disposed of. This is now the main subject, except the case of Judge Scott. I believe the committee are nearly through the testimony, and we may expect a report early in the coming week. I have kept myself aloof from the committee room, not wishing to permit any impression to be made upon my mind in advance of the consideration of the question in the House on the reported evidence. I may venture this remark, however, that if the case be sent to the Senate for trial, the session cannot, by possibility, end before the first of April.

THE TARIFF.—Mr. McDuffie in his speech in the Senate on Monday week, has summed up in a few words, the main arguments of the south against the measure.

He said:—"The manufactures of England, when brought in exchange for cotton, were as much the property of the exporter of cotton, as was the cotton exported. So the greater the importation of British goods, the greater the exportation of cotton. So that the cotton grower benefited, Mr. McDuffie seems to consider it immaterial what becomes of other portions of the community. This may be sound doctrine in South Carolina, but it will not be received as such in other sections of the Union.

## NATIONAL CONVENTION.

Our readers will perceive by the subjoined, taken from the Baltimore American, that the Whig Members of Congress have settled the question as to the time and place of holding the National Whig Convention.

Proceedings of a Meeting of the Whig Members of Congress.

At a joint meeting of the Whig Members of the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States, held in the Senate Chamber on Saturday evening, the 16th February, 1843, for the purpose of considering the propriety of holding a National Convention to nominate candidates to be supported by the Whig party at the next election of President and Vice President of the United States, RICHARD H. BAYARD, of Delaware, was called to the Chair, and ALEXANDER H. STUART, of Virginia, and JOHN C. CLARK, of New York, were appointed Secretaries.

Mr. Tallmadge, of New York, on behalf of a joint committee appointed at a previous meeting to consider what measures should be adopted, made a report, which, having been discussed and amended, was unanimously adopted. The report is in the following words, viz:

"Whereas the expediency of holding a National Convention for the nomination of candidates for President and Vice President has been suggested by the Whigs in various parts of the Union; and it having been referred by them to the Whig Members of Congress to designate the time and place of holding said Convention; therefore

"Resolved, That the Whig Members of Congress, concurring in the expediency of the proposed Convention, and yielding to the wishes expressed that they should designate the time and place, do respectfully recommend that a Whig National Convention for the nomination of candidates for President and Vice President of the United States be held at the city of Baltimore on Wednesday, the 3d day of May, 1844; and that the said Convention be composed of Delegates from the respective States equal to the number of Senators and Representatives of each State in the Congress of the United States."

On motion of Mr. Underwood of Ky., it was resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting be by the President and Secretaries, and published in the National Intelligencer and other Whig papers."

RICHARD H. BAYARD, Chm.  
ALEX. H. STUART, Secy.  
JOHN C. CLARK, Secy.

## AWFUL CALAMITY.



