

Tuesday, Dec. 17

Mr. Yancy of N. C. from the committee of claims, to whom was referred the message of the President, recommending a revision of the act for the settlement of claims for property lost and destroyed in military service during the war, handed in a report, stating the circumstances of three decisions, which, in the opinion of the committee, the commissioner had incorrectly made under the law, and recommending to the House the adoption of the following bill:

A BILL to amend the act "To authorize the payment for property lost, captured or destroyed by the enemy, while in the military service of the United States, and for other purposes, passed the 9th day of April, 1816."

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the U. S. of America, in Congress assembled, That the ninth, tenth, eleventh, twelfth, thirteenth and fourteenth sections of the act "To authorize the payment for property lost, captured or destroyed by the enemy, while in the military service of the United States, and for other purposes, passed the 9th day of April, 1816," be and the same is hereby re-enacted.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That all claims, the payment for which is authorized and allowed, by the said act, shall hereafter be heard and decided by the Additional Accountant of the War Department, under such rules and regulations as have heretofore been established for the settlement of accounts in the said Department, and such other rules as the President of the United States may hereafter prescribe.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That the loss or destruction of the property, mentioned in the aforesaid act, as well as the value thereof, shall be ascertained by the best evidence which the nature of the case will admit of, and which shall be in the power of the party to produce, and the amount thereof, when so ascertained, and the decision thereon approved by the Secretary of War, shall be paid to the sufferer or sufferers, out of any money in the treasury, not otherwise appropriated.

The report and the bill were read, and referred to a committee of the whole House.

The House, on motion of Mr. Pickens, of N. C. resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the state of the Union, to consider the amendment proposed by him to the Constitution of the United States, to establish a uniform mode of electing Representatives and Electors throughout the United States—Mr. Smith of Md. in the chair.

After spending an hour and a half in debate on the subject,

The committee rose, reported progress, and obtained leave to sit again.

And the House adjourned.

Wednesday, Dec. 18.

THE COMPENSATION SUBJECT.

Mr. Johnson of Ky. from the committee appointed on the subject, submitted a report relative to the compensation of the members of Congress, embracing an elaborate and ample view of the subject, accompanied by a bill to repeal the present compensation law, and in lieu thereof to provide a daily allowance of dollars, and dollars for every twenty miles traveling to and from the seat of government.

The report and bill having been read.

Mr. Johnson of Ky. moved, that the bill be made the order of the day for the second Monday in January. His reason for moving so distant a day, was to give time to many members to arrive, who had not yet reached here, and to avoid having the subject discussed during the holidays, when the house was usually thin from the absence allowed to members.

Mr. H. Nelson of Va. objected to so distant a day, and moved that the bill be made the order for tomorrow.

A short debate arose on the propriety of selecting an early or distant day.

Mr. Nelson's motion was advocated by himself and Mr. Barbour, on the ground that the subject had been so much agitated and so fully discussed, that it was already well understood, and further time for its consideration was unnecessary; that the measure was carried through rapidly at the last session, and as, it required no more time to

repeal a law than to make it, further delay was useless.

The motion, made by Mr. Nelson, was opposed by Messrs. Grosvenor, Calhoun, Robertson, Hulbert, and Pickering, who were in favor of a more distant day, because between this time and January the House would be less full; and that viewing the subject as one of uncommon importance, one which was perhaps connected with the future liberties of the country, a proper time for deliberation was necessary; that as the house had been accused of acting rashly in passing the existing law, they might be as properly reproached with cowardice by a hasty and precipitate retraction, &c.

Mr. Gaston, conceiving that the honor of the House required that they should on the one hand avoid unnecessary delay, and on the other an unbecoming precipitancy, moved that the bill be made the order for the first Monday of January.

The question being first taken on Mr. Johnson's motion for the second Monday, was carried by a large majority.

THE EPERVIER.

Mr. Taylor of New-York, offered for consideration the following resolution:

Resolved, That the committee on Naval Affairs be instructed to inquire into the expediency of providing by law for the settlement of the accounts of the officers and crew of the United States' brig Epervier, supposed to have been lost at sea.

Mr. Taylor remarked, on this motion, that all must recollect with what pain and anxiety the arrival of this vessel had been expected & hoped for, on her return with despatches from the Mediterranean. From the lapse of time since that period, the last ray of hope glimmering in the bosoms of the friends of the officers and crew of that vessel had become extinct, and the persons on board had been now long given up for lost. Among them there was a young man of the name of Melancthon W. Bostwick, who was Purser on board the vessel. On the breaking out of the late war, said Mr. T. he felt a disposition to signalize himself in the service of his country. He entered the naval service a volunteer, and was placed on board the frigate Essex. In the various instances in which that frigate distinguished herself, Bostwick bore a distinguished part. Without the aid of friends or patronage, by his good conduct on every occasion he soon attracted the attention of the very distinguished commander of that vessel. After the capture of the Essex, he was, on his return home, recommended and appointed a Purser in the United States service. There was committed to his charge money for recruiting for the Epervier, and he was distinguished by the accuracy and attention with which he discharged the duties of his appointment. His papers, his money, and all his accounts, Mr. T. said were at the bottom of the ocean. It was due to the feelings of his friends and connections, that their regret at his loss should not be increased by his being placed on the books of the Department as a defaulter, on account of the disaster which destroyed at the same time his life and his accounts. It was not necessary, Mr. T. added, to say any thing on the subject of extra allowance to the heirs of those who had thus perished, as that subject would present itself to the naval committee. But, at any rate, it was fit that some provision should be made for the adjustment of the accounts of the deceased, which could not be settled at the Navy Department, without the interference of the Legislature.

The resolve was agreed to.

Mr. Caldwell of Ohio, submitted for consideration the following resolution:

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to enquire into the expediency of authorizing the President to appoint Commissioners to locate and mark out the Road from the Ohio river, opposite to Wheeling, in the state of Virginia, through the state of Ohio, with leave to report by bill or otherwise.

The resolution having been amended, on motion of Mr. Taylor of N. Y. so as to refer the subject to the standing committee on Roads and Canals, was agreed to.

Amendment to the Constitution.

On motion of Mr. Pickens of N. C. the House again resolved itself into a committee of the whole, on the state of the Union, to take into consideration his proposition to amend the Constitution of the United States.

After some debate the question was taken on the first part of his proposition, in the following words: "For the purpose of choosing of Representatives in the Congress of the United States, each State shall be divided by its Legislature, into a number of districts, equal to the number of Representatives to which the State may be entitled."

Each district shall contain as nearly as may be, equal numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole number of free persons, including those bound to service for a term of years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other persons. In each district the qualified voters shall elect one Representative. And decided as follows: For that clause 86 Against it 38

So that more than the constitutional majority of two thirds decided in favor of this part of Mr. Pickens' proposition.

The debate continued on the remainder of it till nearly 4 o'clock, when the committee rose & reported progress, and

The house adjourned.

Thursday, Dec. 19.

On motion of Mr. Forney of N. C. the committee of military affairs were instructed to inquire into the expediency of making such alterations in the organization of the corps of artillery, as will place the officers of that corps upon a more equal footing, as regards promotion, with the officers of the other corps of the army.

FOREIGN INDIAN TRADERS.

Mr. Pope of Illinois, moved the adoption of the following resolution: Resolved, That the committee on foreign relations be instructed to inquire into the expediency of excluding foreigners from trading with the Indians residing within the limits of the United States.

Mr. Forsyth, of Geo. suggested to the gentleman that his object, as ascertained from the face of his resolution, had been already attained by an act passed at the last session.

Mr. Pope said, that the act referred to gave to the government a dispensing power. His opinion was, that there ought to be no such power, and that foreigners ought to be entirely excluded. Such a course would relieve the Indians from their present dependence upon the British traders, the ill effects of which was at present very evident.

Mr. Desha suggested a modification of the motion, so as to refer the subject to the committee on Indian affairs, instead of the committee on foreign relations, to which Mr. Pope acceded.

Mr. Forsyth then suggested to Mr. P. the propriety of defining his object more precisely, because from the terms of the resolution now proposed, it would appear as if there was no law in existence, excluding foreigners from trading with the Indians. There was such a law, & it would be better, Mr. F. thought that the gentleman should specify in his motion the particular part of it he desired to be amended.

Mr. Pope said he had not only in view the object he had mentioned, to repeal the dispensing proviso to the act of last session, but that the committee should also recommend such measures as would ensure a due and certain execution of other provisions of the law in question. The resolve was agreed to.

SUPREME COURT DECISIONS.

Mr. Taylor of N. York, introducing the following resolution, adverted to the obvious importance of a correct report of the decisions of cases adjudged in the Supreme Court. The subject had been before Congress at the last session, and the bill had passed the senate to authorize the appointment of a reporter of the decisions of cases adjudged in the supreme court, but from the press of business had not been acted on in this house. To bring the subject again before the house, he moved,

That the committee on the judiciary be instructed to inquire into the expediency of authorizing the appointment of a reporter to the supreme court of the United States. The resolve was agreed to.

On motion of Mr. Blount, of Ten. the committee on post-roads was instructed to inquire into the expediency of establishing a post-route from Morgantown, in Tennessee, to Catoonsville in Georgia.

THE ORDER OF THE DAY.

The house then proceeded to the order of the day, in committee of the whole on the state of the Union, Mr. Smith of Maryland in the chair, to take into further consideration Mr. Pickens's proposition to amend the constitution of the United States.

The debate continued at large, on the electoral feature of the proposition.

At the usual hour of adjournment the committee rose, reported progress, and obtained leave to sit again Adjourned.

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

Annapolis, Thursday, Dec. 26.

Distressing Shipwreck.

The British government transport vessel Harpooner, bound from Quebec to England, with men, women and children to the number of 385, was wrecked on the 10th of last month, off Cape Pine, by which unhappy accident 208 souls were buried in the watery element. A majority of those who were fortunate enough to escape, were preserved by means of a rope, which was conveyed to the shore by a dog, and which was made fast by some few of their companions, who had previously reached the beach in a small boat, and who were prevented by the roughness of the surf, from returning to their relief.

It is stated in a New-York paper, that the Captain who lately died on board one of our ships in the Mediterranean, is Captain Downes, and not Captain Gordon, as was at first reported. The same paper further states, that an American Lieutenant of marines by the name of Klun, had been killed in a duel with a foreign officer.

Singular Experiment.

A late English paper notices an order issued by the board of Admiralty, for the sinking in the harbour of Plymouth, the Eden Sloop of War, a new vessel which had never been to sea, for the purpose of ascertaining whether the salt water will not prove an effectual preventive to the operations of the fungus or dry rot.

Lieutenant Commandant Cunningham, who commanded the U. S. vessel Firebrand, at the time she was attacked by the Spanish squadron, has been honourably acquitted by a court-martial held at New-Orleans on the 21 ultimo, his sword returned to him, and he ordered to resume the command of his vessel.

Receipt for a Cold.

The late Dr. James Malen's Receipt for a cold, which he strenuously recommended.

Take a large teacup full of linseed, two pennyworth of stick liquorice, and a quarter of a pound of sun raisins; put these into two quarts of soft water; let it simmer over the fire, till it is reduced to one. Then add to it a quarter of a pound of sugarcandy, pounded, a table spoonful of old rum, and a table spoonful of good vinegar or lemon juice.

Note.—The rum and vinegar or lemon juice, are best to be added only to that quantity you are going immediately to take; for, if it is put into the whole, it is apt to grow flat.

Drink a half pint going to bed, and take a little when you are troublesome. This medicine generally cures the worst of colds in two or three days; and, if taken in time, may be said to be an infallible remedy. It is a most sovereign balsamic cordial for the lungs, without the opening qualities, which endanger fresh colds, on going out. It has been known to cure colds, that have been almost settled in consumptions, in less than three weeks.

OBITUARY.

Departed this life at his residence near West River, on Friday night last, after a tedious and distressing illness, sincerely regretted by a number of relatives, friends and acquaintances, Capt. JACOB FRANKLIN, Jun. The complaint which terminated the earthly career of this worthy gentleman is supposed to have been brought on by the fatigue and exposure which he endured during the late war, in his patriotic exertions to punish and repel the audacious invaders of his native soil.

Legislature of Maryland.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

Wednesday Dec. 18.

PETITIONS.

From sundry inhabitants of the county of St. Joseph, to be incorporated into the county of St. Charles, and to change the name of Cross Roads to that of Cecil, from Job Wilson, of Cecil, title to a certain parcel of land, from James Ridgway, of Carroll for a support. From the officers and directors of the Connors Bridge Company, to be authorized to subscribe for certain shares of stock in the said company. From sundry inhabitants of the county of Anne Arundel, for the repeal of the act of the legislature of 1816, for the destruction of crows, from Snowden's old forge to the county of Anne Arundel, for a memorial from De Butts, professor of Chemistry in the University of Maryland, for legislative aid. From Elizabeth Montgomery, of Charles, for a support. From Ruth Moore, of Cecil, for the support of herself and children. From Peter Cavenagh, Baltimore, for a special act of solvency. From sundry inhabitants of Queen-Anne's, for a road. From Jonathan Waters, and wife, of Annapolis, for the sale of certain lands. From Michael Boyer, revolutionary officer. Several referred.

On motion of Mr. Taney, to be given to bring in a bill for the payment of jurors in Frederick county.

A message from the senate proposing to go into the election of a senator of the U. S. was received.

Mr. Lecompte delivers a bill to establish a Bank, and incorporate a company, under the name of the Bank of Dorchester. Mr. Taney bills for the better payment of jurors in Frederick. Read.

On motion of Mr. Lecompte, the following message was read.

Mr. Stoddert delivers a message to adjourn from Friday to Saturday.

Experience has taught us, that very little business is transacted immediately preceding the Christmas Holy Day, and during that time so many members of both houses absent themselves, that a quorum of either cannot be formed. We therefore are of opinion, that the proposed adjournment, whilst it will afford an opportunity to many members of the legislature to return to their families, and to give a personal attention to their private affairs, at a very interesting season, would be productive of no public detriment.

After filling up the blank in a message with Monday the 30th, the same was adopted—yeas 49, nays 42.

The bill from the senate to repeal an act authorizing a lottery for cutting a canal from Blackwater to Parson's creek, was passed, and returned to that house.

On motion of Mr. Duval, leave given to bring in a bill to pay the civil list.

Mr. Pitt delivers a bill to increase the allowance to sheriffs for keeping prisoners in gaol and finding them victuals. Read.

Mr. Bradford delivers a report favourable to John Norris. Read.

Mr. Kell, a report favourable to Basil Burgess; also a report favourable to the memorial of Drs. Mackenzie and Smyth. Severally read.

Mr. C. Stewart a report unfavourable to the petition of Joseph Nicholson. Read.

Mr. Posey, a report in favour of Eleanor Montgomery—Concurred in.

The house proceeded to the election of a Senator to represent this state in the Senate of the U. S. The ballots were deposited in the box, and upon an examination it appeared, that Alexander C. Hanson had 48 votes, and Gen. William H. Winder 39 votes.

The bill annulling the marriage of Augustus and Martha Graham, was read the second time and will not pass.

Mr. Carroll delivers a bill for the benefit of Josiah W. Heath—twice read and passed.

Mr. Stoddert delivers a report, favourable to the memorial of Sarah Easton and Dorothy Storey. Read.

Adjourned.

Thursday, Dec. 19.

PETITIONS.

From Alexander Rigdon, of Harford, to be authorized to put up gates in a public lane. From Elizabeth Shaffer, of Washington, for the sale of a lot of ground. From Mary Thompson, of Washington, for a divorce. From Priscilla Wilson, of Calvert, for relief re-