

turas of captains, or other commanding officers of companies, of delinquencies drafted or ordered into the service of the U. S. who shall have refused or neglected to enter the name, sworn to as aforesaid, shall be competent evidence of the facts therein contained.

That if any person shall willingly swear false before any such court-martial, or in any affidavit or deposition taken as aforesaid, he or she shall be adjudged to be guilty of wilful and corrupt perjury, and shall be indicted, tried and punished accordingly, by any court of competent jurisdiction, in the state or territory where such offence shall be committed.

## CONGRESS.

House of Representatives.

Monday, Dec. 23.

### SUPREME COURT.

Mr. H. Nelson of Va. from the committee on the Judiciary reported a bill to provide for the publication of the decisions of the Supreme Court of the U. States. (To pay a salary to the Reporter appointed by the Court, provided the decisions of the Court should be published within six months after the adjournment of the Court, and a certain number of copies thereof delivered to the office of state.) The bill was committed.

Mr. Nelson from the same committee, reported the following bill: A bill authorizing the appointment of Circuit Judges, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That from and after the day of next, the Chief Justice and Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of the U. States shall cease to be Judges of the Circuit Courts of the U. States.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That from & after the day of next in lieu of the term now established by law, the Supreme Court of the U. States shall be holden at the seat of government on the first Monday of December in every year.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That in lieu of the present Circuit Courts, there shall be appointed and commissioned by the President of the U. States, a Judge to be called a Circuit Judge, who shall, together with the District Judge, hold the Circuit Courts in the respective districts within his Circuit, and who shall have and possess all the rights, powers and authority, and perform the duties which by law now devolve upon or may be executed by the Justices of the Supreme Courts as Judges of the Circuit Courts within their respective Circuits. And each of the said Circuit Judges shall receive, as an annual salary or compensation for his services during his continuance in office, the sum of dollars, payable quarterly at the Treasury of the U. States.

The bill was twice read and committed.

### INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT.

Mr. Calhoun of S. C. from the committee to whom the subject was referred, reported the following bill:

A Bill to set apart and pledge, as a permanent fund for internal improvements, the bonus of the National Bank, and the U. States share of its dividends.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the U. States share of the dividends of the National Bank and the bonus for its charter be and the same are hereby set apart and permanently pledged as a fund for constructing roads and canals; and that it be subject to such specific appropriations, in that respect, as Congress may hereafter make.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That the said fund be put under the care of the Secretary of the Treasury for the time being; and that it shall be his duty, unless otherwise directed, to vest the said dividends, if not specifically appropriated by Congress, in the stock of the U. States; which stock shall accrue to, and is hereby constituted a part of, said fund for constructing of roads and canals.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That it shall also be the duty of the said Secretary, unless otherwise directed, to vest the bonus for the charter of the said bank, as it may fall due, in the stock of the United States; and also to lay before Con-

gress, at their annual session, the condition of the said fund.

The bill was twice read and committed.

### A NEW STATE PROPOSED.

Mr. Lathrop of Miss. reported a bill to enable the people of the Western part of the Mississippi Territory to form a constitution and state government, and for the admission of the same into the Union—and also a bill to establish a separate territorial government in the eastern part of the Mississippi territory—which bills were twice read and committed.

On motion of Mr. Chappell of S. C.

Resolved, That the committee on pensions & revolutionary claims be instructed to enquire into the expediency of repealing the several laws, which bar from settlement the claims against the government, denominated loan office certificates, indents for interest on the public debt, final settlement certificates, commissioner's certificates, army commissioner's certificates, credits given in lieu of army certificates cancelled, credits for the pay of the army, for which no certificates were issued, and invalid pensions.

Mr. Forsyth of Geo. from the committee on foreign relations, reported the following bill: An Act concerning the Navigation of the United States.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the U. States of America in Congress Assembled, That after the day of no goods, wares or merchandise, shall be imported into the United States, from any foreign port or place, except in vessels of the U. States, or in such foreign vessels as truly and wholly belong to the citizens or subjects of that country of which the goods are the growth, production or manufacture—or from which such goods, wares or merchandise can only be, or most usually are, first shipped for transportation: Provided nevertheless, that this act shall not extend to the vessels of any foreign nation, which has not adopted, and which shall not adopt a similar regulation of commerce.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That all the goods, wares and merchandise, imported into the United States, contrary to the intent and meaning of this act, and the ship or vessel wherein the same shall be imported, together with her cargo, tackle, apparel and furniture, shall be forfeited to the U. States—and such goods, wares and merchandise, ship or vessel, and cargo shall be liable to be seized, prosecuted and condemned, in like manner and under the same regulations, restrictions and provisions, as have been heretofore established for the recovery, collection, distribution and remission of forfeitures to the U. States, by the several revenue laws.

Mr. Forsyth, from the same committee also reported a bill supplementary to the act regulating the duties on import and tonnage.

These two bills were twice read and referred to a committee of the whole.

A message was received from the President of the United States, transmitting the report required by a resolution of the House, of the proceedings of the Commissioner of Claims appointed under the act passed at the last session, authorizing payment for property lost, captured or destroyed whilst in the military service of the United States, accompanied by a large trunk full of documents relating thereto.

The message and documents were referred to the committee appointed to enquire into the subject.

Some rather desultory debate took place on a motion of Mr. Johnson of Ky. to have the report printed for the use of the house—which was objected to by some, as being wholly unnecessary, and by others advocated, not only as being necessary, but as being almost a matter of course. The debate culminated in a decision in favor of printing the report.

Mr. Taul of Ky. then moved to discharge the committee of investigation into this subject, from its further consideration, with a view to bring the subject generally before the house—which motion was negatived.

### ORDERS OF THE DAY.

Mr. Wilde of Geo. moved to take up the bill for the establishment of a National University—and Mr. Johnson of Ky. called up one of the bills reported by the Military committee.—Both motions were negatived.

The House then, on motion of Mr. Condit of N. J. resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. Fittin in the chair, on the bill, further to encourage Vaccination.

The bill prescribes certain duties to be performed by the Agent for Vaccination, such as, furnishing matter and instructions to the army and navy, and annually to every post office in the United States, and provides that the Agent shall for his services receive a salary from the government.

The bill passed on without debate, until that part of the bill came under consideration which designates the amount of the salary to be allowed to the agent.

Mr. Condit moved to fix the salary at 2000 dollars; Mr. Hahn of Pa. moved 1500; and Mr. Ross of Pa. 1000.

The question having been taken on 2000, was decided in the negative.

Messrs. Comstock of N. York, Woodward of S. C. Condit and Southard of N. Y. supported 1500 at some length, by arguments having reference to the labor and great importance of the services required; and Mr. Ross of Pa. opposed it, on the ground of its being more than sufficient compensation for an officer who could at the same time pursue his own profession. Mr. Taylor of N. Y. also supported 1500 dollars, in a decided speech, grounded on the incessant care and labor, and arduous duties, to be devolved on this officer.

Mr. Taylor moved to fix the salary at 1800 dollars. This motion was negatived by a small majority.

The question was taken on 1500 dollars, and decided in the affirmative.

Mr. Condit of N. J. then moved to amend the bill so as to add an allowance for stationary and printing, provided the same do not exceed one hundred and fifty dollars.—Negatived.

After some further proceedings, the committee rose and reported the bill to the House.

And the bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

The house adjourned.

Tuesday, December 24.

Mr. Robertson, of Lou. rose to propose an inquiry into the expediency of a measure, which if adopted, would tend to make the institution for military education at West-Point more honourable, and perhaps more useful to the nation.

He did not mean to enter at all into the course pursued in regard to that academy, either as it respected the government or the persons employed; but as the institution exists he meant to make a proposition, which would render it more creditable to the U. States than it is at present, however well managed. If youths were to be educated at the public expense, Mr. R. said he should like to see some rule established by which those should receive this privilege who had some claim to it. He did not wish the institution to be filled by the sons of the influential & the wealthy only.

He should greatly prefer a moderate degree of education, to be equally diffused among all the members of the community, to any excess, in the possession of a few; he would rather that every man in the nation should understand his native language, and a few of the necessary rules of arithmetic, than that literature, of however high degree, should be exclusively possessed by some dozens of persons, scattered over the U. States. It appeared to him, that by establishing institutions as now contemplated, we begin at the wrong end of societies. The erection of such institutions, rather shew the ostentation of the government than its benevolence or wisdom—remarks, however, which, he said, belonged to a question which might arise during the session, but was not now before the House.

On reflecting on the question who were best entitled to notice from their government, the mind was at once struck with the impression, that there is one class peculiarly entitled to its justice and favour. He alluded to the sons of those who had fallen in the service of their country. Having been thus deprived of their parents, they ought to find in society a father. If any class was entitled to peculiar favour from the country, it was the sons of those who had died in the public service, leaving to their children the inheritance of their bravery and their poverty. It becomes us, said Mr. R. to relieve them from the ignorance and immorality, which their situation entails on them, strip as

they are of the essential support which nature had in parents who could and direct their steps. I can not bear the idea, said Mr. R. that money should be taken from the pockets, even of the indigent to educate the sons of men of wealth, especially when we find those to whom I have alluded pining for want.

I do not know that the sons of the wealthy do fill the academy: I have not enquired, but I hope the fact is not so; that such are not nourished from the public breast, without attention to the claims of others more deserving the public care. Far from me, said he, be the desire to establish any privileged class in this country, before I would consent to do any thing so repugnant to my principles, I would forego feeling the most dear to me. He did not consider the motion he was about to make as proposing it, as there was to be no order, no rank, nor any thing which could offend the most rigid Republican. Nor did he think that we should run much risk of inducing fathers to shed their blood too freely for the country, that they might have their sons educated by the public; but, on the other hand, said he, let us take from them one of their fears, for they know that, in battle, the ball that deprives them of existence, takes from their sons what is dearer to them, all prospect of education and correct morals.

Under these impressions, Mr. R. said, he ventured to propose the following resolution: Resolved, That the committee on military affairs be instructed to enquire into the expediency of educating in the Military School at West Point, the sons of all officers, non-commissioned officers and privates who have fallen in the late war, fighting the battles of their country.

Mr. Talmadge of Cont. suggested to the honourable mover the expediency of modifying the terms of his motion so as that, if more academies should be created, all might stand on the same footing.

To which Mr. Robertson consented; and also, at the suggestion of Mr. Harrison of Ohio, so modified his motion as to strike out the words "in the late war," so as to make the terms general.

The resolve was then agreed to without opposition.

The engrossed bill supplementary to the act for the encouragement of vaccination, was read a third time.

Mr. Ross of Pa. required the yeas and nays on the passage of the bill. Although he believed he should himself vote for the bill, he thought proper that on a bill for the establishment of a salary officer, the people ought to know who voted for & who against the bill—and he also wished that their constituents should know who were at this time present, and who absent from their seats.

Mr. Gady of N. Y. opposed the passage of the bill, as contemplating an interference by the U. States in the duty of the states. He had never heard, he said, that the state of New-York, or any other state, had been so un mindful of the health of the people, as that congress ought to take it into their charge. So far as respected the army and navy, the United States ought to act on this subject, but for the rest, it ought to be left to the state legislatures.

Mr. Tucker of Va. moved that the bill should lie on the table. So far from availing themselves of the house being thin to take the yeas & nays, to shew who were not in their seats, if that consideration operated at all, it should be not to take the yeas and nays, but to postpone the decision of the question.

The bill was laid on the table. And the house adjourned.

### Projected improvement on Gas Light apparatus, by condensation.

Information on the new method of procuring light for houses and cities, contained in a letter from Mr. David Melville, of Newport, R. I. to the honorable Samuel L. Mitchell, dated November 30, 1816.

Sir—The application of carburated hydrogen Gas, as a substitute for oil, tallow, &c. in lighting cities, buildings, &c. is a thing in which I have been several years engaged, and in the introduction of which in our country, I feel great interest, although I may never derive the benefit from it I once anticipated. I take the liberty to enclose you a plate of the apparatus for which I received letters patent in March, 1810—If any idea can be collected from it that would be beneficial to the public, the public is at liberty to avail itself of it. I have lately made an alteration in my apparatus to make some experiments on the

Gas from the Hydrogen Lamp, which has for four years lighted occasionally, with the from alkali, is now lighted in the most brilliant manner, and gas from iron. I have not progressed far enough in my experiments to ascertain which of the materials is the most economical, or whether of them would be preferable to coal, which produces its own heat. I have ascertained, however, one experiment, that 14lb of will produce 100 gallons of which will make as much light as candles of 6 to the lb, and that returns from the refrigerator (an improvement) or condenser, 100 and a half gallons or 12lb of spirit or varnish, which it is the opinion of those who have examined it, would be very useful in ships, for paying decks, or making blacking the sides, spars, &c.—if so, it is more valuable than the gas from which the gas is produced.

The apparatus for producing is undoubtedly, like all other man inventions, susceptible of improvements, which can only be ascertained from experience.

The greatest obstacles to the production of the gas lights by individuals, particularly in compact cities, is the expense of the apparatus, the trouble of making the gas, and the smell it often occasions, notwithstanding the greatest care, in the vicinity where it is generated. To obviate these difficulties, has caused me much study and expense. I long since conceived the idea of making it portable in small vessels, by compressing with a forcing seryage or air pump, but I had not brought my plan to perfection—recently in conversation on the subject with Mr. Osborn Parsons of your state, we fixed on the plan, and I have made some experiments, which I think justify us in taking out a patent for which we have secured.

I have ascertained from experiment, with a small forcing air pump that many hundred gallons of gas can be compressed with an ordinary power, into the space of one gallon. I have ascertained also, that it can not be done to advantage by manual power, since the labor to compress it would increase the expense nearly to that of tallow or oil; but I am fully convinced, that were a large gas establishment is erected for lighting a city, the gas can be compressed with a large apparatus, worked by horse or steam power, to supply buildings out of the reach of the conduits, by means of portable gasometers, to very great advantage.

The plan proposed, is to fix the apparatus, excepting the furnace and retort in any building where the lights are wanted; then with a forcing air pump attached to a pipe leading from the gasometer in the gas manufactory, and attached to a portable vessel (as sketched on the enclosed plate) to draw the gas from the gasometer and force it into the portable vessel in any desired quantity, the vessel being made very strong, similar to the soda water casks, and lined with copper, or other metal; when the desired quantity is forced in, turn the stop cock to retain it in the portable vessel, unscrew it from the air pump, and convey it to the building to be lighted, screw on to the pipe usually connected with the retort, and turn the gas compressed in the portable vessel, will expand itself by means of its own elasticity, and fill the gasometer to which it is attached. Here then would be saved the expense of the retort and furnace, and the fuel and trouble of making the gas, and the smell which occasions where it is generated.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

DAVID MELVILLE.  
Dr. Samuel L. Mitchell, New-York.

### NOTICE.

The subscribers for every all persons from hunting with either dog or gun, or otherwise trespassing on their farm, called "The President," and also known by the name of "Horn Point," as they are designated to prosecute all such offenders with the strictest rigour of the law.

George Barber.  
John T. Barber.

Jan. 2, 1817.

### Notice is hereby given.

That the subscriber intends to apply to the general assembly of Maryland for an act to release him of debts that he is unable to pay.

Wm. R. Scotth.  
Calvert county, June 2, 1816.

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