

Congress

OF THE United States of America.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

DUTIES ON BOOKS, &c.—Concluded.

Mr. R. Griswold. The gentleman from Virginia, (Mr. Randolph) must have misunderstood me when he supposed I objected to the report, because the committee had assigned no reason for the resolution—I mentioned the circumstance merely to show that we ought not then to decide. With respect to the constitutional objection he has set up, I acknowledge it is new to me—Such an enquiry may be of great weight, but it does not appear so to me. The paragraph quoted from the 8th section of the first article, that conveys shall have power to levy and collect taxes, has never struck me in the way it has that gentleman. The words are, levy and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises; but it drops the words taxes, it being settled in another part of the constitution, and declares that duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform—The one speaks of direct taxes, the other of indirect—meaning that if an indirect tax is laid it shall be uniform. No one here is to have an excise laid upon its inhabitants unless it extends to the citizens of every other. One part is not to be excised, and another excused. This has always been the construction of that section of the constitution till the present moment, and I think it the true one. It is now said that congress can only promote science and literature in one way. Why! have not congress made grants of lands to promote those objects in the western country? They have. I believe the power of congress adequate to promote literature in the way applied for, and it has been frequently the case that even after duties have been paid into the treasury upon the uniform system, yet individuals have had those duties returned. I do not want to detain the house; but I am well persuaded that the constitution forms no impediment, and the expediency must be apparent.

Mr. J. Randolph believed the gentleman last up had misunderstood him. But it was not very material whether he was misunderstood or not, as Mr. G. had not thought proper to answer him on the principal ground, namely the constitutional objection. He however said something. Duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform. Can they be uniform when a particular class or corporation are exempt from their payment? This is a new kind of uniformity. It is a species of uniformity I do not understand. He asks, if you have not granted land and returned duties received into the treasury. Indubitably you have. And we have the power, and in some instances the right to give away the money in our treasury to objects we think deserving. Has not all the disposition gone upon the question of particular hardship; but tell me, do these individual cases, resting upon their own merits, clash with a wholesale disposal of public money? Suppose you want to raise up an exclusive privilege in favor of, let us say shoemakers, and let them import their materials free of duty; will you bring up as precedent or authority, the case of Mr. Meslonier, or any other person? Can such a case, standing singular and insulated, be held up to promote the doctrine of exclusive privilege for corps of thousands. Of lands the United States have given General La Fayette some acres; they have given the like for schools in the wilderness country; they may give some to the gentleman from Connecticut; but would any of them contend for an exemption from paying half or two thirds of the price when the sale was made on a uniform system, and would they ask for an exemption from the payment of their tax, if it was imposed. Mr. R. concluded by repeating the idea, that if you once step over the barrier, there is no security, and if you forgive or exempt the payment of the duties in this instance, congress may forgive every thing to their favorites, when they have any.

Mr. Dana made a reply to M. Findley; but it is so difficult to hear gentleman across the floor that the reporter dare seldom attempt to follow them. He considered Mr. R's objection as being formed upon the idea, that the books compiling the libraries of colleges and universities were of the same kind as those used in country schools: few things were more dissimilar; the one was merely to initiate the pupil in the first principles, the other took a more extensive range, embracing the whole circle of science, the classic authors, and the best writers, ancient and modern, books scarcely ever to be found but in collections attached to literary institutions, and the revenue arising from them may be called a tax upon seminaries of learning.

Mr. J. Clay was one of the committee, and had agreed to the report; since reasons

had been called for he would in a few words assign those which influenced him. The gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. D.) mistakes in thinking that a denial to exempt books from impost is a tax on literary institutions, and therefore not uniform, as the constitution requires all imposts should be; but he did not make his stand on the ground of the constitution, he rested the question upon its expediency. Giving literary institutions the privilege of exemption from imposts would open a wide door for fraud; we should soon have them importing books for sale duty free, revalling the bookfellers who are subjected to the payment of impost, and vending them in every street and avenue of the nation. But why privilege colleges and universities to accommodate the rich; for we may believe that the rich and the children of the rich are the only persons who have access to these collections? The poor have little leisure and less opportunity to improve the advantage which even neighborhood would give them to peruse works of the kind alluded to, and truly it would be thought unjust to tax their pittance of imported articles, and in order to enable gentlemen to read the classic authors or the sublime and beautiful of the modern writers.

Mr. Findley spoke of colleges not of universities, we have three in Pennsylvania, one of which, to be sure, has also the title of university, but two of them have not funds to import books on their own account; it is only rich institutions that have this advantage, the poorer class of seminaries buy of bookfellers, and pay them the impost as well as their retail profit. Indeed this remission of duties will rather tend to create disgust than give satisfaction; and those seminaries which have large collections of books would be induced to sell them at their present price in order to procure new ones cheaper, as they have had to pay the duty on the former, but would have none to pay upon those they should hereafter import.

The question being called for—it was put on agreeing to the report of the committee of the whole, that it is inexpedient to remit the duty on books, and carried in the affirmative, 79 members voting in the affirmative. Adjourned.

NEW-YORK December 1.

VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS.—Recent accounts from Sicily, state, that the famous Mount Etna is at present threatening to spread desolation through the circumjacent country. Previous to the 10th of August several eruptions had occurred, which though not productive of very serious consequences, were, from their nature—the noise that attended them, and the burning matter and smoke emitted—calculated to excite alarm. During the twenty four hours succeeding the 10th, the volcano was calm, but this calm was followed on the 12th, early in the morning, with a terrible explosion, and a noise as if millions of cannons had been discharged at once. When the last letters, of the 18th, left that island, a shower of fire was falling to the distance of three leagues round Etna.—No earthquake had been experienced, but a subterraneous sound, like thunder, was heard all over Sicily, particularly at and near Messina. Volcanus too, in Italy, has of late been in a convulsed state. Great quantities of lava have been emitted, the progress of which has been marked with ruin, and has struck alarm into the inhabitants of the adjacent country. Most of the towns and villages in the vicinity of the mountain have been abandoned, the people carrying with them their most valuable effects, and concluding that some awful explosion will ere long render the beautiful country round the base of Vefuvius a scene of barren desolation.

A letter received in Cadiz from Gibraltar, two days before the Enterpize sailed, mentions that a hundred and ten persons had died at that place the day before of the prevailing fever, and that it was equally bad at Alicante and Algeiras. At Malaga about one hundred died daily, and 1700 lay sick.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 1.

Yesterday arrived, ship Herman and Thufelda, captain Bassau, by whom we learn, that when he left Lisbon, (on the 17th October) they were in hourly expectation of the confirmation of a war between England and Spain; as accounts received there, were such, as made it appear inevitable.

A letter from Gibraltar, dated the 23d September, received in this city, informs, that the pestilence at Malaga continued to rage with most destructive violence, from two to three hundred falling victims to it daily. At Gibraltar the mortality was confined to strangers. The troops on that station, amounting to 4000, enjoyed perfect health, and were in excellent order.

By the vessels from Point Petre, we learn that it has been sickly amongst the shipping, that the supercargo of the sch'r Widowson, and Captain Wilson of the schooner Minerva, both of this port, with several others belonging to different vessels had died at Point Petre.

By the Connecticut, captain Allen, from Gonaves, we learn, that a French privateer brig of 18 guns from Guadeloupe, had been captured after an action of 8 hours, off the Platform by a British sch'r privateer, of 14 guns and sent into Kingston, Jamaica.

From the Federal Gazette.

COMMUNICATION. Messrs. Editors, THE POWERS of human ingenuity, the vast expansion of which the natural intellect is susceptible, may not meet the notice or acquire the respect of the superficial observer, who cannot "Look thro' Nature up to Nature's God,"

But, to a philosophical and reflecting mind, those astonishing stretches of extraordinary investigation naturally excite not only wonder, but admiration, as the benignity of Providence, in the endowment of mankind with such astonishing capacities as are capable of making mere mechanical operations, to exhibit the actions of natural life and even to excite the appearance of supernatural interference. These reflections forcibly pressed themselves upon my mind as viewing the machine exhibiting in this city, justly called the Mystery, and which, in my opinion, is deservedly a subject of the most unqualified admiration of the surprising powers of human invention.

From a small glass case (not so large as one of our city lamps) entirely isolated, totally unconnected with either the floor, the walls or the ceiling of the room, we hear the most dulcet and agreeable music and charmingly vibrate on the ear; from the melodious sounds of the organ, to the more enchanting tones of the piano forte, without any apparent manual assistance. Where no human intervention can possibly be perceived or the most inquisitive eye of scrutinizing curiosity explore the invisible cause—repies are made to the most abstruse questions that may be asked in almost any language, with surprising acuteness and precision: It also reads print, when presented to any part of it; discriminates colors, &c. and although this case, or lantern, is not of sufficient dimensions to contain the smallest infant, yet the human breath can be distinctly heard and felt.

In vain we look to the walls, the ceiling or the floor, for an explanation of these extraordinary phenomena; still our enquiries meet no gratification; for the machine being entirely unconnected with the whole, it would be absurd to suppose it dependent on either.

Bentley justly observes, "I acknowledge not ing besides matter and motion; so that all must be performed either by mechanism or accident, either of which is wholly unaccountable."

If the "Invisible lady" excited the astonishment and confounded the enquiries of the philosophers of an France, surely this Mystery might bid defiance to the investigations of all the learned in the universe.

In my opinion, it is a most astonishing curiosity, and as such, independent of the gratification a sight of it may afford, it deserves encouragement as a stimulus to the ingenious to pursue their researches until the utmost powers of the human understanding and ingenuity are fully ascertained. I am Messrs. Editors, your most obedient

FELLOW CITIZEN.

From a late London Paper.

BRIGHTON, DECEMBER 23.—The hoax which was practised here on Friday, had more than to the full its expected effect. We before noticed that a person, by bills posted up in conspicuous parts of the town, had announced his intention of amusing the company by walking on the water, immediately opposite to the Marine Library, precisely at six o'clock in the evening. So general was the opinion, not only of the possibility of such a project being successfully attempted, but that it would be carried into effect, that for nearly an hour previous to the appointed time, the cliff, taking the full width of the town, and from the southern extremity of the Steyne almost to Rottingdean, a distance of 4 miles, presented one crowded assemblage of anxious and enquiring pedestrians. All ranks and descriptions of people, from almost the highest to the lowest, indiscriminately mix'd together. At 6 o'clock from the Steyne eastward, a line of carriages filled with fashion and beauty, to the extent of nearly a mile, were closely drawn up in momentary expectation of the promised event. Towards 7 o'clock, when the declining sun began to render objects indistinctly visible, the hoax began generally to be suspected, and the carriages rapidly to move away. The pedestrian crowd also partially began to profit by their example and retire, informing all they met, that few might be left to boast of superior wisdom, or of possessing less credulity than themselves on the succeeding morning, that the aquatic adventurer had really commenced his operations, and was, at that time, securely walking on the waves, almost without wetting his shoes! This information was presently circulated in all parts, and so generally believed, that those who had not before repaired to the cliff, were now seen hurrying towards it with all their speed, lest they should arrive too late to witness the marvellous spectacle. Tranquillity was not generally restored in the town until nearly 10 o'clock, for crowds of people, though then convinced of the imposition, continued pacing the Steyne and principal streets, laughing at their disappointment; for mirth and good humor invariably prevailed; and expressing that satisfaction which the interesting sight of so many people socially gathered together, on one occasion had afforded them.

The author of the hoax has not yet been discovered.

American.

BALTIMORE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1864.

It is true, as stated, that Prince Jerome has again safely returned to this city, after making another unpropitious attempt to reach his brother's empire. As it appears, the presence of the ci-devant republican frigate, Revolutionaire, in Hampton Roads, rendered his chance of quitting this country, with safety, so precarious, as to occasion the abandonment of this last plan, projected for his departure. And, indeed, when we reflect on the tender considerations which might have prompted his return, in conjunction with that of putting his own consequence (in a national point of view) in jeopardy, we may, perhaps fairly attribute this last retrograde movement to prudence and sound policy.

It would appear, however, that the return of the "lord high admiral" to imperial France, seems almost as difficult to effect, as the threatened invasion, itself: indeed, fate seems to have interdicted the accomplishment of both objects, to a degree of modification, to those in pursuit thereof. And if Jerome should be as long engaged in executing the former, as Napoleon has been, and is likely to be, in achieving the latter, it is quite probable, his residence in this country, will, ere then, enable him to renounce the prospective title of Prince, for the honorable distinction which American citizenship would confer.

Monday last was the day appointed by the House of Representatives, to take into consideration the report of the select committee, to whom had been referred the articles of impeachment against Judge Chase.

The following gentlemen were yesterday elected directors of the Bank of Baltimore in the order in which they stand:—

- GEORGE SALMON, WILLIAM WILSON, PETER FRICK, JOSEPH SHERETT, JOSEPH THORNBURG, WILLIAM LORMAN, ELIAS ELLICOTT, JOHN STUMP, ALEXANDER McDONALD, WILLIAM MATHEWS, ISAAC MEIM, JAMES WEST, THOMAS TENANT, ENGELHARD YEISER, JOHN STRICKER, Those in Italic are new directors.

Thomas Addis Emmitt, esq., the celebrated Irish patriot, arrived in this city on Saturday last. He is brother to Robert Emmitt, esq. who fell an untimely victim to his generous and ardent attachment to the liberties of his country.

INTERMENTS in the burying grounds of the city and precincts of Baltimore, DURING THE WEEK ending yesterday morning at sunrise:

Table with 2 columns: Disease and Number of Deaths. Typhus 1, Pleurisy 1, Drowned 1, Burn 1, Still born 1, Dropsy 1, Debility 1, Fits 1, Flux 1, Worms 2, Consumption, 4. Adults 10, Children 5, Total 15.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE OF MARYLAND. HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

MONDAY, November 26.

The house met pursuant to adjournment.

Mr. Chapman and Mr. Darne have leave of absence for a few days.

Mr. Jesse Tomlinson, a delegate for Allegany county, appeared, qualified, and took his seat. Mr. Harryman appeared in the house.

The supplement to the act to establish & regulate a market at Bridge-town, in Kent county, and for other purposes therein mentioned, was read the second time and passed.

Mr. Hylard delivered a bill, entitled, "An act, relating to negroes, and to repeal the acts of assembly therein mentioned," which was read.

The following resolution was propounded to the house and read.

Ordered, That the printer to the state strike one hundred copies of the documents relative to the bank stock, for the use of the members.

Ordered, That the bill to establish a bank, and incorporate a company, under the name of "The Farmers' Bank of Maryland," and for other purposes, have a second reading on Friday next.

Mr. Clarke delivered a bill, entitled, "An act to prevent the running at large of swine in the town of New Windsor, in Frederick county," which was read.

The speaker laid before the house a re-

port from the academy at Easton, in Talbot county, giving an account of the present state of said seminary, &c. which was read and referred.

Mr. Lloyd Dorsey, a delegate from Anne-Arundel county, appeared, qualified, and took his seat.

A petition from William M'Mahon & George Thibault, of Allegany county, was read and referred.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning 9 o'clock.

NORTH CAROLINA.—The election for electors in this state, was held by districts, from every one of which a republican has been returned: The following are the names of the fourteen gentlemen, who have been elected; they will all no doubt vote for the Jefferson and Clinton ticket; Gideon Alston James Jones, Joseph J. Alston Lemuel Sawyer, Samuel Ashe, sen. Montfort Stokes, Reaping Blount Joseph Taylor, Robert Cochran Felix Walker, Peter Forney Bryah Whitefield, Solomon Graves Joseph Williams.

OHIO.—The governor of this state has issued his proclamation, declaring Nathaniel Maffey, William Goforth, senior, and James Pritchard, electors of president and vice president of the United States. The following is a statement of the votes given by both parties:

Table with 2 columns: Party and Number of Votes. REPUBLICAN: Nathaniel Maffie 2593, Wm. Goforth, sen. 2502, James Pritchard, 2475, John Bigger 76. FEDERAL: Bazaleel Wells 364, John Rolly 320, B. T. Gilman 190, John Carlisle 80.

A waggon load of wheat was the present week brought to this market from the town of Bloomfield, county of Ontario, 230 miles from this city.—The quantity was 100 bushels, and was drawn by 4 yoke of oxen; and had the travelling been good, we are told might with equal ease have been increased to 150 bushels. It was purchased at Bloomfield for 5 shillings a bushel, and sold here for 17 shillings and 3 pence. The net proceeds of this wheat, after paying all expenses, and deducting prime cost, is not less than one hundred dollars. The journey, coming and returning, it is supposed can be performed in 20 days, notwithstanding the badness of the roads at this season of the year. This we believe is the first adventure of the kind ever undertaken in this country, of transporting by land, grain from so great a distance: the present high price however well warranted the attempt, and has richly rewarded the enterprising individual who has achieved it.

[Albany Gazette.]

IMPERIAL DIGNITY.—The following ancient charter of King Edgar, which is yet extant, shews, says a late London paper, that the British crown is not without its claim to IMPERIAL dominion, as well as any continental power, and that in point of antiquity its claim is more respectable. The record begins thus—"By the clemency of the thundering God, who is King of Kings, I Edgar, King of the English, and of all Kings of Islands, and of the ocean circumjacent to Britain, and of all nations which are included within her, EMPEROR and Lord;—I give thanks only to Almighty God, my King, that he hath amplified and exalted my EMPIRE above the kingdom of my fathers, who although they had obtained the monarchy of England from the time of Athelstan, who was the first that subdued the kingdom of the English, and all nations that inhabit Britain, yet none of them attempted to extend his empire beyond its bounds. But propitious Divinity hath granted unto me to subdue, together with the EMPIRE of the English all the kingdoms in the isles of the ocean, with their most ferocious Kings, as far as Norway, most part of Ireland, with her most noble city of Dublin. All of whom I compelled to bow their necks to my commands, the Grace of God so favouring me, &c."—This instrument bears date Anno 964.

[COPY.]

"NAVY DEPARTMENT, 23d May, 1864.

"SIR, Your dispatches bearing date the 10th of December, 1863, conveying to us the unpleasant information of the accidental loss of the Philadelphia, were not received till late in the month of March last. The president immediately determined to put in commission & to send to the Mediterranean a force which would be able beyond the possibility of a doubt, to coerce the enemy to peace upon terms compatible with our honor and our interest. A due regard to our situation with Tripoli and precautionary considerations in relation to the other Barbary powers, demanded that our forces in that quarter, should be so far augmented as to leave no doubt of our compelling the exiling enemy to submit to our own terms, and of effectually checking any hostile dispositions that might be entertained towards us by any of the other Barbary powers. The following frigates have accordingly been put in commission, and will soon proceed to the Mediterranean:—President, commodore Barron—Cottrege, a captain—Rogers—Essex, captain James Barry—Constellation, capt. Campbell.