

Congress
OF THE
United States of America.
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FRIDAY, January 11.
A petition from sundry inhabitants of Huntingdon county, Pennsylvania, presented December 20, 1850, respecting the establishment of a post road from Alexandria in said county, through Hollydaysburg and Beula to Greensburg, was referred to the committee appointed to enquire what amendments are necessary to be made in the acts establishing a post office and post-roads in the United States.

Mr. Leib presented a bill to amend the charter of Georgetown, which was read the first and second times and committed to a committee of the whole House on Monday next.

Mr. Crowninghill from the committee of commerce and manufactures reported on the memorial of Thomas Keeland of Philadelphia, which was referred to a committee of the whole House on Wednesday next.

A petition was presented from Thomas and Samuel Hollingworth of Baltimore, (vid) praying to receive payment for several certificates of public debt, belonging to them which were not presented at the Treasury Department, for liquidation and settlement, within the period prescribed by the acts of limitation.

Referred to the committee on the extinguishment of the debts due from the United States.

A petition was presented from a Lewis Larue, a French citizen, at present an inhabitant of New York, praying Congress to pass a special act to entitle him to the benefits and privileges of a citizen of the United States.

A motion was made to refer the above-mentioned petition to a select committee, but the question being taken thereon,

It was negatived.
A message was received from the President of the United States, notifying that he approved and signed the act declaring Cambridge, in the State of Massachusetts to be a port of delivery.

The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole.

Mr. Gregg in the chair.
On the report of the Postmaster General, concerning the memorial of Robert Henderson, of South Carolina; and after some time spent thereon, the committee reported progress, and obtained leave to sit again.

A message was received from the Senate, notifying that the President approved and signed the act dividing the Indian Territory into two parts, which is reported in the Senate.

Also, that the Senate passed the amendments of the act for imposing specific duties on the importation of certain articles, and for levying and collecting light money on foreign ships or vessels.

Mr. Winslow informed the House of the death of his colleague, Col. James Gillette, from North Carolina; whereupon,

A committee was appointed, consisting of Messrs. Alexander, Wharton, Holman, Wynns, Dickin, and Winn, to superintend the funeral; and

It was unanimously resolved that the House will attend the funeral, and that they will testify their respect for the deceased by wearing crepe on the left arm for one month.

Adjourned.

SATURDAY, January 12.

The Speaker was requested to inform the executive of the State of North Carolina of the vacancy occasioned by the death of Col. James Gillette.

Adjourned.

From the KENTUCKY PALLADIUM.
TO THE EDITOR.

Frankfort, 12th December, 1850.

Sir,

No circumstance relating to the history of the western country, probably, has excited a different time, more general attention and a more curious, than the opinion that a nation of white men speaking the Welsh language, reside high up on the Missouri. By some the idea is treated as nothing but the suggestion of a bold imposture and easy credulity:—others regard it as a fact fully authenticated by Indian testimony and the report of various travellers worthy of credit. The fact is accounted for, they say, by receding to a passage in the history of Great Britain, which relates that several years before the discovery of America, by Christopher Columbus, a certain Welsh prince embarked from his native country with a large party of emigrants,—that after some time a vessel or two came back with the account that they had discovered a country far to the westward, and

that they would again with a fresh reinforcement and return to it in a few years. The country which these adventurers discovered, it has been supposed, was the continent of North America; and it has been conjectured, that they landed on this continent, some where in the neighborhood of Mexico, and from thence proceeded northward till they got out of the reach of the hostile natives, and sought themselves in the upper country of Missouri. Many accounts accordingly, have been published within the last 50 years, of parties sailing, in consequence either of curiosity or the pursuit of curiosity, have made themselves acquainted with a nation of men on the Missouri, possessing the complexion of Europeans, and the language of Welshmen. Could the fact be well established, it would afford, perhaps, the most satisfactory solution of the difficult question of the origin of the various ancient fortifications with which the Ohio country abounds, of any that has ever been offered. Those fortifications were evidently never made by the Indians. The Indian art of war presents nothing of the kind. The probability too is that the persons who constructed them were at that time acquainted with the use of iron: the situation of those fortifications, which are uniformly in the most fertile land of the country, indicates that those who made them, were an agricultural people, and the remarkable care and skill with which they were executed, and the traits of the genius of a people who relied more on their military skill than on their numbers. The growth of the trees upon them, is very compatible with the idea that it is not more than 500 years ago that they were abandoned.

These hints, however, are thrown out rather to excite enquiry, than by way of advancing any decided opinion on the subject. Having never met with any of the persons who had seen these white Americans, nor even received their testimony near the source, I have always entertained considerable doubts about the fact. Last evening however, Mr. John Childs, of Jessamine county, a gentleman, with whom I have been long acquainted, and who is well known to be a man of veracity, communicated a relation to me, which at all events, appears to merit serious attention. After he had related it in conversation, I requested him to repeat it, and committed it to writing. It has certainly some internal marks of authenticity. The country which is described was altogether unknown in Virginia, when the relation was given, and was probably very little known to the Shawnee Indians. At the account of it appears very remarkably with later discoveries. On the other hand, the story of the long annual, though by no means incredible, has something of the air of fable; and it does not satisfactorily appear how the long period which the party were absent was spent.—The Indians are however, so much accustomed to their away that time, that many a man's adventures, may probably have been spun out of an incident.

Without detaining you any more with preliminary remarks, I will proceed to the narration as I received it from Mr. Childs.

Maria Griffith, a native of Wales, which country he left when he was about 15 years of age, was taken prisoner by a party of Shawnees in a small party of years ago, near Naves's fort, on the head of Roanoke river in Virginia, and carried to the Shawnee country. Having staid there about two years and a half, he found that five or six men of the party had a desire of attempting to explore the sources of the Missouri. He prevailed upon them to admit him as one of the party. They set out with six pack-horses, and with six pounds of powder a piece, of which they were in course very careful. On reaching the mouth of the Missouri, they were struck with the extraordinary appearance occasioned by the intermixture of the muddy waters of the Missouri, and the clear transparent stream of the Mississippi. They said two or three days amusing themselves with the view of this novel sight,—they then determined on the course which they should pursue, which happened to be so nearly in the course of the river, that they frequently came within sight of it, as they proceeded on their journey. After travelling about thirty days they pretty farming wood-land, they came into the open prairie, on which a tall grass grew but long luxuriant grass. There was a succession of these, varying in size, some being eight or ten miles across, but one of them so long, that it occupied three days to travel in length. In passing through this large prairie, they were much distressed for water and provisions, for they seldom saw either beast or bird, and though there was an abundance of salt springs, fresh water was very scarce. In one of these prairies, the salt springs ran into small ponds, in which, as the weather was hot, the water had sunk and left the edges of the ponds so covered with salt, that they fully supplied themselves with that article, and might easily have collected bushels of it. As they were travelling through the prairies, they had known the good fortune to kill an animal which was nine or ten feet high, and of a bulk proportioned to its height. They had seen two of the same species before, and they saw four of them afterwards. They were swart footed, and they had neither tusks nor horns. After having passed

through the long prairie, they made it a rule never to enter on one which they could not see across, till they had supplied themselves with a quantity of jerked venison, to last several days. After having travelled a considerable time through the prairies, they came to very extensive lead mines, where they smelted the ore and furnished themselves with what lead they wanted. They afterwards came to two copper mines, one of which was three miles through, and in several places they met with rocks of copper ore as large as houses.

When about fifteen days journey from the second copper mine, they came in sight of white mountains, which, though it was in the heat of summer, appeared to them to be covered with snow. The sight naturally excited considerable astonishment, but on their approaching the mountains, they discovered, that instead of snow, they were covered with immense bodies of white sand. They had in the mean time passed through about two nations of Indians, from whom they received very friendly reception. It was the practice of the party to elect the officer of spokesmen in rotation; and when the language of any one of them which they passed was unknown to them—it was the duty of the spokesman, a duty in which the others never interferred to convey their meaning by appropriate signs.

The labor of travelling through the deep sands of the mountains, was excessive, but a length they relieved themselves of this difficulty by following the course of a shallow river, the banks of which being level, they made their way to the top of the mountains, with tolerable convenience.

After passing the mountains they entered a fine fertile tract of land, which having travelled through for several days, they accidentally met with three white men in the Indian dress. Griffith immediately made some inquiries, and as it was pure Welsh, though they occasionally made use of a few words which were not acquainted. However, as it happened to be the turn of one of his Shawnee companions to act as spokesman, or interpreter, he preserved a profound silence, and never gave them any intimation that he understood the language of their white companions.

After having travelled about five days, they came to a large village, where they were hospitably received, and where they remained three days, and as the strangers were not supposed to be acquainted with their language, they were suffered to be present at the religious services. The great question which presented itself, what could be the cause of their being so far from their own country, and how they were to return. The white men, who were with them, were very anxious to know the cause of their being so far from their own country, and they were very anxious to know the cause of their being so far from their own country, and they were very anxious to know the cause of their being so far from their own country.

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HENRY W. ULMIN.

The Editor of the Advertiser.

In the House of Representatives we had the following article:

Resolved, That the President of the United States be and he is authorized to employ a commission of three persons, to be named by him, to enquire into the state of the country, and to report to him the result of their enquiries. The President is authorized to employ a commission of three persons, to be named by him, to enquire into the state of the country, and to report to him the result of their enquiries.

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