CONGRESS.

SECOND SESSION.

IN SENATE.

Wednesday, December 29.

The principle business before the Senate was the bill to abolish imprisonment for debt, which was taken up in Committee, at its second reading. Mr. Johnson, of Kentucky, opened the debate in its favour. He was followed by Mr. Barbour, of Va. Mr. Cobb, of Georgia, and Mr. Mills, of Massachusetts. Its passage in the Senate is quite probable.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Wednesday, December 29.

Agreeably to previous notice, Mr. Thompson, of Geo. called up for consideration, the subject of the Georgia Militia Claims. He spoke for a considerable time, in favor of the justice of the claim. When he had concluded, a motion prevailed to proceed to the orders of the day. The Bill for the relief of the Niagara sufferers, was then taken up in committee of the whole. Mr. Tracy, of N. York, arose, and resumed the speech he commenced yesterday, in reply to Mr. P. P. Barbour's remarks and in opposition to a motion pending to strike out the enacting words, in order to destroy the bill.

Mr. Vance, of Ohio, rose next, and intimating that he wished to speak on the subject, moved that the Committee rise, &c. which was agreed to.

Among the bills announced to the House to day, as having received the President's signature, was that providing for Gen. Lafayette, which has now become a law.

The Affair of Faxardo.

The following Message was received from the President of the United States, by the hands of Mr. Everett, his private Secretary:

To the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

In compliance with a resolution of the House of Representatives of the 27th inst. requesting information explanatory of the character and objects of the visit of the naval officer of the United States commanding in the West Indies, to the town of Faxardo, in the Island of Porto Rico, on the —— day of November last, I herewith transmit a report of the Secretary of the Navy, with a letter from Commodore Porter, which contains all the information in possession of the Executive, on the subject. Deeming the transactions adverted to, of high importance, an order has been sent to Commodore Porter to repair hither without delay, that all the circumstances connected therewith may be fully investigated.

JAMES MONROE.

Washington, 28th Dec. 1824.

The Message was read and ordered to lie on the table: and then the House adjourned.

On Thursday the House of Representatives was chiefly employed in the adjourned debate on the indemnity proposed for the 'Niagara Sufferers.' The question was not taken.

On motion of Mr. Archer, it was,

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to unite with a Committee of the Senate, in announcing to General Lafayette the passage of the act concerning him, which has just been approved; and to express to him the respectful request and confidence of the two Houses of Congress that he will add his acceptance of the testimony of public gratitude extended to him by this act, to the many and signal proofs which he has afforded of his esteem for the U. States.

A division took place on the adoption of this resolution--Ayes, 75—Noes 53. The number of the committee was then ordered to consist of three members. Mr. Archer, Mr. Van Ransselaer, and Mr. Markley, were appointed of this committee.

In the Senate, the resolution from the House of Representatives, in relation to General La Fayette, was received, concurred in, and a committee ordered to be appointed. Both houses adjourned until Monday.

Mr. Williams, chairman of the committee of claims, has reported against allowing compensation for vessels sunk at Baltimore, in defence of that port during the late war.

OFFICIAL PAPERS.

THE AFFAIR AT FAXARDO.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,
28th December, 1824.

SIR: In answer to a resolution of the House of Representatives of the 27th inst. 'that the President of the United States be requested to communicate to the House any information in his possession, not improper to be communicated, explaining the character and objects of the visit of the Naval Officer of the United States commanding in the West Indies, to the town of Faxardo, in the island of Porto Rico, on the —— day of November last;' I have the honor to enclose to you a copy of a letter from captain David Porter to the Department, dated 15th November, which is the only information on the subject in possession of this department.

An order has been given that captain Porter should return to this place without unnecessary delay; and an officer will sail from the United States to relieve him and take command of the squadron in a very few days, as soon as a vessel can be prepared for the purpose.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

SAM'L. L. SOUTHARD.

The President of the United States.

U. STATES' SHIP JOHN ADAMS,
Passage Island, November 15, 1824.

Sir: I have the honor to inform you that, on my arrival at St. Thomas, I was informed that lieut. com'dt. Platt, of the U. S. schr. Beagle, who had visited Faxardo, a town on the east coast of Porto Rico, about two miles from the sea, for the purpose of making inquiries respecting a quantity of dry goods supposed to have been deposited there by pirates, was, after being recognized as an American officer, by the proper authorities there, imprisoned and shamefully treated.

Indignant at the outrages which have been so repeatedly heaped on us by the authorities of Porto Rico, I proceeded to this place, where I left the ship, and taking with me the schooners Grampus and Beagle, and the boats of the J. Adams, with Capt. Dallas, and part of his officers, seamen, and marines, proceeded to the port of Faxyardo, where, finding preparations were making to fire on us from the battery on shore, I sent a party of seamen and marines to spike the guns, which was done in a few minutes, as the Spaniards fled on the landing of the party. I then landed with two hundred men, and marched to the town spiking on the way the guns of a small battery placed for the defence of a pass on the road, and reached the town in about thirty minutes after landing. I found them prepared for defence, as they had received information from St. Thomas's of my intentions of visiting the place. I halted about pistol shot from their forces, drawn up on the outskirts of the town, and sent in a flag requiring the Alcalde, or Governor, with the Captain of the Port, the principal offenders, to come to me and make atonement for the outrage, giving them one hour to deliberate. They appeared accordingly, and after begging pardon (in the presence of all the officers) of the officer who had been insulted, and expressing great penitence, I permitted them to return to the town, on their promising to respect all American officers who may visit them hereafter. We then returned to the vessels and left the harbor, after being at anchor about three hours.

As we were getting under way, a number of persons appeared on the beach bearing a white flag, and having with them some bullocks, and a number of horses apparently laden no doubt a present from the authorities of the place, which they informed me they should send me.

There is no doubt our persons and our flag will be more respected hereafter than it has been by the authorities of Porto Rico.

Every officer and man, on this occasion, conducted themselves in a manner to meet my entire approbation.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

D. PORTER.

Hon. SAMUEL SOUTHARD,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

NAVY OF THE UNITED STATES.

Vessels in Commission, 1825.

North Carolina, stationed in the Mediterranean, 74—Constitution, 44, do—United States, 44, Pacific—Constellation, 36, W. Indies—John Adams, 24, do—Cyane, 24, Mediterranean—Erie, 18, do; Ontario, 18, do—Peacock, 18, Pacific—Hornet, 18, W. Indies—Spark, brig, 12 do--Porpoise, Grampus, and Shark, 12 each, do—Dolphin, 12, Pacific—Nonsuch 12, Mediterranean—Decoy, 6, W. Indies—Sea Gull, Ferret, Beagle, Weasel, Fox, and Terrier, 3 each, W. Indies.

Vessels in Ordinary at the Navy Yards.

At Charleston, Ms.—Independence, and Columbus, ships of the line—These require an examination of their copper, and slight repairs before going to sea—Java frigate, much decayed, but worthy of repairs.

At Brooklyn, N. Y.—Ohio, and Washington, ships of the line, require examination and probably some repairs—Franklin, do from a three years cruize, probably requires considerable repairs—Fulton Steam Ship, much decayed.

At Gosport, Va.—Delaware, ship of the line, requiring slight repairs before going to sea—Gurriere, Congress, and Macedonian frigates, requiring extensive repairs—Alert, receiving vessel—Asp, a small hulk, unworthy of repairs.

Ships Building.

One ship of the line, and one frigate, at Portsmouth, N. H. might be launched in 60 days.

Two ships of the line at Charleston, Ms. might be launched in 30, and 60 days.

Two frigates at New York, 30 and 90 days.

One ship of the line at Philadelphia, 150 days.

One frigate, at Philadelphia, 30 days.

Two frigates at Washington, 30 days.

One ship of the line at Gosport, Va. 60 days.

The *equipment* of these ships would require a considerable longer time.

Frames are deposited as follows:

For one frigate at Charleston, Ms.

For two steam Batteries, at New York.

For one Frigate at Norfolk—A considerable part of the copper, iron, lead, 2 steam engines, and other articles for these are procured.

For one Frigate and steam Battery, at Washington.

LAMENTABLE FOR LAWYERS.

In Norway a Commission, or Court of Reconciliation, over which the Sheriff or his Deputy presides, is established for the purpose of settling disputes and differences of every kind. Into this Court all civil actions must be brought in the first instance, and they cannot be tried at law before they have appeared there. It consists of a jury, formed of the principle and most respectable persons in the neighbourhood. These examine the merits of the case, hear what the plaintiff and defendant have to say, and give their advice accordingly. In nine cases out of ten the difference is here made up, and the necessity of going to law, with its heavy expenses, prevented. If the parties acquiesce in the advice or opinion of this Jury, there can be no appeal afterwards; but, if not satisfied, they are not in any way bound by their decision, but may proceed at law.—In this Court no expense whatever is incurred. It is of recent date, having been formed in the reign of CHRISTIAN VII.; and the good that it does is incalculable. In fact, in consequence of its beneficial effects, very few causes are referred to a higher tribunal.—DE CAPELL BROOK'S TRAVELS IN NORWAY, &c.

CURIOUS LEGAL CASE.

The following novel case was lately submitted to Mr. Gurney, the Counsel, for his opinion:—

'Case for the opinion of Mr. G.—Emma, the daughter of W. and A. G., was born after the house clock had struck and while the parish clock was striking, and before St. Paul's had begun to strike twelve, on the night of the 4th of January, 1815. As there are great estates in the family, it may be of some importance to ascertain whether the said Emma was born on the 4th or 5th of January. Your opinion is therefore requested whether the proper evidence is that given by the house clock, the parish clock, or the metropolitan clock.'

"ANSWER.—This is a case of great importance and some novelty, but I do not think I should be much assisted in deciding it by reference to the ponderous folios under which my shelves groan. The nature of testimony is to be considered with reference to the subject to which it is applicable. The testimony of the house clock is, I think, applicable only to domestic, mostly culinary purposes. It is the guide of the cook with reference to the hour of dinner, but it cannot be received as evidence of the birth of a child. The clock at the next house goes slower or faster, and a child born at the next house at the same moment may, according to the clock at the next house, be born on a different day. The reception of such evidence would lead to thousands of inconsistencies and inconveniences. The parochial clock is much better evidence, and I should think it ought to be received if there were no better, but it is not to be put in competition with the metropolitan clock; where it is present it is to be received with implicit acquiescence. It speaks in a tone of authority, and it is unquestionable testimony of great weight. I am therefore of opinion that Miss Emma G. was born on the 4th of January, 1815, and that she will attain her majority the instant St. Paul's clock strikes twelve on the night of the 3d of January 1836."

FOREIGN.

LATEST FROM ENGLAND.

From the Commercial Advertiser.

The Packet ship *Pacific*, Captain Maxwell, arrived this morning from Liverpool, whence she sailed on the 19th of November. By this arrival the Editors of the Commercial Advertiser have received copious files of London papers to the evening of the 17th inclusive, with Lloyd's List, &c.

Greeks.—The news from Greece is of the most cheering character. The succession of victories which immediately preceded the abandonment of the naval operations of the Turks for the season, were more brilliant and decisive than we had supposed, as appears from the Constantinople accounts themselves. The Ottoman Ministry had circulated accounts of several advantages said to have been obtained by the Captain Pacha, but they were suddenly succeeded by the most disastrous news. A letter from Constantinople of October 11, says:—

"Equally unfortunate with all his predecessors, the Turkish Admiral, in a fit of rage and despair, has had the temerity to attempt a second attack on Samos. In consequence, he set sail from Mytylene with the Egyptian fleet, which had joined him, but he had scarcely put to sea when the intrepid Canaris appeared, and spread out his fleet, with great ability in his manœuvres. The Musselmans, on the contrary, in attempting to form, fell into dreadful confusion, which was increased when the Greeks advanced towards them with an intrepidity which was admired by the European seamen who were present at the action. It was of short duration; the barbarians shamefully took flight to seek refuge anew in the Port of Mytilene. But the brave defenders of the Cross arrived there as soon as they, and in a few minutes five or six Turkish or Egyptian frigates became a prey to the flames. The heroic Canaris, after invoking the name of our Saviour, threw himself into a boat to direct in person the terrible operations of the fire ships. He himself set fire to three of the ships of the barbarians.

"The Captain Pacha has arrived as a fugitive in the Dardanelles, having under his command one dismasted ship of the line and one frigate. Some say that he is sick, others that he is dead; at all events he is an undone man; the vengeance of Heaven has fallen on the executioner of Ipsara. It seems that the Sultan ascribes the disasters of his fleet to the relaxed devotion of the Musselmans. He has just published a firman, ordering the women to dress less indecently, and cast less wanton looks upon the men."

This last warlike measure must doubtless have a powerful effect in the next campaign!

The Turkish official account admits only that the Greeks burnt three transports, two frigates and five schooners, corvettes and brigs.

"They have not thought fit to say in this report how many vessels were taken; it is only added that the Captain Pacha was very fortunate to be able to save himself, and that he certainly would not have escaped if the Greeks had not believed that he was in one of the two frigates that were burnt. It is also stated, that the thirty transports were all Turkish, and that the European vessels which were hired were not present on the occasion."

The latest Smyrna date is October 8—only one day later than the advices received at Baltimore near a month ago. A paragraph from "the Dardanelles, Oct. 1," affirms that the Turkish squadron cast anchor at Tenedos on the preceding day. People talked openly of a great battle that took place at the end of September, between this squadron and the Greeks, in which the Turks lost ten or twelve vessels. The Captain Pacha, with a part of the squadron, was to repair to Constantinople as soon as the winds and the Grand Sultan would let him. The remainder of the squadron was to winter at Mytelene, under the command of Ibrahim Pacha. But perhaps they will not find secure winter quarters either in Mytelene or the Dardanelles, for one account states that Canaris has vowed that if the South wind continued, he would go and burn Kozzew, Pacha, even in the Channel of the Dardanelles.

[In confirmation of the above, we find a letter from Leghorn of Nov. 1, announcing the arrival of a Russian vessel from Constantinople in 20 days, the Captain of which stated that "on the 15th (nine days from the foregoing) of October, whilst he was quitting the Dardanelles he saw, towards Tenedos, the fleets of Constantinople and Alexandria, which were endeavouring to enter the Dardanelles, but the wind was against them. The Captain Pacha having attempted a second attack on Samos, failed, and was completely defeated, and was obliged to seek refuge with the remains of his fleet under the cannons of the fortresses of the Dardanelles. The particulars of the combat were not known." This is the latest news from the fleet, and winds up the naval concern of the winter.]

Under the head of Odessa, Oct. 15, we find a more connected view of the several battles fought near the close of September, gathered from Constantinople letters of the 9th and 10th of October.

'After the action off Samos, another battle took place on the 10th of September, near Stanchio and Boudreion, between the Greek and the combined Turkish and Egyptian fleets.—The Greeks burnt the fine frigate Africa, a corvette and two brigs, and took sixteen transports. Eight of the Greek ships were damaged and went to Samos to repair. They had 150 men killed and wounded. After this, there was a third battle off Patmos, between the Greeks and the two combined fleets, in which the Greeks burnt two frigates, and four brigs. Three days after this there was another battle, in which the Greeks burnt three frigates and took four brigs belonging to the Turkish fleet. Several transports also fell into their hands. In this battle they took prisoner the celebrated Ismael Gibraltar, Commander of the Tripolitan fleet, and brother-in-law of the Pacha of Egypt. The Turks have offered 200,000 Spanish piastres for the ransom of Ismael Gibraltar; but admiral Miaulis has demanded eight frigates, and whatever he had under his command. The Admiral continued to pursue the remainder of the combined fleets, and has so harrassed them that the Captain Pacha has with difficulty reached the Dardanelles, with his own ship, one frigate and ten transports.'

The success of the Greeks have been equally decisive and brilliant upon land. They have destroyed the Turkish army under Dervisch Pacha, who escaped dangerously wounded, with only 800 men, leaving all his artillery, baggage, &c. in the hands of the Greeks. By the last accounts from the Morea, all was tranquil there, and troops are collecting. Colocotroni being restored to favor, was placed at the head of 10,000 men, to attack Patras. Hydra is well fortified, and 10,000 men in arms are ready for the Egyptian fleet. The Turks have retired from before Athens to Negropont. Goura intended, it was said, to blockade Eubœa with 4,000 men, but he must first receive money from the Government to pay his troops. Relieved now for the season from any apprehension from the shattered remains of the Turkish Marine, it is said that an expedition is on foot to go to Crete, and assist the inhabitants in throwing off the Massulman yoke. The Bishop of Philippolis, who was brought to Constantinople, on a charge of corresponding with the Grecians, and exciting them to rebel against the Porte, has been exiled. It is said that 24 other Greek Bishops of Romelia are going to be exiled. The Mussulmans in garrison at Candia have quarrelled, and fought the troops of the Sultan, beat those of Mahomet Ali Pacha, and drove them out of the city; they are encamped on the plain.

Lord Strangford had embarked at Constantinople for Trieste—having received presents from the Sultan to the amount of 50,000 piastres.

It was said that a great officer of the Seraglio had been beheaded; and the disgrace of the Grand Vizier generally believed.

The following is the firman of the Grand Signior respecting the toilet of the Turkish women:—

'Since the women must never, when they go out, deviate from the rules of decency and honour, it is especially necessary to take care that none of their actions be contrary to the holy law.

An imperial firman has already been published to hinder them from wearing embroidered *feredges* and improper colours. The duty of the officers to whom that firman was addressed was to see its execution. They have not done so.—In these latter times, therefore, certain women have been seen to change the tone of decency and honour for manners least becoming Musselmans. They have not feared to wear embroidered *feredges*, and condemnable colours, and go to the public walks with extraordinary veils, which suffer their faces to be seen.

Such conduct is equally contrary to the divine law, and to my supreme will. It is evident that the Government must put a stop to such an irregularity, and that it is also the absolute duty of husband, to take care that their wives do not go out in a dress which, being irreconcilable to decency and honour, cannot be suitable to Musselman women.

Henceforward, therefore, the women shall not wear embroidered *feredges*, nor condemnable colours, nor veils artfully contrived to show their faces; whoever be the husband or relations of all those who may be seen in such a dress, they shall be made answerable, and punished for the conduct of their women.

You, my Cadi, will transmit the present order to all the Imans, to be published in all the quarters, and you will employ the greatest diligence to hinder the women from going out in a costume which our imperial will has prohibited.

'Given in the month of Muharren, the year 1240.'

September, 1824,

CANARIS, the Greek, has been called by some foreign journals an Admiral. He has never accepted that rank, from a notion generally very foreign to those to whom promotion is offered—viz: that he is not fit for it. Having burned two Turkish Commanders-in-Chief, and defeated a third, he is, as he was before, a Captain. Among a people who have, like more advanced and better established states, their full share of intrigue, and rapacity, he has offered a constant example of disinteredness; in other words, he has proposed to himself, as an end, to save his country, and not to rob it. —In going in his fire-boat against the Captain Pacha's ship in the canal of Scio, he was as he informed the English Commander, who saw him at Psara, becalmed in sight of two Turkish corvettes. His sailors were afraid that they would be observed and massacred, and became mutinous. 'What would you have?' he cried, 'if you are afraid, throw yourselves into the sea, and swim to Psara; for myself, I shall remain. Let not the calm frighten you,' he continued, 'it will detain the enemy's vessels as well as our own; at ten o'clock we shall have a wind.' At half past nine the breeze sprung up, and at midnight the Capt. Pacha was on fire. When he was seen at Psara by the Captain to whom we have alluded, his wife was employed, with other Greek women, in making cartridges; but though poor, he has steadily refused pecuniary rewards, as well as superior commands.

Missilonghi, Sept. 21.—The following is the new Manifest of the Greek Government.

POVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF GREECE.

'The President of the Executive power, the Greek Government having no other care than that of the preservation of the Greek nation, to avoid every thing that may lead to its destruction, published, on the information it had received the proclamation of the 27th of May, which concerned the European merchant ships which were freighted at Constantinople and Alexandria to convey the enemy's troops to Greece. But the Government having learned that the said vessels do not convey the enemy's troops but war like stores, provisions, &c. and as the Greek Government takes care that neutrality and the laws of nations are observed in commerce with all possible precision, and as far as the rights of war permit—order:

1. The European vessels freighted by the enemy to convey arms, ammunition, horses, provisions, any other article for the use of the enemy, are subject to the laws of neutrality, and shall be treated by our naval forces according to the usages existing under similar circumstances among the European powers.

2. The present Ordinance shall be communicated to the Admiral of the Greek naval force, and published in the Greek Government Gazette.—Copies shall be sent to all the Consuls, Vice-Consuls, and Agents of the European Powers who are at the Greek Archipelago.

Napoli de Romani, 15th August, 1824.

The President, G. CONDURIOTTE.
The Provisional Secretary of State,
G. RHODIUS.

Portugal.—Private letters from Lisbon, Oct. 27, state that neither the arrest and imprisonment of the Queen, nor the arrest of a great number of persons of high rank, and other measures of severity, have been sufficient to check the Absolutists.

'They have just formed another conspiracy, which was to have broken out yesterday, and it is said the greater number of our regiments are implicated in it. Its object, like the former, appears to have been to murder the Ministers, and make the King resign in favour of Don Miguel—The conspiracy was discovered by one of the initiated. A great number of gentlemen have in consequence been arrested as well as Monks, Cures, and Officers of all descriptions, who have all been lodged in Fort St. George and the Tower of Belem, the most secure prisons of our country. The Government is quite unable to convoke the Cortes, which it was expected was to assemble in Lisbon this present month. Even in the month of December, it will be difficult to hold this assembly if I may judge from the innumerable obstacles which it has every moment to encounter in consequence of the great influence of the Queen and the Patriarch. A vessel loaded with cannon balls has just arrived from England at Lisbon, and it is said the Government had also ordered a considerable quantity of ammunition and warlike stores.'

From the National Gazette.

By the packet ship Montano, from Havre, arrived at New York, we have received the Paris *Journal des Debats* to the 25th November; and by the ship Corinthian, from Liverpool arrived at the same port, our file of the London Morning Chronicle to the 24th of same month, inclusive. Their contents are interesting, chiefly in relation to the glorious successes of the Greeks and the unparallelled situation of Spain.

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