tastes with the force of nature. Port still had temptations for him; but prudence, in the shape of the matron sister and the pretty nieces, was at hand, and, like Sancho's physician, the danger and the glass vanished at a sign from those gentle magicians. Our chief anxiety arose from the good fellowship of the colonel. He had settled within a field of us, and spent his evenings by our fire side. He had been, by the chances of service, once on campaign with the lieutenant; and all campaigners know that there is no free mason sign of friendship equal to that of standing to be shot together. But there was an unexpected preservative in this hazardous society. The colonel was incapable of exhibiting in the centre of his countenance that living splendour which made Falstaff raise Bardolph to the honour of his admiral; he could 'carry no lantern in his poop.' If envy could have invaded his generous soul, it would have arisen at the old, restored distinction of his comrade. He watched over his regimen; kept him to the most judicious allowance of claret; and the red nose of the lieutenant never flamed again."

CONGRESS.

From the National Journal.

MONDAY, March 5.

On Saturday, about 4 o'clock in the afternoon, the Nineteenth Congress terminated its labors, and adjourned *sine die*. The only business performed in the House of Representatives on Saturday was, the passage of a few private bills, the joint rule which requires that no bills shall be sent to the President for signature on the last day of the Session, having been suspended so far as to allow all bills to be sent to him which should be passed before 1 o'clock of that day.

After 12 o'clock, the reports of three Select Committees were received. The first which was offered, was the report of the Committee which was charged with the investigation of certain accusations against Hezekiah Huntington, District Attorney in Connecticut. This report refers the subject and the testimony to the President of the United States, the officer implicated being of a rank to which, in the opinion of the Committee, the process of impeachment cannot properly be extended. The second report was from the Select Committee, to whom were referred the various memorials which relate to the subject of the colonization of free blacks on the coast of Africa. This report, which was ordered to be printed, is intended to be preparatory to future legislation on the subject, and contains a full exposition of the views of the Colonization Society & a series of arguments in favor of its object. The last report, the reading of which, and the discussion to which it led, occupying about three hours, was an able exposition, from the Committee to whom was referred the subject of the differences between the Executive of Georgia and the United States, of this important subject, embracing a history of the proceedings which have taken place on both sides, and accompanied by the voluminous mass of testimony on which the reasoning and conclusions of the Committee are founded. Of this interesting document, 6,000 copies were ordered to be printed.

A passing review of some of the business of the Session may not be without interest to our readers. Among the important business upon which we had anticipated the legislative action of Congress, were the Bankrupt Bill, the bill for the relief of the surviving officers of the Revolution, and the modification of the Tariff, which was asked for by the manufacturers. The first of these bills was discussed for some weeks in the Senate, but was finally rejected by a majority so decided as to leave little hope of such a measure being adopted for some years. The House, in the mean time, employed itself in the discussion of the claims of the surviving officers and soldiers of the Revolution, the bill for whose relief ultimately expired under a mass of irreconcilable opinions and unprofitable amendments. The bill modifying the Tariff as relates to wool & woollen goods, passed the House of Representatives, but was not finally acted on in the Senate.

The bill to regulate the commercial intercourse between the United States and the Colonies of Great Britain, after undergoing some mutations in the Senate, was adopted in the House of Representatives as a substitute for the bill originally reported by the Committee of Commerce in that branch, with an amendment or two. The Senate, however, with a tenacity somewhat unusual, came to a determination to retain its own provisions, and the Bill, after an unsuccessful conference between Committees of both Houses, was lost. In refering this important subject to Congress; in calling in the aid of legislation to effect that which diplomatic agency had failed to accomplish; the Executive faithfully and discreetly performed his duty, shaping his course according to the spirit of our institutions. Failing in his object, it is now left for him to act upon the high responsibility of his station. To him alone the country must look for the protection of its dignity and its prosperity. If evil should ensue, the nation will not fail to trace it, in part, to the want of that legislative energy and wisdom which the Executive has a right, and is bound to call to his aid, in every difficult emergency. If, under the blessing of Providence, our honor and our interests as a nation shall be preserved from injury, the people will equally well understand to whose prudence and firmness such a happy result must be attributed.

The various appropriation bills necessary for the support of the Government in its various branches, were passed without being materially changed in any of their important provisions, except as relates to the striking out the appropriation for a Naval Academy, which was inserted in the Senate bill, and stricken out in the House. A bill was passed on the last night of the session increasing the salary of the Postmaster General to $6000 Thus placing him on the same scale of salary with the different Secretaries. The bill went thro' without opposition, except that one or two members expressed their fears lest some unworthy successor of the present Postmaster General should enjoy the benefit of the provision. We think there is little fear of this contingency. The efficiency with which the present incumbent has administered the arduous duties of that office will, of itself, prevent the situation from being hereafter held by any incompetent officer. The contrast would be too obvious to escape public vigilance, and too injurious to escape public denunciation. A bill passed, authorizing extra clerks in some of the public offices. This law was absolutely necessary; as it is well known that much of the public business has been for some years performed by individuals who are compelled to rely on the contingent funds of the different Departments, for the inadequate compensation they receive. The present bill will only apply a partial remedy to the evil. The increase of clerks must be in proportion to the increase of public business; and there can be no equitable reasons why the services rendered to the nation should be more meanly remunerated than those which are rendered to individuals.

It is not to be expected that at the short session of Congress many important measures can be matured and adopted. The various and conflicting interests of this extensive Union will always induce warm & protracted discussions. The genius of our institutions, and the habits of our legislative bodies, encourage this tendency; and every attempt to check the practice will be odious and unsuccessful. At the same time, it is to be frequently regretted that the debates in Congress are not regulated and restricted by a salutary inference of the judgment in those who participate in them. It is by no means unusual that a discussion becomes so attenuated and ramified, that it is necessary for some discriminating mind to replace the subject before the House in its original and proper form; and unless this is done, the importance of the subject itself and the power of the arguments by which it is recommended, are frittered away and forgotten in the licentious exercise of the imagination. If, however, this be an evil, it is one of which we have had little reason to complain at this session.

A considerable degree of warmth, approaching to violence, has manifested itself in the discussion of a resolution offered by Mr. Saunders, of North Carolina, calling on the Secretary of State to inform the House of the changes which have been made in the publishers of the Laws of the United States, "and the reasons for each change." It was impossible that such a resolution could be discussed without invoking all the bitterness of party feeling. As the propriety of the call could only be made out by showing that a corrupt exercise of the discretionary power rested in the Secretary could be established; it was necessary to produce all the proof, direct or presumptive which fact or imagination could supply. The defenders of the resolution were not sparing in their efforts to establish the charge. They displayed no extraordinary delicacy in the selection of the language which was best adapted to produce the effect they desired; they exhibited no unusual forbearance in its application. On the other hand, the opposers of the resolution and more especially some of the personal friends of the Secretary of State vindicated his character and conduct with great force of language and feeling. The war of words, the conflict of epithets, ran high, and was only terminated by the constitutional dissolution of Congress before any decision was made.

That dissolution has now taken place, and the Representatives of the people have returned into the bosom of the nation, to receive from their constituents the meed of praise or of censure which they may deserve. To the legitimate tribunal of public opinion we refer them for their recompense be it what it may. We have endeavoured, honestly and to the best of our ability, to furnish the nation with the materials for its judgement.

The proceedings of the last Session of the Congress which closed its term on Saturday, and especially those of the Senate will receive the serious consideration of the people of the United States. It is our purpose hereafter to notice them more particularly. It need not be disguised that towards the close of the past Session, we presume by some of those "combinations" of which Dr. Floyd in his late address at Richmond, made a precious confession, the Opposition obtained a small majority in the Senate We will select only a few prominent instances to show how this majority was disposed to use the ephemeral power so obtained.

1 The wool bill, (this measure so important to the great interests of our country) was, in effect, rejected by the casting vote of Mr Calhoun, the Vice President.

2. A committee appointed by the majority of the Senate, made a long report on the subject of the Georgia controversy, of which three thousand copies were ordered to be printed for distribution among the people of the United States countenancing and encouraging the Governor of Georgia.

3. The bill for converting a portion of the six per cent debt into a debt, bearing an interest of five per cent. which passed the House of Representatives was lost in the Senate. By the failure to pass a bill last year, in consequence of the now acknowledged error of Mr. Louis McLane, the country lost about ninety-thousand dollars. By the failure of the Senate to pass this bill it loses a like sum.

4. The Colonial bill was lost by the refusal of the Senate to agree to an amendment of the House of Representatives, without which the measure would have humiliated this country. And now Great Britain is left in possession of the monopoly of the navigation concerned in the intercourse, unless the President feels himself authorized to close our ports under the act of March, 1823.

Whatever regret will be felt at the course pursued by the Senate in the above instances, the people will derive much satisfaction from knowing that that of their immediate Representatives was directly the reverse of it.

We must add, as one of the remarkable incidents of the last Session of the Senate, that Duff Green, the editor of a paper, notorious for the scurility of its columns, and its utter disregard of all decency and truth, received the votes of twenty three Senators of the United States to be the printer of the Senate.

From the National Intelligencer.

WASHINGTON, March 7.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES.

It is known, we believe, to our readers, that we have never accorded in the doctrine, that party spirit, in a free Government, is dangerous to the public interest. It has always been our opinion on the contrary, that the existence of party spirit to a certain extent, is greatly to be preferred to the calm of despotism, whether that despotism be one of opinion or of physical strength. An opposition to the measures of a Government, when founded upon principle, is entitled to respect and consideration, even from the Administration to which it is opposed. When founded upon different principles, or rather upon no principle at all, but that of a combination to obtain possession of the offices and patronage of a government, it is still useful; because it induces caution, and a regard for public opinion, on the part of those who administer the Government, which cannot fail to serve and protect the public interest. We must have good reasons, however, before we engage in an opposition to an existing administration, of the nature first above stated, & we never will, under any circumstances, engage in one of the nature last described.

With respect to the present Administration of the Government, it will be remembered by all who read this Journal, that, at the time of its induction to office; on its subsequent organization; and at a later date, we have expressed our conviction that the election of the President had been honestly made, and that the President had acted wisely, and with exclusive regard to the public interest, and to the circumstances of his election, in the appointment of the officers, who preside over the different Departments of the Government, and represent our country abroad. More recently, we have had occasion to say, that, judging the Administration by its measures, we believed, for any thing that we could see, that the election of President by the House of Representatives resulted beneficially to the country, there being more to approve than to disapprove in the measures of this Government. We have yet seen nothing to change this opinion. 'Unwarped by party rage,' or even by personal attachments; wholly unconnected with the Executive Administration of the General Government; free from any engagement, understanding, or alliance, with any party, or party men, this is the unbiassed dictate of our deliberate judgment.

This sentiment, such as we have heretofore expressed it, we now repeat with entire deference to the opinions of others. We have not sought to seduce others to our opinion; still less have we denounced those who have come to different conclusions, or acted upon different principles, from us.

Recent circumstances, however, have disclosed the existence of an organized Opposition to the present Administration, the object of which is to put it down, right or wrong. The first open application of this principle having been made, contemporaneously with its avowal, to us personally, occasioned us no little surprise. It is with pain, indeed, we find ourselves obliged to direct the attention of our readers to some features of the scheme, by which the Machiavelian principles of a very few individuals are sought to be made the rule of action for a great People —of the scheme, in the prosecution of which, public utility, faithful services, and acknowledged integrity, are to be sacrificed to the Moloch of party—of the scheme, by the successful operation of which this administration is, in the language of a highly respectable member of the party, to be 'put down, though it be as pure as the Angels which stand at the right hand of the throne of God!'

We shall endeavour to say nothing personally offensive to any human being in our present exposition of this matter: but we should be treacherous to the *great national interests* of which we are proud of being the advocates—we should be faithless to our readers, who look to us for the development of passing events—if we did not speak plainly what we know, and disclose frankly what we believe. If this be offensive to the prejudices or convictions of any of our readers, we shall regret it. But, circumstanced as we are, the suppression of truth, on such a subject, is equivalent to the expression of falsehood. If we were to withhold what we know and believe, on a matter so vital to the great interests of our country as that we are about to open, our daily paper would be a daily lie to the community.

With these preliminary remarks, we invite the attention of our readers to the vote, in the Senate of the United States, on Thursday last, for a Printer to that body. The occasion was in itself an unimportant one wholly unworthy of special notice, and to which we certainly should never have invited the attention of our readers, but for the organization which it for the first time disclosed, and for the principles openly avowed on that occasion by the Honorable MARTIN VAN BUREN, an eminent Senator from the State of New York, who has earned the distinction of being brought into this bold relief, by presenting himself on that day, as the spokesman of the party of which we shall take the freedom to consider him the head and representative, if he be not both its parent and its guardian. Of that Senator, we should be the last to speak with personal disrespect. With talents enough to be a great man, he has the manners of a gentleman, and an enviable private character. It is only of his political principles, his notions of party discipline, and the manner in which he has brought them both to bear upon the present state of public affairs, that we mean to speak.

On the occasion to which we have already referred, Mr. VAN BUREN made the following remarks, which were carefully noted down by our Reporter, and will not be denied or retracted.

"He had long been of opinion (he said) that the public interest might be promoted, *the condition of the Press, as well here as throughout the country, improved*, and respect for the Senate, and accuracy in the publication of the Proceedings of the Senate, better secured, by a judicious revision of the laws relative to the public printing at large." "At a more convenient season, he hoped the subject would be revised, and he promised himself the best results from such provision as the nature of the subject was susceptible of."

Now, to "the revision of the laws," we have not the slightest possible objection; nor do we care how the Senate shall think proper to have its printing done for the future, so it be decently done. It is to the *avowed object* of this proposed revision that we take exception. We throw out of view the "accuracy in the publication of the Proceedings," as a motive for the proposed revision, because every one, who knows any thing about it, knows that this suggestion is thrown in to make up light weight; we pass by also the "respect for the Senate," in which every man of sense knows, and every man of candor will acknowledge, we have never been in any manner deficient: and, leaving such arguments to those who can swallow them, we enter our protest against the doctrine embraced in the other part of his remarks, that the *condition of the Press* is to be regulated, not only here, but "throughout the United States," by any vote of the Senate, or by any legislation of both Houses of Congress combined. We protest against this revival of the odious principle of the old Sedition Law, viz: the right of a party to protect itself by or form the Press thro' the agency of legislation by Congress.

It was indeed, somewhat an extraordinary coincidence, that, whilst, in the other House, the conduct of the Secretary of State was arraigned for changing some of the Publishers of the Laws, as though he had committed an offence meriting impeachment, it should be gravely proposed, as a *desideratum*, in the Senate, that the Press, not only here, but throughout the country, should be regulated by the distribution of of Public Printing, with a view to *improving* 'the condition of the Press." What has been deemed unpardonable in the Secretary of State, seems to have been thought by the honorable Senator to be perfectly fair in a party in one branch of the Legislature, upon whose predominance in both branches of the next Congress the most confident calculations are made—with what accuracy time will show.

The honorable Senator ought to be well aware of the utter futility of all attempts to *organize* the public press. Its conductors are made of sterner stuff than to be brought down upon their knees with one accord to worship any idol of party which he may choose to set up. There are a thousand of these individuals, many of whom would not only part with the paltry profit flowing from paltry patronage, but even with liberty, or life itself, sooner than with the right of private judgment, of which *his* notion of party discipline requires the absolute surrender. Nor can the press be chastised, any more than it can be bought or sold. The idea of thus operating upon the press cannot live in the pure atmosphere of public opinion, however it may be cherished by passion or prejudice. Much may be effected, we know, in regard to the press, by party organization within the limits of a single State: we have seen examples of that, as we have recently of the effect of similar organization in the particular department of the Government to which the honorable Senator belongs. But, in the nation, such consentaneousness of sentiment and language can have no duration, either among the conductors of the press, or the body of the People, independently of reason and conviction. Public opinion turns upon and *resists* every attempt to dragoon it It *resents* every attempt, by an organized party, to bend the press by bribery to its selfish purposes. Of the first of these operations, we have seen an example in the case of the old sedition law: of the other, we shall see it again whenever Mr. VAN BUREN succeeds in his notable project of *improving* the condition of the press, "throughout the country," by means of the Public Printing, whether it be bestowed as a boon for obsequiousness, or taken away as a punishment for independence and integrity of conduct.

The observations of Mr Van Buren would not have been considered entitled to the consequence we have given to them, in these few remarks, but for the vote by which they were followed up and sustained, which exhibited an organized strength of two and twenty votes in favour of a measure, which, we say without reserve or hesitation, we do not believe the *reason* of a single individual of the whole number approved. Not desiring to be thought to speak disrespectfully of any of these gentlemen, we must explain that we confine our application of the word "reason" to the merits of the thing actually to be disposed of, viz: the printing of the Senate. In a political or party sense, it is true, we *can* conceive how some gentlemen should think it very reasonable to give consequence, by their votes, to a print established here to rail at the administration, right or wrong, and which must be admitted to have been true to its vocation; But even in that sense, it was lamentable to see such men as our old friend Dickerson, the incorruptible Macon and Smith of South Carolina, Benton, of capacious mind, and Chandler, of blunt honesty, not to speak of others, ranging themselves under the standard of a new cabalistical party organization, the first object of which, when brought to a head, was to 'improve the condition of the press' by prescribing *the National Intelligencer*, and identifying the Senate of the United States with *the Telegraph!* The intention might have been disclaimed, had not the vote been preceded by the observations of Mr. Van Buren. They gave to that vote its true character, and to Mr. Van Buren's remark its right interpretation. The force of party could no further go. Ancient connections, recent associations, personal attachments, all melted into thin air before the wand of the great magician!—It is really a lamentable subject of contemplation. For their own sakes, it grieved us to see such men yielding all the inclinations of their hearts, along with the convictions of their reason, to the grand political scheme, by which the vote of New York is to be secured to the newly organized party, and, as the price of it, Mr Van Buren is to be—any thing he pleases.—This of course, the reader will be good enough to understand to be our opinion, but for that opinion we shall, another day, give what appear to us to be very substantial reasons.

To Mr. Van Buren's elevation to higher office than he now holds, on proper principles, we should have had no objection.—In the last Presidential Election he acted throughout with firmness and consistency: we should have been very willing to have seen him elected Vice President at that time, and would, indeed, if we could, have promoted his elevation to the honourable station now occupied by his friend and successful competitor, Mr Calhoun. But when he comes forward with the Shibboleth of a new party in his mouth, the first utterance of which is to strike at the independence of the press, we must be excused if we treat him, as he has treated us, downrightly, and without knowing or caring how our exposition may affect his feelings or his ambitious projects.

Let no one suppose, that our views of his projects and those of the small party which he is endeavouring, with practised art, to form into a large one, are founded on the single incident in the Senate, plainly as that speaks. We have other and much higher matter to place before our readers hereafter. But this exposition, which has been forced upon us by considerations not to be disregarded without a sacrifice of every political principle we have ever professed, involves too much matter to be disposed of at a single sitting.

FOREIGN.

NEW YORK, March 11.

LATEST FROM FRANCE.

The ship James Monroe, Capt. Skidmore, which arrived on Saturday afternoon, sailed from Havre on the 6th ult. Capt. S. brought no loose papers, but we received from our correspondent a small file of Paris papers to the 31st of January inclusive. The only article of any importance is one from the Frontiers of Russia, under date of January 12, copied from the Gazette d'Augsbourg, which is as follows:—"The delay of M. de Rebeaupierre in departing for Constantinople, gives rise to many conjectures. It is well known, that this personage, should now be engaged with Mr. Stratford Canning, in the discussion of the question relative to the pacification of Greece. It is, moreover, very natural that this delay should excite attention, since the maxims advanced on the 12th of December last by Mr. Canning in Parliament have caused an unfavourable impression at St. Petersburg, and the Emperor Nicholas has addressed to all the Courts of the Continent a manifesto inviting them to make common cause against the British cabinet, to prevent, in future, offences of this nature. It is added, on what authority we do not know, that the Cabinet of St. Petersburg has determined not to treat with Mr. Canning in future if he be not more explicit. This intelligence wants confirmation. As to the question respecting Greece, a misunderstanding between the Courts of England and Russia would be very unfortunate, and would leave but little hope of the prompt settlement of the affairs of the Greeks, even if M. de Rebeaupierre should proceed to Constantinople."

The Paris Etoile of the 31st states, in a postscript, that Count Villa Flor had written to the commandant of Ciudad Rodrigo, that he had received positive orders from the Portuguese government not to pass the frontiers.

The weather had been excessively cold in some parts of France. At Lyons, on the 24th, the thermometer was 13 degrees below zero! At Cadiz, also, the weather had been severe, and caused an increase of deaths from pulmonary complaints.

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