CONGRESS.

MONDAY, Feb. 20.

The Senate did not sit on Saturday.

In the House of Representatives, Mr. Drayton, from the Committee on Miltiary Affairs, reported a bill for the relief of certain officers and soldiers, whose property was destroyed by fire at Fort Delaware. The resolution directing the President of the United States to procure the execution of a pedestrian statue of Washington, to be placed in the Rotunda of the Capitol was agreed to; Yeas 114, Nays 50. At an early hour the House went into Committee of the Whole upon the bill for the benefit of Mrs. Susan Decatur, *et al.* A prolonged discussion ensued, in which Messrs. Carson, Tracy, Crane, Muhlenberg, Hoffman, Pearce, McDuffie, Sutherland, E. Everett, Kerr and Cambreleng, participated. At four o'clock the Committee rose, reported progress, and asked leave to sit again, which was granted, and the House adjourned.

TUESDAY, Feb. 21.

The Senate, yesterday, spent about one hour in the consideration of Executive business; after which, Mr. Clay's resolution was taken up, and Mr. Ewing resumed, and concluded his remarks in its support. Mr. Miller has the floor for this day.

In the House of Representatives, numerous petitions and memorials were presented and referred. Mr. Thompson of Georgia, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, reported a bill to authorize and require the proper accounting officers of the Treasury to audit and settle the claims of citizens of the State of Georgia, against the Creek tribe of Indians, for depredations committed between the years 1826 and 1830. Mr. Drayton, from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported a bill to authorize the Secretary of War, to release the title of the United States to the site of Fort Gosport in the State of New York. A joint resolution was adopted for an adjournment of the two Houses, from the 21st to the 23d inst. Several private bills were passed. The bill in addition to an act for the relief of insolvent debtors to the U. States was taken up, and after a short debate, postponed until to-morrow.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 22.

In the Senate, yesterday, Mr. Chambers submitted a resolution, amending the rules of the Senate, by providing that the special order shall not be called up till two o'clock, instead of one. The Appropriation bills, received from the House, on Monday, were passed. Some private bills were matured. At one o'clock, Mr. Clay's resolution was taken up, and Mr. Miller spoke two hours in opposition to it, when he gave way to a motion to adjourn.

In the House of Representatives, Mr. Irvin, from the Committee on public lands, reported a bill to reduce and graduate the price of the public lands, which was committed to a Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union. The House proceeded to the consideration of the resolution proposed by Mr. E. Everett, (as modified by the mover,) calling on the President for part of the Treaty concluded with the Chickasaw tribe of Indians in the year 1830, &c. Mr. Everett again modified his resolution, directing the Committee on the Public Lands, to elicit the information, which seemed to be the object of the original enquiry. The resolution, thus modified, was agreed to, yeas 92, nays 77 At an early hour the House adjourned over to Thursday.

FRIDAY, Feb. 24.

In the Senate, yesterday, Mr. Benton, from the Committee on Military Affairs reported a bill repealing the laws establishing brevet rank in the Army; also a bill to increase the number of Assistant Surgeons in the Navy. Mr. Clay's resolution was taken up after the morning business, and Mr. Miller concluded his speech in opposition to it.

In the House of Representatives, Mr. Clayton submitted a resolution for the appointment of a Select Committee to inquire into the transactions of the Bank of the United States, with power to send for persons and papers. It was postponed until Monday. A bill defining the qualification of voters in the territory of Arkansas, was passed. The House spent some time in Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union, upon the bill making appropriations for the army for the year 1832, and the general appropriation bill for 1832. Various amendments were adopted, when the Committee rose, reported the bills, and the House adjourned.

SATURDAY, Feb 25.

In the Senate on yesterday the Vice President communicated a letter from the Governor of Virginia, transmitting the resolutions adopted by the Legislature of that Commonwealth, on the subject of the removal of the remains of George Washington from Mount Vernon. Some private bills were acted on, and, at one o'clock, the Senate proceeded to the consideration of Executive business, after which they adjourned to Monday.

In the House of Representatives, Mr. Watmough, from the Committee on Naval Affairs reported a bill to re-organize the United States corps of Marines. Various local bills were reported from the Standing Committees. At an early hour the House went into Committee of the Whole on the bill for the benefit of Mrs. Susan Decatur. An animated discussion ensued, in which Messrs Carson, Wickliffe, Drayton, Doddridge, Mc. Duffie, White, of Louisiana, Pearce, Howard, E. Everett, Burges, and Wilde, participated. On motion of Mr. Watmough, the committee rose, reported progress, and the House adjourned.

MONDAY, Feb. 27.

The Senate did not sit on Saturday.

In the House of Representatives Mr. Adams submitted a resolution calling on the President for a copy of the instructions to the agent who negociated the treaty with the Sublime Porte. The resolutions submitted by Mr. Branch on the 23d inst. calling on the Secretary of the Navy for information respecting the live oak on the public lands in Florida, &c. were taken up. Mr. White, of Florida, offered amendments proposing to extend the inquiry.—A discussion of an acrimonious and personal character occured, between Messrs. Branch and White. The amendments were finally modified by the mover at the instance of Mr. Branch and together with the original resolutions, were agreed to by the House. The bill granting letters patent for useful discoveries to certain aliens, were passed. The House resumed, in Committee of the Whole, the consideration of the bill for the relief of Susan Decature, *et. al.*—The amendment proposed by Mr. Pearce in favor of the nieces of Commodore Decatur, was further discussed by Messrs. E. Everett, Watmough, Rencher, McDuffie, Anderson and Pearce. The amendment was rejected. A motion was then made to strike out the enacting clause of the bill; before the question was taken, the Committee, at the instance of Mr. Davis, of Massachuetts, rose, reported progress, and the House adjourned.

The office of Vice President is treated in the newspapers, says the National Gazette, as if it were a mere honorary sinecure, to be given in rotation to the several states, or rather the greater members, of our Union. This representation is wholly erroneous, and may be highly prejudicial.

Most important functions, actual and contingent, belong to the office. To *preside* over such a body as the Senate; to determine whatever subject-matter of its duties and deliberations, when it happens to be equally divided; to succeed to the post of Chief Magistrate, in case of the death or disablement of the person elected to that post; to occupy the second station in the general government—all these attributes imply substantive and high qualifications.

There is nothing in the text or spirit of the Constitution—nothing in the positive or potential faculties of the office—which warrants the idea of geographical or arbitary restriction in making the choice of a Vice President: on the contrary, every thing teaches and requires that it should be considered as *national* in every point of view—a truly national choice of a man of national repute and capacity for national ends.

If it could be deemed a station of mere dignity, it has so much of this property that it would manifestly appertain to some public man alone, who had been signally useful to the country; who had discharged some elevated trust with peculiar credit and efficiency, or performed some special service to the common cause, worthy of being thus illustrated. When we attend to the characters and career of nearly all the statesmen on whom it has been bestowed—for example, the elder Adams, Jefferson, Clinton—we shall find that practice has been conformable to this theory, to which the merits claimed for Burr and Tompkins also correspond. Whatever may be said or thought of Mr Calhoun's present doctrines, proceedings or designs, no one will deny that when he was elevated to the station, he came within the same by his performances and reputation in Congress and the department of war.

With regard to the direct importance and positive scope of this office—the probability of even a frequent equality of votes in the Senate, and the reference of the minds and efforts of the members of the Chair when it is properly filled, speak a language strong enough to convince any reflecting enquirer. In fact the Vice President should be versed in all the great questions of public economy constitutional law, or foreign policy, which the Senate may have to discuss or decide; to say nothing of parliamentary rules and forms, and imposing official demeanor. He should be a politician and a man of such intellectual powers and attainments, and such experience and antecedent agency and credit, as to inspire confidence and deference in the transaction of business. We might cite the cases of the vote on the Bank of the United States by Clinton, and that on the Van Buren question, by Calhoun, as examples and proofs of what we have suggested, without touching the point whether either was right or wrong. When the Senate is resolved into a Court of Impeachment, then the Speaker acquires a new and manifold consequence, upon which we need not dwell; and, according to the design of our Constitution and the genius of our republican system, we should never lose sight of that capacity of the Senate.

Our Presidents have been even remarkable instances of longevity. Every good heart will rejoice in that circumstance, and wish this dispensation of Providence to be extended to their successors. But His ways and purposes are inscrutable. We must reason and act according to average results. The choice for the office of President has been made, and will usually be made, of persons who have reached an autumnal age at least. In the period of eight years or two terms, added to that, life must be deemed precarious. The succession of the Vice President is then, not an improbable contingency; and this shadows out in the proper one, all the qualifications and deserts for the highest post. What is now passing has all relevancy and force as a lesson. The death or necessary retirement of General Jackson is undeniably anticipated by all parties. The strife for the office of Vice President is virtually for that of *President*. So much stress upon the issue has never before been laid, except so far as it was deemed material to make Vice Presidents as representatives and heads of parties by whom they were to be directly raised to the pinnacle. It so happened in the instances of Adams and Jefferson. The efforts which are now revived in behalf of Mr. Van Buren have that complexion in a degree, but they are much more personal and selfish than those of the times of Federalism & Democracy, Anglo-mania and Gallo-mania.

We have hastily thrown out the foregoing remarks, because the topic generally is of real magnitude and interest. Our object is to remind the people of the true philosophy of an election of Vice President. We do not *electioneer* for this candidate or that,—this State or the other. We do not hesitate, however, to add that we deprecate the choice of a man upon whose political character the Senate has passed such a judgment, upon such grounds, as we find in the rejection of Mr. Van Buren; and that if the annexed passages of Senator Marcy's speeches in the debate, are a just exposition of the politics of New York, we tremble at the bare possibility of her giving us a President in the guise of a Vice President, to carry them again into practice and sway in the general government.

"After all, it is quite evident from what we have heard, in relation to the conduct of parties in Maryland and elsewhere, that New York does not differ from other States. Political men in all of them have the same passions, and are actuated by like moties, and only differ in conduct by reason of some difference in their circumstances. Where there is alternation of success and defeat, there will be removals—called restoration or retaliation by those who use power—and proscription by those who feel it." * *

"I know, Sir, that it is the habit of some gentlemen to speak with censure or reproach of the politics of New York. Like other States, we have contests, and the necessary consequences, triumphs and defeats. The State is large, with great and diversified interests; in some parts of it, commerce is the object of general pursuit; in others, manufactures and agriculture are the chief concerns of its citizens. We have men of enterprise and talents, who aspire to public distinction. It is natural to expect from these circumstances and others that might be alluded to, that her politics should excite more interest at home, and attract more attention abroad, than those of many other States in the confederacy.

"It may be, sir, that the politicians of New York are not so fastidious as some gentlemen are as to disclosing the principles on which they act. They boldly preach what they practise. When they are contending for victory, they avow their intention of enjoying it. If they are defeated, they expect to retire from office:—if they are successful, they claim, as a matter of right, the advantages of success. They see nothing wrong in the rule, that to the victor belongs the spoils of the enemy."

This view of political competition and administration confounds all distinctions of real patriotism or cheating illusion; public virtue or hypocritical selfishness; honorable and generous or grovelling and lustful ambition. The heroes of Cornelius Nepos and Plutarch were no better, in fact, and deserve no more respect and homage, than the vilest demagogues and usurpers whom the comic and tragic writers of antiquity have pourtrayed and stigmatised! The thirty tyrants of Athens were as good as her most famous patriots and sages; Cicero, as a public man, was no better than Cataline or Antony; we ought to regard Washington and Arnold or Burr, as having been actuated by the same passions, and prompted to the same ends, and as having obtained different stakes and reputations only by the influence of fate, accident, uncontrolable circumstance!—Public good is too, but a chimera or pretence, in Senator Marcy's oracles; the power and emoluments of government a mere prey to be pursued with the tactics of a game of craft and chance; the common weal means personal advantage,—office booty,—success in elections, the opportunity of dividing plunder among a set of rapacious adventurers. If this be *republicanism*, it is what Montesquieu never dreamed of when he wrote his Spirit of *Laws*—what the founders of our Independence and the framers of our Constitution never imagined as the fruit of their principles and labors.

NOTICE.

THE Subscriber still desirous of disposing of his landed property hitherto advertised, will sell upon inviting terms, his farm called Hickory Ridge. Persons desirous of an high and healthy situation near Easton, with other advantages rarely to be met with; would do well to come and view the premises early.

JOSEPH K. NEALE.

Dec. 10 6m

We regret to state that the accounts from the West in reference to the overflow of the Ohio river, continue to partake of a distressing character. From Cincinnati we have advices to the 17th inst. inclusive, which show that the waters were still on the rise there, and that the damage to property must be very great:

From the Cincinnati American—Extra.

THE FLOOD!!

Thursday morning, Feb. 16.

The river "still continues on the rise." It is undoubtedly 64 feet above low water mark. Yesterday it rose at the rate of an inch an hour. From six o'clock last evening to six this morning we should think at the rate of an inch and a half an hour. The *Amulet* from above reports we may expect from twelve to sixteen inches more. It was falling *above* the Great Kenawha, and was at a stand below. It rose several inches while the boat was at Maysville. We should hope the above may not be correct, for the scene already presented is distressing, but we understand a foot is the *least* estimate. This morning it continues to rise at the rate of an inch per hour.

We took a boat in company with a number of others yesterday afternoon, and rowed to the lower part of the city. The scene presented cannot easily be described. It was painful to witness destruction on so vast a scale. Some houses upset—others in imminent danger. The water reached the roofs of the more humble, and the windows of the second stories of good frame houses. Flat boats loaded with women and children, furniture and live stock. Race, Vine, Elm and Walnut, busy with the moveables. The paper mills appeared to be in the middle of the river, if river it can be called. Skiffs were passing in every direction. We returned via Front street. The fine houses flooded, the lower part of the street quite deserted, and the second stories occupied of those nearer Main—boat loads of furniture from Water-street, formed a melancholy *tout ensemble.*

Two of the workmen at Tift's foundery were drowned last night. They run down the cellar at the time the embankment gave way to save perhaps some effects—the water rushed in with such fury as to render escape impossible—There is a report of two or three children being secured from a floating log cabin, but we cannot trace it to any authentic source.

Friday morning, Feb. 17.

The work of desolation still continues—the river having reached nearly to Lower Market street. Our "composing" room is about a square from the publishing office. When we issued the first circular, no one presumed it would reach much further than Columbia—but all calculations have failed "it is still on the rise, it is still on the rise" is all that is said or known. The boatmen are crying beneath our windows, "twelve and a half cents to the *mouth* of Main street" Every kind of craft is put in requisition, tubs, boxes, canoes, flats, dug-outs, skiffs, yawls, &c. &c. The scene is as lively as the *regatta* of Venice, though we may not boast of a Bravo or Antonio. We ought to except a *baker*, who manages his *trough* with wonderful dexterity.

We cannot enumerate half of the sad calamities rumour is bringing in. The river, as it sweeps past with its accumulated waters, carries with it the wreck of its desolation. A church passed the city with its steeple, bound for New Orleans, we presume a poor market. Excellent frame houses float along with hay stacks, rails, leaving the farms stript of every vestige of cultivation. The lower Mill Creek Bridge started yesterday morning. Hamilton & Colerain bridges have also floated off, and the bridge over White River in Kentucky. The Kentucky River had backed up as far as Frankfort, 64 miles above its mouth The Cumberland and the Tennessee were both very high.

We should think the water at this time (Friday Evening) nearly at its height—rising this morning about one half of an inch an hour. We have but little to add to the above. From the "look out" at the Commercial Hotel, corner of Broadway and Front, we had an excellent prospect of "Cincinnati as it is." The waste of waters! The suburbs East and West, with the lower part of the city, as far as Lower Market, the cellars of which are filled with water, were navigable in every direction. Newport opposite this city, was pretty well afloat—the water reaching nearly to the windows in the second story of the U. S. Arsenal, Covington does better—some dry land, being yet discernable.

The bridges at Dayton and Miamiesburgh are seriously injured. The embankments at the former placed answered well—no inundation. There are reports of a dreadful flood at New Orleans probably without foundation. The only lives lost, besides those already mentioned, are two negroes in the Eastern suburbs.

The latest accounts of the state of the waters of the Ohio at Cincinnati, are given in the Cincinnati Gazette of the 20th inst. as follows:—

The river continued to rise until Saturday morning the 18th, at which time it was 63 feet above low water mark. It remained stationary till about noon, when it commenced falling very slowly. From Saturday noon till Sunday, 19th, it fell 8½ inches, and when our paper went to press last evening, it had fallen altogether 12 inches.

We learn from a passenger on board S. B Versailles that the river fell at Maysville 18 inches from Saturday morning at 4, till Sunday morning at 4 o'clock.

[From the Nat. Intelligencer of the 24th.]

Centennial Birth Day.—The natal day of Washington, always marked with becoming tokens of respect, not only throughout this Union, but in every land where an American citizen is found, was on Wednesday last celebrated throughout our country with unusual pomp. In this city, as elsewhere, the day was observed with peculiar demonstrations of reverence and respect.

One hundred guns at sunrise announced its hundredth return, since the event which rendered the day dear to every American heart. During the day, the banks, the shops, and other places of business, were closed, and all the ordinary avocations suspended. At eleven o'clock, divine service was performed, pursuant to the order of the two Houses of Congress. The Rev. Mr. Durbin, Chaplain of the Senate, delivered an appropriate and eloquent sermon, and the other religious services were performed in an impressive manner, by the Rev. Mr. Post, Chaplain of the House. Besides the Vice President, the Speaker, and the Members of the two houses of Congress, as large a number of citizens attended the service as the Hall would admit.

The Volunteer Military Companies of the City paraded, and being joined by the elegant Company of Philadelphia Volunteers, on their return from their visit to Mount Vernon, the whole repaired to Capitol Square, where they were reviewed by the Major General of the District, Walter Jones.

In the afternoon a numerous company of citizens, public and private, partook of a splendid Dinner at Barnard's Hotel.

The Day was closed by two Public Balls—one at Carusi's spacious Saloon—the other at the Masonic Hall—both of which were numerously attended. At Carusi's all the Representatives of foreign Governments at present in the City, attended; and of our own public men, who were present, we observed the Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Secretary of State, many members of Congress, and a number of distinguished Officers of the Army & Navy.

[In reference to the celebration, the National Intelligencer says, the *Dinner at Barnard's Hotel*, was by far the most interesting part. At this dinner Daniel Webster, of Massachusetts, was selected to preside, and Chas. Fenton Mercer of Virginia, Walter Jones of the District of Columbia, and Joseph Vance of Ohio, acted as Vice Presidents.]

"The Toasts, regular as well as volunteer, were admirably adapted to the occasion. But still more inspiring were the strains of eloquence, which in regard to most of them, accompanied their announcement. The following gentlemen addressed the company, all briefly with one exception; but all eloquently, viz: Mr. Webster, Gen. Mercer, Gen. Jones, Governor Barbour of Va. (a guest,) Mr. Huntington of Connecticut, Mr. Newton of Virginia, Mr. Holmes of Maine, Mr. Storer of Ohio, Mr. Sprague of Maine, Mr. Pendleton of New York, Mr. Robbins of Rhode Island, Mr. Cox of this District, Mr. Crane of Ohio, and one or two others. The exception referred to above was in the case of the President of the Day, who prefaced the first toast (in honor of the Day) by an Address of perhaps an hour in length, in which he excelled even himself. The address was heard with the most profound and enchained attention, and frequently applauded, as indeed were all the Addresses delivered on the occasion These addresses were reported, and we shall have the pleasure, we hope, to lay them all before our readers."

Honors at the Tomb.—On the 22d, the Philadelphia Washington Greys, then at Washington, paid a visit to the Tomb of the Father of his Country. They were hospitably received and entertained by the proprietor of Mount Vernon, and spent some hours in viewing the tomb, house, grounds, &c After appropriate honors being paid at the hallowed grave, the troops re-embarked, and returned to Washington.—*Alexandria Gazette.*

Compositor Abducted.—Some years before the French Revolution, a compositor at a printing house left his work shop. He was seized by four men, who promised they would do him no injury if he made no resistance; they tied a bandage over his eyes, and pushed him into a coach. The poor man did not dare to utter a word during the time he was on the road. When they untied the bandage he found himself in a large room, in which were cases filled with characters and presses. They ordered him to print some pamphlets and many of those obscene books, which have multiplied so greatly within these fifteen years, with such frightful audacity. He was obliged to obey, and was kept fifteen days at work, for which they liberally paid him and then having again tied a bandage over his eyes, they placed him in a coach, and carried him back to the spot from whence they first took him. He never disclosed his adventure to any one, having been bound to secrecy, which he promised to perform. When the Bastile was taken he was among the assailants, and there recognised the secret printing press, to which he had been conducted with so much mystery. What a subject for reflection!

Paris in London

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