the law reducing the salary of the Governor, after my term of service shall have expired. This legislation was occasioned by the laudable desire of your predecessors, by retrenching the expenses of the State, to enable her with greater certainty to resume the payment of her liabilities; and to continue to meet them, as they shall hereafter occur. The conflicting effect, in my judgment, of the two laws, upon the object of the Legislature in enacting them makes it my duty, to explain somewhat in detail, my views of their practical operation.

The biennial session bill, as an amendment of the constitution, having been submitted to the vote of the people, and having received their *sanction*, ought and will I suppose certainly receive your confirmatory action, and thus become a part of the fundamental law. The annual expense of the Legislature proper may be estimated at fifty thousand dollars, and the incidental expenses, including appropriations for specific objects, &c., &c., may be estimated at twenty thousand dollars; making the direct and incidental cost, of each session of the Legislature, about seventy thousand dollars. The direct result therefore of the confirmation by you, of this amendment of the constitution, will be to lessen the demands upon the Treasury by an amount equal to the annual sum of thirty-five thousand dollars.

Looking to this constitutional amendment, as I propose to do, solely as a measure of retrenchment, no one could doubt its salutary effects, if it were viewed without reference to the other measure to which I have adverted. The importance to the revenue of that annual supervision hitherto exercised by the Legislature over the disbursing and collecting officers of the Government will be readily recognised and fully appreciated by you; and the truth of the proposition will not be controverted that the substitution of biennial for annual sessions of the Legislature will impose upon the Executive additional responsibilities, and the necessity of increased vigilance and labour in enforcing the prompt and general observance of the revenue laws of the State. I confess my inability to appreciate the wisdom of that legislation, which increases the responsibility and labour of the Executive, and at the same time, takes away the compensation hitherto allowed to that officer. Gentlemen, a sense of public duty compels me to speak plainly to you upon this subject at the hazard of having attributed to me the disposition to overrate the importance, responsibility and labours of the position which I now occupy. Remember that the law under consideration, which destroys the executive compensation does not effect the present incumbent; and bear in mind, that I only desire to refer to the duties of the executive office, in view of their bearing upon the public revenue; and I shall be relieved from the suspicion of self-interest, and I hope excused for the apparent egotism, necessarily incident to the consideration of this subject by me.

I will, therefore, gentlemen, without reserve, invite your consideration of two propositions which will embrace all I desire to say upon this important subject.—The first is, that the collection of the public revenue, and consequently the credit of the State, depends upon the efficiency of the Executive; and the second is, that the law of the last session, now under consideration, reducing the executive compensation, is not caculated to secure such efficiency. In reference to the first of those propositions, I need only say, that experience has demonstrated the inutility of adequate revenue laws, unenforced by executive energy and firmness, and that the restored credit of the State and her ability to resume the payment of her liabilities, are not more attributable to the responsibility assumed by the Executive, in recommending, and by the Legislatures of 1841 and 1845, in establishing the present revenue system, than to the constant attention and unceasing efforts of the Executive to enforce the execution and general observance of the laws so recommended and passed. But, gentlemen, I will not trespass on your patience with an argument to sustain a position, the truth of which you recognise as fully as I do.—*You know*, that if the Executive Department of the government is placed in inefficient hands, the non-payment of the public dues in some portions of the State, will certainly follow; and *you know*, that the people of every portion of the State, will be found unwilling to submit to the onerous taxation now cheerfully borne by most of them, when they find the great object of that taxation unanswered, and their beloved State thrown back from the elevated position she now occupies, into the position of helpless insolvency, from which she has but now been extracted.—In reference to the second proposition, a difference of opinion may be entertained; but I cannot doubt, that proper reflection will lead you to the almost unanimous affirmance of its truth. Under the old constitution, a Governor and five members of the executive council, constituted the State Executive, who were elected annually by the Legislature. The salary of the Governor was $2,666 66 and of each member of the council $500, which with the salary of the clerk to the council, and that of the Steward of the Governor, made the cost of the Executive Department, under the old constitution $6,916. The Governor and members of the council were not required to reside at the seat of government, and were permitted to pursue their various business avocations, which were scarcely interfered with by the discharge of their executive duties, consisting, almost exclusively in the exercise of the appointing power. Under the amended constitution, the Governor is elected by the people for the term of three years, and is required to appoint annually, with the consent of the Senate, a Secretary of State, who are both required to reside at the seat of government. The salary of the Governor, since the amended constitution went into effect, has been $4,200, making the cost of this department, under the amended constitution $6,200. By the law of the last session, the salary of the Governor, after the 1st of January, 1848, is reduced to $2,000, and that of the Secretary of State, after the 1st January, 1847, to $1,000, and the question which I submit for your consideration and decision is whether efficient Executive officers, can be procured for those salaries?

No one, who has not thoroughly examined the present revenue system of the State, can appreciate the labour, which is now imposed upon the State Executive.—If you will reflect, that the annual revenue from an hundred different sources now amounts to about one million of dollars, and that the operation of the whole of this complicated system of taxation, is placed by law under the supervision of the Executive, you will readily conclude, that the individual who will now faithfully discharge the duties attached to the office, will have no leisure for other pursuits, and that the successful discharge of those duties, will now require the entire time of a man of energy, firmness and established business habits. If you reflect, that the salary by this law attached to the office, will entail pecuniary loss upon the person, who shall hereafter be elected by the people, as their Chief Executive Officer, it is manifest, that it excludes from competition for the office all those who are successfully engaged in any profession or business, and will confine it, for the future, to men of wealth and leisure. But apart from this view of this subject, if we consider the practical effect of this retrenchment, upon the individual citizen; and find that he whose property is assessed, at ten thousand dollars, will only save, by this reduction in the salary of his Governor and Secretary of State, the enormous sum of fifteen cents, you cannot (if you throw out of view the probable consequent incompetency of the officer,) believe, that the people of Maryland can be brought for such a consideration to approve a law, by which, they will be deprived the privilege, of selecting any other than a man of wealth, as their Chief Executive Officer, without entailing upon the man of their choice, certain pecuniary embarassment. No, gentlemen, I am persuaded, that such is not the genius or disposition, of the people of Maryland: they have pride in their State, and their government, and will never approve of legislation tending to cast degradation upon either.

In discharge of the duty imposed on me by the acts of 1827 chapter 140, and 1839 chapter 28, the vouchers will show that there has been expended within the past year, for the education of the indigent blind, the sum of $661 61; and for the education of the indigent deaf and dumb, the sum of $1,792 52.

By the act of 1845, chapter 89, it was made my duty to purchase a lot of ground in the city of Baltimore, and to contract for the building of a Tobacco Warehouse, capable of containing six thousand hogsheads. I have purchased a lot; and made a contract for the building which is now being erected; and I will transmit for your information and inspection, the deed, contract, &c., which I hope will meet your approbation.

I will also send for your information copies of letters addressed by me (under resolution No. 18, of the last legislature) to the Governors of Pennsylvania, and Delaware, upon the subject of the North Eastern Boundary between the State of Maryland and those States, and the letter upon that subject received in reply from the Governor of Delaware. No communication upon the subject has been received from the Governor of Pennsylvania.

The loss which the State has sustained by the death of her late Chancellor Theodrick Bland, makes it my duty to refer to the court over which he presided for the purpose of suggesting the legislation necessary to its maintenance.

The Great Seal of the State was placed in his custody, as chancellor of Maryland, on the 16th day of August, 1824, and from that period to the day of his death, the 16th of November last, he discharged the arduous and multifarious duties of that high station, with honesty, firmness and ability.

I have commited the custody of the Great Seal to John Johnson, Esq., a gentleman whose high integrity of character, and admitted learning in this department of the law, eminently qualify him to discharge the arduous duties of Chancellor; with honor to himself and advantage to the public. The ability of this gentleman to hold permanently this most important judicial appointment, must depend upon your action. By resolution No. 41 of December Session 1825, it is declared "that the salary of the Chancellor shall be three thousand four hundred dollars, *during the continuance of the commission of the present Chancellor, and no longer*; and after the expiration of his commission, such salary shall be provided for the succeeding Chancellor, as the legislature shall then think proper to fix and establish."—you will therefore perceive that the fate of the High Court of Chancey, of Maryland is now in your hands. If in the exercise of that enlightened judgment, for which the Legislature of Maryland has been ever distinguished, when questions of such vital importance have been submitted for their decision, you shall establish for this officer a salary commensurable with the laborious duties of the office, or the vast interests involved in his decisions, you will secure to your constituents the blessings of an efficient court, and to yourselves the honor of preserving this important branch of the State judiciary. A lawyer qualified to act as Chancellor, clothed with the sole power of deciding within the limits of the whole State, upon all the rights of property, which fall under the judicial examination of a Court of Equity, must be a man of learning, probity and firmness—he must possess energy of character and habits of industry; and above all, he must be a man, the natural acquired inclination of whose mind would be, to take a fair, unbiased, straight forward view of every question submitted for his decision.

When you reflect upon the golden harvest which such a man could reap in the practice of his profession, you must conclude, that a liberal salary or an incompetent officer, are the necessary alternatives.

Gentlemen, as desirous as I am that this Court, the only remaining relic of the wisdom of our fathers should be preserved—fully conscious as I am of the great inconvenience and injury which would be occasioned by its destruction—I should prefer its abolition, to its continuance, under circumstances which would convert it from a blessing to a curse upon the people.

Bear in mind gentlemen, that the great convenience and utility of this tribunal administered by a competent officer, has never been denied by any of these who in by-gone days have advocated its abolition and then suffer me to enquire—for what mighty purpose are the people to be deprived of the convenience and benefits of this tribunal, placed in the hands of an efficient and competent officer? To reduce the expense of the State to the amount of the Salary of the Chancellor, either in whole or in part, is the only answer which ever has been, or which can be given to this inquiry, by those who have hitherto advocated the abolition of the Court or the reduction of the salary of that officer.

And what would be the grand result of this false economy? If you should establish for the Chancellor now appointed, the same salary which by the resolution of 1825 was given to the late Chancellor, by which his services would be secured, you would impose upon each citizen of the State, for the purpose of sustaining a Court of admitted convenience and advantage to the people of the whole State; the intolerable burthen of a tax of the seven hundredth part of one per cent upon his assessable property!!

Before passing from this subject there is one other consideration of so conclusive and commanding a character that I do not feel myself at liberty to withhold it. By the 36th Article of the Constitution, the Chancellor for the time being is made the keeper of the Great Seal; which the same article directs should be affixed to all laws commissions, grants and other public testimonials; and by the 57th article of the constitution, it is directed that all civil commissions and grants shall be signed by the Governor and attested by the Chancellor, with the Seal of the State, annexed. The Great Seal then being confided to the keeping of the Chancellor by the constitution the legislature do not possess the power to make a different disposition of it, except by an alteration of that instrument. It therefore follows that if an inadequate salary should be provided by you for this officer that the Great Seal would remain vacant for at least twelve months, and that for that time no grant or civil commission could issue.

May it not also be apprehended that the laws which shall be passed by you, from which so much public good is anticipated would be rendered nugatory, as they could not have the Great Seal of the State attached to them as the Constitution requires.

But when in addition to these views of the subject, you are reminded that the revenue which is now derived from this source is equal to the expense of its administration; I am sure I shall not appeal without success to your wisdom and patriotism, in asking you to establish for this office such salary as will secure to the State an honest firm and able Chancellor.

Gentlemen, I cannot resist the inclination which impels me to advert to the practice, which has prevailed in the legislature of delaying its action upon the subjects of paramount importance, until the last hours of the session. Every observant Statesman will recognise in this practice the prominent cause of the legislation, which has resulted so pernicously to the State. If you will take up the Statute Books for the past ten years, and turn to the laws which have oppressed and weighed down the energies of your Constituents, you will find that all of them were passed within three days of the adjournment of the session, at which they were enacted!!

With the assurance of my entire confidence in your wisdom and patriotism, I must invoke for the measures to which I have referred, your early consideration and prompt action.

Permit me gentlemen, to say that I shall entertain for the conclusions to which you shall come, the most profound respect; and that you may rely upon the cordial co-operation of the Executive, to render efficient the measures which you may devise, to re-establish the public credit, and promote the public good.

THOMAS G. PRATT.

FURTHER FROM TAMPICO.

Correspondence between Santa Anna and General Taylor—Determination of the Mexicans—Departure of Com. Connor for Tabasco, &c.

The New Orleans Picayune has further intelligence from Tampico by the steamer Massachusetts.

Letters from Vera Cruz to the Picayune contain an extract from a letter to the British Consul at Tampico, written by the commander of the British frigate Alarm.—After describing the accident, with its fearful details, he speaks of the thirty-seven saved by the joint exertions of the French and English, but explicitly gives the Frenchmen the credit of having rendered the most efficient service.

We have further correspondence between Gen. Taylor and Santa Anna, which we find in El Eco de Tampico of the 12th December. We have not room for it this morning, nor is any more than one passage of it important. Gen. Taylor writes from Saltillo on the 20th of November, acknowledging the courtesy of Santa Anna in releasing the seven prisoners. He then quotes from the terms of the armistice of Monterey to justify the action of our Government in putting an end to it—thus meeting a reflection of Santa Anna upon our Government in his former letter. He concludes by expressing the hope that the Mexican Congress will accept the offers of the United States, and enter into negotiations for the termination of hostilities and the establishment of a permanent peace.

Santa Anna replies on the 24th of November from San Luis Potosi. After a courteous introduction, he concludes the letter as follows—we find the italics in the Mexican copy:

I will conclude this note by assuring you that I entertain the hope that the sovereign National Congress, which is immediately to be installed, will act as shall be more conducive to the interests of the Republic; but I believe that I do not deceive myself in assuring you, *that neither the Congress, nor any Mexican, will ever be able to listen to overtures of peace unless the national territory be first evacuated by the forces of the United States, and the hostile attitude of their vessels of war be withdrawn.*

This must be without doubt the preliminary of whatever negotiation may be opened; and it may be permitted to me to declare to you, that the nation, moved by a sentiment of patriotism, and determined to defend at every hazard and inch by inch its territory, will never cease to qualify as it deserves, and as the world has already qualified it, the conduct of the United States; and it will do whatever it can and ought honorably to deserve the little which it bears of independent and free.

A letter in the Picayune, dated Tampico, Dec. 12, says:—

Commodore Connor left yesterday for Anton Lizardo in the Princeton. Upon his arrival there an expedition will sail for Laguayra, and I believe it is his intention to occupy Tabasco permanently. At the capture of this place three Mexican gunboats, among other crafts, fell into the hands of the Americans.

BURNING OF THE MEXICAN BRIG CREOLE.—The most graphic account we have seen of the gallant act of the destruction of this vessel, which was performed on the night of the 19th November, under the walls of the Castle of San Juan d'Ulloa, by a party of nine from the brig Somers, is given by a correspondent of the Savannah Georgian. It appears that the brig had slipped in during the night of the 18th of November. The Somers was the only vessel then blockading Vera Cruz, and the officers, anticipating ridicule from the English squadron, who saw that the vessel had slipped the blockade, it was determined, desperate as the enterprize was, to destroy her. Accordingly, on the morning of the 20th, Lieut. Jas. S. Parker asked permission for himself and Midshipman Rodgers and Hynson to visit the English squadron, which was granted:

"In a little while, says the correspondent of the Georgian, they shove off, and before sunset are pleasantly chatting with the officers of the celebrated frigate "*Endymion.*" (She was one of the squadron that captured Commodore Decatur in the "*President.*") When the night had well set in Parker and friends bade their English friends good evening, and as they shook hands requested them, "If nothing is heard of us before to-morrow evening, please send word to the Somers that we are dead or prisoners in the Castle, for we are going to cut out or burn the brig that gave us the slip yesterday." The Englishmen laughed and promised, not thinking them mad enough for such an attempt. They shoved off, and soon were lost to his sight. Nine gallant hearts were they, who left on a desperate enterprize with such slight farewell; they were in a small six-oar'd boat; three officers; six good men. It did seem madness; not so much to do the deed, as to escape after the deed was done, from the fire of such and so many batteries; for discovery seemed inevitable, as the brig was moored to the walls of the Castle, and over-looked by the sentries.—The Englishman, a gallant fellow, thought them mad as they pulled away.

Three hours after, the Quartermaster of the watch called his attention to a strange light at the Castle. It flickered—flashes sprung up; flames burst out, and by her own burning light he saw the brig under the Castle's wall, consuming! Running his eye along the now lighted horizon, he saw a small boat pulling steadily, and far on her way to Green Island. 'By ——, they've done it.' But let us go on with our own true hearted boys. Slightly armed, with each a cutlass and one pistol, cheerily they pulled away, yet gently—and presently lay on their oars, about half a mile from the Castle—muffled well their oar-locks—arranged their plans, and every man understanding his place, they waited till silence and the increasing darkness favored their design. "Now, my men," said Parker, "give way—sink your oars well—pull steady—not a word—give way." And the boat glided like a dark shadow over the waves. Silent as death, with steady, noiseless stroke, they urge the boat. The brig looms up—they see the very sentry on the wall of the Castle. One other pull; the oars slide quietly trailing from the locks—they touch the brig, and eight brave men spring up her sides. The careless night-watch, dreamless of danger, was smoking with a comrade, leaning against the mainmast. Hearing a noise, he turned, exclaiming, "*Quien vive*—" a stunning blow cut short his challenge, and ere his mate had well turned to see the cause, he too was felled upon the deck. Three others were secured upon the deck. Swift and noiseless as had been the work, the sentries on the Castle observed a disturbance in the brig, and hailed to know the cause. Parker, who speaks Spanish like a native, assumed the part of captain of the brig, and replied, coolly—"some of my rascals are tipsy, and I'm tying them, that's all. I don't want any assistance." His officers and men were, meanwhile, busy securing all they could find below, and in less time than it takes to tell of it, they had securely bound and securely gagged all on board. The sentries on the wall never imagining the possibility of an enemy at their very side, were satisfied with Parker's answer; and he, as soon as the Mexican crew were secured, remained quiet for some time—then cautiously passing his prisoners as men into his boat, every thing was prepared for their retreat. The three now entered the hold of the brig, and carefully fired her in various parts, building their fires so that some twenty or thirty minutes would elapse before they would burst out."

With the rest our readers are already acquainted. The party returned in safety to the Somers, and carried their prisoners with them.

LATEST FROM THE ARMY.

Attempt to Recapture Tampico.

Capture of Parras by Gen. Wool—seizure of Government stores—present position of American forces—seven thousand Mexicans repulsed from Tampico—Capture of two hundred Mexicans, &c.

The steamer Fashion arrived at New Orleans on the 27th ultimo, from Brazos Santiago, which place she left on the 24th.

The New Orleans Times says:

We learn from a passenger just arrived from Tampico, on the schooner H. M. Johnson, and who came up to the city from the South-west Pass, on the steamer Fashion, that on the 16th instant, Tampico had been attacked by 7000 Mexican cavalry, thinking to carry the place by a *coup de main*: our troops, however, were on the alert, and on their approach, opened on them a brisk fire of artillery, when they broke and fled.

The garrison there had been reinforced by the Alabama regiment of volunteers and a second regiment of artillery, and Gen. Patterson was to have marched from Matamoras, on the 23d, with Col. Thomas' regiment of Tennessee cavalry, for that point. Gen. Shields was in command at Tampico, but would be superseded by Gen. Patterson, when he arrived.

Great exertions have been making by Mexican officers to raise men in the small towns along the Rio Grande, and with some success.

Capt. Stone, with a detachment of seventy men, lately captured a party of two hundred Mexicans in a ranche about thirty-seven miles up the San Juan, together with Capt. Contova, by whom they had been recruited, and he and the men were taken as prisoners to Camargo. Fifty stand of arms, ammunition, &c., were taken at the same time. On the evening of the 16th a Mexican was taken by the guards at Camargo attempting to enter the powder magazine, with a design, it is supposed, of blowing it up.

The troops under Gen. Wool, Capt. Yeatman also informs us, are in the very highest state of discipline and regard their commander with respect and affection.—Parras, he says, is a most delightful place; it is situated about seven miles west of the great San Luis Potosi road, and he terms it the vineyard of Mexico. The climate is unexceptionable, and the soil fertile; the grape is cultivated there, and the wine extracted from it is delicious.

Gen. Wool has received orders from General Taylor to take up his winter quarters at Parras, and had seized 2 thousand barrels of flour and several thousand bushels of wheat, and other government stores. Parras is one hundred and fifteen miles directly west of Saltillo, and the position being farthest in advance, the first and second regiment of Indian Volunteers had been ordered from Camargo to reinforce Gen. Wool. This would swell his command to about four thousand and five hundred men. Gen. Worth, at Salullo, was also to be reinforced by four companies of Kentucky cavalry, ordered to Monterey, which would bring his command up to about seventeen hundred men.

Gen. Patterson had received a private letter informing him of a rumor that Santa Anna was advancing upon Saltillo from San Luis Potosi, but Capt. Yeatman attaches no credit to the rumor, as he traveled from Parras and Saltillo to Matamoras as rapidly as possible, and when he left those places he heard nothing whatever of it. The Generals in command at both points have cavalry parties scouting in the direction of San Luis Potosi, and the scouts of General are at least seventy-five miles from his camp, so that we would be likely to be apprised of any movement of Santa Anna as early as possible.

Gen. Taylor left Monterey on the 15th, with an escort of cavalry, for Victoria.—Gen. Twiggs and Colonel P. F. Smith, with their respective commands; were at Victoria, and previous to the departure of Gen. Taylor from Monterey. Gen Quitman with his brigade had left for that point.—Gen. Taylor, in a conversation with Captain Yeatman, expressed the opinion that it would be impossible to march upon San Louis Potosi from the northern extremity of his lines until the rainy season sets in June next.

The report that Santa Anna had cut off the water tanks between him & the American posts is not true, but the country is almost destitute of water unless during the rainy season, and in one part of the road there is even in that season a distance of ninety miles to be marched without the possibility of finding any.

Six American teamsters were killed recently at Ramos, a ranche of Canales, by a detachment of his rancheros.

Gen. Butler was in command of Monterey, with about two thousand men; Col. McKee, with six companies of the Kentucky regiment of cavalry, at Ceralvo; Capt. Willis, with two companies of the same regiment at Mier; and Gen. Marshal at Camargo, with about nine hundred men.

Col. McClung was fast recovering from his wounds.

ARMY MOVEMETS.—It is expected that the first regiment New York Volunteers, now quartered at Fort Hamilton, L. I., will sail for the seat of war to-morrow. They are in prime condition and excellent discipline, and are well provided for every way. We have no doubt they will do ample justice to the character of our State. There are ten companies of 80 men each in the regiment, the last 150 having been mustered into the service on Wednesday. The transports are chartered to take them to Tampico, and it is supposed that their first operations will be directed against Vera Cruz.

The Massachusetts regiment is getting on much better than was at first expected. There are now six companies filled up, and the process of enrollment goes on quite briskly.

The Salem Register says it is rumored that Hon. Caleb Cushing is desirous to take the command of the Massachusetts regiment, should the complement be made up.—*N. Y. Gaz.*

CONGRESS.

[Reported for the Baltimore Clipper.]

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2, 1846.

The Senate did not sit to-day, having adjourned over till Monday.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

In the House, the resolution of Mr. Cobb was agreed to—yeas 85, nays 73—to prevent a member from making a speech on the pretence of asking to be excused from voting, and repealing the rule which allows a brief explanation.

Mr. Tibbatts submitted a resolution, which was adopted—that the committee of ways and means inquire into the expediency of increasing the tariff of duties on all dutiable articles under the present tariff act as high as the revenue standard will permit; of imposing duties on spirits distilled, or manufactured in the United States; also, on licenses to retailers of liquors; also, on pleasure carriages and gold and silver ware, as a war measure, instead of levying duties on tea and coffee.

Messrs. Bell and A. Johnson also submitted resolutions—the former to reduce sataries in the Civil Departments of the Government and the pay of members of Congress, 25 per cent. and to pay the army $10 per month; the latter, to tax plate, gold watches, etc., and to retain in the Treasury the $242,129 appropriated last session for the Smithsonian Institution. The resolutions were not considered.

Mr. Tilden offered a resolution, which lies over, calling on the Secretary of the Navy to furnish to the House the authority for hanging Jackson, a seaman on the frigate Cumberland, in September last, and the testimony on which he was executed.

The bill to increase the pay of the army of the United States was made the order of the day for Tuesday next—yeas 151, nays 7.

Mr. Wentworth, to test the pulse of the House, offered a resolution, as follows:

"*Resolved*, That it is inexpedient to levy a duty on tea and coffee."

He moved the previous question, which cut off debate.

Mr. Payne immediately moved to lay the resolution on the table. This failed—yeas 40, nays 106.

The demand for the previous question was seconded; and the resolution was passed—yeas 115, nays 48.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4, 1847.

SENATE.

A Message was received from the President of the United States, (similar to that sent in the House,) recommending the passage of a bill authorizing the appointment of a General Officer, to take command of all the forces in field, etc. It was referred to the committee on Military affairs.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. King of New York, asked leave to report a bill.

Objection being made, he moved to postpone the special order.

The reading of the bill being called for, it was read. It sets forth in the preamble that a state of war now exists between the United States and Mexico, and that assurances have heretofore been given of a desire to settle the differences between the two countries—therefore, thirty thousand dollars are appropriated to take the initiative steps, and two million of Dollars to be placed at the disposal of the President to be used, if necessary, on the ratification of a peace, if one be made. Slavery or involuntary servitude to be prohibited in the territory which may be acquired—Fugitives, however, to be given up to the proper authorities.

The yeas and nays were taken on the motion to postpone the special order. The result was—yeas 88, nays 89. So it was decided in the negative.

A message was received from the President of the United States, which was read urging on Congress the passage of the act to raise ten additional regiments of troops and make povision for increasing the number of field officers, and the appointment of a General Officer to take command of all our forces in the field, to be discharged at the termination of the war. The message was read and referred to the committee on Military affairs, and ordered to be printed.

The House then proceeded in committee of the whole, to the consideration of the special order—the bill to raise, for a limited time, one regiment of Dragoons and nine regiments of Infantry.

Mr. Hamlin said that the time will come when gentlemen who endeavor to present us in the wrong will deeply, sadly regret the course which they have pursued—Those who serve in the field should select their own officers. He was against a further increase of executive patronage.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5, 1847.

SENATE.

Mr. Cameron introduced a resolution requiring the Secretary of the Treasury to inform the Senate on what articles the duties imposed by the tariff of 1846 could be increased so as to increase the revenue, &c. Laid over.

The bill to establish a permanent preemption system was made the special order for Monday next.

A bill to grant alternate sections of public lands to the State of Michigan, to aid in the construction of Railroads came up, and was advocated by Messrs. Woodbridge and Cass, and opposed by Messrs. Niles, Bagby and Calhoun. It was read a third time by ayes 26 nays 16.

The bill to grant about 4,000,000 acres of land to Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Missouri for the completion of the Cumberland road was made the special order for Tuesday next.

The Senate then went into executive session.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

We unintentionally omitted to state yesterday, that Mr. Bayly withdrew the remark to which Mr. Davis, of Kentucky, took offence on the 23d of December, and that all difficulties have been reconciled.

The House, in committee of the whole, resumed the further consideration of the bill, providing for the addition of ten additional regiments to the regular army.

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