tments, frequent and sometimes beneficial amendments, have been engrafted on the fundamental law: but these, so far from producing the desired result, have, in too many instances, tended to destroy the harmony of the original code, and instead of improving, have served but to add deformity to a body, already painfully impressed with the decrepitude of age. Nor are such, however conclusive, the only reasons which have awakened the public mind to the necessity of a radical reform in the charter of government by the action of the people themselves, in virtue of their original and inherent sovereignty. In the laudable efforts to secure to Maryland, the vast and increasing trade of the West, the golden prize for which several neighboring States were eagerly contending; and with a view also to the development of the exhaustless mineral resources, which lay embedded in the rough bosom of the Alleghanies, the Legislature was induced to embark the capital and credit of the State, in aid of various works of internal improvement. Under the influence of a mistaken confidence in the continuing solvency of the several corporations, for the construction of whose works, loans vastly disproportioned to any present or prospective means of the Treasury were, from time to time contracted, the salutary lesson which inculcates in the economy of individuals and of nations, the duty of making ample provision for the ultimate redemption of pecuniary obligations, simultaneously with their assumption, was wholly disregarded. The result of a system so eminently unwise, foreseen by not a few discerning individuals, has long since arrived. The sanguine calculations of the friends of internal improvements have failed to be realized; and Maryland, in common with many other States of the Union, pursuing a simalar line of policy, has been overtaken by a catastrophe involving her in a debt of over sixteen millions of dollars, to meet the interest and gradually absorb the principal of which, an annual levy of nearly eight hundred thousand dollars upon the property of her citizens, is considered indispensable. Whatever difference of opinions may have existed or are now entertained as to the details of measures designed to meet this emergency, all seem agreed, that the debt itself is of the highest legal and moral obligation, and one which every principle of public and private honor require to be punctually and faithfully discharged. To a people thus embarrassed, whose energies are paralized by a weight of taxation, from which they have been hitherto happily exempt, the ordinary dictates of prudence have suggested the wisdom of a searching & rigid scrutiny into the nature and extent of public expenditures, with a view to mitigate, as far as possible, the burden of an immense debt, and to redeem with the least inconvenience to themselves the plighted credit of the State.

The ends, sought to be attained by the friends of Reform, consists in the adaptation of the fundamental law to the altered circumstances and novel condition of the people, to such improvements in governmental science as are vindicated by the spirit of the age, and the example of other States; and above all to that just standard of republican simplicity and economy, which, while it affords the most ample protection to life, liberty and property, is, at the same time, calculated to render less complex the machinery of government, and to insure a material reduction in the costs of its administration. An enumeration of some of the most important alterations in the existing system, contemplated by those interested in the question, may not here be considered out of place. To one, possessing even a superficial knowledge of the extent, population and wealth of the several Counties of the State, and of their relative weight in the business of legislation, no evidence can be required to prove that there exists the most palpable inequality, not only in their representation, but in their contributions to the Treasury. The government of Maryland, so far from conforming to that cherished axiom in the republican creed, which asserts the right of a majority, in all cases, to rule, is in fact, a government of a minority. The statement of such a proposition, carries with it, the demonstration of its glaring injustice.—From the singular geographical division of the State, and from sectional jealousies, long entertained by her people, it is not to be expected, nor is it even desired, that representation in the Legislature should be made to depend upon a strict basis of population or of wealth, or upon a standard formed of an admixture of both. Justice however, seems to demand, that those Counties and Cities which unitedly contain within their limits, not only a plurality of the whole population, but by far the largest amount of taxable property, should be entitled to, at least, a controlling voice in that branch of the Generel Assembly, to whose custody by the forms of the Constitution, the public purse is now, and will doubtless continue to be, peculiarly committed. In thus approaching the true principle of representative government, the just rights and interests of the smaller and less populous Counties, are not to be disregarded; and in surrendering the power now possessed by those in the House of Delegates, it will be insisted, that territorial representative in the Senate, shall be guaranteed and perpetuated. In intimate connection with the scheme of Reform in the representation system, is the policy of express limitations upon the powers of the General Assembly, to contract debts, to borrow money, or to pledge the public credit, except for purposes of war to repel invasion, or to suppress insurrection; nor is there a less pressing necessity for equally stringent prohibitions upon their authority, to change, alter, or in any manner to modify the organic law. No argument can at this day, be wanting to prove the wisdom of such modifications in the constitutional charter, the value of the first, is justified by the history of the past, and by financial embarrassments proceeding from a long continued course of thoughtless and unbridled legislation. The propriety of the last, is attested by the anomalous character of the present constitution, which, while it carefully confines within their appointed orbits, the Executive and the Judiciary, imposes, in fact, no other restraints upon the Legislative Department, than the mere measures of its own discretion. The effect of both, will be to afford equal protection to all the great and conflicting concerns of the State; producing a community of feeling and of interest among the whole people, and dissipating forever, the pernicious causes of Shore and County prejudices, which have heretofore retarded the advance of Maryland in the science of free government. Similar and still more beneficial results are expected to flow from such a modification of the constitutional provision which reposes in the Executive hands, the entire official patronage of the State, as will secure directly to the people, the right to select all local and County officers, not strictly of a judicial character. The centralization of power by means of patronage is dangerous to liberty, inconsistent with the doctrine of popular sovereignty, and the theory of representative government. The obstruction of a free and fair expression of the public will, the too frequent selection of incompetent, unscrupulous, and unfaithful officers; the multiplication of public trusts; the depression of the standard of official qualification, and the subjection of the liberty of opinion and discussion to the relentless bar of party tyranny, are not the least among its corrupting and inevitable tendencies. The constitution of Maryland in this respect, is in flagrant violation of that sacred maxim which accords to the people, the capacity for self government. If the people are sufficiently wise, honest and discreet, to be entrusted with the election of a President, a Governor, a Senator, or a Sheriff, it is difficult to conceive, by what system of reasoning it can be shown, that they will prove less wise, less honest, or less discreet when empowered to elect a Register of Wills, a County Clerk, or any other ministerial officer. A thorough revision, also, of the judiciary, in all its departments, for many and cogent reasons, is deemed to be imperatively requisite. The official tenure which distinguishes this department from all others, equivalent as it is, to a term for life, is not in accordance with that well settled maxim which regards frequent accountability to the source of power by those in the exercise of public trusts, as among the most conservative principles in popular government, nor has it a justification in the objects of its adoption in that country, from whose institutions it appears to have been borrowed. In England the end obtained by the appointment of Judges for life, was the security afforded the life, liberty and property of the subject, against the arbitrary power of an hereditary Executive. But in a government founded upon the public will, the effect of judicial life tenure, is to defeat that will, by rendering the incumbents wholly independent of it. The extraordinary expense attendant upon the administration of justice, furnishes another and a conclusive reason in favor of her Judicial Reform. The annual cost incurred by [illegible] Judicial establishment, in the item of salaries alone, exceeds by thousands of dollars, that of many other States of the Union, far more populous, and of much greater territorial extent. If to this, be added the emoluments of Clerks and Registers, affording, in several instances, incomes infinitely disproportioned to the value of services rendered, it will appear that the cry of Retrenchment, which of late years, has been heard in every section of the State, is no idle or unmeaning sound.

That the judges are upright, impartial, learned in the law and faithful in the discharge of their duties, is, on all hands conceded. That their salaries are exorbitant or at all too large, is not pretended. It is admitted that the compensation of public officers, without being profuse, should always be liberal. The objection lies to the number of officers now upon the bench and the opinion is confidently entertained, in quarters entitled to consideration, that a system may be devised, requiring the services of fewer Judges, not only without detriment, but with considerable advantage to the public interests. A reduction in the number of Judges; a limitation upon the income of County Clerks, Registers of Wills and other offices, either by an alteration of the tariff of fees, or by requiring payment to be made to the Treasury of whatever surplus may remain in their hands, over and above a fair and liberal compensation; and the abolition of all such offices, as experience may have shown to be unnecessary, will, it is believed, afford sensible relief to the tax payers of the State, and contribute essentially, towards the payment of the public debt. Such are some of the changes and improvements in the fundamental law, with the reasons in support of them which appear to be contemplated by the reformers of Maryland. That a majority of the people are decidedly favorable to the call of a convention, as the only feasible means of obtaining so desirable an end, there can be but little doubt. At the same time, it would be disingenuous to disguise the fact, that there is a considerable class of citizens, and among them, many who recognize the necessity of reform, some of whom maintain that the Legislature, in the exercise of its ordinary constitutional functions, is competent to effect whatever alterations may be required; while others, not only question the power of the General Assembly to enact a law for the call of a convention, but expressly deny that the constitution can be altered, amended or abolished, in any other manner or by any other authority, than that prescribed in the instrument itself. The formation of a written constitution, the embodyment of the political science of a nation, designed to define the powers of government, to limit and control the action of its various departments, and to guard, protect, and perpetuate the liberties of posterity, is a work of the gravest import, invoking the wisdom of enlightened statesmen, demanding the utmost singleness of purpose, and the most unlimited opportunity for inquiry, deliberation and debate. Whatever may be the qualification of the delegates to the Legislature for such a work, it is a well known fact, that they are not elected with a view to constitutional amendments, and cannot, therefore, be considered as reliable exponents of the public will; nor have they the leisure, apart from the current business of legislation, or the consideration of matters involving a change in the organic law. The Legislative sessions are limited to a period of less than ninety days. To suppose that a body of men, however constituted, could, within that time, in connexion with other and important duties, originate and mature a comprehensive and well considered scheme of constitutional reform, is to ascribe to the members of the General Assembly, faculties both physical and intellectual with which individuals similarly circumstanced, are rarely, if ever, endowed. In support of the position assumed by that class of persons, who deny the power of the people to remodel the constitutional charter, whenever they may deem it proper to do so, it is asserted, that "the government of Maryland as a government founded in compact by and between the people themselves—one with the other all with each and each with all by which they have agreed, for the good of the whole, not only to be bound, but to remain bound so long as the original ends of the compact are preserved" and that as the existing constitution has provided a particular organism for its amendment, the original right of the people is thereby divested; and any alteration produced by a process different from that prescribed, would be violative of the compact and therefore illegal and void. Not to remark upon the well known fact, that in every political community, like our own, there is always found a considerable minority of qualified persons who instead of yielding their assent, have vehemently opposed the form of government which a majority have thought proper to establish; besides others, who from infancy, idiocy and other disabilities are incapable of such assent, all of whom are, nevertheless bound by the fundamental law, a reference to the consequences of considering constitutions as social compacts, will demonstrate the absurdity of such a doctrine. A compact, in its usual and legal sense, imports a contract between parties, creating obligations and rights, capable of being enforced. In government regularly organized redress is sought for breaches of contracts entered into between private persons, by a resort to tribunals specially appointed for the purpose. But, in the case of compacts of government, between parties in a state of nature, entirely sovereign and independent of each other, between whom, in the nature of things, there can be no common arbiter; each party, is for himself, the judge of the nature, extent and obligation of the instrument; and as there is no means of enforcing performance, or of inflicting penalties, when infractions are committed, each necessarily retains the right, at his own will and pleasure, to nullify the agreement, and to absolve himself from its stipulations.—Can it be supposed that the people of Maryland, in the formation of the Constitution, designed thus to rest the permanence of the government upon the capricious pleasure of any individual? [illegible] such [illegible] as a compact, the fundamen[illegible] "The true view" says Judge Story, "to be taken of our State Constitutions is, that they are forms of government ordained and established by the people in their original sovrign capacity, to promote their own happiness, and permanently to secure their rights, property, independence and common welfare." Again, "It would indeed be an extraordinary use of language, to consider a declaration of rights, in a constitution, and especially of rights which it proclaims to be inalienable and indefeasible, to be a matter of compact." And again, "A State Constitution is no farther to be deemed a compact, than that it is a matter of consent by the people, binding them to obedience to its requisitions; and that its proper character is that of a fundamental law, prescribed by a majority of the people of the State (who are entitled to prescribe it) for the government and regulation of the whole people." To assume however that the Constitution is a compact, creating obligations binding upon the people and capable of being enforced; it remains to be seen, whether it contains a single provision, which by fair construction, imposes restraints upon the soverign and inherent power of the people. By the Constitution of Maryland plenary powers are conferred upon the General Assembly, limited only by the nature and objects of the government and by express restrictions upon the legislative authority.—The 2nd article of the bill of rights, which declares "That the people of this State ought to have the sole and exclusive right to regulate the internal government and polity thereof—"is at once an assertion of the inherent right of the people and a negation of the power of the Legislature to alter the organic law. Had it been left to stand alone, the constitution could not have been amended, in any other manner, or by any other authority, than that of a convention of the people. The framers of the constitution, did not fail to foresee, that, in its practical operation, changes affecting either its mere machinery or some one or more of its details, might become occasionally necessary, not of sufficient magnitude to require a general revision of the instrument, or to justify the expense and delay incident to the assemblage of a convention. For this reason, doubtless, the power to amend the constitution was conferred upon the General Assembly, sensible however of the tendency of that body, to enlarge its authority, even at the hazard of trenching upon the fundamental law, the convention of 1776, deemed it wise and prudent, to provide by express prohibitions, against legislative encroachments upon popular sovreignty. It was therefore declared in the 42d article of the Bill of rights, "That this declaration of rights or the form of government to be established by this convention, or any part of either of them, ought not to be altered, changed or abolished, *by the Legislature of this State* but in such manner as this convention shall prescribe and direct." Accordingly by the 59th article of the constitution the convention did prescribe the manner in which changes were to be effected by the Legislature. That article declares, that this form of government, and the declaration of rights, and no part thereof shall be altered, changed or abolished, unless a Bill so to alter, change or abolish the same, shall pass the General Assembly and be published at least three months before a new election, and shall be confirmed by the General Assembly after a new election of delegates, in the first session after such new election." Here then are three separate provisions in the Charter of Government which by a fair construction are easily reconciled. The one asserts the right of the people of the State, without limitation, to regulate its internal government and policy; the other, in negative terms confers upon the Legislature the power to alter the Constitution, upon certain conditions and in a particular manner, to be thereafter prescribed; the third prescribes the manner which that power is to be exercised. The general exertion of the power by the people, concurrently with its limited exercise by the Legislature, is not inconsistent.—Treated as mere limitations upon the authority of the Legislature, the two latter provisions are not only consistent with each other but they readily harmonize with the former. Regarded as superceding the right of the people to change the form of government by the agency of a convention, the 42nd and 59th articles are irreconcilable, and both of them operate to render nugatory the 2d article of the Bill of rights.

The power of the people to change the organic law, is inherent and inalienable;—and the Convention which formed the Constitution, even if it so intended, possessed no authority to transfer or supercede it. The recorded opinion of many of the wisest Jurists and most illustrious statesmen of the country, as well as the practice of this and other States and Governments, concur in this position. Rawle, in his able work upon the Constitution, speaking of the occasional necessity for alterations and amendments, says: "The people retain—the people cannot perhaps divest itself of the power to make such alterations." "If a particular mode of effecting such alterations has been agreed on, it is most convenient to adhere to it, but it is not exclusively binding." Judge Story, speaking of the Declaration of Independence, says: "It was an act of original inherent sovereignty by the people themselves, resulting from their right to change the form of Government, and to institute a new government, whenever necessary for their safety and happiness."—Mr. Madison, in his celebrated report on the Virginia resolutions of 1798, says: "The authority of Constitutions over Government, and of the sovereignty of the people over Constitutions, are truths which are at all times necessary to be kept in mind." Judge Willson says: "Permit me to mention one great principle, the vital principle I may well call it, which diffuses animation and vigor through all the others— the principle I mean is this, that the supreme or sovereign power of the Society, resides in the citizens at large; and that, therefore, they always retain the right of abolishing, altering or amending this Constitution, at whatever time and in whatever manner they shall deem it expedient."

"As to the people, however, in whom the sovereign power resides; from their authority the constitution originates; for their safety and felicity it is established; in their hands it is as clay in the hands of the potter; they right to mould, to preserve, to improve, to refine and to finish it as they please. If so, can it be doubted that they have the right likewise to change it." Gen. Hamilton, discussing the objections made to the federal constitution, because of the absence of a declaration of rights, says: "they have no application to constitutions professedly founded upon the power of the people, and executed by their immediate representatives and servants. Here, in strictness, the people surrender nothing; and as they retain every thing they have no need for particular reservation." Such is the singular coincidence of opinion on this subject among men entitled to rank as the fathers of the republic, who on other important questions have differed widely with each other. Nor are these opinions unsanctioned by the practical exertion of popular sovereignty.—The articles of confederation contained provisions for their alteration, much stronger and more conclusive than the Bill of rights and form of Government of Maryland. The 13th article, after declaring that the articles of confederation should be inviolably preserved and that the union should be perpetual, proceeds: "nor shall any alterations, at any time hereafter be made in any of them, unless such alteration shall be agreed to in a Congress of the United States and be afterwards confirmed by the Legislature of every State" In February 1787 Congress, by resolution, recommended the assemblage of a Convention of delegates from the States, for the purpose of revising the articles of confederation. That Convention met at Philadelphia in May of the same year, and proceeded to form an entirely new government, providing, "that the ratification of the Conventions of nine States, shall be sufficient for the establishment of the constitution between the States so ratifying the same." The Government was put in operation the instant the ratification of nine out of the original thirteen States were procured; and yet, although the federal government was thus organized, in direct derogation of the articles of confederation, no one has ever ventured to pronounce that government a usurpation or inoperative and void. The Constitution of New York contained provisions very similar to our own, empowering the Legislature to amend that instrument. Notwithstanding this a Convention of the People has recently revised the Constitution of that State, and the new government is now in vigorous and successful operation. Independently of these high and incontrovertible authorities, an interpretation of the Constitution almost contemporaneous with its formation, made by a Legislature, composed in all probability of some of the very men who were members of the Convention, will conclusively settle the question, both as it regards the power of the people, and the authority of the General Assembly to pass a law for the call of a Convention. By the single act of November session 1787, eleven years after the organization of the State Government, a Convention was called to consider and ratify or reject the Constitution of the United States. That Convention assembled at Annapolis, and without delay ratified the Federal Constitution; and by that act of ratification transferred and delegated to the General Government, many and important powers, which before that time, belonged exclusively to the State. No one has ever complained, either that the act of Assembly was unconstitutional, or that the proceedings of the Convention were unauthorized and void. The power of the People and the right of the Legislature are thus placed beyond all doubt.

The Legislature is, therefore, invoked to take this subject into its most serious consideration, and to pass a law, submitting to the decision of the People of Maryland, at the next election, the question of the expediency and necessity of a Convention to revise and remodel the Constitution of the State, although it is by no means conceded, that an act of the Legislature is indispensable to give vitality to the sovereign power—it is, nevertheless admitted, for many and weighty reasons, that the object can be more conveniently reached by legislative sanction than by any other process. Should such an act be passed, with a view to guard against disorder, to avoid panic and alarm, and to protect the just rights of all the counties, it ought to contain ample provisions for the organization of the Convention; fixing the time and place of its assemblage—the basis of representation in that body—the compensation of its members and officers, and the manner in which its work shall be finally submitted for ratification or rejection.

I have thus endeavored to discharge a solem obligation, believed to be due to those by whose suffrages I have been elevated to the Chief Magistracy of the State. A discussion of the causes of the war with Mexico in which the country is now engaged, or of the manner in which hostilities have been prosecuted, might not be considered appropriate to the present occasion. While the constituted authorities of the country, with extraordinary unanimity, have declared that the war exists by the act of Mexico; the wisdom which has conceived, and the skill and valor which has executed the plans of campaign, are vindicated by the brilliant and uninterrupted success with which our arms have been crowned. There is one topic, however, growing collaterally out of this question, in which the people of Maryland, in common with the South, have a deep and abiding interest. A scheme is already on foot, and will be pertinaciously pressed, for the exclusion of Slavery from any territory that may be acquired by a treaty of peace. The Territories of the United States, now owned, or to be hereafter acquired, is the common property of all the States—purchased with the common treasure or won with the common blood of the whole people.—The institution of Slavery is regarded by the Constitution as a municipal regulation, and property in slaves is recognized, guaranteed and protected. The right of the citizens of each and all the States, to emigrate with their personal effects, to any territory of the Union, is clear & indefeasible. Any regulation, therefore, intended to exclude the people of the Slaveholding States from an equal participation in the enjoyment of territory to be hereafter acquired by the United States, would be a palpable violation of the Constitution—a deprivation of the citizens of such States of their interest in the common property, and a degradation of the States themselves from an equal rank with the other States of the Union. Such a condition of things, is not for a moment to be tolerated. The subject admits of neither compromise nor conciliation, and if persisted in must inevitably endanger the permanence of the Union. To arrest, if possible, so great an evil, it would be well for the representatives of the people of Maryland, respectfully and fraternally, but with firmness and dignity, to warn those who are engaged in this nefarious crusade against the rights of the South, and the compromises of the Constitution, of the painful consequences to which persistance may lead.

The condition of the finances, as represented in the annual message of the Governor and the report of the Treasuer, is a subject of profound congratulation. While it [illegible] the privilege of my distinguished predecessor, by his assiduity, firmness and ability, to rescue Maryland from the vortex of insolvency in which he found her ingulphed, and to elevate her to that proud position before the world, which the character of her people entitles her to occupy; it will be my more humble aim to discharge the functions of the Executive office with such fidelity, as to insure stability to the revenues, to inspire increased confidence in the honor and integrity of the State, and to prevent the possibility of a relapse to her former cheerless and degrading condition. That there are defects and inequalities in the existing system of taxation, I entertain no doubt. Unless, however, there is a manifest redundancy of revenue, neither wisdom, prudence, or good faith, would warrant a repeal or modification of any of its provisions, until plans equally efficacious, can be matured and immediately substituted.

Should there be the least reason to apprehend a deficiency in the income of the Treasury, or a doubt as to its ability to discharge with punctuality, the accruing interest on the public debt, it will be your duty, as doubtless it will be your greatest pleasure, promptly to afford supplies necessary to avert the recurrence of a catastrophe, pregnant with disaster to the character of the State; and I beg to offer the assurance, that it will be to me a source of the highest gratification to co-operate with you in the consummation of all measures, calculated to establish, on a firmer basis, the public credit, and to promote the welfare and happiness of our common constituency.

MURDEROUS ASSAULT.—The Howard District Advocate states that Mr. John E. Garratt, keeper of the hotel at Sykeville, went into the room of one of the boarders and took from there a revolver, and snapped it at Mr. Quigley, a contractor on the railroad, but fortunately for Mr. Q., it did not go off. He pulled the trigger a second time, when Mr. Quigley seized him, the hammer of the revolver catching him between the thumb and fore-finger, cutting him severely.

PROBABLE PIRACY, OR MUTINY, ON BOARD AN ENGLISH EAST INDIAMAN.—Captain Crowell, of the British bark Reliance, which arrived at New York, on Monday, from Liverpool, reports that on the 16th Nov. in latitude 45 45, longitude 9 59, he fell in with the British bark Lenneway, of London, supposed from Bombay, bound to London, abandoned, with 5 1-2 feet water in her hold.

Her cargo consisted of sugar, cotton, silks and gales; her stern considerably opened, rudder and boats gone, and things in the cabin looked very much confused.

There was a large number of muskets, swords and cutlasses strewn about the vessel. Captain C. took some of her cargo, consisting of silks and shawls, that he found in her cabin. He judges from the circumstances of finding three hogs dead which from their fresh appearance, could not have been killed more than two or three days, that she had not been abandoned long. Her rigging and sails appeared in good order, and there was plenty of provision and water on board.

CONGRESSIONAL.

[Reported for the Baltimore Clipper.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30, 1847.

SENATE.

A number of bills of a private character were introduced and referred to committees.

Sundry resolutions were introduced, which lie over.

Mr. Breeze announced the resignation of Mr. Cass, as one of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institute.

On motion of Mr. Westcott, it was ordered that when the Senate adjourn, it stand adjourned till Monday next.

A resolution offered some days previous, by Mr. Johnson, of Md., calling upon the Secretary of War to furnish a list of those who have been killed and died, &c., in the Mexican War, was adopted.

The resolution offered by Mr. Crittenden, for purchasing the "Madison papers," was taken up and passed.

Mr. Cass moved that the bill reported by him yesterday, providing additional forces for prosecuting the Mexican war, be taken up.

Mr. Calhoun hoped the subject might be postponed,

After some debate, the question was taken, when there were 19 ayes and 19 nays—the Vice President voting in the affirmative, the bill was taken up.

The bill was read.

Mr. Morgan expressed the hope, that definite action might not be pressed. The Senate then went into executive session; and after a brief session, adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

A large number of memorials and petitions were presented, on various subjects.

Mr. Goggin, the chairman of the committee on the Post Office and Post Roads, reported a joint resolution authorizing the Postmaster General to make an arrangement with the Richmond Railroad and Steamboat Company for transporting the mails, as formerly, to be allowed the highest rate of pay allowed to any other line for once a day service; and that the Bay line be compensated for a discontinuance of its service.

The resolution was committed to the committee of the Whole on the State of the Union.

Mr. Goggin moved to re-consider the vote, in order to act on the resolution now. A debate ensued, and without coming to a conclusion on the subject, at 2 1-2 o'clock, an adjournment took place until Monday next.

[Reported for the Balt. Clipper.]

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3, 1848.

SENATE.

Prayer by the Rev. Henry Slicer.

A number of petitions were presented and referred.

A message from the House, announced the Speaker had signed the bill making appropriation for subsistence of the army in Mexico. It was signed by the Vice President.

The bill to supply the volunteers in Mexico with clothing, was passed.

The ten regiment bill was then taken up as the order of the day.

After considerable discussion, on the part of several Senators, the bill was laid over till Wednesday, when the Senate went into Executive session and soon after adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

After the reception of resolutions, and the transaction of other business, Mr. Hudson, of Mass., introduced a resolution upon the subject of a treaty with Mexico, and the boundary between the two countries, which was rejected.

Mr. Houston, of Del., brought forward his resolution to give the thanks of Congress to Gen. Taylor, and those under his command in the last battles of the Rio Grande, a gold medal to him, &c.

Mr. Henley moved to amend by saying that our army was engaged in upholding our just rights and national honor.

Mr. Ashmun, of Mass., moved to amend the amendment, by adding, "a war unnecessarily and unconstitutionally begun by the President of the United States."

This was agreed to—yeas 85, nays 81.

The resolution was ordered to lie over.

At 3 o'clock the House adjourned.

[Reported for the Balt. Clipper.]

WASHINGTON, Jan 4, 1848.

SENATE.

Prayer by the Rev. Henry Slicer.

The proceedings were read, and sundry petitions, &c., of no general interest were presented and referred.

After some unimportant business, the special order of the day (being Mr. Calhoun's resolutions,) was taken up.

Mr Calhoun proceeded to speak in favor of them, and having concluded, the resolutions were laid aside.

The Senate then went into Executive session, and adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The resolutions heretofore submitted by Mr. Vinton to refer the several parts of the President's message to committees, were taken up in the committee of the whole on the state of the union—Mr. J. R. Ingersoll in the chair.

Mr. Broadhead submitted a substitute, and made a few remarks in its support.

Mr. Vinton briefly replied to Mr. Broadhead. The committee rose without taking any question.

The Speaker resumed the chair, and a variety of petitions and memorials were presented and appropriately referred.

A message was received from the President, informing the House that he had signed the bill making an appropriation of a million of dollars, to defray, in part, the deficiency in the Subsistence Department.

Mr. Cocke, from the committee on Revolutionary Pensions, reported a bill making further provision for the surviving widows and soldiers of the Revolution.—It was passed

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