HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Wednesday, Jan. 24, 1838.

SEMINOLE WAR.

As soon as the journal was read,

Mr CAMBRELENG asked the consent of the House to go into Committee of the Whole again on the bill making a partial appropriation for the suppression of Indian hostilities for the year 1838.

The motion was assented to without a division, and the House accordingly went into committee, Mr. Conner in the chair, and resumed the consideration of the above bill.

The question pending was on motion of Mr. Wise to reduce the appropriation from $1,000,000 to $500,000.

As soon as the question had been announced,

Mr. THOMPSON, referring to what he had said yesterday, said that he had not said that the whole North felt sympathy with the Indians, only because they were our enemies. He did not believe such to be the universal feeling of the North. He hoped and believed that it was not now even the general feeling. If he thought so, he would not hesitate one moment to leave, to cut loose, if need be, from the Confederacy. That a portion of the southern people were influenced by such feelings, he did not doubt.

Mr. BIDDLE said it had been his wish to speak on the subject before the rising of the committee yesterday, and nothing had occurred in the intervening period to change his views. He could not suppress his surprise at the course pursued yesterday. The debate which then took place commenced with the appropriation bill, and left off in a discussion on the abolition of slavery. That discussion was provoked by a struggle between the gentleman from Virginia and the gentleman from South Carolina, as to which was the most bitter opponent of the North.

Mr. WISE stated that the gentleman had totally misunderstood him. He was not an enemy of the north. He had always been a friend to the north, but at the same time he was a friend to the South.

Mr. UNDERWOOD was unwilling to be driven into a hasty passage of this appropriation without due examination, for he had already voted cheerfully for upwards of ten millions to put an end to the Florida war. There was another reason. At the commencement of the session, a resolution introduced by him had been adopted, calling upon the Secretary of War for information in relation to the proceedings there; but no response had yet come in. He would not say that the withholding of this information would induce him to withhold the money. On the contrary, he was disposed to give the money, and should continue to do so, for the present at least, on the principle that when his house was on fire he would try and first put it out, and inquire into the cause of the conflagration afterwards. Mr U. deprecated the course of these *ex parte* trials and condemnation of Generals Scott and Jesup. Take the case of the capture of Osceola, for which the latter had been censured; had they all the facts before them? They had not; but the letter of General Jesup justified the act, for it appeared that Osceola had come in with a perfidious intention, and Mr. U. adduced parallel instances in the early wars of the West, known to all. He objected, however, to such denunciations, on either side, before all the facts were ascertained.—With reference to Gen. Jesup, he had before read to the House a letter from that officer, in which he stated that he (Gen. J.) wished a most full and ample inquiry into all his transactions, both in the Creek and Seminole campaigns. As to the letter of F. F. Blair, he held that it had been improperly used; but the writer was not responsible for that, for he had marked it "private," and did not address it directly to the President of the U. States; but even if it had been addressed to the President directly, Mr. U. held that the second in command had a right, and it was his duty, to make known what he believed to be the truth to the commander-in chief. Take the case of Gen. Hull; supposing him to have been guilty of intriguing with the enemy, and that his second in command knew it, would any one have censured the latter for making that fact known to the then commander in-chief, the President of the United States? Again, it should be remembered that Gen. Jesup had voluntarily retracted all he had said in relation to Gen. Scott. Mr. U. did not, however, believe that the delay of this war was the fault either of our Generals or the army, for he believed they had all done the best they could. The fault lay in sending too large a force, ten or twelve thousand men, *en masse*, and the remedy, he thought, would be to pursue the same course they did in Kentucky many years ago; act by detail, in small parties, protected by forts, &c.

Mr. GLASCOCK said, that in consequence of the latitude which this debate had taken, he felt it to be a duty which he owed to himself, as well as to the section of the country which he in part represented, to make some remarks in reply to gentlemen who had preceded him on this question. He exceedingly regretted the course which this discussion had taken; but inasmuch as this course of debate had ensued, he wished to be permitted to make some remarks in reply. At the commencement of the present debate, charges serious in their character had been made against the General Government as to the policy it had pursued towards those tribes; but he was convinced, if the Gentleman who made the charge had give the subject that attention which he generally gives questions which he investigates, he would have come to the conclusion that some of the remarks which he made were not justified by the facts in relation to the treaty made with the Seminole Indians. One charge of the gentleman from Virginia, who had but followed up the remarks of the gentleman from Vermont on a former occasion, was, that the treaty with those Indians was a fraudulent treaty. He (Mr G.) well recollected the time when his charge was first made by the gentleman from Vermont, and he also well recollected the bold and manly reply which was made to it by the then delegate from Florida on this floor. The general charge in relation to the treaty not being valid was predicated on the ground that the time for carrying it into effect had expired before it was ratified by our Government. He would say to gentlemen, however, if they would take the trouble to refer to the treaty itself, and to the ground then assumed by the delegate from Florida, they would find that every doubt would be removed as to the validity of that treaty with the Seminoles notwithstanding all their sympathies for these Indians; and they would at once admit that the Indians had been treated with the utmost humanity and liberality by the General Government. They would find also, that the delay complained of as the cause of rendering the treaty null and void, was occasioned by the act of the Indians themselves. In the treaty of Fort Moultrie with these Indians, there were certain conditions precedent, which it was not necessary here to enter into but which all could see, who chose to refer to it; and in the subsequent treaty of Payne's Landing, one of the conditions of it was that some of the principal chiefs should visit the country to which it was contemplated to remove them; and upon their being satisfied with the country, and making certain arrangements with the Creeks, the treaty was to be ratified and carried into effect. This treaty was made in 1833, and if the treaty was not sooner carried into effect, it was because the Indians had not sooner complied with their part of the treaty, as gentlemen would see by a reference to a history of the matter. Gentlemen were entirely mistaken in supposing that it was the fault of the Government that the treaty was not sooner ratified: it was the fault of the Indians themselves; and even if this House had the power to render this treaty null and void, the facts of the case would not justify it. Well, after the treaty was ratified, and it was found that Gen Clinch, acting under the authority of the Government, was unable to remove them within the time specified, another year was given them, so that they might not be put to any great inconvenience. This was done in 1835, and at that time not a voice was raised in Florida against the validity of the treaty; but all fully acknowledged it as binding upon them. Furthermore: when this General Government which was now charged with so much inhumanity and perfidy towards these Indians, found them in starving condition, appropriations were made for their support and maintenance, and many of them owed their lives to the liberality of the Government in thus providing for them. With what justice, then could gentlemen stand up here and say that it was attempted by our officers to destry this whole race of unfortunate people? Gentlemen, too, in referring to the history of the transactions in Florida, have extolled Osceola to the skies, and held him up as an example worthy of imitation, whilst our officers have been held up to public indignation and scorn. They should, however, recollect the murders which that Chief has committed, before they attempt to eulogize him; they should recollect the cold-blooded murder of General Thompson by this chief with the very instrument which he had been entrusted with in confidence, before they bestow on him their praises; and they should recollect that it was his perfidy which laid low a brave and a gallant officer who had placed the utmost confidence in him. If such a deed as this had been committed by a foreign enemy, or by one of our own officers, it would have subjected him to eternal infamy; yet for this act this chief is proclaimed a brave, a gallant, and a noble warrior, by gentlemen on this floor. Mr. G. admitted Osceola to have been a desperate foe. He believed him to be a brave man, and so are many assassins; so are many murderers. They fear nothing in the day or in the night, and are prepared to commit the most daring acts of bravery, and will arrest your civil authority; but are these the men to be held up to public admiration by honorable gentlemen on this floor?

The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Biddle) had used language, and resorted to arguments, which he (Mr. G.) little expected on the present occasion. When, however, he recollected the gentleman's known hostility to every movement of the General Government, he was willing to make some allowance for him. Mr. G. would ask what had the proceedings of the Government in relation to Treasury notes, and what had the characters of General Jesup and Scott, to do with the present question before the House? He concurred entirely in the remarks of the gentleman from Kentucky, (M. Underwood,) that it was improper to pronounce condemnation upon the officers of our army without giving them a full and fair hearing. A blow, says the gentleman from Pennsylvania, has been aimed at General Scott's integrity, and the sword has been struck from his right hand by a blow from behind. Well, sir, might he not retort upon the gentleman in the same manner, and say that an attempt was now making to do the same thing with regard to another officer of our army? The gentleman had referred us to the fields of Chippewa and Niagara for gallant exploits of General Scott, and has told us how his youthful bosom glowed when he heard of the triumph of our arms on those occasions; but had the gentleman forgotten the valorous deeds of Jesup on those same battle fields, and that General Brown himself had said that the gallant officer was foremost in the blaze of battle? No man, said Mr. G., can read the history of those times, or can look back to them, without awarding to General Jesup praises for as great bravery as any of his brother officers. If a blow has been aimed at the character of General Scott, so also is General Jesup, who is now fighting the battles of his country, about to be condemned without a hearing. Mr. G. was ready and willing to award due praise to all our gallant officers, and would condemn none of them without a hearing, as he thought such a course little fitting a grave deliberative assembly. With regard to the treachery of the Cherokees which had been alluded to, he hoped they might be enabled to clear themselves of it, as he should be sorry to see such an imputation rest upon them; and as the gentleman from Virginia (Mr Wise) had admonished the delegate from Florida not to make this charge against those Indians without proof, he hoped the gentleman from Virginia would take the same admonition from him, not make charges against the Executive Departments of our Government without the proof. If the gentleman would take of him this admonition he anticipated that many unpleasant discussions would be avoided, and much unpleasant feeling prevented. But it had been said by the gentleman from Pennsylvania that, if these Cherokees had proved treacherous, and evil had resulted from their mission those who employed them were to blame for it. Now, Mr. G had no doubt that this delegation had been employed at the instance, or at least with the sanction, of the Secretary of War; but he was far from believing that that officer was censurable for thus employing them. His motive in employing them was good, and it was wrong to censure him for the failure of the mission. Mr. G. also denied that the principal was responsible in all cases for the act of the agent, as had been asserted by the gentleman from Virginia. Suppose the gentleman and himself had employed an agent to perform a certain service in the making of a contract or otherwise, and that agent had committed a fraud, were they to be held accountable for that fraud? He thought not. In regard to the statements represented to have been made by the Cherokees to the Seminoles, that if they would only hold out this winter, Congress would refuse to make further appropriations, and the war would cease, he had only to say that there was a remarkable coincidence between the statement of the Cherokees and the course of certain gentlemen on the floor.

Mr. G proceeded at some length to reply to the remarks of the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr Biddle,) and concluded by urging upon the House the propriety of making the appropriation asked for by the bill under consideration.

Mr. CAMBRELENG united his voice to that of the gentleman from Kentucky, for the immediate passage of this bill. The Committee of Ways and Means, in reporting this partial appropriation had done it for the express purpose of avoiding all discussion, and not interfere with the other bill, which would open the whole merits of the question. Mr. C. stated, in addition, that he had received, since yesterday, a communication from the Secretary of War, stating that the Subsistence and the Quartermaster's Departments were without funds, and that the Paymaster General had drafts upon him to the amount of upwards of $100,000 without the means to meet them. He again stated that the general bill would offer ample opportunity to discuss this whole subject.

The question was then taken on Mr. WISE's amendment, and it was rejected without a division.

The bill was then laid aside to be reported to the House.

From the Hartford (Conn.) Times.

A PRACTICAL COMMENT ON THE UNION OF BANK AND STATE.

It is stated in the federal papers, that "the Commonwealth Bank, the favorite pet Bank" at Boston, has stopped payment. What banks have not? But we suppose the Commonwealth bank has not only stopped payment but stopped business. If the recommendations of the President and the great measures of the administration are carried out—if us seperating the government from all banks—there will be no 'pets,' and banks like merchants will depend on their own legimate capital and business. Every day's experience, as well as common sense and common honesty, are convincing every disinterested man, that government ought not to commit its funds to institutions over which it has no control,—that the funds of the nation ought never to enter into the active business transactions of the community.

It is said by the federalists, we know not with what truth, that the government has funds in this bank to the amount of $370,000. Here then is a case brought home to the *practical* observation of every man, and all can judge of the wisdom of parting with the national treasure, and committing it to the keeping of Corporations. Although government is so largely interested in this institution Congress has no authority over it, and can institute no investigation into the proceedings of the bank which derives its power from the Legislature of Massachusetts, and is responsible to that state alone for its acts.

Had the Government taken care of its own funds—had that *separation* which the framers of the constitution intended always been observed, this loss would never have happened. Had the officers of the Government, who are *responsible* to the Government, been compelled to take charge of this money,—keep, but not use it,—it could not have been lost. It would never have gone into trade and speculation.

The funds of the Government are intended for, and can, legitimately, be applied to but one purpose, that of paying the debts of the government. Whenever those funds are diverted to any other use, whether for the benefit or injury of the Commonwealth bank, or the business wants of its customers, they are improperly applied.

We are opposed to any 'pets'—to any connection between Bank and State. Let the Government take care of its funds, and keep them to pay Government dues—let the banks attend to their own concerns, without attempting to use the money drawn from the people and belonging to the people, for their speculating operations.

From the N. Y. Daily Express.

Our merchants are now groaning aloud under the bitter pressure that the continued drawing of the Banks has inflicted upon them. They have at length reached that pass when pressure can be no longer borne, and will be no longer borne. The great body of them do not believe in the policy of the few leading Bankers that began the pressure, and they see nothing that is to be gained by it, in the existing condition of things, while, it is very clear, that if it continues, the city will sink under it, and whatever enterprise we may have can be only any affair of history.—As things are now, there is no money. There is no circulating medium.

The Banks have absorbed a large portion of the specie, and by curtailing their issues, so as to bring it to the nearest possible representation of that specie, we have at length reached the hard-mony era so much talked about, or at least we have got back to the barbarian era of barter and sale. Our city banks first refused to re-issue their own notes, when the country banks took alarm, and began to curtail, so that as their notes became scarce, the city banks, persisting in their policy, began to put forth certified checks, until we have reached a period when business must be done on those checks, or upon money issued by the banks out of the State. The late panic at the Eastward is drying up this resource, and the agitation in this city is forcing Philadelphia into a rapid curtailment, so that our merchants are cut off from the left handed aid they had in those quarters. The pressure, therefore, has become horribly severe and the time has come when something must be done.

We learn that a Committee from some of our banks is to go on to Philadelphia to-day to hold a conference with the Philadelphia banks, for the purpose of fixing a day for resumption.

If the stockholders of the banks in this city were to meet, and insist that the Directors take the management of the banks into their own hands, and make some of their officers what they ought to be, their agents, not their masters; and if this confidence could be created in the management of three or four of our leading banks, in which the public now have confidence, the merchant, the business people of all classes, might be appealed to, and invoked in public assembly solemnly to resolve, that they would disapprove of all such calls, as that they would hold all as enemies to the city who made such calls; then that credit and confidence could be re-created at once, which is the life of all bank credit.

But who can now have confidence in Banks that play the puerile game of announcing a resumption of specie payments, when they have, and give, no notes out,—when they issue certified checks, and pay not a dollar of their deposites in specie, and when, above all, after the example of the Phenix Bank, merchants are harrassed by suits to add injury to this public mockery. The Banks and the merchants have harmonised in Philadelphia and Boston, but here a few self leading Bankers, that light on this crisis in our affairs awe and over awe the smaller business Banks, and the merchants, and do more real mischief than the great fire did.

Nick Biddle beat by a little Rail Road Bank in Mississippi.—We learn from the New York Herald that the West Feliciana Rail Road Bank, at Woodville, Mississippi, had made arrangements for the redemption of its notes in New York, and that they are now at par in that city, while the notes of the Bank of the United States are at a discout of *two* per cent. Hurra for the great regulator! It is within 100 miles of the city of New York, yet cannot keep its paper at par, a task that is easily accomplished by the Woodville Bank, though the latter is more than a 1000 miles distant. As an equalizer of exchanges, too, the Woodville Bank is two per cent more potent than Mr. Nick Biddle, the *great bankrupt.*—*Nashville Union.*

Correspondence of the Balt. Republican.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25, 1838
Evening

We are once more engaged with the Mississippi Election, and Mr. Foster of New York, has made an able continuation of his argument, commenced last Friday in favor of the claims of Messrs. Claiborne and Gholson.

Mr. Foster is a very able lawyer, and has made an argument which it will be found difficult to controvert. There cannot be a doubt of the correctness of the claims of Messrs. Gholson and Claiborne, and I fancy there will be less doubt of its issue. If Messrs. Prentis and Word, who demand the seats now held by Claiborne and Gholon, are particularly anxious to become members of Congress, the best thing they can do, is to wait till after the 4th of March, 1839, and then go into the field again, and by appeal to the good people, have the contest decided by that people, for whom they profess to cherish an unusual quantity of respect and good will.

Claims more preposterous than those urged by Messrs. Prentiss and Word, were never made, and they cannot be allowed, unless the House of Representatives reverse its judgment as recorded in October. The opposition will make the best efforts it can command to oust the sitting members, and put Messrs. Prentiss and Word in their place. But, all will no avail—justice will maintain her rights, and Mississippi will continue to be represented by her able and efficient representatives, Messrs. Claiborne and Gholson.

As I shall find it impracticable, to go into a full view of this case, I shall leave it in the hands of Mr Foster and his associates, confident of the success of the sitting members and the defeat of the illegal claimants. It is not probable, that the contest will be decided to-day if indeed it is concluded during the remainder of the week.

In the Senate, the Pre emption, or squatters bill, is the order of the day. The subject is one of immense importance to the the West, and the delegations from that section of the Union, will advocate it with all the zeal and ability to which it is entitled. The bill, it is said, by those who understand it best, should pass. The question which it involves, is one that will draw a direct line of feeling between the West and the East, and lead to nothing but a scramble for the *usufruct* and *fee simple* of the public domain.

Yours, &c. J

SPIRIT OF THE CANADA PRESS.

The following is taken from the Kingston, (U. C.) Chronicle which introduces Governor Marcy's Special Message:

"HIGHLY IMPORTANT.

From the Government of the State of New York—Proclamation tantamount to a Declaration of War.

The following Document was received by this day's American mail. Its tone cannot be mistaken. *Militia of Upper Canada,* KEEP YOUR POWDER DRY."

From the Montreal Herald.

If one spark of national spirit lurks in the breast of that patron of marauding mercenaries, Lord Viscount Palmerston, Mr. Van Buren, instead of extorting any apology for the violation of his territory, will be requested to afford a satisfactory atonement for the faithless, ungrateful, and ruffianly conduct of his citizens. At all events, he and his universal nation will be obliged to swallow the alleged affront—or cold steel in its stead. Yes, cold steel vs. bullets—judgment as usual, for the plaintiff. By the bye, is not the favorite weapon of a nation a fair test of its degree of courage? Does not Jonathan's preference of the long gun and the rifle imply a taste for a safe distance? Does not John Bull's preference of the bayonet and the cutlass imply a fondness for close quarters?

THE FRONTIER.

From the Cleveland Advertiser, January 24th.

The steamboat Robert Fulton, chartered by the government, arrived here by day light this morning, under the command of Lieut HOMANS, of the Navy, bound to Detroit, having on board a detachment of U. States troops, to the number of 200, under the command of Col. Worth, of the Army.

The object in transporting these troops to Detroit, is to preserve the neutrality of our country, against the operations of the Patriot army on the Detroit River. The Fulton left Buffalo on Sunday night last, touched at Dunkirk on Monday morning, from whence the troops on board marched to the village of Fredonia, where the army of Gen Van Rensellear to the number of 300 had concentrated, with their arms and amunitions. Col. Worth, accompanied by the Deputy Marshall, of N. York, seized all their arms and amunitions and conveyed them on board of the Boat, to the amount of about 300 stands of arms.—The next movement will be to disarm and disperse the Patriot forces, to the number of several hundred, now on Gibraltar Island in the Detroit River. It is probable that the Fulton will reach there this evening.

The Detroit Morning Post of the 16th instant, gives an account of another violation of National faith, by the authorities of Upper Canada.

The sloop George Strong, Capt. Grimes, loaded with wood and baskets, bound from Swan Creek to Detroit, was fired into several times by the British forces, while lying at Bois Blanc Island, opposite the village of Malden, and was ordered to enter that port on penalty of being immediately sunk. After landing, Capt. Grimes, with his crew, three in number, all peaceable citizens of the United States, were violently seized by British armed subjects and marched to a prison, where they were confined for three days, most of which time they were without food, or wholesome water. While in prison, their vessel was unloaded and plundered of every thing valuable.

No excuse or reason for this act is given. If British officers have so far forgotten themselves and their country's honor, as not to know what is due the American Government, it is time they were taught to fear and respect her power.

As an off set to the petitions pouring into Congress from Northern females, against the admission of Texas, we understand that the colored ladies of the South are about to remonstrate against the Canada rebellion, entreating Congress "no manner ob means to low de free States to gain a panderatin influence in dis Commonwelf ob America by de admission ob dem French resurrectionists."—*New O Picayune.*

We cut the following from the Utica 'Observer', a paper claimed by the 'Conservatives' during the special session of Congress. It is most gratifying to quote this evidence of its *honest* devotion to its old party associations, and its just condemnation of the spirit and principles of the Address of the New York City 'Conservative *third* party'—*Balt. Republican.*

'The late proceedings in the city of New York of a meeting of those professed friends of the administration who are hostile to the Sub-Treasury scheme, are such, in our opinion, as no true friend of the administration can approve, or even excuse. For ourselves, we decidedly condemn them. The resolutions and address, although not designed to express open hostility to the President, might nevertheless have been adopted by a Whig meeting as they seem to be adopted by the whig press. They are tinctured with sophistry, and with unkindness, thinly disguised, towards President Van Buren; and seem to have been the production of one actuated rather by a desire to produce enmity than to sustain amicable relations with the administration. One may look in vain through them for the evidences of that party attachment which those composing the meeting profess to entertain. We regret to see such movements. They appear very much like incipient summersets into the ranks of the opposition. If it is expected that the republicans of the interior will sanction them, we have no doubt that the expectation will be utterly disappointed. So far as we know, there is but one sentiment, and that is one of entire disapprobation.'

The Editorial Convention in Richmond, Va. has closed its sitting. The Compiler contains a full detail of its proceedings with an excellent report of the relations between the publishers and subscribers to newspapers and other periodicals, which we should be pleased to give in full, could we but find room for it. Regulations were proposed that subscriptions be considered as due in advance, that no new and unknown subscriber should be taken unless payment is made in advance and that a name which has stood two years without settlement shall be ceased. Other important resolutions were proposed. The labors of the convention were closed with an editorial supper, the very remembrance of which throws the Compiler into ecstacies. On the next night, the Richmond Typographical Association held their Anniversary supper, at which many of the editors were present. We will warrant they were ready to do full justice to these splendid entertainments, but the contrast will be a sad one between this fare and that of their editorial tables, to which they must speedily return.—*Balt. Transcript.*

The Steamer Carline.—The history of few vessels is so eventful as that of the Caroline. She was built of life oak some years ago at Charleston, S. C. and was brought to Albany, between which place and Troy she plied for some time. She was then sent by the Erie and Oswego canals to Canada, when a new keel was given her, and made a British bottom. Hiving been engaged in some smuggling transactions, she was condemned and sold, thus making her an American boat again. After plying from this to various ports on the lake, she went on her ill-fated expedition down the river, and met with an end, the sublimity of which can scarcely be paralleled.

Agreeably to the position assumed by Mr. Clay, Mr. Adams and other conspicuous members of Congress, we should not be surprised to see the right of the women and children of Massachusets to petition the Kentucky Convention in favor of abolition, defended. If their right to interfere with the government of the District of Columbia should be advocated and admitted, at what point shall fanticism be arrested? We have no hesitation in giving it as our opinion, that the right of petition guaranteed by the Constitution, cannot be construed, and never was designed to be construed so as to give minors and femes covert, the privilege of distracting the country. Sane men of mature age could not be induced to lend themselves, or subscribe their names to such documents as are soberly introduced into the Congress of the U. S. by Mr. Adams and others.—Lexington Gazette.