That it was the object of this provision to place freedom of the press beyond the possible interference of Congress, as a doctrine not now advanced for the first time. It is the ground taken, and so ably sustained, by Mr. Madison, in his celebrated report to the Virginia Legislature, in 1799, against the alien and sedition law, and which conclusively settled the principle that Congress has no right in any form, or in any manner, to interfere with the freedom of the press." The establishment of this principle not only overthrew the sedition act, but was the leading cause of the great political revolution, which, in 1801, brought the republican party, with Mr. Jefferson at its head, into power.

With these remarks, the committee will turn to the sedition act, in order to show the identity in principle between it and the act which the message recommends to be passed, so far as it relates to the freedom of the press. Among its other provisions, it inflicted punishment on all persons who should publish any false, scandalous, or malicious writing against the Government, with intent to defame the same, or bring it into contemp or disrepute — Assuming this provision to be unconstitutional, as abridging the freedom of the press, which no one now doubts, it will not be difficult to show that if, instead of inflicting punishment for publishing, the act had inflicted punishment for circulating through the mail, for the same offence, it would have been equally unconstitutional. The one would have abridged the freedom of the press as effectually as the others. The object of publishing is circulation; and to prohibit publication.—They both have a common object—the communication of sentiment and opinions to the public; and the prohibition of one may as effectually suppress such communications as the prohibition of the other, and, of course, would as effectually interfere with the freedom of the press, and be equally unconstitutional.

But to understand more fully the extent of the control which the right of prohibiting circulation through the mail would give to Government over press, it must be borne in mind that the power, of Congress over the Post Office and the mail is an exclusive power. It must also be remembered that Congress, in the exercise of this power, may declare any road or navigable water to be a post road; and that, by the act of 1825, it is provided "that no stage or other vehicle, which regularly performs trips on a post road, or on a road parellel to it, shall carry letters." The same provision extends to packets, boats, or other vessels, on navigable water. Like provision may be extended to newspapers and pamphlets; which, if it be admitted that Congress has the right to discriminate, in reference to their character, what papers shall or what shall not be transmitted by the mail, would subject the freedom of the press, on all subjects, political, moral, and religious, completely to its will and pleasure. It would, in fact, in some respects, more effectually control in freedom of the press than any sedition law, however severe its penalties. The mandate of the Government alone would be sufficient to close the door against circulation through the mail, and thus, at its sole will and pleasure, might intercept all communication between the press and the people; while it would require the intervention of courts and juries to enforce the provisions of a sedition law, which experience has shown are not always passive and willing instruments in the hands of Government where the freedom of the press is concerned!

From these remarks, it must be apparent that to prohibit publication on one side, and circulation through the mail on the other, of any paper on account of its religious, moral, or political character, rests on the same principle, and that each is equally an abridgement of the freedom of the press, and a violation of the Constitution. It would, indeed, be more liberty, in the great contest of 1799, had the sedition law been put down on principles that would have left Congress free to suppress the circulation, through the mail, of the very publications which that odious act was intended to prohibit —The authors of that memorable achievement would have had but slender claims on the gratitude of posterity, if their victory over the encroachment of power had been left so imperfect.

It will, after what has been said, require but few remarks to show that the same principle which applied to the sedition law would apply equally to a law punishing, by Congress, such incendiary publications as are referred to in the message, and of course, to the passage of a law prohibiting their transmission through the mail. The principle on which the sedition act was condemned as unconstitutional was a general one not limited in its application to that act. It withdraws from Congress all right of interference with the press, in any form or shape whatever; and the sedition law was put down as unconstitutional, not because it prohibited publications against the Government, but because it interfered at all, with the press. The prohibition of any publication, on the ground of its being immoral, irreligious, or intended to excite rebellion or insurrection, would have been equally unconstitutional; and, from parity of reason, the suppression of their circulation through the mail would be no less so.

But, as conclusive as these reasons are against the right, there are others not less so, derived from the powers reserved to the States, which the committee will next proceed to consider.

The message, as has been stated, recommends that Congress should pass a law to punish the transmission through the mail, of incendiary publications, intended to instigate the slaves to insurrection. It, of course, assumes for Congress a right to determine what papers are incendiary and intended to excite insurrection. The question then is, has Congress such a right?—a question of vital importance to the slave-holding States, as will appear in the course of the discussion.

After examining this question with due deliberation, in all its bearings, the committee are of opinion, not only that Congress has not the right, but to admit it would be fatal to those States. Nothing is more clear than that the admission of the right, on the part of Congress, to determine what papers are incendiary, and as such, to prohibit their circulation through the mail, necessarily involves the right to determine what are not incendiary, and to enforce their circulation.—Nor is it less certain that to admit such a right would be virtually to clothe Congress with the power to abolish slavery, by giving it the means of breaking down all the barriers which the slave-holding States have erected for the protection of their lives and property. It would give Congress, without regard to the prohibition laws of the States, the authority to open the gates to the flood of incendiary publications which are ready to break into those States, and to punish all who dare resist as criminals.

The article is in the following words:

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the People peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

Fortunately, Congress had no such right. The internal peace and security of the States are under the protection of the States themselves, to the entire exclusion of all authority and control on the part of Congress. It belongs to them, and not to Congress, to determine what is, or is not, calculated to disturb their peace and security; and, of course, in the case under consideration, it belongs to the slave-holding States to determine what is incendiary and intended to incite to insurrection, and to adopt such defensive measures as may be necessary for their security, with unlimited means of carrying them into effect except such as may be expressly inhibited to the States by the Constitution. To establish the truth of this position, so essential to the safety of those States, it would seem sufficient to appeal to their constant exercise of this right, at all times, without restriction or question, both before and since the adoption of the Constitution. But, as a point of so much importance, which may involve the safety, if not the existence itself, of an entire section of the Union, it will be proper to rest it on its origin and to place it on a more immoveable foundation.

That the States which from our Federal Union are sovereign and independent communities, bound together by a constitutional compact, and are possessed of all the power belonging to distinct and separate States, excepting such as are delegated to be exercised by the General Government, is assumed as unquestionable. The compact itself expressly provides that all powers not delegated are reserved to the States and the people. To ascertain, then, whether the power in question is delegated or reserved, it is only necessary to ascertain whether it is to be found among the enumerated powers or not. If it be not among them, it belongs, of course, to the reserved powers. On turning to the Constitution, it will be seen that, while the power of defending the country against external dangers is found among the enumerated, the instrument is wholly silent as to the power of defending the internal peace and security of the States, and of course, reserves to the States this important power, as it stood before the adoption of the Constitution, with no other limitations, as has been stated, except such as are expressly prescribed by the instrument itself. From what has been stated, it may be inferred that the right of a State to defend itself against internal dangers is a part of the great, primary, and inherit right of self-defence, which, by the laws of nature, belongs to all communities; and so jealous were the States of this essential right, without which their independence could not be preserved, that it is expressly provided by the Constitution* that the General Government shall not assist a State, even in case of domestic violence, except on the application of the authorities of the State itself; thus excluding, by a necessary consequence, its interference in all other cases.

Having now shown that it belongs to the slaveholding States, whose institutions are in danger, and not to Congress, as is supposed by the message, to determine what papers are incendiary and intended to excite insurrection among the slaves, it remains to inquire, in the next place, what are the corresponding duties of the General Government, and the other States from within whose limits and jurisdiction their institutions are attacked—a subject intimately connected with that with which the committee are immediately charged, and which at the present juncture, ought to be fully understood by all the parties. The committee will begin with the first.

It may not be entirely useless to premise that rights and duties are reciprocal, the existence of a right always implying the corresponding duty. If consequently, the right to protect her internal peace and security belongs to a State, the General Government is bound to respect the measures adopted by her for [illegible] as far as its delegated powers may admit, or the measure may require. Thus, in the present case, the slave-holding States having the unquestionable right to pass all such laws as may be necessary to maintain the existing relations between master and slave in those States, their right, of course, to prohibit the circulation of any publication, or any incurcourse calculated to disturb or destroy that relation is incontrovertible. In the execution of the measures which may be adopted by the States for this purpose, the powers of Congress over the mail, and of regulating commerce with foreign nations and between the States, may require co-operation on the part of the General Government; and it is bound, in conformity to the principle established, to respect the laws of the State in their execution, and so to modify its acts as not only not to violate those of the States, but, as far as practicable to cooperate in their execution. The practice of the Government has been in conformity to these views.

By the act of the 28th of February, 1803, entitled "An act to prevent the importation of certain persons into certain States," where by the laws of those States, their importation is prohibited, masters or captains of ships or vessels are forbidden under severe penalty, "to import or bring, or cause to be imported or brought any negro, or mulatto, or person of color, not being native, or citizen, or registered seaman of the United States, or seamen, natives of the countries beyond the Cape of Good Hope, into any port or place which shall be situated in any State which, by law, has prohibited, or shall prohibit, the admission or importation of such negro, mulatto, or other person of color." This provision speaks for itself, and requires no illustration. It is a case in point, and fully sustaines the principle laid down. To the same effect is the act of 25th of February, 1799, respecting quarantine and health laws, which, as belonging to the internal police of the States, stand on the same ground. The act, among other things, "directs the collectors and all other revenue officers in command on the station, to co-operate faithfully in the execution of the quarantine and other restrictions which the health laws of the State may establish."

The principles embraced by these acts, in relation to the commercial intercourse of the country, are equally applicable to the intercourse by mail. There may, indeed, be more difficulty in co-operating with the States in the latter than in the former, but that cannot possibly affect the principle. Regarding it, then, as established both by reason and precedent, the committee, in conformity with it, have prepared a bill, and directed their chairman to report the same to the Senate, prohibiting, under the penalty of fine & dismission from office, any deputy postmaster, in any State, Territory, or District, from knowingly receiving and putting into the mail any letter, packet, pamphlet, paper, or pictorial representation, directed to any post office or person in a State, Territory, or District by the laws of which the circulation of the same is forbidden; and also prohibiting, under a like penalty, any deputy postmaster in said State, Territory, or District, from knowingly delivering the same except to such persons as may be authorized to receive them by the civil authority of said State, Territory, or District.

It remains next to inquire into the duty of the states from within whose limits and juris-

* See 4th article, 4th section of the constitution.

[illegible] duct on the internal peace and security of the States are endangered.

In order to comprehend more fully the nature and extent of their duty it will be necessary to make a few remarks on the relations which exist between the states of our Federal Union, with the rights and obligations [illegible] ally resulting from such relations.

It has already been stated that the States which compose our Federal Union are sovereign and independent communities, united by a constitutional compact. Among its members the laws of nations are in force and obligation, except as altered or modified by the compact; and, of course, the States are, with that exception, all the rights and are subject to all the duties, which separate and distinct communities possess, or to which they are subject. Among there are comprehended the obligation which all States are under to prevent their citizens from disturbing the peace or endangering the security of other States; and, in case of being disturbed or endangered, the right of the latter to adopt such measures as will prevent their recurrence, and if refused or neglected, to resort to such measures as its protection may require. This right remains, of course, in force among the States of this union, with such limitations as are imposed expressly by the Constitution. Within their limits, the rights of the slave-holding States are full to demand of the States within whose limits and jurisdiction their peace is assailed, to adopt the measures necessary to prevent the same, and, if refused or neglected, to resort to means to protect themselves, as if they were separate and independent communities.

Those States, on the other hand, are not only under all the obligations which independent communities would be to adopt such measures, but also under the obligation which the constitution superadds—rendered more sacred, if possible, by the fact that, while the Union imposes restrictions on the right of the slave-holding States to defend themselves, it affords the medium though which their peace and security are assailed. It is not the province of the committee to inquire what these restrictions are and what are the means which, under the Constitution, are left to the slave-holding States to protect themselves. The period has not yet come, and they trust never will, when it may be necessary to decide those questions; but come it must, unless the States abandon their duty it is to suppress the danger shall seem to this its magnitude, and the obligations which they are under to adopt speedy and effectual measures to arrest its further progress. That the full force of this obligation may be understood by all parties, the committee propose, in conclusion, to touch briefly on the movements of the abolitionists, with the view of showing the dangerous consequences to which they must lead if not arrested.

Their professed object is the emancipation of slaves in the Southern States, which they propose to accomplish through the agency of organized societies, spread throughout the non-slaveholding States, and a powerful press, directed mainly, to excite, in the latter States hatred and abhorrence against the institutions and citizens of the slaveholding States, by addresses, lectures, and pictorial representations, abounding in false and exaggerated statements.

If the magnitude of the mischief excited, in any degree, the measure by which is judged the criminality of a project, few have ever been devised to be compared with the present, whether the end be regarded, or the means by which it is proposed to be accomplished. The blindness of fanaticism is proverbial. With more zeal than understanding, it constantly misconceives the nature of the object at which it aims, and towards which it rushes with headlong violence, regardless of the means by which it is to be effected. Never was its character more [illegible] than in the [illegible] doing [illegible] the abstract principle that slavery is an evil, the fanatical zealots come at once to the conclusion that it is their duty to abolish it, regardless of all the diseases which must follow. Never was conclusion more false or dangerous. Admitting their assumption, there are innumerable things which, regarded in the abstract, are evils, but which it would be madness to attempt to abolish. Thus regarded, Government itself is an evil, with most of its institutions intended to protect life and property, comprehending the civil as well as the criminal and military code, which are not rated only because to abolish them would be to increase instead of diminishing the evil. The reason is equally applicable to the case under consideration; to illustrate which a few remarks on slavery, as it actually exists in the Southern States, will be necessary.

He who regards slavery in those States simply under relation of master and slave, as important as that relation is, viewed merely as a question of property to the slave holding section of the Union, has a very imperfect conception of the institution, and the impossibility of abolishing it without disasters unexampled in the history of the world. To understand its nature and importance fully, it must be borne in mind that slavery, as it exists in the Southern States, (including under the Southern all the slave-holding States) involves not only the relation of master and slave, but also the social and political relations of two races, of nearly equal numbers, from different quarters of the globe, and the most opposite of all others in every particular that distinguishes one race of men from another. Emancipation would destroy these relations—would divest the masters of their property, and subvert the relation, social and political, that has existed between the races from almost the first settlement of the Southern States.

It is not the intention of the Committee to dwell on the pecuniary aspect of this vital subject, the vast amount of property involved, equal at least to $950,000,000; the ruin of families and individuals; the impoverishment and prostration of an entire section of the Union, and the fatal blow that would be given to the production of the great agricultural staples, on which the commerce, the navigation, the manufacturers, and the revenue of the country, almost entirely depend. As great as these disasters would be, they are nothing compared to what must follow the subversion of the existing relations between the two races, to which the Committee will confine their remarks.

Under this relation, the two races have long lived in peace and prosperity, and, if not disturbed, would long continue so to live. While the European race has rapidly increased in wealth and number, at the same time has maintained an equality, at least morally and intellectually, with their brethren of the non-slaveholding States, the African race has multiplied with not less rapidity, accompanied by great improvement, physically and intellectually, & the enjoyment of a degree of comfort with which the laboring class in few countries can compare, & confessedly greatly superior to what the free people of the same race possess in the non-slaveholding States. It may, indeed, be safely asserted that there is no example in history in which a savage people, such as their ancestors were when brought into the country, have ever advanced in the same period so rapidly in numbers and improvement.

To destroy the existing relations would be to destroy this prosperity, and to place the two races in a state of conflict, which must end in the expulsion or extirpation of one of the other. Neither can be substituted, compatible with their peace or security. The difficulty is in the diversity of the races.—So strongly drawn is the line between the two, in consequence of it, and so strengthened by the forces of habit and education, that it is impossible for them to exist together in the same community where their numbers are so nearly equal as in the slaveholding States, under any other relation than that which now exists. Social and political equality between them is impossible. No power on earth can overcome the difficulty. The causes resisting lie too deep in the principles of our nature to be surmounted.—Any attempt such an equality, to change the present condition of the African race, were it possible, would be but to change the form of slavery. It would make them the slaves of the community, instead of the slaves of individuals, with less responsibility and interest in their welfare on the part of the community than is felt by their present masters; while it would destroy the security and independence of the European race, if the African should be permitted to continue in their changed condition within the limits of those States. They would look to the other States for support and protection, and would become, virtually, their allies and dependants; and would thus place in the hands of those States the most effectual instrument to destroy the influence and control the destiny of the rest of the Union.

It is against this relation between the two races that the blind and criminal zeal of the abolitionist is directed—a relation that now preserves in quiet and security more than 6,500,000 human beings, and which cannot be destroyed without destroying the peace and prosperity of nearly half the States of the Union, and involving their entire population in a deadly conflict, that must terminate either in the expulsion or extirpation of those who are the object of the misguided and false humanity of those who claim to be their friends.

He must be blind, indeed, who does not perceive that the subversion of a relation which must be followed with such disasterous consequences can only be effected by convulsions that would devastate the country, burst asunder the bonds of the Union, and in gulf in a sea of blood, the institutions of the country. It is madness to suppose that the slaveholding States would quietly submit to be sacrificed. Every consideration—interest, duty, and humanity; the love of country, the sense of wrong, hatred of oppressors, and treacherous and faithless confederates, and finally, despair, would impell them to the most daring and desperate resistance in defence of property, family, country, liberty, and existence.

But, wicked and cruel as is the end aimed at, it is fully equalled by the criminality of the means by which it is proposed to be accomplished. These, as has been stated, consist in organized societies and a powerful press directed mainly with a view to excite the bitterest animosity and hatred of the people of the non-slaveholding States against the citizens and institutions of the slaveholding States. It is easy to see to what disastrous results such means must tend.—Passing over the more obvious effects, their tendency to excite insurrection and servile war, with all its horrors, and the necessity which such tendency must impose on the slave-holding States, to resort to the most rigid discipline and severe police to the great injury of the present condition of the slaves, there remains another threatening incalculable mischief to the country.

The inevitable tendency of the means to which the abolitionists have resorted to effect their object must, if persisted in, end in completely alienating the two great sections of the Union. The incessant action of hundreds of societies, and a vast printing establishment, throwing out daily thousands of artful and inflammatory publications, must make in time a deep impression on the section of the Union where they freely circulate and are mainly designed to have effect. The well-informed and thoughtful may hold them in contempt, but the young, the inexperienced, the ignorant and thoughtless will receive the poison. In process of time, when the number of proselytes is sufficiently multiplied, the artful and profligate, who are ever on the watch to seize on any means, however wicked and dangerous, will unite with the fanatics, and make their movements the basis of a powerful political party, that will seek advancement by diffusing, as widely as possible, hatred, against the slaveholding States.—But, as hatred begets hatred and animosity, animosity, these feelings would become reciprocal, till every vestige of attachment would cease to exist between the two sections, when the Union and the Constitution, the offspring of mutual affection and confidence, would forever perish.

Such is the danger to which the movements of the abolitionists expose the country. If the force of the obligation is in proportion to the magnitude of the danger, stronger cannot be imposed, than is at present, on the States within whose limits the danger originates to arrest its further progress: a duty they owe not only to the States whose institutions are assailed, but to the Union and Constitution, as has been shown, and it may be added to themselves.—The sober and considerate portions of the citizens of the non-slaveholding States, who have a deep stake in the institutions of the country, would have little forecast not to see that the assaults which are now directed against the institutions of the Southern States may be very easily directed against those which uphold their own property and security. A very slight modification of the arguments used against the institutions which sustain the property and security of the South, would make them equally effectual against the institutions of the North, including banking, in which so vast an amount of its property and capital are invested. It would be well for those interested to reflect whether there now exists, or ever has existed, a wealthy and civilized community, in which one portion did not live on the labor of another; and whether the form in which slavery exists in the South is not but one modification of this universal condition; and, finally, whether any other, under all the circumstances of the case, is more defensible, or stands on stronger ground of necessity. It is time to look these questions in the face. Let those who are interested remember that labour is the only source of wealth, and how small a portion of it, in all old and civilized countries, even the best governed, is left to those by whose labor wealth is created. Let them also reflect how little volition or agency the operatives in any country have in the question of its distribution—as little, with a few exceptions, as the African of the slave-holding States has in the distribution of the proceeds of his labor.—Nor is it the less oppressive, that of the one case it is effected by the stern and powerful will of the Government, and in the other by the more feeble and flexible will of a master. If one be an evil, so is the other. The only difference is in the amount and mode of the exaction and distribution, and the agency by which they are effected.

It was reported in Washington, a few days since, that Col. CROCKETT had died in Texas, a short time after his arrival there.

50,000 Bushels *Oats* have arrived at New York from London!

EASTON, MD.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1836.

DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES.

FOR PRESIDENT,

MARTIN VAN BUREN,

OF NEW YORK.

FOR VICE PRESIDENT,

RICHARD M. JOHNSON,

OF KENTUCKY.

Our citizens have been envying their friends abroad their merry sleighing, and had given up all hope of enjoying the cold comforts of this delightful pastime. But yesterday morning opened to the eyes of our delighted belles and beaux a vission as white as *snow*! 'Twas the thing itself. The jingling bells announced the fact, and the poor quadrupeds smoked it. However, unless a sleigh is well filled, it makes an *empty show*, and looks as comfortless as an Esquimaux sledge. Look to it gents and don't be selfish: stow close and don't forget the ladies; for they are the very flower of company and magnet of attraction, even in a sleigh ride.

The Nashville affair—the insurrection and burning of the Bank—which we have seen going the rounds in the papers, turns out to be a hoax. We wish the "quiz" all the rigors of the inestimable code of laws, vulgarly styled or better known as Lynching!

The discussion of the Reform question and the transaction of some minor business, appear to engross the whole attention of the Legislature.

MY LORDS AND LADIES!

The Sheep is killed and cut into halves!

It appears from the latest list published of the stockholders in the United States Bank, the following "my lords and ladies" names are found:—the Right Honorable Sarah Countess Dowager of Castle Stuart; The Most Honorable Francis C. S., Marquis of Hatf. Conway; the Right Honorable Lord Henry Viscount Gage; the Reverend George Gordon, Dean of Lincoln; Mrs. Candelaria tradi de Bell; Sir William Keppel, General in his British Majesty's forces, Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath, &c.; Sir Marmaduke Warren Peacock, Lieutenant General, &c. &c.; J. K. Pindar; Earl Beauchamp; Augusta L. C. Dowager Van Pallant; Sir Edward Tucker, &c. &c.

This highly flattering list must be very satisfactory to the aristocracy of this country, who are ever ready and willing to greet the right honorables—the exquisites—and extreme august nobles of other countries, and feel themselves honored by their most gracious names and patronage.

REPORT IN THE SENATE.

We devote a large space of our paper today to the Report of Mr. Calhoun from the select committee to whom was referred that portion of the President's Message which relates to the attempts to circulate, through the mail, inflammatory appeals, to excite the slaves to insurrection.

It will be found a lucid and in many respects a satisfactory document. So much as pertains to a restriction of the power exercised by Deputy Postmasters, to effect the prohibition of incendiary publications through the mail, will be conceded by all, as proper and just, who have the tranquility of the slaveholding States at heart. We are not aware of the action yet had upon the bill accompanying the Report, but should it pass in the form in which we have seen it, Deputy Postmasters will be bound by a very rigid observance, and become amenable for receiving or transmitting, knowingly and intentionally, any pamphlet, newspaper, handbill, or other paper, printed or written, or pictorial representation, touching the subject of slavery, addressed to any person or post office in any State, Territory, or District, whereby the laws of the said State, Territory, or District, their circulation is prohibited.

Touching the freedom of speech and the liberty of the press, is approaching a subject as delicate as it is sacred; yet no one can reasonably object to a moderate course of Legislation upon the subject that has emanated the report; especially when it is clearly seen the interests and safety of the slave-holding States are involved, and that it can be done at the same time without affecting those inestimable rights which it would be sacrilege to disturb.

We are fully impressed with the delicacy and importance of the subject, and repose a firm reliance in the wisdom of those to whom the matter is entrusted.

The destruction of the Methodist Book concern will account for the delay of the Christian Advocate for a short time. The whole edition printed for this week has been destroyed. The subscribers to that paper throughout the country will receive an extra in a few days and the publication of the paper will be resumed, as soon as the necessary arrangement can be completed; probably, at the regular time of next week.

Gov. Ritner approved the U. S. Bank will on the 18th inst.

GREAT FIRE IN NEW YORK.
METHODIST BOOK CONCERN DESTROYED.

About 4 o'clock on Thursday morning, the "Methodist Book Concern" in Mulberry St. N. York, was entir ly destroyed by fire. Loss sustained at about $250,000—only $40,000 insured.

The printing establishment of the Concern was very extensive—giving employment to between 60 and 70 compositors, and 32 presses, including one Napier. A great amount of stereotype plates was destroyed in the printing office, together with all the presses, types, &c.

The whole number of persons turned out of employ by this calamity, including females employed in folding, stitching, &c. is between two and three hundred.

IN SENATE.

MONDAY, February 22, 1836.

Mr. BENTON presented the credentials of the Honorable Robert J. Walker, elected by the Legislature of Mississippi a Senator from that State, to serve for six years from the 4th of March last.

The usual oath to support the constitution of the United States, was then administered to Mr. Walker by the Vice President, and he took his seat in the Senate.

The following message was received from the President of the United States by Mr. Donelson, his Secretary; which was read.

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

I transmit, herewith, to Congress, copies of the correspondence between the Secretary of State, and the Charge d'Affaires of his Britannic Majesty, relative to the mediation of Great Britain in our disagreement with France, and to the determination of the French Government to execute the treaty of indemnification, without further delay, on the application for payment by the agent of the United States.

The grounds upon which the mediation was accepted will be found fully developed in the correspondence. On the part of France the mediation had been publicly accepted before the offer of it could be received here. Whilst each of the two Governments has thus discovered a just solicitude to resort to all honorable means of adjusting amicably the controversy between them, it is a matter of congratulation that the mediation has been rendered unnecessary. Under such circumstances the anticipation may be confidently indulged that the disagreement between the United States and France will not have produced more than a temporary estrangement. The healing effects of time, a just consideration of the powerful motives for a cordial good understanding between the two nations, the strong inducements each has to respect and esteem the other, will no doubt soon obliterate from their remembrance all traces of that disagreement.

Of the elevated and disinterested part the Government of Great Britain has acted, and was prepared to act, I have already had occasion to express my high sense. Universal respect, and the consciousness of meriting it, are with Governments as with men, the just rewards of those who faithfully exert their power to preserve peace, restore harmony, and perpetuate good will.

I may be permitted, I trust, at this time, without a suspicion of the most remote desire to throw off censure from the Executive, or to point it to any other Department or branch of the Government, to refer to the want of effective preparation in which our country was found at the late crisis. From the nature of our institutions, the movements of the Government in preparation for hostilities, must ever be too slow for the exigences of unexpected war. I submit it then to you, whether the first duty we owe to the people who have confided to us their power is not, to place our country in such an attitude as always to be so amply supplied with the means of self-defence as to afford no inducements to other nations to presume upon our forbearance, or to expect important advantages from a sudden assault, either upon our commerce, our sea coast, or our interior frontier. In case of the commencement of hostilities during the recess of Congress, the time necessarily elapsing before that body could be called together, even under the most favorable circumstances, would be pregnant with danger; and if we escaped without signal disaster or national dishonor, the hazard of both unnecessarily incurred, could not fail to excite a feeling of deep reproach. I earnestly recommend it you, therefore, to make such provisions that in no future time shall we be found without ample means to repel aggression, even although it may come upon us without a note of warning. We are now fortunately so situated that the expenditure for this purpose will not be felt, and if it were, it would be approved by those from whom all its means are derived, and for whose benefit only it should be used with a liberal economy and an enlightened forecast.

In behalf of these suggestions I cannot forbear recalling the wise precepts of one whose counsels cannot be forgotten: "The United States ought not to indulge a persuasion that, contrary to the order of human events, they will forever keep at a distance those pain ul appeals to arms with which the history of every other nation abounds. There is a rank due to the United States among nations which will be withheld, if not absolutely lost, by the reputation of weakness. If we desire to avoid insult we must be able to repel it. If we desire to secure peace, one of the most powerful instruments of our rising prosperity, it must be known that we are at all times ready for war."

ANDREW JACKSON.

FEBRUARY 22, 1836.

[We will publish the correspondence between Mr. Bankhead, the British Charge, and Mr. Forsyth on Tuesday next.]

By yesterday's mail.

Important.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF SPANISH AMERICA.

A letter from an *unquestionable* source in Havana has just been communicated to us from which we make the following translation:

"HAVANA, 27th January.

"By news lately received from Spain, we *know* that the Cortes HAVE DECREED the acknowledgement of the independance of America.

LONDON FASHIONS FOR JANUARY.

From the New Monthly Belle Assemblee.

EVENING DRESS.—White crape robe over white satin, the coursage is cut very low pointed at the bottom and draped low on the bosom, with a perpendicular fold in the centre of the breast. The top of the coursage is bordered with blood standing up. A knot of white satin ribbon is attached upon the drapery at the bottom of the folds, and another on the point. The ends from this latter are raised, and descend nearly to the bottom of the skirt, where they terminate in a bow and ends; another is placed on the twist of ribbon nearly at the knee. Short full sleeves ornamented in very novel manner with bows of ribbon. Italian turban of blue gauze, trimmed with white esprite, and a white ostrich feather formed in the shape of the plumage of a bird of paradise.

FULL DRESS.—Under dress of deep straw coloured satin, over which is an open robe of white blond lace, the ground plain with a very superb border; the fronts are lightly round-

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