FEB. 15.

Mr. M'Duffie will to-day move the House to take up his resolution to amend the Constitution in relation to the election of President and Vice President.

By a sort of Congressional *valanche*, as one of the gentlemen afterwards called it, the Senate found itself yesterday unexpectedly engaged in debating the powers of Congress in regard to works of improvement within the states of the Union. The interest which pervades Congress at present, on this important subject, was, mainifested, we think, on this occasion, by the fact, that the question which gave rise to the debate was the least formidable of the kind to the opposers of the power—being a proposition to authorize a survey merely, with a view to the improvement of the inland navigation in one of the Southern States; and the decision on the proposition, divested as it is of many of the objections urged against the full exercise of the power of internal improvement, would be a little startling to the friends of that power, if it were not for the hope that some of the members voted against the object from a fear of embarrassing the main object of the bill, to which it was proposed to be attached as an amendment, by adopting it. The debate, though somewhat discursive, elicited much information, was animated, and not a little interesting, as most debates are which are somewhat piquant.

FEB. 16.

In the Senate, the bill for the survey of a route for a canal across the Peninsula of Florida, was the subject of a discussion the whole day, and was ordered to be engrossed for its third reading.—During the discussion, Mr. Johnson, of Louisiana, stated that 150,000 tons of shipping were employed in the commerce of the Mississippi—that 782 vessels entered the port of New Orleans during the year 1825: and that he had received a schedule of all the vessels lost on the Bahama Banks and the Straihts of Florida, last year; that they amounted to sixty four vessels; that the first five amounted to $487,000, and the whole loss of the balance would exceed $700,000.

In the House of Representatives, yesterday, Mr. Forsyth introduced resolutions on the subject of repealing and modifying parts of the act of March, 1819, in relation to the Slave Trade. Mr. Storrs, of New York, introduced a resolution relative to an amendment of the Constitution, as to the appointment of U. States Senators, which his resolution proposes to be made by electors in each state.—On motion by Mr. Estill, of Va. the committee on Military pensions were instructed to inquire into the expediency of amending the laws relating to Revolutionary Pensioners. A motion was made by Mr. Johnson, of Kentucky, to reconsider the decision of the House rejecting the resolution offered by Mr. Miner, of Pennsylvania, having reference to the proposed break water. The House then went into Committee on the Navy Appropriation Bill, which was ordered to a third reading to-morrow.

FEB. 17.

The Senate yesterday was occupied nearly the whole day in the consideration of Executive business.

In the house of Representatives, the resolution offered by Mr. Miner, of Pa. in relation to the Breakwater in the Delaware Bay, which has occupied the house for some days, was finally adopted.—Mr. Cocke, of Tenn, introduced a resolution on the subject of giving a fixed compensation to the officers of the Army and Marines, in lieu of allowances.—The house then went into Committee of the whole on the state of the Union, when Mr. McDuffie completed his argument in a speech of near three hours in length.

FEB. 18.

In the Senate, a bill was reported for the relief of Otway Burns, and the report of the Committee on Foreign Relations against the petition of Alexander Scott, was agreed to. The Senate were in executive business until after 3 o'clock.

In the House of Representatives yesterday an interesting report from the Secretary of War was transmitted by the President, in relation to the site for an arsenal at Augusta in Georgia. Mr. Cambreleng introduced a resolution calling for the monthly statements of the affairs of the United States Bank for the last year. On motion of Mr. Cook, of Illinois, the Committee on Public Lands were instructed to consider the expediency of allowing certain privileges to settlers near the Lead Mines in Illinois.—The House then went into committee of the whole on the state of the Union when Mr. Storrs delivered an able speech, which occupied about two hours, in opposition to M'Duffie's proposition to amend the Constitution. Mr. Alexander, of Virginia, from the Committee on the District of Columbia, made an adverse report on the subject of a Territorial Government.

The House adjourned till Monday.

Kidnapping.—The Mayor of Philadelpia has received a communication from the state of Mississippi, stating that a man who calls himself Ebenezer F. Johnson, and says that his residence is in Accomac county, Virginia, had been stopped in that state with three black boys and two black women, whom he offered for sale, and the body of a black boy in his wagon, who had died on the day upon which he was stopped, in consequence, it was supposed, of excessive beating. He had sold one boy in Alabama, who, with the boys he had with him, and one of the girls claimed to be entitled to freedom. Johnson stated that he had purchased them of his brother and Thomas Collins, and by whom he had been deceived if the blacks were free. One of the women said her name was Mary Fisher, that she was born free in this state, that she had lived some time in Smyrna and Wilmington, that she was hired near Elkton when she was stolen, whence she was carried to *Joseph Johnson's* house near Cannon's Ferry, where she remained some time. The boys were all kidnapped in Philadelphia, and the Mayor is employed in collecting testimony to prove their claim to freedom, to be forwarded to Mississippi, for the purpose of procuring their release, and the punishment of Johnson.—*Del. Gazette.*

THOMAS JEFFERSON.

We do not know, says the Baltimore Patriot, when our feelings were more painfully excited for the seeming fate of genius and patriotism, than when our eyes caught the extracts which we make below. Although we were aware that Mr. Jefferson had suffered some years back by endorsments, yet we were under a full conviction that he was living in his retirement in ease and affluence. To find the reverse to be the fact—to find the great AUTHOR OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, in poverty and on the verge of bankruptcy, at his advanced age, is to our minds most serious and appaling. If no more direct and feasible mode can be devised to rid this venerable patriarch of his difficulties, we hope the Legislature of his state, to which he appeals, will cheerfully and gracefully grant his request; if it deprives us of our bread we will throw our mite into his scheme, for relief.

From the proceedings of the Legislature of Virginia of Wednesday week, we extract the following:

Mr. Loyall observed, that he rose under embarrassed feelings. He was about to discharge a task which gave him pain not from a sense of the impropriety of the measure asked, but from the nature of the task itself, and the melancholy reasons which had rendered it necessary. He rose to ask leave to bring in a bill authorising THOMAS JEFFERSON to dispose of his estate by lottery. It would take no money from the treasury, nor abridge the right of any individual. It was in favor of a man who had devoted more than 60 years of his life to the public service—a great benefactor of mankind. The poor boon he asked, in the extremity of his fortunes, was to be allowed to do that, which he could not do without an act of the General Assembly. Would it be asked how he had become so involved? How with a patrimony so large, he had become reduced in his old age to poverty? He had become so in the performance of public services.—Since the dawn of manhood, he had devoted the energies of his soul and body to the service of his country, and the cause of mankind. Mr. Loyall proceeded in an eloquent manner, to enumerate the cause which had impaired Mr. Jefferson's ample patrimony and reduced him in the extremity of his age, to the verge of bankruptcy. Until his retirement from the Presidency in 1808, his attention to public duties had been unremitted from the commencement of the Revolutionary War. These duties had necessarily excluded attention to his private affairs, and involved him in embarrassments which continuing to this day and increased by his general, unavoidable and munificent hospitality, since his retreat to private life, had at length driven him, to the necessity of making this application to the Legislature of his native state. Travellers from every part of the union, and of the civilized world, particularly since the establishment of the University, made pilgrimages to Monticello, and it was not in the noble and generous nature of Mr. Jefferson to repress their visits, nor to curtail his hospitality. These expenses were incident to his name and his character, and who among us would desire that he should do so, or for the few years that he might yet linger among us, be compelled to seek some hiding place in his mountain?—How was it proposed to relieve him? By allowing him a privilege which invaded the rights of no man—which took nothing from the treasury. Mr. Loyall stated that within the last 40 years, more than 70 examples of lotteries authorised by the state were to be found—that a counteracting policy would force us again to resort to them—and that thousands were drawn annually from Virginia to construct the roads and canals of the northern states. He appealed to no political feelings but desired that the application should rest on its intrinsic merits.

Messrs. Duncan and M'Lean.—We noticed some weeks ago the disagreement between Messrs. Duncan and M'Lean, and the Presbyterian Synod, & stated that it terminated in their withdrawing from the Synod, and in their congregations being declared to be vacant. We are now informed from a respectable source, that the congregations have sided with their pastors and prefer their instructions to the visitation of the grand hiaerchy. The congregation of Mr. M'Leau was unanimous in its decision and the vacant pews in Mr. Duncan's church are sought after with avidity and are raised to double the former price.

FOREIGN.

Translated for the National Gazette.

From the "Diario do Rio de Janeiro," of December 17.

DECREE or DECLARATION of WAR

The Government of the United Provinces of Rio de La Plata having committed acts of hostility against this Empire without provocation, or previous formal declaration of war, rejecting thus the forms established among civilized nations, it is required by the dignity of the Brazilian People and the rank which belongs to us among powers, that I, having heard my Council of State, should Declare, as I now do, WAR against the said Provinces and their Government—directing that by sea and land, all possible hostilities be waged upon them; authorising such armaments as my subjects may please to use against that nation—declaring that all captures or prizes of whatever nature, shall accrue entirely to the captors, without any deduction in favour of the public treasury. [Follows the regulation for the publication and distribution of the Decree.]

Rio de Janeiro, 10th December, 1825; fourth year of the Independence and the Empire.

The commencement of war between Brazil and the Patriot provinces of La Plata, is the commencement of the last act of the great drama of S. American Emancipation. The energies of the whole line of independent States will, if such a force be necessary, be concentrated upon Brazil, and Don Pedro, like Don Iturbide, will be taught that in America, the love of rule—ambition if you please—is so general among the people, that every man claims, and will enforce his right with the bayonet, a crown of sovereignty for his own head; and whoever, whether Peasant, Prince, or Potentate, assumes one to the prejudice of every, or any other man's crown, will soon want a head to wear it on. In our opinion the Patriots only waited for an excuse to send Pedro to the tomb of American Royalists Their work in Spanish America was drawing to a close; a royalist foot scarcely seared the soil of that region; but their neighbors of Brazil yet proclaimed to the world, that America was yet degraded with royalty, and a species of royalty, too, so close in affinity, to that from which they had so recently emerged, to permit them to contemplate it with composure. The curtain has risen, therefore, for the fifth act of the drama, and although former acts have not been without catastrophes of extreme interest, the closing scene of this will exhibit the yet more interesting one of the entire emancipation of South America, by the dethronement, if not decapitation of Pedro, the second and last American Emperor.

The death of the Emperor Alexander, as well in the manner of it, as in its probable consequences, is we observe the theme of several of our public Journals, as it was those of Europe at the last dates. The annexed extract of a letter to the editors of this paper, from a person whose means of information are accurate, will, we think, do away the notion that the Emperor was murdered, while his dying declaration of Constantine as his successor, renders the speculations concerning a contested succession more visionary.—*N. York American.*

Extract of a letter, dated

LONDON, 22d Dec.

Yesterday I dined with —. He had been at the Foreign Office in the morning, where he learned the cause of the Emperor of Russia's death. It appears that he was at Tadganrock, on the sea of Asoph, with his Empress, to whom he had been recently recolciled after a long rupture, and was enjoying the festivities of the occasion, when he took a severe cold, by which he entirely lost his voice. From this attack it was supposed he had recovered, but having exposed himself somewhat, he had a relapse, which occasioned a defluction on his chest that soon terminated his existence, having however, in his "testament mortuaire" named Constantine as his successor.—Thus are put to shame the fabricators of the many idle stories of assassination, which filled the papers of England and of the continent, and placing beyond question the fact, that an Emperor of Russia may, like other men, die a natural death. His life was justly considered here as one of great importance to the repose & quiet of Europe, and his death consequently gives rise to anxiety and solicitude. The Holy Alliance has lost the spirit that animated it, & we a friend and umpire in cases of difficulty.

If France is wise she will avail herself of this event to assert her ancient claim to rank as the first power, in Europe:—and if that assertion be accompanied with some favor to more liberal principles and policy, the recognition of the new American states may be a consequence: it is one which I have no doubt has long been desired on her part, but which from her connexion with Spain, and fear of Russia, has up to this moment been looked upon as an event rather commercially to be wished for, than politically likely to take place.

Constantine I.—A French writer of an account of the triumphant entry of the Allied Army into Paris, 1814, gives the following description of the Arch Duke Constantine, now Emperor of Russia.—"He is tall, stout, well made, with a fair complexion; his profile is scarcely human, his nose that of a monkey; he is near sighted, contracting his eyes when looking attentively, which are covered with uncommonly large light eyebrows, his voice is hoarse and husky, he has a rough soldier like manner, is sarcastic yet affable and witty."

Public curiosity stands on tiptoe in anticipation of the next arrival. The death of Alexander throws every thing into doubt, uncertainty and conjecture. The question is asked, will Constantine tread in the footsteps of the policy of his departed brother; or will he break loose from all the diplomatic chains and ligatures at once? Even commerce must in a measure participate in the unsettled state of things occasioned by the death of the Russian monarch. In this we have a practical illustration of the stability, as it is pompously denominated, of legitimate governments. It may, as in the present instance, put the important question of peace or war on the life or the death of a single individual—the successor of the reigning monarch may run counter to the whole system of policy adopted by his predecessor. In our late war it is said to have been the boast of a British officer, that he had entertained a design of capturing and of carrying off all the heads of department on board of an English frigate to London. Suppose this plan had been put in execution; an American would immediately ask, what then? The war would be brought no nearer to a conclusion—the people would have supplied the vacancy by election, and hostilities would have been continued the same as if no such casualty had taken place. Such is the difference between a monarchy and a republic.

A dreadful accident happened on the 26th of December, at Augustinian Friary Chapel in Callan, Ireland. The building was crowded to suffocation, when a cry arose perfectly unfounded, that the gallery was falling. A frantic rush towards the only door common to the floor and gallery took place. Women and children were instantly crushed to death or suffocated just outside the door where they fell. Immediately a pile of five feet deep, of the dead, dying, and half suffocated accumulated at the door. At this time another cry that the kitchen under the Chapel was on fire added to the terror of the scene. Fourteen persons were killed and one hundred suffered from contusions and broken limbs.

[BY REQUEST.]

From the Centreville Times.

MR. SPENCER:

I observe by the papers, giving the report of the proceedings of the Legislature that the gentlemen appointed as a Committee on Internal Improvements, have made their Report, recommending the appropriation of the sum of $1,000,000 towards the completion of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, and likewise the sum of $500,000 towards the construction of a lateral canal, to intersect the former. In addition to this, under the restriction of a trifling circumstance, they would also recommend the further appropriation of the sum of $500,000 for the improvement of the navigation of the Susquehanna river.

Now, Mr. Spencer, I ask you, if it cannot be thought, that this subject so important in its intended operations, ought not to have required more the attention of the Committee to whom it was referred, than the time they have consumed, authorize us to believe they bestowed upon it.

I am aware, that the negative of this subject is an unpopular one with many individuals, particularly the citizens of the Western Shore, but the liberal men of the affirmative, I hope will agree, that the still small voice, even if dissenting, ought in all cases to be heard.

The state of Maryland, is divided into 19 counties—but 5 of which, if I understand the correct location of the proposed Canal, will be *particularly & substantially* benefitted by it—I mean those counties bordering on, or through which, the proposed Canal is to be cut, will be the only ones to which it will afford any direct and immediate advantage. This fact, I conceive to be palpable—owing altogether to the geographical situation of this state.

The strong advocates of this Canal, who reside principally in Frederick county and Baltimore city, have drawn a fund of argument from the fact of the existence of, and the immense advantages derivable from the New-York canal—but indeed their own peculiar interest has anticipated the decisions of their judgment, and urged them hastily to decide upon this very important subject. The New York Canal has its *entire course in the State of New York*, of a mean length of 400 miles:—the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, will probably extend 1-7 of the way through the State of Maryland,—the N. York canal has been cut through sections of country, many portions of it heretofore useless, and valueless, and after coursing the above extent, empties finally into the Hudson river at Albany, 160 miles from the emporium of the State;—making in all, an extent of at least 700 miles of State territory which is immediately benefitted by it. Maryland, on the contrary will enjoy 1-7th of the extent—its resources will be appropriated to the completion of a work, which while it will enfeeble one portion of the State will create commercial rivals in both Washington and Alexandria; the latter of which, I am not sure, but that without at all sharing the labor and expence, will equally divide the advantage, and share the profit with Baltimore. This is a fact the advocates of the canal seemed to have everlooked; and, after Washington becomes a port of entry, doubtless it will also share with its more fortunate neighbor, the profits of the Herculean labor of its sister state. Poor Eastern Shore thy day will be short. Your already embarrassed population, will have to seek support and wealth, either in a strange part of your own, or a neighboring state;—and while you contribute with one hand to place the yoke upon your neck, the other will be grovelling in the earth for nourishment.

CAUTION.

Practical.—We have read much and written something relative to rail-ways and steam carriages, and have endeavored to show their utility and economy, still the experiment is untried in this country. Mr. Carter sets the matter at rest. In his last letter he says:—

As we were anxious to witness the operation of steam carriages upon rail-roads, he walked with us a mile from town, exposed to the oppressive heat of a mid-day sun, where our curiosity was fully gratified. After waiting an hour, we had the satisfaction to see twenty five wagons, containing three tons of coal each; impelled, or rather drawn along a horizontal rail-road, by a steam engine possessing a six horse power. It was a most novel and interesting spectacle. The steam carriage is placed in front and the whole apparatus is not much larger than an ordinary Jersey wagon. To this the 25 four-wheeled cars are appended by chains, and follow in obedience to the self-moving power.—One man, whose services are required to regulate the machinery, is the sole navigator, and even he has little to do.—When the boiler is exhausted he has only to throw the engine out of gear, stop by the road side, and pump in a supply. Impelled by curiosity, we mounted one of the carts and rode a considerable distance. The ordinary progress is four miles the hour, but of course may be greatly accelerated if necessary.

There are several engines upon this rail way, which ply regularly between extensive collieries and the town, a distance of three or four miles. It is odd enough to see the smoke arising, like that of a steam boat, and the carts moving about at a distance, with no visible agent to move or govern them. The experiment has here been fairly and successfully tried, and I see no reason why transportation by steam is not as practicable upon land as upon water. The great desideratum seems to have been a guiding power, and that is effectually provided by the construction of the rail-way, which confines the carriage to a given track.—I should feel the same degree of security in one of these vehicles as in a steam-boat, since the carriage is at a distance from the boiler.—*N. Y. Adv.*

There is at present residing in Brighton, a lady of great beauty and accomplishments, possessed of a quality which puts out of all distance the fame of the celebrated Mr. *Doublelungs*. This extraordinary and singular faculty arises from a peculiar formation of the tongues, which is separated to the foot, in a longitudinal direction, and actually forms a *double tongue*. Not the slightest inconvenience is felt from this exuberant gift of nature. With this desirable and admirable addition to the organ of *domestic comfort*, this lady is enabled to afford entertainment to her friends beyond the power of any ventriloquist, or indeed of conception. From the personal charms she possesses, as well as a highly endowed mind, she has had many suitors, none of whom have retired from paying homage, owing to the effects of the extra *clapper* hung in this enchanting *belle*.—She possesses two voices: one exceedingly clear, sweet, and harmonious, allowing her to sing with great effect; the other so exquisitively thrilling, that it must have been bestowed on her for no other purpose that to lisp the still small voice of love. With this voice she imitates exactly the notes of many birds, piping like a bullfinch, singing like a canary; what is remarkable, her mother was deaf and dumb.—*Eng. Paper.*

False Alarm.—Robberies have of late been so frequent on the highway near Philadelphia, that travellers "do fear each bush" a robber. A stout old farmer, not distinguished for personal courage, was travelling on the Norristown road, before day-break, on horsback, and hearing some one running after him crying "Halloa—stop." The horse could not be urged forward, and the old man dismounted, and with the but end of his whip layed about the robber lustily, vociferating with stentorian lungs. "Fire—murder—thieves," when after a parley, he discovered the beaten and bruised robber to be—*his son*, who had been sent after him on a message.

Heavy Postage.—A gentleman (says the Gazette) received a package from Philadelphia, and paid sixteen dollars postage for the same, which on being opened, was found to contain a *dead monkey*!—They must be bright fellows at the post-office to have mailed such an article.

Cambridge Chronicle AND Eastern Shore Advertiser.

CAMBRIDGE, SATURDAY, Feb. 25th 18

Printed and Published by LUTHER MARTIN SCOTT, N. E. corner of High and Poplar streets.

FIRE!

On Thursday evening last, our ci[tizens] were alarmed by the cry of f[ire] which proceeded from an out-house [in] the rear of Mrs. Moobray's dwelling [on] Race street, near the Cross-roads. [The] building was entirely consumed, but [by] the usual prompt and active exertion[s of] the members of the fire company, a[nd] by the citizens, the adjoining houses w[ere] preserved.

Too much praise cannot be giver[n to] the indefatigable exertions used on [this] occasion—The building would doub[tless] have been saved, had it not contain[ed a] large quantity of blades and other c[om]bustible materials.

Hint.—Would it not be well for [the] members of the Fire Company to ex[amin]e the engine, &c. more frequentl[y].

On Thursday last when she was ta[ken] from the engine house, there was [wanting] about *one yard* of rope attached to h[er]. True she did reach the fire and pres[erve] the adjoining buildings—but had [the] accident occurred at mid-night, it w[ould] have been a long time before any as[sist]ance could have been obtained from [town] and a vast deal of property might [have] shared the fate of the building destro[yed].

ASSESSORS.—The Commissio[ners] of the tax for Dorchester county [have] pointed the following Assessors on [Wed]day last:

District, No. 1.—Ezekiel Wheat
" " 2.—William Newto
" " 3.—James Cropper.
" " 4.—Levin Fitzhugh
" " 5.—Zebedee Foxwo
" " 6.—James Rea—an
Wm. C. Ridga

The Commissioners of the Tax meet on Monday next.

FROM ANNAPOLIS.

Extract of a letter to the Editor o[f the] Chronicle, dated

ANNAPOLIS, Feb.

Mr. Eccleston has presented [petitions] from sundry citizens of Dorchester [and] Caroline counties, praying a repeal [of so] much of the law as imposes an add[ition]al tax of fifty dollars on billiard ta[bles].

A resolution to confirm certain a[ppointments] Commissioners appointed by Som[erset] county Court, has passed both hous[es]. The resolution relative to the stay [of ex]ecution against George Dashiell an[d] securities, has passed both houses.—[A] bill to relieve executors and admin[istra]tors from the obligation of performi[ng the] duty of guardians—and the act re[lating to] ing the final close and settlement [of the] bank of Caroline, have passed.

The bill to authorise aliens to [pur]chase and hold real property i[n this] state.—To authorise the excavatio[n of a] canal in Somerset county.—To a[mend] the constitution and form of gover[nment] as it relates to the division of Som[erset] county into election districts.—Re[lat]ing appeals from magistrates court[s to] the supplement to an act entitled, [an act] relating to the public roads in Ca[roline] county, have passed both houses.

Mr. *Chapman* has reported a s[upple]ment to the act of 1715, chap. 23 [relating to] limitation of certain actions for av[oiding] suits at law"—effecting the limita[tion of] action of debt, which requires th[at the] plea of limitation shall avail unle[ss the] person making the same shall mak[e oath] or affirm that the debt or dama[ge for] which the action is brought, is n[ot paid] and owing.

Mr. Johnson's supplement to [the act] for amending and reducing into s[ome] the laws and regulations concerni[ng] wills and testaments, the duties o[f exec]utors, administrators, and guardia[ns], the rights of orphans and other re[prese]tatives of deceased persons, has b[een or]dered to be engrossed in the Sen[ate].

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