

Published every day - Sundays excepted - By HAYES & McCLURE. Office - No. 95 St. Charles Street.

THURSDAY MORNING, AUGUST 3, 1848.

See First and Fourth pages.

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John Van Buren and the "Old Gentleman."

Major Noah, of the New York Sunday Times, has been exhibiting our riddle faculties with the following anecdotes of the younger and elder Van Burens.

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Congressional.

WASHINGTON, July 25, 1848.—Senate.—Mr. Atchison, from the Indian Committee, reported a bill providing for the payment of the Creeks, under the treaty of 1825.

Mr. Atchison introduced a joint resolution, authorizing the appointment of a paymaster to adjust and pay the arrears of officers of the army.

Mr. Atchison introduced a bill, which was referred to the committee on the purchase of the works on the operations of the Treasury, to defray the expense of publication.

On motion of Mr. Clayton, the consideration of the Territorial bill was resumed, and Mr. Underwood (of the Committee) addressed the Senate, in explanation of the motives which governed him in his opposition to the bill as reported.

Mr. Underwood next addressed the Senate, in relation to the course of the abolitionists, very considerable progress would be made in the emancipation of the slave population.

His speech was confined chiefly to an examination of the institution of slavery as it exists, the opinions of the North, and the impossibility of immediate abolition.

Mr. Butler followed. Until yesterday, the discussion had been conducted with calmness, and he hoped with a prospect of an amicable adjustment.

Mr. Johnson, of Maryland, followed, and offered two amendments, first providing that appeals in slave cases may be made to the Supreme Court without appeal to the amount involved.

Mr. Johnson's second amendment was a bill prohibiting legislation in regard to the admission or exclusion of African slaves into any territory.

The Senate adjourned at quarter past 7 o'clock.

House.—The amendments of the Senate to the Naval Appropriation Bill, was taken up, and the House agreed to part, disagreed to part, and amended other parts.

The Committee of Conference on the Indian Appropriation Bill made a report similar to that made in the Senate, and the report was concurred in.

And so the bill stands passed. The committee were called for reports, and a number, generally unimportant, were made.

A joint resolution was reported, in reference to the tobacco trade with Europe, read twice, and referred to the committee of ways and means.

The select committee on rules reported in favor of abolishing the "five minutes" rule, and the report was laid on the table, 107 to 62.

The same committee reported also a new joint rule, providing for the taking up of the unfinished business at the second session of any Congress in the order in which it was left at the first session of such Congress.

Adopted. The House then, in Committee of the Whole, took up the bill reported some time since from the House committee on Territories, to "establish the territorial government of Oregon," similar in its provisions to that which recently engaged the attention of the Senate, but further including in the twelfth section the proviso of the ordinance of 1787.

Mr. Harris, of Alabama, addressed the committee at length on the question of slavery in the territories, sustaining generally the Southern doctrine on that subject.

Mr. Corwin followed in favor of the prohibition of slavery in Oregon and in advocacy of the power of Congress to control all legislation for the territories.

Mr. Wallace obtained the floor, when the committee rose and the House adjourned.

SHORTEST PASSAGE TO ENGLAND.—The last passage of the steamer Hermann, from New York for Southampton, is claimed as the shortest ever made across the Atlantic. Her running time was 11 days and 30 hours, which, allowing the difference in space between New York and Southampton to be 169 miles farther than to Liverpool, beats by some hours, the famous passage made a few weeks since by the America.

The passage of the Hermann was performed in something over ten days from Boston to Liverpool. The English papers are forced to acknowledge the feat.

The weight of the number of volumes of the patent office report, published by Congress this year, amounts to ninety-one tons! The postage on the same would be within the vicinity of \$200,000.

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