which, as a Christian nation, we are bound to obey, under all circumstances, and regardless of consequences, in being ready to answer for them, on this broad, sufficient plea of humanity.

It is a simple question of life and death. Shall party spirit interpose itself, even in a question like this, to stay the helping hand against the ruthless savage? Gentlemen, for the love of God, pass the bill, and don't stop in such a case to count how much capital it will confer upon this or that man, with regard to the Presidency.

Upon this subject of the Presidency, we are getting every day deeper and darker in the fog. No man can guess who will be the whig or democratic candidate. General Taylor says he is in the field, at all event; so that we suppose neither convention will deem it necessary to nominate him. Among the democrats, Mr. Polk stands first, Mr. Cass second; but the other aspirants, and the two-third rule, may defeat these two prominent candidates, and every other prominent man.

We hear the name of Senator Atchinson, of Missouri, mentioned as a saving alternative. He is a plain, unpretending man, and does not claim to be above common men; and it has been discovered that such a man excites less envy and opposition than a bold, dashing, glorious old fellow, like Harry Clay.

But we are approaching the time when doubt will be dispelled by the appointment of a democrat who will, whoever he may be, carry the strength of the party. The whigs may make up to that issue, and not, as yet, count too fast upon New York. W.

WASHINGTON, May 5, 1848.

The Taylor Platform—Mr. Stewart—Governor Young.

There is, perhaps, no firmer friend of General Taylor in Congress, than Andrew Stewart, of Pennsylvania. The name of the old hero is music to his ears. "As a giant refreshed with new wine," so is he reinvigorated at the very thought of the military presidential candidate. The Allison letter has delighted him beyond measure, and his joy knows no bounds. This morning he asked leave to submit to the House a series of resolutions, four in number, containing the very words of the aforesaid epistle. As the "*Union*" has laid down its platform, so Mr. Stewart desired to lay down the platform of the whigs—the "good whig doctrine," as he terms it. They were not acted upon, but a vote may be obtained hereafter—a test, to make Taylor men show their hands previous to the assembling of the national convention at Philadelphia in June.

Governor Young was, for a long time, in the hall to-day, and held his levee in the rear of the Speaker's chair. F.

THIRTIETH CONGRESS.

FIRST SESSION.

Senate.

WASHINGTON, MAY 4, 1848.

The Senate had not long been in session, this morning, when the subject came up of the expediency of extending a saving hand to the

DISTRESS OF YUCATAN.

Mr. HANNEGAN, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, to which was referred, yesterday, the President's message and accompanying correspondence in regard to the crying distress of the white race of Yucatan, and their danger of extermination by the Indians, who are now slaughtering the comparatively defenceless whites, over the breadth of the country, after an earnest consideration of the subject, asked leave to introduce a bill, which, from the pressing necessities of the case, he moved be made the special order of the day for to-morrow. The bill is as follows:—

An act to enable the President of the United States to take temporary military occupation of Yucatan.

Sec. 1. Be it enacted, &c., That the President of the United States be and he is hereby authorised to take temporary military occupation of Yucatan, and to employ the army and navy of the United States to assist the people of Yucatan in repelling the incursions of the Indian savages, now overrunning and devastating that country.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That the President be, and he is hereby, authorised and empowered to furnish, on such terms and conditions as he may deem proper, to the white population of Yucatan, such arms, ammunition, ordnance, and other military means, as they may need, to enable them to resist and repel the Indian hostilities now waged against them, and to restore peace and security to the country.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That the President be, and he is hereby, authorised and empowered to accept the services of an equal number of volunteer troops, to supply the place of such as may be withdrawn from their present duty, by virtue of this act, provided their services shall be required; the same to be raised for service during the war with Mexico, agreeably to the provisions of the act of May 13th, 1846, and March 3d, 1847.

DELAYS ARE DANGEROUS.

Mr. BADGER suggested that the bill be posponed till Monday.

Mr. CALHOUN concurred in this suggestion.

Mr. HANNEGAN did not know what reason could be given for the postponement asked, while the distress of the Yucatanese cried aloud for help. An hour's delay was of great consequence to these suffering people—a day involved the question of their extermination from the face of the earth.

Mr. CALHOUN thought we ought not to act too hastily in this matter. Mr. Sierra, the Mexican Commissioner, had written to the State Department as early as the 7th of March last, setting forth the distresses of these people. After all the delay of the Executive Department, we might at least undertake the postponement of the bill for two or three days, until the facts in the case could be ascertained.

Mr. HANNEGAN referred to the President's message—to letters from our naval officers in the Gulf, confirming the calamities of Yucatan. The Gulf coast was darkened by men, women, and children, flying before the Indians, and perishing from hunger, and naked and exposed to the elements. They have neither subsistence nor the means of escape; and they daily expect the Indians down upon them, whose known method of warfare is an indiscriminate slaughter, without regard to age or sex. He urged prompt action upon the bill.

Mr. CASS—Action upon this subject, to be well done, should be speedily done. We could not have a better opportunity for the exercise of Christian humanity. This is the time to act; there is no need of delay; every man in the Senate has doubtless made up his mind for or against the bill. Let us act promptly. Let us save these suffering people, if we can. A war of extermination is going on, and the white race, as we are informed, are monentarily expecting an attack upon their capital, whither the frightened women and children have fled for protection.

Mr. HALE inquired for certain information; but was not distinctly heard.

Mr. FOOTE—I am extremely surprised that there should be any attempt to procrastinate this measure.

Mr. CALHOUN did not wish to procrastinate the action of the Senate. He only asked the delay of the consideration of the bill till the facts upon the subject could be examined.

MR. FOOTE CALLS MR. CALHOUN TO THE BAR.

Mr. FOOTE understood what he was about. There were two parties in this Senate on this bill—one for speedy action and one for delay. I do not belong to the latter class. I regret that there should be a single doubt upon a matter like this, which directly strikes at the honor of the nation. I am surprised that this delay should be asked by the Senator from South Carolina. Last Saturday, on the receipt of the President's message, the Senator from South Carolina arose and declared that he was ready to act upon and grapple with this measure at once. But now he asks for delay. He had taken occasion to denounce this message, and his speech had had its unfavorable influence. Instead, however, of being over hasty, we are over tardy in this legislation. There was no reason for delay. Mr. Foote bore down pretty heavily upon Mr. Calhoun for his expressions last Saturday against the administration and the Mexican war.

NOT TO BE INTIMIDATED.

Mr. CALHOUN appealed for caution. After the delay of the Executive from the 7th March to the last of April, we were certainly entitled to two or three days postponement of action. He was not to be intimidated.—He knew how to do his duty, with or without company. We had got into one rash and precipitate war, and he trusted that we would not be driven into another, and perhaps more complicated one. We had not as yet the facts required to a full understanding of the subject; and therefore it was that he desired a delay of action for at least one day.

NOTHING OF THE SORT INTENDED.

Mr. FOOTE was surprised to hear the Senator from S. C. express himself as supposing that there was any attempt to intimidate. He was the last man in the world whom any person, knowing his fearless and independent character, would attempt to intimidate. But, sir, I am surprised that the Senator from South Carolina should complain of hasty action now, when he was so prompt to attack the message of the President on Saturday last.

Mr. CALHOUN made a passing remark.

THE SPECIFICATIONS AGAINST MR. CALHOUN.

Mr. FOOTE went on and charged that Mr. Calhoun had introduced irrelevant matters into his speech of Saturday last, having no possible connection with the bill; and one of those subjects was the Mexican war.—Take the war, however, with all its horrors, all of its expenditures, all its loss of lives, the President is not responsible for it. But there is one man of high character, of vast experience, of commanding talents, of unsullied purity of life, possessed of no unchaste ambition, who was called to the State Department by the last administration, (Tyler's) and who, from his bold and fearless agency in accomplishing the annexation of Texas, was, perhaps, more than any other man responsible for this war. Mr. Foote approved the course of Mr. Calhoun in the annexation of Texas. It had been done boldly, fearlessly, and in the face of menaces; and from all quarters it was predicted that the annexation must result in war. Yet, sir, this great measure, believed to be essential to the protection of the South, and to the safety of our brethren in Texas, was consummated. War ensued—this Mexican war, which the senator so much denounces and depricates. The act of annexation was a righteous act; but the war followed it. The war was a legacy from the administration, of which the senator from South Carolina was the prime minister. Nor was General Taylor the man to throw the responsibility of the march to the Rio Grande upon the administration. He was not the man to deny his own acts. The senator from South Carolina was the last man who ought to shrink from the consequences of his own most noble course upon the Texas annexation. He ought to assume his share of the responsibility, for it was an honorable responsibility. Mr. Foote then very searchingly animadverted upon the cold support which Mr. Calhoun had given to this administration—his frequent attempts to stab it in the fifth rib,—on his never having said any thing in its support or defence—on his standing aloof from it, and casting the weight of his talents and influence with the whigs, and on his being thus entitled to be ranked among the foremost champions of the administration. But why was this? The administration had been pledged upon its force made by the people of North Carolina, the home of annexation; it had done nothing in the work of free trade, and yet the Senator had failed to support it, but had denounced it for the consequences resulting from his own acts, and especially in this war with Mexico.

THE DEFENCE.

Mr. CALHOUN had no expectation, when he proposed a delay upon this measure of two or three days, that it would give rise to this lengthened discussion. The Senator from Mississippi could not now expect to be answerd in all the wide range of the subjects which he had introduced into the debate. He would only now make three or four remarks. 1st. He had given the administration as full a suport as his conscience woul permit. He had supported it on the tariff, on other measures, and on the treaty. He had supported this as he had supported every other administration, when he believed it to be right, and no farther. Respecting the annexation, his course upon that question he had never regretted and never should regret. It was an act of necessity. All the friends of the measure, Mr. Polk included, took the ground that it was no just cause of war. The charge alone that it had brought on this war was calculated to cast discredit upon it. He denied that the annexation of Texas was the cause of the war.

Mr. FOOTE explained that he had not said so; but cited the circumstances growing out of it, or consequent upon it, as resulting in the war.

Mr. CALHOUN would decide upon his own judgment, not on the judgment of the Senator from Mississippi. He denied emphatically that the war grew out of the annexation. He was in a situation to know all about it, and did know all about it. War was avoided in the act, and he knew that after the settlement of the Oregon question, the adjustment of the Mexican difficulties would be easy. Indeed, it required, after the Oregon settlement, a great deal of mismanagement to bring on the Mexican war. He might say that it required much ingenuity to devise the war, if he did believe that the administration supposed there would be no war, and that the unfortunate march to the Rio Grande would not bring on the war. He would scorn himself, if he could be induced even to act in his public duties upon any considerations of mere personal enmity or friendship to any administration.

MR. HALE BRINGS IN THE SLAVERY QUESTION.

Mr. HALE was glad of this discussion. It had elicited some further testimony that this war was brought on by a measure, the object of which was the protection and propagation of slavery; and hereafter, he admonished the Senator from Mississippi, he might bring him up as a witness that the war was the result of the annexation of Texas, and the object of the annexation of Texas was the protection of the rights of the South.

Mr. FOOTE explained, that although the war did follow the annexation, that act did not necessarily produce the war; there were other circumstances and other causes co-operating with it.

Mr. HALE insisted that not only had the Senator from Mississippi, but the Senator from Tennessee, (Mr. Turney,) declared the annexation to be the cause of the war, and that the author of the annexation was the author of the war—that the measure was for the protection of the rights of the South, which we all know to mean the protection of slavery. I wish the Senator from Mississippi to say if we are not now engaged in an unjust and aggressive foreign war for the protection and sustentation of slavery.

Mr. FOOTE could not suffer himself to be thus represented. The war was a defensive war against the aggressive acts of Mexico. Mr. Webster, in his Springfield speech, had declared our right to the annexation of Texas. How, then, if we had the lawful right to annex Texas, and this war resulted from it, could it be called an aggressive war?

Mr. HALE persisted in his opinions, and was proceeding in his views upon the slavery question, when

Mr. WHITCOTT raised a point of order.

The VICE PRESIDENT said the debate had been exceedingly discursive, but that the Senator, from the course it had taken, was not out of order.

Mr. HALE resumed. He had no fears of the consequences of this bill, even if annexation should follow; unless the constitution of Yucatan, which totally interdicted slavery, should be materially altered. The Senator from South Carolina had charged all the calamities of Yucatan to their abolition of this high and blessed institution of slavery, and hence, perhaps, his caution in going to their defence. Mr. Hale argued, however, that our present relations with Mexico required some consideration in connection with this bill, and that we should see to it, while we acted from the dictates of humanity, we were not influenced by the selfish spirit of territorial aggrandizement. As the Senator from Mississippi was for the moment out of sight, Mr. Hale said he would venture upon a quotation of poetry. [Laughter.] and he would recommend that we do not, like the hypocrite, while we with one hand

"Put a shilling in the box of penury"—

Mr. BADGER—"Put a penny in the box of charity."

Mr. HALE—Ah, yes:

"With one hand,
He put a penny in the box of charity,
And with the other took a shilling out."

MR. CASS TO THE RESCUE.

Mr. CASS replied rapidly to Mr. Calhoun. The reason why the administration had not acted sooner in calling the attention of Congress to Yucatan, was that the cabinet had been engaged in collecting the necessary information upon which to act. Now that it was here, there was no further cause of delay. Mr. Cass then proceeded to the defence of the administration on the subject of the war, pursuing the old ground of defence, to wit, the provocations of Mexico, and the rights of nations to carry a war into an enemy's country when provoked into a war by the acts of the enemy. He was frequently interrupted by questions and corrections from Mr. Calhoun, who maintained that what might have been proper as an act of Congress was an usurpation as an act of the Executive; and that the Executive, in crossing into disputed territory, admitted to be such by the resolutions of annexation, had transcended his authority, had given offence for war, had brought it on by that act, and was responsible for it. Mr. Calhoun thought it looked bad for the defenders of the administration that whenever an opinion was expressed against it as to the origin of the war, they should deem it necessary to enter into a long argument, as if they felt the full force of the accusation. He had only at first expressed an opinion. It was not necessary that they should do any thing more.

FORTY THOUSAND INDIANS ON THE MARCH.

Mr. HANNEGAN pleaded for action upon the bill tomorrow. No time ought to be lost. There were 40,000 Indians marching upon Merida, the capital of Yucatan, and there were only some 2000 whites there to defend it, and the Indians were expected to be up in a few days.

OLD SPEECHES.

Mr. NILES was afraid we were to have all those old Texas and war speeches over again, judging from the beginning of this debate. He thought, therefore, something would be gained, even in expedition, by postponing the bill a few days. It would give Senators an opportunity to prepare new speeches, and to get at a full understanding, so as to act promptly upon this bill.

Mr. CALHOUN moved to postpone the bill till Saturday. Lost, 12 to 17.

Mr. BADGER moved to postpone its consideration till Monday. Lost, 15 to 21.

The motion of the Committee was then agreed to, and the bill was made the special order for to-morrow.

After some other incidental and miscellaneous business, the Senate adjourned.

WASHINGTON, May 5, 1848.

Stormy morning. A bare quorum of the Senate present in their places. A very large attendance of strangers in the galleries, including some very agreeable specimens of the daughters of Uncle Sam. Governor Young, of York State, on the floor below. Unsophisticated evangelical imploration of Divine grace by Brother Gurley. Our old friend, Jesse Miller, of Pa., among the lobby members outside of the bar.

HON. JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.

The resolution providing for the purchase of 5,000 copies of a certain pamphlet, embracing the speeches delivered in the House and in the Senate, and the sermon of Rev. Mr. Gurley, provided said copies can be had on the same terms that 20,000 copies of said pamphlet were purchased by the House.

Mr. TURNEY moved to lay the resolution on the table.

A division was called; but there was no quorum on the count.

Again the vote was taken, and, ayes 23, noes 10, the resolution was laid on the table.

MAJOR GENERAL GIDEON J. PILLOW.

Mr. REVERDY JOHNSON's resolution, asking of the President if he had made, since the last session, any civil or military appointments which had not been as yet nominated to the Senate, and if so, to state what nominations, and why they have not been submitted heretofore, &c., coming up in its order, it was agreed to.

Shortly after,

Mr. ALLEN asked a reconsideration.

Mr. R. JOHNSON.—Did the senator vote in the affirmative?

Mr. ALLEN.—I do not recollect whether I voted or not.

Mr. BAGBY.—I know I did not vote, for I did not hear the resolution, and I move its reconsideration.

Mr. JOHNSON objected to the right of the senator.

Mr. FOOTE said he was not in at the vote, and therefore, had the right to ask the reconsideration.

Mr. JOHNSON asked to know the object of Mr. Allen in the motion.

Mr. ALLEN said his object was to show that the resolution was inadmissible and unconstitutional upon its face.

Mr. JOHNSON said he had then no objection to the reconsideration.

The resolution was reconsidered and brought again before the Senate.

Mr. ALLEN was proceeding to show the unconstitutionality and the evident unfairness of its demands on the executive, when the chairman on Foreign Relations interposed, and called the attention of the Senate to

THE DISTRESS OF YUCATAN.

On motion of Mr. HANNEGAN, the bill for the relief of the people of Yucatan was taken up, to the precedence of all other business. Mr. Hannagan said he had hoped at first that this bill would be passed without objection. But it had since become evident that the bill was to be sternly resisted. He intended a few remarks, therefore, in defence of the bill, and in reply to the apprehensions of Mr. Calhoun, expressed in his remarks upon the President's message, on Saturday last. Mr. H. foresaw none of the dangers so profoundly dreaded by the Senator from South Carolina. He (Mr. H.) saw not the ledge of rocks under the water so much apprehended by the Senator from South Carolina. To me, sir, there is a plain open sea before us. But we may be drawn into some deeper and more important consequences. Hr. H. then expressed his opinions of the necessity of the armed occupation of Yucatan by the United States, in order to arrest the designs of Great Britain in that quarter. There was no force in the remarks of the Senator from South Carolina, that England had enough to do at home. She never had enough to do at home. She had resisted the storm of revolution which had prostrated the oldest and most powerful nations of Europe, and she had resisted it without shedding a drop of blood. She was now operating for the occupation of Yucatan—she had already a foothold upon the Balize; and if we did not interpose she would soon have possession of the whole Peninsula. The next object would be the possession of the island of Cuba, just over the way; and thus would she command the lock and key of the Gulf, and block us in from the southward even more completely than she does now in the North Atlantic. England, it was apparent, had a deep design toward Yucatan. In the correspondence of Mr. Bravo, it appeared that England, through her agents had furnished the arms to the Indians who are slaughtering the whites.

Mr. SEVERDY JOHNSON—Does the Hon. Senator say, that the British government has done this thing?

Mr. HANNEGAN—British agents.

Mr. JOHNSON—Does the Senator charge it upon the British government?

Mr. HANNEGAN—Yes, England; England, through her agents. She has placed her agents along that coast—we find the Indians, armed with muskets bearing the stamp of the Tower of London. Where did the Indians get them from? Mr. Sierra says this is so. With some general observations on the power, courage, and sagacity of England, and on the almost imperceptible nature of her first encroachments where she intends to plant her iron feet, Mr. H. contended that the only way by which she could be kept out of Yucatan and Cuba, was promptly to take a strong position of remonstrance in that quarter, as proposed by thiss bill. Mr. Hannegan did not consider there was any danger of our being driven into a national debt like that of Great Britain or France. Nor could there be any possible cause for apprehension of annexation of Yucatan from this act of humanity, except in a contingency where, at all events, such an alternative will be required for our own protection against foreign encroachments. Mr. H. next exportiated upon the new intervention doctrine of Mr. Monroe, and argned that in its declaration a solemn doctrine of practical policy was intended, and not a mere abstraction.

Some conversation here took place between Mr. Calhoun and Mr. Hannegan, pending which

Mr. CLAYTON rose to the examination of the subject, and said that the bill transcended the recommendations of the Executive.

Mr. HANNEGAN proposed to read from the message, and with the assent of Mr. Clayton read an extract suggesting the temporary military occupation of Yucatan, as being directly consonant and equivalent to the provisions of the bill.

Mr. CLAYTON took a different view of the bill. It proposed a more decided and more permanent occupation in form than the recommendations of the executive. He also objected to the bill, because it conflicts with the Mexican armistice—it was calculated to operate against the treaty; and moreover, there was no telling what military force it would require to subdue 450,000 Indians. The Florida war with a few Seminoles had cost us something. He wanted more light, more information. Besides, he did not wish to see a new question of annexation spring up upon the eve of a presidential campaign. If we act at all for the relief of Yucatan, it ought to be with the assent and co-operation of Mexico, considering our present relations with that republic.

Mr. JEFFERSON DAVIS, in a forcible and pointed review of the case, argued the necessity of the bill, upon the broad ground of the rights of the United States as a belligerent with Mexico. If the necessity should ever arise, he was ready promptly to interpose against any foreign designs upon Yucatan or Cuba. But it was not necessary to anticipate either the hazards of annexation, or of foreign intervention for the possession of Yucatan. The immediate question was the despatch of a military force sufficient for the occupation of Yucatan as a part of Mexico; and this could be done under the authority which we hold as a belligerent, under the laws recognising the war with Mexico. Mr. Davis was frequently cross-questioned by Mr. Clayton, in the course of his remarks; but the former did not abandon a hair of the positions assumed in defence of the object of the bill, and the strictly authorised recommendations of the message of the President. Mr. Davis said, in reply to an observation of Mr. Hannegan, that he did not believe the British government could be held responsible for the furnishing of the Tower muskets to the Indians of Yucatan. He thought the difficulty could be easily explained. The three great captains of the world were Alexander, Cæsar, and Napoleon. The great secret of their success was celerity of movement. Great Britain had profited from the results of their experience; and with a view to celerity of movement, she had been constantly reducing the weight of her arms. Hence the old heavy tower muskets had been condemned many years ago by the British government, and sold at auction. They were bought by speculators, or taken out by British vessels, and those old tower muskets are now to be found over all Central and South America; and in this way they have doubtless found their way among the Indians of Yucatan.

Mr. HANNEGAN said there was a British depot of these arms at the Balize.

Mr. JEFFERSON DAVIS—Yes, sir, but they are not furnished by the British government, or they would bear the imprint of the present arsenal. They were old arms, the old tower muskets, and those used by the Mexicans against us in this war bear the old stamp of the tower. In conclusion, Mr. Davis moved to strike out the substance of the original bill, and to substitute a simple provision, authorising the President to take military occupation of Yucatan, and to replace, by volunteers if necessary, the troops required for the said occupation.

Mr. HANNEGAN asked under what authority the President would act according to this amendment?

Mr. DAVIS said it would be under authority of the powers connected with the existing war. Yucatan was a part of Mexico, and under the laws of war, we could extend our posts of military occupation all over Mexico.

Mr. UPHAM asked if there was not already an existing authority to the President for 12,000 volunteers?

Mr. DAVIS explained that there were, perhaps, vacancies in the volunteer regiments, which would amount to an aggregate of 12,000 men; but it was almost impossible to recruit volunteers to fill vacancies in existing regiments. The object, too, of the bill and the amendment was apparent. It was to take the seasoned troops, who have become acclimated to the exposures and hardships of a soldier's life in the tropics, and transfer them to Yucatan, filling up their vacancies, if required, with volunteers. As for the legality of this proceeding, it was authorized by the conditions in the armistice existing between Mexico and the United States.

Mr. CRITTENDEN thought that all that was really designed by this bill was an increase of the military force, for which object this particular bill was not necessary. The Chairman on Military Affairs had been laboriously—slowly to be sure, but laboriously—marching forward his new force of 20,000 volunteers.

Gen. CASS—(Shaking his head)—Very slowly. (Laughter.

Mr. CRITTENDEN—Very slowly, to be sure, but still they are on the forward march, (laughter,) and if the regular bills, or any of them, for the increase of the military force in Mexico, should be passed, there will be no necessity for this special act. The Senator from Mississippi had placed the ground of his support of this measure upon the existing war, and as an authorized movement in a state of war; but how could this be done, pending the armistice with Mexico?

Mr. JEFFERSON DAVIS said, that the proposed military occupation could be vindicated, and would be found to be authorized by the terms of the armistice itself, and cited one of the terms of the armistice in proof.

Mr. CRITTENDEN thought that clause was intended to apply to another state of contingencies, to which

Mr. DAVIS assented; but claimed its applicability in this case under a full construction.

Mr. CRITTENDEN, in his usual strong and forcible manner, argued against the bill. We wanted more light, more information. How would this movement effect the treaty which was believed now to be in process of ratification—what would be its effect if the treaty were ratified? how would it affect the armistice? Nor did he believe the plea of humanity was sufficient for this act. The precedent of interfering in the affairs of other nations by an avowed occupation on the plea of humanity, might be made the justification of the most atrocious aggressive wars by ourselves and by other nations, if we admit the plea and set the example. One of our safest doctrines was, the doctrine of non-interference in the domestic affairs of foreign nations. That doctrine alone will be competent to save us in our turn from foreign invasion in case of domestic difficulties. Besides we had only heard one side of the question. We were without any information at all on the other side. He would act now as we acted in the case of the insurrection in Guatemala some twenty years ago. He would stand aloof, and let these people settle their own quarrel. Carera arose at the head of the Indians of Guatemala, put down the existing government of the Spanish race, established one of his own, and under which he is still the head; and it is as good, or a better government than that which was displaced. This was a destructive war in Yucatan. It was natural that it should be so between two races, one of which had worn the galling yoke of bondage of the other for three hundred years. After three hundred years of oppression, it was natural that the vengeance of the aborigines of Yucatan, should be bloody and merciless in the extreme against the race which had been so long their oppressors. But if we should resolve upon this armed occupation, what force would it require, and how long should we have to keep it up? The Indians will fly to the bushes on our approach. How long shall we have to wait for them to come out? And if we wait till they entirely withdraw, how long shall we have to stay? Will not an armed occupation be inevitable? We may restore peace, and maintain it while we occupy the country; but will not the same trouble between the two races be renewed the moment we withdraw our troops? How many men will this armed occupation require? how much money and how long will it have to be maintained? We cannot answer these questions. There were yet other and unforseen contingencies that deserved attention. Mr. Crittenden, for half an hour, continued his presentation of obstacles to the passage of the bill, the more prominent points of which we have given in this paragraph.

Mr. JEFFERSON DAVIS called the attention of Mr. Crittenden to the existing armistice, and his objections to the bill because of its interference with said armistice.

Mr. CRITTENDEN explained.

Mr. DAVIS considered all difficulties on the subject of the armistice removed, by one of its exceptions to the general suspension of arms. That exception was the article providing that the forces of either party might be employed under the armistice in repelling incursions of the wild Indians into the Mexican settlements. Under this article our forces had been employed in the north. There is another article which authorizes the employment of armed forces against Indians in arms. Either the one or the other, if not both of these exceptions on the armistice, will directly sanction the proposed armed occupation of Yucatan.

Mr. FOOTE next followed in vindication of the bill, and of the administration, and its message. The Senator from South Carolina (Mr. Calhoun) would have given the measure his support, on the broad ground of humanity, were there not other and paramount reasons against it. The Senator from Kentucky says that the plea of humanity is not a valid plea in this instance, and argues with his great ability to prove it—so that between the two Senators, the administration has no hope of escape. Mr. Foote, however, was surprised at the course of the Senator from Kentucky on this question of humanity. What but humanity was the plea of his bill at the last Congress, for the relief of the starving people of Ireland, that measure so eloquently advocated by the Senator on this floor. There was the great distinction, in its great object of saving human life, between the one measure and the other. Mr. Foote spoke with energy, earnestness and ability, in support of the bill in every view of the subject. When he had concluded, and after some conversation,

On motion, the bill was laid informally aside for the day.

Several messages were reported by Mr. J. Knox Walker, in writing from the President, one of which communicates further correspondence in reference to the "urgent demand" of Yucatan for assistance, ordered to be printed.

On motion, the Senate adjourned, and in pursuance of an antecedent vote, they adjourned over to Monday next.

House of Representatives.

WASHINGTON, May 5, 1848.

PORTRAIT OF BARON DE KALB.

The SPEAKER laid before the House a letter from William Brent, stating that he has just received from Robert Walsh, Consul at Paris, a portrait of Baron De Kalb, a gift from his surviving relatives to the government of the United States, and asking the action of Congress in the premises.

The letter was referred to the Committee on the Library.

MILEAGE.

Mr. HOLMES, of New York, asked leave to submit a resolution—that the Committee on Mileage inquire into the propriety of allowing to members of Congress such necessary expenditures as may be just, in coming to and going from the Capitol, instead of the amount now paid (eight dollars for every twenty miles.)

There were objections interposed in several directions.

THE PLATFORM—OLD HICKORY'S POLITICAL PRINCIPLES—THE HOUSE ASKED TO ENDORSE THEM.

Mr. STEWART, of Pennsylvania, asked leave to offer the following resolutions, which were read for information, viz:

1. Resolved, That "the power given by the Constitution to the Executive to interpose his veto, is a high conservative power, which should never be exercised except in cases of clear violation of the constitution or manifest haste and want of consideration by Congress." ["Ho! Ho! That's Taylor's Letter."]

2. Resolved, That "the personal opinions of the individual who may happen to occupy the Executive chair, ought not to control the action of Congress upon questions of domestic policy, nor ought his objections to be interposed where questions of constitutional power have been settled by the various departments of government, and acquiesced in by the people."

3. Resolved, That "upon the subject of the tariff, the currency, the improvement of our great highways, rivers, lakes and harbors, the will of the people, as expressed through their representatives in Congress, ought to be respected and carried out by the Executive."

4. Resolved, That "war, at all times and under all circumstances, is a national calamity, to be avoided if compatible with national honor; that the principles of our government, as well as its true policy, are opposed to the subjugation of other nations and the dismemberment of other countries by conquest; for in the language of the great Washington, 'why should we quit our own to stand on foreign ground.'"

Mr. BRODHEAD.—Is that General Taylor's letter? ["It ain't nothin' else."]

THE SPEAKER.—Is there any objection?

Mr. HENLEY.—No objection; let it come in. ["I object."]

THE SPEAKER.—It lies over. ["Let's have it now."]

PRIVATE BUSINESS—A QUANDARY.

This is one of the days set apart by the rules for the consideration of bills upon the private calendar. As usual, on such occasions, there was not a full attendance of members. The House went into Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER—Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. Woodward) please take the chair?

Mr. WOODWARD (rising)—I confess, sir, that I know nothing of the rules, and I think I never shall. [Ha! ha!]

Mr. HENLEY (to Mr. Woodward)—Never too old to learn, Woodward.

Mr. WOODWARD (*aside*)—I'd never learn in a thousand years.

The SPEAKER—Will the gentleman from Texas take the chair?

Mr. KAUFMAN assented, and took the seat as chairman of the committee.

Mr. ROCKWELL, of Connecticut, stated that reports accompanying some of the private bills, had not yet been printed, and therefore he suggested that the committee go to the beginning of the calendar. Other gentlemen wished to commence somewhere else; and Mr. J. Thompson desired the committee to rise. After an interchange of views, it was discovered that a quorum did not vote. The roll was called, and the committee rose.

The SPEAKER (having resumed the chair)—A quorum has been discovered on calling the roll.

Mr. STEPHENS—Should not the names of the absentees be reported to the House?

The SPEAKER—The names have not heretofore been read.

Mr. STEPHENS—I suggest that it is proper they should be read.

Mr. FICKLIN—The names ought to be read.

Mr. STEPHENS—That is what I want.

Mr. ROCKWELL, of Connecticut—I object.

The SPEAKER—A member has a right to call for the reading of the names of the absentees.

The Clerk read the names.

The SPEAKER—There is a quorum.

Mr. KAUFMAN again took the chair as the presiding officer of the committee.

Mr. J. THOMPSON desired to know whether the bills were to be taken up at the beginning of the calendar.

Mr. DICKEY objected to this. He desired the business to commence where it was left off.

A brief conversation ensued; and finally the committee began to dispose of the bills at the place where it left off when the calendar was last under consideration.

No debate was permitted. A simple "I object," was sufficient to cause any bill, the contents of which were read, to lie over until "a more convenient season."

A motion was made and carried that the committee rise. A conversation took place as to the meaning of the rules. "Call the roll," "call the roll," was demanded by a dozen members.

The CHAIRMAN—The Committee is without a quorum. ("Call the roll.")

Mr. HENLEY—The Committee did not find itself without a quorum. The Chair found it without a quorum. He so decided.

The CHAIRMAN explained (amid cries of "Call the roll," and "Order, order"), and said that the Committee could rise without a quorum.

Several questions of order were raised, and disposed of, when

Mr. STEPHENS insisted that the roll be called (to discover the absentees).

The SPEAKER, at this point, came in, and resumed the chair.

Mr. KAUFMAN (the Chairman) reported to the House that the Committee had found itself without a quorum.

Mr. VINTON—It is evident that the House will do no business, and I therefore move that we adjourn.

Mr. ROCKWELL, of Connecticut—I hope not; a number of private bills were acted on; let them be passed.

Mr. BOWLIN—We can do nothing without a quorum.

The SPEAKER called the House to order.

Mr. KAUFMAN reported five bills from the Committee, and that the Committee had found itself without a quorum.

The SPEAKER remarked that if the gentleman reported the committee as rising without a quorum, he must report the names of the absentees.

Mr. KAUFMAN—A majority decided to rise.

The bills were passed; and, unable to do anything for private claimants, the House, at a quarter past one o'clock, adjourned.

BALTIMORE, May 6, 1848.

Adjournment of the Medical Association—Dr. Roberts-Turner's Lease—Duel at Annapolis, &c.

The medical convention, yesterday morning, adjourned *sine die*, after a most harmonious session, having transacted all the important business before them.

The chair announced the committee on hygiene; also the delegation to visit the British Medical Associations, as follows:—Dr. Wood, of Philadelphia; Dr. Bigelow, of Boston; Dr. Maguire, of Winchester, Va. The officers were authorised to increase the delegation to twelve.

Dr. HOPKINS offered resolutions proposing the appointment of a board of examiners belonging to the association, to confer certain degrees, &c. They were referred.

Dr. STILLE, of Philadelphia, took the opportunity to offer a resolution returning the thanks of the association to the committee of arrangements, to the committee of reception, and to the faculties of the Washington Medical College and Maryland University, for the manner in which the members of the association had been received and entertained in this city, &c. The resolution was unanimously adopted.

Dr. JACKSON, of Philadelphia, proposed to refer to the committee on hygiene the subject of the too great use of coffee and tea, and whether disease is not engendered thereby, which was agreed to.

Dr. DUNBAR, of Baltimore, read a communication recommending that memorials of the worthy dead of the profession be procured and published with the minutes of the proceedings. The communication was from Dr. S. Williams, of Deerfield, Mass. Dr. Dunbar proposed an alteration of the constitution, to have appointed a standing committee on American Medical History and Biography, which was received for consideration at the next meeting of the association.

Before adjourning, the association adopted the usual complimentary resolutions, and Dr. Roberts, of Baltimore, chairman of the Committee of Arrangements, on behalf of himself and the Baltimore family, bid a most affectionate adieu to his brethren. Dr. R. was a decided favorite with the members of the convention, as he is wherever he is known. Although weighing about 300 pounds, and being some sixty years of age, he attends to an immense practice, preaches two or three sermons every Sunday, and not only endeavors to heal the bodily ailments of his patients, but prepares their souls for another world if medicine should fail to keep them.

The Governor has consented to the removal of Richard J. Turner from Anne Arundel Jail to the jail of Baltimore County. He was brought up this evening. It will be remembered that he was formerly book-keeper in the Mechanics Bank, and defrauded that institution of about $50,000.

I learn from Annapolis that a duel was fought this morning between two of the midshipmen at the United States naval academy. They were both of them more frightened than hurt. I shall endeavor to get the particulars of the affair for my next.

Later from Chili.

We give a few items of general intelligence, which we extract from the *Mercurio* of Valparaiso, for a file of which, to the 23d of February, we are indebted to the Exchange Reading Room.

The leading article of the *Mercury*, of the latest date, is devoted to an argument in favor of a removal of the seat of government from Santiago to Valparaiso.

PERU.—The minister of PAZ SOLDAN had resigned, we are told, in consequence of some misunderstanding with the President. Don Matias Leon has been chosen in his place, as Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Pitt Adams, the British minister, had returned to Callao, in the Sampson. The Peruvian government had not received the first communication, in which he announced his mission. Upon this, Mr. Adams had addressed to the government a second note, demanding that they should fix a time when they would decide whether to receive him or not, and when, if received, he should have his audience.

BOLIVIA.—General Ballivian, the late President of Bolivia, arrived at Santiago about the 7th of February, and was reported as well contented with his residence at Chili, where he had been well received.

The Valparaiso *Mercury* says, that the marine commandant had received official notice that the collector of customs and the port captain, at Cobija, the last officers of the Ballivian administration, which left office in consequence of the republican movement in favor of Gen. Velasco—had taken passage on board the ship Chili.—*Boston Advertiser.*

MARITIME INTELLIGENCE.

Port of New York, May 7, 1848.

SUN RISES	4 59	MOON SETS	11 34
SUN SETS	7 01	HIGH WATER	—

Cleared.

Steamship Northerner, Budd, Charleston, Spofford, Tileston & Co.

Ships—Eliza Keith, (Br) Scott, Lima; Splendid, (pkt) Crawford, Havre, W Whitlock, Jr; China, (Br) Attridge, Quebec, Maitland, Phelps & Co.

Barks—Hector, Kemp, Rio Janeiro, D R Martin; Lubeck, (Lubeck) Radecker, Rotterdam, W Weisser; Chancellor, Gray, Africa, NW Coast; Kathleen, Drebert, Vera Cruz, Mason & Thompson; Lanark, Venard, Havana, J Atkins & Co; Daniel Webster, Higgins, New Orleans, J B Gaiger; John Welch, Ames, Philadelphia.

Brigs—Anne & Julia, Pratt, St Thomas and Maracaibo, Maitland, Phelps & Co; Isabel, Burgess, Porto Rico; Curlew, (Br) Curry, Windsor, NS, Soule, Whitney & Co; Elizabeth Hastings, (Br) Gault, St John, NB, P I Nevius & Son; Oniota, Cunningham, Mobile, J Atkins; Ottawa, Lennox, do, H Eagle; Billow, Lawrence, St Marks and Key West, Hicks & Bailey; Moses, Bulkley, Charleston; Josephine, (Brem) Sansted, do; Damariscove, Osborn, Eastport.

Schs—Ariel, Attende, Santa Martha, G