THE PRESS

A BEAUTIFUL PICTURE.

We know not when we have been so deeply affected by the proceedings of our National Legislature as we were on reading the following thrilling account of the presentation to the Congress of the United States of the BATTLE SWORD OF WASHINGTON—the true and sturdy falchion which was borne by the "Father of his Country" through the long struggle that resulted in our National Independence. The whole proceedings are of surpassing interest. The speech of Mr. SUMMERS is simple and touching, and his closing remarks, particularly, are as chaste and beautiful, as they are eloquent and appropriate. There was evidently no attempt on his part to excite a single emotion beyond what the impressive circumstances of the occasion would naturally inspire. There is no ostentatious coloring, no theatrical display, no ambitious thrusting forward of the orator as a conspicuous figure in the beautiful historic picture. His language is simple, natural, and impressive.

From the National Intelligencer.

THE PRESENTATION OF THE SWORD OF WASHINGTON.

The scene presented in the House of Representatives yesterday was one of those brief moments of refreshing, which, few and far between, occur to the weary, way-worn, heart-sick traveller across the sandy Zahara, where he comes upon a cluster of palms, and beneath their grateful shade finds a welling spring worthy to be called "the Diamond of the Desert."—It was an hour when the remembrance of better days rushed with a power upon the heart, and bore it away, for the time, from surrounding dearth, and transported it, as in a vision, to a happier clime. It was a moral *mirage*, in which, while gazing in thought upon what "that old man eloquent" well denominated "our Golden Age," one forgot that there are such things as demagogues, and can be such things, neither a le nor pure. Washington, our own Washington, might be imagined, for a moment, to have "burst his cerements," and to be present in the Legislative Halls of the land he loved; and both the man who offered, and the man who received, the cherished memorials of the dead Patriot seemed to have felt, while they spoke, the inspiration of a greater presence than that which was visible about them. A fanciful observer might have believed that the mere touch of Washington's Sword had a sort of moral electricity about it, and that he who did but handle the staff on which Franklin had so often leaned caught by the contact something of his elevating wisdom.

Mr. Summers, as we well know, is esteemed at home as a lawyer of high standing, and a man of great strength and purity of character, but his warmest friends could not have desired that his parting speech (if it were his last) as a member of Congress should have been more worthy of the place and of the man. He treated a subject on which it is no easy task to speak without tritenessin a manner at once simple, appropriate, and dignified, saying just enough and no more, and saying it with a warmth of feeling too sincere to be counterfeited. His brief account of the relics he presented was clear and succinct, and yet had enough of particularity to give it the highest interest. As he proceeded, the crowded hall and galleries were as mute as the grave; and while every eye gazed, and many an eye overflowed, every ear listened with the eagerest attention to the close.

The response of Mr. Adams was every way such as might have been expected from him; but those who only *read* it, must lose more than half the impression with which it was received. The associations of the occasion were such as could not fail to reach a mind like his, and awaken within it those deep and powerful feelings which, when unaroused, slumber beneath an aspect and a manner which give no token of their presence. His intonations were deep and impassioned; his voice faltered—the eloquent blood rushed in torrents to his countenance—and his whole figure, attitude, and gesture, were those of one of Nature's orators strongly moved.

The whole transaction was in a high degree creditable to our country, and its record on our archives will mark at least one bright day in the contemporaneous history of Congress.

As soon as the speeches were ended, and the resolution moved by Mr. Adams had been adopted, Mr. Taliaferro, himself a Virginian, (and we may add with truth a fine specimen of the Virginia gentleman,) acting as the "Father of the House," which the date of his commission entitles him to do, moved that both the address of Mr. Summers and the response of Mr. Adams be inserted at length on the Journal; which having been ordered, Mr. McKennan, a Pennsylvanian, closed the scene in a dignified and most appropriate manner by moving, in honor of the occasion, that the House adjourn.

And now occurred a spectacle true to nature. The decorum of the House had kept every man in his seat while the addresses were in delivery and the votes being taken; but, no sooner had the adjournment been announced, and the Speaker left the chair, than there was a simultaneous rush from all quarters to obtain a nearer view of the interesting memorials of our great lost Patriots. Nor was the eye satisfied with seeing. Every hand was outstretched to touch them. It was like Homer's scene of the bending of Ulysses' bow; and many a puny hand now grasped the sword of Washington, that would have trembled in the scenes where it once gleamed in the eyes of the foes to American Independence. Demand after demand was made for a pleasure so grateful and so rare; and it was long before the Sergeant-at-Arms could rescue staff and falchion from the still eager hands that reluctantly gave them up to his custody. They were ordered to be deposited in the Department of State; but we presume they will eventually accompany the military commission, his uniform, and other precious memorials of Washington, which have been transferred from that Department to the halls of the National Institute.

MEMENTOES OF WASHINGTON AND FRANKLIN.

In the House of Representatives, on Tuesday last, after the transaction and disposal of some other business, Mr. Summers, of Virginia, rose and addressed the House as follows:

MR. SPEAKER: I rise for the purpose of discharging an office not connected with the ordinary business of a legislative assembly. Yet, in asking permission to interrupt, for a moment, the regular order of parliamentary proceedings, I cannot doubt that the proposition which I have to submit will prove as gratifying as it may be unusual.

Mr. Samuel T. Washington, a citizen of Kanawha county, in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and one of my constituents, has honored me with the commission of presenting, in his name and on his behalf, to the Congress of the United States, and through that body to the People of the United States, two most interesting and valuable relics connected with the past history of our country, and with men whose achievements, both in the field and in the Cabinet, best illustrate and adorn our annals.

One is the sword worn by George Washington, first as a Colonel in the Colonial service of Virginia, in Forbes's campaign against the French and Indians, and afterwards during the whole period of the war of Independence as Commander-in-Chief of the American army.

It is a plain couteau or hanger, with a green hilt and silver guard. On the upper ward of the scabbard is engraven "J. Bailey, Fish Kill." It is accompanied by a buckskin belt, which is secured by a silver buckle and clasp, whereon are engraven the letters "G. W." and the figures "1757." These are all of the plainest workmanship, but substantial, and in keeping with the man and with the times to which they belonged.

The history of this sword is perfectly authentic, and leaves no shadow of doubt as to its identity. The last will and testament of George Washington, bearing date on the ninth day of February, 1799, contains, among a great variety of bequests, the following clause:

"To each of my nephews, William Augustine Washington, George Lewis, George Steptoe Washington, Bushrod Washington, and Samuel Washington, I give one of the swords or couteaux of which I do possess; and they are to choose in the order they are named. These swords are accompanied with an injunction not to unsheath them for the purpose of shedding blood, except it be for self-defence, or in defence of their country and its rights; and, in the latter case, to keep them unsheathed, and prefer falling with them in their hands to the relinquishment thereof."

In the distribution of the swords hereby devised among the five nephews therein enumerated, the one now presented fell to the share of Samuel Washington, the devisee last named in the clause of the will which I have just read.

This gentleman, who died a few years since in the county of Kanawha, and who was the father of Samuel T. Washington, the donor, I knew well. I have often seen this sword in his possession, and received from himself the following account of the manner in which it became his property in the division made among the devisees:

He said that he knew it to have been the side-arm of General Washington during the Revolutionary war; not that used on occasions of parade and review, but the constant *service sword* of the great chief; that he had himself seen General Washington wear this identical sword, he presumed, for the last time, when, in 1794, he reviewed the Virginia and Maryland forces, then concentrated at Cumberland under the command of the Pennsylvania and New Jersey troops, then assembled at Bedford, in suppressing what has been called the "Whiskey Insurrection."

General Washington was then President of the United States, and as such was commander-in-chief of the army. It is known that it was his intention to lead the army in person upon that occasion had he found it necessary, and he went to Bedford and Cumberland prepared for that event. The condition of things did not require it, and he returned to his civil duties at Philadelphia.

Mr. Samuel Washington held the commission of a captain at that time himself and served in that campaign, many of the incidents of which he has related to me.

He was anxious to obtain this particular sword, and preferred it to all the others, among which was the ornamented and costly present from the great Frederick.

At the time of the division among the nephews, without intimating what his preference was, he jocosely remarked "that inasmuch as he was the only one of them who had participated in military service, they ought to permit him to take choice." This suggestion was met in the same spirit in which it was made, and the selection being awarded him, he chose this, the plainest, and, intrinsically, the least valuable of any, simply because it was the "Battle Sword."

I am also in possession of the most satisfactory evidence, furnished by Col. Geo. Washington, of Georgetown, the nearest male relative now living of General Washington as to the identity of this sword. His information, as to its history, was derived from his father, William Augustine Washington, the devisee first named in the clause of the will which I have read; from his uncle, the late Judge Bushrod Washington, of the Supreme Court; and Major Lawrence Lewis, the acting executor of General Washington's will; all of whom concurred in the statement that the true *service sword* was that selected by Capt. Samuel Washington.

It remained in this gentleman's possession until his death, esteemed by him the most precious memento of his illustrious kinsman. It then became the property of his son, who, animated by that patriotism which so characterised the "Father of his Country," has consented that such a relic ought not to be appropriated by an individual citizen, and has instructed me, his representative, to offer it to the nation, to be preserved in its public depositories as the common property of all, since its office has been to achieve and secure the common liberty of all.

He has, in like manner, requested me to present this Cane to the Congress of the United States, deeming it not unworthy of the public acceptance.

This was once the property of the philosopher and patriot Benjamin Franklin.

By a codicil to his last will and testament, we find it thus disposed of:

"My fine crab-tree walking stick, with a gold head, curiously wrought in the form of the cap of Liberty, I give to my friend, and the friend of mankind, Gen. Washington. If it were a sceptre, he has merited it and would become it."

Gen. Washington in his will, devises this cane as follows:

"*Item.* To my brother, Charles Washington, I give and bequeath the gold-headed cane left me by Dr. Franklin in his will."

Captain Samuel Washington was the only son of Charles Washington, the devisee from whom he derived, by inheritance, this interesting memorial; and having transmitted it to his son, Samuel T. Washington, the latter thus seeks to bestow it worthily, by associating it with the battle-sword in a gift to his countrymen.

I cordially concur with Mr. Washington in the opinion that they each merit public preservation;—and I obey, with pleasure, his wishes in here presenting them in his name, to the nation.

Let the sword of the Hero and the staff of the Philosopher go together. Let them have place among the proudest trophies and most honored memorials of our national achievements.

Upon that staff once leaned the sage, of whom it has been said, "He snatched the lightning from heaven, and the sceptre from tyrants.

A mighty arm once wielded this sword in a right-eous cause, even unto the dismemberment of Empire. In the hand of Washington this was "the sword of the Lord, and of Gideon."

It was never drawn except in the defence of public liberty; it was never sheathed until a glorious and triumphant success returned it to the scabbard, without a stain of cruelty upon its blade; it was never surrendered except to that country which bestowed it.

[At the conclusion of this address the galleries, which were crowded, sent forth emphatic manifestations of approbation.]

Mr. John Quincy Adams then rose and addressed the House as follows:

In presenting this resolution to the House, it may perhaps be expected that I should accompany it with some suitable remarks; and yet, sir, I never rose to address this House under a deeper conviction of the want of words to express the emotions that I feel. It is precisely because occasions like this are adapted to produce universal sympathy, that little can be said by any one, but what, in the language of the heart, in tones not loud but deep, every one present has silently said to himself. My respected friend from Virginia, by whom this offering of patriotic sentiment has been presented to the representative assembly of the nation, has it seems to me, already said all that can be said suitable to this occasion. In parting from him, as, after a few short days, we must all do, it will, on my part, be sorrowing that in all probability I shall see his face and hear his voice no more. But his words of this day are planted in my memory, and will there remain till the last pulsation of my heart.

The sword of WASHINGTON! The staff of FRANKLIN! Oh, sir, what associations are linked in adamant with those names! Washington, the warrior of human freedom—Washington, whose sword, as my friend has said, was never drawn but in the cause of his country, and never sheathed when wielded in his country's cause! Franklin, the philosopher of the thunderbolt, the printing-press, and the ploughshare! What names are these in the scanty catalogue of the benefactors of human kind! Washington and Franklin! What other two men, whose lives belong to the eighteenth century of Christendom, have left a deeper impression of themselves upon the age in which they lived, and upon all after time! Washington, the warrior and the legislator! In War, contending by the wager of battle for the independence of his country, and for the freedom of the human race; ever manifesting, amidst its horrors, by precept and example, his reverence for the laws of Peace, and for the tenderest sympathies of humanity; in Peace, soothing the ferocious spirit of discord, among his own countrymen, into harmony and union, and giving to that very sword now presented to his country a charm more potent than that attributed in ancient times to the lyre of Orpheus. Franklin! the mechanic of his own fortune, teaching, in early youth, under the shackles of indigence, the way to wealth, and in the shade of obscurity the path to greatness; in the maturity of manhood, disarming the thunder of its terrors, the lightning of its fatal blast, and wresting from the tyrant's hand the still more afflictive sceptre of oppression: while descending into the vale of years, traversing the Atlantic ocean, braving in the dead of winter the battle and the breeze, bearing in his hand the charter of independence, which he had contributed to form, and tendering, from the self-created nation to the mightiest monarchs of Europe, the olive-branch of peace, the mercurial wand of commerce, and the amulet of protection and safety to the man of peace on the pathless ocean, from the inexorable cruelty and merciless rapacity of war. And finally, in the last stage of life, with fourscore winters upon his head, under the torture of an incurable disease, returning to his native land, closing his days as the chief magistrate of his adopted Commonwealth, after contributing by his counsels, under the Presidency of Washington, and recording his name, under the sanction of devout prayer invoked by him to God, to that Constitution under the authority of which we are here assembled, as the Representatives of the North American People, to receive, in their name and for them these venerable relics of the wise, the valiant, and the good founders of our great confederated Republic—these sacred symbols of our golden age.

May they be deposited among the archives of our Government! and may every American who shall hereafter behold them ejaculate a mingled offering of praise to that Supreme Ruler of the Universe by whose tender mercies our Union has been hitherto preserved through all the vicissitudes and revolutions of this turbulent world, and of prayer for the continuance of the blessings, by the dispensations of his Providence, to our beloved country from age to age, till Time shall be no more!

[The same tokens of approbation which had greeted the address of Mr. Summers were exhibited at the close of Mr. Adams's remarks.]

Mr. Adams concluded by offering the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:

"*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That the thanks of this Congress be presented to Samuel T. Washington, of Kanawha county, Virginia, for the present of the sword used by his illustrious relative, George Washington, in the military career of his early youth in the seven years' war and throughout the war of the National Independence, and of the staff bequeathed by the patriot, statesman, and sage, Benjamin Franklin, to the same leader of the armies of Freedom in the Revolutionary war, George Washington. That these precious relics are hereby accepted in the name of the Nation; that they be deposited for safe-keeping in the Department of State of the United States, and that a copy of this resolution, signed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, be transmitted to the said Samuel T. Washington."

On motion of Mr. Taliaferro, the addresses of Mr. Summers and Mr. Adams were ordered to be entered on the Journal, and copies of both transmitted to Mr. Samuel T. Washington.

Mr. McKennan said that, after the deep feeling which had been elicited by the exciting scene just witnessed, it seemed to him that the House was not prepared immediately to enter again on the ordinary business of the session. He moved, therefore, that the House adjourn.

No voice dissenting, the House adjourned.

The annexed letters properly belong to the interesting scene which took place in the House of Representatives on Tuesday:

Copy of a letter from SAMUEL T. WASHINGTON, *accompanying the Sword and Cane presented to Congress.*

COAL'S MOUTH, KANAWHA COUNTY, (Va.)
January 9, 1843.

DEAR SIR: I have before me your letter of the 30th inst., requesting me to give you any information in my possession in relation to the sword placed in your hands by Mr. Samuel T. Washington, (alleged to have been the service sword of General WASHINGTON during the Revolutionary War,) and which he has instructed you, in his name, to present to the Congress of the United States.

General WASHINGTON, by his will, made disposition of his swords in the following words: "To each of my nephews, William Augustine Washington, George Lewis, George Steptoe Washington, Bushrod Washington, and Samuel Washington, I give one of the swords or couteaux, of which I may die possessed; and they are to choose in the order they are named. These swords are accompanied with an injunction not to unsheath them for the purpose of shedding blood, except it be for self-defence, or in defence of their country and its rights; and in the latter case, to keep them unsheathed, and prefer falling with them in their hands to the relinquishment thereof."

Two of these swords are in my possession, being devised to me, the one by my father, Wm. Augustine Washington, and the other by my uncle, the late Judge Bushrod Washington. The descendants of George Lewis, and George Steptoe Washington have two other of these swords, and that in your charge is without doubt the one which was selected by Colonel Samuel Washington.

My father was entitled to the first choice under the will, but was prevented by indisposition from attending at Mount Vernon when the distribution took place, and Judge Washington selected for him the most finished and costly sword, with which associations were connected highly complimentary to General Washington; but I often heard my father say that he would have preferred the sword selected by Col. Samuel Washington, from the fact that it was used by the General during the Revolutionary war. I have at different times heard similar statements as to this fact made by Col. Samuel Washington, Judge Washington, and Major Lawrence Lewis, and am not aware that it has been questioned by any member of the family. The sword was represented to me as being a couteau, with a plain green ivory handle.

I entertain no doubt whatever as to the identity of this sword, and hope that the information I have given may prove satisfactory.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
G. C. WASHINGTON.

Hon. GEORGE W. SUMMERS,
House of Representatives.

Copy of a letter from Col. GEO. C. WASHINGTON.

GEORGETOWN, January 31, 1843.

DEAR SIR: I have before me your letter of the 30th inst., requesting me to give you any information in my possession in relation to the sword placed in your hands by Mr. Samuel T. Washington, (alleged to have been the service sword of General WASHINGTON during the Revolutionary War,) and which he has instructed you, in his name, to present to the Congress of the United States.

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I entertain no doubt whatever as to the identity of this sword, and hope that the information I have given may prove satisfactory.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
G. C. WASHINGTON.

Hon. GEORGE W. SUMMERS,
House of Representatives.

FROM WASHINGTON.

FRIDAY, FEB. 3.—Senate.—*Bankrupt Law.* Mr Berrien, of Georgia, from the Committee on the Judiciary, reported a bill in reference to the whole subject. He asked in the name of the Committee to be discharged from the House Bill, and from all the memorials and resolutions referring to the subject. The repeal bill, originating in the Senate, is reported back, with sundry amendments—the main features of which affect the voluntary principle.

The amendments also go to repeal so much of the voluntary clause as allows any applicant to have the benefit of the law upon his single petition, and changes, in several important particulars, the existing mode of procuring the certificate of discharge.

The bill and report are both long, and as soon as the report was presented, Mr Tallmadge rose and said, that in view of the importance of the subject he moved the printing of 1500 extra copies of the report.

The report states that the salutary influence of such a change in the law will be manifested—1st, by the prevention of undue credit; 2d, by preventing partial assignments; 3d, by substituting one uniform rule; and 4th, by arming the creditor with a power to force a failing debtor to go into liquidation before his assets are wasted by the desperate speculations to which men in such circumstances are tempted.

The following reasons are given for continuing the law:

1st. In the consideration that the benefits of the Bankrupt Law have been extended to a portion of our fellow citizens, while its sudden repeal would be a denial of equal justice to many others whose claims are not less strong, and who have been prevented from availing themselves of them, or restrained by motives which ought to command our respect.

2d. That by the decision of the question in relation to the constitutionality of the law in one of the Courts of the United States, the citizens of one of the States of the Union have been in effect deprived of all the benefits of this law, while those of the other States have had the enjoyment of them.

3d. That the Bankrupt Law is but the exercise of a beneficient power which the experience of every commercial State has ascertained to be necessary, and which power has been conferred by the Constitution on the Federal Government.

4th. That it will prevent the enactment and operation of "stay laws," some of which have already been passed.

5th. Finally, that such a law extends the protection of the Government to a class of citizens, who though poor and unfortunate, ought not for this cause, to be beyond the pale of its protection.

One of the changes in the bill is the substitution of a declaration of insolvency according to the Act of 6th William the Fourth. The amendment provides that the assignees shall be appointed by a majority of the creditors.

No recommendation to include corporations is embodied in the report.

The question was taken, and the printing was ordered by a vote of 16 to 14.

Resolutions.—Mr Benton offered two resolutions, one as to the payment of the interest due the Shawnee tribe of Indians under the law of 1801, which was adopted.

The second was as follows:

Resolved, That the President of the United States transmit to the Senate copies of any protest or remonstrance against the ratification of the British Treaty upon the right of search, and that all correspondence be furnished in connection with this subject.

The resolution lies over for one day.

Oregon Question. This Bill was called for again, in the hopes expressed by Mr Linn, that to-day would end the consideration of this vexed question.

Mr Choate was entitled to the floor, and addressed the Senate in reference to the merits of a single branch of the subject, the identity of the treaty lines on the North West of 1842 and 1783—a point denied by Mr Benton. He said the honorable Senator (Mr B.) says the treaty changes the boundary. I controvert the statement. Mr Choate proceeded to substantiate his ground with maps, documents, reports, treaties and testimony.

Mr Choate remarked, *en passant*, that he could not see what the Federalists of '98 or '42 had to do with this subject. Mr C. adhered to the treaty of '83, and if the treaty of '42 gave up what that claimed, he should believe the Senator had done right in making so much of this subject as he had. But he denied that the Senator from Missouri had adduced one scintilla of proof that his position was correct. Neither book, letter, report nor testimony of any kind favored his views, and no one who knew the habits of search of the Senator, could doubt that he would have produced this testimony if he could have done so.

Mr Choate examined the treaty of John Jay, on whom he pronounced a high and beautiful eulogy. The treaty of Jay was precisely the treaty of '42—of Washington, that of the past year. In regard to the North Western Boundary, the route and privileges were the same, all of which was abundantly proved by reference to both.

Mr Choate having spoken at considerable length, and with great eloquence and research, Mr Benton rejoined, and maintained again and again his positions against Mr Webster and the treaty. The subject of the Oregon Bill was not alluded to, or but most distantly, and no one could have known anything of the subject from the character of the debate.

Mr Benton, in concluding his remarks, was before. He pronounced him British in his feelings, and in his actions, and said that the British feeling which was manifested by Mr W. during the last war had been incorporated in his British Treaty. Mr Benton repeated this idea some half dozen times, and in as strong language as he could embody.

The debate was continued by Messrs Woodbridge, Choate, Benton and others.

Mr Archer withdrew his motion to recommit. The bill, by unanimous consent, was then considered as in Committee of the Whole.

Mr Archer then moved to strike out the prospective grants of land.

Mr Calhoun asked the gentleman from Missouri, whether this amendment was desired by him.

Mr Linn replied, that in his opinion the bill would be ineffectual without it.

The yeas and nays were ordered on the amendment of Mr Archer.

After a brief debate by several Senators,

Mr Conard moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

On this question the yeas and nays were ordered, and it was decided in the negative—yeas 22, nays 24.

The question was taken on the amendment of Mr Archer to strike out the grants of land to settlers, and it was decided in the negative—the vote being precisely similar to the above.

The bill was then ordered to be engrossed for a third reading—yeas 24, nays 22, as follows:

YEAS—Messrs Allen, Benton, Buchanan, Clayton, Fulton, Henderson, King, Linn, McRoberts, Mangum, Merrick, Phelps, Sevier, Smith, of Conn., Smith of Indiana, Sturgeon, Tappan, Walker, White, Wilcox, Williams, Woodbury, Wright and Young—24.

NAYS—Messrs Archer, Bagby, Barrow, Bates, Bayard, Berrien, Calhoun, Choate, Conard, Dayton, Evans, Graham, Huntington, McDuffie, Miller, Morehead, Rives, Simmons, Sprague, Tallmadge and Woodbridge—22.

The bill was read a third time and passed.

HOUSE.—On motion of Mr Johnson, of Tenn., it was resolved that a Select Committee of five be appointed, who shall inquire and report to the House whether the several resolutions for the retrenchment of the House have been carried into effect, and in what manner the same has been done; and also, if any, and what further steps are necessary to be pursued to effect a further retrenchment and curtailment of its expenses.

Gen. Washington's Servant.—Mr Taliaferro from the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, reported a bill to allow a pension to John Cary, a free colored man, a native of the county of Westmoreland, Virginia, now a resident of this District, who says he was a body servant of General Washington at the battle of Braddock's defeat, in 1775, and was present at that battle; and also that he was a servant of General Washington at the surrender of Cornwallis in 1781, and who is believed to be 112 years old.

The bill was read a third time and passed.

Harbor Bill.—Mr Kennedy, of Md. from the Committee on Commerce, reported a bill for the improvement of certain harbors, which was referred to the Committee of the Whole.

The Senate did not sit.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—The Naval Appropriation bill was taken up in Committee of the Whole.

Mr Meriwether moved an amendment that the appropriation for the pay of the officers be reduced.

Mr Fillimore objected as a point of order, that in an appropriation bill, the pay established by law could not be reduced.

The Speaker overruled the point of order.—Mr Fillmore appealed from the decision of the Chair, which, after debate, was, however, sustained—79 to 63.

Mr Meriwether then took the floor, and went into a statement to show the justice of the proposed reduction.—He stated that in some cases, the pay of officers in the Navy had been raised in 1834, to the enormous extent of 75 and even 100 per cent., while the reduction which he proposed did not even bring down the pay to a point corresponding with the existing price of labor and provisions.

Mr Wise replied that the pay of officers in the Navy had been, in 1835, apportioned upon a different system from what it was prior to that time; that what was now called *pay*, was made up of what was formerly *pay and rations*. He begged to call the attention of the gentleman from Ga. to this fact.

Mr Meriwether said it was not to be supposed he (Mr M.) was ignorant of this change; he had thoroughly investigated the subject under consideration, and knew what he was about. Mr M. then went on with his calculations, and when he had finished,

Mr Wise made a long reply, in which he dwelt with great warmth upon the necessity of an increase, instead of a reduction, of the Naval force, going into a comparison of the American and British Navy, and showing how the maritime force of the latter power was amply competent not only for the protection of her trade throughout the world, but enabled her also to take possession of islands and mainland stations wherever opportunity presented itself and the inducement was sufficient. When Mr W. closed,

Mr McKeon, of New York, submitted an amendment providing that no part of the sum appropriated should go to defray the expense of equipping and keeping up a force on the African coast, as contemplated in the 8th article of the Treaty of Washington.

The Chair decided the amendment out of order.

Mr Proffit, of Indiana, obtained the floor, but was several times interrupted by Mr McKeon.

The Chair decided that the gentleman from Indiana was entitled to the floor.

But, Mr Chairman, said Mr McKeon.

Mr Chairman, said Mr Proffit.

Both gentlemen continued in this position some time, until the Chair decided, peremptorily, that Mr Proffit had been recognized and called out by the Chair, as no appeal was taken from the decision throwing out the amendment.

Mr McKeon said he did not hear the decision.

Mr Proffit then proceeded: he was sorry, he said, that the gentleman from New York died so hard; no doubt he was prepared with a fine speech on his proposition, and if he watched clearly and was sharp, he might get the floor after he (Mr P.) was done, although he was afraid the gentleman would appear to great disadvantage to-day. (Laughter.) Mr P. went on for a few minutes, when a motion was made that the Committee rise.

MONDAY, FEB. 6.—In the Senate on Monday, Mr Choate addressed the Senate for the purpose of noticing a gross misrepresentation of his remarks in the Globe.

Mr Archer moved a reconsideration of the vote by which the Oregon bill was passed. The motion was laid over to the next day.

Mr Tallmadge introduced his bill proposing his Exchequer plan, and addressed the Senate, at length, in an able explanation of it.

The bill was then passed over for the present, and several other subjects were taken up, after which the Senate adjourned.

In the House, several bills were reported during the morning hour. Among them was one for the relief of Amos Kendall against the judgment obtained against him by Stockton and Stokes.

The House went into Committee of the Whole, and spent the day in discussion of the Navy Appropriation Bill, on the motion to reduce the compensation of officers. Before any vote was taken on this motion, the Committee, rose, and the House adjourned.

FEB. 7, Senate.—The Pension bill, and a large number of other bills from the House of Representatives, were read a first and second time and referred. The bills were both finally passed.

Oregon Question.—This bill was before the Senate this morning upon the question of reconsidering the vote by by which the bill was passed on Friday. The closeness of the vote excited a good deal of interest. The result of the vote was for a time doubtful, and the yeas and nays had to be twice read to satisfy Senators that the vote had not been announced in-

The following are the yeas and nays:

AYES—Messrs Archer, Barrow, Bates, Bayard, Berrien, Calhoun, Conrad, Choate, Crafts, Crittenden, Dayton, Evans, Graham, Huntington, Kerr, McDuffie, Mangum, Porter, Simmons, Rives, Tallmadge, Sprague, Woodridge—24.

NAYS—Messrs Allen, Bagby, Barrow, Buchanan, Clayton, Fulton, Henderson, King, Linn, McRoberts, Merrick, Moore, Phelps, Sevier, Smith of Conn., Smith of Ind., Sturgeon, Tappan, Walder, Wilcox, Williams, Wright, Young—24.

Private Expresses. The bill referring to the transmission of letters and newspapers by Private Expresses, was the subject before the Senate. A division of the question was demanded, and the Senate decided that newspapers should not be carried by private expresses. Yeas 11—Nays 25.

Letters and printed matter were then prohibited. Yeas 12—Nays 24.

Mr Woodbury moved to exclude the carrying of money without a letter from the penalties imposed, and the amendment was adopted.

After which the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE. Mr Fillmore submitted a resolution, that the debate upon the Navy bill shall cease on Wednesday, at two o'clock, which was adopted.

Mr Arnold then moved that the bill for the reduction of pay of members, etc., be made the special order of the day for Tuesday next. And the yeas and nays having been taken, the question was decided in the affirmative. Yeas 131—Nays 51.

After this *Mr* Summers, of Va. according to general expectation, presented the sword of Washington, and the cane of Franklin, of which a full account will be found in another column. The House then adjourned.

FEB. 8.—Senate.—The Senate Chamber was filled with a large audience, anxious to witness the ceremony of the presentation of the Sword of Washington and the Staff of Franklin, as presented in the House of Representatives. The Clerk of the House appeared with the proceedings of the House growing out of the reception of Washington's Sword, the Cane of Franklin, and resolution of thanks to the donor for the gift. The Sergeant-at-Arms of the House of Representatives bore the Sword and Staff, and placed them in the hands of the President of the Senate. *Mr* Archer moved that the Resolution be considered at once and made some brief remarks appropriate to the occasion. He stated the history of the sword very succinctly, adopting the remarks of *Mr* Summers, of the House of Representatives, to whom he paid a just compliment for the handsome manner in which he had presented the venerable relics entrusted to his care. As a further mark of respect for the venerable memorials, on motion of *Mr* Archer, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE. *The Sword of Washington.* On motion of *Mr* Taliaferro, it was resolved that twenty thousand copies of the full journal of the proceedings of the House yesterday, on the presentation of the Sword of Washington, be printed for distribution by the members of this House. On motion of *Mr* Briggs, the journal of yesterday was amended by inserting thereon the letter from *Mr* S. T. Washington to the Hon. *Mr* Summers.

The Navy Appropriation Bill was then taken up as in Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union. *Mr* Holmes, being entitled to the floor, offered a resolution to the effect that all appropriation bills be laid aside, and that a committee be appointed to report on the best mode of resuscitating the finances and bringing the expenses of the government to the scale of the national income. *Mr* H. consumed his hour in support of this proposision; advocating free trade and other South Carolina doctrines, and casting the imputation upon the Whigs of having neglected their duty. Mr White of Indiana, replied and advocated the principles maintained by the Whig party, and pointed out the ill effects of those cherished upon the side of their apponents Mr. Fillmore confined his remarks to the bill, and said that the appropriations contained in it were less by $1,426,026,71, than the estimates. The hour of two having arrived, the Committee took the vote upon the amendment to reduce the pay of the officers of the Navy twenty per cent. The result was, ayes 74, noes 82. So it was rejected. An amendment was adopted to place the Bureau of Clothing in charge af a captain of the navy. Mr Fessenden offered an amendment to the effect that no person shall hereafter serve as Chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery who has not seen five years of service. The amendment was carried by acclamation.—Various other amendments were adopted, after which the bill was referred to the House. Mr King wished to address the House, but as a friend of the Navy, and in order to hasten action upon the bill, moved the Previous Question. The amendments of the Committee were concurred in by the House, and the bill ordered to be engrossed. Mr Merriwether moved to recommit the bill to the Committee of the Whole, with instructions to reduce the pay of the officers 20 per cent, (the amendment before voted down in Committee.) Mr Wise moved the Previous Question in the midst of Mr Merriwether's preparations for a speech upon his amendment. Mr M. deemed that he had been unfairly kept out of his speech, and complained. A debate of an exciting character grew out of this question, which was got rid of by the passage of the Bill.

FEB. 9—In Senate, today, Mr Barrow, from the Committee on Commerce, reported a bill to provide for the improvement of the Mississippi and its tributaries.

The bill to establish agencies in the States of Kentucky and Missouri, for the inspection and purchase of water-rotted hemp, was advocated by Messrs. Bayard, Crittenden, Morehead, Linn and Buchanan, and opposed by Messrs. McDuffie, King, Woodbury, Baghy and Sevier; and after the adoption of an amendment of Mr Bagby, providing that the domestic hemp shall not be purchased at a higher price than the foreign can be obtained for was *passed*: Yeas 27, Nays 17.

The Pension bill from the House, and the bill to prevent the employment of private expresses upon mail routes, were passed.

A variety of private business was disposed of, and the Senate adjourned.

In the House, Mr Reynolds, from the Select Committee on the subject, reported a bill authorizing the adoption of measures for the occupation and settlement of Oregon Territory; referred to Committee of the Whole on the Union.

The Senate bill on the same subject was subsequently received and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Mr Warren, from the Committee on Claims, made a report urging the necessity of a clerk for that Committee. *The* House refused to allow it, by laying the report on the table.

The special order—the consideration of business relating to the District of Columbia—occupied the remainder of the day. Several bills were passed in Committee of the Whole, and reported to the House

OREGON TERRITORY.

This vast region of country, extending west of the Rocky mountains to the Pacific ocean, occupies at this time a considerable share of public attention. A bill (introduced by Mr. LINN, of Missouri,) for its occupation and settlement, has been for several days the subject of animated discussion in the U. S. Senate. It authorizes the President to establish a chain of military posts from some point on the Missouri and Arkansas rivers, through the heart of the Territory, to the mouth of the Columbia; and also directs that grants of land shall be made, of six hundred and forty acres to every white male inhabitant, aged eighteen years and upward, who shall settle and occupy the same for five years; one hundred and sixty acres to his wife, and the same to each child who shall be born within the five years aforsaid. Agents are to be appointed to superintend the interests of the United States with all the Indian tribes, and the jurisdiction of the Courts of Iowa Territory, are to be extended throughout the whole region—thus bringing the whole territory west of the Mississippi under the immediate jurisdiction of the United States.

Many difficulties have arisen in the way of effecting the passage of this bill. It is settled that we have a right to colonize and govern the country—having first discovered the Columbia river, which gives us a claim to all the territory watered by it and its branches. The discovery has been followed by exploration by Lewis and Clarke, which strengthens and con-

Spain and France, both of which nations claimed the country from their discovery and settlements along the Mississippi. On the other hand, Great Britain claims that one of her navigators discovered a portion of the country prior to the discovery of the Columbia by us; and although she did not follow up the discovery by exploration and settlement, she claims the right to hunt and trade in the country. She also contends that she derived the right thro' a treaty with Spain in 1790.

Various efforts have been made to adjust the conflicting claims of the two nations, all of which have failed. In 1817, an arrangement was made, which has lasted until this time, giving Great Britain the privilege of hunting and trading in the Territory; and we were not to take possession, and exercise exclusive jurisdiction, *without first giving a year's notice.* Those who oppose the bill, say we are bound in good faith to give the year's notice; while Messrs. BENTON and LINN, its warmest advocates, declare that England has already taken possession of the country, and exercises jurisdiction, and that we are not bound by the contract already forfeited by her. If an offence is committed, the offender is tried and punished by English laws. It is also asserted that American hunters are not safe in the country. Large numbers have disappeared or been killed within a few years past; and it is supposed that the Indians are excited to hostility against our people by British agents. We are therefore justified, under these circumstances, in taking complete possession of the country, without giving the year's notice.

Should this bill pass, as we hope it may, the country, under its liberal provisions, will be settled rapidly. Already, emigrants from Missouri are taking up their march toward the setting sun. The Methodists have a missionary station there, and many of our citizens may recollect the Rev. Mr. LEE, who visited this city two or three years ago, accompanied by two Flathead Indians. He has since returned to that country, and has a flourishing settlement on the Wallamette river. The climate is one