The other consequence would be, that of an excessive augmentation of the offices, honors and emoluments depending on the executive will. Add to the present legitimate stock, all those of every description which a consolidation of the States would take from them, and turn over to the Federal Government, and the patronage of the Executive would necessarily be as much swelled in this case, as its prerogative would be in the other.

This disproportionate increase of prerogative and patronage, must, evidently either enable the Chief Magistrate of the Union, by quiet means, to secure his re-election from time to time, and finally, to regulate the succession as he might please; or, by giving so transcendant an importance to the office, would render the elections to it so violent and corrupt, that the public voice itself might call for an hereditary, in place of an elective succession.—Whichever of these events might follow, the transformation of the Republican system of the United States into a monarchy, anticipated by the General Assembly from a consolidation of the States into one sovereignty, would be equally accomplished; and whether it would be into a mixed or an absolute monarchy, might depend on too many contingencies to admit of any certain foresight.

The resolution next in order, is contained in the following terms:

"That the General Assembly doth particularly protest against the palpable and alarming infractions of the Constitution, in the two late cases of the "Alien and Sedition Acts," passed at the last session of Congress; the first of which exercises a power no where delegated to the Federal Government; and which, by uniting Legislative and Judicial powers to those of Executive, subverts the general principles of a free Government, as well as the particular organization and positive provisions of the Federal Constitution; and the other of which acts exercises, in like manner, a power not delegated by the Constitution; but, on the contrary, expressly and positively forbidden by one of the amendments thereto; a power, which, more than any other, ought to produce universal alarm; because it is levelled against that right of freely examining public characters and measures, and of free communication among the people thereon, which has ever been justly deemed the only effectual guardian of every other right."

The subject of this resolution having, it is presumed, more particularly led the General Assembly into the proceedings which they communicated to the other States, and being in itself of peculiar importance, it deserves the most critical and faithful investigation; for the length of which no other apology will be necessary.

The subject divides itself into *first*, "The Alien Act," *secondly*, "The Sedition Act."

Of the "Alien Act," it is affirmed by the Resolution, 1st. That it exercises a power nowhere delegated to the Federal Government. 2d. That it unites Legislative and Judicial powers to those of the Executive. 3d. That this union of power subverts the general principles of free government. 4th. That it subverts the particular organization and positive provisions of the Federal Constitution.

In order to clear the way for a correct view of the first position, several observations will be premised.

In the first place, it is to be borne in mind, that it being a characteristic feature of the Federal Constitution, as it was originally ratified, and an amendment thereto having precisely declared, "That the powers not delegated to to U. S. by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people;" it is incumbent in this, as in every other exercise of power by the Federal Government, to prove from the Constitution, that it grants the particular power exercised.

The next observation to be made, is, that much confusion and fallacy, have been thrown into the questions, by blending the two cases of *aliens, members of a hostile nation;* and *alienas, members of friendly nations.* These two cases are so obviously and so essentially distinct, that it occasions no little surprise that the distinction should have been disregarded: and the surprise is so much the greater, as it appears that the two cases are actually distinguished by two separate acts of Congress, passed at the same session, and comprised in the same publication; the one providing for the case of "alien enemies;" the other "concerning aliens" indiscriminately; and consequently extending to aliens of every nation in peace and amity with the United States. With respect to alien enemies, no doubt has been intimated as to the Federal authority over them: the Constitution having expressly delegated to Congress the power to declare war against any nation, and of course to treat it and all its members as enemies. With respect to aliens, who are not enemies, but members of nations in peace and amity with the U. States, the power assumed by the act of Congress, is denied to be Constitutional; and it is accordingly against this act, that the protest of the General Assembly is expressly and exclusively directed.

A third observation is, that were it admitted, as is contended, that the "act concerning Aliens," has for its object, not a *penal* but a *preventive* justice; it would still remain to be proved that it comes within the Constitutional power of the Federal Legislature: and if within its power, that the Legislature has exercised it in a Constitutional manner.

In the administration of preventive justice, the following principles have been held sacred; that some probable ground of suspicion be exhibited before some Judicial authority; that it be supported by oath or affirmation; that the party may avoid being thrown into confinement, by finding pledges or sureties for his legal conduct sufficient in the judgment of some Judicial authority; that he may have the benefit of a writ of *habeas corpus*, and thus obtain his release, if wrongfully confined; and that he may at any time be discharged from his recognizance, or his confinement, and restored to his former liberty and rights, on the order of the proper Judicial authority, if it shall see sufficient cause.

All these principles of the only preventive justice known to American jurisprudence, are violated by the Alien act. The ground of suspicion is to be judged of, not by any Judicial authority, but by the Executive Magistrate alone: no oath or affirmation is required; if the suspicion be held reasonable by the President, or he may order the suspected Alien to depart the territory of the U. S., without the opportunity of avoiding the sentence by finding pledges for his future good conduct; as the President may limit the time of departure as he pleases, the benefit of the writ of habeas corpus, may be suspended with respect to the party, although the Constitution ordains, that it shall not be suspended, unless when the public safety may require it in case of rebellion or invasion, neither of which existed at the passage of the act: and the party being, under the sentence of the President, either removed from the U. S., or being punished by imprisonment, or disqualification ever to become a citizen on conviction of not obeying the order of removal, he cannot be discharged from the proceedings against him, and restored to the benefits of his former situation, although the *highest Judicial authority* should see the most sufficient cause for it.

But, in the last place, it can never be admitted, that the removal of aliens, authorised by the act, is to be considered, not as punishment for an offence; but as a measure of precaution and prevention. If the banishment of an alien from a country into which he has been invited, as the asylum most auspicious to his happiness; a country, where he may have formed the most tender of connections, where he may have vested his entire property, and acquired property of the real and permanent, as well as the moveable and temporary kind; where he enjoys under the laws, a greater share of the blessings of personal security and personal liberty, than he can elsewhere hope for, and where he may have nearly completed his probationary title to citizenship; if, moreover, in the execution of the sentence against him, he is to be exposed, not only to the ordinary dangers of the sea, but to the peculiar casualties incident to a crisis of war, and of unusual licentiousness on that element, and possibly to vindictive purposes which his emigration itself may have provoked; if a banishment of this sort be not a punishment, and among the severest of punishments, it will be difficult to imagine a doom to which the name can be applied. And if it be a punishment, it will remain to be enquired, whether it can be constitutionally inflicted, on mere suspicion, by the single will of the Executive Magistrate, on persons convicted of no personal offence against the laws of the land, nor involved in any offence against the law of nations, charged on the foreign state of which they are members.

One argument offered in justification of this power exercised over aliens, is, that the admission of them into the country being of favor not of right, the favor is at all times revocable.

To this argument it might be answered, that allowing the truth of the inference, it would be no proof of what is required. A question would still occur, whether the Constitution had vested the discretionary power of admitting Aliens, in the Federal Government or in the State Governments.

But it cannot be a true inference, that because the admission of an Alien is a favor, the favor may be revoked at pleasure. A grant of land to an individual, may be of favor, not of right; but the moment the grant is made, the favor becomes a right, and must be forfeited before it can be taken away. To pardon a malefactor may be a favor, but, the pardon is not, on that account, the less irrevocable. To admit an Alien to naturalization, is as much a favor, as to admit him to reside in the country; yet it cannot be pretended, that a person naturalized can be deprived of the benefit, any more than a native citizen can be disfranchised.

Again, it is said, that Aliens not being parties to the Constitution, the rights and privileges which it secures, cannot be at all claimed by them.

To this reasoning also, it might be answered, that although Aliens are not parties to the Constitution, it does not follow that the Constitution has vested in Congress an absolute power over them. The parties to the Constitution may have granted, or retained, or modified the power over Aliens, without regard to that particular consideration.

But a more direct reply is, that it does not follow, because Aliens are not parties to the Constitution, as citizens are parties to it, that whilst they actually conform to it, they have no right to its protection. Aliens are not more parties to the laws, than they are parties to the Constitution; yet, it will not be disputed, that as they owe on one hand, a temporary obedience, they are entitled in return to their protection and advantage.

If Aliens had no rights under the Constitution, they might not only be banished, but even capitally punished, without a jury or the other incidents to a fair trial. But so far has a contrary principle been carried, in every part of the United States, that except on charges of treason, an Alien has, besides all the common privileges, the special one of being tried by a jury, of which one half may be also Aliens.

It is said, further, that by the laws and practice of nations, Aliens may be removed at discretion, for offences against the law of nations; that Congress are authorised to define and punish such offences; and that to be dangerous to the peace of society is, in Aliens, one of those offences.

The distinction between Alien enemies and Alien friends, is clear and conclusive answer to this argument. Alien enemies are under the law of nations, and liable to be punished for offences against it.—Alien friends, except in the single case of public ministers, are under the municipal law and must be tried and punished according to that law only.

This argument also, by referring the Alien act, to the power of Congress to define and *punish* offences against the law of nations, yields the point that the act is of a *penal*, not merely of a preventive operation. It must, in truth, be so considered. And if it be a penal act, the punishment it inflicts must be justified by some offence that deserves it.

Offences for which Aliens, within the jurisdiction of a country, are punishable, are first, offences committed by the nation of which they make a part, and in whose offences they are involved: Secondly, offences committed by themselves alone, without any charge against the nation to which they belong. The first is the case of Alien enemies; the second, the case of Alien friends. In the first case, the offending nation can no otherwise be punished than by war, one of the laws which authorises the expulsion of such of its members, as may be found within the country, against which the offence has been committed. In the second case, the offence being committed by the individual, not by his nation, and against the municipal law, not against the law of nations, the individual only, and not the nation, is punishable; and the punishment must be conducted according to the municipal law, not according to the law of nations. Under this view of the subject, the act of Congress, for the removal of Alien enemies, being conformable to the law of nations, is justified by the Constitution: and the 'act,' for the removal of Alien friends, being repugnant to the Constitutional principles of municipal law, is unjustifiable.

Nor is the act of Congress, for the removal of Alien friends, more agreeable to the general practice of nations, than it is within the purview of the law of nations. The general practice of nations, distinguishes between Alien friends and Alien enemies. The latter it has proceeded against, according to the law of nations, by expelling them as enemies. The former it has considered as under a local and temporary allegiance, and entitled to a correspondent protection. If contrary instances are to be found in barbarous countries, under undefined prerogatives, or amid revolutionary dangers; they will not be deemed fit precedents for the government of the United States, even, if not beyond its Constitutional authority.

[To be continued.]

The Spirit Of The Age.

To check ACHILLES *and to rescue* TROY.

FRIDAY MORNING, DEC. 25, 1840.

NEW-YEARS' PRESENT.

A FIRST RATE SUGGESTION.

A subscriber sends us word that he intends to make us a new years' present, in the shape of a *few new subscribers!* That will be first rate.—Who of our friends will entitle himself to our handsomest bow?

Now, as we don't wish to have the boot all on one leg, we will make an offer ourself. To any one who will make us a present of *ten good responsible subscribers*, for one year, we will make a present of a copy of the AGE for the same time. Is n't that fair?

☞Our friend, LEONARD, of Wallingford, who says, "he is still democratic to the back bone," under date of Dec. 21st, makes us a present of *ten* good subscribers. "Push along! keep moving," as old Potter used to sing.

EIGHTH OF JANUARY.

We are requested to say, that as we intimated last week, the Democrats of Bridgewater will celebrate the anniversary of the battle of New Orleans.

An address will be delivered by Gen. T. B. RANSOM, at the lower Meeting-house, at 10 o'clock, A. M., after which the company will partake of a dinner at Woodard's Inn, accompanied with the usual ceremonies of toasts, &c.

The democrats of the county are respectfully invited to attend.

THE REPEAL OF THE INDEPENDENT TREASURY.

It will be seen that Mr. Clay, in the Senate, and Mr. Tillinghast, in the House, have given notice of their intention to move the repeal of the Independent Treasury act. So then, we are to have another currency war. The business men of the country are again to be launched upon a sea of uncertainty. Will they bear it? We shall see.

We should like to know what the old Jeffersonian Republicans, who have always been opposed to a National Bank, but who have been sucking hard cider lately, will say to the democracy of the Tippers, about these days.

Are the old Jackson men, who fought with the old Roman *against* a National Bank, now going with Old Tip *for* a National Bank? Can they not see, now, on what ground they stand? Can they not, now, see that the professions of the hard ciderites are as false as the alkoran,

"As heartless as the Arab's wind!"

If they do not, then are they blind, indeed, We beg of the people to read candidly the Report of Mr. Madison which we are publishing, at intervals, to give them a better opportunity of studying and comprehending it. It will throw much light upon the ground they occupy.

THE HEIR APPARENT.

People will remember the great hue-and-cry raised against Gen. JACKSON "for appointing his successor." What will they say now, that Mrs. Harrison, after having made at Dayton, Ohio, the solemn pledge before high heaven and the "Miami Tribe," that no one should know who he preferred as his successor, has openly named Henry Clay, as the heir apparent to the throne, and that too, before he has ensconced himself in the chair of State.

The Louisville Journal, the leading federal organ of Kentucky, contains the following paragraph:

"A public entertainment was given the other day at Versailles, Kentucky, to Gen. Harrison. In the course of it the President elect rose and gave a toast in honor of Henry Clay. In the eloquent remarks with which he accompanied the sentiment, he stated, as we are informed by one of his auditors, that he considered Mr. Clay the fittest man in the nation for the Presidency, and that he himself would *resign the office at once, on his arrival at Washington, were it possible for him, by so doing, to confer it on the distinguished Kentuckian.*"

Do the people understand this? or are they yet suffering under the fumes of hard cider!

The Louisville Advertiser, says the *Ohio Statesman*, thus pointedly and indignantly alludes to this declaration in favor of Clay: and humbled, indeed, must be the proud spirit of this people, to not keenly feel the degradation to which they are brought by the fandango electioneering of British and American Bankers.

The Advertiser says:

"Do the Federalists recollect how they abused General Jackson, because he had, as they said, designated his successor? Can the Editor of the Journal have forgotten his own denunciations?—Why did he not think of them when he was telling his readers that Gen. Harrison had commenced dictating in reference to his successor, before he himself had been inaugurated?

"If the article of the Journal details facts, Gen. Harrison is indeed a presumptuous, designing and dangerous man, or Mr. Clay has taken advantage of his weakness, and should be punished for prostituting him to a purpose so base.

"If Gen. Harrison publicly declared that Mr. Clay is the "fittest man in the nation for the Presidency," the remark must have been made with a view to the succession, and the President elect may be justly charged with making a daring attempt to dictate to the People; or he is superannuated, and the party that elected him ought to be held responsible for all his silly or mal-conduct.

"But there is another aspect in which the singular assertion that Mr. Clay is the "fittest man in the nation for the Presidency," may be viewed.—It is known that Gen. Harrison has pledged and repledged himself to serve but one term. That pledge was given to appease the most restless of the aspirants to the Presidency, Mr. Clay. In other language, Mr. Clay may have agreed to stand back—to give the track to Harrison—provided he would return the compliment when required."

"THE DARK CORNERS."

VERMONT AND NEW-HAMPSHIRE.

It is a common remark, in Vermont, that New-Hampshire is one of "the dark corners," and that the people of that State, are, as a body, much more ignorant than those of their sister State.

The late census will enable us to form an opinion of the truth of these assertions. Let us look at it.

In New-Hampshire, there are 2 universities, with 430 students. In Vermont there are 3 universities with 233 In New-Hampshire there are 63 academies, with 5,746 scholars. In Vermont, we find no list of the number of academies for this year. In 1839 there were 32, and probably about the same now. The number of scholars at the academies in 1840, is 3,923. In New-Hampshire there are 2,110 common schools, *all supported at the public expense*, with EIGHTY-ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND NINETY scholars.—In Vermont there are 2,360 common schools, with EIGHT THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SIX scholars, 2,058 of which are supported at the public expense!

In New-Hampshire there are out of 284,481 inhabitants, only

NINE HUNDRED & TWENTY SEVEN

persons over the age of 20, who cannot read and write, and in Vermont, out of a population only 7,357 greater, there are

ONE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED AND FORTY!

or 1,013 more.

Such is the comparison between *enlightened*, federal Vermont, and *dark*, democratic New-Hampshire. And yet, says the *Boston Post*, this is the State, (N. H.) which is often taunted, by partisan editors, with having "dark corners." It is a taunt which can only find an excuse in the ignorance of those who utter it, and we hope we may hear it no more until we can be shown, on any part of the whole earth's surface, a population of equal numbers, scattered over so great an expanse of territory, possessing so many of the means of education, and improving them so well.

Let us hear no more from Vermonters, at least, about "benighted New-Hampshire," while that State, is immeasurably ahead of our own, in *everything*, that makes a free and intelligent people.

Come! come! gentlemen Old Tipites, where are the fine times you promised us so lustily? It is sometime since the election of the man who was to have the control of the elements. The young men who are going out to work on farms next summer, have been waiting to see the great Ciderite elected before they let themselves. They are now standing idle, in daily expectation of being offered from five to ten dollars more a month than they would have received if Mr Van Buren had been elected. Fulfil your promises. Give these poor men, for whom you have shown a love so great, all that you have agreed to. Up with their wages! Then too, the poor fools who have peddled hard cider and 'tended' log cabins for you all summer—give them offices, and let them be able to pick up money in the streets. Fulfil your promises, and let us hear no more about "pledges broken and power abused."

☞If we were a painter, we would paint a magnificent butterfly, on the wing, with all the world, men women and children, from Adam and Eve, to the 'last of the Mohicans,' chasing it. Over the picture we would write one word, only one word, and that word should be—*Life.*

THE LADY'S BOOK,

For '41, bids fair to sustain its enviable reputation as a valuable work for the ladies. It is edited by Messdames Hale and Sigourney, writers, too well known among our lady readers to require any commendation from us. Miss Leslie, is also a constant contributor.

We shall publish the prospectus, as soon as possible, and give those who may be anxious of subscribing for such a work, an opportunity to judge of its merits.

☞See prospectus of the *Universal Yankee Nation*, in another column. Mr Purdy, one of the editors, is well known in this State, as a first rate writer. The *Nation* will be one of the best things, of the kind, in New England.

"Brothers of the Goose quill—we greet you kindly—should be happy to exchange cards with you—call for coffee and cigars for two, or cobblers and gin rooster-tails."—*N. O. Great Western.*

Gin what? You'd better retire now; you've said enough.

☞We conclude this week the beautiful story, *the Tournament.* It 'comes out' well, does n't madam? We have a better one on file which we shall commence as soon as possible. Meantime our political subscribers must not grumble, if, now that the election is over, we pay our respects to the 'better part' of the community, particularly when they have an old grudge against us, which we must wipe out in some way, or we are a 'gone sucker.'

"That spirited Democratic paper, the *Albany Plaindealer*, comes to us on an enlarged sheet, under the title of *Albany Evening Atlas.* Messrs. Vance & Wendell are the publishers, and, from the specimen we have seen, will continue to battle in the good cause with their usual vigor and patriotism."—*New Era.*

The *Atlas* of which the New Era speaks so favorably we have not yet received. It will, doubtless, come along in a day or two.

P. S. The *Atlas* has *arriv.* It is O. K. K. (*oifired kinder kute.*)

☞Our friends say that the *Bay State Democrat* is extremely interesting these days. Havn't a doubt of it, though it is about a week since we have seen it.

The publishers of the *New World* propose to issue a number, as a new years' present, double the usual size. It will be a *bouncer*, every way.

"We gratefully acknowledge the generous offer of our friend, Maj. Eastman, of the Vermont Age, to contribute a few "red cents" for our benefit; but the conditions stipulated are such as we cannot comply with during the present state of the atmosphere. The Major is a happy man—he says the result of no election can shake his epaulettes."—*Boston Post.*

Well, Col. we see you have been in the military line long enough to become a little *upstropulous:* so take your own course. By-the-way, what will you give to see our epaulettes in Bosting this winter?

Gracious! there is a bushel basket full of papers 'speaking first' for *Pic*'s place on our exchange list.

Try it once more, gentlemen. We can't possibly tell which spoke first.

GRAHAM'S MAGAZINE.

The Gentlemen's Magazine, for many years one of the most popular in the Union, has been married to the Casket, and the pair under the name and title of *Graham's Magazine*, have made their *entre* in a most attractive and beautiful style. A splendid list of popular writers is engaged to furnish articles for the Magazine. It will be a most excellent work.

The mezzotinto engraving in the January number—the *Playmate*—is one of the best we have ever seen.

We shall publish the prospectus of the Magazine next week.

See continuation of Mr. Madison's Report.

NEW ENGLAND, according to calculations upon the census, if 60,000 is taken as the ratio, will lose four representatives, to wit: Connecticut, Vermont, and New Hampshire, each one. Massachusetts and Maine will probably hold their own.

COMPLIMENTARY.—We see that several of our articles are going about in the papers credited to the *Globe.*

P. S. Any brother editor is at liberty to press our bantlings into his service—but we beg for the Lord's sake that he will not crop their ears, and otherwise mutilate them, to give them an appearance of originality. Take our whole progeny, gentlemen, and do what you please with them, only allow them to retain the image of their *father.*

Save us, how cold it is! How the snow flies! Pity the poor! Pity the poor!

☞The Hon. John C. Calhoun has been unanimously re-elected to the Senate of the United States by the Legislature of South Carolina.

TWENTY-SIXTH CONGRESS,

SECOND SESSION.

Thursday, Dec. 10, 1840.

SENATE.—The Standing Committees were announced by the Chair:—

On Foreign Relations—Messrs Buchanan, Chairman, Clay, of Ky., Calhoun, Roane and Allen.

On Finance—Messrs. Wright, chairman, Webster, Nichols Benton and Hubbard.

On Commerce—Messrs King, Davis, Norvell, Ruggles, and Mouton.

On Manufactures—Messrs Lumpkin, chairman, Preston, Knight, Buchanan and Allen.

On Agriculture—Messrs Mouton, chairman, Dixon, Linn, Sturgeon, and Smith, of Conn.

On Military Affairs—Messrs Benton, chairman, Preston, Wall, Pierce, and Nicholas.

On the Militia—Messrs Clay, of Ala., chairman, Smith, of Ind., Anderson, Fulton, and Mangum.

On Naval Affairs—Williams, chairman, Southard, Cuthbert, Tallmadge, and Tappan.

On Public Lands—Messrs Walker, chairman, Fulton, Clay, of Ala., Prentiss, and Norvell.

On Private Land claims—Messrs Linn, chairman, Sevier, Clayton, Mouton, and Huntington.

On Indian Affairs—Messrs Sevier, chairman, Linn, White, Phelps, and Lumpkin.

On Claims—Messrs Hubbard, chairman, Young, Merrick, Williams, and Huntington.

On Revolutionary Claims—Messrs Smith, of Conn., chairman, Sturgeon, Graham, Crittenden, and Robinson.

On the Judiciary—Messrs Wall, chairman, Clayton, Crittenden, and Smith, of Ind.

On the Post Office and Post Roads—Messrs Robinson, chairman, Lumpkin, Wright, Fulton, and Henderson.

On Roads and Canals—Messrs Young, chairman, Phelps, Henderson, Mangum, and Smith, of Ind.

On Pensions—Messrs Pierce, chairman, Prentiss, White, Roane, and Huntington.

For the District of Columbia—Messrs Merrick, chairman, Crittenden, Mangum, and Clayton.

On Patents and the Patent Office—Messrs Sturgeon, chairman, Davis, Prentiss, Robinson, and Porter.

On Public Buildings—Messrs Fulton, chairman, Merrick, and Smith, of Conn.

To audit and control the Contingent Expenses of the Senate—Messrs Knight, chairman, Fulton, and Porter.

On Engrossed Bills—Messrs Henderson, chairman, Porter.

An attempt was made by Mr Smith, of Indiana, to go into the election of Chaplain, but it failed.

HOUSE. Mr Adams raised a breeze in relation to the Amistead case. He accuses some one of having falsified the public, printed documents of the last session in relation to the Amistead matter, and he moved an inquiry, by a Select Committee, into the subject, with a view to ascertain whether the alledged falsification originated in ignorance or in fraud. In the original Custom House permit, these Africans of the Amistead are called '*negros ladinos.*'

The Translator of the State Department gave the original word, 'negros ladinos,' but Mr A. alleges that it was subsequently translated and rendered, 'sound negros.' If the negros are 'ladinos,' they were imported prior to 1820, and are slaves even under the law of nations. But Mr Adams states that this was a fraudulent designation given to them at Havana. If they are '*negros bozals,*' they were imported since the slave trade was prohibited, and are free under the stipulations of a treaty existing between Great Britain and Spain.

If the Supreme Court here determine the Africans to be '*negros bozals,*' they must confirm the decree of the Court below and liberate them.

Mr Stanley moved a reconsideration of the vote laying on the table Mr Adams's proposition to rescind the 'gag rule,' as Mr A. calls it. Mr Stanley's object was to get a vote in a fuller House, and a direct vote on the motion to rescind. But the motion failed.

Both Houses adjourned over to Monday next, as is customary in the first week of the session.

Monday, Dec. 14, 1840.

IN THE SENATE, the President *pro tem.* laid before the Senate a number of communications, containing statements of the contingent expenses of the different executive departments.

Ordered to lie on the table and be printed.

Petitions were presented by Messrs Webster, Clay, Merrick, White and Wright.

Mr Merrick presented a petition from the banks of the District of Columbia, praying for a continuation of their banking powers.

Mr Wright presented a memorial of citizens of New York, praying for the passage of a Uniform Bankrupt Law.

Mr Clay, of Kentucky, introduced a resolution calling on the Secretary of the Treasury for information respecting the amount of the public lands sold within the last twelve years—the character of that portion of them which remains unsold—its value, &c.—which was ordered to be printed and lie over one day.

Mr Clay, of Alabama, introduced a bill to graduate the price of public lands—and on his motion it was referred to the Committee on Finance.

Mr Clay, of Kentucky, introduced a resolution, declaring that the act known as the sub-Treasury act ought to be repealed, and instructing the Committee on Finance to report a bill for that purpose.

Several bills of which notice had been given on Thursday were successively introduced. They were chiefly of a private or local nature.

Mr Wright moved to refer to the committee on Finance so much of the President's Message as related to the finances of the country.

Mr Webster, for various reasons assigned, moved to postpone the consideration of Mr Wright's motion till Wednesday, which was agreed to—Ayes 20, Nays 19.

On motion of Mr Wright, the Report of the Secretary of the Treasury was referred to the committee on Finance.

The different parts of the President's Message were then taken up, and referred to the proper Standing Committees—excepting the portion relating to the finances.

Mr Benton asked leave to introduce a bill establishing a permanent pre-emption system; and, said he wished the question on granting leave to be made a test question on the principle of the bill.

Mr Hubbard suggested the propriety of postponing the question till Tuesday; and it was accordingly postponed.

After some miscellaneous business of little interest or importance, the Senate proceeded to the election of a Chaplain; and the Rev. Mr Cookman of the Methodist Episcopal Church, was chosen on the first ballot.

The Senate then adjourned.

IN THE HOUSE, after the journal of Thursday was read, the following Standing Committees were announced:—

Committee of Elections—Messrs Rariden, Francis E. Rives, Va., Millard Fillmore, N. Y., Wm. Medill, Ohio, Anson V. Brown, Tenn., Truman Smith, Conn., John M. Botts, Va., Randall and P. P. Thomas, of Md.

Committee of Ways and Means—Messrs John W. Jones, Va., Charles G. Atherton, N. H., Aaron Vanderpoel, N. Y., George Evans, Me., Henry W. Conner, N. C., Mark A. Cooper, Ga., Mason, O., Saltonstall and Hubbard.

Committee on Claims—Messrs William C. Dawson, Ga., David Russell, N. Y., Linn Banks, Va., Joshua R. Giddings, Ohio, Jared W. Williams, N. H., Meredith P. Gentry, Tenn., John Hill, N. C., John Galbraith, Pa., Meredith Mallory, N. Y.

Committee on Commerce—Messrs Edward Curtis, N. Y., Solomon Hillen, Jr. Md., Edmund Burke, N. H., George W. Toland, Pa., Richard W. Habersham, Ga., Virgil D. Parris, Me., John M. Botts, Va., Miller and Winthrop.

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Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads—Messrs James J. McKay, N. C., George W. Hopkins, Va., Briggs, Richard P. Marvin, N. Y., Daniel P. Leadbetter, Ohio, Joseph L. Williams, Tenn., Randolph, Ky., Thomson, and Albert G. Brown, Miss.

Committee for the District of Columbia—Messrs Johnson, Md., Williams, Tenn., Beirne, Va., Clark, N. Y., Davee, Graham, Cranston, Hawkins and McCarty.

Committee on the Judiciary—Messrs Sergeant, Hoffman, Turney, Samuels, Barnard, Stanley, Butler, Trumbull and Starkweather.

Committee on Revolutionary claims—Messrs Randolph, Hall, Vt., Taliaferro, Parmenter, Montgomery, Ely, Swearingen, James, and Jones, N. Y.

Committee on Public Expenditures—Bond, Duncan, Crockett, Breckenbridge, Watterson, McCullock, Green, McClure, Baker.

Committee on Private Land Claims—Messrs Boardman, Calhoun, Dillett, Wick, Hastings, Jameson, Cross, Warren, Vroom.

Committee on Manufactures—Messrs Adams, Nisbet, Slade, Tillinghast, Worthington, Dromgoole, Mitchell, N. Y., Eastman, Davis, Pa.

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On Revisal and Unfinished Business—Messrs Peck, Parish, O., James, Kille and Cooper. N. J.

On Accounts—Messrs Johnson, Va., Johnson, N. Y., Marchand, Floyd, and Andrews.