

the news, and that day. Such a publication of votes, &c., without the motives of their being understood, might do injury to those who were concerned in them.

Mr. STORRS, of New York, was opposed to a reference to this resolution, preferring to see it met directly and rejected. When this proposition was first introduced, he said, he had been inclined to support it. But, upon reflection, he was convinced that the interests of the country not only required that the Journal should not be published, but imperiously required it. There was a reason for publishing the Secret Journal and Correspondence of the Revolutionary Congress, which did not apply to that embraced by this motion; and good reasons had been assigned for the discrimination. But, in his opinion, there was a better reason; our domestic quarrels, said he, formed but a small portion of our legislation previously to the treaty of 1783. There was nothing, then, in the Journal, which it was desirable to withhold; and nothing in the secret papers which could affect the feelings or characters of any but open and known traitors. It was proposed now, however, to lift the veil from those scenes of domestic quarrelling, in which the feelings of different portions of the country had been interested to a degree which seldom, until this moment, had been witnessed in the Councils of the country—to give to the world all the history of our family bickerings; to show, that, before the adoption of the Constitution, the North was opposed to the South, the South to the North, &c.—For what use? He could not see any occasion for it. One word, he said, as to a venerable name which had been introduced in this debate. He knew the gentleman from South Carolina too well, to suppose him intentionally to have misstated any thing. But it was due to Mr. Jay, and to his character, to say, that the gentleman had not told the whole history of the affair referred to by him. It might be supposed, that it was proposed to give up to Spain the navigation of the Mississippi, without an equivalent. Not so, however. There was to be an equivalent; and he should like to hear what it was. He was not to be told, that Mr. Jay, than whom there was not a more worthy man or more strenuous patriot in any country, proposed to surrender, without an equivalent, the navigation of the Mississippi.

Mr. PINCKNEY rose to explain. He had stated that Spain had sent a minister to this country with the express purpose to persuade us to cede to her, for 25 or 30 years, the exclusive navigation of the Mississippi, and that she had offered a Treaty embracing such a cession. That treaty, he now stated, proposed benefits to the Northern States, in which the Southern States had no participation. They were to pay the price; they were to yield the navigation of the Mississippi, but they were not to be benefited by the equivalent, as it had been called, which proposed to open to our flag certain ports, such as Manila, &c., but did not propose to open the ports of South America. It was by no means such a price as Spain ought to have paid for the important cession she sought for from us. With respect to Mr. Jay, he said no more of him than that, in the ordinary routine of business, the Treaty had been referred to him, and that he, in a long report, which was considered a very able performance, recommended the adoption of the Treaty. He did not by any means detract from the character of Mr. Jay.

Mr. STORRS said he did not suppose that the gentleman did intend to detract from the character of Mr. Jay; because he knew him to be incapable of it. But, when first up, the gentleman had not stated the matter as clearly as he had now done. Mr. S. said he was certain Mr. Jay never would have agreed to surrender the right of navigating the Mississippi, without what he had at least deemed an equivalent benefit to the country yielded by Spain. What was really the fact, as it now appeared? That a foreign nation offered to us a treaty, under the old confederation, which one part of the nation thought it their interest to accept, and the other did not. Was there any thing important in this transaction? Only in one point of view, and that rather an unhappy one; as showing, that there did exist in the old Congress a contrariety of views, which we should rather be ashamed to develop than anxious to publish. I mentioned the name of Mr. Jay, said Mr. S., because it had been brought into the debate; and I now take the opportunity to say, that this nation will be unfit for freedom whenever the name of John Jay shall cease to be venerated from one end of the continent to the other. As to the effect of this resolve, if agreed to, Mr. S. said it would serve to teach to the powers of Europe our weaknesses. They will find from it the grounds on which this confederacy is most accessible to attack—the different interests to which they may appeal, if it be an object with them to attempt the severance of the Union. I need only refer to the subject (the Missouri question) which is now agitated in this house, to see that it would be extremely unwise to develop to those who may be hereafter our enemies, the avenues by which we may be assailed. To pass this resolve might answer another purpose, also to be deprecated. It would show to the present generation, after their fathers had descended to their graves, those things which ought never to be touched. We know that the old Congress was composed of members, representing rather the legislatures than the people of the states, and in many cases legislated with a view to their particular political interests: they were not, as the Congress of the present government, a representation of the people. The publication of this Journal would only add fuel to the flame of dissensions, already sufficiently great. Are we not, he asked, warm enough already? Have there not been debates which show that our zeal wants no additional excitement here? Is it not wise—is it not prudent, till we are once more seated in domestic peace, that we should suffer that Journal to slumber where it now reposes; that it should remain until the men who were actors in public life at that day, and, if possible, until with them all the prejudices and resentments arising out of sectional interests, shall have passed away. Under the influence of that imprudent Mr. S. said he hoped the resolution would be rejected.

Mr. RAND LPH, of Virginia, said, in going, that the observations of the gentleman from New York were not the only observations that he had ever heard of from the floor of this House or out of it, a formal proposition, which went (to his

judgment) powerfully to support it. He agreed with the honorable gentleman just sat down, that to use the coarse expression of a man whose name, if I am not mistaken, was an object, would last as long as the world, whose destinies he had so important an agency in governing—should wash our dirty linen at home.—But the proposition now was, to commit this resolution—to enquire, in fact, whether or not it was expedient to adopt it; and that honorable gentleman afraid to trust a committee of this House? Mr. R. said he had nothing to say irreverent of the name of John Jay, or of any other of the *pater scripti* of our better times. But nothing could be more fallacious than the notion of keeping the Cabinets of Europe out of our secrets by refusing to publish them by our authority. The Minister of Spain had long ago informed his government of every thing relating to this matter; and in the archives of the Escurial or of Saint Ildefonso might be already found every thing it was in the power of Congress to disclose to them. When this publication should have been made, Mr. R. said he should himself learn from it nothing new; but was it not important, he asked, that the people should be informed on those matters which the gentleman from New York was so desirous, and so unavailingly desirous, of keeping from the crowned heads of Europe—or, rather, from their Ministers? He was on the point, he said, of expressing this wish: that at Paris, or some other spot, there should be a Repository in which all the records of diplomacy might be preserved, that history might rest on her own basis. He trusted that all the transactions of our government would be developed, when they could be no longer injurious to the feelings, the characters, or reputations of those who were living. With regard to the knowledge of foreign nations respecting us, Mr. R. said they know the only mode in which this Republic, or any other, is assessable. *Divite et impera*—that, said he, is the tyrant's maxim; that is the way in which they will approach us, and I am sorry to say, that materials for their operations are daily furnishing ready to their hand.

Mr. REEA, of Tennessee, said, in his opinion the House ought not to hesitate a moment to pass this resolution. They had gone too far already, to stop here.—Every thing else was already ordered to be published; and why should this fragment of our records remain in secrecy? No plausible reason could be assigned for it; the Journal in question could contain no secret which all the world might not know. The nation was entitled to know every thing about its own history, no matter who should be involved in the disclosure. If the facts were unimportant, the publication could do no harm; if they were important, they ought to be disclosed. He hoped the motion for a commitment would be withdrawn, and that the resolve would be referred to a committee of the whole House, where it might be considered and amended with our delay. A suppression of a part of the Journal, the remainder being published, would, in his opinion, operate injuriously.

Mr. STROTHER again addressed the Chair. The gentleman from New York said, we ought to be ashamed to make the development proposed by this resolve. We are so organized, said Mr. S., as to differ in our faculties; one to possess a particular quality—another, one another; one may sport his chapeau bras, whilst another presents himself in the coarse garb of a republican. I am sorry, said Mr. S., that I cannot exhibit myself with the virtues of a courtier to recommend me. I come only with claims to the confidence of the hardy yeomanry, on whose intelligence I rely, and in whose virtue I confide. The compliment, which the gentleman has paid to Mr. Jay, may pass for as much as it is worth. I do not say more of it, my forbearance will be attributed to the reverence which I bear to old age. Let the survivors of those who were so long ago in public life descend smoothly to the tomb, and there be protected from the censure of the world. I am not disposed at this time, and, unless political objects require it, I shall not be disposed now, or hereafter, to furnish any opinion of that gentleman's political character. But, if his friends make it necessary, I shall present my views on that point. It had been intimated by the gentleman from New York, that the Congress of the Confederation had no national views; but that each member acted for his own interests. Permit me, said Mr. S., to protect even the gentleman's friend, Mr. Jay, from this imputation. What, sir! The patriots and statesmen who carried us through the toils and struggles of the Revolution—did they not come out of that furnace with their virtues brightened, and their frailties fallen off? Did they not look with a prophetic eye, on the destiny of the nation, and endeavor to accelerate its progress to its present elevated station? A body of men ever existed who were entitled to the gratitude of a nation and to the admiration of the world, it was the Continental Congress. On the subject of excitement, Mr. S. said a few words.—Every great national question produces some excitement; it is excitement that gives elasticity to the human mind, and enlarges the sphere of human action.... It is a powerful agent in human improvement. Its existence is to be regretted only when evil spirits take advantage of it, "to ride on the whirlwind and direct the storm." With respect to those who, between 1783 and 1789, occupied seats in Congress, he would not, at present, say any thing. If they were patriots, those who were living were entitled to the respect of the nation, and the memory of those should be embalmed who were now no more. Not a leaf should be stripped from the laurel wreath which entwines the brow of the virtuous statesman. It is the traitor only, who, with unholty views, seeks himself in the garb of patriotism, who fears exposure, and who can have any thing to fear from this proposition. In regard to party feelings, Mr. S. said his humble path through political life had not been marked by a single instance of party bitterness or acerbity. He knew indeed the works of ambition; but with those influenced by that passion he was perfectly willing to exchange hands, at the same time his best endeavors were used to counteract their objects. Were there not, Mr. S. asked, gentlemen from the South in the Old Congress, as well as from the North? If, said he, I feel local feelings and pride, and I could believe that the false friends of mine would be affected by the disclosure of what is now in darkness, would they not naturally come my exertions to defeat the exposure? But, sir, my friends & enemies must

stand on their own merits. I love Plato; but I love virtue better. There are some men reaching after political power, they have not yet enjoyed, who may shrink from this test; but I do not see why objection should be made to it from any other quarter. With regard to the effect of this disclosure on the pending controversy, Mr. S. trusted that the Debate on the Missouri question would not last six months; and it would be that time at least, and perhaps twelve months, before this Journal could be published. On this occasion, or whenever any political movement is proposed, a separation of the Union meets us at every turn—but it is a spectre merely, which there is no danger of being converted into sober reality. Political gladiators may use it in argument, but the people are bound together by adamant ties, not to be loosened by any one of the present day. With respect to the children of those who are gone, if their parents had acted properly, let their example be imitated; if otherwise, a knowledge of it would be the best legacy to their posterity. Mr. S. concluded by expressing his regret that so much time had been consumed in this discussion; if he could have anticipated it, he did not know but he should have deferred his motion.

Mr. COOK, of Illinois, spoke against the principle of the resolve. If he wished to walk among the tombs of his ancestors; to visit the graves of the venerable patriots who framed the constitution of the country, and discharged the important duties of government during the consideration, and inscribe on their tombs censure or approbation, he would vote for this resolution, because it would produce the information necessary to enable him to do so. But the information communicated by the gentleman from South Carolina had satisfied him that the resolve ought not to be adopted. The country, he said, was nearly rent in twain, by an agitation, almost as serious as that of the Western insurrection, or of the discovery of the Spanish conspiracy. The statement which had been made by the gentleman from South Carolina, was calculated to increase that excitement. The peace and tranquility of the country required, Mr. C. said, that the wounds which time had cicatrized, should not be opened again; that the veil which had been dropped over the incidents of that day should not now be lifted. With respect to that statement, the gentleman from South Carolina must use him for saying, that, from the lapse of time, Mr. C. apprehended he had forgotten the obligation which he owed, as a member of the old Congress, not to divulge its proceedings. The character of that gentleman to bad the imputation to him of any incorrect motive; but, if the proceedings were secret at the time, and so ordered to remain, they should not now have been disclosed, unless some important emergency required it. The hint already given was sufficient to arouse feelings which should be dormant. Washington, the sage and patriot, had recommended that the veil which covered the conflicts of that day, should not be lifted; and his warning voice against the encouragement of local prejudices and sectional distinctions, operated, Mr. C. said, on his mind forcibly on this occasion. On further consideration of this subject, Mr. C. said, he thought gentlemen would agree with him there were strong reasons against acting on as proposed. The gentleman from Virginia had urged the adoption of this resolution as the representative of the hardy yeomanry—in the name of the people of whom he is the servant. It is for the interest, the peace, the tranquility of those people, said Mr. C. that I wish to see this resolution laid in eternal sleep; that it shall lie with the ashes of the departed which it is attempted to disturb. Many of the actors of that day have gone off the stage of life. Some of them may, in their political course, have committed what we now consider errors. But, is nothing due to him, who, on reflection, abandons an erroneous course, and pursues the proper interest of his country? Is he not to be sheltered from reproach for errors committed in the outset of his life? Mr. C. thought it important that those things which the venerable fathers of the Land had kept secret should not now be brought up, by writ of error, to be reversed before the tribunal of the People. He was willing to submit this question to the elders of the country; they had decided in their decision had been long acquiesced in, and he hoped the House would not undertake to reverse their decision.

Mr. PINCKNEY said, that he had just been informed, that, under the resolution of the last Congress, the President and Secretary of State had considered themselves authorized to publish the whole of the Secret Journal, as well as before the Treaty of 1783. If so, there was of course no occasion to act further on this subject.

Mr. WARFIELD, of Maryland, said he could not readily express the astonishment he felt at the opposition given to the resolution then before the House; for he did not suppose there would have been the least hesitation in adopting it. He believed the public proceedings of our government, and the greater part of it, were the whole of the confidential communications, had been published up to the year 1783. From that period to the ratification of the present government, if we have not been left altogether in the dark, we have certainly a very imperfect and distinct knowledge of the important measures which were then acted on by those in power. Why the proceedings of our public characters, for the period alluded to, should be concealed from the view of the citizens of this country, he was altogether at a loss to understand. He was informed, from very good authority, and by some who were members of Congress at that time, that subjects were discussed, and questions brought before them, of great national importance; many of which had been communicated to, and were distinctly understood by governments in Europe, whilst the knowledge of them in this country was chiefly confined to those who were at that time actors on our great political theatre. They had been denominated the secret proceedings of Congress,

*This is fact. Under the resolution of Congress of the 27th March 1818, which provides for the publication of the Secret Journals of the Acts and Proceedings and the Foreign Correspondence of the Congress of the United States, the construction has been such as to include the period subsequent to the treaty of 1783. Had this been known to the advocates of the resolve, now debated, of course it would have been introduced. The allusions in the debate were, however, of such a nature, that, having a "ketch of it" in possession, we did not feel ourselves justified in withholding it from the public eye.—Ed. Nat. Int.

and under that appellation had been concealed from public scrutiny. This doctrine of secret proceedings, and thereby concealing from the public eye measures important in their consequences, and which ought to be known to the citizens of this country, is a doctrine against which he would take leave to enter his solemn protest. It was a doctrine which might be advocated and maintained under some governments; but it was one which he considered altogether incompatible with the spirit and genius of Republicanism. In a republic the people ought to know, they had a right to know, the political course pursued by those whom they had clothed with power. He had no fear, Mr. W. said, of trusting the people of this country with a full knowledge of their political concerns; he had great confidence in their wisdom, their prudence, and their patriotism. If, upon the publication of these secret proceedings, it should be found that the estimate which had been made of the public worth of men, had been a mistaken one, it might, perhaps, be a cause of regret, but, so far from being an argument against their publication, he conceived to be one of the most cogent reasons that could be assigned in support of the measures. Men ought to stand or fall, in public estimation, according to their intrinsic merit or demerit. The acts of men on great and important political questions, is the standard by which they ought to be judged. But it had been urged that the proceedings of those days should be buried in profound obscurity; that the veil of secrecy should not be withdrawn, lest a disclosure of those occurrences should revive unpleasant recollections, and cause unnecessary excitement in the public mind; and, to enforce these admonitions, our attention had been called to the excitement which had existed during the discussion of an important subject, (the Missouri question,) now under the consideration of this house. Is it an unusual or extraordinary occurrence, said Mr. W., that some excitement should exist in a deliberative assembly, when engaged in the discussion of a question considered by some gentlemen of vital importance to the great interests of our country, as it relates to our present happiness and prosperity, and the happiness and prosperity of future generations, and a question, too, on which great diversity of opinion may fairly exist? So far from those occurrences being considered unusual or unexpected, he thought they might, on all occasions, be expected, where a deep interest was felt in what might be the result of important deliberation. But whether the publication of the acts of men invested with authority, which acts it was in his judgment, essential for the people of this country distinctly to understand, would or would not occasion excitement on the floor of that house, or in any other place, was a consideration, Mr. W. said, which would never have weight with him; he, therefore, hoped the resolution would be adopted, and the important proceedings of those times published, for the benefit of the people of America.

The question was then taken on referring the Resolve to a select committee, and was decided in the affirmative. The committee has not yet reported on the subject.

SATURDAY, FEB. 26.
Mr. Smith of Virginia from the committee on military affairs, to whom was referred an enquiry into the expediency of establishing an additional national army, made a report unfavorable to the establishment of an additional army; which report was, on motion of Mr. Anderson, laid on the table.

MISSOURI BILL.
The order of the day being announced from the Chair,—being the unfinished business of yesterday.

Mr. Hill renewed the motion which he made yesterday, that the committee of the whole House be discharged from the further consideration of the Missouri Bill; but the motion was not sustained by a majority of the House.

The House then again resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. Cobb in the chair on the said bill.

Mr. STORRS, of New York, moved to amend the bill, by inserting in the 4th section, (immediately preceding the Restrictive amendment adopted yesterday,) the following proviso:

That in all that tract of country ceded by France to the United States, under the name of Louisiana, which lies north of thirty-six degrees and thirty minutes north latitude, excepting only such part thereof as is included within the limits of the state of Kentucky, no act, trade, or service, shall be lawfully performed, or any person shall be lawfully employed, or conveyed to the person claiming his or her labor, as aforesaid.

Mr. STORRS supported his amendment in a speech of considerable length—embracing, incidentally, in the range of his remarks, an examination of the right of imposing the Slavery Restriction on Missouri.

Mr. RANDOLPH next rose, and spoke more than four hours, against the amendment, and on the topics connected with it, the subject of restriction, &c. When he had concluded, (about half past four o'clock.)

An ineffectual motion was made for the committee to rise.

Mr. BEECHER, of Ohio, then took the floor, and proceeded a short time in a speech on the subject, when he gave way for a motion for the committee to rise, which prevailed, and about 5 o'clock the House adjourned.

IN SENATE—FEB. 26.

The unfavorable report of the committee on the Judiciary on the petition of Bioren & Lucas, (who propose to print a 5th volume of the laws of the U. States, if encouraged by Congress) was taken up and agreed to.

The unfavorable report on the memorial of Bioren & De Kraft, (who propose to republish the Journal of the Congress of the old Confederation,) was also taken up.

Mr. TRIMBLE, of Ohio, moved, to recommit the report, on the ground of the importance of this part of the public records, of which, he said, there was at present but a single copy in the Library of Congress.

Mr. SMITH stated the grounds of the publication, and great expense—when compared with its utility or necessity.

Mr. BURRILL opposed the motion to recommit the report. He disapproved of the general practice of having books printed for the use of the members of Congress,

at the public expense; and thought it had been already carried too far.

Mr. TRIMBLE spoke in support of his motion, urging the propriety of agreeing to it, not for the purpose of furnishing books to be the private property of members, but for the purpose of affording all the members the means of reference to this Journal, which it was so often necessary to consult.

The motion to reverse the report was negative, and the report itself agreed to.

THE MAINE BILL.

The Senate again proceeded to the consideration of the Message from the House of Representatives, disagreeing to the amendment of this body to the bill for the admission of Maine into the Union. [This amendment embraces 9 sections, the first 8 of which contain provisions for the admission of Missouri into the Union; the 9th prohibits the further introduction of slavery into the Territories of the U. S.]

The Question of Order on the susceptibility of division of a question on a motion to recede, so as to take it separately and successively on each part, being yet under consideration, Mr. OTIS, Mr. BURRILL, and Mr. MORRILL, successively spoke briefly on the question; when,

On motion of Mr. JOHNSON, of Ky. the Senate adjourned.

MONDAY, FEB. 28.

Mr. WILLIAMS laid before the Senate two resolutions of the Legislature of Mississippi relative to the establishment of ports of entry at the mouths of Pearl and Pascagoula rivers.

Mr. LLOYD, of Maryland, submitted for consideration the following resolution: Resolved, That the committee on Public Lands be and they are directed to enquire into the expediency of making appropriations of Public Lands for the support and encouragement of Literary Institutions within the limits of the Old States, corresponding with the provisions which have been made for the same purpose within the limits of the new States.

The motion lies on the table one day of course.

THE MAINE BILL.

The Senate proceeded again to consider the question on receding from the amendments made by the Senate, and disagreed to by the House of Representatives, to the bill for the admission of Maine into the Union.

[These amendments embrace two distinct measures: the one admitting Missouri into the Union—the other prohibiting the future transportation of slaves into the Territories of the U. States.]

The Question of Order, depending on the last adjournment, was, after a few remarks on it by Mr. WILSON, by a vote of 22 to 17, decided in favor of the divisibility of the question of receding from the amendments of the Senate.

The question was then taken, without debate, on receding from so much of the amendments of the Senate as provides for the admission of MISSOURI into the Union, and decided as follows:

For receding—Messrs. Barbour, Dana, Dickinson, Horsey, Hunter, King, of N. Y., Lammam, Lowrie, Mellen, Morrill, Noble, Otis, Palmer, Parrott, Roberts, Rogers, Santard, Tichenor, Trimble, Van Dyke, Wilson—21.

Against receding—Messrs. Barbour, Brown, Eaton, Edwards, Elliot, Gaillard, Johnson, of Ken., Johnson, of Lon., King of Ala., Leake, Lloyd, Logan, Morrill, Pinkney, Pleasant, Smith Stokes, Taylor, Thomas, Walker, of Ala., Walker of Geo., Williams of Miss. Williams of Tenn.—23.

So the Senate refused (every member of the Senate being in his seat) to recede from this part of its amendments.

The question was then taken, also without debate, on receding from so much as regards the inhibition of slavery in the Territories of the United States north of 36 degrees 30 minutes north latitude, and decided as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Barbour, Elliott, Gaillard, Macon, Noble, Pleasant, Santard, Smith, Taylor, Walker of Geo., Williams of Miss.—11. NAYS—Messrs. Brown, Burrill, Dana, Dickinson, Eaton, Edwards, Horsey, Hunter, Johnson of Ken., Johnson of Lon., King of Ala., King of N. Y., Lammam, Leake, Lloyd, Logan, Lowrie, Mellen, Morrill, Otis, Palmer, Parrott, Pleasant, Rogers, Santard, Stokes, Tichenor, Trimble, Van Dyke, Walker of Ala., Williams of Tenn., Williams of Tenn.—23.

So the Senate refused to recede from this or any part of its amendments to the bill for the admission of Maine into the Union.

On motion of Mr. BARBOUR, the Senate then determined to insist on the 1st clause of its amendments; and on motion of Mr. ROBERTS, it determined in like manner to insist on the latter clause of its amendments. And the Secretary was instructed to inform the House of Representatives accordingly.

PUBLIC LANDS.

The Senate then resumed the consideration of the bill for changing the mode of disposing of the public lands from credit to cash sales.

The amendment moved by Mr. EDWARDS on Thursday last being yet under consideration, in the following words, viz.

Be it further enacted, That any person who now is, or hereafter may be, an actual bona fide settler upon any quarter section of land which shall have been previously exposed to Public Sale, and remain on one half be permitted to purchase such quarter section in the same manner and on such terms as are now authorized by law.

A Debate arose thereon (hereafter to be noticed) in which Messrs. OTIS, Noble, King, of New York, Edwards, Rogers, Johnson of Kentucky, Johnson of Louisiana, Leake, and Eaton, took part.

The question on agreeing to the same was then decided by YEAS and NAYS, as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Brown, Edwards, Johnson of Lon., King of Ala., Lloyd, Logan, Noble, Pinkney, Smith, Stokes, Thomas, Walker of Ala.—12.

NAYS—Messrs. Barbour, Burrill, Dana, Dickinson, Eaton, Elliott, Gaillard, Horsey, Hunter, King, of N. Y., Lammam, Leake, Lowrie, Macon, Mellen, Morrill, Otis, Palmer, Parrott, Pleasant, Roberts, Santard, Taylor, Tichenor, Trimble, Van Dyke, Walker of Geo., Williams of Miss. Williams of Ten., Wilson—31.

So the amendment was disagreed to.

Mr. WALKER of Alabama then renewed the motion he made a few days ago to amend the bill by adding thereto the following:

That purchasers of public Lands, which shall have been sold prior to the 1st day of next, shall be permitted to forfeit and surrender the same before the day of final payment, by delivering their certificates to the Register, and endorsing thereon their consent that the land therein described shall be resold; whereupon the said certificates shall be considered as cancelled, and the lands shall be deemed and taken to have reverted to the United States, and shall be disposed of in all respects, like other reverted or forfeited lands, according to the provisions of the fourth section of this act; but, if such lands, should sell for more than one dollar and fifty cents per acre, the excess shall be paid over to the former certificate-holders: Provided, That such excess shall not be greater than the amount previously paid on such certificate.

When, on motion of Mr. LOGAN, (to give time for consideration of amendments to protect the actual settler, &c., which he thought might be made) to postpone the

bill to Friday next, it was decided in the

negative, 20 to 10.

And then, without opposition, it was postponed, on the motion of Mr. LOGAN, to Friday next, and made the order of the day for that day.

The bill for the establishment of an Uniform System of Bankruptcy was taken up, and was postponed to and made the order of the day for Monday next.

The bill for the relief of the officers and volunteers engaged in the late campaign against the Seminole Indians was taken up. Mr. EATON commenced some explanations respecting it; but the Senate appearing too much absorbed in the affair of the Maine and Missouri bill to give attention to it, on motion of Mr. EATON, the further consideration of the subject was postponed.

The Senate was about to adjourn, when the Clerk of the House of Representatives presented himself at the door, with a Message, that the House of Representatives had insisted on their disagreement to the amendments of the Senate to the Maine bill. [See above.]

Mr. THOMAS then moved that a committee of conference be appointed, to confer with the House of Representatives on the subject.

Hereupon commenced a Debate, characterized by some vehemence and warm feeling, which previous arrangements for the paper alone prevent being reported to-day.

Mr. KING, of Alabama, Mr. BARBOUR, and Mr. SMITH, were in favor of adherence, which foreclosed conference; Mr. KING, of New York, spoke in explanation; and Messrs. Thomas, Johnson of Kentucky, Lowrie, Morrill, Dana, Eaton, Macon, and Mellen, successively supported the conference.

The debate resulted in this: that a motion for deferring the question was negative, and the Senate voted, not without opposition, but without dividing, to request a conference with the House of Representatives.

The Senate then balloted for Managers thereof on their part; and Mr. THOMAS, Mr. PINKNEY, and Mr. BARBOUR were duly elected; and the Senate adjourned.

SPANISH AMERICA.

[From the Philadelphia Gazette.]

Extract of a letter from an highly respectable character, dated Lagunera, Feb. 4, 1820.

Great importance being attached to the occupation of Santa Fe, by Bolivar, can only arise from a want of proper knowledge of the country. It must be recollected that Carthage is the key to the kingdom of New Granada, and that whoever possesses the command of the river Magdalena, can always command that kingdom, in the centre of which Santa Fe is situated and surrounded by an immense country, presenting extraordinary difficulties. Our General Calzada occupied that kingdom in 1814, although the enemy had double his force, but the country was too extensive for them to prevent it, and this was our case in the late affairs. Five thousand men dispersed over a country of 150 leagues in length, and 400 in breadth, at a time when the royal Gen. Barreiro had only 1500 men to cover the capital, and having experienced a reverse, he remained at the mercy of the enemy; and Bolivar has since experienced the same fate, having detached his army since the 20th September. On finding that our forces were uniting, and apprehending the consequence, he retrograded and marched for Venezuela, where he arrived the first of December; and in the mean time, the division of the royal army under General Calzada marched from Popayan and retook Santa Fe, while another division under Gen. Latorre pressed them very hard at Pamplona, and another division by the way of Monpox had advanced to Hadera within three days journey of Santa Fe, and then, therefore, the capital is ours, and our troops were in full pursuit of the enemy.

Bolivar returned to Guayana, and directed some changes and reform—he ordered the division commanded by Paez to advance upon Varinas, where he lost a great many men, which compelled him to return to the south of the Apure. Bolivar left Guayana and proceeded to San Fernando, and caused a junction of the divisions of Paez, Soublette, Cedeno, Marino and others, at San Juan de Pargura, and threatened an attack, but our highly distinguished division under Gen. Morales maintains its position with firmness, and there is every probability that in 15 or 20 days, a serious conflict will take place between them, but we have no apprehensions as to the result. He has at the same time ordered that a division of 700 English be sent from Margarita to make a diversion on this coast, which will be carefully watched by our fleet, now reinforced by a fine sloop of war from Havana.

This is the true statement of our affairs, whatever may be advised by letters to the contrary notwithstanding, and I can assure you that we are living and enjoying ourselves here in the most perfect tranquillity and repose. Our worthy Gen. Morillo, with six thousand veterans are stationed in front of the enemy watching their movements, besides 6,000 more that are stationed in different garrisons, and we are actually making preparations here to receive a further reinforcement of men this month. What I here inform you I pledge myself for the truth of.

DOMESTIC.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—We understand that a Bankrupt system, of a new cast, has been digested by a judicial character whose experience has been not a little, and will shortly be submitted to the investigation of the friends of such a measure.

This Bill proposes—

1. To incorporate the Bankrupt System into the judicial system of the country; to which it properly belongs.

2. To get rid of the machinery of Commissioners and Assignees, and substitute for the same—

1. A Register of Bankrupts, who shall be the common assignee in each district; reserving, however, to creditors the right to take the bankrupt's estate into their own hands when they prefer it, and obliging them to take it after a limited time.

2. An Inquest, in the nature of a special jury, before whom the conduct of the debtor shall be openly investigated, and then proceeds to make provision—

1. To secure the creditor against frauds.

2. To enforce an equal distribution of the bankrupt's effects.

Bankruptcy is provided for, as distin-