

note, but are, from the nature of their dealings, best able to know when specie will be needed, and to procure it with the least difficulty or sacrifice. Residing, too, almost universally in places where the revenue is received, and where the drafts used by the Government for its disbursements must concentrate, they have every opportunity to obtain and use them in place of specie, should it be for their interest or convenience. Of the number of these drafts, and the facilities they may afford, as well as the rapidity with which the public funds are drawn and disbursed, an idea may be formed from the fact that, of nearly twenty millions of dollars paid to collectors and receivers during the present year, the average amount in their hands at any one time has not exceeded a million and a half, and of the fifteen millions received by the collector of N. York alone during the present year, the average amount held by him, subject to draft during each week, has been less than half a million.

The ease and safety of the operations of the Treasury in keeping the public money, are promoted by the application of its own drafts to the public dues. The objection arising from having them too long outstanding, might be obviated, and they yet made to afford to merchants and banks holding them an equivalent for specie, and in that way greatly lessen the amount actually required. Still less inconvenience will attend the requirement of specie in purchases of public lands. Such purchases, except when made on speculation, are, in general, but single transactions, rarely repeated by the same persons, and it is a fact, that for the last year and a half, during which the notes of sound banks have been received, more than a moiety of these payments has been voluntarily made in specie, being a larger proportion than would have been required in three years under the graduation proposed.

It is moreover a principle, than which none is better settled by experience, that the supply of the precious metals will always be found adequate to the uses for which they are required. They abound in countries where no other currency is allowed. In our own States, where small notes are excluded, gold and silver supply their place. When driven to their hiding places by bank suspensions, a little firmness in the community soon restores them to a sufficient quantity for ordinary purposes. Postage and other public dues have been collected in coin, without serious inconvenience, even in States where a depreciated paper currency has existed for years, and this, with the aid of Treasury notes for a part of the time, was done without interruption during the suspension of 1837. At the present moment, the receipts and disbursements of the Government are made in legal currency in the largest portion of the Union—no one suggests a departure from this rule; and if it can now be successfully carried out, it will be surely attended with even less difficulty when bank notes are again redeemed in specie.

Indeed I cannot think that a serious objection would any where be raised to the receipt and payment of gold and silver in all public transactions, were it not from an apprehension that a surplus in the Treasury might withdraw a large portion of it from circulation, and lock it up unprofitably in the public vaults. It would not, in my opinion, be difficult to prevent such an inconvenience from occurring; but the authentic statements which I have already submitted to you in regard to the actual amount in the public Treasury at any one time during the period embraced in them, and the little probability of a different state of the Treasury for at least some years to come, seem to render it unnecessary to dwell upon it. Congress, moreover, as I have before observed, will in every year have an opportunity to guard against it, should the occurrence of any circumstances lead us to apprehend injury from this source. Viewing the subject in all its aspects, I cannot believe that any period will be more auspicious than the present for the adoption of all measures necessary to maintain the sanctity of our own engagements, and to aid in securing to the community that abundant supply of the precious metals which tends so much to their prosperity and gives such increased stability to all their dealings.

In a country so commercial as ours, banks in some form will probably always exist; but this serves only to render it the more incumbent on us, notwithstanding the discouragements of the past, to strive in our respective stations to mitigate the evils they produce; to take from them as rapidly as the obligations of public faith and a careful consideration of the immediate interests of the community will permit, the unjust character of monopolies; to check so far as may be practicable by prudent legislation, those temptations of interest and those opportunities for their dangerous indulgence, which beset them on every side, and to confine them strictly to the performance of their paramount duty, that of aiding the operations of commerce, rather than consulting their own exclusive advantage. These and other salutary reforms may, it is believed, be accomplished without the violation of any of the great principles of the social compact, the observance of which is indispensable to its existence, or interfering in any way with the useful and profitable employment of real capital.

Institutions so framed have existed and still exist elsewhere, giving to commercial intercourse all necessary facilities, without inflating or depreciating the currency, or stimulating speculation. Thus accomplishing their legitimate ends, they have gained the surest guarantee for their protection and encouragement in the good will of the community. Among a people so just as ours the same results could not fail to attend a similar course. The direct supervision of the banks belongs, from the nature of our Government, to the States who authorize them. It is to their Legislatures that the people must mainly look for action on that subject. But as the conduct of the Federal Government in the management of its revenue has also a powerful though less immediate influence upon them, it becomes our duty to see that a proper direction is given to it. While the keeping of the public revenue in a separate and independent Treasury, and of collecting it in gold and silver, will have a salutary influence on the system of paper credit with which all banks are connected, and thus aid those that are sound and well managed, it will at the same time sensibly check such as are otherwise, by at once withholding the means of extravagance afforded by the public funds, and restraining

them from excessive issues of notes which they would be constantly called upon to redeem.

I am aware it has been urged that this control may be best attained and exerted by means of a National Bank. The constitutional objections, which I am well known to entertain, would prevent me in any event from proposing or assenting to that remedy; but in addition to this, I cannot, after past experience, bring myself to think that it can any longer be extensively regarded as effective for such a purpose. The history of the late National Bank through all its mutations shows that it was not so. On the contrary, it may, after a careful consideration of the subject, be, I think, safely stated, that at every period of banking excess it took the lead; that in 1817, and 1818, in 1823, in 1831, and in 1834, its vast expansions, followed by distressing contractions, led to those of the State institutions. It swelled and maddened the tides of the banking system, but seldom allayed, or safely directed them. At a few periods only was a salutary control exercised, but an eager desire, on the contrary, exhibited for profit in the first place; and if, afterwards, its measures were severe towards other institutions, it was because its own safety compelled it to adopt them. It did not differ from them in principle or in form; its measures emanated from the same spirit of gain; it felt the same temptation to overissues; it suffered from, and was totally unable to avert, those inevitable laws of trade, by which it was itself affected equally with them; and at least on one occasion, at an early day, it was saved only by extraordinary exertions from the same fate that attended the weakest institution it professed to supervise. In 1837 it failed, equally with others, in redeeming its notes, though the two years allowed by its charter for that purpose had not expired, a large amount of which remains to the present time outstanding. It is true, that having so vast a capital, and strengthened by the use of all the revenues of the Government, it possessed more power; but while it was itself, by that circumstance, freed from the control which all banks require, its paramount object and inducement were left the same—to make the most for its stockholders, and to regulate the currency of the country. Nor has it, as far as we are advised, been found to be greatly otherwise elsewhere. The national character given to the Bank of England, has not prevented excessive fluctuations in their currency, and it proved unable to keep off a suspension of specie payments, which lasted for nearly a quarter of a century. And why should we expect it to be otherwise? A national institution, though deriving its charter from a different source than the State banks, is yet constituted upon the same principles; is conducted by men equally exposed to temptation; and is liable to the same disasters; with the additional disadvantage that its magnitude occasions an extent of confusion and distress which the mismanagement of smaller institutions could not produce. It can scarcely be doubted that the recent suspension of the U. States Bank of Pennsylvania—of which the effects are felt not in that State alone, but over half the Union—had its origin in a course of business commenced while it was a national institution; and there is no good reason, for supposing that the same consequences would not have followed, had it still derived its powers from the General Government. It is in vain, when the influences and impulses are the same, to look for a difference in conduct or results. By such creations, we do therefore but increase the mass of paper credit and paper currency, without checking their attendant evils and fluctuations. The extent of power and the efficiency of organization which we give, so far from being beneficial, are in practice positively injurious. They strengthen the chain of dependence throughout the Union, subject all parts more certainly to common disaster, and bind every bank more effectually, in the first instance, to those of our commercial cities, and, in the end, to a foreign power. In a word, I cannot but believe that, with the full understanding of the operations of our banking system which experience has produced, public sentiment is not less opposed to the creation of a National Bank for purposes connected with currency and commerce, than for those connected with the fiscal operations of the Government.

Yet the commerce and currency of the country are suffering evils from the operations of the State banks, which can not and ought not to be overlooked. By their means, we have been flooded with a depreciated paper, which it was evidently the design of the framers of the Constitution to prevent, when they required Congress to "coin money and regulate the value of foreign coins," and when they forbade the States "to coin money, emit bills of credit, make any thing but gold and silver a tender in payment of debts," or "pass any law impairing the obligation of contracts." If they did not guard more explicitly against the present state of things, it was because they could not have anticipated that the few banks then existing were to swell to an extent which would expel to so great a degree the gold and silver, for which they had provided, from the channels of circulation, and fill them with a currency that defeats the objects they had in view. The remedy for this must chiefly rest with the States from whose legislation it has sprung. No good that might accrue in a particular case from the exercise of powers, not obviously conferred on the General Government, would authorize its interference, or justify a course that might, in the slightest degree, increase, at the expense of the States, the power of the Federal authorities—nor do I doubt that the States will apply the remedy. Within the last few years, events have appealed to them too strongly to be disregarded. They have seen that the Constitution, though theoretically adhered to, is subverted in practice; that while on the statute books there is no legal tender but gold and silver, no law impairing the obligations of contracts, yet that, in point of fact, the privileges conferred on banking corporations have made their notes the currency of the country; that the obligations imposed by these notes are violated under the impulses of interest or convenience; and that the number and power of the persons connected with these corporations, or placed under their influence, give them a fearful weight when their interest is in opposition to the spirit of the Constitution and laws. To the people it is immaterial whether these results are produced by open violations of the latter, or by the workings of a system of

which the result is the same. An inflexible execution even of the existing statutes of most of the States, would redress many evils now endured; would effectually show the banks the dangers of mismanagement which impunity encourages them to repeat; and would teach all corporations the useful lesson that they are the subjects of the law and the servants of the people. What is still wanting to effect these objects must be sought in additional legislation; or, if that be inadequate, in such further constitutional grants or restrictions as may bring us back into the path from which we have so widely wandered.

In the meantime, it is the duty of the General Government to co-operate with the States, by a wise exercise of its constitutional powers, and the enforcement of its existing laws. The extent to which it may do so by further enactments, I have already adverted to, and the wisdom of Congress may yet enlarge them. But, above all, it is incumbent upon us to hold erect the principles of morality and law, constantly executing our own contracts in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, and thus serving as a rallying point by which our whole country may be brought back to that safe and honored standard.

Our people will not long be insensible to the extent of the burdens entailed upon them by the false system that has been operating on their sanguine, energetic, and industrious character; nor to the means necessary to extricate themselves from these embarrassments. The weight which presses upon a large portion of the people and the States, is an enormous debt, foreign and domestic. The foreign debt of our States, corporations, and men of business, can scarcely be less than two hundred millions of dollars, requiring more than ten millions of dollars a year to pay the interest. This sum has to be paid out of the exports of the country, and must of necessity cut off imports to that extent, or plunge the country more deeply in debt from year to year. It is easy to see that the increase of this foreign debt must augment the annual demand on the exports to pay the interest, and to the same extent diminish the imports; and in proportion to the enlargement of the foreign debt, and the consequent increase of interest, must be the decrease of the import trade. In lieu of the comforts which it now brings us, we might have our gigantic banking institutions, and splendid, but, in many instances, profitless, railroads and canals, absorbing to a great extent, in interest upon the capital borrowed to construct them, the surplus fruits of national industry for years to come, and securing to posterity no adequate return for the comforts which the laborers of their hands might otherwise have secured. It is not by the increase of this debt that relief is to be sought, but in its diminution. Upon this point, there is, I am happy to say, hope before us; not so much in the return of confidence abroad, which will enable the States to borrow more money, as in change of public feeling at home, which prompts our people to pause in their career, and think of the means by which debts are to be paid before they are contracted. If we would escape embarrassment, public and private, we must cease to run in debt, except for objects of necessity, or such as will yield a certain return. Let the faith of the States, corporations, and individuals, already pledged, be kept with the most punctilious regard. It is due to our national character, as well as to justice, that this should be on the part of each a fixed principle of conduct. But it behooves us all to be more chary in pledging it hereafter. By ceasing to run in debt, and applying the surplus of our crops and incomes to the discharge of existing obligations, by buying less and selling more, and managing all affairs, public and private, with strict economy and frugality, we shall see our country soon recover from a temporary depression, arising not from natural and permanent causes, but from those I have enumerated, and advance with renewed vigor in her career of prosperity.

Fortunately for us at this moment, when the balance of trade is greatly against us and the difficulty of meeting it enhanced by the disturbed state of our money affairs, the bounties of Providence have come to relieve us from the consequences of past errors. A faithful application of the immense results of the labors of the last season will afford partial relief for the present, and perseverance in the same course will, in due season, accomplish the rest. We have had full experience, in times past, of the extraordinary results which can, in this respect, be brought about in a short period, by the united and well directed efforts of a community like ours. Our surplus profits, the energy and industry of our population, and the wonderful advantages which Providence has bestowed upon our country, in its climate its various productions, indispensable to other nations, will, in due time, afford abundant means to perfect the most useful of those objects, for which the States have been plunging and debting themselves of late in embarrassment and debt, without imposing on ourselves or our children such fearful burdens.

But let it be indelibly engraven on our minds that relief is not to be found in expedients. Indebtedness cannot be lessened by borrowing more money, or by changing the form of the debt. The balance of trade is not to be turned in our favor by creating new demands upon us abroad. Our currency cannot be improved by the creation of new banks or more issues from those which now exist. Although these devices sometimes appear to give temporary relief, they almost invariably aggravate the evil in the end. It is only by retrenchment and reform, by curtailing public and private expenditures, by paying our debts, and by reforming our banking system, that we are to expect effectual relief, security for the future, and an enduring prosperity. In shaping the institutions and policy of the General Government so as to promote, as far as it can with its limited powers, these important ends, you may rely on my most cordial co-operation.

That there should have been, in the progress of recent events, doubts in many quarters, and in some a heated opposition to every change, cannot surprise us. Doubts are properly attended on all reform; and it is peculiarly in the nature of such abuses as we are now encountering, to seek to perpetuate their power by means of the influence they have been permitted to acquire. It is their result, if not their object, to gain for the few an ascendancy over the many, by securing to them a monopoly of the currency; the medium through which most of the wants

of mankind are supplied—to produce throughout society a chain of dependence which leads all classes to look to privileged associations for the means of speculation and extravagance—to nourish, in preference to the many virtues that give dignity to human nature, a craving desire for luxurious enjoyment; and sudden wealth, which renders those who seek them dependent on those who supply them—to substitute for republican simplicity and economical habits a sickly appetite for effeminate indulgence, and an imitation of that reckless extravagance which impoverished and enslaved the industrious people of foreign lands; and at last, to fix upon us, instead of those equal political rights, the acquisition of which was alike the object and supposed reward of our revolutionary struggle, a system of exclusive privileges conferred by partial legislation. To remove the influences which had thus gradually grown up among us—to deprive them of their deceptive advantages—to test them by the light of wisdom and truth—to oppose the force which they concentrate in their support—all this was necessarily the work of time, even among a people so enlightened and pure as that of the United States.

In most other countries, perhaps, it could only be accomplished through that series of revolutionary movements, which are too often radical reform; but it is the crowning merit of our institutions, that they create and nourish in the vast majority of our people, a disposition and a power peaceably to remedy abuses which have elsewhere caused the effusion of rivers of blood, and the sacrifice of thousands of the human race. The result, thus far, is most honorable to the self denial, the intelligence, and the patriotism of our citizens; it justifies the confident hope that they will carry through the reform which has been so well begun, and that they will go still farther than they have yet gone in illustrating the important truth, that a people as free and as enlightened as ours will, whenever it becomes necessary, show themselves to be indeed capable of self-government by voluntarily adopting appropriate remedies for every abuse, and submitting to temporary sacrifices, however great, to ensure their permanent welfare.

My own exertions for the furtherance of these desirable objects have been bestowed, throughout my official career with a zeal that is nourished by ardent wishes for the welfare of my country, and by an unlimited reliance on the wisdom that marks its ultimate decision on all great and controverted questions. Impressed with the solemn obligations imposed upon me by the Constitution, desirous also of laying before my fellow citizens, with whose confidence and support I have been so highly honored, such measures as appear to me conducive to the *r* prosperity and anxious to submit to their fullest consideration the grounds upon which my opinions are formed, I have on this as on preceding occasions, freely offered my views on those points of domestic policy that seem, at the present time, most prominently to require the action of the Government. I know that they will receive from Congress that full and able consideration which the importance of the subjects merit, and I can repeat the assurance heretofore made, that I shall cheerfully and readily co-operate with you in every measure that will tend to promote the welfare of the Union.

M. VAN BUREN.
Washington, December 2, 1839.

Twenty-sixth Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.
MONDAY, Dec. 30, 1839.

After the journal was read,
The CHAIR announced the following standing committees:

Committee on Commerce.—Messrs. Curtis, Hillen, White of Louisiana, Burke, Taland, Habersham, Parris, Böts, and Weller.
Committee on the Public Lands.—Messrs. Corwin, Reynolds, Lincoln, Cray, White of Kentucky, Fisher, Garland of Virginia, Hubbard, and Thompson of Mississippi.

Committee on Claims.—Messrs. Dawson, Russell, Banks, Giddings, Williams of New Hampshire, Gentry, Hill of North Carolina, Galbraith, and Mallory.

Post Office and Post Roads.—Messrs. McKay, Hopkins, Chapman, Marvin, Leadbetter, J. L. Williams of Tennessee, Anderson of Kentucky, Butler of South Carolina, and Brown of Mississippi.

District of Columbia.—Messrs. Johnson of Maryland, C. H. Williams of Tennessee, Beirne, Clarke, Davee, Graham, Cranston, Black, and Hawkins.

Judiciary.—Messrs. Sergeant, Cray, Hoffman, Turney, Mason of Ohio, Samuels, Colquitt, Storrs, and Barnard.

Revolutionary Claims.—Messrs. Craig, Randolph, Hall, Tallaferra, Farmer, Montgomery, Rogers of S. Carolina, Ely, and Swearingen.

Territories.—Messrs. Pope, Jenifer, Ramsey, Campbell of Tennessee, Stewart, Brewster, Davis of Kentucky, Montayne, & Fine.
Revolutionary Pensions.—Messrs. Tallaferra, Carr, Andrews, Stearns, Rayner, E. Davis of Pennsylvania, Brockway, Taylor, and Hand.

Invalid Pensions.—Messrs. S. Williams, Morris of Ohio, Crittenden, Daan, Strongs, Randall, Morris of Pa. Palen, and Edwards.

Roads and Canals.—Messrs. Ogle, Graves, Carroll, Hill of Va., Smith of Ia., Starkweather, Rayner, Colquitt, and Blackwell.

Patents.—Messrs. Fletcher of Vt. Beatty, Prentiss, Newland, and Paynter.

Public Buildings and Grounds.—Messrs. Lincoln, Petrikin, Leonard, Keim, and Hastings of Ohio.

Revised & Unfinished Business.—Messrs. Peck, Parish, Jackson, James, and Dana.

Accounts.—Messrs. Johnson of Va. Lawrence, Johnston of N. Y., Marchand, and Floyd.

Manufactures.—Messrs. John Q. Adams, Niabet, Slade, Tillinghast, Worthington, Dromgole, Mitchell, Eastman, and John Davis of Pa.

Agriculture.—Messrs. Deberry, Dennis, McClellan of Tennessee, Smith of Vermont, Hammond, Shaw, Sweeney, Doig, and Hook.
Indian Affairs.—Messrs. Bell, L. Williams of North Carolina, Alford, Cross, Chinn, Shepard, Lucas, Hunt, and John W. Davis of Indiana.
Millego.—Messrs. Williams of Connecticut, Williams of Massachusetts, Morgan, Leet, and Allen of N. Y.

Expenditures in the Department of the Treasury.—Messrs. Evans, Atherton, Osborne, Warren, and Jones of N. Y.
Expenditures in the Department of War.—Messrs. R. Garland of Louisiana, Howard, Wagener, Holmes, and Cooper of Pa.
Expenditures in the Department of Navy.—Messrs. Saltgottal, Vanderpool, Simonton, Greene, and Gerry.

Expenditures in the Department of Post Office.—Messrs. Marvin, Boyd, Lowell, Davis of Kentucky, and Brown of N. Y.

Expenditures on the Public Buildings.—Messrs. Stanly, Fomance, Gates, Henry, and Earle.

Foreign Affairs.—Messrs. Pickens, Cushing, Dromgole, Gränger, Bynum, Hawes, Howard, Everett, and Clifford.

Naval Affairs.—Messrs. F. Thomas, Holmes, Reed, King, Grinnell, Anderson of Me. Robinson, Holleman, and Proffit.

Private Land Claims.—Messrs. Casey, Garland of Louisiana, Calhoun, Dillett, Wick, Butler of Ky., Hastings, Jameson, and White.

Military Affairs.—Messrs. Cave Johnson, Thompson, Miller, Coles, Kemble, Allen, Monroe, Sumter, and Goggin.

Militia.—Messrs. Keim, Carter, Griffin, Wagner, P. F. Thomas, Goodie, Rogers of S. C. Triplett, and Ridgway.

Elections.—Messrs. Campbell of S. Carolina, Fillmore, Medill, Crabb, Brown, Fisher, Smith of Conn., and Bots.

Public Expenditures.—Messrs. Briggs, Smith of Maryland, Bond, Rariden, Duncan, Crockett, Hall, Watterson and McCulloch.
Ways and Means.—Messrs. Jones of Va. Biddle, Atherton, Lawrence, Rhett, Vanderpool, Evans, Conner, and Cooper.



CARLISLE:
THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 1840.

OUR FLAG.
"Now our flag is flung to the wild wind free,
Let it float over our father land,
And the guard of its spotless fame shall be
Columbia's chosen band!"

FOR PRESIDENT IN 1840,
MARTIN VAN BUREN,
AND AN
INDEPENDENT TREASURY.

STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING.
The Democratic Republican Standing Committee of Cumberland county, are requested to meet at the public house of Mr. John Cornman, in the Borough of Carlisle, on Monday the 13th of January, 1840, at 2 o'clock, P. M., on business connected with the ensuing Presidential election. A general attendance is desirable.

TWO OF THE COMMITTEE.
December 24, 1839.

APPOINTMENTS BY THE COMMISSIONERS FOR THE YEAR 1840.
ROBERT SNODGRASS, Esq. to be Treasurer of Cumberland county.
JOHN IRVIN, Esq. to be Clerk to Commissioners.
JAMES H. GRAHAM, Esq. Attorney to Do.
JAMES DUNBAR, Keeper of the Public Buildings.

APPOINTMENTS BY THE DIRECTORS OF THE POOR FOR 1840.
MICHAEL FISHER, Esq. to be Steward of the Poor House.
JAMES LOUDON, Treasurer to Do.
DR. JACOB BOGHMAN, Physician to Do.
HUGH GAULAGHER, Esq. Attorney to Do.

"One of the People" will be attended to in our next.

We this week conclude the President's Message, and again ask for it an attentive perusal. It is certainly one of the ablest documents of the kind that has ever issued from the Executive mansion. Clear, convincing, satisfactory—it cannot fail to carry conviction to the minds of the reflecting and considerate of all parties.

"Desperate political and moral black-legs," says a writer in the New York Evening Post, "who wish to avail themselves of the credit and money of the nation, to carry out their base designs—bankrupt speculators in fancy stocks, and swindlers of all classes and denominations, will of course assail the message with their verjuice and gongre; and the old story about locofocoism, and the war of the government against the merchants and the banks, will be chaunted in all the places of debauchery and villainy of your city, by the trained and desperate adventurers who never had aught of decency or of worth to sustain them; but who live by their wits, and will die either by homlock or the halter."

The sovereign people however—the hard-working honest and industrious yeomanry of the country—hail the message with joy, and utter a hearty response to the measures recommended by the President. Mr. Van Buren has nobly thrown himself into the breach, and bravely will he be sustained by a free and intelligent people.

The Governor's Message entire shall appear in our next.

Report of the Secretary of War.—This annual state paper is drawn up with great ability and does Mr. Polissett much credit. Amongst other things the Secretary recommends a new organization of the militia. The United States to be divided into eight military districts—each district to have an active force of 12,500; and an equal number of reserve, the total making 200,000 men. These troops to be thoroughly drilled, and continue eight years in service, for which they are to receive a certain rate of compensation, to be fixed by law; at the expiration of which time they are to be exempt from militia duty, except in cases of invasion or imminent peril. This corps is to be embodied as the National Guard, and will constitute one-seventh of the whole militia of the Union. The other six-sevenths will have no military duty to perform, only to be mustered at long and stated intervals.

The Hon. Charles F. Mercer, of Virginia, (a Federal whig of the most rabid kind,) resigned his seat in Congress, on the 27th ult. His district is said to be decidedly democratic, and strong hopes are entertained of its sending a "good and true" friend of the administration to fill his place.

Col. Richard M. Johnson, Vice President of the U. States, took the chair, as President of the Senate, on Friday the 27th ult.

CONGRESS.—Nothing of importance has yet been done in Congress. On Monday, the 30th ult., the Standing Committees were announced in the House—after which Mr. Wiso made an ineffectual effort to suspend the Rules to enable him to move Resolutions against the consideration of Memorials touching the question of Slavery within the District of Columbia. This brought on an animated discussion which lasted until the adjournment.

On Tuesday both houses adjourned to meet again on Friday last, in order to afford the members an opportunity of taking a New Year's frolic.

On Friday, the day was principally occupied in the Senate with a long and eloquent sparring match between Messrs. Calhoun and Clay on the subject of a land bill, which was distinguished for its personal abuse, wit and satire. Mr. Clay was worsted in the intellectual combat, and acknowledged that his race, physical and political was almost run.

In the House the day was also spent in an angry debate between Messrs. Bynum, Jenifer and Stanly, which was finally put a stop to by the Speaker. Bynum and Jenifer, it will be recollected by many of our readers, fought a duel some three or four years since, which will account for the present disgraceful flare-up.

THE SPEAKER AND THE STANDING COMMITTEES.

We presume that by this time those democratic papers that boasted so much of Mr. Hunter's friendship for the administration, are pretty well satisfied that they have been "barking up the wrong tree." The fact is, that, with the exception of being friendly to the Independent Treasury, he is to all intents and purposes as much of a federal whig as the most fastidious of that pibald party could desire. To prove this just cast your eyes over the list of Committees, and you will at once perceive that the democratic party has little, if any thing, to expect at his hands. Of the thirty-three Standing Committees, twenty-two have Federal Chairmen—two have non-descripts—and nine only have Democrats! His actions ever since he took the chair, have inclined against the administration; and the federalists do not hesitate to claim him (and justly too in our opinion) as their Speaker exclusively.

The democratic members were caught napping for once when Mr. Hunter was elected, and they will have to submit with as good grace as possible. They have a clear and undisputed majority of six in the House, at the present time, and after the lapse of a few weeks it will, in all probability, be swelled to eleven by the accession of the N. Jersey democratic members. With such a majority at its disposal, the Administration party can easily reverse the decisions of the Speaker, when necessary—and if select Committees are to be raised, the House can very readily take the appointment out of his hands and elect them itself. So that, after all, notwithstanding the Speaker is against us, if the democratic members are hereafter united such measures may be carried through as the people require at the hands of their representatives.

NEW YEAR'S DAY IN WASHINGTON.—The National Intelligencer says: "New Year's day was observed as a holiday by Congress and all the public offices, and pretty generally by others. The President received visitors as usual on that day; and many members of Congress, including the leading men of all parties, with the members of the Foreign Legation generally, the Heads of Departments, and officers of the Army and Navy, and citizens, strangers as well as residents, paid their respects to the Chief Magistrate, by whom they were courteously received."

Horace Binney, Esq. (one of the great federal bank lawyers in Philadelphia,) has refused to receive the depreciated paper of the U. S. Bank, from the city authorities, in payment of a debt of \$20,000 due him by the corporation, and insists that the city shall pay him in "lawful money"—alias gold and silver. Verily the Mammoth must be his bad credit index, when a refusal to receive its paper comes from such a source.

Durial of a Warrior.—A letter from an officer of the U. S. Army, dated Fort Towson, (Ark.) 8th Nov., states, that Gen. George Culvert, the head chief of the Choctaw nation, one of their greatest warriors, was the day previous buried with military honors. He was a revolutionary veteran; had served under Gen. Washington in our struggle for independence, from whom he received a commission of Major of militia in the U. States service, and a sword. He also served under Gen. Wayne—and likewise under Gen. Jackson in the Florida war of 1814 against the Seminoles. For his bravery Gen. Jackson presented him with a Colonel's commission, and afterwards a sword, when President of the U. States. At the time of his death the old chief was 95 years of age.

Confession of Murder.—Philo Ann Simons, wife of John Floor, of New York, who was arrested last week on suspicion of causing the death of her husband by a poisoned cake, has since made a confession of her guilt. She alleges as a reason for her crime, that he had been faithless to her, and would not furnish her with the necessary means of getting a livelihood. She had purchased arsenic, and put it into the fatal cake.

Deep Snow.—The Baltimore Sun of Saturday says:—"We learn from a gentleman who arrived here yesterday, that the snow in the road for some distance along side the mountain between Frederick and Hagerstown, was twenty-one feet deep and that it was impossible to get the mail through until a road was cleared by carting the snow away."

Mammoth Sheet.—Alexander's Weekly Messenger of the 1st inst., marked the new year by appearing in a double sheet of enormous dimensions, something similar in size to a blanket—furnishing a sufficient quantity of matter to keep an ordinary reader employed for a week at least. Its appearance is also considerably enlivened with several well executed wood cuts and other embellishments. Taking the sheet altogether it is a curiosity in its way, and evinces a commendable degree of enterprise on the part of the publishers.

The Messenger is published in Philadelphia, at the low rate of \$3 per annum payable in advance.

Levi, the swindling President of the Schuylkill Bank, is still a fugitive from justice. Some reports say that he has gone to Europe to keep company with Swartwout and Price.

Rev. George C. Cookman, formerly pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church in this borough, has been elected Chaplain to the U. S. Senate.

Massachusetts Election.—The official returns of this state have at length been ascertained, and Morton (dem.) elected Governor by a majority of 7.