mittee is raised, that there be a particular specification as to what was erased, and what substituted

Mr. Holmes, dem., of South Carolina, moved that the matter be referred to a committee of nine for investigation

Mr. King—I called at the clerk's office and saw the journal. I asked the clerk to bring it in and exhibit it to the House.

Mr. McLane—The gentleman made the charge very fully, that the Speaker had mutilated the journal. I ask him to complete the charge in his written charge.

The Speaker—The House cannot investigate when the name of the person is not specified.

Mr. Morse, dem., of Louisiana, trusted that the friends of the Speaker will not attempt to evade the investigation.

Voices—"Who does it?" "Who dreams of such a thing?" "A committee should be appointed!" "It was enough that the charge had been made by the Representative!"

Mr Stephens said that his own respect would require that the charge be specific, and that it should not go to the committee until this be done

Mr. Schenck, [whig] of Ohio, would vote for the inquiry. The House owes it to their honor and dignity.

Mr. King said that the Speaker erased the motion that I made, and asked that the journal be produced.

The Clerk began to read the journal

Mr. Bayley, [dem.] of Virginia, wanted to know whether the journal should be produced before the committee was appointed.

The journal of the 13th instant was partly read, showing that King's resolution was to close debate on the California message, whereas he insisted that it was to close on the Bill.

Mr. Holmes said that it was perfectly obvious that the question must go before a committee of investigation, and moved that a committee be appointed.

There was much confusion throughout the proceedings Gentlemen jumping up and wanting to say something, and not more than one half of the members in their seats. Mr. Cobb, the Speaker, asked leave to make an explanation. Cries of "sit down in front," "order," "order." Silence now reigned, and Mr. Cobb said—I do not wish to be understood, as interposing any objection to the resolution which has been moved; but it is important, as I conceive, that an ample statement of what has occurred should go before the public, in connexion with the charge which has been made by the gentleman from New York, (Mr King) On the day intimated the gentleman rose to a privileged question under the rules of the House, to offer the usual resolution to stop the debate on the question pending before the committee of the Whole.

As you, sir, and the House are aware, it is a resolution very frequently offered, and resolutions to terminate debate in blank are always kept on hand When the gentleman from New York arose and offered the resolution, he had not reduced it to writing, but requested the clerk to do so. I directed that it should be done by the clerk. The gentleman immediately made a motion to lay the resolution on the table The House voted before the blank had been filled up by the clerk. Subsequently I sent word to one of the clerks that the resolution must read so as to stop debate the engrossing clerk. I did not hear the direction to the reading clerk, and the resolution was filled up by him You and the House know that it is my duty as a Speaker to correct the journal of the House It is read to me the morning after the adjournment.

When the journal was read on the succeeding morning, the resolution was to stop the debate on the President's message, and the California bill then pending before the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union. I instructed the clerk to strike out the word "bill," giving him my reasons for not entertaining the motion to include the bill, namely, that it was a privileged question to move to stop debate on the passage, because it had not been before the House, and as the house had no parliamentary knowledge of the tendency of the bill, it could not entertain as a privileged motion a resolution to terminate this debate upon it; thus the correction was made in my room, and the journal, as corrected, was read on the next morning to the House — The circumstances occurred just as I have narrated them. I have nothing more to say.

Mr. King said that the opinions of Mr. Cobb were such that he did not vote for putting him in the chair, because he could control on important questions. Mr Richardson—I call the gentleman to order.

Mr. King—There is a rumor of an intention to smother the resolution to take the bill out of the committee, and with a view to indicate the readiness to vote for California, without reference to any other matters.

Mr. Holmes said that, after the statement of the Speaker, there was no foundation for the charge, and he would therefore withdraw his resolution.

Mr. Burt, (dem.) of South Carolina, offered a resolution, "That the charge against the Speaker is, by Mr. King's own statement, without color of reason or foundation." He did not wish to make one remark in its support. Mr. Bayley said he denounced the charge; a baser one had never been made. Mr. Inge asked whether he (Mr. King) was willing to withdraw his charge. Mr. King declined to do so. He had a high respect for the Speaker, and believed that nothing but constraint had induced him to alter the journal. Those who threatened the existence of the government, would not hesitate, by artifice, to accomplish their purpose.

This remark produced great excitement Mr. K. was loudly called to order, and the Speaker (pro tem.) rapped, and requested the gentlemen to take their seats. The House was in great confusion. The question of order was then raised, the several resolutions which had been ordered were again read, and every body wanted to say something, and the House refused to second the demand for the previous question on Mr. Burt's resolution.

Mr. Wentworth said that if gentlemen wanted to raise a storm in the north, they had better make a martyr of Mr. King.—Mr. Holmes, at the instance of Mr. Venable, renewed his motion for a committee of nine. Mr. Venable, (dem.) of North Carolina, contended that the Speaker had done what it was his duty to do Further proceedings took place, and finally, by a vote of 91 to 69, the resolution for a committee of investigation was agreed to.

Mr. Winthrop appointed the following on the committee:

Mr. Holmes, (dem.) of South Carolina; Mr. Vinton, (whig.) of Ohio; Mr. Boyd, (dem.) of Kentucky; Mr. Ashmun, (whig) of Massachusetts; Mr Doty, (dem.) of Wisconsin; Mr. Stephens, (whig) of Georgia; Mr Strong, (dem.) of Pennsylvania; Mr. Gentry, (whig) of Tennessee; Mr Richardson, (dem.) of Illinois.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole on the California question.

Mr Harris, (dem.) of Illinois, advocated the admission of California, and denounced the Nashville Convention.

Mr Ashmun obtained the floor, and the Committee rose.

WASHINGTON, March 27.

SENATE.—After the reception of petitions and reports from committees, Mr. Benton rose to a personal explanation. Alluding to the report of the Senate proceedings of yesterday, he stated that his remarks were reported accurately, but complained with much warmth of the report of Mr. Foote's remarks. He exonerated the reporters entirely, intimating very distinctly that he knew Mr. Foote had reported himself. He denied the right of any Senator to change or modify a single expression in a personal matter. As reported, Mr. Foote was represented to have said that Mr. Benton was shielded by his age, his open disavowal of the obligations of the laws of honor, and his Senatorial privileges This was never said, and if it had been, it was false Let any man offer him insult where it could be properly chastised, and he would soon learn his age. He had borne much indignity in silence, but having once noticed it, he would now give notice to the Senate, that if it forgot that it was the American Senate, and failed to protect itself from the use of language, which would not be permitted in the vilest brothel in the suburbs, he would henceforth protect himself from all indignity and insult, cost what it may.

Mr Foote, in reply, contended that he had made no unjustifiable alteration in his speech He avowed the report as his own, and contended that he had added nothing not absolutely necessary to fill blanks left by the reporters because of their inability to hear He admitted that he had omitted a paragraph referring to the affair of honor between Mr. Benton and Mr Butler, and he had done so at the suggestion of friends, who considered allusions to the affair, when settled, not strictly proper.—As to the particular passage objected to, he asserted that it differed in no particular from the expression used by him. In conclusion, he wanted to know if Mr. Benton meant to say that he does consider himself amenable to the laws of honor? I do, said Mr Foote, and if he does, let him say so, and I know my course.

Mr. Benton made no reply, but turning in his seat, indulged in a contemptuous laugh.

The Senate then proceeded to the consideration of the special order of the day, being Mr. Clay's Compromise Resolutions

Mr. Chase resumed and concluded his remarks. He declared himself in favor of self strongly against the proposed "Omnibus Committee," as he demonstrated it, and against the doctrines of Mr. Webster in regard to the admission of new slave states, slavery in the territories, and fugitive slaves. He also declared himself in favor of the prohibition of slavery in the district, and of the coastwise slave trade; and closed with a review of the manner in which the slave states have threatened disunion, in case of non-compliance with their demand, and a strong expression of his devotion, and the devotion of the West, to the Union.

HOUSE.—After some unimportant business had been disposed of, the President's California message was taken up.

Mr. Ashmun spoke in favor of immediate admission; in favor of the party of the administration, and against the extension of slavery. He attributed the present difficulti s to the Mexican war and its results, (the acquisition of territory,) and was particularly severe upon the chivalry and disunionists, and especially the getters-up of the Nashville Convention.

Mr. Averet commenced a pro-slavery speech, when, feeling unwell, he gave way.

The report of T. Butler King relative to the condition of California was received from the President, and ordered to be printed. Adj

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WASHINGTON, March 28.

SENATE.—Mr. Benton gave notice of a bill providing for the construction of a railroad from St. Louis to San Francisco.

The Senate then resumed the consideration of the special order of the day, being Mr. Foote's motion to refer Mr. Bell's compromise resolutions to a Select Committee

Mr. Baldwin having the floor, addressed the Senate upon the general questions involved in the resolutions. Without concluding his remarks, Mr. B gave way to a motion to postpone the subject until to-morrow.

After the transaction of some additional business, and an executive session, the Senate adjourned till Monday.

HOUSE.—Mr. Winthrop, Speaker pro tem.

Mr. Miller, of Ohio, from the judiciary Committee, submitted a resolution calling on the President, if not incompatible with the public interests, for all information in his possession as to the extent of the claims of the Pugett's Sound Agricultural Company in Oregon, and the acts of incorporation of the Company. Also, the character and number and extent of the possessory rights of the Hudson's Bay Company, and the British subjects, south of the forty-ninth degree of latitude, including the members and servants of the Company, and the places and settlements south of said parallel. And that the President communicate whether any, and what proposition has been made by the Hudson Bay Company to the last or present administration to sell or transfer the possessory rights of said company, south of 49, and that he furnish the House with copies of all the papers connected with all such propositions from any person acting for said company, since the treaty with England.

Mr. Miller trusted there would be no objection to the passage of the resolution. It involved interests requiring immediate investigation, and the Committee can only obtain that information in the manner proposed.

The Speaker decided that the resolution must lie over under the rules.

The Senate then went into a Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, and took up the President's California message

Mr Averett resumed and concluded his speech.

Mr. Chandler replied to several gentlemen who had preceded him, and spoke of the complaints of the south, which, in his opinion, were not well founded. He denied that slavery was a great moral, social and political blessing It was said by Jefferson, that "so true as there is a God, so true will the country suffer from slavery." That there is a God all nature shows The Nation is punished as Jefferson predicted. If slavery is such a blessing, why does it not extend to the States from which it has been banished? If it were out of Maryland no man would invite it back again.

Mr. Richardson obtained the floor, when the Committee rose and the House adj

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WASHINGTON, March 29.

SENATE.—Not in session to-day.

HOUSE.—The greater portion of the day was occupied in discussing the stereotyped Deaster Claim, which was finally laid on the table

The Committee on Preston King's charge against the Speaker, made a report, fully exonerating the latter from blame The report was unanimously adopted. adj.

The Eruption of Vesuvius.

Our foreign papers state the eruption of Vesuvius, during the 2d week of February, was one of the most brilliant that has ever taken place. It continued for five days and nights, and illuminated the whole region as far off as the island of Capji, some twenty miles. The railroads out of Naples ran all night to carry persons who went out to witness the grand spectacle The emission of lava was so great that it flowed in a stream three miles wide and thirty feet deep to the distance of seven miles, on the side of the mountain opposite Naples. 32 houses, 2 churches, and an immense number of vineyards and farms were destroyed by the burning river An entirely new crater, it is said, has been formed, though we have as yet no scientific account of the phenomenon. It appears that the eruption was remarkably sudden, as none of the usual signs preceded it. A letter states that the mountain literally roared with the efforts it made to disgorge itself. The noise was like the firing of cannon at sea, and at every discharge, there was thrown up a mass of lava and rocks, which at night looked like balls of fire A guide, who was on the mountain at the time, says:

"In the middle of the mountain towards Somma, in an instant, a grotto was formed full of stalactites of salt and marine salt. I was about to gather some portion of it when the grotto began to open as if under the influence of an earthquake, and as I fled I found that my clothes were burned upon my back. Had I not quickened my speed my life would have been sacrificed, for in the space of a quarter of an hour, whence, as also from the crater, were thrown up bombs and lightnings. In ten minutes the lava had extended to the foot of Somma, forming a most wonderful and beautiful scene"

A young American, named Charles Carrol Bayard, a Passed Midshipman in the United States Navy, and the son of a distinguished citizens of Philadelphia, died at Naples, on the 22d of February, in consequence of a wound received from a stone thrown from the crater of Vesuvius, while he was standing in company with other officers on the side of the mountain.—*N. Y. Eve. Post*

Prof. Webster's Family &c.

BOSTON, Monday April 1.

The family of Dr. Webster was not informed of the verdict the night it was rendered. Friends, however, undertook the task of preparing their minds for it. The awful disclosures were made to them on Sunday morning by Mrs. Wm. H. Prescott. The scene was most heart-rending, and the wails and shrieks could not be concealed from the passers by

Every effort has been made by these friends to assuage the grief of the afflicted wife and daughters, who up to a late hour confidently expected an acquittal.

A letter of condolence was presented them on Sunday afternoon, signed by the heads of all the principal families of Cambridge, including Hon. Edward Everett, Jared Sparks, Professor Norton, Judge Fay, etc.

This morning the immense crowd retired from the Court-Room and its vicinity in silence and without the least disturbance. Judge Fay gave it up that his friend Dr Webster was a guilty man after hearing his own plea on Saturday evening.

Anecdotes of the early life of Dr. Webster in early life are now told by persons who were acquainted with him.

DEPREDATIONS IN THE POST OFFICE.—Post office depredations, says the Washington Union, under the present dynasty seem to multiply rapidly. Within two or three weeks we have noticed the arrest of two Taylor postmasters, for robbing the mail; and we now have before us a letter mailed in Missouri, and addressed to a gentleman in New York, in which a $20 bank note was enclosed, one end of which was sealed to the letter. The letter duly arrived, but *minus* the bank note. It had evidently been torn from the letter after it had been deposited in the post office, and without breaking the seal, as portions of the two ends of the note were left in the letter. We hope this new "spoils" system will not gain very great prevalence under this administration, as it now promises to do.

COUNTERFEIT.—New counterfeit five dollar notes on the Harrisburg Bank have made their appearance in this city. It is almost impossible to detect the imposition unless particular attention is paid to the notes—so well are they executed. We advise our friends to be careful. These notes are all through the country.—*Scott's Weekly.*

THE DEMOCRAT.

Thursday, April 4, 1850.

To Advertisers.—The circulation of this paper exceeds 1,100 copies, and is daily increasing, which is MORE THAN ONE-THIRD GREATER than that of any other paper in the County This fact, so important to Advertisers, may be strictly relied on

The Democratic County Standing Committee

Will meet at the Hotel of Wm. K Hatch, in this Village on Monday afternoon next at 2 o'clock

A punctual attendance is very important.

The following gentlemen constitute said Committee Benj. Gladden, Perrin Wells, Nelson Camp, G A Grow, J. B. Kimber, Samuel King, and N. C. Warner.

By order of several of the Committee

April 2, 1850.

Death of Mr. Calhoun.

Intelligence from Washington bears the sad announcement of the death of Hon. JOHN C CALHOUN, which took place in that city at about half past four o'clock on Sunday morning That event, although not by any means unexpected, is calculated to excite emotions of deep regret in the bosom of every American, and every admirer of Intellect and profound Statesmanship. For nearly forty years has Mr. CALHOUN been in public life and an active participator in the political events of our country, during which period he has ever displayed all those varied qualities which go to make a ripe Scholar, Statesman and Patriot; and in his decease, all must feel, despite all his vagaries, that that country which he has so long, so devotedly and so ably served, has lost one of the brightest stars in its galaxy, and the branch of our government of which he was a member, one of its most distinguished and brilliant ornaments. Long indeed has he stood before the world as foremost in the catalogue of American statesmen—as a man of profound and varied knowledge and mighty intellect—of pure motives, honorable dealing, and a private character above reproach—of whom all might feel a just personal pride. It is true he has chosen to differ with many, and perhaps we may say a majority of his contemporary statesmen on important political and sectional questions, and has labored with great assiduity and earnestness in the propagation and defence of his own peculiar notions; but in all his differences and his zealous labors, no person has ever yet charged him with insincerity or dissembling, or with resorting to any of those petty, grovelling appliances with which the political world is replete, to carry his points. In all his controversies, he has maintained the strictest integrity, and a dignity but rarely equalled. Such a man, although we may differ with him, and zealously oppose his pretensions and high sentiments, we never can fail to respect and reverence, and even mourn when removed by the inexorable Archer, death

Mr. Calhoun was a few days over 68 years old at his decease—by no means an old man, yet worn out by active and arduous duties in public life His death was marked by no extraordinary circumstances He was conscious that he was departing to that "bourne whence no traveller ever returns" till his current ebbed away

☞ The funeral of Mr. Calhoun took place on Tuesday with becoming ceremonies. No business has been done in either branch of Congress since when his decease was announced, and eloquent and touching eulogies delivered in the Senate by his colleague, Mr Butler, Messrs. Clay and Webster, and in the House by Messrs Holmes, Washburn and Venable. His remains were enclosed in a metallic coffin and temporarily deposited in the Congressional Cemetery The funeral rites were performed in the Senate Hall, which was densely thronged. The members of the House entered first, and were followed by the Judges of the Supreme Court, the President, the heads of departments, ministers of various countries, &c. Rev. C. M. Butler read the Episcopal burial service, and preached a discourse from the psalm: "I have said ye are gods, &c., but ye shall die like men."

The President's mansion and the Executive offices were shrouded in mourning, presenting a solemn and imposing aspect, and all business was entirely suspended.

Messrs. Mangum, Clay, Webster, Cass, King and Berrien acted as pall-bearers

Another Senatorial Flare-up.

The proceedings of Congress for Tuesday and Wednesday week exhibit another picture of Senatorial indignity and ruffianism, if we may so term it, which has so often brought disgrace upon the prime pals of such scenes, and the American as well as Republican name. We allude to the "passage" between Senators Foote and Benton, a full report of which may be found elsewhere. From those reports, it appears that Foote, who has borne the character of a common scold and blackguard ever since he first entered the Senate, (but whom we tried last week to make appear on the high road of reformation,) has "returned like the dog to his vomit again and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire." His nature he must and will act out, and that is, to be troublesome, querulous and pragmatical—always running his nose into every body's porrige-dish; in other words, always on the floor, making a great bluster, and imagining that nothing can be done right unless he has a hand in doing it. Col. Benton, especially, has long been the subject of his vituperation and constantly recurring attacks, but heretofore has paid no more attention to him than he would to a pismire in his pathway. On the present occasion, however, the Col. seems to have deviated from his ordinary course and given the fellow a proper castigation. Foote, in return, scolded away as usual, and finally sought to extricate himself from the dilemma by the attempt to bully his antagonist into a "pistol and coffee" affair, in southern parlance termed an "affair of honor." This the Col. treated with its merited contempt, and thus left the petulent Mississippi political Thersites to rest upon his laurels as easily as he might.

The telegraph and Washington correspondence for a few days kept the public assured that the affair would yet end in a duel; but we think Col. Benton would hardly stoop so low as to shoot such a creature as Foote.

CONCERT.—We had the pleasure on Monday evening of listening to a Concert given in the Court House by the "New York Vocalists," a company consisting of three gentlemen and two ladies, hailing from the Empire State. Their singing was excellent, fully equal to any that we ever heard in our village. Those who were present enjoyed a rich musical repast which they will be slow to forget. Should the company ever make it convenient to pass this way again in their peregrinations, they may rely upon a warm welcome.

Prof. Webster Convicted.

The trial of Prof. Webster for the murder of Dr. Parkman, which has been for two weeks pending in the Supreme Court of Boston, was terminated on Saturday evening last, and resulted in his conviction This verdict will doubtless surprise many even among those who believed him guilty, for the reason that the only evidence against him was circumstantial and inferential, which admitted a possibility of his innocence; and inasmuch as in all cases of this character, where there can a doubt exist in relation to the prisoner's guilt, that doubt belongs to the accused, and redounds to his acquittal. The responsibility devolving upon a Jury in all capital cases is no great—the wrong of a false conviction is so utterly irreparable—that nothing short of the most positive, explicit, and unequivocal evidence is deemed sufficient to tolerate a verdict of guilty

The chain of evidence against Prof. Webster, in the case, those who have traced it through well bear us out in saying, was as perfect and complete as circumstances could possibly make Dr. Parkman was traced even on the very hour of his disappearance, to the room of the prisoner, who himself admits that he was there; his remains, identified with tolerable accuracy by the dentist and by his family, were found secreted on the Professor's premises and in a vault to which he alone had access; Professor Webster was busily occupied during the few days intervening between the disappearance of Dr Parkman and the discovery of his remains in his rooms, with bolted doors and at unusual hours; he had a motive in making way with his victim, in the fact that he was owing him money for the payment of which he had long been importuned and harrassed; he gave inconsistent accounts of the transactions between him and Dr. Parkman on the fatal day he paid him the money; he was unable to state what kind of money he paid him, or whence he obtained it; he manifested the most inaccountable agitation from the time it was known that Dr. Parkman was missing to the period of his arrest and afterwards—these facts, which were proved and substantiated by many witnesses, together with numerous others of less magnitude, serve to make up the almost irresistible conclusion that he was the deliberate and wilful murderer of Dr. Parkman It is true that the chain of evidence has in it some weak or dubious points For instance, it is not absolutely certain that the remains found in the Medical College were those of Dr. Parkman, the principal Witness identifying them being a single dentist who alleged that he recognized the teeth found in the Professor's furnace, while other dentists swore that that witness might be mistaken; it is not positively certain, if they were Dr Parkman's remains that Professor Webster secreted them there, since some other person might have done the same thing by means of false keys; nor is it proof positive, because Dr. Webster could give no explanation of the manner in which he got the money, that he never paid Dr Parkman, and entered him into the Medical College and murdered him there to get possession of his notes. The presumption is, however, that these are the facts, and upon the strength of these presumptions, which seem to be well established, he has been convicted of the revolting crime of premeditated murder, and sentenced to be hanged by the neck until he is dead

Before sentence was given to the Jury by the Court, Prof. Webster made a few brief remarks in which he attempted to explain away the web of circumstances that seemed to overwhelm him, but it was so feeble an effort that it tended rather to confirm than to throw doubts upon his guilt He spoke with considerable agitation, and quite pointedly exhausted his counsel for not having done more to extricate him from the dilemma in which he was placed.

The Jury retired from the Court room at 8 o'clock, and after remaining in breathless silence for some forty minutes, proceeded to vote upon their verdict. Three questions were raised and voted upon, viz: Has the identity of Dr Parkman's body been satisfactorily proved? Did Prof John White Webster, and no one else, murder Dr. George Parkman? Was the murder the result of previous preparation, and was it "malice aforethought?" Upon the first two questions the vote was unanimous in the affirmative, and on the last it stood ayes 11, no 1. After a little consultation the dissenting Juror changed his mind, and the verdict found them unanimous They immediately repaired to the Court-room, which was still densely thronged, and made known their verdict.

The announcement of the verdict had a terrible effect upon the prisoner. His uplifted arm dropped, as if the circulation of the blood through it had been stopped, and his hand struck upon the bar in front of the dock. Indeed there was an appearance of something like a paralytic shock visible throughout his entire frame, and he sank backwards into his chair. He soon raised his right hand to his face, but for some time there was not strength enough in his arm to hold it there. The muscles of his face evinced great internal emotion, and in all respects he presented a most appalling spectacle. He seemed like a man whose last hope had been scattered by a single blow.

On Monday morning he was again brought back to the Court-room to receive his sentence, which was pronounced in an eloquent and feeling manner by Chief Justice Shaw. He looked gloomy in the extreme, and wore the marks of suffering he had endured since the rendition of the verdict, but was collected and calm.

Glorious News from Connecticut.

The returns from the election from that heretofore Federal Gibralter, Connecticut, held on Monday, is most cheering to the Democrats. Federalism is thoroughly routed, "horse, foot and dragoons." The Senate, according to the Tribune will stand 7 Whigs and 17 Democrats and Free Soilers, supported by Democrats, and the House Democratic by a small majority. There is no election of Governor by the people, owing to there being three candidates in the field, but with a Democratic Legislature, the gallant Col. Seymour is certain to be chosen.

From Harrisburg.

Since our last the Legislature has completed but very little business of a public nature. The bill to divorce Edwin Forrest and his wife has been disposed of by referring the whole matter to the Philadelphia Courts. A great many private bills have also been disposed of.

The Bank bill has passed the Senate, after undergoing several amendments, prominent among which was one allowing Banks to issue bills of the denomination of *five* dollars, and one limiting the individual liability of stock-holders to the payment or redemption of all bills in circulation. This amendment was carried by a strict party vote, Best voting with the Whigs in favor of it.

Nothing has been done with the Apportionment or Appropriation Bills since our last, nor has any day yet been fixed upon as the time of final adjournment.

RUMORED SLAVERY MOVEMENT.—A correspondent of the Tribune, writing from Washington, says: Gen. Houston has gone to Texas to persuade the Legislature to ask for immediate division into two Slave States. It will be done. Mr Webster is in the secret, and will support Gen. Houston to preserve Southern political supremacy in the Senate, as will also the *Union* newspaper, to balance California. Exertions are being made by slaveholders to encourage emigration to Texas, and should there be a deficiency in the Representative population of the Western State, slave property will be introduced in droves, counted for the occasion as persons, and afterward shifted where it is wanted for profit.

DENTISTRY.—By reference to our advertising columns it will be seen that our old friend Dr. SMITH is ever ready to attend to all calls in his profession, and from operations performed by him in our family, we can freely recommend him to those who need his services.

NEW YORK DEMOCRACY.—The Democratic members of the New York Legislature met in Caucus on Thursday night last, Mr. Pruyn in the Chair The Syracuse or bar-burner organization submitted a proposition, that the hunker branch unite with them in one call for a State Convention, to be held on the 11th of September, to nominate State Officers, which was unanimously agreed to. The looks very much like consolidating and perfecting the union begun one year ago

☞ Twenty-seven members of the Mass. Legislature have published a protest against the action of the majority of that body in electing delegates to the traitors' Convention at Nashville. They say it has a tendency to subvert the dignity, harmony and perpetuity of the Union. An immense mass meeting of the people of Hinds county, in the same State, has also declared against the meeting of any such treasonable body

The Judiciary.

A bill, at present before the House of Representatives, at Harrisburg, proposes that the State shall be divided into eighteen Common Pleas Judicial Districts, in place of twenty-four, as at present, and that twenty law Judges shall be chosen, as follows, upon the first election by the people:

I Philadelphia—three law Judges
II. Lancaster and York.
III Berks, Northampton and Lehigh
IV Berks and Schuylkill.
V Wayne, Pike and Monroe.
VI Union, Northumberland, Lycoming and Sullivan.
VII. Centre, Mifflin, Juniata and Perry
VIII Dauphin, Lebanon and Cumberland.
IX Adams, Franklin, Bedford and Somerset.
X. Huntingdon, Blair, Cambria, Clearfield and Jefferson
XI Luzerne, Wyoming, Susquehanna and Bradford
XII. Clinton, Tioga, Potter, McKean and Elk
XIII Westmoreland, Indiana, Clarion and Armstrong.
XIV. Allegheny.
XV Washington, Fayette and Greene.
XVI Beaver, Butler, Mercer and Lawrence.
XVII Crawford, Erie, Venango and Warren
XVIII Chester, Delaware and Montgomery.

The President and Associate of the First District, $2,500 a year salary, of the other districts, $2000, and mileage. No provision is made for District or other Courts, in the bill.

We certainly think the diminution of the number of Districts and President Judges very needful, and demanded by sound economy. But whether augmenting the salaries of those Judges as partieularly wise or economical, may well be doubted.

☞ In the Senate of this state, on Friday, Mr Fernon moved to take up the motion to reconsider the vote rejecting the application of Edwin Forrest for a divorce. The motion was agreed to —yeas 17, nays 15; and the bill was reconsidered. The question recurring on the passage of the bill it was again lost by a vote of 16 yeas and 17 nays. The second reading to be a most disposition of the question.

☞ The Wellsboro *Farmer* says there are *only* thirteen prisoners in the Jail of that county, at present, on the following charges: Four vagrants, two for riot; two house thieves; one for murder; one counterfeiter; two for larceny, and one for malicious mischief.

Grand Rally for Land Reform—Report of the Proceedings at Tammany Hall.

MR EDITOR: The above is the heading of the report in the Tribune, of the Meeting alluded to, as published in the *Weekly Tribune* of March 9: the meeting having been held on the 1st. It is to be regretted that on account of the crowded state of the columns of the "Democrat," these proceedings cannot be copied in full

It appears that a very decided move had been made in the United States Senate, in favor of having inscribed upon the Statutes of the Nation—FREE HOMES FOR ALL; and that the meeting was called for the purpose of responding thereto. The meeting being organized, letters were read from several distinguished Senators, Gerrit Smith Esq., and Rt. Rev. Bishop Hughes, and others, in reply to invitations tendered by the Committee of Arrangements: when a most philanthropic address, with a series of resolutions, by the committee of the National Land Reformers, were adopted by acclamation; followed by patriotic, philanthropic, and eloquent addresses of distinguished public speakers. The reporter of the proceedings says:

Seldom has there been a more earnest, orderly, and harmonious popular assemblage gathered in this city. The addresses for the most part were argumentative appeals to the understanding, placing the subject in a clear and impressive light, and suited to carry conviction to every mind. The appeals to the sense of justice, to the spirit of humanity, to the sentiment of universal brotherhood, which abounded in several of the speeches, were received with the most glowing enthusiasm, and made an impression which must extend to our halls of legislation, and resect on the universal sentiment"

The *basis* of the Land Reform, appears to be, that the national domain, the common property of ALL, should, so much of it as any one needs to use, be as free for his or her use, as is a like portion of the atmosphere. The *object* of the Land Reform, is expressed in one of the resolutions, thus:

Resolved, That it is the duty of Congress to pass such a law as shall hereafter preclude the purchase or title of the public lands of the United States by a non-resident, and that this domain be reserved for the free and exclusive use of actual settlers only, in limited quantities."

It is proposed to give, to actual settlers, who are not worth more than fifteen hundred dollars, one hundred and sixty acres, and exempt sixty acres thereof, with the improvements thereon, from debt.

Would it not be well for the leading friends of Progress, in this County, to call a meeting to be held at the Court House, Court week, to take action in reference to this great REFORM.

An English paper says that "Mr Webster, the great American Statesman, is to be tried in New York on the 19th of March, for the murder of Judge Parker!" There are several mistakes here. "Webster the great American Statesman," is not charged with murder, but suicide, and his trial will not come off till 1851, when the election of his successor to the United States Senate, will take place in Massachusetts, and not in New York.—*N. Y. Eve. Post.*

HON. JOHN C. CALHOUN.

For the following biographical sketch of Mr. CALHOUN, we are indebted to the New York Evening Post:

Mr. Calhoun was born in Abbeville District, in South Carolina, on the 18th day of March 1782. His family were Irish, his grand-parents having emigrated from Donegal, Ireland, where his father was but three years old. They settled first in Pennsylvania, but after a few years removed to Virginia, whence, on the defeat of Gen. Braddock, they were driven to South Carolina.

John C. Calhoun, when thirteen years of age, was placed in an academy in Georgia, of which the principal was a Presbyterian clergyman named Waddell, who had married his sister. But his father and his sister both died within a year, and the academy was closed He remained, however, some time with his brother-in-law, occupied with desultory reading, but finally returned to his mother, and was nearly four years hunting, fishing, and assisting in the business of the farm. Having determined to be a planter, he abandoned all thoughts of a classical education, until he was about nineteen years of age. At this period an elder brother, who held a lucrative place in a counting house in Charleston, went up to Abbeville to pass the summer business vacation, and, appreciating the capacities of the younger son, urged him to study one of the liberal professions, pledging a part of his own income to meet the necessary expenses.

His plans were acceded to, and the student entered so earnestly upon the business of preparation that within two years from his commencement of the Latin grammar, he was received into the Junior class of Yale College. He graduated in 1804, and immediately began the study of the law, in the well-known school of Judge Reeves and Mr. Gould, at Litchfield, where he continued a year and a half; after which he spent a similar period in the office of Chancellor De Saussure in Charleston, and Mr. Hunt of Abbeville, and in 1807 was admitted to the bar.

It was while he was a student at Abbeville that the famous attack of the Leopard on the Chesapeake, aroused the popular indignation against England Mr. C. prepared a Report and Resolutions, presented to a meeting held for the consideration of the subject in his District, and made his first appearance before the public in a speech for their support, and acquitting himself so well, that at the next election he was chosen at the head of his ticket, to represent Abbeville in the Legislature of the State This was the beginning of his political life.

His first movement as a partisan was at a meeting of the "Republican" members for the nomination of candidates for the Presidency and Vice-Presidency, in which, after reviewing in an elaborate speech, the condition and prospects of international affairs—asserting, three years before its declaration, that war was inevitable—he denounced, for its relation to this issue, the presentation of George Clinton for the Vice Presidency, and brought forward in his stead John Langdon of New Hampshire.—The political expediency and sympathies, thus disclosed, secured his speedy translation to a more dignified position and a wider field of action Elected by an overwhelming majority, he in the autumn of 1810 took his seat with Lowndes and Cheves in Congress.

The reputation of Mr Calhoun had preceded him, and the Republican party, as a mark of distinguished confidence, placed him second on the most important committee in the house—that of Foreign Relations, of which General Peter B. Porter was chairman, and Felix Grundy, John Randolph, and Philip Barton Key, were the other members. The leadership of the majority was held *ex-officio* by the chairman of this committee, and upon the retirement of General Porter from Congress, Mr. Calhoun took his place.

Mr Calhoun made his maiden speech in reply to one of Mr. Randolph's most brilliant and effective speeches upon President Madison's message, which had been referred to Mr Calhoun's committee. The applause of his party was universal.

Mr. Calhoun subsequently vindicated his independence, if not his statesmanship, by opposing the administration in regard to the embargo, and by advocating the enlargement of the navy.

Mr. Calhoun's success had been so decided, that his first term in Congress, he was elected to the fourteenth Congress, which assembled in 1814, and was unanimously elected Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations, although himself the youngest member of the Committee. The session of 1814-15 was distinguished by the presentation of a project for a bank, submitted by the administration, for the financial relief of the government. He dissented from his party, and his speeches, together with the arrival of the unexpected intelligence that a treaty had been completed, defeated the project.

It was during this term also, that Mr. Calhoun's name became identified with the tariff act of 1816, and the bill pledging the bonus of the United States Bank and their share of its dividends as a fund for internal improvements. How his action upon these questions are reconciled with his subsequent policy in the Senate, it is not our purpose to discuss at present.

Shortly before the next meeting of Congress, Mr. Calhoun received an invitation from Mr. Monroe to enter his Cabinet as Secretary of War. His friends generally, including Mr Lowndes, Mr. Cheves, and others of his own State advised him to remain in Congress, as the most suitable theatre for his talents. It was fortunate for his fame as well as the public service, that he accepted the appointment. The War Department was in what seemed inextricable confusion, with a vast accumulation of neglected business of the most urgent necessity, and only an extraordinary capacity and activity could secure the Secretary against the loss of any reputation for affairs with which he might enter upon its direction. Mr. Calhoun commenced his administration in December, 1817, and after making the necessary appointments, with strictest regard to knowledge, efficiency, and integrity, he drew up the masterly code for the government of the department and each of its bureaus—to give uniformity, consistency, efficacy and stability to the whole—which has had the authority of law with all his successors.

During Mr. Monroe's second term, Mr.