

CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Wednesday May 25.

Messrs. D. Foster, Read and S. Lyman presented petitions in favor of the British treaty.

On motion, the report of the committee appointed to confer with the Senate on the subject of their disagreement with respect to the amendments proposed to the bill for the relief of persons imprisoned for debt, was taken up and agreed to.

The house went into a committee of the whole on the bill to indemnify the estate of the late major-general Greene from the payment of a certain bond for 11,297 sterling, which was said to be given on account of government.

As they were nearly the same as upon agreeing to the report of the committee of claims on Monday, we shall only state the difference. In the year add the names of Messrs. Findley, Gregg, Madison, Preston, and Richards, and erase those of Messrs. Ames, Heath, Muhlenberg, New, R. Sprigg, jun. and Van Cortlandt.

The order of the day was next entered upon, which was the amendments agreed to in the committee of the whole on the bill, with the amendments from the Senate, making provision for the payment of certain debts of the United States.

When the house came to the amendment of the Senate, which had been agreed to in a committee of the whole, authorizing the commissioners of the sinking fund to sell such shares of the stock of the Bank of the United States, belonging to the United States, as they may think proper.

Mr. W. Smith moved an amendment, viz. "that it should not be lawful for the said commissioners to sell any share or shares for a less rate or price than 33 1/3 per cent. advance thereon." This motion occasioned very considerable debate.

On the other hand, it was said that, since the Bank must have paid them forthwith two millions of dollars at least, the commissioners of the sinking fund ought to be left at liberty to sell the Bank stock at the best price they could get.

Messrs. Ames, Bourne, Bradbury, Cooper, Crabb, A. Foster, D. Foster, Gilbert, Gilman, Glenn, Goodrich, Hancock, Heister, Henderson, Hindman, Kittera, S. Lyman, Malbone, Murray Read, Sitgreaves, Jer. Smith, Isaac Smith, Sam. Smith, Wm. Smith, Swift, Thatcher, Thomas, Thompson, Tracy, Van Alen, Wadsworth, Williams.—35.

N A Y S.

Messrs. Bailey, Baldwin, Baird, Benton, Blount, Bryan, Burgess, Cabell, Christie, Claibourne, Coit, Coles, Dent, Earle, Findley, Franklin, Galatin, Giles, Gillespie, Greenup, Gregg, Griswold, Grove, Hampton, Harrison, Harper, Hathorn, Havens, Holland, Jackson, Kitchell, Locke, W. Lyman, Maclay, Macon, Milledge, Madison, Moore, Nicholas, Preston, Richards, Rutherford, N. Smith, Israel Smith, R. Sprigg, jun. T. Sprigg, Swanwick, Tatom, Venable.—49.

The question was then taken on the amendment of the Senate, as amended in the committee of the whole (as stated in yesterday's paper) and the yeas and nays were taken upon it.

A message was received from the President of the United States, with the following communication:

Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives.

The measures now in operation for taking possession of the posts of Detroit and Michilimackinac, reader it proper, that provision should be made for extending to those places and any others alike circumstanced, the civil authority of the North Western Territory. To do this will require an expense to defray which the ordinary salaries of the Governor and Secretary of that territory appear to be incompetent.

Congress will consider what in this case will be proper."

GO. WASHINGTON.

United States, May 25.

The amendments of the Senate to the bill altering the time of holding the district courts of Vermont and Rhode-Island, were agreed to.

The committee to whom was referred the message of the President respecting an allowance to district attorneys, reported, and recommended sums from 350 to 150 dollars a year to be allowed to them in addition to their fees.

The house went into a committee of the whole on the bill making additional compensation to Marshals, Jurors, witnesses, &c. In the trials of persons concerned in the late insurrection.

Mr. W. Smith read a letter which he had received from the secretary of the treasury, stating that, for want of a district attorney in Kentucky, no duties could be collected; that the governor himself refused to pay, and that the people suffered themselves under his example.

After a little debate on the subject in which Mr. Thatcher said it was in vain to pay any attorney to recover duties in that state, since there was not an honest man amongst them, in respect to their duties, and Mr. Greenup (from that state) had replied to him, defending the conduct of the governor and people of that state, and blaming the revenue officers, the additional section was agreed to 37 to 27.

The committee rose and reported. A message was received from the Senate, informing the house, that they had disagreed to the resolution to adjourn the two houses on the 25th inst. and that they had resolved that the bill for the relief of the deputy post-master of Boston do not pass.

The following criticism appeared in "The Observer" a London (Sunday) paper of the 3d of April—the last paper that has come to hand.

VORTIGERN.

This cause, with learned litigation fraught, Last night, for trial 'fore the town has brought.

And the jury, the most candid, the most liberally discriminating, and the most numerous we ever witnessed, unanimously found a verdict of Condemnation.

Dramatis Personæ.

- Vortigern Mr. Kemble.
Constantius Mr. Bentley.
Vortimerus Sons of Mr. Whitfield.
Catagrimus Vortigern Mr. Trueman.
Pascentius Sons of Mr. C. Kemble.
Aurelius Sons of Mr. Barrymore.
Uter Constantius Mr. Canfield.
Fool Mr. King.
Hengist Mr. Benlon.
Horlus [or, as we apprehend he should be called Horla.] Mr. Philmore.
Rowena [daughter of Hengist.] Miss Jordan.
Flavia [daughter of Vortigern.] Mrs. Jordan.
Edmund (wife of Vortigern.) Miss Powell.
Barons, attendants, &c.

The story of the piece, as far as we could collect is founded on that part of the English history, when the Britons, enervated by the long tranquillity they enjoyed under the Roman government, were unable to contend with their more hardy and warlike neighbours the Picts and Scots, who, upon the recall of the Roman forces, invaded the southern provinces.

The business of the play opens with a proposal on the part of the old king, Constantius, who is weary of, and unequal, from his advanced age, to the direction of the government, that Vortigern, in reward for his services, should share with him his diadem.

Of the language as far as our remembrance will bear us out, the following are specimens:

In the first scene Vortigern, in assembly with the Barons, after the murder of the king, bids them dry their tears.
" And mark how stands th' account 'twixt man and death;
" First cometh meagre and ling'ring disease,
" Hobbling on crutch, and wheezing out his breath,
" Till with a gentle trip this bony spectre
" Sends him on tottering to his mother earth."

fellow," Vortigern. "Time, like a passing viol, now wears a dreary aspect." In a scene between Flavia and Pascentius, a messenger enters to tell them it is five o'clock, and summons them to supper, that they may immediately retire to rest.

Oh, Sovereign death!
" That hast for thy domain this world immense;
" Church yards and charnel houses are thy haunts;
" And hospitals thy sumptuous palaces;
" And when thou wouldst be merry, thou dost choose
" The gaudy chamber of a dying king:
" Oh! then thou dost ope wide thy bony jaws,
" And with rude laughter, and fantastic tricks
" Thou clasp'st thy rattling fingers to thy sides,
" With icy hand thou tak'st him by the feet,
" And upward go 'till thou dost reach his heart,
" And wrap him in the cloak of lasting night."

Whatever might have been the previous opinion respecting the author of this play, we are persuaded, that all those who witnessed its performance last night, will exonerate the memory of Shakespeare from the obloquy which the imputation of this combination of absurdity and bombast would cast upon it.

Towards the end of the fourth act, Kemble addressed the audience, reminding them, that the piece had very creditable claim to authenticity, and that in order to judge, it was necessary that they should hear.

An attempt was made to announce a repetition of this play on Monday, but resisted with general indignation.

PHILADELPHIA, May 26.

Extract of a letter from Columbia, N. W. Territory, February 27.

"As to the Indians, from every information I am possessed of, they appear to wish to improve the advantages of peace and friendship; the consequence is, that new settlements are forming 40 or 50 miles back from the Ohio; boats are floating down the river in thick succession, and our numbers are augmenting with amazing rapidity; the influx of inhabitants from the Atlantic states is so great, that a few months will increase our numbers to 60,000 souls, the number stipulated by the Congress of the United States with the adventurers of the North-Western Territory, on the completion of which the faith of the United States is pledged in a solemn and unalterable compact, that another link shall be added to the glorious chain of Union, and let all the people say Amen.

"It is highly probable that some of the Dust-Lickers about the national court, will predicate of us, as the enemies to the rights of mankind formerly did of the Americans in general, to wit: That we are not fit to govern ourselves; they will perhaps, with a swelling consequence, tell you we are a d-d set, that in the choice of magistrates, timber was so scarce that there was a necessity to make use of gunmen, riflemen—mere woodmen; that they do not doubt but the best possible choice has been made; but God knows, say they, bad is the best. As to our gunmen, riflemen, and woodmen, there are many among them of good connections, reputable education, of considerable reading, and who are useful surveyors, who would fill the offices of government with reputation, and with as much practice as is necessary to make men useful; they, with hundreds of others, would be both useful and ornamental. Are we not from among yourselves—your kindred? If it was once demonstrated that the citizens of the Atlantic States, in floating down the Ohio, were, like good old Jamaica spirits, im-

jected to a depreciation, is it not as probable that our placements might imbibe the metamorphizing particles, as that the adventurers should? We are so confident of it, that as soon as we have performed our part of the contract, which we mean to do to a punctilio, we wish to be restored to the rights of freemen, and to set up house-keeping for ourselves; and we have the most unbounded reliance on the general government, that as we have, in the face of every danger, at least silted in extending their possessions, and in enlarging their jurisdiction, therefore they will not only admit us to resume our native rights, but afford those kind offices that may be necessary to form our government.

From the Columbian Centinel.

CABINET OF ORES and other MINERALS in the UNIVERSITY at CAMBRIDGE.

ABOUT two years ago, the public were informed that Dr. Lettson, of London, had sent a rich and extensive collection of Minerals, as a present to our University. Since that period, the worthy Dr. has added considerably to his first donation, so that the whole amounts to more than Six Hundred articles, and a fresh supply of Spanish Ores, are expected in the next ship, from the same gentleman.

In the course of the last year, the Council of Safety, or Supreme Executive of the Republic of France, sensible of the great benefit, which the study of Mineralogy would entail on their allies the Americans, directed the Agents of their mines and public works, to transmit to our University, a well assorted collection of Minerals chiefly natives of their own territories.

These were entrusted to the particular care of Citizen Mozard, Consul from the Republic, to New-England, now resident at Boston, to whose attention and politeness in this commission, we find ourselves very much indebted.

Both the English and French collection, happened to be more deficient in Italian marbles, and volcanic lava, than in almost any other fossil, which deficiency has been generously supplied by the Hon. Mr. Bowdoin, who has presented the Cabinet with an hundred and fifty specimens of those two productions.

This rich collection, is now arranged in an elegant mahogany Cabinet, eighteen feet long, and from ten to twelve high, placed in the Philosophy Chamber, at Cambridge, for the inspection of the curious. As the front is glazed, the specimens can be easily seen by the ordinary visitors.

These Minerals are arranged (with but very few exceptions) in systematic order: Each article is numbered, which numbers answer to those of a descriptive catalogue which has been carefully made out for public inspection; for besides the name of the Mineral and the place it came from, the opposite page contains definitions and explanatory notes; an addition not wholly superfluous in a region where the science of Mineralogy is but in its infancy.

The importance of studying the Mineral Kingdom, has been felt and acknowledged by all Europe. In Sweden and Germany, Mineralogy, is considered as a branch worthy the attention of the government. They have Colleges in which it is regularly taught; it forms a distinct and honorable profession, like that of the soldier, the merchant, or the barrister.

Being so far helped to the means of studying Ores and other Minerals to advantage, by our friends in France and England, it would be unparadonable to neglect collecting specimens among ourselves. We have reason to believe that our country abounds in Ores, and other valuable Minerals; and that we have treasures now hid in the earth for want of persons properly instructed to draw them forth.

The benevolent Thomas Hollis, of London, wrote in the blank leaf of a book on Mineralogy, which he sent to the College in 1768, the following advice—"A Professorship of Chymistry and Mineralogy, to be instituted in Harvard College, which alone would, it is apprehended, bellow wealth on New-England, with maintenance of its industry, cannot be too much recommended to the gentlemen there, as individuals and Legislators."

It is therefore requested that every well-wisher to the prosperity of his country, who finds any Mineral Production beyond the appearance of a (1) Preface to Kirwan's Mineralogy.
* Rich Tin Ore has been lately found within 20 miles of Boston, and Copper within 40.
† The greatest benefactor of Harvard College.