

# TWENTY-THIRD CONGRESS.

SECOND SESSION.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1834.

The SENATE did not sit to-day.

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Petitions and memorials were presented by Messrs Barber, of Connecticut; Mitchell, Cambreleng, Hard, and Beardsley, of New York; Chambers, and Galbraith, of Pennsylvania; Stoddert, and Thomas, of Maryland; Gordon, Taylor, and Mason, of Virginia; Griffin, of South Carolina; Beaty, and Letcher, of Kentucky; Dickinson and Lea, of Tennessee; Mitchell, and Kilgore, of Ohio; Cage, of Mississippi; Kinnard, of Indiana; Murphy, of Alabama; Ashley, of Missouri; and White, of Florida.

The SPEAKER presented the memorial of a Convention of citizens of Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and the District of Columbia, lately held at Baltimore, for the completion of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal.

On motion of Mr. MERCER, the memorial was referred to the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, to which was referred the bill on the subject, and ordered to be printed.

On motion of Mr. THOMAS, of Maryland, it was *Resolved*, That the Committee of Ways and Means be instructed to inquire into the expediency of making an appropriation to pay the claim of Josiah Frost, of Allegany county, Maryland, on account of his contract for the repairs of a portion of the Cumberland Road.

On motion of Mr. LOVE, of Kentucky, it was *Resolved*, That the Committee on Revolutionary Claims be instructed to inquire into the expediency of allowing James Barnet, a lieutenant in the Revolutionary Army, half pay for life, allowing a credit for what he has received as commutation.

On motion of Mr. HAMER, it was *Resolved*, That the Select Committee to whom was referred so much of the President's Message as relates to the election of President and Vice President of the United States, be instructed to inquire into the expediency of so amending the Constitution, as to provide for the election of President and Vice President, by a direct vote of the People in Districts; the number of districts in each State to be equal to the number of Senators and Representatives to which each State may be entitled in Congress, and each district having one vote. The election of said officers in no event to devolve upon Congress. No person who has been elected President, to be again eligible to that office. And that no Senator or Representative shall be nominated or appointed to any office of honor, trust, or profit, under the authority of the United States, whilst holding a seat in Congress.

On motion of Mr. WHITE, of Florida, it was *Resolved*, That the Committee on Naval Affairs be instructed so inquire into the expediency of making an appropriation for deepening the Bar of Pensacola Bay, according to the Report of the Engineers of the United States and that of the Secretary of the Navy, made at the last session of Congress.

The House resumed the consideration of the following resolution submitted by Mr. CLAYTON on the 16th instant:

*Resolved*, That the Committee of Ways and Means inquire into the expediency of reporting a law for the purpose of remitting the duties on Locomotive Engines, railroad car-wheels with rolled iron tires, axles, springs, &c. already imported, or which may hereafter be imported within two years.

The question being on striking out "Committee of Ways and Means," and inserting "Committee on Manufactures,"

Mr. EWING said he had taken the floor, yesterday, with no intention to make a speech: that he should be in favor of sending the resolution to the Committee of Ways and Means, because this Committee were known to be in favor of the object contemplated, and because he felt anxious to have such influence to advance the cause of Internal Improvements, without in any way impairing the Tariff Compromise. He viewed the remission of duties contemplated, as involving the same principle, and virtually the same in effect, with a direct appropriation of money now in the Treasury, to improve our Roads and navigable Rivers; and this, too, without establishing unnecessary ports of entry, or allowing any discretion in relation to the character of works which are, in all cases, evidently calculated to promote the general welfare. True, Mr. E. said, the resolution might, with propriety, be referred to different other committees of this House; but precedent sanctions that on the Finances, and points to a favorable decision. He did not conceive any conflict of national interests courted by this proceeding; the influence of manufactures would be extended by increased facilities of intercourse: even the consumption of American Iron would be increased, by affording advantages to the agricultural interest; and the Tariff of 1832 would not be injuriously abridged, or infringed upon. The fears expressed by a portion of the manufacturing interest, he thought uncalled for; Railroads are a most essential manufacture, and the importation of Iron from Sweden, and from England, for agricultural purposes, may be found unprofitable, when our own can be transported with more expedition at a lessened expense.

Mr. E. said it was with pleasure he adverted to the quarter from which this resolution emanated—certainly aware that the highways of the West, whether by land or water, are also entitled to aid from the Treasury, upon every principle of equal rights; he would, therefore, anticipate increased strength by votes from the South hereafter, to obtain in this House pecuniary aid for the essential national objects of Internal Improvement. Such objects have, unfortunately for the Union, depended during some years upon the exercise of a discretion, resting in the absorbing, and now all-commanding, Executive power existing. 'Tis only of late that the President intimated constitutional objections to grant aid to improve the Wabash river, a stipulated national highway, connecting the Lakes with the Mississippi, and opening an inland navigation from the South to the East, because no port of entry, no custom house is yet established immediately upon its margin. Without being too inquisitive, Mr. E. said he had been unable to discover what clause of the Constitution authorized the great and commanding power of the President, with the aid of this House, to extend constitutional power by creating ports of entry, or the authority to make appropriation. But that doctrine would soon explode, and wise and free people would never sanction it, and their representatives should promptly stamp it with an eternal seal of reprobation. The Constitution belongs to the people, and the junction of no two Departments of this Government can increase or abridge the power it confers.

Mr. E. earnestly hoped that an increase of useless Government patronage, at the expense of the people, may not be required to render an indirect appropriation to promote the construction of railroads. It is true, indeed, that however fashionable it has become to do indirectly what is directly disclaimed in certain quarters, yet he would trust that, in this matter, ports of entry and custom houses may not be stipulated for, to avail of the remission of duties contemplated—and that local and general improvements may never be allowed to depend solely upon an erring discretion in any Department of the powers of this Government.

Mr. E. would not extend the latitude already taken in