FROM THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

STATE OF THE NATION.

Indispensable avocations have compelled us to defer, until this time, the putting upon paper the reflections arising from the President's Annual Message to Congress, which we submit to our readers now, more that it is expected from us, than that we presume to say any thing new to them on a subject which they have had under consideration for nearly three weeks.

To repeat in our own language those ideas which the President has so much better expressed in his own, is no part of our purpose. It would be superfluous labour to attempt to make more clear what is already so plain, that he who runs may read. Our remarks on the Message will be general, therefore, with occasional reference to the commentaries which we have read upon it.

Some writers, we perceive, have considered this Message as a document wanting proper interest, because it displays to our senses no astounding novelty. For these very reasons, the Message is more acceptable to us, who prefer the monotony of content and industry to the excitements, anxieties, and gratifications, which attend a more precarious state of things.

To others, the Message is not acceptable because it presents us with no rhetorical flights, nor dazzles us with the flaming characters in which it is written. Of this, we, who would not give one honest sentiment of an honest heart for all the rules or rhetoric of the schools, complain not. In point of style, moreover, we will observe that there are some passages in this message, which those who cavil at would in vain endeavor to excel. We refer to the passage alluding to the Greeks, which is as neat in construction as it appears to us to be just in its conception. For, although we are not for plunging the country into war, to gratify the shades of Vattel and Cicero, much less to enable the enthusiast or the antiquary to realize his fanciful reveries, our nature is not of that marble insensibility, to resist the impressions of such a cause. We feel for the Greeks all that is permitted us, with a due regard to interests still more sacred than the rights or wrongs of other portions of the human race.

To do justice to this message, however, we must not take it in detail, but as a whole—as a frank exposition of the state of public affairs, furnishidg a commentary upon the administration of the government under the charge of our present Chief. We must look beyond this message into the vista of years which have passed. For six years has Mr. MONROE held the helm of the government with a hand so steady, so firmly and yet so mildly swaying it, that no accident has occurred in the whole time to ruffle the peace or tranquility of our country. During that time, and the last years of the administration of his illustrious predecessor, we have seen what the world has rarely ever seen before—a spectacle for which we care not as we ought, because it is familiar to us. In vain are the beauty and magnificence of nature's fairy scenes spread before the eye which knows no other: it is the eye of the stranger that delights in them, praises them, and envies those who live among them. If we would properly appreciate our lot, we must compare it with that of others. With whom would we exchange? "Where shall we go?" Compared with what we know of other countries, ancient and modern, and what we have heretofore observed in our own history, it is not too much to say, that the period of the last eight years will challenge a comparison with any like period in the history of this or any other country. Within that period we have emerged from a trying war, and have settled down into a state of profound peace. We have reduced our army; our citizens have resumed gradually the pursuit of the vocations from which war had called them; the burthens of the people have been lessened; the public defences have been encreased; our government itself has been strengthened; our relations of peace have been confirmed with all nations; the interests of all portions of the People have been protected and respected; the public duties in a course of reduction; and we have acquired the only Territory which we wanted, to give complete security to our borders, or for any other purpose. What more could we desire? Or rather—for desires are unreasonable, but hope must at least be founded on possibility—what more could we have *hoped?* As far as we have gone, our prosperity has exceeded all calculation, and even outstripped hope. Who, that remembers the gloomy day preceding the close of the late war, or the subsequent derangement of all interests caused by the sudden relapse from war to peace, could have hoped for happier results than are now spread before us?

True, there has been some suffering; true, commerce has languished; certain descriptions of manufactures have wanted profitable support; agriculture has failed to duly reward some of those who pursue it, &c. But are not these *partial* evils such as belong to all human societies, to human nature itself, and are even necessary in the great scheme of human felicity? The alloy is necessary to give a zest to the enjoyment of life. These evils are the effect of general causes, as little subject to the control of Government as the elements of nature herself. The agriculture, commerce, and manufactures of our country, are perhaps at this moment as flourishing as is consistent with the present state of the world, on which, after all, their elevation or depression must depend, except so far as they depend upon the judicious application of individual capital or talent to the prosecution of them.

If these general views be correct, are they at all darkened by the disclosures in the Message? We find, on the contrary, that our relations with foreign powers, are those of peace & amity; that our intercourse with them during the past year has resulted in concessions favorable to our rights and to the interests of navigation and agriculture; that the whole country is tranquil; that the reign of the laws is undisputed, that life, liberty, property, and religion, are protected; that manufactures are improving and growing; and that, without diminishing the revenue, further duties may be laid, for the benefit of our manufactures, on foreign goods imported. What more is desired? We do not know what more can be wished, than a continuation of the same exemption from wars and tumult, of the same unbounded scope for the exercise of talent and industry, and of the sufficiency of the laws to the protection of every thing that is dear to us.

We all have gloomy moments, during which it is agreeable to find some pretence for our ill humour, and we are continually *inventing* causes of dissatisfaction. Most of us want money, and some of us, trembling lest all the hard money should be exported, want a paper medium established; forgetting, meanwhile, that our first emission of paper will immediately drive all our money abroad, and, in the act of doing so, will itself become valueless. Others, without the fear of an excise before their eyes, would impose nearly prohibitory duties on foreign importations, to equalize exchange, and encourage manufactures; not recollecting that to attempt to equalize exchange by law is an absurdity, and that the necessary and immediate consequence of a reduction of the revenue from imports will be a heavy excise on manufactures. These, we believe, are the prevalent topics of complaint; and when they are the only general grivances of which a remedy is asked at the hands of Congress, who shall say that our situation as a people is not enviable? As a people, we say—for as to individual suffering, it is to be found in this, as in every other [illegible] mental frailty, and overtakes, in a different sense, equally the unfortunate and the unwise. To the sufferings of a physical cast, the state governments only can afford relief; for the relief of those of the latter class, we look to the liberality and intelligence of Congress, by the abolition of imprisonment for debt, to release the body from durance—and, that being done, shall hope for the adoption of something like a general system, for the relief of the mind and talent of the debtor, as well as his body from the clutches of the creditor. These are things, we acknowledge, which might have been done, but are left undone.

Should it be asked of us, since the view which we have taken of public affairs is so favorable, Is there nothing, in addition to the two objects just mentioned, which we should wish to see Congress do? Yes, much, but particularly the two things which the President has strongly brought to view in his message: the completion, on a liberal but rational system of economy, of the permanent defences of our maritime frontier, so necessary not only to our protection from foreign violence, but to the security of the intercourse between the several states: and secondly, the Cumberland Road, equally necessary for the latter object, being, as the President most truly observes, 'of incalculable advantage in facilitating the intercourse between the Western and the Atlantic States,' and 'likewise an ornament and an honor to the nation.' How justly does the President remark—'Surely if Congress have a right to appropriate money to make the road, they have 'the right to appropriate it to preserve the road 'from ruin!' We have no doubt this will be done by Congress. We could have wished the President had gone further, and said, if Congress had a right to make the road as far as Wheeling, they have the same right to make it as far as St. Louis, and thus improve the advantages of it, and render it *more* honorable to the nation. Such, we doubt not, will be the sentiment of the Executive, whenever the occasion is presented for its expression. For ourselves, with that deference which we really feel for the judgment of the President, we think the argument might be pushed further, viz. If Congress had a right to appropriate money to make *that* road, they have the right to appropriate money to make *other* roads. This however, we are well aware, is not the time to press that point. All that we can hope to be done at the present moment, is confined to the Cumberland road; and with regard to that road, we hope both the objects now before Congress will be effected at the present session.

A construction has been given to a part of the President's Message, by those who approve of it, which we do not think it will bear. It has been supposed, by more than one of our contemporaries, that the President, in his observations on the importance of keeping up the national defences, intended to cast the weight of his name and character into the scale of one of the divisions which ill judging men are attempting to make in the republican party. Such, we venture to assert, was no part of the intention of the President. He acts as the President of the Union, not of a party, much less of a fraction of a party. The fact is, that there is no division in the Republican party, properly speaking. There are, we admit, differences of opinion on some subjects among Republicans. It could not be otherwise, if they were honest men. If you cannot make two machanics work exactly alike, how can you expect that the minds of millions should so exactly accord as to differ in nothing? Such an accord must be artificial, and not natural. Great exigencies in the government may produce it; men's passions may be so inflamed in favor of particular men or particular projects, as to submit their minds to mechanical impulses. There is now no such exigency—no such excitement. There exist, indeed, differences of opinion, but they are not differences of principle. It argues no little cohesion in the republican family, that the distrust which has been industriously insinuated among its members has not separated them into parties. There is no such separation; and the President, in that part of his message, could have had no view but, in the execution of his bounden duty, to present to Congress his views on an important part of our policy. This he has done with a frankness and directness which becomes the head of a nation of freemen, and which must secure the respect even of those who dissent from him in opinion in that particular.

Our remarks would have extended to greater length, but we are obliged, by our stinted room, to desist.

FROM THE RICHMOND ENQUIRER.

MR. PINKNEY.

William Pinkney may be justly ranked among the greatest men America has produced.

In some respects, nay in many, his name will stand in competition with the most celebrated jurists and distinguished statesmen in the world.

He affords in his life and character an imposing example, of the value and excellence of our civil institutions.

Poor and friendless, he rose to renown—and contributed in a large degree to the dignity and glory of his country.—The ornament of his own state, he added to the pride of Maryland; he became a pillar of the Union. Cut off in the fullness and maturity of his fame, and powers, the regrets of the Union will mingle with the tears of Maryland.

Mr. Pinkney was of the ordinary height, perhaps a little below it. His frame was robust, and muscular. His chest of remarkable expansion. The increasing corpulence of his person, indicated full and luxurious habits of living, but his constitution presented no visible marks of decay. He preserved to his death, a fine glow and vigor of health. There was always a peculiar gaiety and animation about his carriage and movements. His countenance when at rest, was not remarkable. The outline of his forehead, was bold and elevated. No other feature proclaimed the extraordinary powers of his mind. His eye was dull and heavy; but under the action of intense thought—in the heat and ardor of debate—it was transformed to the most powerful and varied expression.

At the bar, Mr. Pinkney had rivals—but no equal. His professional career was disturbed by frequent and long interruptions. His political engagements and foreign missions, would have destroyed the practice of any other man. He had but to re appear, & the voice of competition was dumb. Nay, what stronger assurance can be afforded, than the fact, that the distinguished Emmet, (always the most profound in his profession) in his advanced years upon Pinkney's death appears at the Supreme Court a regular practitioner?

Mr. P. was eminently remarkable for close and powerful argument.

No force of imagination could charm in competition with his unrivalled powers of reasoning. Clear as light, in his statements and facts—distinct and obvious in every point for which he contended—as he advanced, the powers of his mind enlarged—proofs and illustrations poured in from every quarter.—He pressed onward, until judgment was convinced to enthusiasm.—Like the wave that first whitens in the gathering tempest, increases in its progress, till it bursts upon the shore;

"Fluctus ut in medio, cœpit cum albescere ponto,
"Longius ex altoque sinum trahit: atque volutus
"Ad terras, immane sonat per saxa, nec ipso
"Monte minor procumbit——————."

The diction of Mr. P. was admirable. It was impossible by any addition to embellish its beauties, or to substract a word without risking the destruction of a charm. It permitted no substitution of terms. It had that "curiosa felicitas" of expression that the mind was led to the belief, that in the preparation of his causes, his whole labour and time had been exhausted in the selection of words.

The first advocate at the bar, his unrivalled powers shone with undiminished lustre in the Senate.

Nothing is perhaps better calculated to evince the ample range of his mind, than this singular distinction in two departments of public speaking; in which, equal excellence in the same individual has been supposed incompatible. Passing by many examples in our own country, not to mention the number in England, that press upon our recollection; let a single one illustrate the vast difficulty of its attainment. What advocate in England could be named, in comparison with Erskine?—Proud and enviable man! It was for him to enjoy the purest and noblest reward of eloquence. For upwards of twenty years, the cause of liberty was never once in danger before the English courts, that Erskine was not her selected advocate. Yet the same Erskine in the British parliament sunk below all public estimation. Pinkney in the American Senate easily won the distinction he had worn at the bar. It was most justly remarked by his high minded colleague, in his impressive address announcing his death, that "*that chamber had been one of the fields of his fame.*"

Yes, it was truly so. In that dark hour, when a PENNSYLVANIAN senator could be found threatening to burst the bonds of the Union, sooner than to recognize the rights of the people of Missouri: when a senator of NEW YORK, was seen trampling on ground consecrated by the constitution, and openly denouncing the obligations of slavery as VOID, and contrary to the law of nature and nature's God—when these two states, the key stone of the federal arch, gave way, and all was gloom—Pinkney rose intrepid in the sense of public duty, and resistless in the sway of an "accusing and eclipsing eloquence." There is no report of the two speeches delivered by him on that occasion; but the impression produced on all who heard them (especially the last) will be indelible.

It is felt as a high privilege, now their author is no more, to have witnessed these beautiful, I had almost said perfect specimens of genius and eloquence. The breathless attention of his audience—the crowd pressing on every avenue, beyond all reach of sight, or sound—the deserted chamber of the House of Representatives—may give some idea of a speech, to which Mr. Clay afterwards alluded "as lighting up all that hall with glory."

The conclusion of the last speech, may be classed with the most polished and splendid efforts of oratory. It was directed to Mr King of N. Y. and nothing can be imagined finer than that spirit by which it was attempered. No harsh expression—no angry, vindictive feeling—no gross, personal allusion, deformed by its violence, this noble appeal to the best feelings of the heart—but I forbear; to those who heard, any attempt at description would be insufferable: to those who did not, it would be worse than injustice.

The circumstances preceding his death are not without interest. He had made extraordinary exertions in a recent case; his great rapidity of utterance and vehemence of action had produced a slight cold. He spent the evening in company, and retired early to his lodgings. He had been engaged in an important case which came up from the Virginian circuit; it was important from the considerable amount involved; it was rendered more so in public expectation, from the circumstance that a gentleman was employed against him, whom he had never met before, eminent for his genius and acquirements, and who added to these advantages, a perfect and minute acquaintance with the case, from his previous engagements. Standing as Pinkney did, on the pinacle of his profession, this circumstance was calculated to arouse exertion. Pride to excel, "that last infirmity of a noble mind," suggested its stimulating incentives.

It is possible it occurred to his apprehension that this case was not of the order of those, in which he had therefore so readily obtained the distinction of "facile princeps."

Be this as it may, it is certain a considerable portion of the night was devoted to that case. Wearied at length with study, but not inclined to repose, he took up a new publication (the Pirate) as a recreation from the labours of the night. Absorbed in the interest of the narrative, he continued to read until the fire had expired—when he was at last found utterly exhausted. Every effort that medical aid & unremitting attention could supply were found ineffectual to save him.—Thus perished at a comparitively immature period, a man whose genius "flung pedigree in the shade"—and who had filled and adorned every public trust to which talent could be called. A half a century will not replace him in America.

Congressional Register.

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS...SECOND SESSION.

In Senate.

MONDAY, Dec. 23.

The resolution submitted by Mr JOHNSON of Ky. on Friday, calling on the Executive for information relative to the manufacture of arms, &c. was taken up and agreed to.

Several petitions of a private nature were received and referred; and two bills received a second reading, and were referred.

The Senate then went into the consideration of Executive business, after which

The Senate adjourned.

TUESDAY, Dec. 24.

Mr. Holmes, of Maine, submitted the following resolution for consideration.

Resolved, That the President of the U. States be requested to communicate to the Senate such information as he may possess, of the commercial relations which now exist between the United States and the present government of St. Domingo; what is the political condition of the island; whether any European nation pretends to claim the government of the Island; and whether any further commercial relations with the existing government would be consistent with the interest and safety of the United States.

FRIDAY, Dec. 27.

Amongst the petitions presented to-day, was one by Mr. BARBOUR, from a number of the citizens of the district of Columbia, praying an amendment to the laws of the District, so far as to give effect to the judgments rendered therein, in any State or Territory; also by Mr. BARBOUR, a memorial of the President and Directors of the Fire Insurance Company of Alexandria, praying that the charter of the Mechanics' Bank of Alexandria may not be renewed, except on certain conditions. These petitions were read and severally referred.

On motion of Mr. LOWRIE, fifteen hundred copies of the Annual Report of the Secretary of the Treasury were ordered to be printed for the use of the Senate.

The resolution submitted on Tuesday by Mr. HOLMES, of Maine, requesting of the President of the United States certain information concerning the island of St. Domingo, was taken up and agreed to.

The bill allowing a drawback on the importation of cordage manufactured from foreign hemp was taken up, and after some discussion, of which some account hereafter will be given, was ordered to lie on the table.

The bills which passed the House of Representatives on Tuesday, and were brought up for concurrence, were severally read. The bill concerning the apportionment of representatives in Alabama was read a second time by general consent.

The Senate then adjourned to Monday.

House of Representatives.

MONDAY, Dec. 23.

On motion of Mr. WRIGHT, the bill reported at the last session, entitled 'A bill to provide for delivering up persons held to labor or service in any of the states or territories, who shall escape into any other state or territory,' was taken up and referred to a committee of the whole, and made the order of the day for the 2d January.

A letter was presented by the Speaker from G. W. IRVING, returning his acknowledgments for the vote of thanks which passed the House, on the occasion of his presenting to Congress a series of medals, &c. which was laid on the table.

The engrossed bill to secure to mechanics and others, in the city of Washington, a lien on buildings for the materials and labor employed thereon, was about to be read a third time; when

Mr. KENT rose, and moved that the bill lie on the table. On examining an old law of the state of Maryland, passed in the year 1791, and now in force in this District, he discovered that the provisions contained in this bill were at present substantially in force as the law of the District, under that act.

The bill was ordered to lie on the table.

CHEROKEE AND CREEK TREATIES, &c.

The House then, on motion of Mr. TATTNALL resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. TOMLINSON in the chair, on the report of a committee of the last session, condemning so much of certain treaties with the Cherokee and Creek Indians, as grants to those Indians the fee simple to certain lands in the state of Georgia.

Which was debated, and then the report was ordered to lie on the table.

ROAD THROUGH THE BLACK SWAMP, IN OHIO.

On motion of Mr. VANCE, the House then resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. WALWORTH in the chair, on the bill, which was read, amended and ordered to lie on the table for the present.

REPRESENTATION OF ALABAMA.

The House then resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. CONDICT in the chair, on the bill to fix the apportionment of representatives for the state of Alabama.

Mr. NELSON of Va. stated the circumstances under which the committee on the Judiciary had reported this bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading this day, and was subsequently read a third time, passed and sent to the senate for concurrence.

IMPORTS FROM CANADA, &c.

The House then resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. EDWARDS of Conn. in the Chair, on the bill to amend the act for regulating the importation of goods from the adjacent States and Territories.

Mr. TOMLINSON, of Conn. explained the object of this bill.

Mr. MALLARY, confirmed the statements of Mr. Tomlinson in every particular, and said that the proposed amendment of the law, or something like it, was indispensable.

The committee then rose and reported the bill, which was ordered to be engrossed, and read a third time to-morrow.

PUNISHMENT OF PIRACY.

On motion of Mr. GORHAM, of Massachusetts, the House then resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole, Mr. CAMPBELL, of Ohio, in the Chair, on the bill in addition to an act to continue in force the act to protect the commerce of the U. States against pirates, and to punish the crime of piracy.

Mr. GORHAM said, the object of the bill was to make perpetual certain provisions of our laws which are now only temporary.

No objection being made to the bill, the committee rose and reported it, and it was ordered to be engrossed, and read a third time to-morrow.

The bill further to regulate the compensation to Postmasters, was next in order; and on motion of Mr. WOODCOCK, of New York, it was recommitted to the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads.

WESTERN LOUISIANA LAND TITLES.

On motion of Mr. J. S. JOHNSON of Louisiana, the House then resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. TRACY in the chair, on the bill providing for the examination of the titles to land in that part of Louisiana situated between Rio Hondo and the Sabine rivers.

On the details of this bill, there arose a desultory debate which kept the House in session to a late hour; in the course of which the principal speakers were Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. RANKIN, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. MALLARY, Mr. McCOY, and Mr. WALWORTH.

From the statements of the two first of these gentlemen, it appeared that the object of this bill is, to put the territory described in the bill (the neutral ground, as it is commonly called) which was, by the treaty of 1819, acknowledged by Spain to belong to the U. States, on the same footing, in regard to its land titles, &c. as the other parts of Louisiana have been heretofore placed upon. The discussion consisted of inquiries and answers on these points, and observations on particular points of detail in the bill.

The bill had not been gone through, when, at nearly sun set, the committee rose, reported progress, and obtained leave to sit again.

And the House adjourned.

TUESDAY, Dec. 24.

On Monday, a memorial was presented from the inhabitants of Boston, praying for a revision of the system of collecting duties on imports and tonnage.

The report of a committee of the last session condemning so much of certain treaties with the Cherokee and Creek Indians, as grant to those Indians the fee simple of certain lands in Georgia, was, after some discussion, laid on the table, some gentlemen not feeling free to act on the subject till additional information be obtained.

A bill passed through a committee of the whole, to authorize the state of Ohio to construct a road from the lower rapids of the Miami of Erie, to the Western Boundary of the Connecticut Reserve.

A bill was passsed to fix the apportionment of Representatives for the state of Alabama. In the general apportionment bill passed at the last session of Congress, in consequence of the deficiency in the returns of the Census from Alabama, a clause had been introduced entitling that state, if the returns then to be received should be such as to entitle her to so many, to three representatives in Congress. From the returns received, it appeared that without counting two counties, the actual population was 125,401. If it had been only 120,000, it would have entitled that state to three Representatives.

On Tuesday, Mr. Dwight presented a memorial signed by William Thornton, Walter Jones, and 136 other citizens of Georgetown & Washington, praying Congress "to appropriate two or three millions in provisions, and whatever may be necessary to the Greeks as an easy and honorable mode of acknowledging the aid, bounty and obligation received from France in like circumstances."

A motion to refer the memorial to the Committee on Foreign Relations was withdrawn, and the memorial ordered to lie on the table. The speakers expressed great sympathy for the Greeks; but doubted the expediency of interferring in any manner in the contest.

The bill to amend the act regulating the collection of duties on goods imported from adjacent states and territories: and the bill to make perpetual the act for the punishment of piracies, &c. were severally read a third time, passed and sent to the Senate for concurrence.

The House then adjourned to meet on Friday.

FRIDAY, Dec. 27.

On motion of Mr. MCLANE, it was ordered that the Speaker do appoint a Member on the Committee of Ways and Means in the place of Mr. SMITH, who is elected to the Senate.

Mr. COCKE reported a bill "supplementary to the act 'to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States, in the Revolutionary war;" which bill was twice read and committed.

On motion of Mr. WILLIAMS of N. C. it was

Resolved, That the Committee on Military Affairs be instructed to inquire into the expediency of allowing to the officers of the army a salary, or stated sum of money per year, instead of pay and emoluments, as now allowed by law.

On motion of Mr. M'COY, it was

Resolved, That the Committee of Claims be instructed to report a bill, in addition to the act for the prompt settlement of public accounts, and for the punishment of the crime of perjury.

[Mr. M'COY stated his object to be, to get before the House again a bill which was before Congress at a former session, but was not acted upon for want of time.]

Mr. NELSON, of Maryland presented the following resolutions of the Legislature of Maryland:

By the House of Delegates,
December 13th, 1822.

Whereas, the great National Road leading from Coumberland to Wheeling, which is of such incalculable advantage in facilitating the intercourse between the Atlantic and Western States and which was constructed at a great expense, has already suffered from the want of that regular superintendence, and of those repairs, which are necessary to the preservation of such a work; Therefore

Resolved, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the Senators and Representatives of this state, in Congress, be requested to use their best exertions to procure the immediate passage of a law, by Congress, making a sufficient appropriation to repair the great National Road leading from Cumberland to Wheeling.

Resolved, That the Governor be, and he is hereby, requested to cause a copy of this resolution to be transmitted to each of the Senators and Representatives of this state in Congress.

By order:
JOHN BREWER, Clerk.

The resolution was read and referred to the committee to whom the subject is referred.

The SPEAKER presented a letter addressed to him by Edwin Lewis, of the State of Alabama, making certain charges against the Hon. Charles Tait, Judge of the United States for that District.

Mr. MOORE of Alabama, moved to refer the letter and documents to the Judiciary committee.

On this motion a desultory but not long debate ensued, which ended in the papers being sent to the Judiciary committee, with instruction to examine them, and report their opinion on them.

The House adjourned to Monday.

WILMINGTON, Dec. 31.

TRIAL OF THE COUNTERFEITERS.

On Tuesday last, came on the trial of Hance A. Hanson alias Anson Smith, Maria C. Brian alias Catharine M'Guire, James Pardee, Charles Heath alias David Heath, and —— Lyman, at the court of Quarter Sessions then sitting at New-Castle, on an indictment for a conspiracy to defraud the public by uttering counterfeit bank notes of the bank of Wilmington and Brandywine, the Franklin Bank of Baltimore, and the State Bank of New-Jersey, at New Brunswick, and by making and uttering Spanish quarter dollars of base metal. This form of prosecution was adopted, because no evidence existed of their having actually *passed* any of their spurious notes or coin in this state. The prosecution was conducted by Messrs. Brinckle, Wales and the Attorney General, and the defence by Messrs. Bayard, Booth and Read. The trial lasted the whole of Tuesday and until past 12 o'clock at night, when the jury retired, and after an absence of ten or fifteen minutes returned with a verdict of GUILTY. The facts which appeared on the trial were such as to demonstrate most satisfactorily a deliberate and extensive scheme of fraud on the part of all these persons. In November last, James Pardee who resided in this borough and whose house was the rendezvous of this gang, was observed to leave his house in company with Lyman in a dearborn wagon and proceed up the Kennet road. The proceedings of these people having for some time attracted the suspicions and notice of the police, a party of peace officers and others followed Pardee and Lyman, and arrested them just before they reached the Pennsylvania line. Returning to Wilmington they met a woman who had picked up on the side of the Road, a bundle of counterfeit five dollar notes of the Franklin Bank of Baltimore, which had been thrown out of the dearborn, from an apprehension that they were pursued. On their arrival at Wilmington, the constable Mr. Mason and his party proceeded immediately to the house of Pardee & forced open the door of a room in the second story where they found Smith the leader of the gang, with a shovel uplifted in his hand and in a posture of attack, and the young woman Maria C. Brian thrusting a quantity of counterfeit notes in the fire. Smith was immediately disarmed and both secured, and the room and house searched. Counterfeit notes to the amount of forty or fifty thousand dollars were found, besides engraving tools, stamp for coining quarter dollars, materials for making paper, and various receipts for softening and hardening steel, for giving a false appearance to base metals, &c. Charles Heath was afterwads apprehended in the same room. The notes of the Wilmington and Brandywine Bank were of the letter B. denomination of twenty dollars, and admirably executed; none of these had the signature of the President or Cashier. The notes of the Franklin Bank of Baltimore were of the denomination of five dollars, letter A. some signed by Phil. Moore, President, James L. Hawkins, Cashier, others by Jas. Howard, President, and J. B. Walsh, Cashier, and appeared to be well executed. The New Brunswick notes were of the denomination of three dollars, signed Hardenberg, President and J. N. Simpson, Cashier.

On Saturday last the above named criminals were brought to the bar and received the following sentence—to pay a fine of five hundred dollars each, to suffer one year's imprisonment, and to stand in the public pillory for the space of half an hour on a Friday in each and every month, during that period. It is hoped that a punishment so exemplary will have a salutary effect; we think it will at least tend to dissipate an impression which prevails abroad, we believe, and with which we understand these

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