only have proceeded from the influence of those accidental and temporary causes which in commercial countries, are always affecting the operations of trade. A supply, so redundant, for one year, might have been expected by the natural reflux of these operations to be followed by supplies more limited for the year succeeding. On this account, as well as through other causes that were adverted to in the Annual Report of last December, the probability of there being a falling off in the value of the importations of 1826 as compared with those of 1825, was intimated, and has been the fact. The whole importations for 1826 have amounted, from the returns and estimates at present before the Treasury, to about eighty five millions of dollars in value. The whole of the exports for the same time, to about seventy-eight millions. Of the imports about eighty millions have been carried in American vessels: and of the exports about seventy millions. Of the latter, about fifty-three millions consisted of productions of the United States: and the remainder of foreign productions. The diminished value of importations for 1826, has obviously arisen in some degree, from the fall of prices in those countries of Europe from which the largest quantity of manufactured articles are sent to the U. States, and gives countenance to the opinion that the decrease in quantity has not been in proportion to the decrease in value. If, indeed, the comparative amount and value of exports be assumed as the measure of a correct judgement upon this point, it would even lead to the inference that, as regards some of the principal articles of importation into the United States for 1826, there has been no decrease in quantity, as compared with the importations of 1825. The value of exports from the United States, for 1825, exhibits a greater excess over those of 1826, than is seen in the imports: yet in some of the chief articles of export the records of the Treasury attest, that the quantity as far as yet known was greater in 1826. In 1825 the export of cotton was one hundred and seventy six millions of pounds. In 1826 it was one hundred and ninety-two millions. The value of the latter, or larger quantity, was twenty-four millions of dollars. The value of the former or smaller, quantity, was thirty-six millions. In like manner, the quantity of flower exported in 1826 was greater than in 1825, whilst the value was less, though not in the same proportion as with cotton. The same is true of rice. The export of flower in 1826, was in quantity 858,368 barrels—in value 4,139,063 dollars. In 1825, it was 813,900 barrels—and, in value, 4,212,127 dollars. The exports of rice in 1826, 119,635 tierces in quantity and 1,909,227 dollars in value. In 1825 it was 97,015 tierces in quantity, and 1,925,243 dollars in value. It may be proper to subjoin, that, of the export of cotton in 1825, between nine and ten millions of pounds were of the Sea Island cotton; and of the export of 1826, between six and seven millions. Of tobacco, the quantity exported, as well as its value, rose higher in 1825 than in 1826. But in 1826, the export of tobacco, though considerably less than that of 1824, in quantity, was greater in value. The comparative amounts in quantity and value, for the three years, stand thus: For 1825, 75,984 hogsheads; and 6,115,633 dollars; for 1826 59,780 hogsheads, and 5,322,964 dollars; for 1824, 77,883 hogsheads, and 4,885,566 dollars. Taking the three years, therefore it appears that the quantity exported was greatest in 1824 and the value least.

It would be desiderable, with a view to judge accurately of the effects of the tariff upon the importations of foreign merchandise, to ascertain the fluctuations from year to year in the *quantity* of such importations. This cannot be done, at present, so far as any official or satisfactory standard at the Treasury is concerned. The returns of the Collectors of the Customs in relation to goods which pay duty ad valorem, have, hitherto, fixed nothing but their value; and is known, that goods subject to duty under this form comprehend much the largest class of foreign importations. Measures have been put in train for ascertaining, henceforth, as far as practicable, the entire quantity of goods subject to this description of duty, as well as the value. But even when time shall have matured these measures and exhibited their results, they will furnish no standard of comparison, as to the quantity of importations prior to their adoption. The information will, however, become useful after the lapse of a few years, in its bearing upon the course & developements of our home industry and foreign trade; showing how each, under wise principles adapted to each, may advance coequally; how the channels and the objects of the latter may shift under the advance of the former, without any loss, but with gain, in effective national results—results operating upon the most extensive interests, and enriching to the greatest mass of numbers; or how, under the growth of the one, the other is at all destined to become disadvantageously and lastingly abridged. The beneficial parts of these consequences are looked to with confidence and hope from the tariff, as well from our own experience, thus far, as from that of other nations of the world distinguished by high degrees of opulence and civilization, and where both have rested upon durable rather than transitory foundations—foundations that have been carefully laid in applying the home industry to the multiplied operations of manufacturing art no less than to the tillage of the soil, and in making the accumulated productions of both, the basis of a great foreign trade. But facts that may shed a distinct light upon the whole subject should be sedulously collected, to serve, if need be, as the ground-work to us, of a more perfect system of legislation in relation to a course of policy so closely interwoven with the interests and character of the social state, and with the national prosperity and power. The foreign trade of the United States, to its inherent causes for progressive extension, superadds another and distinctive one in the constant desire of the Government, as manifested in their permanent laws, and emphatically in their recent treaties, to carry it on freed from all restrictions upon navigation, as well as upon the most enlarged principles, and the most entire reciprocity in all other respects. If these principles, of which the United States have largely set the example, were practised upon more universally by nations, and to the extent uniformly proposed by this Government to their acceptance, the fact might be more important in its influence upon general trade, and upon that of each nation in particular, than abstract declarations, illustrative or commendatory of them.

The value of cotton goods subject to ad valorem duty, imported into the United States in 1826, was, as far as at present ascertained 8,905,516 dolls. The value of the same description of goods, imported in 1825 was, $12,509,516. The value of woollen goods subject to ad valorem duty, imported in 1826, was $7,445,493.—The value of the same description of goods, imported in 1825, was $11,392,264. But, as already intimated this difference in value cannot be relied upon as a safe test of the difference in quantity. There are seasons when it would be peculiarly misleading, and the present is believed to be one of them. The duties on each description of these manufactures, were calculated on the prices which each respectively bore at the places of exportation during the respective years; and the great fall in prices in 1826 will undoubtedly serve to account in part, for the difference in the aggregate value of the two importations. Further elucidation will be afforded to the point when it is added that although the value of cotton manufactures imported in 1826 stands below those imported in 1825 in the proportion stated, it exceeds the value of the same kind of manufactures imported during either of the two years preceding viz. 1824 and 1823.—The same is not true of the woollen manufactures. The value of the latter, paying duty ad valorem, imported in 1826, is found from the returns as yet before the Treasury, to be below the value of the same kind of importations for 1824 and 1823, though the difference is far less considerable than between their value in 1826 and 1825; nor is it known at this Department what may have been the comparative value of woollen goods at the places of exportation during the four consecutive years indicated.—The valuation of merchandise constituting the total aggregate of our foreign trade, is always made at the port or place of shipment, and the rule applies consequently both ways: that is, to all articles of export as well as import: thereby freeing it from objections to which it might otherwise be open. The mode of valueing is in effect, as follows: the party making the shipment annexes the value to the manifest or list of articles superadding his oath that it is the true value according to their actual cost, or according to the value which they truly bear, at the port and time of shipment. This oath is taken under the supervision of the Collectors as regards exports, and under that of our Consuls or other Commercial or substituted Agency abroad as regards imports. Some other formalities are observed under our laws particularly in relation to imports; but they are all in aid of the chief provisions here stated.

The articles of American Manufacture exported from the United States in 1826, will, it is believed, be found to exceed six millions of dollars in value. The particular kinds of Manufacture which have made up this profitable and growing branch of the export trade, will be presented in detail, and their total value ascertained with more precision, in the general Statistical Tables, now in course of preparation, under the act of 10th of February, 1820; which will be transmitted to Congress at as early a day as their voluminous nature will allow. Of the amount of American Manufactures, produced for consumption within the United States during the year, it is impossible to speak with exactness; but, from indications that cannot deceive, it is evident that it is large; so large, that the amount exported would sink to a level below all comparison with it. The surest guide to our belief, under this head, is, that in those branches which have at length been enabled, through a provident legislation, to stand up against that overwhelming competition of pre-established excellence and capital from abroad, which must otherwise have kept down forever their first attempts, the article can now be had cheaper in price, as well as better in quality, than the same article, from abroad, as it was seen in our markets, prior to the efficient protection afforded to our own. Hence, the apprehensions of monopoly, pass away. Hence, the certainty that competition at home will bring down prices, eventually, if not immediately, whilst it creates and diffuses new wealth at home; labor being the foundation of wealth, and producing and disseminating it more universally, and in higher degrees, in proportion as it exists under diversified forms and in full activity.

It is then, that the farmer, the artisan, and the merchant, give support to each other, each enlarging the occupations and the gains of each; the State, meanwhile, reaping the fruits in fiscal prosperity and political power. As regards the Cotton Manufactories of the Country, there are grounds for supposing that they now make a call for full one-fourth part of all the raw Cotton grown in the United States. Authentic information as to the exact quantity, is not, indeed, possessed at the Treasury; but, as an approximation, it is believed that the above proportion may be taken without the hazard of essential error. It is gratifying to add; that those parts of the United States, where manufacturing establishments, of all kinds, flourish most, exhibit an animated industry, an orderly aspect, and an increasing population. Towns and villages are seen rapidly to rise up in such districts, in resorting to which the rural population of the vicinity find ready and profitable sales for the various productions of farming enterprise and labor. It is believed that, as these establishments shall rear themselves up, under adequate encouragement, in augmented numbers and importance, a corresponding activity in foreign trade will become their concomitant in the same portions of country; since, besides the trade in exports to which, after supplying, to their full share, the home demand, they open the way, and which will not fail to bring its proper returns on the broad scale of exchanges, the very existence of Manufactures, as they assume great variety and reach perfection, superinduces the necessity of constantly bringing into the country new varieties of ingredients, as subsidiary to them. So wide, so full of dependency upon all other kinds of labour not only of our own, but of other regions, is this great department of national industry.—So certainly do its multifarious and beneficial operations at large, refined, and busy committees, perpetually react upon all the other departments; so quick are the alterations of consumption and supply, and over so great a surface of things do both spread themselves, in such communities. It cannot escape attention, that the portion of our country, for the most part, answering to these remarks, or to some of them, are not favored, or favored in but a slight degree, with the capacity of producing those immense and exhaustless treasures of the soil, spoken of in this paper. For the absence of them, their inhabitants, in part, seek compensation in pursuing modes and combinations of industry which take their treasures as a substratum; by which the great scheme of national advancement is to be seen in its true component parts in our Union—parts naturally destined to make up one systematic whole, where the plough, the loom, and the ship, will each have its appropriate sphere, in raising to a proper elevation, the entire fabric of our social and public prosperity; in carrying to the highest attainable pitch, our riches, our happiness, our power.

A policy short of this belongs not to a free & intelligent People, surrounded by the bounty of Providence, with varieties of climate and territory, fostering inclinations and aptitudes for variety in human employment; by an exuberance of mineral and fossil, no less than of agricultural wealth; by vast waters flowing through this territory, that serve as natural highways, and supply the fund for artificial ones, affording pre-eminently, in connexion with that mighty agent in Navigation as in Mechanics, the Steam power, the means and inducements for an universal and rapid transfer of the products of labor from hand to hand, whether they consist of commodities of useful and ingenious workmanship, from the repositories of art, or of harvests from the field of nature; by all the elements and attributes, in fine, geographical, political, and moral of a great empire. The foundations of such a policy, once securely laid in that legislative assistance to our Manufactures, without which they must struggle in vain against those of other countries, long and thoroughly established, an advantage not inherent, but advantitious, yet an overpowering advantage; and, as already proved in some articles of national importance, to which we have afforded efficient protection, we shall have nothing to fear for the future. Then, and only then, shall we be raised up to a level, in this respect, with other countries. Then, and only then, shall we stand in a position of equality, to listen to doctrines, right enough it may be in themselves but of which others have never accorded us the benefit, or thought of holding up as doctrines for reciprocal practice, even with numerous safeguards and reservations, until their own Manufactures, in all branches that conduced to national resources and power had acquired through ages of experience of capital, and of skill, a stability not to be shaken.

A resolution passed the House of Representatives in May, directing the Secretary of the Treasury to cause to be prepared a well digested manual, containing the best practical information that could be collected on the growth and manufacture of Silk, adapted to the different parts of the Union, containing also such facts and observations in relation to the growth and manufacture of Silk in other countries as might be useful: and that the same should be laid before Congress at the commencement of their present Session. Steps were taken without loss of time to obtain the information contemplated by the resolution as well from all parts of this country as from Europe. But, from the scope which the subject was found to assume, all the information expected under inquiries that have been instituted, has not yet got to hand; nor will it now be practicable to have it digested and arranged, even should it all be received by the time designated. The resolution will continue to command every attention, and be finally acted upon as soon as may be compatible with the accomplishment of its interesting objects. A branch of industry that may be turned to so many purposes, useful and ornamental, and which ministers to the wealth of nations, with so little cost in the material on which it is originally founded, as well as in the species of labor that is applied to it naturally merited, as it has received, all the attention which the terms and spirit of the above resolution bespeak.

The value of importations for the year giving the basis of the impost revenue rather than their quality, it follows that, as the value of those for 1826 has fallen below the value of those for 1825 so will also the revenue from this source be less. The amount of duties secured by bonds on merchandise imported during the three first quarters of the present year is estimated at $21,250,000. The amount that will probably accrue during the last quarter is estimated at about $4,250,000 making for the whole year $25,500,000. The languid state of the tea trade for 1826, a trade always so productive in revenue when it flourishes has lent its aid in conjunction with the fall of prices abroad in diminishing the accruing amount from the customs during the year. Some revival of this valuable trade, valuable under fiscal and commercial views, and from it tendency to encourage more largely the taste for an innocent and wholesome drink, in place of those that are neither valuable even under moral views, may perhaps be anticipated in 1827. It may also be presumed, that the extensive depression of prices witnessed in Europe in 1826, will not have place upon a similar scale in 1827. Nevertheless with the causes, little likely, in their combination at least to be marked by speedy repetition, that have operated to lower the accruing revenue from the customs for the current year below that of the year preceding there is every reason for supposing that it will exceed the revenue arising from this source, during any one of the four years that immediately preceded 1825; and even go beyond the amount received in that year, though not the amount that accrued in that year. This fact will be entitled to its proper weights in determining to what extent the regulations of the present tariff are likely to bring injurious inroads upon the commercial revenue of the nation.

The debenture bonds issued for drawbacks during the three first quarters of the present year, amounted to $3,840,869 10. This is less, by $648,841 19, than those issued during the corresponding period of 1820. The amount of those outstanding on the thirtieth of September last, and chargeable upon the revenue of the next year, was $1,294,310 94, which is less, by $564,264 70, than was chargeable on the same day in 1825 upon the revenue of 1826. The deduction in the shape of drawbacks from the accruing revenue of 1826, will therefore perhaps exceed five millions of dollars.

The amount of duty bonds in suit on the thirtieth of September, was $4,007,882 76. This is a large sum, exceeding by $1,020,535 54, the sum that was in suit on the same day in the year preceding. The excess is in a great degree to be accounted for, by the fraudulent transactions in one or two of the principal cities of the U. States, in relation to imported teas.

Whilst the impost revenue, receivable next year, will be less than that which accrued in 1825, and has been received, or is still to be received, in 1826, the public lands promise to yield next year more than they have this. The probability of increased productiveness in this branch of revenue rests on the following grounds: 1. The act of the last session, making "provisions for the extinguishment of the debt to the United States by the purchase of public lands," has arrested almost entirely, for the present year, the payments for lands sold on credit. That law will, however, expire next July, and the payments under it will be thrown upon the year 1827. 2 A considerable quantity of the land relinquished to the United States will, it is expected, be brought into market in the course of the next year; amongst others, those at Huntsville, which are valuable, being dispersed through a fertile country, occupied by a thriving population. It is believed that they will sell promptly, and at good prices. 3. A large portion of the best of the public lands in Florida will be offered for sale 1827. It is understood that these lands are in demand, and anticipated that they will sell well. On these and other grounds, it is thought, at present, that the revenue from the sale of public lands, in 1827, will not be over estimated when it is set down at two millions of dollars. The state of the Land Officer generally will be seen by a report from the office at the head of that establishment, which accompanied the President's Message to Congress at the opening of the session, and will, it is hoped, be found satisfactory.

From the foregoing facts and considerations, affecting the Customs and the Public Lands, it is believed that the whole revenue of the United States, for 1827, from these and other less important sources, may be estimated at upwards of twenty-three millions of dollars; and that it will arise thus:

| | |
|---|---|
| From Customs | $20,400,000 |
| Public Lands | 2,000,000 |
| Bank Dividends | 420,000 |
| Miscellaneous & incidental rec'ts. | 330,000 |
| | $23,150,000 |

The expenditures for 1827 are estimated as follow, viz.

| | |
|---|---|
| Civil miscellaneous, and diplomatic | $1,826,549 54 |
| Military service, including Fortifications, Ordinance, Indian Department, Revolutionary & Military Pensions, arming the Militia, and arrearages prior to the first of January, 1817, | 5,646,144 36 |
| Naval service | 3,230,260 23 |
| Public Debt | 10,000,000 00 |
| | $20,702,954 13 |

Which will leave in the Treasury, on the 31st December, 1827, after satisfying all the demands of that year, on the basis of the foregoing calculations, a surplus estimated at $2,447,045 87. This surplus will be a disposable surplus, over and above the sum before stated as not in effective funds, and of the two millions of dollars to be reserved in the Treasury under the Sinking Fund act of March the third, 1817.

In the estimate of expenditures for 1827, the annual appropriation of $500,000, for the gradual increase of the Navy, under the act of the third of March, 1821, has not been inserted, that appropriation expiring with the present year. Whatever renewed sum the wisdom of Congress may set apart for this effective arm of the public defence, will add another item to the list of expenditures for the year, and lessen, by so much, the estimated balance at its expiration.

All which is respectfully submitted.

RICHARD RUSH.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, Dec. 12, 1826.

## CHESAPEAKE AND DELAWARE CANAL.

*Letter to the Secretary of the Treasury.*

To the Honorable Richard Rush, Secretary of the Treasury of the United States.

The President and Directors of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal Company, very respectfully submit the following brief statement of the progress and present condition of the works; and this they do with the greater satisfaction, as demonstrating that their labours are at length drawing towards a successful termination.

So much of the wharf work of the Delaware Harbour, as had been directed to be built the present season, is nearly finished; the south pier is not yet filled in, but orders have been given to have it done forthwith. The drudging machine is advantageously employed in excavating the basin. It will shortly be removed through the tide lock into the canal, to be used on the marshes. This harbor will necessarily cost much more than if it had been constructed as originally intended, with banks of earth; but it will be much more convenient, commodious and secure. It will enclose an erea of about seven acres.

The Delaware tide lock is finished. It was found that the stone, which entered into its formation, could not be wrought so as to make a neat joint, though otherwise very suitable; and as the best water cement has been freely used in the construction of this lock, no doubt can be entertained that it is a substantial, durable piece of masonry. A very stiff clay, well puddled outside of the walls, serves to give additional security to the work.

Secs. No. 1. and 2, are nearly finished. A few cart loads of earth are yet to be removed, and some trifling work done to the swivel bridge at Newbold's, when this part of the canal will be completed and navigable.

Sec. No. 3. This has been, in some respects, the most interesting, troublesome and expensive section on the whole line; and from the difficulties which have occurred in the course of its execution, has caused much anxiety to the Board. It extends about three and a half miles through the Cramberry and St. George's marshes, from No. 2 to the left lock. The Engineer in Chief, in a late report, says—"The ground on this section has generally been as bad as Nature ever formed to carry a canal over." As a measure of early precaution, previously indeed to the excavation of a spade of earth, and before the route had been finally settled, borings were directed to be made here and elsewhere, to ascertain the character of the earth; and the Board were led to believe that a stiff clay prevailed through all these marshes, to a considerable depth below what would be required for the bottom of the canal; but as the work went on, and the true nature of the ground was developed, it was seen to be altogether unfit to enter into the construction of the tow path; no alternative therefore remained, but to incur the very heavy expense of conveying solid upland earth from a distance for that purpose.

The sinking of this heavy material has been very great; but in the unvaried opinion of the Engineer in Chief, and other eminently qualified individuals, confirmed by the frequent personal observations and judgment of the members of the Board, no other means of forming a safe and durable canal over these marshes could be persued. The tow path has at length been carried along the entire line of this section and nearly the whole of it has been finished: but at a very heavy expenditure of money, and about five hundred thousand cubic yards of solid earth. The actual contractors were bound to have completed this section in July last; but it is probable they will not finish it before next spring. In a late communication from the Engineer in Chief, he remarks on the subject of this section, that "much has been said about the line being altered from the original location. I do not think it has been deviated from, at any one point, twenty feet from the plan reported by Mr. Rudel. Many persons have asserted, and perhaps believe, that by a different location of this line, by cutting off the hard points of land that put into the marshes, the canal, would have been formed cheaper.—After much examination and reflection upon this question of location, I am perfectly satisfied, that the present location is the best; taking into consideration the drainage, the free vent of water for the side power, if ever used, and the least injury to the country, on account of stagnant water, prejudicial to health."

The Lock at St. George's is going on well. The excavation has been accomplished, the piles driven, the floor laid, and about six feet of masonry on both sides finished. It is, however, probable that from the near approach of winter little more can be done until spring.

Sec. No. 4. This section extends from the lift lock at St. George's, three miles westwardly, through the mill pond. The embankment, to Wilson's Point, is rapidly progressing and looks well. About one mile and fifty-three chains of the eastern end of this section have been recently re-let, and will probably be finished in May next.

The residue of this section is under contract to other persons, whose contracts are also of very recent dates.

Sec. No. 5. The eastern division of this section, of which as reported by the engineer in chief, about three hundred thousand cubic yards are yet to be excavated, has likewise quite lately gone into the hands of other contractors, who are proceeding with spirit and good effect. The western division of this section remains in the hands of the persons who originally undertook it, and who are efficient men. They have also about three hundred thousand cubic yards of earth to excavate.

The bridge at the Buck has been for some weeks in use. The covering and painting are finished.—It is a neat substantial structure, built on the best mechanical principles, both useful and ornamental.

Sec. No. 6. There is little more to be done on this section. A few days additional labour will complete it.

The pivot bridge at Turner's, is nearly finished, and may be converted into use whenever wanted.

Sec. No. 7. This section is also so forward that it may easily be completed during the winter.

*The Western Locks.*—The masonry will be completed in a week; the workmen are now employed in coping the walls; the timber and plank for the grates are prepared. These locks present a better appearance than those on the eastern division of the line, the stone being more easily wrought into close joints, and they are equally durable and substantial.

Having formed contracts for the whole line of the canal, and at an early period, the board seemed secure that it would be completed considerably within the estimate made by the board of the United States Engineers and the distinguished engineers who were associated with them in the examination and location of the line of canal; but they were disappointed, and now find, by a report from their Engineer in Chief, that the ultimate cost of this work will exceed the estimate more than as much, as they had flattered themselves it would fall short of it; and that of course the funds at present provided, will prove insufficient for its completion.

Whether this be owing to the repeated default of contractors; the heavy and unexpected expenditures on the marshes, the expense incurred by the increased dimensions of the locks, the alteration of the harbour, and the additional elevation of the summit bridge, &c. or to other causes incident, perhaps, to all similar undertakings, and which it may not be in the power of human prudence to foresee or control—it is perhaps of little comparative importance at present to enquire. Unpleasant and unexpected as the disclosure is to themselves, the Board hasten to apprize the government of the fact.

It is proper further to remark, that while, on the one hand, the board has been studious to preserve a rigid economy in all their disbursements, so on the other, considering this to be a national work of great and lasting interest, they have felt it their duty to conduct the whole on a scale of liberality, which should combine utility with permanency, and prove a durable monument of the public spirit of the age. Had they done otherwise, they would not have realized the just expectations of the public, nor have deserved the confidence of their constituents.

Signed by order and on behalf of the board of President and Directors.

THOMAS P. COPE, Chairman.

H. D. GILPIN, Secretary.

Chesapeake and Delaware Canal Office, December 6, 1826.

# *Nineteenth Congress.*

SECOND SESSION.

## IN SENATE.

MONDAY, Dec. 18.

Mr. Smith of Md. from the Committee of Finance, to whom the subject was referred, reported a bill for the relief of J. Balestier & Co. and Peter Harmony, of New York; which was read.

Mr. Smith, from the same Committee, report a bill for the relief of John Abraham Willinck; which was read.

Mr. Johnson of Kentucky, submitted a resolution, instructing the Committee on Military Affairs to inquire into the expediency of establishing a National Armoury at the Horse Shoe Bend, on Licking River.

TUESDAY, Dec. 19.

Mr. Harrison gave notice that he would ask leave to-morrow to introduce a bill to increase the salaries of officers commanding companies in the United States Army.

Mr. Hayne, from the Committee to whom was committed a bill to establish an uniform System of Bankruptcy, reported the bill, with several amendments and additions; and,

On motion of Mr. Hayne, the bill was made the order of the day for Tuesday next.

The engrossed bill supplementary to the act of 1815, for the relief of the inhabitants of New Madrid, was read the third time, and passed.

On motion of Mr. Holmes, it was

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Finance be instructed to inquire into the expediency of altering or diminishing the duties on articles imported from beyond the Cape of Good Hope, and on wines, sugars, and coffee.

The Senate then spent some time in Executive business and adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 20.

Mr. Harrison asked, and obtained leave to bring in a bill to increase the compensations of captains officers commanding companies in the United States Army; which was read twice by unanimous consent, and referred to the committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. Smith, of Maryland, submitted the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads be instructed to inquire into the justice and expediency of allowing distributing Postmasters a specific sum for clerk hire, in cases when the *gross* amount of their commissions does not exceed 1500 dollars per annum; and also, whether it would not be proper to allow them a compensation for the distribution, as well as for the delivery of *free letters*, or to change the present system, so as to allow for distribution in lieu of delivery of *free letters*.

Mr. King, of Alabama, submitted the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Committee on Commerce be instructed to inquire into the expediency of erecting a Custom House at Mobile, in the State of Alabama.

After upwards of two hours spent in Executive business,

The Senate adjourned.

THURSDAY, Dec. 21.

Mr. Harrison, from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported a bill to increase the compensation of Officers commanding companies in the Army of the U. States, with an amendment, which was read.

The resolution submitted yesterday by Mr. Smith, of Md. relating to Postmasters, &c. was taken up, and agreed to.

After two and a half hours spent in Executive business,

The Senate adjourned.

## HOUSE REPRESENTATIVES.

MONDAY, Dec. 18.

The resolution laid on the table by Mr. Mitchell, of South Carolina, on the 15th inst. was taken up and read as follows:

"*Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Treasury be directed to inform this House of the amount and description of merchandise annually shipped from each of the United States to the West India Islands, other than those belonging to the Government of Great Britain, from the 30th of September, 1815, to the 30th of September, 1826, and the annual amount of the impost on importations into each of the United States from the aforesaid islands during the above period"

Mr. Tomlinson moved to amend the resolution, as follows:

Strike out "and the annual amount on the imposts on importation into each of the United States, from the aforesaid islands, during the above mentioned period," and insert, "and to make a statement exhibiting the quantity, value, and kinds of merchandise imported from those islands; the amount of duties levied on such merchandise; the amount of American and Foreign tonnage employed in that trade, and the duties of tonnage collected thereon, in each year during the aforesaid period, distinguishing between the imports in American and Foreign vessels."

Mr. Mitchell accepted this amendment as a modification of his resolution, which, in that shape, was agreed to by the House.

Mr. Cambreleng laid the following resolution on the table for consideration:

*Resolved*, That the Secretary of State be directed to furnish this House with a copy of the three articles (marked A) referred to in the portocol of the third conference of the American and British Plenipotentiaries, on the 15th of February, 1824.

THE COLONIAL TRADE.

The following message was received from the President of the United States, by the hands of his Private Secretary:

*To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States:*

WASHINGTON, 18th December, 1826.

I transmit to Congress extracts of a letter, received, since the commencement of their session, from the Minister of the United States at London, having relation to the late discussions with the Government of Great Britain, concerning the trade between the United States and the British Colonies in America.

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.

On motion of Mr. Tomlinson, it was

*Ordered*, That the message and documents be referred to the Committee on Commerce.

Mr. Sawyer moved that six thousand copies of the message be printed; but the motion was

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