From the National Intelligencer.

ANTIQUITIES OF FLORIDA.

Copy of a letter from Judge Brackenridge of Florida, to Col. White, Delegate in Congress from that Territory.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14, 1827.

SIR: In compliance with your request, I will now proceed to give a brief topographical and historical sketch of the curious and interesting part of our territory, in which our capital, Tallahassee, is situated. The twenty townships exposed to sale last May twelvemonth, contain a very large proportion of excellent land, which has been nearly all purchased, with a view of settlement. In appearance, it is entirely unlike any part of the United States, so near the seaboard. Instead of being a plain of unvaried surface, it resembles the high lands above the falls of the rivers in the Atlantic States, and as beautifully diversified by hill and dale, and rendered picturesque by the number of lakes, whose pure waters reflect the forests of oak, which frequently clothe the sides of the hills, down to their very margins. These lakes receive a number of streams, which flow from the higher grounds, and loose themselves in their placid bosoms. The largest of them are called the Imonia, Jackson and Micasuki, each of which is from thirty to forty miles in circumference; but there are many others of a smaller size, affording many beautiful situations for country residences, where the natural open groves of oak, hickory, beach, and magnolia, grandiflora, surpass in magnificence the proudest parks of the English nobility. The soil of the uplands bears a strong resemblance to the best part of Prince George's county, Maryland; and the face of the country is not unlike the South side of the Potomac, opposite Washington city. In the valleys, there is a much heavier growth of timber, and frequently deep cane-brakes. There are, also, frequently to be met with grassy ponds, surrounded by glades, which afford excellent pasture. The strawberry, the wild grape and plumb, are found every where, and the numerous flowers which embalm the air, during a great part of the year, may, perhaps, have occasioned the name of Florida to be given; for I will presently, show, that, after Mexico, this was the first part of the American continent which became the scene of Spanish adventure. The only regret which I feel in contemplating this beautiful region, is its very limited extent—an Oasis, which appears to have been formed by nature, in one of her most sportive and fantastic humors. The general substratum, perhaps a few feet above the level of the sea, is a soft limestone, of recent formation. In the pine wood plain, which stretches towards the highlands of Tallahassee, the stone is often found in masses on the surface.

About sixteen miles from the port of St. Mark's we begin to ascend, and enter the country already described; the ridge forming, in some measure, a barrier to the passage of the water to the sea; on the contrary, the streams, in general rising near the summits of the hills, flow downward, until they reach the general bed of the lime-stone, where they either sink into the fissures of the, rock, or spread out in lakes, which have their subterranean passages, but they again rise on the South side of the ridge, and form some of the largest springs in the world. The Wakullen comes forth at once a noble river, two hundred yards in width, its source not less than one hundred feet in depth, and so transparent, that a person standing by the side of it, feels as though he were on the edge of a precipice. The lakes of Tallahassee abound in fish; the Trout, Bream, Perch and soft shelled Turtle; and in Winter, with wild fowl. The soil, as well on the uplands as in the valley, is adapted to the culture of the Sugar Cane, Rice, sea-Island Cotton, and Indian Corn. Hitherto it has been healthy, and it is fair to presume that it will continue so the Winters are of course mild, and being within the reach of the sea breeze, the heat of Summer, is greatly moderated.

The appearance of a dense population, which seems at one time to have covered this country, has induced me to make some enquiry. While at Havana, I could learn nothing; but while at Charleston, I met with an English work, Roberts' account of Florida, 1763, which gives a piece of history apparently but little known. The district of Apalache, it appears, was inhabited by a race called Atimaco Indians, with whom the Spaniards had become intermingled. The Yamassee Indians, who lived near St. Augustine, backed by those of Apalache, made frequent excursions into the new settlements of South Carolina, threatening them with total destruction. In consequence of this Col. Moor, Governor of that State made three inroads into their country in the years 1702, 4 and 6, marching to the Flint river, and then taking a direction to the South, towards Tallahassee. In his last expedition he entirely defeated the Spanish Governor, a Don Juan Mexia, killing and taking prisoners above eight hundred of the Spaniards and Indians—Don Mexia himself being one of the prisoners. Col. Moor, transported 1400 of the Indians, and fixed them in a settlement near the Savannah river. The settlements were completely destroyed. This agrees tolerably well with the traditionary account of the old Indian Chefixico, who says that his father told him the settlements formed by the intermarriage of the Spaniards and Indians, had been destroyed by a great warrior, after three different invasions. Chefixico says that when a boy, the country was so open as to be scarce of game, and was not resorted to by the Indians until the forests grew up; that it was then full of Orange & Fig trees, and the roads and bridges still to be seen. At present the traces of the roads are still visible, and also numerous sites of villages, forts, and private residences. A number of towns are laid down on the old maps, the principal of which are, St. Mathew, St. Juan, Aspaloga, Ocon, Tapalaga, St. Mark de Apalache, Ayavala, San Pedro, &c. No such place as St. Louis is marked, and I am at a loss to know on what authority the ruins of a fort near Tallahassee has been called by that name.

The District of Apalache, we learn, from Garcillaso de la Vega, was very populous at a period much more remote. Pamphide de Narvæs was the first who discovered the bay of Apalache, but was compelled to retreat on board his vessels with great loss This is the same person who was afterwards appointed by the Governor of Cuba to supercede Cortes in the conquest of Mexico. Eleven years after the landing of Narvæs, that is, in 1530, the celebrated Hernando Soto landed at Tampa bay, and marched along the coast, until he came to Apalache, of which a very curious and interesting description is given. "The Governor and his companions having been informed, in the town of Osachile, that the province of Apalache, which they had heard so highly praised, as well on account of the abundance and fertility of the soil, as for the valor of its inhabitants, was now at no great distance, were desirous to see whether it was as fertile as it was represented to be." After a slow and tedious march, opposed at every step by parties of Indians, and after several bloody engagements, he reached the province. "At day-light," he observes, "the Spaniards proceeded through extensive fields of corn, beans, pumpkins, and other vegetables, which extended on either side of the road farther than the eye could reach. Between the fields a great number of houses were scattered about, without any order, as in the villages. On the next day the Governor went in advance with two hundred cavalry and one hundred infantry, and reached the principal town, which he found deserted. It consisted of 250 large and good houses, in which he lodged his army, while he himself occupied the residence of the Cacique. Besides this town, there was throughout the whole district, at the distance of half a league, a league, and a league and a half, villages containing sixty or a hundred houses, besides a vast number of dwellings scattered about without order. The face of the whole province is delightful, the land fertile, with a great abundance of provisions, & a plenty of fish, which the natives catch all the year and preserve for use. The Governor and his followers were delighted to see this country and its fertility, but found the Indians fierce and warlike. To show the fertility of this province, it suffices to say, that the whole of the Spanish army, together with the Indians in their service, exceeding 1,500, and 300 horses, subsisted on the supplies taken at first, and when they stood in need of any addition, they never went more than a league and a half to procure it. The country is also well suited to the rearing of every kind of live stock, having fine woods, excellent water, lakes, ponds, and reeds, which cattle eat so readily, as not to require any kind of grain in addition. It is also well adapted to the culture of silk, from the great quantity of mulberry trees; and there is, besides, an abundance of fish of an excellent quality." This description is wonderfully accurate.

The settlement of this country may perhaps be dated from the year 1530, which, until the destruction in 1706, would be nearly two hundred years. It is probable that a part of De Soto's army remained in possession; we have, however, no authentic account of the exact period at which the Spaniards made their settlements. It is stated by Roberts, that previous to their destruction by Gov. Moor, they carried on a considerable trade with Havana by small vessels. After the destruction, the country appears to have been lost sight of by European Powers; the Spaniards made no attempt to settle it again, and it was not until about the year 1765, that the British built the present Fort of St. Mark's, but formed no settlement, perhaps on account of the hostility of the Muskogee Indians, who then possessed it. During the period the Spaniards subsequently possessed it, the Seminoles and Muskogees carefully forbade any one to enter it. As a proof how little it was known to the Spaniards, I will mention the fact, that there is not a single Spanish grant in the whole of it; the grant of Forbes, merely approaches its borders. In some old maps it is marked 'the Apalache old fields.' The march of General Jackson into this district in 1818, in pursuit of the Seminole Indians, was the first notice we ever had of it. It is now about three years since our settlements began, and contains a population of about two thousand souls, which is rapidly increasing. By the last census, Tallahassee contained about eight hundred, and five or six mercantile establishments, which do an extensive business. One wing of the Capitol, a handsome brick building, is now completed, and occupied this Winter by the Legislative Council. The country begins to wear the appearance of cultivation; good roads are made in all directions, and carts, wagons, and carriages, are constantly travelling them. The grant to General La Fayette, containing 23,000 acres of the best land, adjoining the town, remains a wilderness; but it is to be hoped, that something will be done with it before long: for, so large a body of land remaining unimproved, must undoubtedly tend to retard the progress of the town. If the grape, the olive, and the silk worm, can succeed any where in America, it must be here. This present to the good old General, no doubt, frequently occupies his thoughts, not as an object of sordid speculation, but as the means of uniting his name, and his interests, with the very soil of our Republic.

I am, respectfully, your most ob't. serv't.
H. M. BRACKENRIDGE.

Col. J. M. WHITE,
Delegate Florida.

Nineteenth Congress.

SECOND SESSION.

IN SENATE.

FRIDAY, Jan. 19.

The President communicated the credentials of the Hon. Henry M. Ridgely, elected by the Legislature of Del. to fill the seat in the Senate vacated by the death of Nicholas Van Dyke; and those of the Hon. Louis M'Lane, for the term of six years, from and after the 3d of March next.

Mr. Benton, moved that the Senate go into the consideration of Executive business: but,

Mr. Harrison rose and said, that he was about to ask of the Senate the greatest indulgence ever asked for on any occasion, since he had the honor of a seat on this floor. Which after a few remarks,

Mr. H. then asked and obtained leave to introduce a bill to appropriate the sum of 10,000 dollars for the relief of the indigent sufferers by the late fire in Alexandria, to be placed in the hands of the Mayor of that city, to be disposed of by him; which was read twice, by unanimous consent.

The question being taken, the bill was referred to the Committee on the District of Columbia.

On motion of Mr. Benton, the Senate went into the consideration of Executive business; and after three hours spent therein.

Adjourned to Monday.

SATURDAY, Jan. 20.

The Senate did not sit to day.

MONDAY, Jan. 22.

The Senate went into the consideration of Executive business, and continued with closed doors about three hours. The Senate then resumed the transaction of Legislative business, and had been so engaged for some time before it was known to our Reporter that the doors had been opened. On reaching the Senate he found that the following proceedings had taken place:

Mr. Johnson, of Louisiana, from the Committee of Commerce, made a report, accompanied by a bill "to regulate the commercial intercourse between the United States and the colonies of Great Britain."

[This bill is substantially the same as the one reported by a similar committee in the House of Representatives.]

Mr. Silsbee moved that 3000 copies of the report be printed.

The question was taken on printing 3000 copies, and carried without a division.

The bill from the other House, making an appropriation of 20,000 dollars for the relief of the indigent sufferers by the late fire in Alexandria was taken up, and, on motion of Mr. Chambers, twice read by general consent.

Mr. Eaton and Mr. Chambers severally stated that the Committee on the District of Columbia had had the subject before them, and concurring in the propriety of the sum voted by the other House, rendered it unnecessary to refer this bill to the committee, and therefore hoped that it would now be taken up for consideration and decision; but before any further progress was made in the bill, the hour being late,

The Senate adjourned.

TUESDAY, Jan. 23.

Mr. Berrien, from the Committee to whom was referred the Communication from the President in relation to the payment of claims under the first article of the Treaty of Ghent, reported a bill appointing Commissioners for the ascertainment of those claims, which was read.

The bill for the relief of the indigent sufferers by the late fire at Alexandria, was then taken up, and read a third time.

Mr. Noble called for the Yeas and Nays on the question of the passage, which were ordered, and were as follows:

Yeas.—Messrs. Bateman, Benton, Bouligny, Branch, Chambers, Chase, Clayton, Dickerson, Eaton, Edwards, Harrison, Hayne, Hendricks, Holmes, Johnson, Ky. Johnson, Lou. Kane, King, Knight, Marks, Mills, Ridgely, Robbins, Sanford, Seymour, Smith, Md. Thomas—27.

Nays.—Messrs. Barton, Bell, Chandler, Cobb, Findlay, Macon, Noble, Randolph, Reed, Rowan, Ruggles, Smith, S. C. Tazewell, Van Buren, White Willey, Williams—17.

So the bill PASSED, and was returned to the House of Representatives.

On motion of Mr. Noble, the Senate then went into the consideration of Executive business, and so continued for about an hour, when the doors were again opened.

THE BANKRUPT BILL.

The Senate then proceeded to the order of the day, and resumed the consideration of the bill to establish an uniform System of Bankruptcy throughout the U. States. The motion of Mr. Branch to strike out the 93d section of the bill (embracing the provision for the voluntary bankruptcy of classes other than merchants and traders) still pending.

The motion to strike out the section was supported by Mr. Branch and Mr. Van Buren; and was opposed by Mr. Rowan, Mr. Holmes, and Mr. Johnston, of Kentucky. The question was still undetermined, when about 4 o'clock,

The Senate adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 24.

Mr. Van Buren presented the petition of the inhabitants of twenty towns in St. Lawrence County, stating that the duties levied by the British Government on produce carried into Canada, operated as a virtual prohibition to the introduction of the commodities of the United States. It also stated, that the navigable part of the River St. Lawrence, runs for fifteen miles, through the territory of the United States, and prays that such countervailing duties may be imposed as to Congress may see fit to authorize. Referred.

BANKRUPT BILL.

The Senate then again took up the Bankrupt Bill. Mr. Branch's motion to strike out the 93d section, being still under consideration.

The debate on this question was resumed, and continued until a late hour.

Mr. Berrien opposed the motion at much length, and Mr. Woodbury and Mr. Tazewell supported it; after which,

The Senate adjourned.

THURSDAY, Jan. 25.

BANKRUPT BILL.

The Senate then proceeded to the order of the day, and resumed the consideration of the bill to establish an uniform system of Bankruptcy throughout the United States. The motion of Mr. Branch to strike out the 93d section, being still before the Senate—

Mr. Branch sustained his motion with a few remarks. Messrs. Chambers, Holmes, Harrison, Rowan, and Hayne, opposed it, the latter at a great length.

Mr. Van Buren and Mr. Branch addressed a few remarks in reply to Mr. Hayne.

The question was then taken by Yeas and Nays, and decided in the negative, by the following vote:

Yeas.—Messrs. Bel, Branch, Clayton, Cobb, Dickerson, Johnson of Lou. King, Macon, Randolph, Reed, Ridgeley, Sanford, Smith of South Carolina, Tazewell, Van Buren, White, Wiley, Williams, and Woodbury—19.

Nays.—Messrs. Barton, Bateman, Benton, Berrien, Bouligny, Chambers, Chandler, Eaton, Edwards, Findley, Harrison, Hayne, Hendricks, Holmes, Johnson, of Ken. Kane, Knight, Marks, McKinley, Robbins, Rowan Ruggles, Seymour, Silsbee, Smith, of Md. and Thomas—26.

House of Representatives.

FRIDAY, Jan. 19.

A message was received from the President of the United States, by his Private Secretary, as follows.

TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES:

Washington, 18*th* Jan. 1827.

In compliance with a resolution of the House of Representatives of the 6th inst. I transmit herewith a Report from the secretary of State, together with copies of the Correspondence with the Government of the Netherlands, relating to discriminating duties.

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.

The message and documents were referred to the Committee on Commerce.

Mr. Cooke, from the Committee of Ways and Means, reported the bill from the Senate to increase the salary of the Postmaster General, without amendment. The bill was then committed, and made the order of the day for to-morrow.

The Speaker communicated the following letter.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19, 1827.

SIR: I am constrained by the state of my health, to be excused from serving longer as a member of the Committee of Ways & Means, & have to beg that you will be pleased to submit my request, accordingly, to the House.

I am, respectfully, Sir, your obedient servant.
L. McLANE.

Hon. JOHN W. TAYLOR.
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The House then voted, by a large majority, that his resignation be accepted.

On motion of Mr. Brent, the Speaker was directed to fill the vacancy in the Committee of Ways and Means, occasioned by the resignation of Mr. M'Lane.

SUFFERERS BY THE FIRE AT ALEXANDRIA.

Mr. Powell moved that all the orders of the day which precede the bill for the relief of the distressed inhabitants of Alexandria, be postponed, and that that bill be now considered.

The motion prevailed, and the House went into Committee of the Whole, Mr. Findlay, of Ohio in the Chair, upon that bill.

Mr. Powell sent to the Clerk's table a letter from William Stabler an inhabitant of Alexandria, (for whose respectability and truth, Mr. P. pledged himself to the House, giving, a succinct statement of the extent of loss suffered from the conflagration, and the amount that would be required to relieve the sufferings of those who had lost their homes. This letter stated the number of Houses destroyed at between sixty and seventy, and the sum needed by the indigent portion of the sufferers, for their immediate relief, by food and clothing, at $20,000.

Mr. P. said that he had been an eye witness of the awful desolation, but would not attempt a description, to which he felt inadequate. One thing was evident to all who knew the circumstances of the case; the loss had fallen principally upon that class of persons whose little all consisted in the impliments of their trades, and in their personal industry. The object of the bill was not to make up to any, the losses they had sustained, but merely to relieve personal distress and suffering. He then moved to fill the blank in the bill with $20,000.

The motion was agreed to, and the committee rose and reported the bill. In the House a long debate ensued, which was finally terminated by loud calls of question from all parts of the House and having been taken by yeas and nays, on ordering the bill to a third reading stood as follows:—yeas 109, nays 67.

The bill was then read a third time, passed, and sent to the Senate for concurrence. And then

The House adjourned.

SATURDAY, Jan. 20.

Mr. M'Duffie is appointed a member of the Committee of Ways and Means, in the room of Mr. M'Lane, whose resignation as a member of that Committee was yesterday tendered and accepted.

Mr. Wickliffe gave notice that he should on Monday ask the House to take up the Bill to record the Decisions of the Supreme Court.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

Mr. Bassett moved to postpone all the other orders of the day, to take up the Bill to erect a monument to Gen. Washington, but subsequently withdrew his motion.

The House then resolved itself in Committee of the whole on the Bill providing for the relinquishment of certain claims to land sold by the United States in the State of Ohio.—Mr. Hoffman in the Chair.

The bill was finally ordered to be engrossed and read a third time on Monday.

The Speaker laid before the House a communication from the Postmaster General, on the subject of unproductive post routes; which was laid on the table.

The House then adjourned.

MONDAY, Jan. 22.

COLONIAL TRADE.

Mr. Tomlinson, from the Committee on Commerce, to which was referred so much of the President's Message as relates to the commerce of the United States with foreign nations, and their Colonies, made a report in detail, accompanied by the following bill:

A BILL to regulate the commercial intercourse between the United States and the Colonies of Great Britain.

The bill was twice read and committed to the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union.

ROAD FROM WASHINGTON TO CUMBERLAND.

Mr. Stewart, from the Committee on Roads and Canals, reported a bill to regulate the laying out and surveying a road from the seat of Government, in the City of Washington, to the Eastern termination of the Cumberland Road, at Cumberland, in the State of Maryland.

This bill was twice read and made the order of the day for to-morrow.

UNITED STATES' JUDICIARY.

Mr. Wickliffe asked leave to bring in a bill to regulate the proceedings of the Supreme Court of the U. States.

After some remarks a Committee of seven was ordered.

Mr. Cambreleng moved the following resolution; which was read, and laid upon the table.

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Treasury be directed to inform this House what amount of revenue was collected during the three years ending the 30th September last, in each of the States of Vermont, New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio, on British manufactures, and on teas entered at the Custom Houses on our inland frontier.

Mr Hamilton moved the following:

Resolved, That the Committee of the Library, be instructed to inquire into the expediency of purchasing, for the use of the Library of Congress, such paintings, prints, and busts, belonging to the late Thomas Jefferson, as his representatives may desire to sell.

The resolution was agreed to.

On motion of Mr. Everett, it was

Resolved, That the Committee of Ways and Means be instructed to inquire into the expediency of revising the laws regulating the importation of books.

REVOLUTIONARY OFFICERS.

Mr. Burges moved a postponement of the Orders of the Day, which precede the bill for the relief of the surviving officers of the Revolutionary army; and on the question of so postponing them, he demanded the yeas and nays.

They were ordered, accordingly; and, being taken were as follows:

YEAS 93. | NAYS 77.

So the orders were postponed.

Mr. Burges then moved that the House go into Committee of the Whole on the bill for the relief of Revolutionary officers, and explained the purpose of the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions to be to remodel that part of the bill which provides for the officers.

The motion prevailed—ayes 81, noes 63.

After spending some time in deliberation on this subject, the committee rose and obtained leave to sit again.

On motion of Mr. Powell, the amendment of Mr. Condict was ordered to be printed.

DUTIES ON WOOLLENS.

The House now resumed the unfinished business of Thursday, being the motion of Mr. Buchanan to discharge the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union from the farther consideration of the bill proposing certain minimum duties on woollen goods.

Upon this question a debate of some length ensued, and before a decision was had, the House, on motion of Mr. Van Rensselaer,

Adjourned.

TUESDAY, Jan. 23.

On motion of Mr. Newton, yesterday, two thousand copies extra were ordered to be printed of the report presented by Mr. Tomlinson, from the Committee of Commerce, on the subject of the trade with the British Colonies.

The following resolution, laid on the table yesterday by Mr. Cambreleng, was called up, read, and agreed to by the House:

"Resolved, That the Secretary of the Treasury be directed to inform this House what amount of revenue was collected during the three years ending the 30th September last, in each of the States of Vermont, N. York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio, on British manufactures, and on teas entered at the Custom Houses on our inland frontier."

APPRAISERS OF GOODS.

Mr. Cocke moved the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Committee of Ways and Means be instructed to inquire into the expediency of abolishing the office of Appraisers of Goods, in the Custom Houses, and assigning that duty to the inspectors of Customs of the United States.

Mr. C. said, that he had received information by letter, which induced him to believe that the two offices might, with advantage, be united. With the exception of our great commercial seaports, he had reason to believe that the appraisers were not employed more than five or six weeks in a year, although many of them received a year's salary. If the two offices could be united in the same person, without injury to the revenue, he thought it ought to be done. He proposed the measure, however, only as a subject of inquiry, and hoped that it would receive the attention of the committee at as early a period as practicable.

Mr. Barney then inquired of the Chair whether it would be in order at this time to discuss the merits of the resolution.

The Speaker replied, that such a discussion would be in order, but was unusual on a resolution which proposed merely an inquiry.

After some additional remarks, the resolution laid upon the table.

NEW TARIFF.

The orders of the day were now announced, and the question pending before the House being on a motion of Mr. Buchanan, of Pennsylvania, to discharge the Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union from the farther consideration of the bill for the protection of the Woollen Manufactures.

The debate was renewed by Mr. Cambreleng, and continued by other gentlemen, for and against the bill.

Calls for the question were now heard in all parts of the House, and the question was accordingly taken on the motion to discharge the Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union from the further consideration of the bill, and decided in the negative, by yeas and nays, as follows:

Yeas 76.—Nays 112.

Mr. Mallary now said that he would not at this late hour (it was now near 4 o'clock) ask the House to go into Committee of the Whole, but would reserve that motion for to-morrow.

Mr. Cambreleng then sent to the Clerk's table the following paper, which he intended to move in Committee of the Whole, as an amendment to the bill.—He presented it now in order that it might be printed.

"That from and after the passage of this act, the appraisers of the U. States, or such persons as may be employed to act as appraisers, shall be and they are hereby, authorised, in all cases where they suspect the importer of any manufacture of wool, or of which wool shall be a component material, of an intention to evade the revenue laws of the United States in any manner whatever, to appraise the manufacture at such a valuation as shall secure the faithful collection of the duty of 33 1-3 per centum ad valorem, imposed by the act passed 22d May, 1824, entitled "An act to amend the several acts imposing duties on imports."

The paper was ordered to be printed.

MAJOR WHEATON.

On motion of Mr. Condict, the petition of this revolutionary veteran for further compensation for very important services and advice in various confidential stations, in the late war with Great Britain, was again referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

And the House adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 24.

INTERCOURSE WITH THE PACIFIC.

Mr. Storrs, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, to which had been referred a resolution, instructing said Committee to inquire into the expediency of establishing a line of communication from some point or place in the United States, across the Isthmus of Panama, to some port or ports in the Pacific Ocean, made a report thereon, accompanied by a bill to authorize the building of two Schooners for the Naval Service, and for rebuilding the Schooner "Nonsuch"; which was read the first and second time, and committed to a Committee of the whole House to-morrow.

Mr. Mallary now moved that the House go into Committee of the Whole upon the state of the Union, but withdrew the motion at the solicitation of Mr. Burges, who wished to have a paper containing an amendment to the second part of the bill for the relief of the survivors of the Revolutionary Army, printed.

The printing was ordered.

NAVIGATIGN OF LAKE ERIE.

The Speaker laid before the House a letter from the Secretary of War, transmitting a report of the Chief Engineer, Major General Alexander Macomb, with sundry documents, which afford the information required by the order of the House of the 16th instant, relative to the works at Grand River, and surveys at Conneaught Creek, Black river, and Sandusky Bay, on Lake Erie, so far as the same can now be furnished.

Mr. Mallary now renewed his motion to go into Committee of the Whole; when, on motion of Mr. M'Coy, the House adjourned.

THURSDAY, Jan. 25.

On motion of Mr. Vinton.

Resolved, That the Committee on the Public Lands be instructed to inquire into the expediency of granting, for the support of Colleges in Ohio, a quantity of land equal to that which has been granted to each of the new States and Territories for that purpose.

Mr. Cook, from the Committee of Ways and Means, gave notice that, on Monday next he would move for the consideration of the bill to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to exchange certain Stocks.

DUTIES ON WOOLLENS.

On motion of Mr. Mallary, (Chairman of the Committee on Manufactures,) the House then went into Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union Mr Buchanan in the chair.

The subject taken up, on motion of Mr. Mallary, was the bill for the protection of the Woollen Manufactures, was debated at length and amended.

The printing of both Mr. Strong's and Mr. Cambreleng's amendments was then ordered, and then

The House adjourned.

From the London Mechanic's' Magazine.

GROUND SWELL IN THE POLAR REGIONS.

The ice in the Polar regions accommodates itself to the surface by bending; but when several yards in thickness, it refuses to yield beyond a certain extent, and is broken in pieces with dreadful explosions. The best account that we know of the appearances presented on such occasions is given by a party of Moravian missionaries, who were engaged in a coasting expedition on the ice along the northern shore of Labradore, with sledges drawn by dogs.—They narrowly escaped destruction from one of those occurrences, and were near enough to witness all its grandeur. We extract it from the recent interesting compilation of the Rev. Dr. Brown, on the history of the Propagation of Christianity. The missionaries met a sledge with Esquimaux turning in from the sea who threw out some hints that it might be as well for them to return; after some time, their own Esquimaux hinted that there was a ground swell under the ice; it was then scarcely perceptible, except on lying down and applying the ear close to the ice, when a hollow disagreeable grating noise was heard ascending from the abyss. As the motion of the sea under the ice had grown more perceptible, they became alarmed, and began to think it prudent to keep close to the shore; the ice also had fissures in many places, some of which formed chasms of one or two feet, but as these are not uncommon even in its best state, and the dogs easily leap over them, they are frightful only to strangers: as the wind rose to a storm, the swell had now increased so much that its effects on the ice were extraordinary and really alarming. The sledges, instead of gliding smoothly along on an even surface, sometimes ran with violence after the dogs, and sometimes seemed with difficulty to ascend a rising hill; noises, too, were now distinctly heard in many directions like the report of cannon, from the bursting of the ice at a distance; alarmed at these frightful phenomenas, our travellers drove with all haste towards the shore, and as they approached it the prospect before them was tremendous; the ice, having burst loose from the rocks, was tossed to and fro, and broken in a thousand pieces against the precipices, with a dreadful noise; which, added to the raging of the sea, the roaring of the wind, and the driving of the snow, so completely overpowered them as almost to deprive them of the one or both their eyes and ears. To make the land now was the only source that remained; but it was with the utmost difficulty that the frightened dogs could be driven forward, and as the whole body of the ice frequently sunk below the summits of the rocks and then rose above them, the only time for landing was at the moment it gained the level of the coast, a circumstance which rendered the attempt extremely nice and hazardous; both sledges, however, succeeded in gaining the shore, and were drawn up on the beach, though not without great difficulty; scarcely had they reached it when the part of the ice from which they had just escaped burst asunder, and the water rushing from beneath instantly precipitated it into the ocean; in a moment, as if by a signal, the whole mass of ice for several miles along the coast, and extending as far as the eye could reach, began to break and to be overwhelmed with waves; the spectacle was awfully grand, the immense fields of ice rising out of the ocean, clashing against one another, and then plunging into the deep with a violence which no language can describe and a noise like the discharge of ten thousand cannons, was a sight which must have struck the most unreflecting mind with solemn awe. The brethren were overwhelmed with amazement at their miraculous escape, and even the pagan Esquimaux expressed gratitude to God for their deliverance.

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