N-ORLEANS BEE.

BULLIT, BULLEN & MAGNE.
No. 82 Chartres street.

IT IS OMNIPOTENT AND PUBLIC JUSTICE SHALL SAY.

NEW-ORLEANS:
THURSDAY MORNING, FEB 23, 1839.

FOR PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

HENRY CLAY,

OF KENTUCKY.

Subject to the decision of a National Convention.

☞ MR. CLAY'S GREAT SPEECH AGAINST ABOLITION is published in a pamphlet form at the office of the BEE where it may be had on application.

We are highly gratified to be able to announce to our readers that a bill predicated on the suggestions of our correspondent "Bienville," by which one million four hundred thousand dollars of the bonds of the state will be advanced to the three municipalities of our city, was presented by Mr. Conrad on behalf of the entire delegation of Orleans, and was yesterday read for the first time.

We hear but one opinion expressed on the propriety of this measure, and we shall inform our readers of the progress of this important bill until it becomes a law.

The advantages it offers the State, as well as its importance to the best interests of this city, the capital of Louisiana—the emporium of the south and south west—are such that they cannot be disregarded by the legislature.

IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBT.

That a relic of barbarous ages, so repulsive to enlightened humanity and the enlightened spirit of the times, as imprisonment for debt, should deface the jurisprudence of civilized nations, is truly astonishing. This odious law yet lingers upon the statute books of some of the states, despite the almost universal opinion of mankind against its policy and justice. That the liberty of an unfortunate debtor should be sacrificed to appease the insatiable cupidity of money lenders, is a proposition too revolting to meet support from any quarter, and that indebtedness beyond the ability to pay, should be regarded as evidence of dishonesty, is alike repugnant to truth and the enterprise of the age. The life and the liberty of the citizen, are under the protection of the constitution and the laws, and should never be endangered except for some violence to that constitution, or infraction of those laws. Neither the life nor liberty of the citizen should be surrendered to the mercy of a fellow citizen. The community should be brought to look to the government for protection in misfortune, and surely poverty is a misfortune, and it is no more proper that the liberty of an individual should be taken away upon civil process, than it would be to subject his life to the decision of a plea of debt.

It is argued that a debtor can procure his release from prison by a surrender of his property, and by reducing proof of his integrity. This argument show that the liberty of honest men, under the present system, is abridged—and that release can only be effected through a tardy process, to establish that which should be taken for granted, unless the contrary is shown. In all cases of a criminal nature, notwithstanding the grand jury may have found a true bill against the prisoner, when he is put upon his trial the law regards him as innocent and stainless as an infant, until his guilt is proven, and should a debtor, whose indebtedness cannot be considered criminal, be put to greater straits than a felon? So jealous is the law of the liberty of the citizen, that the thief and murderer are not put to personal restraint, but upon the clearest proof and verifier found, or the information on oath of credible witnesses. Yet a debtor is shut up in a dungeon, and required to abide the determination of pleas at law before he can be enlarged, when the cause of his imprisonment is neither a crime or misdemeanor. When the worst is shown, he is a debtor—Should indebtedness beyond the ability to pay, be made evidence of fraud, there is not an individual in any way engaged in those enterprizes which promote the prosperity of the country, who may not, from some unforeseen and consequently unavoidable contingency, find himself stript, not only of his fortune, but his fair name.

Surely, when a man gives up to his creditors all that he is worth, his body should not be made to answer the deficit. Let the law provide for the surrender of all the property and money, and causes of action of the debtor, and let him go free to earn his bread by the sweat of his brow—should he in this surrender, with half any thing from the claim of his creditors, and make a false schedule of his effects, let him be punished, as severely as may be, but not before he has committed something that, either in law or morality, is considered an offence. Those states which have abolished imprisonment for debt, have never had occasion to regret that philanthropic measure. Credit is more difficult to obtain in such states; the holder of goods and the laborer, look more closely to the ability of the purchaser or employer to pay. Debts are contracted with reference to the industry, property and good report of the person contracting them, and not to the remedial severity of the law, as in states in which incarceration is one of the legitimate measures for coercive payment. There is less difficulty in collecting due in proportion as there is greater difficulty in creating debts. And all parties are benefitted by the policy which limits he ability to create debts to the creditor's opinion of the integrity and property of those whom he trusts.

Imprisonment for debt can only be justified upon the ground, that the inability to pay is evidence of the fraud and dishonesty of the debtor. If so, let the statute such inability amongst the penal offences. Make it a crime and punish it as such. Let the fraudulent debtor be dealt with by the sovereign power. It would be a source of relief to feel that his sufferings were caused by the infraction of the laws of the state, and not, as is now the case, the result of persecution and the griping cupidity of some hard hearted money lender in whose power his evil stars had placed him. It would be difficult, however, to get any enlightened legislator to engraft indebtedness upon the penal code.

All the arguments which are urged to sustain the law as it now exists, belong to an age that has passed. They were used with some plausibility at a time when personal liberty was subordinate to money—when entailed wealth and title were the only sources of power and honor, and the sole objects of legislative care—But now more noble considerations engage the lawgiver's solicitude. The happiness, prosperity and well being of all come under his protection. His views are not restricted to the wants of the few. The feeble poor, no less than the princely rich, have claims upon him. And in taking a liberal and enlarged view of the rights of the general mass, the law under consideration we should think, would first force itself upon his notice. It is in direct conflict with the spirit of our institutions. It adds to the power of wealth, and to the wretchedness of poverty. It makes the strong stronger and the weak weaker. It gives vigor to the muscular power of the giant, and takes away the energies from decrepitude and infirmity.

In the nature of things, there can be no sufficient reason for retaining this feature of the law, unless it is wise to crowd the prison house with the victims of misfortune. The doctor can make no money in jail—as in the metaphorical but impressive language of the untutored Indian, "the eagle catch no beaver there," wherewith to discharge his obligations. It is true that occasionally, some friend, moved by feelings of sensibility, may come forward and pay the debt and rather than the debtor should be immured amidst the vapors of a dungeon, but this is taxing charity to feed avarice; but this is one in other st tes has demonstrated the policy of removing the body of a debtor from the claim of his creditors, and when humanity joins repentance in urging the repeal of the present law, their united voice will be heeded.

It is with feelings of no ordinary gratification that we have witnessed the stand taken in favor of the opposed debtor, by the Bulletin and other city journals, and we do hope that the legislature will not let the session pass by without amending the law as now in force.

The U. S ship Vandalia, Uriah P. Levy, Esq. commander arrived off the S. W. Pass on the 20th inst., from the coast of Mexico, last from off Matamoras, which she sailed 31st Feb. She brings $120,076 specie, consigned as follows:

John Kelly	$24,186
P Orr ers	15,600
J Foster	8,000
J Cordero	61,500
R. H Bloxham	1,91
J W. Zacharie & co.	3,000
Schmidt & Werner	4,800
	$120,076

Per U S ship of war Lovant.

Gossip & co	$1,000
Order	3,600
M de Lizardi & co	27,000
	$31,600

☞ In the report of the proceedings of the Senate on Tuesday, published in yesterday's Bee, a verbal error occurred. Instead of saying "the substitute to Mr Winn *repeals*," &c., it should read "the substitute of Mr. Winn *revives*," &c. The error is of some importance, as the sense of the sentence becomes altered by its rectification.

☞ VAN TROMP ILLUSTRATED.—A few copies of this admirable work with illustrations by Cruikshanks, may be obtained at Norman, Steel & Co's, No. 14 Camp street.

☞ CINCINNATI RAILROAD BANK BILL.—The Louisville Courier of the 20th says "Just as our paper was going to press, we received information from Frankfort, that the railroad bank bill had passed the senate by a majority of one vote—the vote being 19 ayes to 18 nays. It will be returned to the house, by which time several members opposed to its adoption will be absent; and its eventual passage is hence considered extremely probable.

MISSISSIPPI.—The bill passed by the legislature of this state, authorizing the Union Bank to issue post notes, was vetoed by his locofoco excellency governor M Nutt. The attempt to persist notwithstanding the veto, has failed by a single vote,—one of the members friendly to the bill being absent.

NORTH EASTERN BOUNDARY.

IMPORTANT.—An express arrived at Augusta (Me) on the 15th, from the disputed territory, bringing intelligence that the land-agent of Maine, Mr Rufus McIntyre, who had gone into the territory with the consent of the New Brunswick authorities to drive off trespassers, had been arrested, with seven of his men, and committed to the jail in Fredrichton, N. B. It was reported that the governor of Maine had called the council together. Much excitement existed at Augusta; the rumor was current that the land agent's party had been fired upon, but only a horse killed.

We subjoin an extract from a letter addressed to the English Minister at Mexico, by the commander of the French blockading squadron at Vera Cruz. The source from which we obtain it vouches for its entire authenticity, and we hasten to lay it before the public, that the fortunes and treasonable policy pursued by the individuals at the head of the administration in Mexico may be correctly appreciated.

Our readers, no doubt, remember the letter from Admiral Baudain to General Urea, which we published some time since. In this document indignant complaints were made of the foul calumnies levelled against its author by General Santa Ana. One would have thought that with facts so distinctly stated as they were in M. Baudin's letter, and established by the correspondence of Santa Ana himself, the slanders directed against the French officer would be unheard beyond the miserable coteries from which they had emanated, and that above all, the government of Mexico would not employ the wretched pretext in order to vilify an officer whose generous treatment of the Mexicans after the fall of San Juan de Ulloa, should have shielded him from base invective.

This, however, has not been the case, and Bustamente with an effrontery perfectly astonishing, has become the sole translator of these infamous charges, and has even invested them with the authority of official language in his message to the Mexican Congress. He has thus voluntarily discarded all delicacy and all faith towards the French commander.

Bustamente seems to have consigned the destinies of Mexico to the special custody of Santa Ana. Truly a apt representative and guardian of public liberty and republican equality!

Extract of a letter to Mr. P——lcchain.

24th January, 1839.

It is not only of the ministers and their salaried writers that I have a right to complain—I have to demand the Mexican government, reparation for an outrage of the most serious nature, by the calumny of the circumstance under which it has been addressed, and by the elevated position of the personage from whom it emanated—no less a personage than the chief of the state himself.

In his speech at the opening of the general congress of the 1st inst, president Bustamente, speaking of the attack on Vera Cruz on the 5th December, has dared to say, that I had committed an act of disloyalty, violating the compromise which was pending." This is an infamous calumny.

One of two things—the president has repeated the accusation of disloyalty, only from the assertion of Santa Anna, without taking the trouble to read my correspondence with that general, and even without examining whether an accusation, coming from such a source, could have the character or semblance of veracity—in this case I could much pity the President, but with an act of inexcusable levity, as the chief of the state, whose words should bear the impress of dignity, and particularly under circumstances, where a subject and the whole nation, and may be published throughout the world—over the president has done all his duty obliged him to do—by compelling to it presented to him, the correspondence which took place between Santa Ana and myself—if so, he has unpublished proof that nothing existed which bore the least resemblance of a portion of disloyalty, or of a suspension, hostilities—nothing which obliged me in the language, to defer the attack upon Vera Cruz; and although arrived at this conviction, he had the boldness to associate himself with Santa Ana, in the crime of speaking in the face of the world, from his high seat in first magistrate of the republic, an accusation which I knew to be an infamous calumny.

Indeed, my dear sir, I cannot believe such a perversion on the part of president Bustamente, who has reputation for courage and honor; but perversity only, the accusation of which I complain, has been made by him; and this situation is not only a painful to me, but also to the whole nation to which I belong.

I care nothing for the other falsehoods and bravadoes of the official report of Santa Ana, upon what he has vaunted to call his victory. These are things which do not touch the honor, and the will discharge all duty; but I will not permit any one to accuse me of a dishonorable act.

Therefore, I have, myself, a solemn reparation to demand of the Mexican government, and I now do so, my dear sir, that I have already addressed my government to obtain for me redress, which doubtless will be pursued with all the means in its power, should the president determine to withhold it from me.

[FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.]

Washington, Feby 18th, 1839.

The intelligence from Richmond is up to the evening of Saturday, the 16th inst. The legislature went to the election of senator of the United States, to serve for six years from the 4th of March next. On Friday, the 16th, Mr. Peyton nominated Wm. C. Rives. Mr. Wilcox nominated John Tyler. Mr. Watkins nominated J. Y. Mason.

A very excited discussion arose, in which the course of Mr. Rives was freely commented on by Van Buren leaders, and one or two whigs. The debate continued to a late hour; and the execution of the joint order was postponed till Saturday, when the balloting was commenced.

On the first ballot, Mr. J. Y. Mason, (Loco Foco), received..... 67 votes.

Mr. Tyler,..... 65 "

Mr. Rives,..... 28 "

The second and third ballottings resulted as follows:—

	2d ballot.	3d ballot.
Mr. Mason	67	67 votes.
Mr. Tyler	64	61 "
Mr. Rives	29	32 "

Further proceedings in the election were then postponed till Monday, (this day). It is believed that Mr Rives will finally be elected. Either this will be the case, or there will be no choice.

The select committee appointed to enquire into the charges preferred against Commodore Elliott, by passed midshipman Charles C. Barton, is composed of the following gentlemen: Messrs. Naylor, McClure, Childers, Ingham, Mallory, Hamer and Lyon.

Mr. Pickens also opposed the motion on the ground that petitions and memorials disrespectful to members, and hostile to the rights of a portion of the union might be smuggled into the house, which if presented separately, and their character disclosed would be rejected.

The chair stated that the practice of the house at the close of the session had been conformable several times to the motion of Mr. Cambreleng.

Mr. Garland, of Louisiana, intimated that he had received from the governor of Louisiana, the joint resolutions of the legislature of that state in relation to the currency, the revenue, sub-treasury system, and requesting the senators and representatives with reference to measures connected with this subject. The senate will now proceed to present them.

The question was then taken on the motion of Mr. Cambreleng, and it was carried by a large vote.

The house then proceeded to the consideration of the report of the select committee on public lands, and the morning hour was spent on it as usual.

Mr. Robertson moved that this report be referred to a committee of the whole, and made the order of the day for to-morrow and the next day, when he hoped it would be disposed of. This was a suspension of the rules was lost.

Mr. Garland then offered the resolutions above referred again. They were received, laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

This was the regular day for receiving petitions, in the house of representatives: but Mr. Cambreleng immediately after the journal was read, and expressing a great wish that the public business should be proceeded with as promptly as possible, moved that instead of calling on the states in their order, or petitions as usual, the speaker should receive petitions from the most members with their names respectively inscribed on them, and the committee designated to which they wish they should be referred.

Mr. Adams objected: and insisted on the right of members to present the petitions they were charged with, severally.

On motion of Mr. Cambreling, the bill to extend the limitation of the time for the issuing of treasury notes was taken up, and the question being on its final passage, a long debate arose, in which the hypocrisy of the administration in pretending that they had no design of calling for more treasury notes, was fully expressed.

The bill was finally passed, yeas 102, nays 88.

The house then adjourned.

The senate spent two hours, to-day, in the consideration of private bills.

At one o'clock, the senate took up the bill for securing the freedom of elections:—but Mr. Cuthbert, who was entitled to the floor, was indisposed, and the measure was laid aside.

Mr. Wright's bill "more effectually to secure the public money in the hands of officers and agents of the government, and to punish public defaulters," was then taken up.

Mr. Rives offered an amendment, proposing to substitute for the whole bill, proposing that the whole business of collecting, keeping, and disbursing should be conducted by the agency of banks.

After some remarks from Messrs. Rives, Wright, Calhoun and Webster,

The question was taken, and, the amendment was lost by the following vote:

YEAS.—Messrs. Allen, Bayard, Bibb, Brown, Buchanan, Calhoun, Clay, Clayton, Crittenden, Cuthbert, Davis, Evans, Graham, Kent, King, Leigh, Mangum, Merrick, Morris, Nicholas, Phelps, Porter, Preston, Rives, Robbins, Smith, Southard, Swift, Tallmadge, Tipton, Webster, Wilkins, Williams, Woodbridge—33.

NAYS.—Messrs. Benton, Brown, Buckner, Dana, Fulton, Grundy, Hubbard, Kane, Linn, Lyon, McKean, Mouton, Niles, Norvell, Pierce, Prentiss, Roane, Robinson, Sevier, Shepley, Strange, Walker, Wall, Wright, Young—26.

The bill then coming up itself, for a third reading,

A further discussion arose, in the course of which Mr Calhoun declared the present system of keeping bank notes in the hands of public officers, was the greatest folly on God's earth!

Mr. Tallmadge offered an amendment requiring the public money, when deposited in bank, to be placed to the credit of the treasurer of the United States, and not of the collector or receiver. It was rejected, ayes 20 nays 29.

The senate then ordered the bill to be engrossed, and read a third time, and then adjourned.

Washington, Feb. 19, 1839.

The Great Western arrived at New-York on Saturday evening last, Feb. 16th, at eight o'clock, with 146 passengers, having left Bristol on the 28th of January at 5 o'clock, P. M. She had a very rough passage.

The news is highly interesting—but I refer you to the slips of the northern papers. A letter from New-York says: "the Bank of England has begun again to appreciate American bills of exchange. The flow is aimed at our cotton market, and at Mr Jaudon and the American stocks. The Bank probably thinks cotton is too high, and that our state stocks are too brisk on the London Exchange. The cotton market has not advanced since the last dates—but stands firm.—The grain market is without a change, but would have fallen off in England if France had not put an interdict upon the exportation."

We hear from Boston that the post master at Worcester, Mass has run off or rid off, a defaulter to the government and a *counterfeiter too*—another proof of the blessings of the sub-treasury. It is a commentary on the proceedings of the senate in reference to the bill making provision for the *safe keeping* of the public money!

In the senate, to-day, Mr. Calhoun presented the credentials of Mr. Williams of Mississippi, containing the confirmation by the legislature of that state of his appointment by the governor as a senator of the United States to serve out the remainder of this session.—Mr. Williams appeared and was again qualified by taking the oaths.

The senate then took up the bill providing for the special occupation of that part of Florida now overrun by marauding bands of hostile Indians.

Mr Morris expressed a wish that the bill should be allowed to lie over.

Mr. Benton objected; and insisted that the measure should now be disposed of.

Mr Morris then rose and spoke at great length in opposition to the bill. A great portion of his remarks were devoted to abolition, and he charged the authors of the bill with a design to create another slave state with a view to its admission into the Union.

Mr Davis followed, also, in opposition to the bill; and went at some length into a review of the measures of the administration in regard to the war in Florida.

Mr. Benton replied, and the debate was continued by Messrs. Linn, Benton and Davis for some time.

The bill was passed ayes 25, nays 18.

The senate then took up the bill surrendering the reversionary interest of the United States in Indian reservations.

A long debate followed, and the result was the rejection of the measure.

In the house of representatives, the morning hour was occupied as usual with a discussion in relation to the public lands, on the report of the select committee.—No decision was come to.

The rules were suspended for the purpose of considering the following resolution offered by Mr. Mallory of Virginia:

Resolved, That for the more effectual execution of the ministerial duties of the navy department, the secretary of the navy be directed to report to the house, at the commencement of the next congress, a plan for the organization of this branch of the public service, adopting as the basis of his plan the division of the those duties now performed by the board of commissioners, and their assignment to separate bureaus.

The resolution was adopted.

The house then resolved itself into committee of the whole on the bill making appropriations for the civil and diplomatic expenses of the government, and the question being on striking out the items for the organization to the board of navy commissioners.

Mr. Kennedy of Baltimore rose, and spoke at great length on the general policy of the past and present administrations.

Mr Howard of Maryland, followed in reply.

Mr. Kennedy rejoined.

And without coming to any decision the house adjourned.

LIST OF OFFICERS

Of U. S. ship of war Vandalia.

Uriah P. Levy, Esq. commander.
Lawrence Pennington, 1st lieut.; Spencer C. Gist, 2d do.; Henry G. Paul, 3d do.
Edmund Lanier, master.
J. Vaughan Smith, surgeon.
Wm. A. Green, asst. do.
James Brooks, purser.
Jno N. Moffit, passed midshipman.
Edmund Lanier, master.
H Hors y, captain's clerk.
Samuel Maxey, Wm L. Blunton, Chas. Brodie, A Nicholson, midshipmen.
Paul Ammon, H. R D vesport, J. C. Bielaski, J. C. Watts, Lyman R. Law, midshipmen.
Wm. Dewey, gunner.
Geo Parker, armorer.
Danl C. Mallus, carpenter.

FROM KEY WEST.

The U. S mail schooner Hope, captain Griffiths, arrived here yesterday from Key West.

The brig Falcan, (of Savannah) Jones, from Savannah for Tampa bay, with a cargo of grain, for government was wrecked on Carysford reef, 20th ult—sailed for the lost—crew and part of the cargo, saved. The brig Lapwing, Wilson, from Bath, (Me.) for Havana, was wrecked on Great Guana Key, 10th ult—vessel total lost—crew and part of the cargo, saved, sailed, and taken to Key West.

Notice to masters of vessels passing the Gulf of Florida.—Captain Edward Griffiths, who has commanded the mail boat, the past year, from this port to Key West Florida, informs us, that the reported false light, shown by the wreckers, opposite Alligator reef, at the watch fire on Tea Table Key. The master and owners of the revenue cutter Campbell, are in possession of this key which is the property of Mr. Fatio, and when the guard at night replenish the fire, it has the appearance of a revolving light. Captain Griffin is well acquainted with the coast, and says this light bears N. N. W. of Alligator reef, and is very near Indian Key. This information is given for the benefit of masters of vessels, and captain Griffiths wishes the northern papers to notice the above.

Charleston Mercury.

FURTHER EXTRACTS BY THE GREAT WESTERN.

The packet ship Oxford has been brought into dock Her hull is said to be as sound as when she was wrecked. The St Andrew and Pennsylvania, the Liverpool Albion hears, will be complete wrecks. The Lakewoods has gone to pieces.

The cotton market on the 30th ult. was nearly the same as by the Great Western. At a meeting of the committee who have the management of the funds raised for the relief of the sufferers and others in the late auction, they voted £400 to the steam tug company for the use of their steamer Victoria, £100 to the captain, £10 to the mate, and £5 to each of the crew.

Dreadful scene at Sea.—Capt. Griffiths, of the Oxford, finding by the newspapers that he was intended to present a testimonial to the American captain and crew of the Eliza Ann, of Boston, for their kindness, waited upon alderman Pirie with a subscription of 5*l*. and expressed in warm terms his admiration of the conduct of captain Buswell.

THE BANK OF ENGLAND AGAIN IN THE FIELD.

From the London Morning Herald.

It is not generally known that a considerable part of the business in dry goods of British manufacture for the New York market has, for some time past, been carried on by means of credit bills drawn on London houses. In order our general readers may be familiar with the nature of these bills, it will be necessary to explain that some of the firms in the American trade are in the custom of granting credits against securities lodged with their correspondents in London, and other American cities, to American agents or dealers who buy our manufacturers by drafts on those London houses. Our commercial readers will at once see that this is the revival, or rather continuance of the custom adopted by American merchants prior to the year 1837, and a practice which the Bank of England fostered by the ready discount of a portion, or paper abroad analogous to accommodation bills, and which in fact, are what discount brokers term pig upon bacon bills. In course every one will remember that this system brought into life so many mushroom firms, and that at last, when the Bank of England became frightened at the phantasmagoria of their own creation, they knock them down as though they were nine pins, and in the same time, hurried some of the oldest houses in that trade into the vortex of the panic. Several instances have lately occurred, in which bills of the nature to which we have referred, and which in fact are similar to those in use prior to 1837, have been rejected, not only by the Bank of England, but by some of the leading bankers and others of our monetary, on being presented for discount, all ought drawn upon firms known and appreciated to be of great wealth. Some paper has also been rejected because it was drawn against cotton and stock speculations, and it is said that there has lately been as much gambling in the former as in latter, whilst we believe some bills have been thrown out which were drawn in the north of Europe against speculations in foreign corn.

We understand that the bills which have been rejected already reject. I have been accepted by firms that have more lately entered into this mode of transaction, or once, and to those acquainted with the commercial affairs market of New-York it will not be necessary to point the distinction, while those of the older houses as yet have not been so much pitched to.

We have referred to these very important circumstances because there are symptoms that the speculation in Foreign and British stocks are shared in our Union, some Ac. which has been so lucrative for the last few years, is likely to be at an end. We have always held that the public business should be conducted with as promptly as possible, moved that instead of calling on the states in their order, or petitions as usual, the speaker should receive petitions from the most members with their names respectively inscribed on them, and the committee designated to which they wish they should be referred.

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Mr Morris then rose and spoke at great length in opposition to the bill. A great portion of his remarks were devoted to abolition, and he charged the authors of the bill with a design to create another slave state with a view to its admission into the Union.

Mr Davis followed, also, in opposition to the bill; and went at some length into a review of the measures of the administration in regard to the war in Florida.

Mr. Benton replied, and the debate was continued by Messrs. Linn, Benton and Davis for some time.

The bill was passed ayes 25, nays 18.

The senate then took up the bill surrendering the reversionary interest of the United States in Indian reservations.

A long debate followed, and the result was the rejection of the measure.

In the house of representatives, the morning hour was occupied as usual with a discussion in relation to the public lands, on the report of the select committee.—No decision was come to.

The rules were suspended for the purpose of considering the following resolution offered by Mr. Mallory of Virginia:

Resolved, That for the more effectual execution of the ministerial duties of the navy department, the secretary of the navy be directed to report to the house, at the commencement of the next congress, a plan for the organization of this branch of the public service, adopting as the basis of his plan the division of the those duties now performed by the board of commissioners, and their assignment to separate bureaus.

The resolution was adopted.

The house then resolved itself into committee of the whole on the bill making appropriations for the civil and diplomatic expenses of the government, and the question being on striking out the items for the organization to the board of navy commissioners.

Mr. Kennedy of Baltimore rose, and spoke at great length on the general policy of the past and present administrations.

Mr Howard of Maryland, followed in reply.

Mr. Kennedy rejoined.

And without coming to any decision the house adjourned.

LIST OF OFFICERS

Of U. S. ship of war Vandalia.

Uriah P. Levy, Esq. commander.
Lawrence Pennington, 1st lieut.; Spencer C. Gist, 2d do.; Henry G. Paul, 3d do.
Edmund Lanier, master.
J. Vaughan Smith, surgeon.
Wm. A. Green, asst. do.
James Brooks, purser.
Jno N. Moffit, passed midshipman.
H Hors y, captain's clerk.
Samuel Maxey, Wm L. Blunton, Chas. Brodie, A Nicholson, midshipmen.
Paul Ammon, H. R D vesport, J. C. Bielaski, J. C. Watts, Lyman R. Law, midshipmen.
Wm. Dewey, gunner.
Geo Parker, armorer.
Danl C. Mallus, carpenter.

FROM KEY WEST.

The U. S mail schooner Hope, captain Griffiths, arrived here yesterday from Key West.

The brig Falcan, (of Savannah) Jones, from Savannah for Tampa bay, with a cargo of grain, for government was wrecked on Carysford reef, 20th ult—sailed for the lost—crew and part of the cargo, saved. The brig Lapwing, Wilson, from Bath, (Me.) for Havana, was wrecked on Great Guana Key, 10th ult—vessel total lost—crew and part of the cargo, saved, sailed, and taken to Key West.

Notice to masters of vessels passing the Gulf of Florida.—Captain Edward Griffiths, who has commanded the mail boat, the past year, from this port to Key West Florida, informs us, that the reported false light, shown by the wreckers, opposite Alligator reef, at the watch fire on Tea Table Key. The master and owners of the revenue cutter Campbell, are in possession of this key which is the property of Mr. Fatio, and when the guard at night replenish the fire, it has the appearance of a revolving light. Captain Griffin is well acquainted with the coast, and says this light bears N. N. W. of Alligator reef, and is very near Indian Key. This information is given for the benefit of masters of vessels, and captain Griffiths wishes the northern papers to notice the above.

Charleston Mercury.

FURTHER EXTRACTS BY THE GREAT WESTERN.

The packet ship Oxford has been brought into dock Her hull is said to be as sound as when she was wrecked. The St Andrew and Pennsylvania, the Liverpool Albion hears, will be complete wrecks. The Lakewoods has gone to pieces.

The cotton market on the 30th ult. was nearly the same as by the Great Western. At a meeting of the committee who have the management of the funds raised for the relief of the sufferers and others in the late auction, they voted £400 to the steam tug company for the use of their steamer Victoria, £100 to the captain, £10 to the mate, and £5 to each of the crew.

Dreadful scene at Sea.—Capt. Griffiths, of the Oxford, finding by the newspapers that he was intended to present a testimonial to the American captain and crew of the Eliza Ann, of Boston, for their kindness, waited upon alderman Pirie with a subscription of 5*l*. and expressed in warm terms his admiration of the conduct of captain Buswell.

THE BANK OF ENGLAND AGAIN IN THE FIELD.

From the London Morning Herald.

It is not generally known that a considerable part of the business in dry goods of British manufacture for the New York market has, for some time past, been carried on by means of credit bills drawn on London houses. In order our general readers may be familiar with the nature of these bills, it will be necessary to explain that some of the firms in the American trade are in the custom of granting credits against securities lodged with their correspondents in London, and other American cities, to American agents or dealers who buy our manufacturers by drafts on those London houses. Our commercial readers will at once see that this is the revival, or rather continuance of the custom adopted by American merchants prior to the year 1837, and a practice which the Bank of England fostered by the ready discount of a portion or paper abroad analogous to accommodation bills, and which in fact, are what discount brokers term pig upon bacon bills. In course every one will remember that this system brought into life so many mushroom firms, and that at last, when the Bank of England became frightened at the phantasmagoria of their own creation, they knock them down as though they were nine pins, and in the same time, hurried some of the oldest houses in that trade into the vortex of the panic. Several instances have lately occurred, in which bills of the nature to which we have referred, and which in fact are similar to those in use prior to 1837, have been rejected, not only by the Bank of England, but by some of the leading bankers and others of our monetary, on being presented for discount, all ought drawn upon firms known and appreciated to be of great wealth. Some paper has also been rejected because it was drawn against cotton and stock speculations, and it is said that there has lately been as much gambling in the former as in latter, whilst we believe some bills have been thrown out which were drawn in the north of Europe against speculations in foreign corn.

We understand that the bills which have been rejected already reject. I have been accepted by firms that have more lately entered into this mode of transaction, or once, and to those acquainted with the commercial affairs market of New-York it will not be necessary to point the distinction, while those of the older houses as yet have not been so much pitched to.

We have referred to these very important circumstances because there are symptoms that the speculation in Foreign and British stocks are shared in our Union, some Ac. which has been so lucrative for the last few years, is likely to be at an end. We have always held that the public business should be conducted with as promptly as possible, moved that instead of calling on the states in their order, or petitions as usual, the speaker should receive petitions from the most members with their names respectively inscribed on them, and the committee designated to which they wish they should be referred.

Mr. Adams objected: and insisted on the right of members to present the petitions they were charged with, severally.

On motion of Mr. Cambreling, the bill to extend the limitation of the time for the issuing of treasury notes was taken up, and the question being on its final passage, a long debate arose, in which the hypocrisy of the administration in pretending that they had no design of calling for more treasury notes, was fully expressed.

The bill was finally passed, yeas 102, nays 88.

The house then adjourned.

The senate spent two hours, to-day, in the consideration of private bills.

At one o'clock, the senate took up the bill for securing the freedom of elections:—but Mr. Cuthbert, who was entitled to the floor, was indisposed, and the measure was laid aside.

Mr. Wright's bill "more effectually to secure the public money in the hands of officers and agents of the government, and to punish public defaulters," was then taken up.

Mr. Rives offered an amendment, proposing to substitute for the whole bill, proposing that the whole business of collecting, keeping, and disbursing should be conducted by the agency of banks.

After some remarks from Messrs. Rives, Wright, Calhoun and Webster,

The question was taken, and, the amendment was lost by the following vote:

YEAS.—Messrs. Allen, Bayard, Bibb, Brown, Buchanan, Calhoun, Clay, Clayton, Crittenden, Cuthbert, Davis, Evans, Graham, Kent, King, Leigh, Mangum, Merrick, Morris, Nicholas, Phelps, Porter, Preston, Rives, Robbins, Smith, Southard, Swift, Tallmadge, Tipton, Webster, Wilkins, Williams, Woodbridge—33.

NAYS.—Messrs. Benton, Brown, Buckner, Dana, Fulton, Grundy, Hubbard, Kane, Linn, Lyon, McKean, Mouton, Niles, Norvell, Pierce, Prentiss, Roane, Robinson, Sevier, Shepley, Strange, Walker, Wall, Wright, Young—26.

The bill then coming up itself, for a third reading,

A further discussion arose, in the course of which Mr Calhoun declared the present system of keeping bank notes in the hands of public officers, was the greatest folly on God's earth!

Mr. Tallmadge offered an amendment requiring the public money, when deposited in bank, to be placed to the credit of the treasurer of the United States, and not of the collector or receiver. It was rejected, ayes 20 nays 29.

The senate then ordered the bill to be engrossed, and read a third time, and then adjourned.

Washington, Feb. 19, 1839.

The Great Western arrived at New-York on Saturday evening last, Feb. 16th, at eight o'clock, with 146 passengers, having left Bristol on the 28th of January at 5 o'clock, P. M. She had a very rough passage.

The news is highly interesting—but I refer you to the slips of the northern papers. A letter from New-York says: "the Bank of England has begun again to appreciate American bills of exchange. The flow is aimed at our cotton market, and at Mr Jaudon and the American stocks. The Bank probably thinks cotton is too high, and that our state stocks are too brisk on the London Exchange. The cotton market has not advanced since the last dates—but stands firm.—The grain market is without a change, but would have fallen off in England if France had not put an interdict upon the exportation."

We hear from Boston that the post master at Worcester, Mass has run off or rid off, a defaulter to the government and a *counterfeiter too*—another proof of the blessings of the sub-treasury. It is a commentary on the proceedings of the senate in reference to the bill making provision for the *safe keeping* of the public money!

In the senate, to-day, Mr. Calhoun presented the credentials of Mr. Williams of Mississippi, containing the confirmation by the legislature of that state of his appointment by the governor as a senator of the United States to serve out the remainder of this session.—Mr. Williams appeared and was again qualified by taking the oaths.

The senate then took up the bill providing for the special occupation of that part of Florida now overrun by marauding bands of hostile Indians.

Mr Morris expressed a wish that the bill should be allowed to lie over.

Mr. Benton objected; and insisted that the measure should now be disposed of.

Mr Morris then rose and spoke at great length in opposition to the bill. A great portion of his remarks were