

increase at all, but of a change in the mode of compensation. And, he asked, ought it not to be changed? Was not an allegation every day presented to their eyes in the public prints, that the sessions of Congress were protracted for the convenience of some members who saved four dollars a day out of six? Mr. R. said he could conceive nothing worse than giving pay not adequate to the support of a member of this house as he ought to live, and yet very adequate to the support and profit too of a man who lives as a Member of this House ought not to live. This was the very surest mode that could be fixed on to make them tools of the Executive. He did not mean to speak of the present members—but he knew, he said, that in old times there were members who did live as members ought not to live, and there were members who laid up a very considerable sum by the end of the session, which they carried home with them in round Eagles and Half Eagles, and not in rags. Ambition, the infirmity of noble minds, might bring a man here, he said; but he seldom served long, because a proper regard to his private affairs would not authorize him to do so. The consequence had been, he added, that young men, not destitute of capacity certainly, nor perhaps of education, but of any thing that constitutes statesmen, had stepped into the chair of this house, to the heads of committees; and to their genius, if you will, but nothing like wisdom, are the destinies of the nation committed; and by the time they form some tolerable notion of the affairs of government, they too are obliged to go home, and their place is supplied by another brood equally callous and unledged. If the state governments did not pay their officers properly, Mr. R. said he had no objection to offer such compensation to their men of talents as should compel the state governments to loose their niggard purse strings. In speaking of Legislatures, Mr. R. said, we see about November, about the time the fogs set in, men enough assemble in the various Legislatures, general and state, to make a regiment; then the Legislative maggot begins to bite; then exists the rage to make new and repeal old laws. He said he should not think we should find ourselves at all worse off if no law of a general nature had been passed by either general or state governments for ten or twelve years last past: like Mr. Jefferson, he said, he was averse to too much regulation—averse to making the extreme medicine of the constitution our daily food. He referred to the depreciation of paper as being a standing violation of the constitution (where it provides that the compensation of judges shall not be diminished during their continuance in office,) and intimated that an attempt had been lately made to induce the Chief Justice (Marshall) to accept his salary in the paper of this district, &c. The salaries of the officers of the government were notoriously scanty; and though he would rather see the salary a disgrace to the man, than the man a disgrace to the office, he would give the public servants such salaries as should enable them to live without the imputation of dishonor. For, he asked, what man can live here on 5000 dollars a year—he may breathe on it—but who can keep a family, rent a house, furnish it, keep an equipage, give and receive entertainments on that annual amount? A five penny bit would be just as adequate to that purpose, both being notoriously incompetent. A man so situated may have no patrimonial estate—he may be *sui fortune faber* have sprung from the Lord knows where, and be without resources; if he lives as he ought in his station, the imputation is, that he wants money and must have it, and that he has the means of coming at it directly or indirectly. If he had no other object, he said, in increasing the compensation of the members, if he could thereby compel the state governments to rescue their officers from the situation in which they were placed, he would do it. We have a right, said he, to go into market and bid against them. When we want a lawyer in an important case, do we go to him who will do our business for fifteen shillings, or to the Emmetts, the Tazewells, the Pinkneys or the Wickhams? When our personal interest is concerned, we apply to master workmen, not to those who will job for us at six dollars a day, &c.

Mr. WEBSTER said, the resolution presented no question but that of enquiry, in that view he should concur in it. There was, he said, something radically defective in the present system of legislation. No legislature in the world he believed, however various its concerns, or extensive its sphere, sat as long as this, notwithstanding that its sphere of operation was so greatly contracted by the intervention of eighteen distinct legislatures. The system does not compel on the part of members that attention which the nature of their public business requires. As referred to the letters and papers on the desk of the members every day; they ought to have none of them. When a man came into this house, he ought to leave on the threshold every feeling and thought, but what was connected with the pub-

lic service; private letters and private conversation ought not to be permitted to encroach on the unity of his object. If in any way the attention of the house could be fixed on the speaker, Mr. W. said, there would be an end to long speeches: for he defied any man to address any assembly of this sort, and address them long if that attention was fixed on them—they would cease to speak when they ceased to have any thing to say on any thing or subject under debate. Mr. W. maintained that, under proper regulations, a session of two months in a year was perfectly adequate to the ordinary business of legislation. He expressed no opinion whether the compensation of members should be increased or diminished; but he was very willing to enquire whether the mode of compensation could not be beneficially changed.

Mr. STANFORD said he had no idea of opposing this motion for enquiry when up before, but had merely risen to protest against any increase of compensation. The enquiry he thought proper; he believed such a change might be devised as would economise both the time and the funds of the nation.

The resolution was then agreed to without opposition.

#### FROM THE WESTERN CITIZEN.

Copy of a letter from General DESHA to the Editor of The Western Citizen—dated

WASHINGTON CITY, March 10, 1816

SIR,—Attention to my duty here, must plead my apology to my friends, for not writing oftener. It is impossible for a member to take up much time in writing, without being guilty of a dereliction of duty.

If there has been more harmony this session than usual between parties, there certainly has been less business done, owing to that extraordinary itching for speech making. It is very natural, (as ours is a talking government,) that the new members, (and there are no less than upwards of eighty of them,) should be anxious to distinguish themselves in that fashionable folly, but what astonishes me, is that the evil (for it really has become an evil) should grow with the old members—particularly after witnessing the evil that resulted from it last session of Congress, when the government was apparently on the brink of ruin, for want of action and energy in its councils. Dispatch is not the order of the day here, hence our tardiness in Legislative proceedings.

There was one subject, and many considered it an important one; it was at least a weighty one, which was carried through the house of Representatives with great dispatch indeed, but it was not difficult to understand, and carried on its face powerful reasons. It was a bill, that was introduced in the house on Wednesday last, went through the Committee of the whole house, its three several readings in the house, and passed on Friday, changing the mode of paying, and raising the pay of the members of this and subsequent Congress. The bill contemplates a round sum, instead of a per diem, that is, fifteen hundred dollars per year to each member, and double that sum to the Speaker of the house of representatives, and Vice-President pro tempore. You will perhaps think that delicacy ought to have forbidden us, to vote ourselves money, but that would be laughed at here. It was called false delicacy, or a kind of squeamishness, inconsistent with great, liberal, and enlightened minds.

DALLAS's favourite project of a national bank is still on the carpet, and notwithstanding the very accommodating spirit of the introducer, in permitting the Feds to model it to suit their views, I think its ultimate fate doubtful. On the subject of granting a charter creating this large monied incorporation, constitutionally, and expediency, or necessity is deemed synonymous, yet there are some so old fashioned, as to think, that as they have sworn to support the Constitution, they have as much right to judge of it as those who have preceded them. The mention of constitutional difficulties are as unfashionable here, as the word *economy*! which, when accidentally mentioned in debate, has an instantaneous effect on the risible muscles of government. Many believe, and I confess I am one of the number, that Dallas has it in his power, by almost a single dash of the pen, to remedy the evil complained of by saying that after a given time, nothing would be received in payment for dues to government, except government paper, specie, or the notes of banks that redeem their paper with specie; it could not injure banks that are solvent, and those that are operating on fictitious capital ought to sink, as they are only calculated to deceive, and injure the people, and the longer they are permitted to keep up the deception, the more serious the evil will be. Would not this be safer, than the project of increasing the evil to an enormous amount, in order to cure it? But this man who, it is said, received his first impressions within the rays of the court of Saint James, appears determined to force the government into his favorite project, by which independ-

ent, and indeed immense factions will be made at the outset, by those gentry, who by their speculations, obtained the government stock at a reduced value, in the time of its greatest difficulty.

It might be deemed selfish to say, that the West would have no advantage of the loaves and fishes arising out of this speculative measure, as there is but little Government stock west of the mountains, and specie is too scarce to pay up the whole subscription in that article.—Independent of other considerations, the benefits of this prodigious machine, would entirely accrue to the speculators and great mercantile characters of the Eastern seaport towns, to the great disadvantage of the back countries, and particularly the agricultural part of the community.

It is not in my nature to anticipate evil, but I am afraid that some of our infant Manufacturing Establishments, are about to receive a vital stab. I am informed by a member of the committee of Ways and Means, that they will report the General Tariff tomorrow, and that only twenty per cent, is contemplated to be laid on woollen and cotton goods imported. If we can't get it changed in the House, I shall conclude that the mercantile influence, aided by the short-sighted policy of some of the southern gentry, will do this country more substantial injury, in this one act, than two such wars as the late one with England would do, as respects our future independence.

I think it very fortunate for the future welfare of this Government, that the Constitution provides against granting titles of nobility, as there is such an itching for power, and exclusive privileges. The house of Representatives, have passed a bill giving the Members of Congress the privilege of franking LETTERS in the recess, as well as during the session of Congress. What do you think of this? Are we not high fellows? don't you think upon the whole, that we are doing pretty well for ourselves? Is it not a true saying, that aristocracy like live stock, will find its way on foot to market. In relation to the Presidential Election, a caucus is spoken of, and will, perhaps, be held in a few days. It is not so important which of the characters should be selected, as that there should not be a schism in the republican ranks.

#### Latest Foreign Intelligence.

LONDON JAN. 17.

Dispatches to PARIS, received yesterday announce the arrest of three English gentlemen by the French police, charged with having assisted Lavalette in his escape. Report names Sir Robert Wilson, captain Hutchinson, and Mr. Bruce, as the three that have been thrown into the Abbaye; but another account substitutes a neut. Robert Wilson for the above named gentleman. Sir Robert Wilson is well known to all Europe, not only by his literary but military services against Bonaparte. Captain Hutchinson is a very young officer of the guard, a relation of lord Donoughmore; and Mr. Bruce is the eldest son of the banker, Crawford Bruce, esq.

Our minister, sir Charles Stuart, as soon as he heard of their arrest, demanded their immediate enlargement, when he was told that they had contrived and assisted in the escape of Lavalette; that they had procured a passport for an English officer two or three days before, and that they travelled with general Lavalette all the way to Mons, introduced him under the passport they had obtained to the English military post, procured it there to be countersigned, and passed him on. After which, and having breakfasted with the English officer in command, they returned to Paris. This was, it is said, the report made by the French police to the English minister, and which he has transmitted to ministers that he may receive their further instructions how to act. What truth may be in this charge we pretend not to know—but this we know, that the British government will not be slow to adopt whatever measures the nature and circumstances of the case may call for.

#### PRIVATE LETTERS.

Paris, Jan. 11  
"All is at present apparently quiet; but there is a sort of tranquillity which the persons who have been conversant with the symptoms of the revolution at various periods think more alarming than actual disorder. The royalists are uniting themselves in every different kind of meetings, ostensibly for common purposes, but in reality for that of consolidating their strength to resist their opponents. No secret is made by several persons who belong to their association, that their real object is to keep down the disturbers (les perturbateurs.) There are frequent orders of extraordinary service to the national guard, in consequence of the dispatch of the ordinary guard and gens d'arms on secret service.  
"There are some of the late partisans of Bonaparte, who when asked what they suppose is the cause of the existing alarm, openly declare their conviction that something is going on, though they do not know what it is—and the

zealous royalists talk of the existence of a secret conspiracy against the government, as a fact of which there is not the least doubt. Scarcely a day passes without a search through Paris by the police. It cannot be for Lavalette, who is known to have escaped beyond the frontier.

"The impression that a new revolution is at present secretly preparing, is almost universal; and it rarely happens that the public mind should be so affected without some foundation. A party is supposed to exist in favor of the duke of Orleans; but there is no probability that, even though he were to try the event of a revolution, such an event would be made in his favor. He has never resided much in France; and, during his residence there, he was closely watched, and even restricted—He opened his palace last year to some old conventionalists, but he very soon received an intimation from the French court not to receive them; he has no active partisans—he is hated by the royalists—and, on the part of the revolutionists, I have never heard any other sentiment than a sort of negative approbation. There is another report of a nature much more extraordinary; it is that a design is entertained to effect what would amount to a revolution—the transfer of the crown to the duke of Angouleme.

"If such fears are entertained by the government, why, it may be asked, do they send away the allied troops from Paris? The fact is, that the evening before the last, counter-orders were given to several British regiments—that were to march the next day. The King personally was unwilling to trust himself, at the present, to the French force in the capital exclusively, and with good reason. The British regiments now in Paris and its vicinity, amount, as I have been informed, to no more than from four to five thousand men. But there are French recruits arriving every day, consisting of disbanded soldiers and boys, in the most wretched possible condition. The only corps that has a good appearance, is the mounted royal guard; the men are as fine as any I have ever seen, and their uniform well calculated to make them appear to advantage. They wear large boots, white breeches, blue jackets, large dangling sabres, and high fur caps. But like the French cavalry at all times, they are wretchedly mounted.

"It is only the British troops in Paris that have received orders to remain, but even the regiment already on their march from the neighborhood of St. Germain and Versailles, have been ordered to halt. There are six regiments of the second division halted near St. Denis, on their way to the northern frontier.

JANUARY 12.

"It is now strongly reported, that the British troops are falling back upon Paris. Orders have been given, in several of the villages about the capital, to prepare for the English the quarters already occupied by them. The month of January has been long looked to by the Parisians as pregnant, with some extraordinary event; any public occurrence of the least importance, or in any degree indicative of a revolutionary movement, is enquired into with anxious curiosity and the consequence is, that the most alarming but in general the most extravagant rumors are afloat every day. Even the terror of the law against the propagation of seditious rumors is not sufficient to restrain the public curiosity and credulity of the French.

"This design is even looked upon as having disclosed itself in the violent spirit that has broken out in the chamber of deputies; the reported return of the British troops is attributed to the King's fears from this quarter. The palace of the Thuilleries is strongly guarded—there are at least four hundred men, cavalry and infantry, of the new army, barracked round the palace; but the only quarter from which real danger appears, is from the revolutionary party.

"There are no longer Bonapartists and republicans; they have formed a coalition, and openly call themselves 'The Admirers of the Revolution.'—The general distinction of political opinion is *royalist* and *ami de la revolution*. The party was active, during, even under Bonaparte, and is now strengthened by the accession of his adherents. The French government, it is said, has already discovered a system of affiliation amongst them. They instantly recognize each other, by signs like the freemasons, and are sworn to secrecy. One of the watchwords is said to be—'Le lion endormi.'

"So extensively has this system spread, that it had reached even the barracks, where it was discovered by the government. It is in consequence of this discovery, that a great number of French officers have been arrested within the last few days. Paris is still as full of French military as ever.—Scarcely any of the officers who served Bonaparte have been received into the new army; they are to be seen wandering about in all quarters, wearing the red ribbon of the legion of honor; they look at the officers of the royal army with envious derision. The latter have as yet scarcely acquired the air of soldiers, and they are, for the most part, from the provinces.

"Nothing has been lately heard of Lavalette. A very humorous caricature of his escape is privately circulated; it represents him escaping in grotesque female disguise, too paltry to conceal him, and followed by a dog, holding a stick in its mouth, with a lantern on both ends. This dog is called *Un chien Barbe*, and intended to represent Barbe Morbis, the minister of justice, whose omniscience is represented by the two lanterns, with which lights the prisoner through the passages of the Conciergerie."

JANUARY 18.

The rumor in the highest court of law now is, that a marriage is actually agreed on between the amiable prince Charlotte and prince de Cobourg. This union has the perfect approbation of the princess herself, and the prince regent has given his consent. It will have this important recommendation to the British people, that it begets connexion with any of the principal powers on the continent, by which might be involved in their disputes, and the English people have the prospect, that the presumptive heir to the British throne neither requires nor could obtain any aggrandizement of fortune or interest by marriage.

*Lavalette*.—On the 9th instant the sentence of death against M. Lavalette was executed in effigy. The sentence attached to a gallows on the Place Greve, from ten to four, was in the following words:—

"The sentence of the court of Paris on the 22d Nov. 1815, which condemned Marie Chamout Lavalette, ex-director general of the post, aged 46 years, native of Paris, living at No. 106 Rue Grenelle St. Germain, to the punishment of death for high treason."

Behind it, upon a carriage, were the materials which serve to form a scaffold for executions.

Various stories about madame Morat are in circulation. The truth is that she and her family afford very little matter for news; she leads at Hamburg a very retired life, suitable to her situation, and is very liberal to the poor. This may serve to correct many false reports, who destitute of feeling, pursue misfortune into its last asylum, combat the defenceless with the poisonous shafts of calumny.

PARIS JAN. 10.

A very strange report has been in circulation for some days in the diplomatic circles, where it is whispered that the Russian cabinet has a project in contemplation for again uniting Belgium to France, and placing on the throne the present King of the Netherlands, or his son. It is said that the emperor Alexander has for a long time meditated this, and that it is not unconnected with the marriage of one of his sisters to the prince of Orange. This notion, although it has been for some time circulated, still appears to gain ground; the fact is, that there is a general astonishment at the preparations of the emperor Alexander, who appears to be making new levies at a moment when it might be supposed he would be thinking of disarming, as well as the rest of Europe.

The conduct of the government in accepting the amendments in the act of amnesty respecting the regicides, after solemnly declaring against it, has excited much observation. Did the ministers wish to deceive France as to the intentions of the King, or did the king seek to deceive his ministers?—Another question equally difficult to answer is, now the chamber of deputies has gone so far where will it stop?

LIVERPOOL, FEB. 1.

We are much concerned to state that the banking house of Messrs Roscoe, Clarke and Roscoe, has been obliged to announce to the public a suspension of its payments; but we have reason to hope that their embarrassment will not materially affect the commercial interests of the town.

We recently mentioned the failure of three houses at Liverpool, and the expectation of others. It appears that exports of manufactures and British commodities have been sent to the U. States from Liverpool alone, within a short interval, to the amount of upwards of sixteen millions sterling (£80,000,000). It is computed that including Glasgow, and the other British ports trading to America, the total export in the same interval exceeds thirty millions sterling (£150,000,000). On this immense sum, no returns have from unavoidable causes, yet been received.

A work on the subject of political economy has lately been published at St. Petersburg, which ably attacks the system of prematurely forcing the manufacturing industry of nations by the prohibition of foreign commodities and inculcates the benefits resulting from the unrestrained intercourse of nations.

A letter from Dublin, dated Dec. 16, says:—"We have had no less than seven attornies, and eight other persons, respectable in public credit till now, sentenced to transportation, being convicted before a special commission of manufacturing and vending forged stamps."

The duke of Massa, son to Regnier, grand judge under Bonaparte, has resigned the prefecture of the department of the Cher.