

a law authorizing him to surrender his patent for a section of land west of the Mississippi, and that scrip may be issued to him therefor.

By Mr. ROBBIE: The petition of Lyman N. Cooke, asking an increase of pension.

By Mr. STANTON, of Kentucky: The memorial of Gregory Ennis, executor of Philip Ennis, deceased, asking payment of a balance due him on contract for work done on public grounds, and damages for the arbitrary revocation of said contract by the Commissioner of Public Buildings.

By Mr. ROBBINS: A memorial of citizens of Pennsylvania, signed by Arthur B. Cochrane and twenty one others, praying Congress to erect substantial piers on the eastern side of Reedy Island, in the Delaware river, for the purpose of making a harbor to protect and shelter the vessels navigating said river.

IN SENATE.

TUESDAY, January 6, 1852.

Prayer by the Rev. L. F. MORGAN.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS.

The PRESIDENT *pro tempore* laid before the Senate a letter from the Secretary of the Navy, accompanied by a memorial addressed to the President of the United States by the petty officers, seamen, and marines, attached to the United States squadron in the Pacific, asking an increase of pay; which was read.

Ordered, That it be referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs.

REPORT OF SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair has received the annual report of the Secretary of the Treasury on the state of the finances, which will be read.

Mr. HUNTER. I move that, without reading, it be referred to the Committee on Finance, and that it be printed.

The report was so referred, and it was ordered that it be printed.

Mr. HUNTER. I move that ten thousand extra copies be printed for the use of the Senate.

Mr. BRADBURY. It was my purpose, Mr. President, had I been able to take my seat here before the extra copies of the public documents of this session had generally been ordered to be printed, to have offered a resolution providing that a COMPENDIUM OR ABSTRACT of the annual public documents be prepared and printed. It has long appeared to me that something of this kind is imperiously demanded. By the mode of printing the public documents now adopted, large numbers of volumes of the President's message and the accompanying documents are printed for general circulation, containing, with a great amount of valuable matter, a still greater amount of no public interest whatever. These documents sometimes extend to three or four or more large volumes at a single session. By a reference to these books, it will be seen that hundreds of pages are occupied with mere details and estimates, of no earthly service except to members of Congress, or possibly for deposit in the public libraries. What possible interest can it be for us to print and send abroad amongst our constituents, the minute estimates for the various items of provisions and clothing required at our various naval and military stations? With this mass of useless detail we bury the valuable information which the documents otherwise contain. We should separate that which is of public interest from that which is not, and print for general circulation only that which is of general interest. I can perceive no way in which this can be accomplished, except by the preparation of a COMPENDIUM OR ABSTRACT of the public documents. I believe it to be practicable to condense all that is valuable for general use, into a single volume of reasonable size, suited for circulation, and with a good index, made exceedingly valuable and convenient. Every individual to whom such a volume should be sent, would have the substance of the documents, showing the operations of the Government, and all that is of value to him, in a convenient form.

It would be a volume which, for its compactness and convenience, would be worth more to the general reader than the whole set of annual documents, as now published. But it is known to every Senator that the sets, as now distributed, are very generally broken. One volume is sent to one constituent, and one to another. If the full set is sent to each person to whom the first is forwarded, the circulation is necessarily confined to a small number of persons, and they have a small amount of the valuable and the worthless bound up together.

Another reason for the change suggested, is the saving of the expense of printing volumes of useless matter.

It may be necessary that the proposed abstract or compendium should be prepared by the head of one of the Departments—perhaps the Secretary of the Treasury or the Secretary of the Interior. It can hardly be expected that it could be conveniently done by the Secretary of the Senate or a committee of either House.

The subject has been brought to the attention of the Senate somewhat unexpectedly, as I was not aware that a question of this kind would come up at this session. I throw out these suggestions for the attentive consideration of the Senate, and hope they may lead to the adoption of a system by which the evils of the present may be avoided, and we may be able to condense into a single volume what is material for general information. By so doing we can greatly increase the circulation of all the important matter, and at a great saving of expense. I throw out these suggestions, not with the view of interposing any objection to the motion of the honorable Senator from Virginia, [Mr. HUNTER,] inasmuch as the report under consideration is one of the most important of our public documents, but rather as a notice that I intend to call the attention of the Senate to the subject hereafter.

The question was then taken on the motion of Mr. HUNTER, and it was decided in the affirmative.

THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE WAS RECEIVED FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, BY MR. M. P. FILLMORE, HIS PRIVATE SECRETARY:

To the Senate of the United States:
I transmit to the Senate a report of the Secretary of State relative to the persons belonging to the expedition of Lopez, who were taken prisoners in Cuba and afterwards sent to Spain, and who have now been pardoned and released by her Catholic Majesty. The appropriation, the expediency of which is suggested in the report, I cordially commend to the consideration of Congress, with the single additional suggestion, that to be available it should be promptly made.

MILLARD FILLMORE.
WASHINGTON, January 5, 1852.
The message was read, and it was
Ordered, That it be referred to the Committee on Finance.

PETITIONS.

Mr. SEWARD presented a petition of merchants, underwriters, and others, of New York, praying a survey of such parts of the China seas, the Straits of Gaspar, and the Java sea, as lie directly in the tracks of vessels proceeding to and from China; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce.

He also submitted a statement showing the amount of gold bullion received at the port of New York from California, from January 6 to December 1, 1851; which was referred to the Committee on Finance, and ordered to be printed.

Also, a petition of citizens of Rochester, New York, praying that the bill now before the Senate, giving further remedies to patentees, may become a law; which was referred to the Committee on Patents and the Patent Office.

Also, a petition of the assistant marshals for taking the Seventh Census, in Ulster county, New York, praying additional compensation; which was referred to the Committee of Claims.

Mr. WADE presented the petition of Zebulon Parker, praying the renewal of his patents for certain improvements in hydraulic power; which was referred to the Committee on Patents and the Patent Office.

Mr. ATCHISON submitted documents in relation to the claim of Henry C. Miller, Philip W. Thompson, and Jesse B. Turley, to indemnity for cattle stolen by the Osage band of Indians; which were referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs, with the papers on file relating thereto.

Mr. SUMNER presented two petitions of citizens of Massachusetts, a petition of citizens of New Jersey, and a petition of citizens of New Hampshire, praying that the bill now before Congress, giving further remedies to patentees, may become a law.

Ordered, That they lie on the table.

Mr. BRODHEAD presented a memorial of citizens of Philadelphia; Pennsylvania, praying indemnity for French spoliation prior to 1801; which was referred to the select committee on French spoliation.

Mr. WHITCOMB presented the memorial of David A. Cameron, representative and heir of James Bell, deceased, and assignee of the other heirs of said Bell, praying payment of advances made to the American Army during the revolutionary war; which was referred to the Committee on Revolutionary Claims.

Mr. BRODHEAD presented a memorial of citizens of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware, praying the construction of piers and harbors in Delaware river and bay; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce.

Mr. BORLAND presented the petition of John McVey, a soldier in the last war with Great Britain; which was referred to the Committee on Pensions.

Also, the petition of L. M. S. Holleville, praying a modification of the laws relating to the disposition of the public domain; which was referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

Mr. DOWNS presented a petition of citizens of Washington, in the District of Columbia, praying that Pennsylvania avenue, east of the Capitol, may be improved and lighted; which was referred to the Committee for the District of Columbia.

Mr. FISH presented the memorial of the Chamber of Commerce of New York, praying the completion of the light-house on Sand Key, on the coast of Florida; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce.

Also, the memorial of Thomas B. Cottrell, and the memorial of Frederick Bange and Albert Southmayd, praying the establishment of a tribunal for reviewing the decisions of the late Board of Commissioners under the treaty with Mexico; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Also, a petition of the assistant marshals for taking the Seventh Census in Dutchess county, New York; and a petition of the assistant marshals for taking the Seventh Census in St. Lawrence county, New York, praying additional compensation for their services; which were referred to the Committee of Claims.

Mr. PEARCE presented the petition of Sally J. Matthews, praying compensation for the services of her late husband, as clerk in the Treasury Department; which was referred to the Committee of Claims.

Mr. FISH presented a petition of citizens of Albany, and a petition of citizens of Brooklyn, New York, praying an appropriation for paying the expenses of the American contributors to the World's Fair at London; which were referred to the Committee of Claims.

Mr. GWIN presented the memorial of Charles D. Arfenedson, praying compensation for services as Chargé d'Affaires *ad interim* at the Court of Stockholm; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

PAPERS WITHDRAWN AND REFERRED.

On motion by Mr. WHITCOMB, it was
Ordered, That the memorial of the heirs of James Bell, deceased, on the files of the Senate, be referred to the Committee on Revolutionary Claims.

On motion by Mr. BRADBURY, it was
Ordered, That the memorial and petitions on the files of the Senate, on the subject of indemnity for French spoliation prior to 1801, be referred to the select committee on French spoliation.

On motion by Mr. ATCHISON, it was
Ordered, That the memorial of D. D. Mitchell, on the files of the Senate, be referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

On motion by Mr. RUSK, it was
Ordered, That the memorial of J. Smith, on the files of the Senate, be referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

On motion by Mr. McRAE, it was
Ordered, That the petition of George Poindexter, on the files of the Senate, be referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

On motion by Mr. BRADBURY, it was
Ordered, That the memorial of J. K. F. Mansfield, on the files of the Senate, be referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

On motion by Mr. PEARCE, it was
Ordered, That the memorial of the Association of the Defenders of Baltimore in 1814, and the memorial of Edward Thompson and others, calling themselves "Old Defenders" of Baltimore in the war of 1843, on the files of the Senate, be referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

On motion by Mr. DODGE, it was
Ordered, That the memorial of Edwin Jauncey, Sr., on the files of the Senate, be referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

county seat of Madison county, and for semi-weekly service in two horse coaches thereon.

Also, the petition of Aaron S. Johns, of Polk county, Iowa, asking for a law authorizing the correction of an error in the location of a military bounty land warrant.

By Mr. HASCALL: The petition of Jacob Coe, of Michigan, for compensation for property lost in the late war with Great Britain.

By Mr. TAYLOR: The petition of John Madeira, and 63 other citizens of Pope county, Ohio, praying Congress to extend the time for locating Virginia military land warrants in the Virginia Military District, in the State of Ohio.

By Mr. HIBBARD: The petition of Betsey Whipple and Calvin Whipple, praying for leave to surrender patents for lands in Arkansas, and take other land.

By Mr. PERKINS: The petition of Selden Brown, of Marlow, New Hampshire, asking for relief.

By Mr. MILLSON: The petition of R. Owens, asking the difference of pay between that of a chief boatswain's mate and a boat-wain.

Also, the petition of Solomon Cherry, asking a pension, on account of inability from wounds received in the military service of the United States during the last war with Great Britain.

By Mr. DAVIS, of Massachusetts: The petition of Manson, Brothers, and others, of New York, that an appropriation be made to reimburse advances made by George Peabody, Esq., and others, for the protection of American interests at the World's Exhibition.

By Mr. FOWLER: The petition of Wm. A. Crocker, and 30 other citizens of Jaunton, Massachusetts, praying that a sum be appropriated sufficient to defray their unavoidable expenses in preparing their goods for exhibition at the Crystal Palace, in London.

By Mr. WRIGHTMAN: The memorial of a citizen of New Mexico, praying the enactment of a law authorizing the Governor of the Territory of New Mexico to call one extra session of the Legislative Assembly of said Territory.

By Mr. HAVEN: The petition of O. B. Evans, of Buffalo, New York, asking that Congress appropriate money to pay the charges on goods sent to the World's Fair.

Also, the petition of W. D. Allen, and 90 other citizens of Buffalo, New York, asking Congress to make suitable provisions for extending a telegraph from Fort Independence to the Pacific, by the passage of a law that will protect and encourage.

Also, the petition of Elizabeth E. N. Field, of Milton, Massachusetts, widow of the late Captain George F. Field, for a continuance of her pension.

By Mr. FITCH: The memorial of Thompson Barnett, of Indiana, asking compensation for services in transportation of mail.

By Mr. INGERSOLL: The memorial of Hon. Charles J. Ingersoll, of Philadelphia, in relation to a claim for contesting his seat in Congress.

By Mr. KUHN: The petition of Samuel Slick, (not the venerable Sam Slick, of Slicksburg, down East, but) of Bedford county, Pennsylvania, the son of a revolutionary sire, praying for a pension.

IN SENATE.

WEDNESDAY, January 7, 1852.

Prayer by the Rev. L. F. MORGAN.

PETITIONS.

Mr. WADE presented the memorial of Daniel Slack, representing that there is a variance between the awards made on his claim by the two Boards of Commissioners for the settlement of claims of American citizens against Mexico, and asking the payment of the difference of awards.

Also, one of a similar character from Johnson H. Alford, by his administrator Henry P. Bates; both of which were referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr. GEYER presented the memorial of Mary S. Wetmore, widow of the late Major Alphonso Wetmore, of the United States Army, praying a pension; which was referred to the Committee on Pensions.

Mr. G. I present the petition of Richard B. Lee, an officer in the Army, praying to be allowed the amount of public funds stolen from him, and which he repaid to the United States.

The memorialist states that he was ordered by the commander to proceed to the Sandwich Islands and purchase supplies for that portion of the army which was in California and Oregon; that on his return he employed a vessel which was chartered by an individual who was in control of it. He further states that he deposited eleven hundred dollars with the charterer, and took a bill of lading. On his arrival at San Francisco, this money had been taken on shore and deposited with some merchants there. It appears, however, that this money was appropriated to the payment of the debts of this individual. He absconded, was pursued, overtaken, and searched, but no money was found. The major being without remedy against the general orders, sought relief by attaching the vessel, in which, however, he failed, this being before the admission of California as a State, and there being no tribunal there by which a specific remedy against the vessel could be enforced. Under these circumstances he felt obliged to make good

the money; and he now prays the action of Congress for his relief. I move the reference of the memorial and the accompanying documents to the Committee of Claims.

The memorial was so referred.

Mr. SUMNER presented the petition of citizens of Boston, Massachusetts, praying that the expenses incurred by American contributors at the World's Fair in London may be defrayed by Congress; which was referred to the Committee of Claims.

Mr. BROADHEAD presented the memorial of Benjamin Holbrook, and the memorial of Charlotte B. Holtz, administratrix of Peter Holtz, praying the appointment of a Board to review the decision of the late Board of Commissioners for settling claims against Mexico; which were ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. RUSK presented the petition of Charles Uhde & Co., praying the return of duties paid on certain cotton goods shipped by them at New Orleans for Point Isabel, in Texas, and lost at sea; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce.

Mr. FISH presented the memorial of the heirs of Charles Oakley, praying compensation for the services of said Oakley in the revolutionary war; which was referred to the Committee on Revolutionary Claims.

Also, a memorial of the heirs of Jacob Latting, praying indemnity for spoliation by the French prior to 1801; which was referred to the select committee appointed on the subject.

Also, a letter from the Mayor of the city of New York, communicating a resolution of the Board of Aldermen and Assistants, tendering to the United States a plat of land within that city for the erection of a Mint; which was referred to the Committee on Finance, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. DOWNS presented a petition of citizens of Caldwell Parish, Louisiana, residing on the "Maison Rouge Grant," praying an amendment of the late act of Congress for the relief of purchasers of land in that grant; which was referred to the Committee on Private Land Claims.

Also, the petition of Evariste Blanc, praying the confirmation of his title to a certain tract of land; which was referred to the Committee on Private Land Claims.

Mr. GWIN presented the memorial of L. M. Goldsborough, S. J. Van Brunt, and S. F. Blunt, naval officers, praying additional compensation for services on special duty to California and Oregon; which was referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs.

Mr. SEBASTIAN presented a memorial of the First Christian and Orchard Parties of Oneida Indians, asking interest on certain moneys improperly withheld from them after the same became due; which was referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

CUBAN EXPATRIATED INVADERS.

Mr. CLEMENS. Mr. President, I desire to present a petition, which I will ask the Secretary to read.

The Secretary read it, as follows:

To the President and members of the Senate, and the Speaker and members of the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States:

GENTLEMEN: Your petitioner, a resident citizen of the city of New Orleans, in the State of Louisiana, most respectfully begs leave to represent, that, on the 3d day of August last, he, in company with 431 associates, embarked on board the steamship *Panipero*, for the island of Cuba, with the only and openly avowed intention of joining the Creole population for the purpose, and that alone, of aiding and assisting them in the contest which we were fully convinced had then commenced for the overthrow of the Spanish authorities there, and the establishing in their stead republican institutions similar in all respects to those governing our own highly-favored and prosperous country; and in furtherance of their wishes, a debarkation of our force was effected on the island on the night of the 11th and 12th of the same month, between the hours of 11 and 2 o'clock; but, after undergoing privations and hardships well calculated to appeal as well as to demoralize the stoutest and purest heart, without the commission of a single outrage either public or private which can cause the blush of shame to mantle the cheek, or the breath of detraction to justify the soldier's eschewment with the taint of dishonor, and the having been engaged in several very hotly contested battles with her Spanish Majesty's troops, your petitioner, with the entire force under his command, was entirely cut to pieces or dispersed, rendered fugitive and finally captured and conveyed to Havana as prisoners, where 160 to 175 of the number were, by order of his Excellency the Captain General, Concha, condemned as public malefactors to ten years' servitude in the fortress of Canto, and were by him sent to Spain to undergo the infliction of the punishment decreed; but, through the exercise of the high prerogative of the pardoning power vested in her hand, her Catholic Majesty, the Queen of Spain, has deemed it both merciful, politic, and wise, to commute the sentence of punishment, to knock the shackles from the board, and to set the prisoners free.

Therefore, with a full knowledge of the destitute situation of these brave and gallant, but unfortunate men, (the most of whom are known to be gentlemen in their own individual personal right, and of highly reputable relationship in the United States), and in view of that devotion to liberal republican principles by them herein exhibited, and of the action of your honorable bodies in behalf of refugees driven from their homes on the continent of Europe in consequence of similar espousals of the cause of liberty, your petitioner does most earnestly and urgently pray the taking such immediate steps by your honorable bodies as will authorize and command the Executive head of the nation to furnish a vessel with all necessary supplies for the transportation, in comfort and health, of these pardoned and released soldiers of liberty's army back to the shores of their own free and happy land; for which your petitioner in all good faith, must ever pray. WM. SCOTT HAYNES.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 5, 1852.

On motion of Mr. CLEMENS, the memorial was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

RECONSIDERATION OF VOTE.

Mr. BRIGHT. Yesterday the Senate passed a bill entitled "An act granting a pension to Sally T. Floyd, widow of Lieutenant George R. C. Floyd." I see that the bill was introduced by the honorable Senator from Kentucky [Mr. UNDERWOOD.] As a general rule, I should defer greatly to his judgment in such matters, but on looking over the papers of this morning, particularly with reference to this bill, I find that it contains what I consider a dangerous principle—the granting of a pension to the widow of an officer who died outside of the service. I desire to move the reconsideration of the vote by which this bill was passed; and as I observe that the Senator is not in his seat, I will make the motion, and consent that it lie on the table till I may have an opportunity to examine the papers relating to the subject.

The motion was accordingly laid on the table.

PAPERS WITHDRAWN AND REFERRED.

On motion by Mr. GEYER, it was

Ordered, That the memorial of the heirs of Herman Blannerhasset, on the files of the Senate, be referred to the Committee of Claims.

On motion by Mr. MILLER, it was

Ordered, That the petition of Eliza M. Evans, on the files of the Senate, be referred to the Committee on Revolutionary Claims.

On motion by Mr. FELCH, it was

Ordered, That the petition of William Miller, on the files of the Senate, be referred to the Committee on Pensions.

On motion by Mr. JONES, of Iowa, it was

Ordered, That the Committee on Pensions be discharged from the further consideration of the petition of Mira M. Alexander, and that it be referred to the Committee of Claims.

Mr. PRATT. My attention has been called to a memorial of citizens of the District of Columbia, which is on the files of the Senate, praying that the United States may purchase a portion of the Columbia Turnpike Road, which is in the District of Columbia, so that it may be made free.

The Senate are aware that the Government have built a bridge across the Potomac river, now connecting the District with the State of Virginia. Senators are also aware that we have purchased the bridges across the Eastern Branch, thus connecting the District with the State of Maryland. I believe that this turnpike road is the only thoroughfare through the District which may not now be traveled free of expense. I move that the memorial be taken from the files of the Senate and referred to the Committee for the District of Columbia, and I hope they will give it their early attention.

The memorial was accordingly so referred.

NOTICES OF BILLS.

Mr. CLEMENS gave notice that he should ask leave to introduce a bill for the relief of Thomas Snodgrass.

Mr. FISH gave notice that he should ask leave to introduce a bill to increase the salary of the judge of the United States district court for the southern district of Florida.

Mr. PEARCE gave notice of his intention to ask leave to introduce a bill for the relief of Sarah E. McKay, widow of Lieutenant-Colonel McKay.

BILL INTRODUCED.

Mr. BERRIEN, agreeably to previous notice, asked and obtained leave to bring in a bill to provide for the removal of obstructions in the river

Also, the memorial of citizens of Philadelphia, praying an appropriation for the erection of harbors and breakwaters in the Delaware; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce.

Mr. CLARKE presented a resolution of the Legislature of Rhode Island, against restoring corporal punishment in the Navy, and in favor of abolishing the spirit ration in that service.

Ordered, That it be referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs and printed.

Mr. FISH presented a petition of journeymen cigar makers of Ogdensburg, New York, praying an increase of the duty on imported cigars; which was referred to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. BORLAND presented a petition of citizens of Arkansas, praying the establishment of a mail rout from Boonsville to Fort Smith; which was referred to the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads.

Mr. GWIN presented a resolution of the Legislature of California, recommending the payment of a debt incurred by the City of Sacramento in providing for the sick, and the burial of deceased emigrants, who arrived in that city.

Ordered, That it lie on the table and be printed.

Mr. DOUGLAS presented a memorial of the Mayor and Common Council of the city of Chicago, Illinois, asking permission to make an alteration in the Chicago river, for the improvement of the harbor at that place; which was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. FISH submitted an extract of a letter from an officer of the Army, stationed in New Mexico, showing the inadequacy of his pay to defray the expenses of his board; which was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. STOCKTON presented the memorial of J. M. Browne, praying that bounty land may be allowed to the volunteer companies called out for the protection of the maritime frontier of New Jersey in the last war with Great Britain; which was referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

PAPERS WITHDRAWN AND REFERRED.

On motion by Mr. MILLER, it was

Ordered, That the memorial of inhabitants of Little Egg Harbor, on the files of the Senate, relating to the improvement of that harbor; and the memorial of the townships of Ocean and Shrewsbury, New Jersey, on the files of the Senate, relating to the improvement of the Shrewsbury river, be referred to the Committee on Commerce.

On motion by Mr. DOWNS, it was

Ordered, That the memorial of the first regiment of Louisiana volunteers, on the files of the Senate, be referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

On motion by Mr. JONES, of Iowa, it was

Ordered, That the petition of Sally Bass, heir of Charles Pasteur, deceased, on the files of the Senate, be referred to the Committee on Revolutionary Claims.

REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES.

Mr. WADE, from the Committee of Claims, to which was referred the petition of Sarah Flinn, submitted a report, accompanied by a bill for her relief.

The bill was read and passed to the second reading.

Ordered, That the report be printed.

He also, from the same committee, to whom was referred the petition of David Osburn, reported a bill for his relief; which was read and passed to the second reading.

He also, from the same committee, to which was referred the petition of C. H. Blood, reported "that the prayer of the petition ought not to be granted."

Mr. HAMLIN, from the Committee on Commerce, reported a bill making an appropriation, in part, for the erection of the light-house on Sand Key, Florida; which was read and ordered to a second reading.

Mr. H. I ask the attention of the Senate for one moment in relation to this bill. It will be noticed that it makes an appropriation of \$5,000 for the completion of the light-house on Sand Key, in Florida. It is not a sum sufficient to complete that light-house; but there is now a cargo of iron lying in a vessel at that place, and there is no money under the control of the Department to pay for freight and charges upon it. The Government is consequently liable to a certain daily sum as demurrage; and I hope, therefore, that this bill may be passed at this time.

By unanimous consent the bill was read a second time, considered as in Committee of the

Whole, reported to the Senate, and ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

Mr. JAMES, from the Committee on Revolutionary Claims, to which was referred the memorial of Jane Irwin, submitted a report, accompanied by a bill for her relief.

The bill was read and passed to the second reading.

Ordered, That the report be printed.

Mr. DOWNS, from the Committee on Private Land Claims, to which was referred the petition of George Jennings and others, submitted a report, accompanied by a bill for the relief of Thomas D. Jennings.

The bill was read and passed to the second reading.

Ordered, That the report be printed.

Mr. DODGE, of Wisconsin, from the Committee on Commerce, to which was referred the petition of John McReynolds, of Detroit, reported a bill for his relief; which was read and passed to the second reading.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

Mr. McRAE, agreeably to previous notice, asked and obtained leave to introduce a bill entitled "An act to repeal the proviso in the act of Congress entitled 'An act making appropriations for the civil and diplomatic expenses of the Government for the year ending the 30th of June, 1852, and for other purposes,' approved March 3, 1851, relating to the salaries of the officers of the Territories of the United States;" which was read a first and second time by its title, and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. BRADBURY, agreeably to previous notice, asked and obtained leave to introduce a bill to alter and amend the judicial system of the United States; which was read a first and second time by its title, and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. BRADBURY said: As the subject is one of great interest, I will state some of the most important provisions of the bill at this time.

It proposes to confer on the several district courts of the United States the powers and jurisdiction now exercised by the circuit courts in their respective circuits.

It proposes to create a court of appeals, consisting of the justice of the Supreme Court of the United States assigned to the circuit where the court is held, and the judges of the several district courts in such circuit.

It proposes to give to these courts of appeal the jurisdiction of cases brought from the district courts, in the same manner they are now brought therefrom to the Supreme Court.

It proposes to authorize appeals and writs of error from the decisions of the courts of appeal, to the Supreme Court, in cases where the matter in controversy exceeds \$5,000, and when is drawn in question the constitutionality of a law of Congress or of any State. It also makes provision for California and Oregon.

Mr. FISH, agreeably to previous notice, asked and obtained leave to introduce a bill for the relief of William Bédiet, late a sergeant in the fourth regiment of artillery; which was read a first and second time by its title, and referred to the Committee on Pensions.

CUBAN PRISONERS IN SPAIN.

A message was received from the House of Representatives by Mr. FORNEY, its Clerk:

Mr. PRESIDENT: The House of Representatives have passed a bill entitled "An act for the relief of American citizens lately imprisoned and paroled by the Queen of Spain; in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate."

MEXICAN INDEMNITY.

A message was received from the House of Representatives by Mr. FORNEY, its Clerk:

Mr. PRESIDENT: The House of Representatives have passed a bill providing for carrying into execution in further part the twelfth article of the treaty with Mexico, concluded at Guadalupe Hidalgo; in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate.

The bill was read a first and second time by its title, and was referred to the Committee on Finance.

PAY OF OFFICERS IN NEW MEXICO.

Mr. FISH submitted the following resolution for consideration; which was agreed to:

Resolved, That the Committee on Military Affairs be instructed to inquire into the propriety of granting increased compensation to the officers of the army stationed in New Mexico.

THE EXILED IRISH PATRIOTS.

The Senate resumed, as in Committee of the Whole, the consideration of the resolution expressive of the sympathy of Congress for the exiled Irish patriots, Smith O'Brien, Thomas F. Meagher, and their associates.

An amendment was offered by Mr. SHIELDS, which was read, as follows:

Strike out all after the enacting clause, and insert:

"That while we disclaim all intention of interfering in any way in the internal affairs of the Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, we deem it our duty to express, in a respectful manner, our firm conviction that it would be highly gratifying to the people of the United States, many of whom are natives of Ireland, and connected by blood with the inhabitants of that country, to see Smith O'Brien and his associates restored to liberty, and permitted, if so disposed, to emigrate to this country. We would regard this act of clemency as a new proof of the friendly disposition of the British Government towards our Republic, and as calculated to strengthen the bonds of affection now happily existing between the people of the United States and of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland."

On motion by Mr. SHIELDS, it was

Ordered, That the further consideration of the resolution be postponed to, and be the special order of the day for Thursday, the 5th of February next.

REPORTS OF SENATE DEBATES.

The engrossed resolution for settling the accounts for reporting the debates and proceedings of Congress was read a third time and passed.

SALLY T. FLOYD.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. I now move that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the question upon the reconsideration of the bill for the relief of Mrs. Sally T. Floyd. I would remark to the Senate, that if the reconsideration takes place now, the bill can go among the orders of the day, and come up for consideration to-morrow. My object is to restore the bill to its place on the Calendar, so that it can be taken up to-morrow, which is private bill day.

The PRESIDENT. The motion, which lies on the table, is to reconsider the vote on the final passage of the bill. The Senator from Kentucky moves to take up that motion for consideration.

The motion was agreed to.

The question then occurred on reconsidering the vote on the passage of the bill.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. I think that perhaps the best plan to adopt would be to let the bill be reconsidered and go upon the Calendar. In this way we shall defer whatever remarks any Senator may think proper to make until to-morrow. I hope that course will be adopted.

The PRESIDENT. That cannot be. If the motion to reconsider be agreed to, the bill will come up upon its third reading.

Mr. BADGER. Let the vote on the passage of the bill be reconsidered, and then the bill can be postponed until to-morrow.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. I adopt the suggestion of the Senator from North Carolina, and hope that the bill will be reconsidered and then postponed until to-morrow.

Mr. BORLAND. I do not see any good reason why we should reconsider this bill. It was introduced by the Senator from Kentucky, [Mr. UNDERWOOD,] and reported by myself from the Committee on Pensions. I thought then, and the Committee on Pensions thought, and the Senate seemed to think, that it was a meritorious bill. We carried it through all its stages. It was passed. But it was arrested by a motion to reconsider. I suppose that on a motion to reconsider, it is in order for me to say a few words as to the merits of the bill.

The husband of Mrs. Floyd was a gallant and distinguished officer in the Army; he served his country long and faithfully. Owing to extraordinary hardships and exposures, during a long and gallant service, he became diseased. His services were highly valued by the Army and by the War Department. In order to enable him to recover his health, if possible, and yet remain in the service, he was sent from post to post, as his medical advisers thought proper, in order to afford him an opportunity to recover, so that the Army might not lose the advantage of his services. This course was tried for a considerable time, until he found that his health could not be restored so that he could render efficient service; and although he could have remained in the Army and continued to receive his pay, he preferred, on account of his ill-health, to leave the Army and retire to private life. He did so; and, shortly afterwards, he

NOTICES OF BILLS.

Mr. CABELL, of Florida, gave notice of bills to survey the military reserves at Tampa Bay and Palatka, in the State of Florida, and for the erection of a *marina hospital* at Apalachicola, in said State.

Mr. THOMPSON, of Virginia, asked, and obtained leave to withdraw the papers in the case of William Sparks, now on file in the office of the Clerk of this House, and that the same be referred to the committee on Invalid Persons.

PETITIONS, &c.

The following petitions, memorials, &c., were presented under the rule, and referred to the appropriate committees:

By Mr. THOMPSON, of Virginia: The petition of Lewis Turner, of the county of Preston, Virginia, praying for a pension on account of permanent injury to his health in the war of 1812.

Also, the petition and papers of Margaret Garwood, widow of Samuel Garwood, praying for a pension on account of a permanent injury received by her said husband in the battle of Lake Erie, in the flag-ship of Perry, which permanently injured him for life, so as to prevent him from providing for his family.

By Mr. DEAN: The petition of citizens of the District of Columbia for a new and enlarged building for a post office, in the City of Washington.

By Mr. STRATTON: The petition of Robert B. Sutcliffe and 58 others, citizens of New Jersey, praying the enactment of a law prohibiting entirely the importation of intoxicating liquors.

By Mr. MOORE, of Pennsylvania: The petition of the Society of Friends of Philadelphia, for the repeal of the fugitive-slave law.

By Mr. CHURCHWELL: The memorial of Robert James, of Tennessee, praying for the remission of duties on machinery imported by him as an emigrant, for his own use and benefit.

By Mr. SEYMOUR, of New York: The petition of Jole, Coit & Co., to be refunded duties on merchandise damaged while in transitu from one warehouse to another for exportation.

By Mr. CABELL, of Florida: The memorials of William H. Andrews, George S. Jennings, Joseph B. Morris, Edward R. Ives, George J. Lehmman, Hiram T. Mann, and Joel B. Smith, assistant marshals of the State of Florida, for additional compensation for taking the last census.

By Mr. WALBRIDGE: The petition of William T. Lawrence, and 137 other citizens of Tompkins and Chemung counties, New York, praying for the establishment of a tri-weekly mail route from Havana, in the county of Chemung, to Union, in the county of Tompkins, via Odessa, Cayutville, Enfield, Centre, &c.

By Mr. HAYEN: The remonstrances of Magridge and Clark, and other citizens of Buffalo, being bread and cracker bakers of that place, against extending or renewing the patent to William B. Nevins, of New York, for a machine for rolling dough and cutting crackers and biscuit, giving the reasons of the remonstrance at length.

By Mr. ST. MARTIN: The memorial of Nathan C. Folger in relation to Mexican indemnities.

Also, the petition of Nanette Dujin, widow Patton, praying for relief.

By Mr. McANAHAN: The petition of citizens of Perry county and Union county, in the State of Pennsylvania, for the establishment of a mail route from Miller's Town, in Perry county, to Mifflinburg, in Union county.

By Mr. HENN: The petition of T. H. P. Duncan and 95 others, asking for mail routes from Corydon, Wayne county, Iowa, via Grand River, to Princeton, Missouri, and from Corydon to Charlton Point, and for weekly service thereon.

IN SENATE.

FRIDAY, January 30, 1852.

Prayer by the Chaplain, Rev. C. M. BUTLER.

PRIVATE BILL DAY.

On the motion of Mr. NORRIS, the execution of the order by which Friday of each week is devoted to private claims, was suspended until one o'clock.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATION.

The PRESIDENT *pro tem.* laid before the Senate a letter from the Treasurer of the United States, communicating copies of his accounts of receipts and disbursements for the service of the Post Office Department for the year ending 30th June, 1851; which was read.

On motion by Mr. HUNTER, it was
Ordered, That it lie on the table.

PETITIONS.

Mr. PEARCE presented the memorial of Augusta Ogden Boyd, praying the continuance of her pension; which was referred to the Committee on Pensions.

Mr. DODGE, of Iowa, submitted a document in support of the petition of citizens of Kanessville, Iowa, for a grant of land for the benefit of that town; which was referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

Mr. FELCH presented the petition of John Gray, praying remuneration for a pair of horses taken by the United States troops during the last war with Great Britain; which was referred to the Committee of Claims.

Mr. PRATT presented the memorial of Henry Mankin, praying that the Postmaster General may be authorized to contract with him and his asso-

ciates, merchants residing in Baltimore and Rio de Janeiro, for the transportation of the mail in steamers from Baltimore and Norfolk to St. Thomas and Barbadoes, in the West Indies, Para, Pernambuco, and Rio de Janeiro, in Brazil, and Montevideo in Buenos Ayres; which was referred to the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads.

PAPERS WITHDRAWN AND REFERRED.

On motion by Mr. HALE, it was

Ordered, That the petition of Thomas Butler, on the files of the Senate, be referred to the Committee on Commerce.

On motion by Mr. HAMLIN, it was

Ordered, That Anna McLean have leave to withdraw her memorial and papers.

On motion by Mr. SHIELDS, it was

Ordered, That the documents on the files of the Senate, relating to the claim of Lewis A. Thomas and Thomas Rogers, be referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

On motion by Mr. JONES, of Iowa, it was

Ordered, That the petition of John Le Roy, on the files of the Senate, be referred to the Committee on Pensions.

On motion by Mr. CHELENS, it was

Ordered, That the petition of Charles G. Guater, on the files of the Senate, be referred to the Committee on Private Land Claims.

On motion by Mr. UNDERWOOD, it was

Ordered, That the petition of citizens of Paducah, Kentucky, on the files of the Senate, relating to the establishment of a port of delivery, and improving the harbor at that place, be referred to the Committee on Commerce.

On motion by Mr. SHIELDS, it was

Ordered, That the documents on the files of the Senate relating to the incorporation of a Mutual Insurance Company in the city of Washington, be referred to the Committee for the District of Columbia.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES.

Mr. SOULE, from the Committee on Commerce, to which was referred the memorial of the citizens of Appalachicola, praying that Samuel Bray, keeper of the Dog-Island light-house, on the coast of Florida, may receive some remuneration for the losses sustained by himself and family during the gale of the 23d and 24th of August, 1851, submitted a report, accompanied by a bill for his relief.

The bill was read and passed to the second reading.

Ordered, That the report be printed.

Mr. S., also, from the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads, to which was referred the memorial of Thomas Rhodes, submitted a report, accompanied by a bill for his relief; which was read and passed to a second reading.

Mr. HUNTER, from the Committee on Finance, to which was referred the bill providing for carrying into execution, in further part, the 12th article of the treaty with Mexico, concluded at Guadalupe Hidalgo, reported the same without amendment.

He said that he should have now asked for its consideration, but that he understood the Senator from Louisiana, [Mr. SOULE,] who was not now ready to proceed, desired to be heard upon the subject. He should, however, ask for its consideration at an early day.

Mr. SOULE intimated that he desired to examine some documents relating to the subject-matter of this bill, before he proceeded to its discussion.

Mr. BRODHEAD, from the Committee of Claims, to which was referred the petition of the Orange and Alexandria Railroad Company, submitted an adverse report; which was ordered to be printed.

PASSENGERS BY STEAMBOATS TO CALIFORNIA.

Mr. BRADBURY. I have been requested in behalf of a number of highly-respectable constituents to call the attention of the Senate to abuses alleged to exist in the conveyance of passengers by steamboats from the Atlantic ports to California.

The abuses complained of are:

1. That these boats, in violation of their public engagements, take ordinarily a much larger number of passengers than they can properly accommodate, or is consistent with health and safety.

2. That the supply of food is often deficient in quantity, and of the poorest and most unwholesome quality.

3. That the treatment of passengers, the sick even, by officers and crews of the boats, is sometimes cruel in the extreme.

It is represented that from these abuses large numbers of our fellow-citizens emigrating to California lose their lives or their health by disease engendered on board these boats.

The petitioners say they believe that a thorough investigation by a committee of Congress, with power to send for persons and papers, would disclose scenes occurring on board some of these boats that could find a parallel only in the horrors of the middle passage in the African slave trade.

Not professing to have a personal knowledge how far these representations are well founded, I believe the subject is worthy of the most thorough investigation, and trust it will receive the attention of the Committee on Commerce. With that view I offer the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Committee on Commerce be instructed to inquire whether any legislation is necessary to prevent abuses in the conveyance of passengers by steamboats from the Atlantic ports to those of California.

Mr. GWIN. I have only to say that I thank the Senator from Maine for bringing this subject to the attention of the Senate. I have heard great complaints of these abuses, and I hope the committee will give to the subject its early attention; and if there are such abuses that they will recommend to the Senate the passage of a bill imposing the severest penalties on the owners of the steamships. I have no doubt that many lives have been lost in consequence of the abuses which exist on board those steamers.

The resolution was adopted.

DISCIPLINE IN THE NAVY.

Mr. BADGER. I have been directed by the Committee on Naval Affairs to offer some amendments to the bill heretofore reported from that committee to enforce discipline and promote good conduct in the naval service of the United States. As I desire to have that bill taken up and considered at some early day, I hope that by the unanimous consent of the Senate these amendments may be laid on the table and printed.

The amendments were received informally, and ordered to be printed.

CUBAN PRISONERS IN SPAIN.

The bill for the relief of American citizens lately imprisoned and pardoned by the Queen of Spain, was read a first and second time by its title, and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

BILLS FROM THE HOUSE.

A message was received from the House of Representatives by Mr. FOUNEY, its Clerk:

Mr. PRESIDENT: The House of Representatives have passed a joint resolution for the relief of Elizabeth Prewitt, widow and executrix of Robert C. Prewitt, deceased; also, a bill entitled "An act for the benefit of the Carmelite Monastery in Baltimore; in which resolution and bill they request the concurrence of the Senate.

They were read a first and second time by their titles, and referred, the first to the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads, and the latter to the Committee on Finance.

UNITED STATES COURTS IN DELAWARE.

Mr. BRADBURY. I desire to call up the bill concerning sessions of the courts of the United States in the district of Delaware. I do this at the instance of the Senator from Delaware, [Mr. BAYARD.] The bill provides for a change of the sessions of the United States courts in that district, which are to be held very soon. I hope the Senate will allow the bill to be taken up, so that it may be passed at this time. I move to postpone the prior orders, with a view to taking up that bill.

The motion was agreed to, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill as in Committee of the Whole.

It provides that the Courts of the United States in and for the district of Delaware, shall hereafter be held at New Castle, in the said district; that there shall be two regular terms of the circuit court of the United States in said district, which shall commence on the third Tuesday of June, and third Tuesday of October, in each and every year hereafter; and that there shall be four regular terms of the district court of the United States for the said district, which shall commence on the second Tuesday of April, June, September, and January. The bill also provides, that the office of the clerk of the circuit court for said district, and the records of the said court, shall be kept, either at Wilmington or New Castle, as may be directed by an order of the judges of said court, made

will always receive from me the most profound consideration and the highest respect.

The motion was then agreed to.

PAPERS WITHDRAWN AND REFERRED.

On motion by Mr. HAMLIN, it was

Ordered, That the memorial of the assistant marshals for taking the census in Piscataquis county, Maine, on the files of the Senate, be referred to the Committee of Claims.

On motion by Mr. CLEMENS, it was

Ordered, That the documents on the files of the Senate relating to the claim of the State of Alabama for interest on deferred payments on the five per cent. fund, under the compact for her admission into the Union, be referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

On motion by Mr. ATCHISON, it was

Ordered, That the memorial of the heirs of Hascal Deitchmenny, on the files of the Senate, be referred to the Committee on Private Land Claims.

On motion by Mr. ATCHISON, it was

Ordered, That the petition of J. Espey Cowan, on the files of the Senate, be referred to the Committee on Private Land Claims.

On motion by Mr. JONES, of Iowa, it was

Ordered, That the petition of Charles H. Huxension, on the files of the Senate, be referred to the Committee on Pensions.

On motion by Mr. FISH, it was

Ordered, That the heirs of David Noble have leave to withdraw their petition and papers.

REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES.

Mr. JONES, of Iowa, from the Committee on Pensions, to which was referred the petition of Adam Hays, submitted an adverse report; which was ordered to be printed.

He also, from the same committee, to which was referred the bill for the relief of Philip Müller, reported it without amendment.

Mr. SHIELDS, from the Committee for the District of Columbia, to which was referred the bill to amend an act entitled "An act to incorporate the Washington Gas Light Company," approved July 8, 1848, reported it without amendment.

He also, from the same committee, to which was referred the memorial of the Rector of St. John's Church, Washington, reported a bill for the relief of St. John's Church, in the city of Washington; which was read and passed to the second reading.

Mr. DAVIS, from the Committee on Commerce, to which was referred the bill to provide for the removal of obstructions in the river Savannah, in the State of Georgia, and for the improvement of the same, reported it without amendment.

Mr. DOWNS, from the Committee on Private Land Claims, to which was referred the petition of Joseph H. D. Bowmar, reported a bill for his relief; which was read and passed to the second reading.

CUBAN PRISONERS IN SPAIN.

Mr. DOUGLAS, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, to which was referred the bill for the relief of American citizens lately imprisoned and pardoned by the Queen of Spain, reported it without amendment. He also asked the unanimous consent of the Senate to have the bill taken up and disposed of, as it was of urgent necessity.

The Senate accordingly proceeded to consider the bill as in Committee of the Whole; and no amendment being made, it was reported to the Senate, was ordered to a third reading, and was read a third time and passed.

NOTICES OF BILLS.

Mr. MALLORY gave notice of his intention to ask leave to introduce a bill to be entitled, "A bill relating to the sale of public lands in certain cases."

Mr. WALKER gave notice of his intention to ask leave to introduce a bill for the relief of the heirs and representatives of Captain —.

MEXICAN INDEMNITY.

On the motion of Mr. HUNTER, the Senate proceeded to consider, as in Committee of the Whole, the bill to provide for carrying into execution, in further part, the twelfth article of the treaty with Mexico, concluded at Guadalupe Hidalgo; and no amendment being made, it was reported to the Senate, was ordered to a third reading, and was read a third time and passed.

FLORIDA SENATORIAL ELECTION.

Mr. BERRIEN. Being compelled to leave the city to-morrow, and being uncertain as to the

time when I may be enabled to return, I feel it to be my duty to ask to be relieved from serving on the select committee raised on the memorial of honorable D. L. Yulee, and that some other Senator may be appointed in my place.

The honorable Senator was excused from further service on the committee.

The PRESIDENT. It will be necessary for the Senate to select a member of the select committee, in the place of the honorable Senator from Georgia, who has been excused.

Mr. PEARCE. I hope that by unanimous consent the Chair will be allowed to appoint.

The PRESIDENT. The committee was selected in the first place by the Senate. The Chair, therefore, prefers that the Senate itself shall fill the vacancy. It is an important committee, raised to determine the rights of persons claiming seats in the Senate. The Chair does not, therefore, wish to take the responsibility of filling the vacancy. He trusts, then, if such is the pleasure of the Senate, that Senators will now prepare their ballots for another member of the committee. Or the balloting can be postponed until to-morrow.

Mr. WALKER. I move to postpone it until to-morrow.

The PRESIDENT. It will lie over until to-morrow, and the Chair will then request Senators to prepare their ballots for a member of the select committee.

DISCIPLINE IN THE NAVY.

Mr. BADGER. The Senate will recollect that I reported some time ago, from the Naval Committee, a bill to enforce discipline and promote good conduct in the naval service, by which it was intended to provide a substitute for corporal punishment. That bill was reported by the committee, in the same form in which it passed the Senate, with great unanimity, at the last session of Congress. It is very desirable that that bill should be acted on speedily. We have squadrons now about going to sea, in distant parts of the United States, and it is important that the officers of the Navy should have some system to enforce discipline. I should ask the Senate to take up the bill to which I have referred this morning, but for the fear that it might interfere with the honorable Senator from Mississippi, [Mr. McRAE], who is entitled to the floor on another subject. I wish merely to say at this time, that I believe the bill will not occupy much time. It is a case of emergency that it should be passed at once, and I give notice that I will ask the Senate to-morrow morning to take up the bill and dispose of it.

THE COMPROMISE MEASURES.

The Senate resumed the consideration of the resolution declaring the compromise measures a definite settlement of all questions growing out of the institution of slavery.

Mr. McRAE resumed and finished the speech which he commenced on Thursday last against the resolution. At his request its publication is deferred. It will be published in the Appendix.

Mr. BADGER. Mr. President, I think the honorable Senator from Mississippi, [Mr. McRAE], who has delivered a speech, which will certainly not soon be forgotten in this body, as well for its substance as for his admirable manner, has, nevertheless, fallen into an error as to the character and purpose of the resolution now under the consideration of the Senate, submitted by his late colleague in this body; and I wish, for a few moments, to call the attention of the Senate to what is the true character of that resolution.

The honorable Senator set out with the declaration, that it involved the merits of the several acts of Congress referred to in it; and which form the adjustment or compromise which was adopted at the first session of the last Congress; that this resolution requires in every one who votes in its favor, an approval of each and every one of those measures; and, therefore, cannot properly receive the support of any member of this body who denies or doubts the propriety of any one of those measures.

Now this to me is totally and absolutely a misapprehension of what the resolution contains. The resolution, if I am able to understand the meaning of the plain English words in which it is drawn up, says nothing about the merits of any one of the particular acts referred to. It affirms nothing as to the excellence or propriety of the particular provisions contained in any one of those

acts. It proposes no approval, on the part of this body, of the provisions contained in any one of those acts. It declares nothing respecting them, except as a whole. It declares nothing respecting them, except that those acts do, as a whole, in their mutual connection and dependence upon each other, constitute an adjustment—constitute a settlement—and constituting a settlement, that they ought not to be touched by the legislation of Congress until experience shall demonstrate that further legislation is necessary. That is what the resolution declares, and that is all that the resolution declares. As it is very brief, allow me to read it to the Senate:

Be it resolved, That the series of measures embraced in the acts entitled "An act proposing to the State of Texas the establishment of her northern and western boundaries, the relinquishment, by the said State, of all territory claimed by her exterior to said boundaries, and of all her claims upon the United States, and to establish a territorial government for New Mexico," approved September 9, 1850; "An act for the admission of the State of California into the Union," approved September 9, 1850; "An act to establish a territorial government for Utah," approved September 9, 1850; "An act to amend and supplement to an act entitled 'An act respecting fugitives from justice, and persons escaping from the service of their masters,' approved February 12, 1850," approved September 18, 1850; and "An act to suppress the slave trade in the District of Columbia," approved September 30, 1850, commonly known as the "Compromise Acts," are, in the judgment of this body, a settlement in principle and substance—a final settlement of the dangerous and exciting subjects which they embrace, and ought to be adhered to by Congress until time and experience shall demonstrate the necessity of further legislation to guard against evasion or abuse.

Now, I appeal to every gentleman who is a member of this body, if anything can be clearer than that the resolution affirms, nothing but this: that these measures constitute a settlement of the questions to which they referred and which they embraced. Why, it is there in plain and unmistakable language. There is not one word, letter, or syllable in the resolution that says any one of those measures was in itself the wisest or the best; or that it was even wise or good, considered by itself. The affirmation is, that these measures constitute a settlement; and from that is deduced a further assertion, that, constituting a settlement, they ought to be tried, they ought to be allowed to rest, they should not be interfered with until by time and experience the necessity of change shall be demonstrated. Is not that clear? Why, in the very ordinary transactions of life, if half a dozen individuals who had been engaged in a partnership transaction, or any other mutual business, come to a settlement of pending difficulties between them, and that settlement should be made by mutual grants and releases among them, might it not be—would it not be affirmed, that those mutual acts of grant and release constituted a settlement, and ought to be adhered to? But surely it never would be, it never could be understood, that each and every one of the parties entering into this mutual arrangement with regard to their difficulties, approved of each and everything that was done in the whole series of measures that constituted the adjustment. Certainly not. Therefore, as far as I am able to understand the meaning of the language in which this resolution is couched, there is not in it a single word, letter, or syllable which affirms anything about any one of these measures, or does anything but declare that, together, they constitute a settlement. A settlement how? In principle and substance. It does not declare that the principles of each and every separate measure were right principles; but that the whole together constituted, in principle and substance, a settlement. Why in principle and substance? Because these measures were separate and distinct acts of legislation, and do not, in form, appear to be a settlement. Each one, on its face, stands as an independent exercise of the legislative power. Therefore, they do not constitute, in form, a settlement. But the language of the resolution is, that they constitute a settlement in principle and substance. This means, that although they were all separately passed, they were all designed—they were all understood—they were all voted upon by those who passed them, with the understanding that there was a mutual connection and dependence between them; and that after they were all passed, they were, and were entitled to be, considered a settlement of the questions embraced in them. I shall vote very cheerfully for this resolution; but I shall not consider myself, in so voting, as expressing, in the remotest degree, the opinion that I approve of all, or any one of these separate

Mr. MASON. It is doubtless important, in the opinion of the Senator from Kentucky, that these questions which affect more specially the interest of the Western country should receive immediate consideration; but I submit to him that this is a matter of more importance, as it affects the honor of the nation, and ought to receive earlier consideration than a bill for a mere appropriation. It is a question between the Government of the United States and the Government of Spain, and is one in which, I think, the Senator, if he will investigate it, will find that the good faith and honor of our Government are involved. I do not now wish to interfere with the business before the Senate, and I therefore hope that the matter will be assigned to an early day.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. I would say to my friend from Virginia, that I am certain that the bill in reference to the Anistad will be discussed, and perhaps tediously; and that, to fix on a day for the consideration of the bill before the report is printed, is unusual. I trust he will consent to let it lie over for a week or so, and then we can take it up and fix a day. The other measures to which I have made reference are measures which are held much at heart by many of our Western constituents; they have been pending here for a long time, and I do not think it would be right to over-ride them by these new measures. I hope the gentleman will let the matter lie over until the report is printed—at least for a week or so—when a day can be fixed.

Mr. MASON. I do not wish to press it too strongly, knowing the sensitiveness of the Senator from Kentucky for the interests of the Louisville canal, or the Ohio river, and other interests of that kind. Perhaps he will be satisfied with a later day in April. I will mention Monday, the 26th of April. I want to have a day fixed when we may take it up with certainty.

Mr. HALE. I have been, I think, five years a member of the Senate, and I do not remember that we have acted upon the calendar regularly for one single day in that time. I shall be here, perhaps, for another year; and when I go home, I want to tell my constituents that we have worked in order one day during the six years that I have been here. I have opposed all special orders. The last time that it was proposed to make a bill, in which my constituents are deeply interested, a special order, I opposed it; and when the proposition was made to make the bill granting indemnity for French spoliation prior to 1800, a special order, I opposed that too. I have uniformly voted against making special orders; and many other gentlemen have professed a willingness to refuse to make special orders. If I vote against one, I must against all. I hope the Senate will not make this bill a special order. I would inquire if the motion to postpone to the 26th of April, can be taken separately from the motion to make it a special order?

The PRESIDENT. It can.

Mr. HALE. Then I call for a division of the question.

The question was then taken on the motion to postpone the further consideration of the bill to the 26th of April; and it was agreed to.

The motion to make the bill a special order for that day was not agreed to; there being on a division—ayes 18, noes 18.

Mr. MASON. I wish now to make a motion in reference to the bill just acted upon, that it may take its place on the calendar.

The PRESIDENT. That bill has just been postponed to the 26th of April.

Mr. MASON. Will it come up on that day?

The PRESIDENT. It will be among the general orders, and will not come up unless it is called up.

Mr. MASON. Then I move to reconsider the vote by which it was postponed, that it may take its place on the calendar.

The motion was agreed to, and the bill takes its place on the calendar.

BILLS PASSED.

The following engrossed bills were read a third time and passed:

An act to authorize the payment of invalid pensions in certain cases.

An act to provide for the unpaid claims of the officers and soldiers of the Virginia State and Continental lines of the revolutionary war.

On motion by Mr. UNDERWOOD, the title of the last named bill was amended to read as follows:

"An act to compensate the owners of certain military lands in the State of Kentucky, granted to the officers and soldiers of the Virginia line of the army of the Revolution, which have been taken by paramount claims."

BILL RECOMMITTED.

Mr. GWIN moved that the bill for the relief of Richard W. Meade, recently reported from the Committee on Naval Affairs, be recommitted to that committee, additional testimony having been produced since the report was made.

The motion was agreed to.

THE DEFICIENCY BILL.

A message from the House of Representatives was received, by Mr. FORNEY, its Clerk, announcing that the House of Representatives had passed a bill entitled "An act to supply deficiencies in the appropriations for the service of the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1852."

It was read a first and second time by its title, and referred to the Committee on Finance.

CONTRACTS WITH OFFICERS OF THE ARMY.

Mr. HUNTER submitted the following resolution; which was agreed to:

Resolved, That the Secretary of War be directed to inform the Senate: First, Whether any of the officers of the United States Army have been contractors to furnish supplies to the Government of the United States. Secondly, If such cases exist, what were the rates of such contracts as compared with those of other persons contracting for the same things to be delivered at the same times and places. Thirdly, The names of the officers making and sanctioning such contracts. And lastly, As to the measures, if any, which have been taken by the Department in such cases.

Mr. H. also submitted the following resolution; which was agreed to:

Resolved, That the Committee on the Judiciary be instructed to inquire into the expediency of reporting a bill to make it penal in an officer of the United States to become a contractor, or take an interest, either direct or indirect, in any contract to furnish supplies to the Government of the United States.

CUBAN EXPEDITION.

Mr. MALLORY submitted the following resolution; which was agreed to:

Resolved, That the Committee on Foreign Relations be instructed to inquire into the propriety of authorizing the President of the United States to have investigations made whether any Spanish subjects, not citizens of the United States, have sustained damages by loss of property or otherwise, in consequence of public outbreak or violence in the State of Florida, growing out of the late Cuban expedition; and into the propriety of authorizing the President to make prompt indemnity to the Spanish Government for such Spanish subjects, for said damages.

STRYKER'S ANNUAL REGISTER.

Mr. SEWARD submitted the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Committee on the Library be instructed to inquire into the expediency of subscribing for Stryker's Annual Register.

WASHINGTON CROSSING THE DELAWARE.

The Senate proceeded to consider the resolution of inquiry, submitted by Mr. HALE, the 26th instant, respecting the purchase of a historical painting, "Washington crossing the Delaware," to be placed in the Mansion of the President of the United States, and it was agreed to.

EXTENSION OF THE CAPITOL.

A message from the President of the United States was received by Mr. M. P. FILLMORE, his Secretary, announcing that in compliance with the resolution of the Senate of the 24th instant, relating to the extension of the Capitol, a report from the Secretary of the Interior was submitted, which furnished, it is believed, the required information.

The message was read, and referred to the Committee on Public Buildings.

NAVY-YARD AT SAN FRANCISCO.

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill to establish a navy-yard and depot on the bay of San Francisco, and for other purposes, the question being on the substitute offered by Mr. BRODHEAD.

Mr. BRODHEAD. Before the question is taken, I desire to modify the substitute in a few particulars. In the second section of the substitute, I desire to have the words "President of the United States" stricken out, and the words "Secretary of the Navy" inserted instead. The section will then provide, that "when such land shall

have been so selected and secured, the Secretary of the Navy be, and he hereby is authorized to appoint and assign such officers," &c. I also desire to add a new section, providing for the pay of the officers who may go out, that is to say, that their actual expenses shall be paid in addition to their regular pay, but not that they shall receive double pay.

The additional section was read, as follows:

Sec. 5. And he it further enacted, That the Secretary of the Navy be, and he is hereby authorized, to allow the amount of their present service pay to the officers whom he may select or appoint under the first section of this act, and to allow or reimburse to them the actual amount of their expenses consequent upon the performance of their duty under this act, and in conformity with such instructions as they may receive from the President of the United States, and in pursuance thereof.

Mr. SHIELDS. I would suggest to the Senator from Pennsylvania, that, if he substitutes the words "Secretary of the Navy" for "President of the United States" in the second section, he ought also to insert them in the fifth section, so as to make the bill uniform.

Mr. HUNTER. Before the question is taken on the passage of this bill, I have a word or two to say in relation to it. I believe there ought to be a navy-yard in California, and not only do I believe there ought to be one, but I believe we ought to commence its establishment as soon as we have information enough to enable us to act intelligibly upon the subject.

I find, Mr. President, in relation to these establishments, a provision in one of the appropriation bills of 1844, which, I am informed, has governed the action of the Committee of Ways and Means, and the House of Representatives upon such subjects since that period. I will ask the Secretary to read it.

The Secretary read it, as follows:

"Sec. 2. That whenever hereafter in submitting to Congress the annual estimates from the several Executive Departments of the Government, it shall be found that the usual items of such estimates vary materially in amount from the appropriations ordinarily asked for, the object named, and especially from the appropriation granted for the same objects for the year next preceding, and whenever new items not theretofore used shall be introduced into such estimates for any year, the estimates shall be accompanied by minute and full explanations from the head of the appropriate department of all such variations and new items, setting forth the reasons and grounds upon which the amounts are required of the different items asked; and whenever any such estimates, whether annual or special, shall ask an appropriation for any new specific expenditure, such as the construction of a fort, the erection of a custom-house, or other public building, or the construction of any other public work requiring a plan before the buildings or work can be properly executed, every such estimate shall be accompanied by a full plan and detailed estimates of the cost of the whole work; and all subsequent estimates for every such work shall give the original estimated cost, the aggregate amount actually expended thereupon, as well as the amount asked for the current year for which such estimates shall be made; and whenever any such subsequent estimate shall ask for an appropriation for any such work beyond the original estimates of the cost, the full reasons for the excess shall be also stated."

Mr. HUNTER. There is a similar provision in another appropriation bill, some years preceding; but, sir, it is unnecessary to read that. I do not mean to say, sir, that this law deprives us of the power of appropriating money for the erection of any new work for which we have not the plans and estimates which the laws require. I am very far from saying that we have not the power to act without these estimates, but I will say, that the Committee of Ways and Means of the House of Representatives never, when General McKay was at the head of it, voted appropriations without such plans and estimates, but, acting on this provision in the appropriation bill, they threw out all amounts that were not accompanied by them.

I am also informed by my colleague, General Bayly, that when he was chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means, he invariably acted on the rule thus laid down. What is the mode of proceeding of the present committee I do not know, but I believe that, if we were to pass this bill without these plans and estimates, it would be a mere dead letter, and would not be considered by that House. I believe that it would be much better, if the Senator from California wishes the establishment of a navy-yard in that State, for us to obtain detailed plans and estimates, that we may see what we are about in voting for this establishment. I believe, as I proceed in my comments on the bill, that the necessity for such information will become obvious, and that it will be equally apparent that we should not grope too far in the dark in relation