OFFICIAL.

LOUISIANA LEGISLATURE.

Journal of the House of Representatives.

MONDAY, February 12th, 1850.

The House met pursuant to adjournment.

On the Roll being called a quorum answered to their names.

The Speaker laid before the House a statement of the receipts and expenditures of the New Orleans Navigation Company.

On motion, the same was referred to the Finance Committee.

The following gentleman introduced the following petitions, which on being read, were referred to the appropriate Committees.

Mr. Winder—Memorial of Louis Hagerm, f. m. c., a veteran of 1814 and 1815, asking for relief.—Referred to Committee on Militia.

Mr. Preston—Petition of Henry Mithoff for relief.—Referred to Judiciary Committee.

Mr. Watts—Petition of John Lane for relief. Referred to Committee on Claims.

Mr. St. Martin—Petition of N. F. Sckenicgere for relief.— Referred to Committee on Claims.

Mr. Flemming—Petition of certain citizens to incorporate a Board of Commissioners to examine all pilots.—Referred to Judiciary Committee.

Mr. Preston—Memorial from J. A. Ragan relative to a plan preventing the inundation of the Mississippi river.—Referred to select committee of three members. The Speaker appointed Messrs. Preston, King and Caldwell on said committee.

Mr. Monsigan—Memorial of the citizens of the city of N. O. praying that the N. Orleans, Canal and Banking Company be not to be erect bridges across the New Canal opposite St Paul and Magazine streets.—Referred to a select committee of five members.

The Speaker appointed on said committee, Messrs. Saunders, Moore, George, Louis and Packer.

Mr. Laville—On behalf of the committee of enrolments reported that the committee had this day appointed Mr. H. Pedescaux, an additional translating clerk of the House in pursuance with a resolution adopted on the 9th inst.

On motion, Mr. Pedescaux took the oath of office.

By a message from the Governor through his private secretary, the following communication was received.

To the House of Representatives

In answer to a resolution, passed by your honorable body, on the 6th inst., and embracing the following requests:

1. The correspondence, if any, between the Executive of this, and that of other States of the Union, in relation to the proposed Nashville Convention, to send delegates to which he has been recommended by the Executive

2 Common action of the subject matters to be deliberated upon; and the specific objects and ends intended to be accomplished by said Convention.

3. The powers and authority granted by the other States to the delegates commissioned by them to act in said Convention.

4. A particular statement of any fact or circumstances within his knowledge, or any public exigency, making it necessary and imperative upon the Sovereign Legislature, for a solemn act of Legislature to recognize and participate in such Convention.

5. And lastly, the communication of a such other matter, papers, documents and correspondence, as may be in his or their possession, and which, in the opinion of the Executive Department, or in his possession, as Governor of the State.

I beg leave to state, in the first head, that I have already transmitted to the General Assembly, the proceedings of the Legislature of Tallessee and Connecticut, and that touching the second question of the Convention proposed to be held at Nashville on the 1st of the present year, no official correspondence has passed between the Executive of this and that of any other State, and the document of that nature is on the Legislative files.

In the absence of such correspondence and documents, it is not, perhaps, unwise to some difficulty to seek precisely of the second inquiry, the objects to be deliberated upon, and the character of the subject matters to be declared upon. The difficulty becomes more strong, when we find in view, that, depending on the free and unbiased opinions of the delegates and their Sovereign action, expressing the wishes and constituents, commissioned against the South, the discussions may have assume a wider range than would now be easy to foresee or to attempt to control. The Convention ordered to be next assembled by said Convention, so far as my views extend—and these are derived from mere reasons of sentiment made by the Legislature of the Southern portion of the Union, be fatal to the success of those interests of protection for the South, and in the words of their resolves and recommendations "to adopt such measure and measure of redress" as the exigency, to which we are exposed, may demand at the hands of a people, united in their feelings and co-regard to their rights.

The answer, to the second request of the House of Representatives, covers the purport of the third inquiry. I have no communication on this subject, and no specific powers and instructions, which my knowledge, have been conferred on the future delegates of the present Convention.

My suggestions, in the premises, invoking the attention of the General Assembly to the momentous question, turned especially upon the Gulf of Mississippi, will doubtless be felt by other Southern States, making it the duty of the Executive to assemble them, in case of the suggested action of Congress, trenching on the subject of property, whether in the common territory or the United States, in the district of Columbia, or in the dealings as between State and State. The language of the resolves, which have invited my suggestions to the Legislature, confers no powers, and specified powers on the convening of delegates. That, I cannot conceive, is to be left to the action of the Legislature, or to the people themselves, in the exercise of their undelegated authority. The feelings and resolutions of the primary Convention of Mississippi merely proclaim the deliberate conviction that the time has arrived when the Southern people should take counsel together for their common safety and that a Convention of the slave-holding States, represented by delegations, commissioned by the people, or otherwise should be held at Nashville on the first Monday of June next. To devise and adopt some mode of resistance to the aggressions of the Northern States, and that, therefore the Southern States should be invited to appoint delegates and alternates, in a ratio double of that of their representatives in Congress, to attend the deliberations of the Convention.

The fourth inquiry is sufficiently answered by a bare adherence to the popular or legislative action of the other Southern States, that have preceded Louisiana, in the expression of sentiments, strong, determined, and vindicating their rights—Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee, Missouri, Florida, Alabama and Mississippi, either by meetings or complete proceedings of their legislatures, under the indications of what the inevitable action of the North, through an unscrupulous majority in Congress, is bent on achieving, have expressed their willingness and determination, at all hazards, to resist the ill but perpetrated encroachments. "The facts, or circumstance, inquired into, is the manner pre-determination to commit the wrong, and it is trusted, on the part of Louisiana, that an equal determination to resist will precede the commission of that wrong. We share alike in the dangers that threaten the South; we should contribute, in all corresponding measure to the defence of common rights.

This, to my mind, is the "public exigency" which imperatively calls on Louisiana not to be a laggard in the final abatement, between our long endured remonstrances and the aggressive policy of the North. Long as the aggression was confined to the efforts of misguided zealots, unwarrantably interfering in our home concerns, we might well have been absolved from the obligation of visiting the interference with any other retribution than that of silent contempt.

But that policy has now assumed the form of a steady, systematic, political scheme. Its demonstrations are manifested with all the solemnities which attend the acts of sovereignties. We cannot overlook the glaring evidences of a concerted alliance, among the Northern States, against the peace, the dignity and the very existence of the South. When, therefore, each of three sovereignties, that have lent themselves to the scheme and entered into that league, by the solemn act of its Legislature, transmitted unto it a disgrace of its determination, its respective Southern Executives, has requested its Representatives and instructed its Senators in Congress to enforce the passage of measures that strike fatally at our vital interests, it appears that Louisiana would be but acting, in the line of duty, if not under the law of necessity, should its voice by a solemn act of its Legislature, be raised in a proper rebuke of the nefarious scheme and in a timely warning, to a headlong majority of the consequences of their trampling our constitutional compromises and rights. The high and virtuous character of the fathers of the land was established by a calm, manly and successful resistance, to the assumptions of an irresponsible power; and if our "Northern brethren," unmindful of the spirit that once marked that resistance shall press upon us a question, upon which argument has long been exhausted, Louisiana must make it her duty to show that she neither forgets the lessons of history, nor shrinks from the maintenance of her rights.

Passing over the last branch of your inquiries, with the statement that there are no additional information or documents of file in the Executive Department, and that I have no correspondence "in relation to the subject matters of the Convention," that I deem either proper or necessary to communicate at this time, I would in further connexion with this question, most respectfully refer your honorable body to that portion of my inaugural address, which invites your attention to the intended course of the South. To the Legislature of the State of Louisiana, it belongs, in their wisdom, to decide what form of action shall be fittest to provide "the mode and measure of redress," and most consonant with the interests and safety of a Southern State, and the maintenance of the Union against Northern assaults.

(Signed) JOSEPH WALKER.

On motion, one thousand copies of the above communication were ordered to be printed, and the same was referred to the Committee on Federal Relations

The Speaker laid before the House, a communication from Robt. J. Key, Register of the Louisiana Land Office, transmitting lists showing the position of the 16th sections in the several townships of the State, which was, on motion, referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

By a message from the Senate the House was informed that the Senate had appointed a committee of conference on the part of the Senate, on the disagreeing bills and resolutions.

An act to authorise the appointment of an additional Notary Public for the parish of Caddo.

An act to prohibit the retailing of ardent Spirits within certain limits.

An act to emancipate Louis Bones.

Resolution in relation to declaring the timber on Red River.

An act to create an additional Notary Public in and for the parish of Avoyelles.

Resolution instructing our Senators, and requesting our Representatives in Congress, to use their best efforts to have a tri-weekly mail by stage established from Natchitoches by the way of Mansy, in Sabine Parish, to Mansfield, in De Soto Parish, to Shreveport.

An act to establish a ferry across the Atchafalaya River, in the parish of Avoyelles, and for other purposes.

An act to emancipate Jean Baptiste Martin Rabelais, of the parish of Avoyelles.

An act to emancipate Jacques Amable Cappel, of the parish of Avoyelles.

An act for the relief of John Justin Quere, of the parish of Orleans.

Resolution appointing a Joint Committee to examine the Books of P. E. D. Devaudars, late Treasurer.

By the same message, the House was informed of the concurrence of the Senate, with amendments to the following bills of the House:

An act relative to the electing of an additional Justice of the Peace in Police Jury Ward No. 2, and Constable in the Parish of Caddo.

An act to incorporate the town of Trinity, and the concurrence of the House was requested in said amendments.

By the same message, the signature of the Speaker of the House was requested to the enrolled bill of the Senate, entitled

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