

Said bill was indefinitely postponed.

Bill to be entitled, An act to authorize the Administrators of Henry V. Ellis deceased, to sell real estate;

Was read the second time.

Mr. Maxwell moved to lay said bill on the table,

Which was carried.

Bill to be entitled, An act to amend an act relating to the duties of Tax Assessors and Tax Collectors, and for other purposes, approved January 9, 1849;

Was read.

On motion the substitute for said bill was read and adopted, and ordered to be engrossed for a third reading on Monday next.

House bill to be entitled, An act to amend an act to organize a Supreme Court for the State of Florida;

Was read the first time, rule waived, read the second time by its title, referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and 75 copies ordered to be printed.

House bill to be entitled, An act relating to the duties of Tax Assessors and Tax Collectors;

Was taken up.

Mr. Smith moved to re-commit said bill to the Committee on Taxation and Revenue;

Which was carried.

Mr. Smith moved, that the Senate adjourn until Monday next 12 o'clock, M.

On this motion the yeas and nays were called for by Messrs. Brown and Mosley, and were:

Yeas – Mr. President, Messrs. Baldwin, Brown of Hillsborough, Buddington, Crawford, Finely, Maxwell, Smith – 8.

Nays – Messrs. Avery, Brown of Columbia, Forward, Johnson, McMillan, Mosley – 6.

Said motion was carried.

The Senate adjourned until Monday next 12 o'clock, M.

Monday, December 23, 1850.

The Senate met pursuant to adjournment.

The Rev. Mr. Pratt officiated as Chaplain.

A quorum being present, the proceedings of Saturday were read and approved.

Pursuant to previous notice, Mr. Avery asked leave to introduce a bill to be entitled, An act requiring to be paid into the School Fund money derived from the sale of slaves under the act of Nov. 22, 1829;

Which was read the first time, and ordered to a second reading to-morrow.

Mr. Johnson gave notice that he would, on some future day, ask leave to introduce a bill to be entitled, An act to declare and define

the meaning and intent of the third section of an act entitled an act to define the duties and prescribe the compensation of Tax Assessors and Collectors in this State, approved January 8, 1848.

Mr. Baldwin gave notice, that he would on some future day ask leave to introduce a bill to be entitled, An act for the relief of William D. Moseley, and for other purposes.

Pursuant to previous notice, Mr. Maxwell introduced a bill to be entitled, An act to change the time when Grand Juries shall examine the accounts of the County Treasurer;

Which was read the first time, and ordered to a second reading tomorrow

Mr. Smith gave notice that he would, at some future day, ask leave to introduce a bill to be entitled, An act to appropriate one thousand dollars, of any money belonging to the Internal Improvement Fund, for the purpose of opening the navigation of Holmes Creek in Washington County, which was greatly obstructed by the late storm.

Mr. Mosley, from the Committee on Elections, made the following report:

The Committee on Elections, to whom was referred, An act to provide for the transmission of election returns from the several election precincts in the State of Florida, beg leave to report:

That they have had same under consideration, and instructed me, as their Chairman, to report the bill back to the Senate without amendment, and ask to be discharged from the further consideration of the same.

W. P. MOSELEY, *Chairman*.

Which was received, and said bill ordered to be placed among the orders of the day.

Mr. Baldwin, from the Committee on Engrossed Bills, made the following report:

The Committee on Engrossed Bills, beg leave to report as correctly engrossed,

A bill to be entitled, An act to amend an act relating to the duties of Tax Assessors and Tax Collectors and for other purposes approved January 9, 1849.

A bill to be entitled, An act to amend the several acts now in force in relation to pleadings in Civil Suits.

JOHN P. BALDWIN, *Chairman*.

Which was received, and said bills ordered to be placed among the orders of the day.

Mr. Perry, from the Committee on Taxation and Revenue, made the following report:

The Committee on Taxation and Revenue, to whom was referred a bill to be entitled, An act to amend an act amendatory of the several acts now in force in relation to the assessment and collection of the Revenue, approved January 13th, 1849, have had the same under consideration, and instructed me to report the following, as substitute for the original bill, as being more perfect in all its parts.

and essential to the practical operation of the law. The Committee recommend the passage of the bill now reported, and ask to be discharged from the further consideration of the subject.

M. S. PERRY, *Chairman.*

Which was received, and said bill with said substitute, ordered to be placed among the orders of the day.

Mr. Forward from the Committee on Corporations made the following report:

The Committee on Corporations have instructed me to report back to the Senate, the following bills without amendment, viz:

An act to incorporate a Company to be called the Wacissa and Ocilla Navigation Company; and

An act to incorporate the Leon and Gadsden Plank Road Company.

W. A. FORWARD, *Chairman.*

Which was received, and said bills ordered to be placed among the orders of the day.

Mr. Forward moved that the rule be waived, and he be allowed to introduce a bill to be entitled, An act authorizing Judge of Probate to set apart Dower;

Which was carried.

Said bill read the first time, on motion of Mr. Forward laid on the table, and 75 copies ordered to be printed.

Mr. Brown of Hillsborough, from the Committee on Claims and Accounts, asked leave under the rule of the Senate, to introduce a bill to be entitled, An act for the relief of J. L. Wyman, said bill having been presented by the President of the Senate;

Which was granted, and said bill ordered to be placed among the orders of the day.

Mr. Baldwin moved to take from the table, the report of the Committee on Judiciary, on a bill to be entitled, An act to amend an act entitled an act to exempt homesteads from Execution, Attachment and distress, approved March 11, 1845;

Which motion was carried, and said bill ordered to be placed among the orders of the day.

Mr. Maxwell, from the Committee on the Judiciary, made the following report:

The Judiciary Committee have had under consideration the bill referred to them to be entitled, An act to amend an act entitled an act to exempt Homesteads from execution, attachment and distress, approved March 11th, 1845, and have instructed me to

REPORT:

That they think an exemption of \$1,000 from execution, would be too large an amount. The present exemption, amounting in value, to \$300, seems to operate as a salutary law; and the Committee are not aware that there is evil which requires to be remedied. The only defect of the law against which they deem some action

necessary, is to be found in the fact that actual housekeepers in any city, town or village are not entitled to exemption as to their dwelling-house, in the same manner as is allowed to farmers who own forty acres of land. The object of the law is to guard against suffering and destitution in families, and there can be seen no reason why the same humanity should not be extended to all, whether living in town or country. The Committee propose to meet this defect by the accompanying amendment to the bill, and recommend that the same be passed.

A. E. MAXWELL, *Chairman.*

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

That the provisions of the first section of an act to exempt Homesteads from execution, attachment and distress, approved March 11th, 1845, in favor of every farmer seized and possessed of forty acres of land, be, and the same are hereby, extended, so as to grant a similar exemption under the same restrictions, (except as to the requisition that he shall "actually have in cultivation at least ten acres" of land), to every owner of a dwelling-house and the lot on which the same stands, in any city, town or village of this State, provided said owner shall actually reside in said house.

Which was received.

Mr. Baldwin, from the Committee on the Judiciary, made the following minority report:
The undersigned, a minority of the Committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred a bill to be entitled, An act to amend an act to exempt homesteads from execution, attachment and distress, differing from the majority of said Committee, beg leave to

REPORT:

That in their opinion, the general good of the country would be promoted by the passage of the bill referred as aforesaid, leaving out of view the consideration that its becoming a law would prevent suffering and destitution in many worthy families in our State, the heads of which have been reduced in circumstances by unanticipated misfortunes, always incident to human life. A more general object is sought to be accomplished by the introduction of this bill. – If homesteads to the value of \$1000, are thus exempted, the proprietors would have inducements to improve them by every means within their control, feeling the security which the bill would give them, that the fruits of their toil and labor would not, as soon as they reached their full maturity, be reaped by another, and thus the condition of the State would be improved, and its interests promoted. The value of property would, under such a state of things, be enhanced, and the sources of wealth to the State would be increased and extended. But whilst this result would inevitably flow from it, and the destitution of the family would be avoided, it would leave in the hands of the debtor the means by which, with judicious management, he could realize a sufficient sum to pay his honest debts:

and, in the same rate with the increase of the value of his homesteads by improvement, would be the increase of his ability to discharge his liabilities.

JNO. P. BALDWIN,
O. M. AVERY.

Which was received.

Mr. Finley, from the select Committee relative to Mr. Edmund LaFayette, made the following report :

The Committee appointed by the Senate to wait upon the President of the Senate, and Mr. Edmund LaFayette, to request of them copies of their respective addresses upon the introduction of Mr. LaFayette to this body, for the purpose of having the same spread upon the Journals, ask leave to report that they have procured copies of the address of the President of the Senate, and reply of Mr. LaFayette, and have placed the same in the hands of the Secretary. They ask to be discharged from the further consideration of the same.

J. J. FINLEY,
ALLEN G. JOHNSON.

Which was received.

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT.

Sir—In the name and on behalf of the Senate of Florida, I have the exalted pleasure of inviting you to a seat in this Chamber during the present session.

To the emotions of gratitude and pride, derived from my elevation to the Presidency of the Senate, is now superadded the profound gratification of inviting, as a guest to our Chamber, a worthy descendant of the pure, patriotic and illustrious LaFayette.

The noble sacrifices made by your beloved and venerated grand-sire in the cause of American liberty, have embalmed his name in an immortality of fame. So godlike was his philanthropy that he surrendered the splendor and ease of fortune, the dignity and honor of station, and the sweet delights of home, to aid our fathers in their struggle for liberty.

For this, every American's heart will throb with gratitude and be in itself a monument recording his noble deeds—a monument more lasting and honorable than the polished marble or fretted column.

The name of LaFayette will be transferred to other times by the pages of history enshrined in glory.

When, with proud exultation, we contemplate the matchless progress of our beloved America to unrivalled fame in the arts and sciences—we turn, with undisguised pleasure, to your own dear France, and welcome her on in her bold advance to a pure Republic like our own; and fondly cherish the pleasing and confident hope that ere long we will encircle her in our arms and press her to our bosom, as a lovely and beautiful sister Republic.

The spark of Republicanism has been wafted across the Atlantic,

and is rapidly kindling into a mighty flame which will eventually overwhelm the Monarchies of the Old World.

The divine right of Kings is now a debated question, and the American motto, that man is capable of self-government, is thereby acquiring advocates.

The divine right of man to political equality, happiness and freedom, has superseded the divine right of Kings, and is now the theme of eloquence and of enthusiastic imagination.

Your own beloved France, like our own America, seeks only the honor and happiness of her people; and she will with her abundant supply of philanthropy, talent, genius, learning and eloquence, accomplish this great and noble end. For the elevated, sacred and inestimable privilege we this day enjoy, in being permitted to assemble in this hall, and frame, in consultation, laws for the advancement of the happiness and prosperity of the good people, we are indebted to the noble and disinterested sacrifices of your illustrious ancestor, Marquis de LaFayette, in conjunction with our noble fathers, who with their wisdom, valor and blood, purchased for us the beautiful form of government under which we live, and which has shed its blessings, like the silent and refreshing dews of Heaven, alike upon the high and the low, the rich and the poor.

Be assured then, sir, that it is with the purest sentiments of respect and esteem that we say unto you, as a descendant of General LaFayette—Welcome, thrice welcome, to all the honor, kindness and hospitality, that we can accord to you.

REPLY OF MR. LAFAYETTE.

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Senate:

Permit me to return my grateful thanks for the honor the Legislature of Florida has done me by the Resolutions they have passed, for the courteous manner in which they have been communicated by your Committee, and also to assure you how much I feel flattered by the kind manner in which you have spoken.

In accepting these honors, I recognize them as tokens of your sympathy and respect for the name of General LaFayette, and I am filled with the deepest emotions. To my grand-father, the most precious reward of his public life was, that he held a place in the hearts of the American people.

And if at times, when he was engaged in the struggle of Liberty for France, the clouds of adversity dimmed her fair prospects, and depressed the spirit of her votaries, and when her enemies were exulting in the expectation of her down-fall; if in the midst of reverses, all hope seemed about to be extinguished, in order to re-ignite its cheering light within him, and to gain fresh courage and energy for the strife—he had only to turn his eyes to America, and to contemplate that glorious prosperity which has resulted from your freedom and from your Republican institutions.

It was his good fortune and great happiness that he was permit-

ted to be the comrade of your immortal patriots; and if the evidence which General LaFayette received in his life time, that he shared a place in the hearts of your people, with that noble band who achieved your independence, was such a source of happiness to him, how much would that feeling have been exalted could he have foreseen that his memory would be transmitted to their descendants, continue to be cherished with so much affection among them, that even one of his grand-sons, now travelling in this country, because he bears his name, should be received with such kindness and such honor.

And permit me to assure you, gentlemen, that in return for the honors and kindness with which the country which had adopted him heaped upon General LaFayette, he entertained sentiments of admiration, affection and devotion, which would rival those of any native son of your country, and those sentiments he has handed down to his descendants.

You, sir, have alluded to the French Republic, and have expressed your aspirations for its prosperity and consolidation. Permit me, Sir, to thank you in the name of every Republican in France, as well as in my own, for your good wishes, which, I fervently hope, will be realized.

As an obscure soldier of the Republican Army, and as a member of the French Assembly, I laboured to establish her present Constitution.

And what I behold in your Country, strengthens my zeal in the cause and confirms my convictions, that the prosperity, and happiness, and glory of a people is to be sought in Republican Institutions, and that France, having adopted them, will continue her career, notwithstanding the efforts of those who are desirous to return to a past, which is obsolete and cannot come again.

It is with the dearest interest that I will avail myself of your courteous invitation, to attend upon your deliberations, and witness the practical workings of those institutions which are the glory of your Country, and stand forth as models for the imitation of the whole world.

The following message was received from the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, December 23, 1850.

Hon. President of the Senate:

Sir; The House have passed the enclosed Resolution relative to the appointment of a Joint Committee on the part of the two Houses to take into consideration the question of slavery generally, in which the concurrence of the Senate is respectfully requested.

Respectfully,

H. ARCHER,
Speaker Ho. Reps.

Which was read, and said resolution ordered to be placed among the orders of the day.

Also, the following :

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, December 23, 1850.

Honorable President of the Senate:

Sir: The House have passed the following bills, viz:

Bill to be entitled, An act for the relief of the funds for the education of poor children in the County of Franklin;

Also, bill to be entitled, An act for the benefit of Dr. Thomas M. Palmer and Drs. Taylor & Palmer;

Also, Resolution relative to the employment of a Clerk in the Comptroller's Office.

Also the following Senate bills, without amendment, viz:

Bill to be entitled, An act to establish the rates of wharfage, dockage and storage in the City of Key West, County of Monroe;

And bill to be entitled, An act to change the name of Maria L. West.

Respectfully,

H. ARCHER.

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Which was received, and said bills ordered to be placed among the orders of the day.

Mr. Forward, from the Committee on Enrolled Bills, made the following report:

The Committee on Enrolled Bills, beg leave to report as correctly enrolled, the following bills:

An act to alter and amend the act entitled an act to incorporate the Atlantic and Gulf Rail Road Company;

An act to locate and make permanent the County Site of Walton County;

An act to empower Alexander R. Godwin, a minor, to assume the management of his own estate.

W. A. FORWARD, *Chairman.*

Which was received.

The following communication was transmitted to his Excellency the Governor:

SENATE CHAMBER, December 23, 1850.

His Excellency THOMAS BROWN,

Governor of Florida:

SIR:—I have the honor herewith to transmit, for the approval of your Excellency, the following Acts, viz:

An act to establish the fees of Notaries Public in certain cases in the County of Munroe;

An act for the relief of Levi F. Miller, of Washington County;

An act in relation to Pilotage for the Port of Key West;

An act for the relief of George M. Hamilton;

An act to punish Cheats and False Pretences;

An act to amend an act entitled an act to re-establish the Records of the County of Jackson, and for other purposes;

An act prescribing the duty of the Register of Public Lands, Sheriffs and Solicitors in relation to the recovery of estates escheat.

ing or reverting to the School Fund on account of a defect of heirs or next of kin, and for other purposes.

Passed by both Houses of the General Assembly, and signed by the respective officers thereof.

Respectfully,
NEIL McPHERSON,
Secretary of the Senate.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

Engrossed bill to be entitled, An act giving to the Alabama and Florida Rail Road Company the right to extend their Road into the State of Florida with chartered privileges;

Was read the third time; on the question of its passage the yeas and nays were:

Yeas—Mr. Presiden Messrs. Austin, Avery, Baldwin, Brown of Columbia, Brown of Hillsborough, Buddington, Crawford, Finley, Forward, Johnson, Maxwell, McMillan, Moseley, Perry, Smith, Stewart, Taylor—18.

Nays—None.

Said bill passed. Title as stated.

Ordered that the same be certified to the House of Representatives.

House bill to be entitled, An act for the relief of the funds for the Education of the poor children of the County of Franklin;

Was read the first time, and ordered to a second reading to-morrow.

Bill to be entitled, An act for the relief of J. L. Wyman;

Was read the first time, and ordered to a second reading to-morrow.

House bill to be entitled, An act to incorporate the Leon and Gadsden Plank Road Company;

Was read the second time, and ordered to a third reading to-morrow.

House bill to be entitled, An act to incorporate a company to be called the Wacissa and Ocilla Navigation Company;

Was read the second time, and ordered to a third reading to-morrow.

Bill to be entitled, An act to amend an act amendatory of the several acts now in force in relation to the Assessment and Collection of the Revenue, approved January 13, 1849;

Was read.

On motion, the bill reported by the Committee on Taxation and Revenue, with the above title, as a substitute for the original bill was read and adopted, and ordered for a second reading to-morrow.

Engrossed bill to be entitled, An act to amend the several acts now in force in relation to pleadings in Civil Suits;

Was read third time; on the question of its passage the yeas and nays were:

Yeas—Mr. President, Messrs. Austin, Avery, Baldwin, Brown of Columbia, Brown of Hillsborough, Buddington, Crawford, Finley, Forward, Johnson, Maxwell, McMillan, Moseley, Perry, Smith, Stewart, Taylor—18.

Nays—None.

Said bill passed. Title as stated.

Ordered that the same be certified to the House of Representatives.

House bill to be entitled, An act to provide for the transmission of election returns from the several precincts in the State of Florida;

Was read the second time, and on motion laid on the table.

Bill to be entitled, An act in relation to Naturalized Citizens voting in this State.

Was taken up. On motion of Mr. Avery, the Senate resolved itself into Committee of the Whole on said bill, Mr. Forward in the Chair. After some time spent in the consideration of said bill, the Committee rose, and by the Chairman thereof, reported said bill back to the Senate as amended;

Which amendment was concurred in, and on motion said bill was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

House Resolution relative to the appointment of a Joint Committee on the subject of slavery,

Was read the first time, and made the special order of the day for Friday next.

On motion of Mr. Crawford, the Senate adjournment until 10 o'clock, to-morrow.

TUESDAY, December 24, 1850.

The Senate met pursuant to adjournment.

The Rev. Mr. Pratt officiated as Chaplain.

A quorum being present, the proceedings of yesterday were read and approved.

Mr. Avery gave notice, that he would at a future day, ask leave to introduce a bill to be entitled, An act providing for the increase of the School Fund from the State Treasury.

Mr. Perry gave notice that he would, on some future day, ask leave to introduce a bill for the relief of Abner D. Johnson.

Mr. Forward, pursuant to previous notice, introduced a bill to be entitled, An act to enable Executors, Administrators and Guardians to sell the real estate of infants;

Which was read the first time, and ordered to a second reading to-morrow.

The President presented the petition of sundry citizens of Leon County, in relation to the removal of free negroes from the State.