

Our Eastern Mail.—The mail-bags which contained the last Eastern Mail, were literally crammed full; and we are informed by the Post-Master at Memphis, that a considerable portion of the mail destined for this Territory, was left at Jackson, Tenn. in consequence of the Post-Master at that place being unable to get the whole into the mail-bags. The Official packets and letters directed to the Commanding and other Officers at Fort Smith, constituted a considerable portion of the last mail, and were nearly sufficient of themselves to have filled one pair of mail-bags; and the frequent delays which are experienced by the Officers, in receiving instructions from Washington, &c. no doubt often proceed from the above cause. Similar causes have several times prevented us from receiving whole mails during the late winter, and this circumstance, we think, ought to be a strong inducement to the Post-Master General to give us a weekly mail on this route.

Rumors.—A letter to the Editor, from a respectable source at Arkansas, received by Sunday's mail, contains the following rumors, which we presume were put afloat there by two or three Cherokee Chiefs, who have recently returned from Washington City. The latter part of it contains very unwelcome news for a large and respectable portion of our fellow-citizens, and we sincerely hope that it may prove to be a rumor only:

"Rumor says that Maj. BRADFORD [who has recently resigned his commission in the Army] has been appointed Brigadier General of the Militia of this Territory—sutler to the troops on Red river—and is to have the entire possession of Fort Smith, &c. And furthermore, that Gov. MILLER has recovered his health, and intends to return to the Territory. The Cherokees have obtained from the government an alteration of their boundary line, and, from what Rogers says, they will have the better part of Lovely's Purchase; so that Gov. Miller, it is supposed, misconstrued the instructions from the Secretary of War, in relation to the running of their boundary line."

THE QUAPAW INDIANS.

Our village has been enlivened for some days past, by the presence of all the Chiefs and most of the men, of this Nation of Indians, amounting to 79 persons in all, who came here for the purpose of receiving from the Acting Governor the Annuities due them for the two last years. The sum due the nation, amounting to \$1,000, was paid to the Chiefs yesterday morning, and was immediately distributed by them to the several families belonging to the nation; and in the evening, nearly the whole party started on their return to their villages. During their stay here, they conducted themselves in the most peaceable and orderly manner toward our citizens, and toward each other.

The Quapaws were once a numerous and warlike nation, but, like most other Indians, who imitate the vices without the virtues of the whites, they retain but a small remnant of their former power, and now number only about 467 souls. They are divided into three villages, each of which is under an hereditary Chief—are a remarkably peaceable and quiet race—profess the highest respect and friendship for our government, for their Great Father, the President of the United States, and for the white people generally—and speak with much pride of their never having shed the blood of a white man.

These Indians own a vast body of land, lying on the south side of the Arkansas river, commencing immediately below this place, and extending to the Post of Arkansas, comprising several millions of acres, a great portion of which is represented to be first-rate cotton land. One of the first wishes of many of our citizens, and of hundreds of others who have visited the Territory with a view of emigrating to it, is for the purchase of the Quapaw lands; and it was generally expected that the Quapaws were ready to cede them, when ever the government should be disposed to purchase. It appears, however, that they are not yet in a humor for parting with their lands. At the Talk held with them yesterday morning, Mr. Crittenden, Acting Governor, told them that he expected shortly to receive instructions from the President to hold a treaty with them for the purchase of their lands, and inquired whether they were willing to sell. At first they appeared disposed to waive the subject, by giving evasive answers to the questions which were asked them. But on being pressed for a reply, they finally stated, in substance, that they were not prepared to give a decisive answer at this time—for the present they would answer no—and intimated a wish that the subject should remain for a future negotiation, when the proposal shall be made by authority of the government. And so the matter rests at present.

The Osages.—We learn from an intelligent young man, who passed this place last week, direct from the Osage Nation, that three of the principal persons engaged in the murder of Maj. Welford and party, had been sent to Mr. Choteau's trading house, for the purpose of being sent down in Mr. Choteau's boat to be given up to Col. Arbuckle, who, it has been before stated, had

twice demanded their surrender. Unfortunately, however, they did not arrive until one or two days after the boat had started, and they have since returned to the nation. Our informant states, that the Osages are greatly alarmed at the removal of the U. S. troops to the mouth of the Verdigris, which is within 50 miles of their village, and expresses a decided belief, that all the murderers will eventually be given up, without a farther effusion of blood.

The Cherokees.—The person who gave us the above information, also stated, that it was currently reported in Crawford county, that some Creek Indians, who have intermarried with the Cherokees, had recently murdered a white man by the name of HART. It is said, that they had stolen some horses from him, and on his demanding them, they took him into the woods, under pretence of hunting the horses, and there murdered him.

We also understand from the same source, that great numbers of the Cherokees are removing west of the line intended for their western boundary, which was run last winter by Capt. Shattuck. It is said that more than 100 families have removed since the running of the line.

Shawnees, Delawares, &c.—We are highly gratified to learn from Batesville, that the latest accounts from the Indians on White river, above that place, represent them as perfectly peaceable and well-disposed, and that they manifest no disposition to molest the whites. This is the more gratifying, as we stated only a short time ago, that those Indians were assuming quite a hostile attitude, and that an attack was apprehended from them.

MARRIED.—At Arkansas, on the 28th ult. by Eli J. Lewis, Esq. Mr. Albert Berdu, to Miss Mary Goeceaur, both of Arkansas county.

DIED.—At Arkansas, on the 21st ult. Mrs. Mary Lewis, wife of Eli J. Lewis, Esq.

CONGRESSIONAL.—Our Congress dates are brought down to the 25th of April, at which time the Tariff bill was still under discussion. The limits of our paper will only allow us at present to give the following summary, which comprises the subjects before Congress that relate to the concerns of this territory:

SENATE. March 13.—Mr. Plumer, from the Committee on the Judiciary, reported a bill "confirming certain acts of James Miller, Governor of the Territory of Arkansas, and for other purposes;" which was twice read and committed.

March 15.—Mr. H. Johnson, of Lou. in pursuance of notice given on Friday last, asked leave to introduce a bill "to provide for the appointment of one Surveyor General of the Lands of the U. States for the state of Louisiana, and one Surveyor General for the state of Mississippi." Leave was accordingly granted; the bill was read, and passed to a second reading.

March 18.—Mr. Benton, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, reported a bill "to enable the President to carry into effect the Treaty made at Ghent, the 24th of December, 1814, excluding foreigners from trade and intercourse with Indian tribes within the limits of said United States, and to preserve the fur trade within the limits of the United States, to American citizens;" which was read, and passed to a second reading, and the documents were ordered to be printed.

[The bill appropriates the sum of \$10,000 to defray the expenses of making treaties of trade and friendship with the Indian tribes beyond the Mississippi—authorizes the appointment of suitable Commissioners, for the purpose; and the appointment, also, of two Sub Agents, to be employed among the tribes on the waters of the Upper Missouri, with a compensation of \$800 each, per annum—authorizes the sub-agents to designate convenient and suitable places for carrying on the trade; and appropriates the sum of \$13,100 to enable the President to cause a competent military force to be transported to, and stationed at, such point on the Upper Missouri, as he shall deem best calculated to effect the object of the bill.]

March 22.—Mr. Benton, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the memorial of the Legislature of the Territory of Arkansas, relative to the extension of the Western Boundary of that Territory, reported a bill to fix the Western Boundary.

March 24.—Mr. Barton, from the committee on public lands, reported a bill to establish a Surveyor General's office in the Territory of Arkansas.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The following resolution was submitted to the House of Representatives on the 23d Feb. by Mr. Sanford, of Tennessee:

"Resolved, That the Committee on the Public Lands be instructed to inquire into the expediency of bringing in a bill to provide, by law, for all settlers on the public lands of the United States, or where they have made any improvements thereon, and the sale of the public land where improvements have been made as aforesaid, should take place after the first day of March in any year thereafter, the occupant shall have the right of holding his improvement for one year, or until the first of March next after the sale of said land.

On the question to agree to this resolution, it was determined in the negative. So the resolution was rejected.

March 15.—On motion of Mr. Jennings, it was Resolved, That the Committee on Roads and Canals be instructed to inquire into the expediency of aiding the State of Indiana to open a Canal at the Falls of Ohio, in conformity to an act of the General Assembly of said state, approved January 31, 1824.

March 17.—Mr. Rankin, from the Committee on Public Lands, reported a bill "granting to the counties of each state and territory of the United States, in which the public lands are situated, the right of pre-emption to quarter sections of land, for seats of justice within the same;" which was twice read, and committed.

Mr. Rankin, from the same committee, reported a bill "changing the mode of surveying the public lands on any river, lake, bayou, or water course, in the state of Mississippi, and territory of Arkansas;" which was twice read and committed.

March 13.—Mr. Owen offered the following resolution:

"Resolved, That the Committee on the Public Lands be instructed to inquire into the expediency of making provision, by law, to secure to all persons who have planted on public lands, the privilege of gathering the crops, when the lands shall be sold by the government while such crops are standing." [Agreed to—yeas 63, noes 69.]

March 19.—Mr. Scott, from the committee to whom was referred the bill from the Senate, "for the final adjustment of land claims in the State of Missouri and Territory of Arkansas, derived from the governments of France and Spain," reported the same with amendments, and it was referred to a Committee of the Whole.

From the Port-Gibson Correspondent.

Col Wm Ward.—The last Arkansas Gazette contains a charge by Robt. C. Oden Esq. of that territory, against Col. William Ward, one of our most valuable and highly esteemed citizens. This Mr. Oden is an emigrant from Franklin county, Kentucky, is about twenty-five or twenty-seven years of age, and has, during a residence of three or four years in that territory, by a correct and praiseworthy discharge of his duties, acquired the confidence of his fellow-citizens, and justly receives from the Editor of the Arkansas Gazette the appellation of "a gentleman of respectability." Col. William Ward is—(however, it will become me, a young man, and but five years a resident, to say to the people of the state of Mississippi what kind of a man Col. Ward is)—suffice it to say, that so far as his secluded situation, and the arduous duties devolving upon him, as an agent for the Choctaws, permitted him to be known to his fellow citizens, he holds the exalted rank of "an honest man." He is charged with having corruptly suppressed a commission directed to General Hinds, of Mississippi, committed to his charge by the War Department.

I have never heard or seen any thing upon this subject but what I gather from the paper before me, the editor of which tenders his columns to the accused, for his vindication. My object in these remarks is to suggest, that perhaps Mr. Oden, at this moment, regrets that, actuated by feelings of disappointment at failing in the patriotic and laborious enterprise in which he was engaged, as well as by an impetuosity incident to his years, he has charged a faithful and tried officer, upon hearsay testimony, of an offence which, without refutation, must prostrate him to the nadir of public estimation. I have a farther object in view—I invite Col. Ward to make use of my columns, if he should need them.

Florence, Alabama, March 25.

The river had fallen about two feet when the last rains began to fall, it is now considerably higher than it was at any time during the late rise. We have never before witnessed here such a wide spread sheet of water; the low grounds must be almost every where along the river under water: we fear much injury will be sustained by the washing off of fences, improvements and also of stock. The continued rains have operated very injuriously to the planters—the whole farming business has been suspended. [Gaz.]

Huntsville, March 26.

The rain which commenced on the morning of the 12th inst. has continued with but one intermission of three days (17th, 18th and 19th inst.) up to the present time. The Tennessee River is said to have risen higher than the oldest inhabitants have ever before seen it. The country is literally inundated with water, and all travelling suspended. [Repub.]

Washington City, March 15.

New York.—On Wednesday last, in the Senate of the State of New-York, the bill, which had previously passed the House of Representatives, for changing the mode of electing Electors of President and Vice President of the United States, was postponed until the first Monday in November next, (equivalent to a rejection,) by a vote of 14 to 17. The election of Electors remains, therefore, with the Legislature, where it has always resided. [Nat. Intel.]

Mexico.—By late accounts from Mexico, we learn that there has been recently a tumult there, commenced by Gen. LATORO, with a view to induce the Congress to change the Ministry, and put the Europeans out of office. He, having found his error, submitted; but others refused to succumb, and twenty-two officers of the army were apprehended, tried, and condemned to death, but pardoned the next day. [ib.]

March 18.—The Board of Commissioners under the article of the Treaty of Ghent concerning deported slaves, &c. reassembled in this city on Tuesday—all the members being present, and resumed the business before them. [ib.]

An alarming mutiny broke out at the State Prison in Boston on Friday morning last, which was fortunately quelled

without the loss of any lives, being kept under for a while by the prudence, discretion, and courage, of the keeper, until the timely arrival of a detachment of Marines, commanded by Major Wainwright, put an end to it. The number of felons who were at the time in prison, and mostly engaged in the revolt, was two hundred and eighty-eight. The three ring leaders were then seized, and punished on the spot, in the presence of all the convicts.

Military Academy.—From a document recently laid before the House of Representatives by the Secretary of War, it appears, that the number of Cadets admitted into the Institution during the year 1823, was 97; the number who completed the regular course of study and instruction within that year, 85—all of whom received commissions in the army; and that the whole number discharged, or permitted to depart, within that year, was 53. The number of Cadets at present at the Institution, is 244.

The trial of John Johnson, for the murder of James Murray, in November last, closed at New-York on Wednesday morning, between one and two o'clock. Verdict, that the prisoner at the bar, John Johnson, was GUILTY! Our readers will recollect this atrocious crime, and the mystery which for some days hung over it. The trial naturally excited great interest—the Court Room, and passage to it, having been crowded with spectators from the commencement.

[The prisoner was sentenced by the Court, to be executed on the second Friday of April.]

STEAM BOAT CONTROVERSY.

The interest excited (says the Washington Republican) by the decision of the Supreme Court, in the Steam Boat controversy, has induced us to give the following brief and imperfect view of the Opinion delivered, to gratify our readers.

In delivering the opinion of the Court in the case of Gibbon vs. Ogden, the Chief Justice went into a minute and elaborate discussion of the points taken in the argument. He considered that the circumstances of the case were peculiar.—The Legislature of New-York had passed not merely one act but several—they had been sanctioned by the council of Revision—they had been supported as within the constitution by the Supreme Court—Chancellor—and by the Court of appeals, and no tribunal could approach a question which had already been decided by such authorities, without diffidence and reluctance. It was, however, the duty of the Court to meet and decide the point according to the best of its intelligence, and from that duty it could not, and would not shrink.

The learned Judge went into an examination of the clauses of the constitution giving to Congress authority to regulate commerce. He showed that, according to the ordinary acceptance of the term, and the construction uniformly placed upon it, commerce embraced navigation—and that Congress therefore, had a right to regulate navigation with foreign nations, and among the several states. That there were many regulations clearly within the authority of the individual states, which had been considered as affecting commerce, and which unquestionably did so, but which were matters of police;—such were health laws—quarantine regulations—the laws relating to ferries and many others. But that the regulation of commerce, as such, was exclusively within the power of Congress;—that it could not be a concurrent power residing both in the federal and state governments, but from the very nature of the power it must reside exclusively in the former.

He then proceeded to examine the provisions of the act of Congress, in relation to the coasting trade, and showed that the provisions of that act recognized and confirmed the right of the citizens of one state to carry on navigation and commerce with another state. That the license mentioned in that act was in reality a license, and gave authority to the vessel carrying it to enter the ports specified in it; or, if general, to enter the waters and ports of the United States without restriction. That there was no direct or indirect exclusion of vessels navigated by steam from the operation of that act, but that such vessels were clearly entitled to the benefit of its provisions.

The conclusion, therefore, to which the court had arrived was, that the appellant had a right, under the coasting act, to proceed, without molestation, on the voyage in the prosecution of which he was engaged, and that the acts of New-York, under which the junction was issued, were unconstitutional, and the decision of the court which had been appealed from, was therefore erroneous, and must be reversed.