

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3, 1834.

The partizans of Van Buren were very sanguine of succeeding in their schemes to defeat the re-election of Mr. Leigh, and the return of Mr. Rives, (who may be considered their main stay in Virginia,) till the election for Speaker showed them their weakness, the defeat of Ritchie their utter impotency in the old dominion. They now begin to feel that they have no hopes of electing Rives, and if they should succeed in electing Judge Barbour, they will not gain much by the change. But it is confidently believed that Judge Barbour will not permit his name to be used against Mr. Leigh, even if his prospects of success were better than they are.— Many Jackson men and others to the north deceived themselves as to the effect of the election in New York on the course of the Virginia Legislature.— The elections in Virginia are said to influence the course of other States; but the Old Dominion, in common with South Carolina and some other Southern States, moves on in the course she has pointed out, regardless of the views or feelings of the political cabals in other States. They never succumb to the storm of political fanaticism; but taking their course from principle, they silently march along their prescribed path.

The distribution of the President's Message among the committees to-day, led to a debate. On the motion to refer that portion of the message which relates to France, to the committee on Foreign Relations, Judge Clayton introduced an amendment, which brought several speakers on the floor; and without preface or preliminary they rushed into the merits of the French question. Mr. Clayton urged the necessity of promptly showing the feelings of the House, by instructing the committee to report that it would be inexpedient to act on the message of the President until the final action of the Chamber of Deputies on the Treaty, should be made known.— Mr. Clayton's speech, was replete with sound sense and cogent reasoning. He showed from the debates in the Chambers, that we had no reason to conclude that France was indisposed to do us ample justice, much less that we had any just cause to go to war with our ancient ally, who had given so many testimonies of her friendly feelings to us in the darkest days of our struggle for freedom. Mr. C. recited several extracts from the speeches of members, who had opposed the appropriation in the Chambers, highly gratifying to the feelings and pride of the people of this country. In refusing to grant the supplies until they had been satisfied of the propriety and entire justice of the claim, the Chamber of Deputies had done no more than they declared, the Representatives of the American people would and should do. No treaty is perfect till it has received the sanction of every branch of the Government to which it is to be submitted; and until the Chambers made the appro-

priations, it was not a perfect Treaty. The refusal to sanction it on the part of the Deputies, did not evince any disrespect to this Government, and those who opposed it, disclaimed all such intentions. Besides, the same treaty provided for commercial regulations, which come directly under the cognizance of the Chamber of Deputies. Mr. C. spoke with clearness, force, and moderation, and was followed by Mr. Claiborne of Va. He entirely concurred with Mr. C. and in a strain of eloquence and warmth, deprecated a war with France, and urged the propriety of adopting Mr. C's amendment, and sending the bane and antidote together. He feared the effects of the message on the chivalrous and high-minded nation to which the section related, and he was desirous of satisfying them that the people of this country were not disposed to rush into a war, until every effort to effect an amicable adjustment of the difficulty had failed.

Mr. Wayne disclaimed a disposition to go to war with France, and denied that the President had recommended it. He wished the committee to report and then the House might postpone its action on the report till the close of the session, or till next year. Mr. Archer, and Col. Johnson requested Judge Clayton to withdraw his amendment till the committee should report. He did so, and the debate ended. There is no doubt but at present the House of Representatives would not vote for war measures, but I would not venture to say that such a measure could not be carried before the close of the present session. When the party screws are applied, many things can be done that the members pronounce ridiculous before they are subjected to the Regency drill.