

It has been represented that astronomical calculations subsequent to the close of the year 1812 can be depended upon with greater assurance of the accuracy of their results than before that period, in consequence of the publication and introduction into use of improved solar and lunar tables, constructed by M. de Lambre, of Paris, in France, and M. Burg, of Vienna, in Germany. This circumstance will suggest the propriety of authorizing additional experiments to be made, by approved methods of computation, to test the accuracy of the result found by William Lambert. Under this impression, the committee submit to the House the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the President of the United States be requested to cause such further observations to be made by competent persons residing at the seat of the National Government as may be deemed most proper to determine the longitude of the Capitol, in the city of Washington, with the greatest practicable degree of exactness, and that the data, with abstracts of the calculations, and the results founded thereon, be laid before Congress at their next session.

[NOTE.—For the reports, &c. referred to in this report, see Nos. 277, 328, 332.]

13th CONGRESS.]

No. 387.

[3d SESSION.]

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.

COMMUNICATED TO THE SENATE, FEBRUARY 20, 1815.

Mr. GOLDSBOROUGH, from the Library Committee, reported:

That, in pursuance of the act of Congress passed at the present session, they have lodged an order with the Secretary of the Treasury, in favor of Thomas Jefferson, esquire, late President of the United States, for the sum of \$23,950 in treasury notes, as the purchase money for his library for the use of Congress.

As the authority of the committee, under the act of December, 1811, by which they are created, does not extend beyond the expenditure of the annual fund of \$1,000, and such balances as may have remained on hand, for the purpose of making additions to the library, they respectfully submit to Congress the propriety of providing a library room, and of transporting the library lately purchased to the city of Washington. With this view, they beg leave to present a bill.

13th CONGRESS.]

No. 388.

[3d SESSION.]

ADMISSION OF THE MISSISSIPPI TERRITORY INTO THE UNION AS A STATE.

COMMUNICATED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, FEBRUARY 23, 1815.

Mr. LATTIMORE, from the committee to whom was referred, on the 21st ultimo, a memorial of the Legislative Council and House of Representatives of the Mississippi Territory, praying that the people of the said Territory may be authorized to elect a convention, with power to form a constitution as preparatory to its admission into the Union as a State, made the following report:

By the articles of cession and agreement between the United States and the State of Georgia, it is provided that the Territory aforesaid shall form a State, and be admitted as such into the Union, as soon as it shall contain sixty thousand free inhabitants, or at an earlier period, if Congress shall think it expedient. Agreeably to the last general census, the population of this Territory, of all descriptions, amounted to forty thousand three hundred and fifty-two souls. Since this was taken, the amount has considerably increased by the annexation of that part of West Florida which lies east of Pearl river, and also, as your committee are informed, by emigrations to the eastern settlements of the Territory from several of the States.

Your committee are in possession of no data from which they can form an estimate of the number to which these accessions of population may amount; but they deem it not an unreasonable presumption that the return of peace, by renewing inducements to emigration, may produce an increase to the amount required by the agreement with Georgia, by the time the usual preparatory steps can be taken towards the actual admission of the Territory into the Union as a State. It would seem, therefore, as if what is now solicited would be obtained, of course, in a few years at most.

The question, then, is, is it expedient to provide for the adoption of this Territory into the Union as a favor, or wait its admission of right?

The expediency of anticipating the admission of this community to the rights of an independent State involves in its consideration as well the particular interest of the Territory as the general interest of the United States. In relation to the former, it is to be presumed that the people themselves, who are best acquainted with their own local condition, can best judge of their ability to bear the additional expense of self-government, and weigh other consequences which may ensue from the change. As it respects the latter, your committee possess no facts which would add to the information, and can offer no reasons which would influence the opinion of the House on this point. Their mere opinion is all they have to submit; and it is, that there would be no impropriety in principle, and no injury in effect, to the interest of the nation, in providing, without further delay, for the admission of the Territory in question into the union of the States.

This Territory has been, as your committee believe, a longer time under the restraints of political minority than any other Territory of the United States; and they can perceive no good reason why its enlargement should still be deferred, merely on account of its present deficiency of numbers, since a like deficiency did not prevent others, or one other at least, from the enjoyment of a similar boon.

Hitherto your committee have considered this subject as though the admission solicited were desired by all the inhabitants of the Territory without delay, but they cannot undertake to state that such is the fact. Whilst it is true that it has been prayed for and urged with much interest and zeal at several successive sessions, it is also true that at the last one at which the subject was brought before Congress there were counter-petitions, praying that it