

Hickey, R. Taylor, and G. W. Johnson, Esq. Committee.

Remarks on the above Letter.

By the Editors of the *National Intelligencer*.

and it out upon interest to their stockholders, thereby largely increasing the stockholders. Thus the few enabled to enrich themselves by using money which belonged to the many, the public funds were in fact drawn into the Treasury, without an appropriation by Congress, in clear violation of the spirit of a constitutional prohibition.

The manner in which this abuse crept into the Government and fastened itself upon the country, with the acquiescence of the whole People, is an impressive lesson, teaching the necessity of perpetual vigilance and energy in detecting and resisting the first encroachments, however seemingly trifling, upon the principles of our Government. From the deposit of the public money in banks, it did not necessarily follow that the banks should use it. It was never, until lately, and then only to a limited extent, directly authorized by any act of the Government. But, as the banks were in the habit of using deposits, they silently treated those of the Government like those of private citizens, and the Government silently acquiesced in the practice. As for many years the revenues of the Government were moderate, and the surplus was wanted to pay the principal and interest of the public debt, the amount loaned out by the banks was comparatively small, and the profits of the stockholders less considerable. But in the progress of the Government its revenues increased, and the amount expended became greater, until it amounted to five, ten, and, after the extinguishment of the public debt, to nearly thirty millions.

The disastrous effects now became apparent. An extensive interest had sprung up, deriving wealth from the use of the People's money, and having powerful inducements so to act upon the Government as to increase the source of their income. Their influence was first directly felt in interferences to prevent the payment of the public debt; then in efforts, through the use of the public press, and in attempts to secure the influence of the leading politicians and of men in authority, to procure a prolongation of their chartered privileges; and, finally, in panic and pressure inflicted upon the country with the hope of controlling the action of the Government through the alarms and the sufferings of the People. By shifting the deposits from one great institution to many smaller ones, the unity of this interest was destroyed, but not its power. Though enfeebled, it still existed in a force which the boldest might fear, and had made itself felt in the contests of the last few years. But the intelligence and virtue of our People have triumphed over art, panic, and pressure, and the act of deliverance is this day consummated.

It is hoped that the business of the country will no longer be disturbed by the intrigues of the banking interests to get possession of the money of the People that they may make a profit out of its use; but that the of that which legitimately belongs to them, leaving the funds of the Government to be kept and expended according to the letter and spirit of the Constitution. But should it be otherwise, the intelligence and firmness of our People are equal to any emergency. They now understand the whole subject. They see no reason why they should be taxed to raise money for such a purpose. They see that its effect is to build up a rich privileged order at their expense to control the Government and destroy all equality among the People. Seeing all this, and that the plan for which that interest has so long struggled, to the detriment of the business of the country, is in palpable violation of the spirit of the Constitution, their firmness will be equal to every effort necessary to prevent its re-establishment.

In the progress of our Government the most gratifying evidences have been furnished that our People are, in intelligence, integrity, and determined resolution, equal to the task of self-government. In that Administration which has been appropriately named "the reign of terror," so appropriately named that men of all parties now repudiate its acts and are prompt to redress, as far as they can, the wrongs it inflicted, the force of statute law and the arm of the Judiciary were called in to aid the influence of the Executive and the advocates of a strong Government in putting down the rising spirit of the People, and controlling the current of public opinion; but all these combined powers were exerted in vain.

The Sampson of Democracy burst its cords which were already bound about its limbs, and in the election of Mr. Jefferson vindicated its principles, its firmness, and its power. A web more artfully contrived, composed of a high protective tariff, a system of internal improvements, and a National Bank, was then twined around the sleeping giant in the vain hope of subjecting him forever to the dominion and will of the ambitious and grasping few, and you have seen how he has scattered the whole to the winds when roused by the warning voice of the honest and intrepid Jackson.

Again, in the triumph of the Independent Treasury, we witness the triumph of the popular intelligence and firmness over the arts, arguments, appliances, and alarms of the interested few who desire to enrich themselves by the use of the public money—another and the most gratifying evidence that the People, when aroused, are competent to maintain any just principle, and correct any abuse, however sanctioned by precedent or sustained by wealth.

On these evidences of popular intelligence and firmness the Republican rests well-grounded faith that all means which may be used to mislead or intimidate the People, now or hereafter, into a surrender of their Constitution and their liberties, will, as they ever have done, meet with a signal and withering rebuke.

I am, gentlemen, with thanks for the friendly spirit in which you have individually performed the duty assigned to you, very respectfully, your friend and obedient servant,

M. VAN BUREN.

To Messrs. John M. McCalla, T. M.

a State Legislature, checked the feelings of the whole country, should now again be put forward with the added sanction of the Chief Magistrate of the Union. And this is done, too, it should be observed, because in the vicissitudes of political strife, he finds it convenient to rally passions and prejudices in favor of a measure which, but yesterday, his immediate predecessor declared to be dangerous to the liberties of the People, and his partisans branded as "disorganizing and revolutionary," and as a fruitful source of mischief and corruption."

To one or two other passages of the President's letter a passing notice is due. After characterizing the administration of Mr. John Adams and Mr. Jefferson in terms quite edifying no doubt to Messrs. Buchanan, Wall, &c., he says:

"A web more artfully contrived, composed of a high protective tariff, a system of internal improvement, and a National Bank, was then twined around the sleeping giant, in the vain hope of subjecting him forever to the dominion and will of the ambitious and grasping few; and you have seen how he has scattered the whole to the winds when roused by the warning voice of the honest and intrepid Jackson."

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Now how stood Mr. Van Buren as to this "web"? He voted for the tariff of 1824, without instructions, voted for that of 1828, under instructions, of which the secret history is now known, and a curious history it is, and even those instructions left him a wide discretion, and he sustained in his speeches the principle of a protective tariff. He voted for the system of internal improvements, even to the extent of erecting toll-gates on the Cumberland road; and nobody ever heard a murmur from him against a national bank, as far as we are advised, until that eleventh hour when he vowed "uncompromising hostility" to it.

The PRESIDENT thinks fit to designate "the triumph of the Independent Treasury" as "the triumph of the popular intelligence and firmness over the arts, arguments, appliances, and alarms of the interested few who desire to enrich themselves by the use of the public money!" This is said to a reading people, every individual of whom knows any thing knows that the sub-Treasury was carried against the popular will, by the persevering, untiring influence of the Executive, and a host of arts, arguments, appliances, and alarms, skilfully employed in getting up a party drill as perfect as the tactics of the Prussian army; and that the proximate instrument of the sovereignty of the State of New Jersey, which produced a state of things that resulted in a majority in favor of a measure against which a legal majority of Representatives had been returned.

Again, we are told that the Sub-Treasury was opposed by the "interested few who desire to enrich themselves by the use of the public money." This appeal is made to the People by their President, in favor of a project which *confessedly* whatever may be its other features, gives him and his official subordinates a good currency, and gives the People an inferior currency! Their response to this and similar invocations made in this extraordinary letter will, we doubt not, furnish evidence that they are, indeed, "in intelligence, integrity, and determined resolution, equal to the task of self-government, although the evidence may not be of a kind the most "gratifying" to the President.

The President, it will be observed, closes his letter with the following paragraph:

"On these evidences of popular intelligence and firmness the republican patriot rests with well-grounded faith that all means which may be used to mislead or intimidate the People, now or hereafter, violating the 'spirit and intention of the Constitution,' but a 'spirit and intention' which were obvious—that is, PLAIN, EVIDENT, and NOT TO BE MISTAKEN!"

But this is not all. That no doubt may exist as to the nature of the accusation brought by the President, he tells us that the authors of the "system now superseded" were "the friends and advocates of privileged orders," and that they devised it "FOR THE PURPOSE OF PERVERTING THE GOVERNMENT FROM ITS PURE PRINCIPLES AND LEGITIMATE OBJECTS, RESTING ALL POWER IN THE HANDS OF A FEW, AND ENABLING THEM TO PROFIT AT THE EXPENSE OF THE MANY."

As it is by the use of such phrases as "privileged orders," the profit of "the few at the expense of the many," &c. that the American People are to be seduced into tolerating libels on the founders of their Liberties, the fathers of their Constitution, and their most trusted servants, through the long period of fifty years? We took occasion in a former article (see *Nat. Int.* June 6, 1840) to notice an Address, conceived in a similar spirit, of the Administration members of the New York Legislature, and cited the following passage:

"The early history of this Republic abundantly proves that MANY of those who took part in the Revolution fought for INDEPENDENCE rather than LIBERTY. They rebelled against a monarch abroad for the PURPOSE OF SETTING UP A MONARCH AT HOME. Placed at a distance from the throne of Great Britain, they had little chance to participate in its honors, its titles, and its pensions; and they aimed to ERECT A THRONE IN AMERICA, around which they might form a band of privileged nobles. No sooner was the object achieved, and the States separated from their parent land, than these objects began to develop themselves in the writings and acts of some of the Revolutionary leaders."

Deeply is it to be lamented that denunciations which, when made by a party in

[From the *Lynchburg Virginian*.]

General Harrison.

This illustrious man and patriot, whom Washington and Jefferson and Madison trusted, and who has vindicated that trust in an eventful life, interwoven in his country's history—has been presented to the American people in the present great crisis of their affairs, to perform perhaps his last act in the grand drama of his public services—the last; for he has solemnly declared, if elected to the Presidency, that he will be a candidate for one term only. He has been presented as the people's candidate. He was no aspirant after office; but he has been called, like Cincinnati, from the handle of his plough, to bear aloft the victorious flag, (if victorious it shall be,) of a glorious cause—the cause of his country.

"A web more artfully contrived, composed of a high protective tariff, a system of internal improvement, and a National Bank, was then twined around the sleeping giant, in the vain hope of subjecting him forever to the dominion and will of the ambitious and grasping few; and you have seen how he has scattered the whole to the winds when roused by the warning voice of the honest and intrepid Jackson."

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Before he occupied the unenviable attitude of a candidate for the Presidency, never man possessed a name purer, or a fame more unsullied than Gen. Harrison. The purity of his life stood around him like a wall of adamant; and his superadded public and self-sacrificing services in his country's defense in the field, and in defense of her constitution, and great interests in council, was a tower of strength that pygmies shrank from, and giants could not beat down. A well spent life of unsullied integrity, and a long and distinguished career in his country's service, had enrolled him upon the loftiest heights of the patriot's fame, and the man, and the soldier, who had so often risked his life in leading the armies of his country to victory and to glory, was at home, in peace, cultivating his farm, and reaping his only reward in a whole nation's gratitude.

How is it now? What does it avail the old war-worn soldier that has led, and so often led, his country's armies to victory and glory? What do all his faithful public services avail him? What avails it that he executed so many and vast public trusts with unsurpassed skill and fidelity? What does it avail him that millions of public money in executing those trusts, passed through his hands, and that not a cent ever soiled his palms? What does it avail him that he has ever been the poor man's friend, and the advocate of the rights of the people? What avails it that the revolutionary veteran is indebted to his exertions for a scanty pension? What avails it that he has educated the fatherless sons and daughters of many a soldier that fell under him, fighting his country's battles? What avails it that he has ever been the advocate of republican government at home and abroad? What does it avail him that he has the best fitted for these important appointments? And where now is the veteran weathercock and apostate? The shrill blast of his war-horn is reverberating over a thousand hills; and a thousand penny whistles are echoing through the land his despotic slang and slanders.

Was it the present Whig candidate for the Presidency whom the far-famed Richmond Editor, of "seven principles, to wit, five loaves and two fishes," recommended as Secretary of War, and as commander in chief of the armies of the nation? Was Gen. Harrison the man of all others, the best fitted for these important appointments? And where now is Mr. Ritchie thus ranged, and that man in Mr. Ritchie's presence had to save their ears the best way they could, when the venerable Editor's patriotic steam got up to horse power?

In solemn seriousness, is this the Gen. Harrison for whose achievements bonfires were lighted over the land, and illuminations converted night into day, in our cities?

Aye; and what a glorious Statesman too he was, as well as a very model of a Soldier and a Patriot!—So thought the subtle Valleyland of the party.

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and a thousand penny whistles are echoing through the land his despotic slang and slanders.

Was it William Henry Harrison who

"muzzled the Indian war dog," and wiped

away the disasters of Detroit—who

freed his country of a savage foe; recover-

ed her conquered soil from British bayonets,

and gave security to her borders?

Was it Mr. Ritchie? And was it afterwards,

at a later period, "put all his enemies to shame!" Did he, thou paragon of consistency, and faithful chronicler of true history?

Did he, thou that never smelted gun-

powder, nor lookedst a soldier in the face,

in thy country's cause, but that knowest so well how to mingle a soldier's fame? Did

Harrison, the "Republican General," put

all his enemies to shame? thou leader of the

clans? thou shameless apostate? Did he,

thou alternate adulator and reviler of illus-

trious men? Did he, thou advocate of

him, who, while Harrison was fighting his

country's battles, and spreading his coun-

try's glory wherever he met the foe, was

intriguing against the war and its friends,

and the whole Democracy of the country,

in the nomination of Dewitt Clinton, the

peace candidate for the Presidency?

Tell it us again, thou that snatchedst

Elijah's mantle from him, and predicted

"the curse!" Tell us again, did Harrison

the advocate of the Tariff, as thou wouldst

make it appear, while he himself proclaims

that he is the friend of the "Compromise;"

while the man who voted in Congress, for

the Tariff of '24 and of '28, the "bill of

abominations," is the exclusive champion

of Southern principles—a little inclined,

don't you think, Mr. Ritchie, to Nor-

Nor-East?" Don't look wild and be

frightened; I will give you the "Sheep

Speech" at another time!

But, Hercules' labor would not be suffi-

cient to pursue the loathsome examination

that has drawn the writer from the main ob-

ject he has in view. That object shall be

more attended to in the following num-

bers.

to answer me one question: How would you like to see Van Buren clothed with the power, with which he has called upon Congress to clothe him, taking out a committee of bankruptcy against every banking institution of every sovereign State of this Union? How would you like to see, under this authority, a federal officer leading your trusty and well beloved friend, Doctor Brockbrough, to the door of the Virgin Bank, and, like Cromwell's Captain, when he turned the parliament out of doors, walking off with the key in his pocket, strutting like a turbaned Turk amongst acculturated slaves! How would you like the sight in this proud old commonwealth of ours—the land of Washington, of Henry, and of Jefferson?

Thou, the friend of State rights—thou and thy allies "the chivalry!" And do you expect to deceive any body but credulous simpletons or willing dupes with your moonshine about State Rights? When was your voice, when you saw, but the other day, at the bidding of your master, for the purpose of carrying an odious and ruinous scheme, which you had denounced as disorganizing and revolutionary, an unprincipled and servile Congress arbitrarily disfranchising a sister State, and insolently turning out of doors her accredited functionaries, with the commission in the pockets of the organ of her sovereignty, and stamped with the seal of her sovereignty where was it?

Ritchie and his allies the friend and champions of State Rights! A hundred hungry wolves outside the fields never made louder noise with their hideous howls, waiting for nightfall to rush upon an unhappy flock of sheep, than these men are everlastingly making about State Rights and Democracy, and their love of the people; loving the sheep; not to eat them up as cannibals, but to throw dust in their eyes, and to use them for their own and the advantage of the party.

Is it State Rights and Democracy, and love of the people to be advocating in time of peace a standing army of 200,000 men? Shall the training of their own militia according to the solemn guarantee and behests of the constitution be taken from the States; and without insurrection or invasion, the solemn and only sanction in the constitution for calling into service the militia, shall this Republican President of ours, General Van Buren, be empowered to raise a militia standing army of 200,000 men, subject, at a later period, "put all his enemies to shame!" Did he, thou paragon of consistency, and faithful chronicler of true history? Did he, thou that never smelted gunpowder, nor lookedst a soldier in the face, in thy country's cause, but that knowest so well how to mingle a soldier's fame? Did he, thou alternate adulator and reviler of illustrious men? Did he, thou advocate of him, who, while Harrison was fighting his country's battles, and spreading his country's glory wherever he met the foe, was intriguing against the war and its friends, and the whole Democracy of the country, in the nomination of Dewitt Clinton, the peace candidate for the Presidency?

Tell it us again, thou that snatchedst Elijah's mantle from him, and predicted "the curse!" Tell us again, did Harrison the advocate of the Tariff, as thou wouldst make it appear, while he himself proclaims that he is the friend of the "Compromise;" while the man who voted in Congress, for the Tariff of '24 and of '28, the "bill of abominations," is the exclusive champion of Southern principles—a little inclined, don't you think, Mr. Ritchie, to Nor-Nor-East?" Don't look wild and be frightened; I will give you the "Sheep Speech" at another time!

But I would interrogate thee, with questions gentler, thou patriot immac