

The Old North State

SALISBURY, N. C., NOV. 23, 1868

LETTER OF PRESIDENT JOHNSON TO GEN. EWING.

The National Intelligencer, of the 26th inst., contains an important letter from President Johnson to Gen. Thomas Ewing, Jr., dated the 21st inst., and written at the request of the latter. He gives a rapid review of the financial history of the country and the present alarming condition of its finances. He says that the Revolutionary war cost the people of the United States \$75,000,000, which had been reduced to \$15,000,000 when the war of 1812 commenced. The war brought up the national debt, in 1815, to \$127,000,000. By wise management, that debt was paid off in twenty years, under Jackson's administration.

At the close of the Mexican war, in 1848, the debt incurred amounted to \$64,000,000, and was about the same, when the war with the Southern States began in 1861. The entire cost of the government for seventy-two years, from the 14th of March, 1789, to the 30th of June 1861, had only been \$1,700,000,000, whereas the expenses of the government from 1st of July 1861, to the 30th of June 1867, four years of civil war, were \$3,300,000,000!

The President states that the public debt at the close of the war, amounted to \$2,600,000,000, but in February, 1866, it exceeded \$2,800,000,000. From the 1st of July 1865, to the 30th of June 1866, it is estimated that the cost of the government, for four years, in a time of peace, will have been \$1,600,000,000, an amount nearly as great as was expended from the foundation of the government for the first seventy-two years, to July, 1861.

After this summing up, the President thus forcibly proceeds:

"In making this comparison, we should remember that during the long interval between 1789 and 1861 the Government was frequently required to make expenditures of an extraordinary character. Large sums were paid to Indians as annuities, and for the purchase of their lands, and expensive wars were waged against powerful tribes. Louisiana was acquired from France at a cost of fifteen millions of dollars; Florida, in consideration of California, was ceded to us by Spain; California became a part of our possessions on payment to Mexico of fifteen millions; while for ten millions our Government secured from Texas the territory of New Mexico. During these periods of our history we were also engaged in wars with Great Britain and Mexico—the first waged against one of the most powerful nations of the world, the other made additionally expensive by the prosecution of military operations in the enemy's territory.

The startling facts, thus concisely stated, suggest an inquiry as to the cause of this immense increase in the expenditures and indebtedness of the country. During the civil war the maintenance of the Federal Government was the one great purpose that animated our people, and that economy which should always characterize our financial operations was overlooked in the great effort of the nation to preserve its existence. Many abuses, which had their origin in the war, continued to exist long after it had been brought to a triumphant conclusion, and the people, having become accustomed to a lavish expenditure of the public money for an object so dear to them as the preservation of the integrity of their free institutions, have patiently tolerated taxation of the most oppressive character. Large sums of money continue to be extorted from them and squandered in useless and extravagant appropriations. Enormous expenditures are demanded for purposes, the accomplishment of which requires a large standing army, perversion of the Constitution, and subjugation of States to negro domination. With a military establishment, costing in time of peace not less than one hundred millions annually, and a debt, the interest upon which draws from the Treasury, each year, one hundred and fifty millions of dollars for these two items of expenditure alone—retrenchment has become an absolute necessity, or bankruptcy must soon overtake us, and involve the country in its paralyzing and disastrous results.

If, however, a wise economy be adopted, the taxes may soon be materially reduced, not merely for the benefit of a few, but in the interest of all. A revenue would yet remain sufficient for the administration of the Government, as well as for such a reduction of the public debt as would, in a few years, relieve the people from millions of interest now annually drawn from their resources.

The idea that the debt is to become permanent should be at all times discountenanced, as involving taxation too heavy to be borne, and payment of an amount in interest every sixteen years equal to the original sum. The gradual liquidation of the public debt would by degrees release the large capital invested in the securities of the Government, which, seeking remuneration in other sources of income, would add to the wealth of the nation, upon which it is now so great a drain. This immense debt, if permitted to become permanent and increasing, must eventually be gathered in the hands of the few, and enable them to exert a dangerous and controlling power in the affairs of the government. The debtors would become the servants of the leaders—the creditors the masses of the people. It is now our boast that we have given freedom to three millions of slaves—it will then be our shame, that by a toleration of usurpation and profligacy, forty millions of people have ensnared themselves, and exchanged slaveholders for new taskmasters in the shape of bond-holders and tax-gatherers. Hence the vital issue whether Congress and its arbitrary assumptions of authority shall supersede the supreme law of the

land—whether in time of peace the country shall be controlled by a multitude of tax-collectors and a standing army, the one almost as numerous as the other, and making the debt a permanent burden upon the productive industry of the people; or whether the Constitution, with each and all of its guarantees, shall be sacredly preserved; whether now, as in 1789 or 1816, provision shall be made for the payment of our obligations at as early a period as practicable, that the fruits of their labors may be enjoyed by our citizens, rather than used to build up and sustain a moneyed monopoly at home and abroad.—The contest is not merely who shall occupy the principal offices in the people's gift, but whether the high behests of the Federal Constitution shall be observed and maintained, in order that our liberties may be preserved; the Union of the States restored, that our Federal system may be unimpaired; fraternal feeling re-established, that our national strength may be renewed; the expenditure diminished, that taxation may be lightened; and the public debt once more extinguished, that it may not injuriously affect the life and energy, the prosperity and morals of the nation.

Believing that for the redress of the great wrongs, and the correction of the many abuses under which the country is now laboring, we must look to the American people, and that in them is our hope, I am, very truly, your friend,

ANDREW JOHNSON.

Gen. THOMAS EWING.

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State of North Carolina, ROWAN COUNTY.

Superior Court of Law, Fall Term, 1868. Savina Edelman vs. Thornton Butler.

ORIGINAL ATTACHMENT. IT appearing to the satisfaction of the Court that Thornton Butler, the defendant, resides beyond the limits of the State, it is therefore ordered by the Court that publication be made in the "Watchman and Old North State," for six consecutive weeks, notifying said defendant to be and appear at the next Term of this Court to be held for the County of Rowan, at the Court-House in Salisbury, on the 3d Monday in April next, then and there to reply or demur, otherwise he will be proceeded against as if he had been personally served with process, and had failed to appear and plead.

Witness, A. Judson Mason, clerk of our said Court at office, the 3d Monday in September, A. D. 1868, and in the ninety-third year of our Independence. A. JUDSON MASON, c. s. c.

State of North Carolina, DAVIE COUNTY.

Superior Court, Fall Term, 1868. PETITION FOR DIVORCE. Eliza McCoy vs. Josiah McCoy.

IT appearing upon the affidavit of Eliza McCoy, that Josiah McCoy is not an inhabitant of the State; it is therefore, ordered that publication be made for six weeks in the "Watchman and Old North State," a paper printed in Salisbury, that the said defendant, Josiah McCoy, be and appear at the next Superior Court of law to be held for the County of Davie, at the Court House in Mocksville, on the first Monday in April next, then and there to show cause, if any he can, why the prayer of the petitioner shall not be granted.

Witness, H. R. Austin, clerk of our said court, at office in Mocksville, the first Monday in September, A. D. 1868, and in the ninety-third year of our independence. H. R. AUSTIN, C. S. C.

Dr. W. F. Bason, DENTIST.

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State of North Carolina,

WATAUGA COUNTY.

Superior Court of Law, Fall Term, 1868.

Cyrus Culver, vs. Joel Egger.

INJUNCTION.