

Communications.

FOR THE FREE PRESS.

Revolutionary Pensions.

Under the act of 1818, pensions are only given to those serving on the Continental establishment—he who served a term of nine months, gets as much as he who served the whole seven years war. Militia men, serving one, two, or three years, get nothing. Under the above law and its modifications, the following sums have been appropriated, as shewn by official documents:

The law of the	
20th April, 1818,	\$300,000
15th Febr. 1819,	1,780,500
14th April, 1820,	2,766,440
3d March, 1821,	1,200,000
15th March, 1822,	1,451,245 64
3d March, 1823,	1,538,815
10th March, 1824,	1,291,716 39
21st Febr. 1825,	1,248,452 26
13th Janu. 1826,	1,352,790
29th Janu. 1827,	1,260,185

Aggregate, \$14,190,144 29

The precise number of applications cannot be ascertained, as a correct account of them was not kept at the commencement of the operation of the law; but the amount is known to exceed 31,000.

The number of men in the Continental Army at the close of the Revolutionary War, was 13,476. The army was larger in 1776, than at any other period of the war. It contained 46,891 men.

Political.

MR. MADISON'S LETTER.

Montpelier, Oct. 10, 1827.

Sirs—I have just seen in another Gazette the following paragraph, noted as an extract from the "Lynchburg Virginian": viz:

"We state as a fact within our own knowledge, that, very recently, the sage and patriot of Montpelier expressed his deep regret at the course now pursued by some of the most eminent politicians of Virginia—That he reprobated it, as sapping the foundations of her power and influence in the confederacy, whilst, by a course of moderation and prudence, she might have won over a majority of her sister States to embrace her principles. That he defended the right of the National Government, under the Constitution, to impose a Tariff of duties on imports, with reference to other objects than revenue—he averred that such had been the course pursued by every administration in the country, his own and Mr. Jefferson's included; that to call all the latent resources of the country into action, and to give them such protection as circumstances might suggest, was one of the principal reasons for the abolition of the confederation system, which was found inadequate for that purpose, and the adoption of the Federal Constitution—and that the resolution passed by the last Legislature in relation to this subject, was extremely unwise and impolitic. Here, then, is a man everlastingly quoted by the martexts of the Constitution in

this state, who assisted to frame this instrument, and who was one of its earliest and ablest cotemporaneous expounders, and who, in the exercise of his Executive duties, at a later day, was called on to construe its provisions, who says, that he is erroneously thus quoted—and that William B. Giles, that dog in the manger, is fast hurrying his beloved Virginia to ruin and contempt. We again repeat, that what we have here stated is of our own knowledge, and cannot be contradicted."

Without being aware of the ground on which the statement is alleged to be within the personal knowledge of the Editors, I think it proper to observe that, as often happens in the report of conversations, there must have been some degree of misapprehension, or misrecollection.

It is true that I have not approved the proceedings of the General assembly of the State, which would limit the power of Congress over trade, to regulations having revenue alone for their object; that I have, in occasional conversations, been led to observe that a contrary doctrine had been entertained and acted on, from the commencement of the Constitution of the U. States, by the several branches of every administration under it; and that I regretted the course pursued by the General Assembly, as tending to impair the confidence and cordiality of other parts of the Union, agreeing with Virginia in her exposition of the constitution, on other points. In expressing these ideas, however, more respect has been felt for the patriotic sensibilities of the Legislative body, and for the talents and good intentions of members, personally or otherwise known to me to be particularly entitled to it, than might be inferred from the tone of the publication. I must observe, also, that though it is true, that I have spoken of the power of Congress in its enlarged sense, over commerce, as a primary and known object in forming the constitution, the language of the statement is inaccurate, at least as being susceptible of a construction embracing indefinite powers over the entire resources of the country.

I must presume that the expressions which refer, by name, to the Governor of the State, were not meant to be ascribed to me; being very sure that I could never have so far forgotten what I owed to myself, or the respect due to him.

It is with much reluctance, Sirs, that I have had recourse to these explanatory remarks, withdrawn as I am from scenes of political agitation, by my age, and pursuits more congenial with it. It is the single instance of a communication from me to the press, on any subject connected with the existing state of parties. With respect,

JAMES MADISON.

To the Editors of the Lynchburg Virginian.

Mr. Madison's Letter.—The attempt to enlist this distinguished man against the cause of Gen. Jackson has failed—as it lately failed in the case of the lamented Jefferson. He has come forward

to correct the misrepresentations which have been circulated under his name. His letter is couched in that calm and dignified manner, which distinguishes his character.

He substantially repeats his opinion, that under the power to "regulate commerce," Congress has the right to do something more than to raise a revenue; in other words, that Congress has the right to countervail the commercial regulations of foreign nations, or to encourage the production of articles of our own. By referring to the former laws of Congress, as well as the abstract resolutions of our own Legislature, he leaves us at no loss to understand his opinion that Congress has the power to encourage our own manufactures. But, Mr. Madison does not say, nor do we understand him as meaning, that Congress ought to lay on so heavy a Tariff as has actually been imposed—or, that he goes one single step beyond the measures which Gen. Jackson has advocated in his memorable letter to Mr. Coleman of North-Carolina. It is ridiculous, therefore, in any view of this matter, to quote Mr. Madison against Gen. Jackson.

While Mr. Madison takes this ground as to the clause to "regulate commerce," he makes it a point distinctly to protest against the general power—which has been assumed over the entire resources of the country—a power, which Mr. Rush has claimed under his famous expression of regulating the capital and labor of the country—and a power, which Mr. Adams has substantially claimed in his Ohio letter and his first Message to Congress.

We understand him also as repeating his constitutional creed, when he remarks upon the effect of the tariff resolutions of the Virginia Legislature as weakening her support of the other constitutional doctrines which they as well as himself have uniformly entertained—doctrines, which he does not say, but which it is well understood, the present administration have directly opposed.

We also distinctly understand Mr. Madison as declining to take any part in the present election. Well aware that his name had been quoted in a way to affect this contest, he has come forward to put a stop to the current of misrepresentation. He has been boldly pronounced to be the author of certain letters signed "A Farmer," which took an active part against Gen. Jackson, and among other things recommended the call of an Adams Convention. These flimsy productions, in every way unworthy of the pen of Mr. Madison, have been circulated in the Adams presses under the guise of his respected name. The Alexandria Gazette of Tuesday last unblushingly asserts, that "it is now distinctly known that the venerable Madison is the author of the five able essays under the signature of "A Farmer."—And to add to the "device" (if we may use Mr. Adams' word,) those who were able to correct the misrepresentation, have stood by and suffered the wily report to circulate without contradiction. Mr.

Madison himself is now forced to put it down, by declaring that his article in the Lynchburg Virginian is the only communication which he himself has recently composed for the Press. Nor are we much surprised at his denying having had the honor of a "personal" communication with the Editors of the Virginian. How those gentlemen can confound information said to be derived from others with their "own knowledge"—the deponent saith not.—*Rich. Eng.*

Our next Governor.—A correspondent of the Elizabeth-City Star observes:

"By the present mode of electing our Governors, the people of this State are deprived of the privilege of voting directly for Governor, and that important trust is committed to the members of our Legislature. By this mode of election the candidates for that important office are not spoken of or nominated until the meeting of the General Assembly, which takes place only a few days before the election. By this means the people are not only deprived of the right of suffrage, but also of the right to instruct their representatives in the choice of the chief magistrate of the state. And the public journals of our state, while they are not backward to vindicate the claims of their favorite candidates, to the highest office in the gift of the American people, seem entirely indifferent as to the election of a man to the highest office in the gift of the state. And while the Press, which boasts itself of being the "Palladium of the people's rights," is silent on this subject, it is impossible for the people to be acquainted with the claims and merits of the several candidates for that important office. While the people are acknowledged to be the source of all political power, it is of great importance that they should be able properly to estimate the characters of the several candidates for that office; and it is only through the medium of the press, that we can obtain the information necessary to enable us to act a firm and decided part in that election. By the present mode of keeping every nomination secret until the meeting of the Legislature, the people are deprived of the right to instruct their representatives in the choice of that important officer. It is an office of much importance to the people of the state; as on the ability, zeal, activity and enterprize of that officer depends much of the prosperity and happiness of the state. It is hoped that the names of the several candidates for that office, will be made known to the public, that the people may exercise their right of instructing their representatives, in the choice of whom they will have to reign over them. It is reported that Gen. James Iredell, of Edenton, will be a candidate for that office—if the report be correct, it is hoped that his friends will make it known to the public."

Georgia.—The Honorable John Forsyth is elected Governor of the state of Georgia, without opposition.