

Congress.

Expenditures in the State Department.—The Committee on so much of the public accounts and expenditures as relates to the State Department, made a Report on the 5th ult. which shows the propriety of President Adams's recommendation to Congress to have "an eye to the strictest economy," in the disbursement of the public moneys. Our limits will permit the insertion of a few items only, specified in this interesting document:

The Committee have seen with surprise that, whilst the appropriations have increased for the three last years, the disbursements of the Department have, for the same time, greatly exceeded the annual appropriations, which will be seen from comparing the statement furnished the Committee by the Register of the Treasury with the amount of appropriations, (exclusive of those for printing and distributing the laws of Congress) and which statement or summary the Committee annex to this Report, and, for its better identification, they designate it by the letter D.

The Committee upon contrasting the expenditures of the State Department for the three last years, with those years which preceded them, cannot (consistently with that economy which should be exercised in the disbursement of public money) account for the increased expenditure. From the statement annexed to the report of the former Committee, made to the House in the session of 1824-5, the expenditures of the Department for those years amounted to the sum of \$35,311 18, averaging something more than \$17,000 per annum; when the expenditures for each of the years embraced in the inquiries of the Committee, will average more than \$32,000.

As to the sum necessary to meet the exigencies of the Department for extra clerk hire, which they find has uniformly been \$1000—that sum for the three years would amount to \$3000; when, in fact, there was expended, during that period more than four times that amount.

The Committee have herein before stated, that the amount appropriated for the printing and distribution of the laws of Congress, for the years before stated, amounted to the sum of \$47,500, which, with \$5,553, the unexpended balance of former years, amounted to the sum of \$53,053. Of that sum was expended for these objects, in the year 1825, \$11,500

In 1826, 16,500

In 1827, 17,500

\$45,500

The Committee beg leave to add, that, from the document A, it appears that the sum of \$197 was paid to Peter Force out of the contingent fund of the Department, for publishing proclamations of Indian treaties, when, from a reference to the act of Congress of May, 1820, it will appear that the publication of such treaties is expressly confined to one paper, and that to be within the limits of the State or Territory to which the subject matter of such treaty shall belong.

[Of the sums appropriated for the contingent expences of Foreign Intercourse, from the 4th of March, 1825, to the 31st December, 1827, there was expended:]

In the year, 1825, \$25,572 68

1826, 13,633 00

1827, 36,258 63

They have ascertained that, for the years 1825, '6, '7, there was paid out of that fund, for extra clerk hire, the sum of \$1,971 78, which, with the sum of \$13,711 24 expended for that purpose, of the contingent fund of the State Department within the same period, amounts, in the whole, to the sum of \$15,683 02: a sum nearly equal to one-third of the amount annually appropriated for the whole clerks of the Department and Patent Office.

From the statement B, it will be seen, that \$16,304 92, of the appropriations for the contingent expences of foreign intercourse, has been expended upon the certificate of the Secretary of State; the greater part whereof has been paid to the bearers of despatches.

They find, in the same statement, the sum of \$1,940 paid to John H. Pleasants, for bearing despatches to Buenos Ayres and Rio Janeiro, and his expenses. That Mr. Pleasants was employed by the Secretary of State to perform that service, and did set out on his journey, the Committee believe to be true; but that he performed the journey particularized on his account, and for which he was paid, they believe to be untrue. Whether prevented by indisposition or otherwise, from performing the service, the Committee are of opinion the facts should have been stated, and the records of the country been made to prove the services for which the public money was disbursed. As the case now stands, they are furnished with no means of determining upon the adequacy of the compensation paid. All they can say, from the evidence furnished from the statement B, is, that the said John H. Pleasants was not entitled to compensation for bearing despatches to Buenos Ayres and Rio Janeiro.

In the same statement they discover an item of \$200, paid upon the certificate of the Secretary of State, to W. Prentiss, for his expences in delivering a box of books to the Governor of Maine. The vouchers are no evidence of the description of books or of their quality, so as to enable the Committee to judge of the justness of the compensation, or of the fund out of which it should have been paid. They were informed, at the Register's office of the Treasury, that they were the Acts, Journals, or documents of Congress. If so, such claim was not chargeable upon the contingent fund for foreign intercourse; but upon the current expences of the Department, and should have been supported by proper vouchers.

[In reference to the sum of \$5,253 15, paid to John A. King, Charge des Affaires at London, for sixty-two days' service, the Committee remark:]

John A. King had been appointed Secretary of Legation to Rufus King, Minister to the Court of St. James, in 1826, by the Pre-

sident, with the advice of the Senate, proceeded with the minister to that Court, and, after the President had been notified by Mr. King of his intention to return, and after his successor had been appointed, and was on his way to relieve him, the Minister retired from the Court, leaving the said John A. King in charge of the Legation, for the period of sixty-two days, for which the before mentioned compensation was allowed. The payment of this claim, (in the opinion of the Committee,) was not authorized by law, nor was it of that description of claims which were designated to be paid out of the contingent fund.

The Committee discard precedents made in violation of law, because usurpation to-day, may (and frequently does) become precedent to-morrow. They can recommend no rule which promises more safety than frequently to inquire into delegated power; compare the act done with the authority for doing it; and, in that way, circumscribe the agents of the Government (without respect to grade) to the limits of their authority.

Economy.—In the remarks of Mr. J. S. Barbour, in Congress, on the subject of a resolution offered by himself, he stated that during the whole eight years of Mr. Monroe's administration, there was paid on vouchers indicating "secret service," only \$5630—whereas, during two years and nine months of Mr. Adams' administration, there has been expended for the same "service" \$10,624 63.—*Albany Argus.*

Gen. Jackson and the Tariff.—It will be recollected that last winter the Senate of Indiana called upon Gen. Jackson, through their Governor, to express his sentiments on the subject of internal improvements, and the protection of the domestic industry of the country. The General has deigned to answer this call. We subjoin his reply.

His Excellency, James B. Ray, Governor of Indiana.

HERMITAGE, Feb. 21, 1828.

Sir—I have had the honor to receive your excellency's letter, of the 30th ultimo, enclosing a set of resolutions of the Senate of Indiana, adopted, as it appears, with a view of ascertaining my opinions on certain political topics. The respect which I entertain for the Executive and Senate of your state, excludes from my mind the idea that an unfriendly disposition dictated the interrogatories which are proposed. But I will confess my regret at being forced, by this sentiment, to depart in the smallest degree, from that determination on which I have always acted. Not, sir, that I would wish to conceal my opinions from the people, upon any political or national subjects; but as they were in various ways promulgated in 1825, I am apprehensive that my appearance before the public, at this time, may be attributed, as has already been the case, to improper motives.

With these remarks, I pray you, sir, respectfully to state to the Senate of Indiana, that my opini-

ons, at present, are precisely what they were in 1823 and '4, when they were communicated, by letter, to Dr. Coleman, of North-Carolina, and when I voted for the present tariff and appropriations for internal improvement. As that letter was written at a time when the divisions of sentiment, on its subject, were as strongly marked as they are now, in relation both to the expediency and constitutionality of the system, it is enclosed herein; and I beg the favor of your excellency to consider it a part of this communication. The occasion, out of which it arose, was embraced with a hope of preventing any doubt, misconception, or necessity for further enquiry, respecting my opinion on the subject to which you refer—particularly in those States, which you have designated as cherishing a policy at variance with your own. To preserve our invaluable Constitution and be prepared to repel the incursion of a foreign foe, by the practice of economy, and the cultivation, within ourselves of the means of national defence and independence, should be, it seems to me, the leading object of any system which aspires to the name of "American," and of every prudent administration of our government.

I trust, sir, that these general views, taken in connexion with the letter enclosed, and the votes referred to, will be received as a sufficient answer to the inquiries suggested by the resolutions of the Senate. I will further observe, to your excellency, that my views of constitutional power, and American policy, were imbibed in no small degree, in the times, and from the sages of the revolution, and that my experience has not disposed me to forget their lessons: and, in conclusion, I will repeat that my opinions remain as they existed in 1823 and '4, uninfluenced by the hopes of personal aggrandizement; and that I am sure they will never deprive me of the proud satisfaction of having always been a sincere and consistent republican.

Your most sincere servant,
ANDREW JACKSON.



Tarborough,

FRIDAY, MAY 9, 1828.

[P] We would freely insert the acro- tic of "S," provided we had the name of the author, or a reference—we repeat that we will not publish anonymous communications, in which direct allusion is made to private individuals, unless a responsible reference is given.

Town Officers.—On Monday last, Dr. Ephraim Dicken was elected Magistrate of Police, and Gen. Louis D. Wilson, Mr. Solomon Pender, Joseph R. Lloyd, Esq. Henry Austin, Esq. and Mr. Geo. McWilliams, Commissioners of Tarborough, for the ensuing year.

[P] We have heard it frequently argued, which is the correct mode of spelling the name of this county—we have the following varieties: Edgecombe, Edgecomb, Edgcombe, and Edg-