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BY GEORGE HOWARD,

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DOMESTIC.

Hon. Jesse Speight's Circular.—We have been favored with a pamphlet copy of an address to the freemen of the counties of Johnston, Wayne, Greene, Lenoir, Jones, Craven and Carteret, composing the fourth Congressional district of North Carolina, by the Hon. J. SPEIGHT, dated Washington City, February 28, 1833.—The address is too lengthy for insertion entire in our columns—we give below, however, a considerable portion of it; the remainder being devoted to the course of the State of South Carolina—the theory of the Federal Constitution—the bill further to provide for the collection of duties on imports, &c. At the conclusion of his address, Gen. Speight again makes a tender of his services to represent them in the next Congress.

FELLOW CITIZENS: On the fourth of March, next, the political connexion which exists between us will cease by the termination of the period for which I was chosen to represent you in the Congress of the United States. At a moment like the present, when the public mind is agitated from one end of the continent to the other, by an excitement unparalleled in our political history, growing out of events familiar to you all, I should be unworthy of the trust you have reposed in me were I to withhold the expression of my frank opinion upon all questions of public interest—more especially those occurrences of the first moment which have transpired in a neighboring State.

Notwithstanding these domestic inquietudes, of which it will be my duty to speak hereafter, we are enjoying, as a nation, a state of unexampled prosperity. Profound peace with all foreign nations, a wise administration of public affairs at home, an overflowing treasury, a public debt dwindled to comparatively nothing, and about to be entirely extinguished; thus leaving to the representatives of the people a task unexampled in the history of nations, that of contriving means for reducing the revenue, and keeping out the flood of wealth which is pouring into the public coffers; abundant harvests rewarding the toils of the husbandman, and rich gains crowning the labors of industry and enterprise. These are blessings of deep consolation to the heart of the patriot in the midst of political dissensions; and for which our renewed thankfulness is due to the great and good Disposer of human events.

On the first day of January last the whole funded debt of the United States was discharged. There remains, however, of the unfunded debt nearly \$7,000,000, a part of which is strictly not redeemable until January 1834, and the balance in January 1835. But, as the commissioners of the sinking fund are authorized by law to buy up the debt at the market price, and the means in the treasury being amply sufficient, we may hope that during the present year the whole will be discharged. It now only remains for the Federal Government to circumscribe its operations within the bounds prescribed by the Constitution, so that, while nothing is wanting for the protection of the citizen in life, liberty and property, no more shall be taken from the pockets of the people than these legitimate purposes require. This, and this only, is the sum and substance of good government—that every man shall be secure in the enjoyment of the fruits of his own labor, and the pursuit of his own desires, restrained only so far as is necessary for national defence, and the admini-

stration of justice. The final extinguishment of the public debt leaves no further pretext for violating the obvious principles of the Constitution by the continuance, in favor of the manufacturers, of high taxes on the necessaries of life.

You are no doubt well aware that the act of July last, to reduce the revenue, does not go into operation before the fourth of March next. The reduction which it will produce in the revenue is confidently estimated at \$5,000,000: under that estimate the whole revenue from customs, during the next year, will not be far from \$17,000,000; a sum at least seven millions beyond what is necessary to be derived from customs for the support of Government. It will therefore become the duty of the next Congress, which will come in under the new census, and in which we may expect a full expression of the popular will, so to modify and further reduce the Tariff as to bring down the revenue to the wants of the Government. My own opinion has been frequently declared, that \$7,000,000 from imposts, and \$3,000,000 from the public lands, is all the money which ought to go into the treasury. Ten millions are amply sufficient for all the legitimate demands of Government. But, as Congress have in their wisdom established a splendid Pension System, amounting to something like an annual expenditure of \$5,000,000, owing to the imperfections of which every tory as well as whig of the revolution may get his support out of the public chest, it is impossible to limit the expenditures of the Government to the amount I have stated. I shall, therefore, assume as the quantum of revenue necessary to be collected, the sum of \$14,000,000—\$11,000,000 to be raised from the customs, and \$3,000,000 from the public lands, thus showing that a further reduction of at least \$6,000,000 may with perfect safety be effected by the next Congress.

The President of the United States, in his message to Congress, at the commencement of the present session, recommended a further reduction, so as to bring the revenue down to the wants of the Government. In reference to this consideration, the committee of ways and means reported a bill, the consideration of which has consumed a great part of the session, without the remotest probability of effecting a desirable result. Although I believe, most conscientiously, that the whole tariff system is radically wrong and oppressive, and would most eagerly seize upon any occasion to assist in removing it from the country, and thereby relieving the industry of the whole people from most unjust, unnatural, and pernicious restrictions, yet there are demands of public justice and obligations of public faith, in the settlement of the question, to which I cannot be insensible. Interests created, and large capitals invested, under the encouragement of existing laws, should not lightly be sacrificed by sudden and disastrous changes of policy. Of the tariff system, its origin and character, I have but one opinion—it is the work of demagogues, contrived for political preferment—an evil which inordinate ambition and corrupt political combinations have fastened upon the country, but which is not to be removed by sudden and violent legislation. Nations, no less than individuals, are bound by that invariable law of morals which makes sorrow and suffering the necessary expiation of every departure from sound principles. The right faith is not to be gained but by self denying trials. All attempts to avoid the consequences, will be but a fraud upon a part of the community, which cannot be perpetrated but with manifest injustice, and by a wanton exercise of irresponsible power. Individuals are not injured without a claim for compensation, even in the most imminent public emergencies—nor should great interests be hastily sacrificed in

projecting a good scheme of public reform; a scheme which is founded on the acknowledged necessity of repairing the injuries of one part of the country, arising from mischievous legislation. Does it become the representatives of the people to sully so sublime an act of national morality, by casting the entire burdens of the expiation upon another portion of the community, guilty only of the misfortune (if such a phrase may be used) of having invested their property under the faith of laws upon which the makers of the laws have afterwards passed the sentence of condemnation? Such, in my judgment, would be the character of any laws abrogating, suddenly and entirely, the policy of protection. I am not willing thus abruptly to doom thousands of meritorious citizens to inevitable bankruptcy. My own views look to a gradual annual reduction of the tariff, spread over five years, arranging the duties so as to bring in a revenue not exceeding \$11,000,000, having reference to the relative rates upon protected and unprotected articles, based upon the policy of the country prior to 1824.

There never has been any reasonable ground for believing that the present Congress would so arrange the tariff as to give satisfaction to the country; and, therefore, I will not disguise the fact, that, anxious as I am, to see a further reduction effected, and ardently as I desire the restoration of harmony among the various interests of the country, I could have preferred a postponement of the question until the next Congress—in which it is confidently believed such an adjustment can be effected as will prove satisfactory and permanent. You will remember the protracted discussion with which, at the last session of Congress, a bill was passed which has not yet gone into operation. To take up the same subject by the same Congress under these circumstances is a curious anomaly in legislation, and could not be expected to have a very favorable issue.

The motives which induced the recommendation, by our venerable President, of a further reduction at this time, were, the near extinction of the public debt, and a desire to relieve the people from unnecessary taxation. He saw, what must occur to every reflecting and patriotic mind, the evils of an accumulating surplus in the treasury, especially in its tendency to beget corrupt combinations among the representatives in Congress, and all the dreaded effects upon the public councils, of a general scramble for the public money.

Though the present session will, in all probability, pass away without any final action in Congress responsive to these principles, we may be assured that they will not be lost sight of in the administration of the government.* They will be made the leading points in the policy of the executive, who has done so much already to break up the schemes of injustice, and the systems of selfish policy, by which ambitious politicians have for personal objects, so long distracted the country; and the succeeding Congress, elected to sustain that executive, will harmonize more closely with his patriotic efforts.

*Since writing the above, the bill heretofore introduced into the Senate by Mr. Clay, has passed the House of Representatives, and will doubtless become a law. I have neither time nor space to enter into any thing like a delineation of this measure. Although I voted for it, I deem it objectionable in many respects; and as a measure of permanent policy, I think it perfectly irreconcilable to the mind of any man who is not utterly lost to a just sense of his rights. To those who by their rashness and precipitancy in relation to the tariff policy, have produced an agitation unparalleled in the history of the country, is this law (should it pass) solely attributable. How they can reconcile it to their consciences, is to me a mystery. It is true, it places the country in no worse situation than it now is, and may do much good by furnishing a gap for the Nullifiers to jump out at. At a proper time, however, I shall say a word or two in relation to this matter.

These are the hopes entertained from the next Congress by the friends of simple economical government and equal burdens. They see that a great revolution has been going on—nay, is accomplished, in public sentiment, and that the forms of the law and the Constitution will in due time be sufficient to give full effect to the sentiment, and, in conjunction with the constituted authorities of the Union, establish on sure foundations the rights, the peace, and the liberties of all parts and interests of this wide spread republic. With this sanguine expectation, I cannot believe that my fellow citizens of North Carolina will afford any countenance to extraordinary and violent measures for precipitating the crisis, much less to any combinations against the existing laws of the country. Not only the near approach of relief from the evils which so sorely oppress us, is an assurance that you will frown upon all disorganizing movements; but, even if the prospect were more remote, and the return of the Federal Government to sound political principles much less certain, than we have reason to believe, I have full confidence in your willingness to bear with your burdens much longer—to try all the modes of conciliation, and respectful and constitutional efforts for reform, while evils are tolerable, rather than hazard the existence of the Union, and put liberty itself in danger by revolutionary excesses; for the purpose of getting rid of your proportion of five or six millions of taxes, levied on the whole population of the country. I am satisfied you feel with me, that these things are too precious to be periled lightly, or to be weighed in a usurers balance against dollars and cents—and am persuaded that you will yield perfect obedience to the laws, in a government of laws—and, if need be, will co-operate with your physical strength to secure the dominion of law, which is the safeguard of all order and liberty, against the assault of every, and whatever combination, acting under any and whatever pretences.

☞ One of the stages, in crossing a creek near Macon, (Ga.) a few days ago, was washed down below the ford into swimming water, and upset, when one of the passengers, Mr. Charles W. Washington, merchant of Macon, and three of the horses were drowned.—*Ral. Star.*

☞ The Legislature of Virginia appropriated \$2,500 as a compensation to Benjamin Watkins Leigh, Esq. for his services as a Commissioner to South Carolina.—*ib.*

☞ At the late Temperance meeting held at Washington City, at which Governor Cass presided, it was stated by Dr. Edwards that in this country one and a half millions of men have ceased to use ardent spirits as a drink—fifteen hundred persons have ceased to make, and four or five thousand persons have ceased to sell this article—six hundred vessels now cross the ocean and do not carry with them this poison.

Dreadful Murder.—A gentleman who arrived in this city from Lebanon, (New Hampshire,) states that a most shocking murder was perpetrated in that town last Saturday, by a monster named Fox, on his sister and brother-in-law, named Annis. It is said that Fox swore that he would kill his sister, if she married Annis, and accordingly shortly after the marriage, he went to their house and attempted to kill Annis with a knife, but failing in his attempt, he retired and procured an axe, with which he returned and struck him on the neck, cutting clear through the bone, and killing him instantly. His sister fled, but he pursued her, drew a pistol, which, missing fire several times, he beat her to death with it.—*Boston Statesman.*