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THE CAUCUS.

FOR THE STAR. Messrs. Editors.—The same motives, and the same assumed facts, which at first were stated as grounds for holding the late Congressional Caucus, continue to be urged in the Crawford papers. They have been seldom met upon their merits, and their falsehood exposed before the public.

In the first place, the imposition played off, that the caucus system is the old Republican mode, by which their Candidates have succeeded.—We are boldly informed, that Jefferson, Madison and Monroe were elected, by its means. I as boldly deny that any of them were; and it can only be urged in favor of a Congressional Caucus, that a partial effect can ever be produced to effect any end by it; while, in the cases mentioned, all that can be supposed to have resulted in any of them, was the exposure of the feebleness of opposition, and that in but one, the case of Mr. Madison.

I now boldly charge the Caucus men with wilful falsehood in asserting that Mr. Jefferson was ever presented to the people by the means of a great concentrated or National Caucus. If the partisans of the Congressional Caucus mean to say that Mr. Jefferson was named by meetings of different descriptions, we admit the fact; and so have been all the Candidates, not excepting Washington. For this mode we contend. We contend that the popular voice shall be spoken under any circumstances the people in different sections of the country may choose. Now, if any thing like a Congressional Caucus was held to nominate Jefferson, the Crawfordites are called upon to state its numbers, when and where it met, whether it was composed exclusively of Members of Congress, and in what manner they published their recommendation; or stand charged with falsehood.

All that could be said with regard to Mr. Madison's nomination was, that it appeared necessary at the time, and the Caucus showed a regard to the real state of the popular sentiment, and seemed to speak its language.

In regard to the Caucus which nominated Mr. Monroe, it was a clear evidence of what the thing leads to. It created the very elements of division. It had like to have made two Candidates, when the people thought of but one Republican Candidate. Would this Mr. Crawford ever have attracted the attention of the American people, if he had come forward against Mr. Monroe upon the footing of his own popularity? And yet the great minority in the Caucus had like to have turned the scale in favor of his nomination.

The last caucus was composed of the organized elements of the minority of the one above mentioned, and their partisans. The progress of this kind of caucusing has been short and baneful. It has no sooner risen, than it is becoming a spontaneous, self-moved, arrogant despotism.

But the strong-hold of the Caucus party is the unequal mode of election by states in the House of Representatives. On this point we are furnished with calculations of what might possibly be, if all the small States should get on one side of the post. And pray, Messrs. Editors, is any thing like this about to happen? None of the calculations which I have seen make out such a case. However, let us admit all the force of the objection; and how stands the matter? Does not the Federal Constitution propose a remedy where it is defective? Nay; were not amendments proposed in both houses of Congress last session? How, then, did the Caucus men show themselves? Were they the prime advocates of the district system? Verily this subject won't bear examination. Let the catalogue of the Caucus Members be called over, and you will see that they were no more the friends of a change in this constitutional mode than those who were opposed to the Caucus and its Candidate. They sat quietly in their seats, and let the amendments to the Constitution lie along, without administering scarcely a draught of energy, till near the end of the session, when they die a natural death. No, Gentlemen, it would not have suited those arrogant partisans to have pushed an amendment to the Constitution, throwing the election fairly into the Electoral College, where the Con-

stitution meant to place it. Their whole plot would have been frustrated. They had kept the Crawford coals smothered up, and been collecting fresh fuel ever since the first Monroe Caucus; and had the Electors been entrusted with an unbiassed choice, all their work would have been lost, and all their rising hopes with it.

If the Constitution had been amended, the Caucus could not have found ground to stand upon, and the intrigues would have been dissolved. They took care to prevent the amendment to the Constitution being adopted; and they now stand forth the confederate dictators of the Presidential Election. They are met, however, by the contempt of the people; and the popular voice will be heard in opposition.

A JEFFERSONIAN REPUBLICAN.

FOR THE STAR.

Messrs. Editors.—The fiscal policy of the Secretary of the Treasury, which I described in my last, deserves to be more fully developed before the public. Such a system of denunciation is pursued by the Caucus Party, that self-defence requires from the advocates of General Jackson, that the demerits, at least as a public man, of the Secretary should be examined.

I have stated the outline of his system of finance to be a relentless apathy towards the interests of the great body of the community, in coincidence with the professed system of his partisans to leave all things to chance, and in submission to a commercial body, regarding only its own particular advantages; thus leaving the credit of the nation to be ruined by changes which will ever and anon occur, where commerce is extensively carried on, where paper obligations are made to facilitate usefully its operations, and where the Government affords no guardian preservation of whatever may be the legal basis of its currency; for it is not necessary to destroy the regular existence of credit, that there should be an evident want of property; but that that property cannot be made available; and if specie is the only sign and representative of property, as in this country, a sufficient quantity of it must be stationary amongst us, or our property loses its stationary value, and confusion ensues through all the departments of trade and exchange, but principal where no great leading interests and confederations have the power, by their influence, to prevent the mischief. Thus the wanton sufferance of the exportation of specie, at the suggestion of the over-wise Solomon who has held the purse-strings of the Union, has palsied the currency of the country, and rendered property of precarious value. This effect has been most felt at the greatest distance from the combinations of foreign commerce; for amongst those combinations there is a power of self-preservation, which prevents any part from destroying the whole. Hence, while the great interior of the Union has lost its fiscal energy, and suffered nearly all the distress, the great cities, being the reservoirs into which the specie has been collected for exportation, have found the means of resisting the current at its outlet, in sufficient measure to prevent their full participation in the injury.

We look through every part of agricultural America, and find a derangement in the fiscal state of the people, resulting from no other cause than the folly of the Treasury, and its partisans in Congress. In the Western regions, the millions which had been credited for public lands have yielded but a small fraction to the Government while that fraction has been twisted and turned about by the Secretary of the Treasury, upon his own discretion, where accommodations have been allowed upon his own responsibility, while the great mass of the Debts contracted on the Mississippi have been UNCOLLECTED! And what then, Messrs. Editors? Do you suppose those debts remain due to the Government? No, indeed! Not they! Pressed by the universal wreck of credit amongst them, after the United States Bank had carried off their specie, and this specie had been sent by the merchants to a land whence it could never return, and finding themselves reduced from a reasonable prospect of paying their debts to a prospect of beggary, the Western people have repeatedly petitioned for help; and instead of the wise Secretary proposing measures to uphold the credit of the country, he has proposed to forgive their obligations!

How does this work, Gentlemen? Thus: While the Secretary, by his ignorance, has brought the western people to the brink of ruin, he has stretched out his hands as their benefactor; has given them the chance of leaving their improvements, to be of use to nobody, and receive other lands at the present price, for what they have paid to the Government for the homes they now leave behind, the whole cost of

which they could have paid, but for the folly of the Secretary and his partisans; and the United States loses all the millions of dollars which they failed to pay!

When we see the circular letters of our Members of Congress, bragging how they have disappointed the measures of the War Secretary, (measures of the most necessary and wise description,) by refusing to vote a petty sum of money, and find these men the intriguing and clamorous partisans of the Treasury Secretary, what must be the indignation of an insulted People? This land business in the Western Country has created a multitude of partisans for the Secretary of the Treasury, while they have only been the dupes of his management, and the sport of his mismanagement, without deriving one solitary benefit to themselves by the SACRIFICE OF MILLIONS of the public treasure.

Myself, the supporter of radical Republican principles, no Virginia aristocrat, I look with contempt upon those Radical politicians, who would pull down every system of wise policy, and oppose every plan for promoting the credit, the prosperity, and the security of the country, and scatter their ashes before the throne of a rising demagogue. SOUND POLICY.

FOR THE STAR.

I have not unfrequently heard well informed persons wonder how that exotic caucus could have crept into our political nomenclature, without any one's knowing whence it came, or exactly what it meant, at the same time expressing a great desire to be acquainted with the etymology of a term as extraneous to the purity & propriety of our phraseology as the practice which it designates is to the honest candor & generous magnanimity of our politics. What to me was always a circumstance of the greatest surprise was, that persons should entertain a moment's hesitation or doubt about the derivation of a word which carries upon its face its own definition, and which speaks so plainly the source from which it sprang, the word itself affording the best explication of its origin and import, being most obviously a radical vulgarism of the old Greek word KAKOS, which is interpreted in Latin *malus* *periculosus*, *infestus*, *periculosus*, *ignominiosus*, *timidus*, which among other things in English, signify pernicious, destructive, cowardly, &c. The translation and application of the rest, I leave every one to make from his knowledge of the original, and his acquaintance with caucus principles and caucus practices.

PYRRHO.

U. S. MILITARY ACADEMY.

Westpoint, 20th June, 1824.

To the Secretary of War.

SIR:—In compliance with your invitation, the undersigned, acting as a Board of Visitors, have attended the examination of this Institution, and have now the honor to repeat their proceedings, which will be found in the annexed Journal; and to which they add the following remarks:

I. The position of the U. S. Military Academy combines advantages possessed by few, if any other place, for the preservation of health, the enforcement of subordination, and the attainment and diffusion of knowledge in the elementary and higher branches of fixed and moral Science, all important to our Civil Institutions, Military Defence, and National character. The Cadets, coming from every section of the country, contribute much in their mutual and united efforts in the pursuit of this knowledge, to the expiation of local prejudices and sectional antipathies; and they carry with them, in return, feelings and principles of enlarged patriotism, with habits of temperance and industry, added to an education the most useful to themselves, and to the Republic for whose service they are destined.

II. The examination, generally, has been conducted with a patient minuteness that has given to each Cadet ample means to develop the character and extent of his acquirements in the various branches of study. Every individual of the First and Second, and most of the Third Class, [the Board not having attended the examination of the 4th Class] afforded undoubtedly evidence of previous application, and approved progress in their studies and other duties assigned to them respectively.

The Cadets not only afforded satisfactory evidence of their accurate knowledge of the most important branches of the fixed Sciences, upon which they were extensively examined, but many of them exhibited, moreover, a facility and perspicuity of expression and illustration manifesting the most promising traits of a rich elocution. Among the Cadets belonging to the upper Classes, and by which their relative rank is fixed, appear, in many cases, to be so slight, as to render it difficult for the Board of Visitors to settle the question of Rank; they, however, concur in the opinion, that the arrangement of each class in the accompanying Catalogue is substantially correct.

III. The course of instruction in the French Language appear to have resulted in giving the several Classes a good knowledge of its Grammar, and a facility in rendering the sentences into English sufficient to enable them to pursue their Military studies, without inconvenience, in that Language.

IV. In the Drawing School, the Board has examined numerous and very satisfactory examples of Proficiency in Topography, Landscape, and Plan Drawing.

V. The important advantages arising from the connection of mathematical science and military education being universally acknowledged, it is a cause of peculiar satisfaction to the Board of Visitors to be enabled to state, that in every branch of Mathematical knowledge, which has occupied the attention of the

Cadets, the most satisfactory proofs have been afforded, that their attainments reflect honor upon themselves and the Institution in which their education is received. An accurate and familiar acquaintance with this essential part of the course of education is not merely derived from the immediate examination of the abstract Mathematics, but the inference is also forcibly and conclusively deduced from the readiness and facility with which they have been applied to the various branches of Natural Philosophy. In the pure Mathematics, the evidences of their advances are derivable from the accuracy and rapidity of their operation upon the Blackboard; the ease with which the various substitutions, arising out of the different values in the calculations, have been effected; the variety of expression necessary to be employed; the methodical arrangement in the demonstrations of the propositions, the correctness of the results; and the intelligence evinced in assigning the rationale for every step of the operation. A close attention to the examinations has convinced the Board that the Cadets are familiarly acquainted with a considerable portion of the Differential and Integral Calculus; the application of Algebra to Geometry; the two Trigonometries; Descriptive Geometry, and the other parts of Elementary Mathematics. If it were necessary to refer to any particular portion of the Mathematical course, we would, with satisfaction, allude to the discussion of curved lines, and transformation of rectangular co-ordinates, the general discussion of the equations to the three distinct classes of Curves of the second order; to the fine theory of Perspective; the application of the Differential Calculus to the theory of Curved Surfaces, and to Transcendental Curves; and that of the Integral Calculus to the Quadrature of Curves, and their rectification; to Curved Surfaces, and the measurement of their volumes.

The ready application of Mathematical knowledge to every section of Natural Philosophy—to Military and Civil Engineering—has afforded the most ample proofs that the means of deriving practical utilities from Physical Science are possessed by the Cadets of the Institution. The variety, range, and difficulty of the questions proposed by the Examiners; the general correctness and judgment in the answers; the evident ease, facility of reply, connected with a logical precision which could only be attained by patient and intense application of the mental powers, are accurate tests that the different sections of this important branch of the course have been conducted with skill and perseverance. Where so much excellence has been apparent, it is, perhaps, unnecessary to allude to any particular department of the Physical course. We will, however, presume to affirm, that the propositions relating to accelerated and retarded motion, to the theory of Projectiles, strength of materials, theory of Arches, spouting of fluids, oscillation of floating bodies, and physical astronomy, were illustrated and demonstrated under circumstances of peculiar excellence. The propositions relating to the attraction of solids, from Newton's Principia, were demonstrated with much ability.

It accords with the sentiments of the Board to state, that the attainments witnessed in the Mathematical and Physical Classes were, if possible, discovered in a higher order in the sections of Military and Civil Engineering. It was satisfactorily exhibited, by the diversity of questions proposed, that the very essential knowledge relating to mortars, cements, uses of wood, its defects, construction of arches, and determination of the Voussoirs on the principles of Descriptive Geometry, to the mode of constructing roads, head gates of dams, locks and canals; uses and relative strengths of the different kinds of iron, classification of soils in regard to foundations, and the operation of piling, had been acquired. It will, perhaps, assist in forming conceptions of the acquirements of the Class, by stating a few propositions, to whose constructions and demonstrations the Board gave the strictest attention.

IN CIVIL ENGINEERING.—To explain the apparel of a grain, formed by the intersection of an annular vault, with a radiant vault; to explain the apparel of the common grain, and of the cloistered ceiling; to explain the apparel of an oblique rampart vault.

IN MILITARY ENGINEERING.—To explain the defilement of a fortified Front on irregular ground; to explain Monge's system of mines, and the theory of mining generally; to explain the construction of Mauze's Front in Fortification.

In all the Demonstrations and Elucidations of Civil and Military Engineering, the evident and important advantages arising from the course of Descriptive Geometry adopted in the Academy, were forcibly exposed. In this branch, the profound attainments possessed by the Cadets, were exhibited in a high degree of perfection, by the constructions performed on the Black Board. The precision in drawing the lines by hand, without the assistance of Rulers, and the correct relative proportions of the parts of the figures, are proofs of judgment and much industry.

VI. The exhibition which the class of Engineering has made before the Board of the general principles of theoretic military defence, and civil and military constructions, has been highly satisfactory. The course of instruction in this class embraces,

1st. A development of the theory of that description of the science of war which depends upon the selection of proper positions for defence by fortifications, and upon the planning and adaptation of these works to the positions, including the estimates of the expense of construction called Engineering.

2d. An illustration of the maxims of military defence and offence.

3d. A theoretic explanation of the construction of Fortifications, and of civil constructions, embracing canals, roads, bridges, and public edifices.

4th. The graphic execution of the various systems of plans for these constructions, and for ornamental architecture. In the demonstration of which we have seen the application of Descriptive Geometry, a modern simplification of Perspective Plane Drawing, and of resolving Solids and their sections to planes. In the course of the examination of this Class, the large majority have discovered an intimate acquaintance with the theories as laid down in the text books, or explained by the Professor and Assistant.

This course is the first step of application of the Mathematical theory to that description of practice which is essential to a just arrangement of the theory of engineering for practical use; and when we consider the rising demand in our country for Civil Engineers, we must admit that the full endowment of this branch of study would be a great national economy; we therefore would advise, that to this course there should be added the mechanical execution of models in stone-cutting, and carpentry, and machine-making; to effect which it would be necessary to provide a workshop, tools, and materials; a teacher in machine draughting, and a master model-maker; two assistant teachers of engineering, and a drawing chamber and a modelling room—to draw to receive light from the ceiling.

We are of opinion that the grade of merit in the Academic scale of this branch is too low to excite a proper degree of emulation in the whole graduating Class to obtain eminence in the minute parts of the course, especially when it is considered that this is a particularly professional branch for which the Institution was first intended, and also, that eminence in attainment in this department, fixes the Cadet's particular pursuit in life. We would also observe that it does not appear to us as desirable to continue the practice of taking Cadets in this course for Assistant Teachers in other branches, such employment deprives the best of them of the time to give an undivided attention to the course. It were better, as a general rule, to offer sufficient inducements to Graduates to take the stations of Assistant Teachers.

In the course of Natural and Experimental Philosophy, the theory of Mechanics, and of Astronomy, and of Physics generally, have been ably illustrated, by the Class pursuing this branch, at the Black Board. But, it appears to us, that more attention should be paid to the practical illustration of this course, especially in Astronomy, to which desirable end a further endowment of the Professorate is requisite in an increased number of the instruments and apparatus, such as one exhibited upon an accompanying memorandum of those now in the Academy, and such also as we conceive to be necessary to add to the present collection.

In the department of History, Moral Science and Geography, the Board observe that the Students have acquired a commendable collection of facts; but the Board feel it a duty to state, that the minds of these young men do not appear to have been sufficiently directed to a philosophical view of these branches of history and moral science. For the more convenient accommodation of the Professors of Chemistry and Philosophy, in giving instruction to their classes, the Board deem it desirable to have two rooms constructed and added to the present Academy, of about 40 by 3 feet each, the expense of which would be about \$4,000.

Comfortable quarters are wanting for the Professor of Chemistry, and for the officer of the Staff connected with the supplies, transportation, and keeping the academic property—such quarters could be erected for about \$6,000.

VII. The Discipline of this institution is of the first order. Its excellence is demonstrated, Ist. By an exemplary Police pervading every department, from the kitchen to the barracks—from the necessary refreshments of the table, to the highest vocations of the military Academic Staff. 2d. By the various courses of instruction, as well moral as scientific and military,—both theoretical and practical; affording conclusive evidence of zeal, vigilance, and superior qualifications on the part of the Superintendent, and great industry, subordination and promise on the part of the Cadets.

The Drill.—The position of the Cadets under arms, and their movements in company and battalion exercise, were found to be strictly conformable to the regulations governing them, and to present an aspect of regular tactical knowledge on the part of the Cadets, unequalled by any troops the Board of Visitors have ever seen. The evolutions of the line were performed with all the accuracy and professional ability that the very limited number of Cadets could possibly admit. The Field Artillery, as well as the Rifle exercise, were likewise performed in a manner highly creditable to the Institution.

We have the honour to be, respectfully, your obedient servants,

EDMUND P. GAINES, J. S. JOHNSTON, JOHN CHESTER, A. S. H. BURGESS, J. G. SWIFT, HENRY R. WARFIELD, N. TOWSON, J. G. AUSTIN, W. H. SUMNER, THOS. C. LEVINS.

DEPARTMENT OF WAR. July 1, 1824.

SIR:—I have received and read with much satisfaction the Report of the Board of Visitors on the last general examination of the Cadets of the Military Academy, and on the organization, administration, and police of the Institution.

While the Report, founded as it is, on the minute examination and inspection of every department of the Institution, furnishes the most satisfactory evidence of its excellent condition, it at the same time affords convincing proof of the zeal and intelligence with which the gentlemen composing the Board have fulfilled the objects which the Government had in view, in inviting their attendance at the examination.

I avail myself of this occasion, of making through you, my acknowledgments to the gentlemen constituting the Board, for the time and labour they have gratuitously bestowed, at the request of the Department, on this important National Institution; and the satisfaction which I have experienced from so authentic a source, that it has so completely attained the objects which the Legislature had in view in its establishment.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, Sir, your most obedient servant, (Signed) J. O. CALHOUN.

Major General E. P. Gaines, President of the Board of Visitors, at the Military Academy.