

THE STAR,

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Report of the Committee of Finance.

The Committee of Finance, whose duty it is made by law to examine into the state and condition of the fiscal concerns of the State, having, in part, performed that duty, reports:

That in conformity with the requisites of the act of Assembly, passed in 1827, and other acts prescribing the duty of your committee, they have, with great care and minuteness, compared the several sums of money received by the Public Treasurer, on account of public taxes, impositions and otherwise, and paid in pursuance of public dues, and votes of the General Assembly, as stated in the report of the Public Treasurer, and the Comptroller's printed statement, presented at the commencement of the present session; as also the great variety of vouchers on file in the Comptroller's office, vouching these receipts and disbursements. The books containing these accounts, belonging to the offices of the Treasurer and Comptroller, contain, except as to the bonds for the purchases of the Cherokee lands in the Comptroller's Department, a true, plain and perspicuous statement, and fully correspond with the evidences of the receipt and disbursement of the public moneys, which latter have been cancelled as the law requires, and left on file in the office of the Comptroller.

The monthly settlements have been minutely examined, and are found to correspond, in every respect, and to exhibit the state of the Treasury in the manner required by the law directing them to be made.

The deposits of the monies in the several Banks have been particularly inquired into, and are found to have been made in conformity to law. Indeed, almost all of them were made the days on which they were paid to the Treasurer.

In obedience to the directions of the act of Assembly, passed in 1827, and the joint resolution of the present General Assembly, your committee counted the \$2,899 dollars 48 cents of Treasury notes remaining in a vault of that department, and have ascertained, as units for circulation, a portion of them, amounting to \$0,085 dollars 91 cents, and committed that amount to the flames; the residue, of \$1,813 dollars 57 cents, has been counted and returned to the Treasurer, to be, hereafter accounted for.

The following brief abstract of the state and actual condition of the finances of the State, is the result of the examination of the committee, and is intended to correspond in every respect with the report of the Treasurer and the printed statement of the Comptroller, and to have been sustained in every particular by a proper vouching account remaining in the Treasury on the 1st of Nov. 1829, \$74,014 12 1/2 cents, and of receipts in the last fiscal year, \$11,106 09 1/2 cents.

Making a total of 185,120 21 1/2 cents, and the amount of disbursements, 115,369 57 1/2 cents.

Which shows a balance in the hands of the Public Treasurer, on the 1st day of November, 1830, and now to be accounted for, of 69,750 64 cents.

The Public Treasurer, as Treasurer of the Fund for Internal Improvement, had in his hands on the 1st Nov. 1829, \$4,440 48 cents.

As received in the last fiscal year on the same account, 5,538 00 1/2 cents.

Making the sum of 13,978 48 1/2 cents, and the amount of disbursements, 11,040 00 cents.

Which shows a balance in the hands of the Public Treasurer, on the 1st day of November, 1829, \$2,938 48 1/2 cents.

As received in the last fiscal year, for

the sum of 13,978 48 1/2 cents, and the amount of disbursements, 11,040 00 cents.

Which shows a balance in the hands of the Public Treasurer, on the 1st day of November, 1829, \$2,938 48 1/2 cents.

As received in the last fiscal year, for

vacant land, tavern and auction tax, 9,513 75 cents. And from the Bank of Cape Fear and the Cape Fear Navigation Company, 3,310 85 cents.

Exhibiting a balance of 30,132 68 1/2 cents.

The Public Treasurer, as Treasurer of the Agricultural Fund, had in his hands on the 1st Nov. 1830, \$1,529 67 cents.

From this amount, deduct disbursement in the last fiscal year, 314 03 cents, which shows a balance, that by law is transferred to the Literary Fund, of 1,215 64 cents.

Which, added to the Literary Fund, shows its total amount of \$1,871 52 1/2 cents.

These all added exhibit the total in the hands of the Treasurer, on the 1st Nov. 1830, and hereafter to be accounted for by that officer of \$105,146 95 cents.

The following statement will show the manner in which the Treasurer has disposed of the public funds committed to his charge:

From the certificate of the Cashier of the Bank of Cape Fear at Fayetteville, your committee ascertain that the Public Treasurer had deposited in that Bank to his credit, on the 1st day of Nov. 1830, the sum of \$16,077 08 cents.

The committee, unwilling to confide in the Bank Books of the Treasurer, although they are made out by the Cashier and Agent of the Banks in this city, or to the certificates of his deposits made in them, duplicates of which are filed in the offices of the Treasurer and Comptroller, visited each of these Banks, and personally inspected the accounts of your Public Treasurer. The result of this examination is, that on the 1st day of November, 1830, there was deposited to his credit in the State Bank, the sum of 39,011 68 cents.

And in the North Bank, 27,158 01 cents.

To these sums add the amount of Treasury notes, counted and burnt, and counted and returned to the Treasurer, as before stated in this report, 22,899 74 cents.

These sums, added together, exhibit the total amount of \$105,146 25 cents.

Your committee cannot close this report without expressing the great satisfaction they feel, that the minute and critical examination which they have bestowed upon the accounts of the Public Treasurer, has resulted in exhibiting the conduct of that officer in the discharge of his arduous and important duties of his station, for the three years he has occupied it, as that of an obliging, active, intelligent and faithful public servant.

Your committee recommend that the resolution which accompanies this report, allowing to the Public Treasurer the sum of 20,085 dollars and 91 cents, be adopted and sent to the House of Commons for its concurrence.

All which is respectfully submitted. WM. M. SNEED, Ch'.

November 30th, 1830.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

War Department, 1st Dec. 1830.

To the President of the United States:

Sir: I have the honor to make known to you the operations of this Department during the present year, and to offer such suggestions as appear to me necessary to be presented. The Army, at the different positions it has occupied along our western and southern frontiers, has been engaged in preserving quiet in those quarters, and has fully succeeded. Fears were entertained of a serious rupture with some of our northwestern tribes of Indians; but the presence of a military force, and the exercise of a proper discretion on the part of those to whom the trust of reconciling them was confided, has had the effect to prevent it, and peace has been the consequence. Similar apprehensions have recently been entertained of the Indians who reside on our southwestern boundary, and precautionary steps have been taken to prevent any acts of hostility. The vigilance, intelligence, and discretion of our officers induce a belief that, by their exertions, these distant tribes can be retained at peace with each other. Occasional interruptions have arisen from wandering parties, who range through the forest, and, at points distant from our posts, commit depredations; these acts, in turn, produce retaliation. It is important to prohibit these aggressions, if possible, though on other plan can be suggested than what has already, heretofore, been presented; viz: an authority to employ a detachment of mounted troops. These, ranging through the country at irregular periods, would do much more towards preserving peace with our Indian tribes, and quiet along our borders, than could be effected through any augmentation of our posts.

I regret to say that desertions from the Army are not of less frequent occurrence than heretofore. The number, for the present year, will exceed one thousand. Various efforts have been made, and many theories suggested, to arrest an evil so injurious to the operations and character of an Army. None have succeeded! The benevolent intention of the act of Congress of last winter, which took from the offence the penalty of death, and in obedience to the spirit of which all past offences of the kind were by you directed to be forgiven, has had no restraining, as salutary effect. I am not an advocate for the severity of penalties. The hope of reward, more frequently than the fear of punishment, operates beneficially upon mankind. A resort to both might be serviceable. While penalties corresponding to the nature of the offence, might be imposed upon delinquents, the faithful and good soldier should be cheered by the expectation of reward. To this end, an authority to make some reasonable compensation to those who obtain an honorable discharge, should be granted. In conformity to this opinion, I would take occasion to suggest, that, while some adequate penalty be imposed for so gross a violation of duty as that of abandoning a service voluntarily assumed it may also be provided that the soldier who serves faithfully, and is honorably discharged, shall receive, at the termination of his enlistment, one hundred and twenty dollars. Let him receive, in stead of his present pay, four dollars per month, retaining the residue, payable at the end of service. The difference in expense thus created to the Government, for the five years of enlistment, would be but sixty dollars; which increase, it is hoped and believed, will be more than compensated for by a saving in the expenses which are incurred under the present system of restraint and desertion. The amount retained should be forfeited, if, at any time, the soldier desert the service. It might operate as a strong incentive to good conduct, and would serve as a fund at the close of his engagement, by which to establish him in some advantageous pursuit. By the present mode, he retires from the Army, dependent and poor as he entered; and often, instead of returning for a time to his family, enters the Army contrary to his inclination, induced only by his poverty and wants. Disaffection takes place, and desertion follows.

Repeated efforts have been made to arrest this growing evil; and they should be continued, so long as there is hope of a remedy. The loss to the service is not so material. The great fear is, that, in peace, the practice may become so frequent and familiar, as in war to lose that odium which should attach to so aggravated an offence. Recently, by an order from the War Department the whiskey part of the ration has been taken away, with a view to ascertain how far a theory frequently introduced might be practically productive of benefit. Time has not been afforded to test the experiment; but little confidence is reposed in the attempt. If the plan suggested of giving enlarged compensation to the non-commissioned officers—whom every soldier may aspire to be—shall fail to produce a remedy, I know not what other can be attempted with any reasonable prospect of success. In peace, the soldier is not stimulated by that buoyancy, which in war induces him to aspire to promotion through gallantry and good conduct. To be a non-commissioned officer, is all that he can hope for or expect. To place this class of officers on a more advantageous and respectable footing, for the purpose of exciting a spirit of emulation amongst the soldiers, might prove highly serviceable. The subject, being one of importance, is at least worthy of consideration and experiment.

connected with the Army is the Military Academy at West Point. The beneficial effects which have been produced to the country already, and the more enlarged ones which are in prospect, from this valuable institution, render it matter of importance that it should be maintained upon its present liberal plan and principles. The educating of two hundred and fifty young gentlemen, selected from every State of the Union, cannot fail to carry with it general advantages and benefits corresponding to the demands it produces on the Treasury. But, apart from this, the education obtained there being of a military character, the benefits diffused through every section of our country

cannot but prove highly beneficial when it shall again be involved in war. The information which is acquired there is carried to the several States; those young men become officers & militia; and in time, through the means thus afforded, something approaching to uniformity in the discipline of our militia may be expected. The able report of the Board of Examiners of the last commencement, which accompanies this report, will present in detail the progress and advantages of the institution.

By the act of 1818, the President of the United States is authorized to confer upon the graduates of this academy the appointment of brevet lieutenants. Already there are 87 supernumerary officers thus created, who cannot now be provided for in the line of the Army. In June next there will probably be 39 more added, which will produce an excess of 14 over the number authorized. The law prohibits brevet appointments of a greater number than 106—one for each company; of course, upon a reasonable calculation but few, if any, of the cadets, after June, 1831, will be entitled to a brevet commission. I would respectfully suggest whether some rule different from the present be not necessary to restrict for the future brevet lieutenant appointments, retaining only so many as might supply the probable vacancies which occur within the year. The number of promotions to the Army from this corps, for the last five years, has averaged about 23 annually; while the number of graduates for the same period has been at an average of 40. This excess, which is annually increasing, has placed 87 in waiting until vacancies shall take place, and shows that, in the next year probably, and in the succeeding one certainly, there will be an excess beyond what the existing law authorizes to be commissioned. They will then be 106 supernumerary brevet second lieutenants, appointed to the Army, at an annual expense to the Government of 80,000 dollars.

In the Engineer Department, important operations, as regards the internal improvement of the country, have been in successful progress. The advantages to our commerce from the improvements which have been made in the navigation of the Mississippi and Ohio rivers, have already been sensibly felt; and great good to the community at large is to be anticipated from further efforts. The experiments begun, and in some respects completed, show that, at an inconsiderable annual expense, the Ohio river may be cleared of its bars and shoals, so as to afford a convenient and safe navigation at those seasons of the year when heretofore it has been considered impracticable.

This subject well merits the attention of the Government. These rivers pass through an immense and fertile region of our country, the products of which contribute essentially to advance our commercial interest. An inconsiderable expenditure from the public Treasury will have the effect to give security to a commerce which at present is carried on at much hazard, and, by diminishing the insurance at present required, and preventing losses, speedily reimburse to the community the cost which has been incurred, and the expense which may be required. At present the imports to the west are mainly along these rivers, and the export trade almost entirely. Usually for six months in the year, one of these (the Ohio) ceases to be useful, because of the numerous obstructions, and consequent hazards, which are presented at those times when the waters are unusually reduced. The inconvenience and risk thus felt are susceptible of such easy remedy, and at so small an expense, that it becomes matter of surprise that improvements so important and valuable to a large community should have been so long overlooked or neglected. The necessity of improving the navigation of these rivers for commercial purposes, all admit; of the practicability of effecting it, none can doubt. The experiment lately made, through a most difficult obstruction at a place called the Grand Chain, conclusively tests the feasibility of improving other places; and shows that the expense will be inconsiderable. As it regards this branch of the subject, however, it appears to me that the importance and value of the thing to be done, is of infinitely greater consequence than any apprehension of charge which it may occasion to the Treasury.

The breakwater situated at the mouth of the Delaware river is another valuable improvement, which, within the last year, has been rapidly progressing. The work has already risen above the water, and furnished evidence of its importance to our commerce. During the violent gale of last September, several vessels which lay under the protection of this work were preserved. The force of the sea being broken by its opposition, they were enabled to keep at their moorings, and to ride out the gale in safety. Fifteen other vessels in view, not possessing the advantages of this position, were driven on shore, and lost, or gotten off at much expense. A few years will complete this valuable work. The attention it has received since it was placed in charge of the Quartermaster's Department by your direction, and the advantages already derived from it, give proof of the propriety of its completion, and of the

beneficial results it must afford to commerce. At this breakwater's location, a security may be afforded, which, in a few years, will amply compensate for the cost incurred in its construction.

The Ordnance Department is progressing as rapidly as the means afforded will permit, in arming the militia of the States; and in preparing the necessary guns and carriages for furnishing the different fortresses of the country. It is worthy of consideration whether the appropriation applicable to this service should not be increased, so as to provide a suitable armament by the time the different fortifications along the coast shall be completed. For the first which are finished, a million of dollars will be necessary; but besides these, others are in progress, and will shortly be completed. With the annual appropriation of \$100,000 towards this purpose, it will require ten years to accomplish the object for those which are in readiness. Should we be blessed with peace, no injury will arise; but should war take place, the effects upon our country would be of a serious and prejudicial character.

In all the disbursing branches connected with the War Department, I am happy to say that punctuality and fidelity have strictly, and almost without exception, been regarded during the year.

A new era in the history of this country has, within a few years, arisen in relation to Indian affairs. Under the act of 1802, and the practices of the Government resulting therefrom, principles have been introduced, the correctness of which deserves serious consideration. By this act it is prohibited to any one to settle upon Indian lands, or to enter their territory; and, for its execution, the President is authorized and directed to employ the "military force" of the country.

It is worthy of reflection how far this act (as circumstances exist) is to be considered within the pale of the Constitution, and obligatory upon the authorities of the Government. Before the States were members of this Union, they were sovereign. The United States Government can legitimately exercise those rights only with which the States parted under their general compact, to regulate their internal municipal authority, a privilege which has not been surrendered. Amongst those rights is the indisputable one of controlling their citizens, and governing them after their own mode, with this exception, that a republican form of government is to be secured to each. The States, being independent and sovereign within their own limits, can admit no check upon their sovereignty, whether, in its exercise, it affects one citizen or another—the white or the red man. By courtesy, the laws have been withheld from an interference with the Indians within a State; and that which heretofore was mere courtesy is now insisted upon as a matter of paramount constitutional right. Surely this cannot be correct according to our notions and system of government; and, if wrong, the act of 1802, from the moment the laws are extended by a State over Indian territory, must cease to be operative. Reciprocity is always fair and just, and hence the law which would make it penal for a white man to tread, unlicensed, upon soil held through Indian occupancy, should equally restrain the Indian from entering upon the domain of the white man. So far as existing treaties operate, the United States possess the power to concede this or any other privilege, because treaties, whether well or ill made, are the supreme law of the land; but they should be such as are permitted to be entered into by the Constitution, and which do not affect the rights of a State beyond what her consent in becoming a member of the Union has sanctioned and authorized. Every thing beyond this is usurpation.

Under the authority confided by you, during last summer, I visited some of the Indian tribes, with a valuable auxiliary, General John D. Cooke, of Alabama, and made known to them their situation. With the Choctaws and Chickasaws, (the only tribes with whom we negotiated,) treaties were concluded. From all appearances, they were well satisfied with their own decision, and the course which we pursued towards them. If any different feeling has since been incited, it is the work of persons who have sought, through the channels of their ignorance, to persuade them to the belief that great injustice has been practised. I undertake to assure you, that, in all we did, the utmost fairness and candor were practised. We sought through persuasion only, to satisfy them that their situation called loudly for serious reflection. Pending the negotiation, no secret meetings were had, no bribes were offered, nor promises made. Every argument adduced, or suggestion offered, was in open council, and in view of those whose rights were to be affected. Of this, abundant evidence exists, whatever may be said to the contrary. There was no motive to impose upon, or to deceive them. Our instructions forbade us to do so, and our inclination, besides, was an ample restraint. The treaties concluded are ready for submission; and how far any practised injustice or want of liberality can be imputed, will be fairly judged of when

their terms and conditions shall be disclosed. If a liberality simple and generous has not been regarded, our efforts have failed, and our judgment will be mistaken.

During this period, I witnessed much of Indian character, their progress, improvement, and march towards civilization, and can well say that, in conducting them to attain them in those pursuits which should tend to their advancement, and to which their attention could reasonably be claimed. Those who are personally have espoused their cause, and who direct seriously to improve their condition, are acting upon false premises, or are misled by mistaken considerations of kindness. But, as mankind are found in different degrees of civilization, and their ultimate results, I can well imagine, that in reference to such a subject as the present, honest differences of opinion may be expected, and will arise. Yet, before a desire be adopted, earnestly to retain these people at their present houses, we should be careful not to receive more impressions for facts, but rather to see the suggestions of truth and reason.

We should look to the red men as they are, and not as offenders they are represented to be; to their inhospitable lives under a well regulated system of law, and to the danger and hazard of the experiment. A few of them are well informed men, and capable of enjoying refined society. These are the mixed Indian—the half breed, as they are usually termed. Scarcely any of the others speak our language, or are acquainted with the principles of our Government. Little hope should be entertained, even by those most sanguine on the subject, that any material advances in civilization can be made with the present generation—those, I mean, who are now at maturity in life. Care and attention towards the rising generation may tend greatly to improve, and in time to meliorate, their present condition. To turn them to industry, is of first importance. Labor is never an acceptable pursuit to Indians. In their unimproved state, a fondness for war and the chase, and oratory at their councils, constitute their leading traits, because these afford the highest distinction. When, through the influence of culture and education, their taste upon these subjects shall be changed, and the character of an industrious agriculturist be held in higher estimation than dexterity of pursuit in the chase, then may they be expected to resort to industry, and give attention to the duties of agriculturists. Indisposition to manual labor, so peculiarly the characteristic of an Indian, causes him to select the poorest grounds, because of the ease with which the timber is felled and cleared away. The exceptions which exist to this are principally amongst those of mixed Indian blood, whose habits have been improved, and whose minds have been cultivated.

There are three divisions in the Choctaw nation, each of which is governed by a chief, who, within his limits, acts independently of the others. In his government he is aided by minor and subordinate chiefs, called Captains, each of whom acts within his particular district. The people are subordinate to the captains—the captains to the chief. One of these divisions composes what is called the Christian District, the chief of which is a man of good mind, with a common English education, and is religious. His people, too, are seemingly pious. Each night, holding the negotiation, until a late hour, they were at their exercises, singing and preaching. From every information this Christian party, as it is termed, are not accurately and correctly informed as to the principles & facts upon which they profess to act. A future state of rewards and punishments, for virtues or for crimes, is fashioned by their standard of savage life, and its enjoyments; and, in their imagination, is made to conform to what they conceive to be essential to constitute happiness or misery here. Judging from their devotional conduct, they are, to all appearances, a religious people. Certainly there are some perceptions and beneficial changes amongst them. They have become mostly an agricultural people. The practice of perforating the nose and ears for the purpose of ornamenting them, is rapidly disappearing, and considered a rude custom. Vermilion paint, to ornament and to decorate the face, is, in a great measure, given up. A credulity in supernatural agency, in witches, and in witchcraft, is fast yielding; and the use of ardent spirits, particularly in one of the districts, is, in a great measure abandoned. A reasonable hope may be entertained that these people may, in time, be prepared to protect and civilize themselves, and improve themselves.

In concluding a treaty with these people, candor and fairness were the only means resorted to by the Commissioners. They were given an undervalued distinctly, in pointing to their homes, no design was conceived beyond communicating to them a knowledge of their true condition, and submitting to their judgment, as far as it could be obtained, the opinion of the Government as to the propriety of

the proposed treaty.

The Choctaw and Chickasaw nations, being the only tribes with whom we negotiated, treaties were concluded. From all appearances, they were well satisfied with their own decision, and the course which we pursued towards them. If any different feeling has since been incited, it is the work of persons who have sought, through the channels of their ignorance, to persuade them to the belief that great injustice has been practised. I undertake to assure you, that, in all we did, the utmost fairness and candor were practised. We sought through persuasion only, to satisfy them that their situation called loudly for serious reflection. Pending the negotiation, no secret meetings were had, no bribes were offered, nor promises made. Every argument adduced, or suggestion offered, was in open council, and in view of those whose rights were to be affected. Of this, abundant evidence exists, whatever may be said to the contrary. There was no motive to impose upon, or to deceive them. Our instructions forbade us to do so, and our inclination, besides, was an ample restraint. The treaties concluded are ready for submission; and how far any practised injustice or want of liberality can be imputed, will be fairly judged of when

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During this period, I witnessed much of Indian character, their progress, improvement, and march towards civilization, and can well say that, in conducting them to attain them in those pursuits which should tend to their advancement, and to which their attention could reasonably be claimed. Those who are personally have espoused their cause, and who direct seriously to improve their condition, are acting upon false premises, or are misled by mistaken considerations of kindness. But, as mankind are found in different degrees of civilization, and their ultimate results, I can well imagine, that in reference to such a subject as the present, honest differences of opinion may be expected, and will arise. Yet, before a desire be adopted, earnestly to retain these people at their present houses, we should be careful not to receive more impressions for facts, but rather to see the suggestions of truth and reason.

We should look to the red men as they are, and not as offenders they are represented to be; to their inhospitable lives under a well regulated system of law, and to the danger and hazard of the experiment. A few of them are well informed men, and capable of enjoying refined society. These are the mixed Indian—the half breed, as they are usually termed. Scarcely any of the others speak our language, or are acquainted with the principles of our Government. Little hope should be entertained, even by those most sanguine on the subject, that any material advances in civilization can be made with the present generation—those, I mean, who are now at maturity in life. Care and attention towards the rising generation may tend greatly to improve, and in time to meliorate, their present condition. To turn them to industry, is of first importance. Labor is never an acceptable pursuit to Indians. In their unimproved state, a fondness for war and the chase, and oratory at their councils, constitute their leading traits, because these afford the highest distinction. When, through the influence of culture and education, their taste upon these subjects shall be changed, and the character of an industrious agriculturist be held in higher estimation than dexterity of pursuit in the chase, then may they be expected to resort to industry, and give attention to the duties of agriculturists. Indisposition to manual labor, so peculiarly the characteristic of an Indian, causes him to select the poorest grounds, because of the ease with which the timber is felled and cleared away. The exceptions which exist to this are principally amongst those of mixed Indian blood, whose habits have been improved, and whose minds have been cultivated.

There are three divisions in the Choctaw nation, each of which is governed by a chief, who, within his limits, acts independently of the others. In his government he is aided by minor and subordinate chiefs, called Captains, each of whom acts within his particular district. The people are subordinate to the captains—the captains to the chief. One of these divisions composes what is called the Christian District, the chief of which is a man of good mind, with a common English education, and is religious. His people, too, are seemingly pious. Each night, holding the negotiation, until a late hour, they were at their exercises, singing and preaching. From every information this Christian party, as it is termed, are not accurately and correctly informed as to the principles & facts upon which they profess to act. A future state of rewards and punishments, for virtues or for crimes, is fashioned by their standard of savage life, and its enjoyments; and, in their imagination, is made to conform to what they conceive to be essential to constitute happiness or misery here. Judging from their devotional conduct, they are, to all appearances, a religious people. Certainly there are some perceptions and beneficial changes amongst them. They have become mostly an agricultural people. The practice of perforating the nose and ears for the purpose of ornamenting them, is rapidly disappearing, and considered a rude custom. Vermilion paint, to ornament and to decorate the face, is, in a great measure, given up. A credulity in supernatural agency, in witches, and in witchcraft, is fast yielding; and the use of ardent spirits, particularly in one of the districts, is, in a great measure abandoned. A reasonable hope may be entertained that these people may, in time, be prepared to protect and civilize themselves, and improve themselves.

In concluding a treaty with these people, candor and fairness were the only means resorted to by the Commissioners. They were given an undervalued distinctly, in pointing to their homes, no design was conceived beyond communicating to them a knowledge of their true condition, and submitting to their judgment, as far as it could be obtained, the opinion of the Government as to the propriety of

the proposed treaty.

connected with the Army is the Military Academy at West Point. The beneficial effects which have been produced to the country already, and the more enlarged ones which are in prospect, from this valuable institution, render it matter of importance that it should be maintained upon its present liberal plan and principles. The educating of two hundred and fifty young gentlemen, selected from every State of the Union, cannot fail to carry with it general advantages and benefits corresponding to the demands it produces on the Treasury. But, apart from this, the education obtained there being of a military character, the benefits diffused through every section of our country

cannot but prove highly beneficial when it shall again be involved in war. The information which is acquired there is carried to the several States; those young men become officers & militia; and in time, through the means thus afforded, something approaching to uniformity in the discipline of our militia may be expected. The able report of the Board of Examiners of the last commencement, which accompanies this report, will present in detail the progress and advantages of the institution.

By the act of 1818, the President of the United States is authorized to confer upon the graduates of this academy the appointment of brevet lieutenants. Already there are 87 supernumerary officers thus created, who cannot now be provided for in the line of the Army. In June next there will probably be 39 more added, which will produce an excess of 14 over the number authorized. The law prohibits brevet appointments of a greater number than 106—one for each company; of course, upon a reasonable calculation but few, if any, of the cadets, after June, 1831, will be entitled to a brevet commission. I would respectfully suggest whether some rule different from the present be not necessary to restrict for the future brevet lieutenant appointments, retaining only so many as might supply the probable vacancies which occur within the year. The number of promotions to the Army from this corps, for the last five years, has averaged about 23 annually; while the number of graduates for the same period has been at an average of 40. This excess, which is annually increasing, has placed 87 in waiting until vacancies shall take place, and shows that, in the next year probably, and in the succeeding one certainly, there will be an excess beyond what the existing law authorizes to be commissioned. They will then be 106 supernumerary brevet second lieutenants, appointed to the Army, at an annual expense to the Government of 80,000 dollars.

In the Engineer Department, important operations, as regards the internal improvement of the country, have been in successful progress. The advantages to our commerce from the improvements which have been made in the navigation of the Mississippi and Ohio rivers, have already been sensibly felt; and great good to the community at large is to be anticipated from further efforts. The experiments begun, and in some respects completed, show that, at an inconsiderable annual expense, the Ohio river may be cleared of its bars and shoals, so as to afford a convenient and safe navigation at those seasons of the year when heretofore it has been considered impracticable.

This subject well merits the attention of the Government. These rivers pass through an immense and fertile region of our country, the products of which contribute essentially to advance our commercial interest. An inconsiderable expenditure from the public Treasury will have the effect to give security to a commerce which at present is carried on at much hazard, and, by diminishing the insurance at present required, and preventing losses, speedily reimburse to the community the cost which has been incurred, and the expense which may be required. At present the imports to the west are mainly along these rivers, and the export trade almost entirely. Usually for six months in the year, one of these (the Ohio) ceases to be useful, because of the numerous obstructions, and consequent hazards, which are presented at those times when the waters are unusually reduced. The inconvenience and risk thus felt are susceptible of such easy remedy, and at so small an expense, that it becomes matter of surprise that improvements so important and valuable to a large community should have been so long overlooked or neglected. The necessity of improving the navigation of these rivers for commercial purposes, all admit; of the practicability of effecting it, none can doubt. The experiment lately made, through a most difficult obstruction at a place called the Grand Chain, conclusively tests the feasibility of improving other places; and shows that the expense will be inconsiderable. As it regards this branch of the subject, however, it appears to me that the importance and value of the thing to be done, is of infinitely greater consequence than any apprehension of charge which it may occasion to the Treasury.

The breakwater situated at the mouth of the Delaware river is another valuable improvement, which, within the last year, has been rapidly progressing. The work has already risen above the water, and furnished evidence of its importance to our commerce. During the violent gale of last September, several vessels which lay under the protection of this work were preserved.