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Military.

FOR THE MINERVA.

Messrs. Editors,

Living some distance from any post office I am precluded the privilege of much newspaper information. That which is obtained in our neighborhood is mostly by means of elaborate circulars, from our representative in congress, which we have the pleasure of perusing once in each year.

A few days past I had the opportunity of reading one of the numbers of the "Star," printed in your city on the 1st instant; in which were contained orders for the present requisition of the militia of this state, and the act of congress authorising the same.

I observe in the first section of the act of congress, that the president is authorised to require of the executives of the different states and territories to take effectual measures to arrange, arm and equip, according to law, and to hold in readiness to march at a moment's warning, their respective proportions of one hundred thousand militia. On reading the general orders and the act of congress, I began to reflect on the situation of the equipments of the militia of this state; and have drawn a conclusion, from the knowledge which I possess of the state, that not one fiftieth part thereof are now in a proper situation to face an invading foe.

The militia law of this state requires each soldier to be equipped with a musket or firelock, cartridge box or shot pouch and powder horn, without having any reference to the sufficiency of such accoutrements. And I venture to say we can never expect them to be better equipped than they are at present, so long as the procuring of these equipments intirely devolves on the soldier who has to perform military duty and spend from six to ten days in the year in the execution of that duty—and whilst all exemptions, religiously scrupulous of bearing arms, and all officers of government from the executive of the state to a justice of the peace, be their property more or less, are exonerated from this tax. I think I may venture to assert that three fifths, and perhaps more, of the property of this state, are exempt from any tax to defend it in cases either of invasion or insurrection. But the frugal, honest farmer, who may have a number of sons, or the industrious mechanic who may have several apprentices, learning one of the numerous trades essential to our prosperity—these men must, as soon as their respective sons or apprentices arrive at eighteen years, or six months thereafter at most, pay a sum of between twelve and twenty dollars for each of their equipments.

Why has not the legislature of this state made some provision for procuring as many arms and accoutrements as a requisition like the present might require? Have we not had similar calls for detachments of the militia for several years past? Are we any better provided, as to equipments, than when the first requisition was made? Have we not been upon an equivoque, between peace and war, for three or four years? Have we not had a sufficient gorge of embargo, non intercourse and non importation? What have we got by them? Have they not impoverished our public treasury? Have they not distressed the farmer, and rendered bankrupts many of those whose capital was employed in shipping? Have they not done all this, besides inducing many of our citizens, whose entire dependence was on commerce, and whose characters hitherto stood unsullied, to become smugglers, and I hope I shall not be blamed, if I say, rogues? And have they not likewise driven many of our seamen, who could not get employ, into the service of a foreign power?

And now we are called upon to hold ourselves in readiness to march at a moment's warning, where shall we march? And if we march, with what shall we meet our enemy? With our fowling pieces and small shot guns? If we are thus compelled to meet them, shall we not resemble lambs driven to the slaughter? Will it not look like a mock army to see 7000 men, assembled as soldiers, and not more than one hundred and fifty stand of arms, amongst the whole, fit for actual service? Will not such an army incur a very considerable expence to the United States, when, in fact, thus destitute they could only disgrace the American cause.

I can conceive of no other alternative, than that the executive of this State, under whose protection and control we stand, should convene the legislature as speedily as possible, and endeavor

to remove the evils to which we are subject at the present crisis. I have thought if arms and accoutrements are to be purchased, that a general tax levied on all exemptions from military duty, on land and black polls, would be the most equitable plan. The soldier who has to perform military duty should be exempt from a poll tax on that behalf.

These are the hints and suggestions of one to whom the American government is as dear as his life; and of one whose pretensions are but small. He only hopes that some plan may be adopted, if the above suggestions do not meet general approbation, to quiet the murmurs and remove the oppressions of the soldier; and sincerely desires that the state to which he belongs may support herself with that dignity which she should assume amongst her sister states.

AMERICANUS.

THE ADMINISTRATION.

The following extract from the "Aurora," being good democratic evidence is entitled to careful preservation and frequent perusal—as a paper containing important facts hitherto suppressed, relative to the late unhappy sacrifice of lives, in the battle on the Wabash—and important facts to prove the incompetency and hypocrisy of the administration. Such facts as would lop off the heads of the ministers in almost any European government. But alas! the people were blind, and would not see; deaf and would not hear. Let the charm be broken which binds them to a false philosophy and an unprofitable system, and the Deceivers must flee from office.

From the Aurora.

A recent instance of the fatal effects of an ill conducted war office, and incompetent war ministers, which must render it obvious to the country there can be no serious intention of war at the present moment or that there is some motive prevailing in the public council more powerful than public duty, more regarded than the interests and honor of the nation. We refer to the recent transactions on the Wabash. Where is that generous sense of public duty which in former times held forth the representatives of the people as the grand inquest and the controllers of public measures? Where is that republican virtue gone, which would not suffer such a transaction to pass uninvestigated, and which would not have prosecuted a military officer who had blasted conspiracy and saved his country, and can yet suffer the transactions on the Wabash to pass without an enquiry—which can see the man whose skill and providence, whose experience and generosity saved the public force from the savages, and whose services are passed over without a compliment or acknowledgement; whose aspersions are even connived at, & whose lips are sealed by the discipline.

The officer here referred to is col. JOHN BORN, of the 4th regiment. Are the members of Congress ignorant of the course of the measures which preceded that expedition, or by which it was conducted, or what followed? It is charitable to presume they know not what was done. We shall then state to them such facts as are unexampled in the history of human folly. When the 4th regiment was ordered to descend the Ohio, for actual service, it would seem to be a necessary consequence that provision would have been made for ammunition and other military stores; what was the fact? upon reaching the public depot (arsenal it is called—and called any thing else it would be less ridiculous) behold! for the regular force going upon actual service there was NO AMMUNITION to be had nor orders to procure any. To be brief Col. Boyd took the responsibility of the expence of gun powder upon himself; there was an old water bucket, in which were some loose musket balls, but there were neither buck shot nor moulds to cast it; col. Boyd had to provide for these things entering upon an expedition into an unsettled country. Col. Boyd procured copper, and procured, either from his regiment or in the villages, workmen, and caused to be made moulds to cast the balls and buck shot; for cartridge paper, he resorted to the purchase of old newspapers; and formed his laboratory in his corps; when he reached Vincennes, he found the militia alike unprovided, and it was by his activity and foresight that powder was collected from Cincinnati and other towns, in small quantities of a pound!

Such facts are indeed, from their monstrous nature—from their unparalleled extravagance, such as it would be almost a virtue to disbelieve, if the facts were not even mild and extenuated as here stated, and if they did not hold forth a sort of presage of the method in which we might be expected to carry on a war, under such a guidance as directed the Wabash expedition; and that egregious series of blunders and imbecility which preceded and brought on the battle of Tippecanoe.

University.

BE it ordained, by the Trustees of the University of North Carolina, and it is hereby ordained by the authority of the same, that a special meeting of this board be had on Saturday the 11th day of July next, in the City of Raleigh, and that advertisement be thereof made accordingly.

ROBT WILLIAMS, Sec'y

Raleigh, December 18, A. D. 1811.

Domestic.

Norfolk, May 13.

We have to congratulate our townsmen, upon the prospect at length opened to them, by the completion of the Dismal Swamp Canal. Boats can now pass from Norfolk to Albemarle Sound, and we hope very shortly to be able to announce the arrival and departure of many, engaged in that direct traffic with the agriculturalist, which has always been found the readiest and most certain means for the aggrandizement of a commercial town.

Norfolk has hitherto enjoyed scarcely any advantages of commerce from those connected with its maritime position.—Convenient to the sea, accessible at all seasons, with a secure harbor, & a rhodester, unequalled by any on the continent, it requires but an inland trade to render it the emporium of commerce. It has hitherto been the point only of translation from the river craft to vessels engaged in foreign trade. The towns at the heads of the rivers have collected the produce of the country, and principally exported it—ours has been confined to the mere agency of freight and insurance. When, indeed, the command of capital enabled us to emulate our neighbours, we have uniformly suffered for our temerity. In the article of tobacco, the selections which their inspections enabled them to make, insured them a certain profit in all European markets. The refuse, of which we could only become the purchasers, has been a constant source of loss and ruin. An inspection at Norfolk will bring us one step nearer towards equality.

To North Carolina the advantages which will result from a direct intercourse with Norfolk, are incalculable. From the expence attending a land carriage, their agriculture has for fifty years remained stationary. The expence of transporting their produce to Richmond or Petersburg, consumes one half of their Tobacco, two thirds of their Wheat, and five sixths of their Corn. The first crop of the most laborious and exhausting, alone afforded them any remuneration. Wheat has been neglected, and Corn, cultivated to no greater extent than to fatten a few hogs which carried them selves to market.

The following advantages which will result to their agriculture cannot fail to improve it. The waggonage of a hoghead of Tobacco to Petersburg or Richmond, worth upon an average of years \$50 is

The freight from Halifax to Norfolk

They will save in every hhd of Tobacco.

The waggonage of a bushel of Wheat, average price 83 cents is

From Halifax to Norfolk

Saved

Ditto of a barrel of Corn, worth \$3

From Halifax to Norfolk

Difference

The only obstacle to the immediate benefits of this trade is supposed to exist in the difficulty of adapting vessels to the navigation of the Sound, which can ascend the canal and pass to Norfolk.—This difficulty, we understand, can easily be surmounted. The Canal company have adopted the determination of constructing a vessel for this purpose, which, while it will remove the apprehensions, will induce individuals to profit by the experiment. We would submit to the Company, the probable advantages which would arise by granting to the first two or three vessels which might be thus employed, the free navigation of the canal for a limited time. It would excite that spirit of enterprise of which we are most lamentably deficient.

WASHINGTON CITY, May 18.

In pursuance of a notice given to the Republican Members of Congress generally, eighty two Members of Congress convened in the Senate Chamber at the Capitol, viz:

SENATORS.—Messrs. Anderson, Brent, G. W. Campbell, Condit, Crawford, Cutts, Gregg, Howell, Leib, Pope, Robinson, Smith of N. York, Tait, Taylor, Tamm, Varnum, Worthington.—17.

REPRESENTATIVES.—Messrs. Bartlett, O. Hall, Harper, Green, Seaver, Turner, Fisk, Shaw, Mitchell, Sage, Sammons, Boyd, Condit, Morgan, Richardson, Hyneman, Anderson, Bard, Brown, Crawford, Davis, Findley, Lacock, Lyle, Piper, Smilie, G. Smith, Ringgold, Wright, Bassett, Burwell, H. Clay, Dawson, Gholson, Goodwyn, Hawes, Taliaferro, M'Coy, Nelson, Newton, Pleasants, Alston, Cochran, King, Pickens, S. Butler, Calhoun, Earle, Moore, Winn, Bibb, B. Hall, Troup, M. Clay, Desha, Johnson, M'Kee, Ormsby, New, Grundy, Rhea, Morrow, Poindexter, Jennings, Sevier.—65. Total 82.

The meeting was opened at 7 o'clock.

On motion of Mr. Smilie, the Hon. J. B. Varnum was appointed Chairman, and R. M. Johnson Secretary of the meeting.

Mr. Findley having briefly explained the object of the meeting—

On motion of Mr. Anderson of Tennessee, it was

Resolved, That the meeting do now proceed to recommend proper persons as candidates to fill the

offices of President and Vice President of the U. States, for the term of four years from the 3d day of March next.

The meeting first proceeded, on motion of Mr. Anderson, to ballot for the candidate for the Presidency; and Messrs. Mitchell and Tate being appointed Tellers, it appeared, on counting the ballots, that the votes were as follows:

FOR JAMES MADISON, 82.

No other person being voted for.

The meeting then proceeded, in like manner, to ballot for a suitable person to be supported for the office of Vice President for a like term. On counting the ballots, it appeared that there were

For JOHN LANGDON 64

ELBRIDGE GERRY 15

Scattering 2

On motion of Mr. Campbell of Tennessee it was then

Resolved, As the sense of this Meeting, that JAMES MADISON, of the state of Virginia, be recommended to the people of the United States, as a proper person to fill the office of President, for four years, from the 3d day of March next. And that JOHN LANGDON, of the state of N. Hampshire, be recommended as a proper person to fill the office of Vice-President for the same term.

Resolved, That in making the foregoing recommendation, the members of this meeting have acted only in their individual characters, as citizens; and that they have been induced to adopt the measure from a deep conviction of the importance of union to the republicans, throughout all parts of the U. States in the present crisis of our public affairs.

On motion of Mr. Findley, the following gentlemen were appointed a committee of correspondence and arrangement, viz:

Mr. Cutts of N. Hampshire, Mr. Varnum of Massachusetts, Mr. Howell of R. Island, Mr. Robinson of Vermont, Mr. Sage of New York, Mr. Condit of New Jersey, Mr. Smilie of Penna, Mr. Ringgold of Maryland, Mr. Burwell of Virginia, Mr. Pickens of North Carolina, Mr. Taylor of S. Carolina, Mr. Crawford of Georgia, Mr. Anderson of Tennessee, Mr. Pope of Kentucky, Mr. Morrow of Ohio, Mr. Fromentin of Louisiana, Mr. Poindexter of Mississippi, Mr. Jennings of Indiana. And the meeting adjourned.

J. B. VARNUM, Chairman.

R. M. JOHNSON, Sec'y.

A letter was received from Mr. Blackledge, of the House of Representatives, expressive of his regret at being confined by indisposition, and asking to be permitted to vote by proxy for James Madison. The vote by proxy was not deemed admissible.

Capitol, May 9.

M. GALES,

In looking over the copy of the proceedings of the meeting of yesterday evening, who recommended candidates for the presidency and vice presidency of the United States, I discover the name of Mr. Crawford* of Pennsylvania, inserted who was not present; and those of Mr. Roberts of Pennsylvania, and Mr. Dinmore of New-Hampshire, who were present, omitted; which makes the aggregate number of 83, of which number 82 voted,† as stated in the proceedings.

Your obed't servant,

R. M. JOHNSON.

* We are authorised to state, that Mr. Crawford was confined at his lodgings by indisposition and had been present, would have voted for Madison and Langdon.

† Mr. Sammons, we learn, was the member who did not vote.

USURPATION.

It is painful to behold members of congress appointing a president, in violation of the following prescription of the constitution, art. 2.—"No senator, or representative, or person holding any office of trust or profit, under the United States, shall be appointed an elector."

What means this? That members of congress shall not interfere in the election of president; that as they cannot be appointed electors, they shall neither appoint electors, nor assume an authority still greater and therefore more dangerous, viz. of determining for whom the electors shall vote. Is a lesser power denied and a greater conferred in one and the same breath? No—the constitution is too consistent and reasonable for such absurdity. There is no excuse for the appointment of president by congress—it is an usurpation.

But, it is said, the members do not meet in their official capacity. Nonsense!—They were sent to congress clothed only with a representative official character—in that one quality solely; and, if they can there usurp one additional power, what is to hinder them from assuming twenty other functions or more?—But, we examined this subject so carefully four years ago, that every argument has been anticipated.

If this method of nomination be necessary, as some assert,—why then, the constitution ought to be amended not broken. It might run:—"Congress, by and with the consent of the people shall appoint the president and vice president of the United States." But, what would be the consequence?—You shall never more behold an independent congress.—They will succumb to the executive, who would soon wield all power and influence.

We copy the following from the National Intelligencer of Saturday last:

"We are requested to state that a meeting of the republicans members of the congress of the U.