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## Political.

DICKINS' CIRCULAR.

To the Citizens of the counties of Orange, Wake and Person.

The Congress, to which you elected me your representative, having now expired, I take the earliest opportunity to submit the following concise view of the state of our public affairs and of the proceedings of the late session.

I have the satisfaction to state that we are at peace at home, and in amity with foreign nations. In congress, the great council of the nation, party spirit is so far extinct, that the time seems to have passed away, and I fondly hope will never again occur, when party measures, ruinous to the best interests of the country, can be carried by the mere force of a name; and the fate of the most important questions, decided or known by the movement of the file leader of a party. Most of the principles and measures adopted and advocated by Washington and his political disciples, which for a time were unfortunately departed from, are again resorted to and now prevail. Yet, notwithstanding this happy return to generally correct principles, with the consequent flourishing state of the treasury and revival of national prosperity, much very much yet remains to be done. Many public abuses that grew up in the days of error, stand uncorrected. System, good order and a due accountability, are not completely restored. The official documents in my possession, shew that in the chief departments, particularly in every branch of expenditure appertaining to the war department, a great mass of accounts remain unsettled, some of many years standing; and that millions of dollars, belonging to the public, are now in the hands of collectors, marshals, consuls, agents, contractors, officers of the army and other individuals, which were wrung from the hard and honest earnings of the people and have been permitted to remain in the hands of these public defaulters, in some cases many years, and no legal measures taken to compel them to pay it into the public treasury.—Those evils ought not to exist.

Our army ought to be reduced, and a sufficient number only kept on foot for the protection of our Indian frontier, and the preservation of our ports and fortifications in a proper state of repair. The expenses of those retained might also be greatly curtailed, for our military establishment is now one of the most expensive, according to size and the services it performs, that ever existed in any age or nation; and is unquestionably organized on a system of extravagance beyond example greater than any heretofore known. The military staff is on a scale sufficient for an army of five times its amount. Many officers have drawn pay, &c. on their brevet rank, by which means captains are allowed the pay of majors, majors the pay of colonels, colonels the pay of generals, &c. The annual aggregate cost, over and above the pay they are entitled to according to their real grade, is estimated by the secretary of war at thirty seven thousand five hundred dollars; and the great number of private servants allowed to the officers of the army, (and for which they are paid, including subsistence, &c. upwards of one hundred and sixty-three dollars, although they perform no military duty) adds greatly to the waste. The secretary of war, in his calculation for the support of the army during the present year, estimates the number at six hundred and seven-eighth, which forms an item of expense of one hundred and ten thousand nine hundred and sixty-five dollars and twenty-eight cents. From the commencement of our revolutionary war up to the 6th July, 1812, there was no pay allowed to the officers for the private servants they employed, except one ration per day. Should

our army be increased to fifty thousand, this new system, unknown in the days of Washington and his successor, would cost upwards of five hundred and fifty-five thousand dollars, besides adding a large expense to the quartermaster's department, medical department and contingent fund. The extravagant and useless expenditure in these departments is equally great; and the amount of the contingent fund far exceeds all reasonable bounds. But I will not go into a detailed statement of all the abuses, having already dwelt longer than I could wish on this unpleasant subject, and shall therefore dismiss it, after giving the following estimates of the secretary at war for the support of the military establishment during the present year, viz. Pay of the army, one million four hundred and thirty-three thousand eight hundred and seventy-two dollars; subsistence, one million one hundred and twenty-three thousand seven hundred and ninety-eight dollars; forage, sixty-eight thousand three hundred and twenty-four dollars; clothing, six hundred and seventy thousand eight hundred and eighty-one dollars and seventy-nine cents; bounties and premiums, thirty-two thousand dollars; quartermaster's department, four hundred and sixty thousand dollars; medical and hospital department, one hundred thousand dollars; ordnance department, one million and sixty-six thousand dollars; fortifications, eight hundred and thirty-eight thousand dollars; contingent expenses, one hundred thousand dollars; maps, plans, books, &c. for the war department, two thousand five hundred dollars; erecting and completing the buildings at West Point, forty-seven thousand five hundred dollars; maps, plans, books, &c. for the military academy, and repairing buildings at West Point, and for transportation and tow boats, sixteen thousand seven hundred and fifty dollars. Appropriations have been made varying but little from the foregoing estimates.

Our national funded debt, including the subscription to the bank of the United States, and the stock created by the compromise with the Yazoo claimants, but exclusive of floating unsettled claims to a larger amount, on the 1st day of January last amounted to one hundred and twenty millions three hundred and sixty-four thousand eight hundred and thirty-eight dollars and fifty-eight cents (\$120,364,838, 58) a very small part only of which would now have existed but for the late war, which although of a short duration, owing to the mismanagement of our fiscal affairs and other errors, cost us more than the revolutionary war, which raged seven years and gained us our liberty and independence. But as this tremendous debt has been created, every American must be impressed with the necessity of making suitable exertions, in periods of peace, to pay it off and release ourselves and our posterity from so heavy an incumbrance. Experience has proven the extreme difficulty of making any estimate of our revenue upon which reliance can be placed: but it may be confidently said, that if we cultivate peace and remain in amity with foreign nations, retrench our public expenditures, attend strictly to economy and compel the public defaulters to pay the vast sums they unjustly retain in their hands, the whole national debt, great as it is, may be extinguished in the course of fifteen or twenty years, without materially oppressing the people. The necessity, however, of correcting abuses, and of "entrusting public monies to safe hands," is obvious, and cannot be too strongly urged; for otherwise our national debt can never be paid.

It is with infinite pleasure I turn to the flourishing state of our revenue. The amount received into the treasury during the last year, far exceeded that of any former year; proving sufficient to satisfy every demand and leaving a balance, on the 1st day of January last, of eighteen millions five hundred and four thousand seven hundred and thirty dollars and ninety-five cents (\$18,504,730 95) of which sum it is estimated that ten millions are in cash, and the remainder in treasury notes; and if the estimate of the secretary of the treasury prove correct, the revenue of the present year, with the balance on hand, will so far exceed the expenditures, as to leave in the treasury, on the 1st of January next, fifteen millions six hundred and fifty thousand dollars, (\$15,650,000) after deducting three

millions then contemplated to be added to the sinking fund.

The direct tax will expire after the collection for the last year shall have been completed; and a strenuous effort was made to repeal the internal duties, under the belief that they might be safely dispensed with. The abundant supply of the treasury, the flattering prospect before us, and not knowing to what purpose the large surplus would be applied, induced me to believe this opinion to be correct. When this question was pending, several projects, of a very expensive tendency, were on foot, viz. bills to establish military academies, an invalid corps, &c. &c. all of which have since been rejected or abandoned; and I preferred leaving the money in the hands of the people, rather than it should be either misapplied or permitted to remain in the hands of collectors, or idle in the treasury. After the postponement of the proposition to repeal the internal duties, I was much gratified at the passage of an act entitled, "an act to provide for the redemption of the public debt," which increases the sinking fund, so as to create a permanent fund of ten millions of dollars annually, for the payment of the interest and gradual redemption of the debt; makes an additional appropriation of nine millions of dollars to the same object for the current year, and further directs that after the present year, whenever there shall be, at any time after an adjournment of congress, a surplus of money in the treasury, above the sums appropriated for the service of that year, the payment of which to the commissioners of the sinking fund will leave in the treasury a balance equal to two millions of dollars, then such surplus to be paid to the sinking fund.

The act commonly called the compensation law, which gave a salary of fifteen hundred dollars per year to members of congress, has been repealed. The friends of the law who constituted a majority, would not permit the repeal to take effect before the 1st day of this month. I was anxious, and voted, for its repeal, because I believed the law to be wrong in principle. It was, besides, found to be defective in its details and susceptible of various constructions, being so administered as to operate very unequally. Fifteen hundred dollars were allowed (besides travelling expenses) to each member up to the 31st March, 1816, which was at the rate of about sixteen dollars and sixty-seven cents per day for the time of service. But strange to tell, when a deduction was made for absence from service during the same period, only ten dollars per day were deducted; by which means those who served only a part of that time, received more, (some double) in proportion to their time of service than those who faithfully served the whole time! In addition to the fifteen hundred dollars, the further sum of five hundred and eighty dollars, making in the whole two thousand and eighty dollars, was allowed to each member for the first session, and nine hundred and twenty dollars for the whole of the last. During the progress of the bill a motion was made to fix a daily allowance, and extend its operation to the first of the session; which ought to have prevailed, but it was rejected by a large majority.

All laws which authorised a loan or issue of treasury notes have been repealed.

During the last year treasury notes to the amount of upwards of ten million of dollars were issued, which has augmented our national debt and increased the great amount of interest we have to pay.

The following acts, in addition to those before alluded to, have been passed, besides others of a less interesting nature, viz.—An act to repeal the second section of the act concerning the pay of the officers, seamen and marines of the navy. An act, supplementary to an act to regulate the duties on imports and tonnage. An act to make a partial appropriation for the navy for the year 1817. An act, to extend the provisions of the act to authorise certain officers and other persons to administer oaths, passed in 1798. An act to authorise the sale of certain grounds belonging to the United States in the city of Washington. An act making further provision for repairing the public buildings and improving the public square. An act supplementary to the act further to amend the several acts for the establishment and regulation of the Treas-

ury, war and navy departments. An act, to continue in force the 2d section of an act, supplementary to the act to regulate the duties on imports and tonnage. An act to provide for furnishing the house of the President of the United States. An act making provision for the support of the military establishment during the year 1817. An act to amend the act of last session making further provision for military services during the late war. An act transferring the duties of commissioner of loans to the bank of the United States, and abolishing the office of commissioner of loans. An act to provide for the punishment of crimes within the Indian boundary. An act more effectually to preserve the neutral relations of the United States. An act making additional appropriations for paying the expenses of the army and militia during the war. An act for the relief of the widows and orphans of the officers, seamen and marines who were lost in the United States brig Eprevier. An act providing for the more prompt settlement of public accounts. An act making appropriations for the navy during the year 1817. An act repealing the assessment and collection of the direct Tax. An act to amend the act authorising the payment of property, lost, captured or destroyed by the enemy, while in the military service of the United States. An act to amend the act granting a bounty in land and extra pay to certain Canadian volunteers. An act to regulate the trade in plaster of Paris. An act authorising the people of the western part of the Mississippi Territory to form a state government, and for the admission of the same into the union. A resolution for admitting the state of Indiana into the union.

Several important bills were before congress that could not be finally acted upon before it expired.

A bill "to set apart and pledge certain funds for internal improvements," which pledged funds for constructing roads and canals, passed both houses of Congress by small majorities, but ultimately failed, in consequence of the President objecting to it on account of the difficulty he felt in reconciling the bill to the constitution of the United States.

The president of the United States, with the consent of the senate, has made the following appointments, viz.

John Quincy Adams, of Massachusetts, secretary of state; William H. Crawford, of Georgia, secretary of the Treasury; and Isaac Shelby, of Kentucky, secretary of war.

The trust you were pleased to confer on me at the last congressional election, I have endeavored to discharge with fidelity, and if I have, in so doing, given satisfaction to my constituents, next to the approbation of my own conscience, it will afford me the highest gratification. The confidence you placed in me was an evidence of your respect and esteem which will be ever to me a source of pleasing and grateful recollection, and for which I tender to you my most sincere thanks. As you will again be called upon, at the approaching annual election, in August, to select some person to represent you in the next congress, I take this opportunity to inform you that I am a candidate for that appointment; and if I should again become your choice, my humble efforts shall be continued to maintain inviolable our national faith, to cherish peace, and to promote the interest and general welfare of the country.

I remain your friend, &c.

SAMUEL DICKINS.

Washington City, March 4, 1817.

THOS. W. & JOHN SCOTT, respectfully inform the Public, that having removed their STORE to the house lately occupied by Mr. Charles Smart, and added largely to their Stock of Goods, they can now present to their friends one of the most complete and elegant assortments ever exhibited in this place. They solicit a call, and pledge themselves to sell at the very lowest prices possible. Raleigh, Jan. 31st. 87—tf.

LOOK HERE.—On the 31st of December last, some Villain, who called himself JEPHTHA SEMPKINS, received of Capt John Hay of Portsmouth, Virginia, 748lbs. of London Scene wine, and signed a receipt to that effect, and promised to deliver the same to me. The wine nor man has since been heard of. This is, therefore, to request all Fishermen particularly, and all others who wish to detect a villain to forward me any information of any wine they have purchased since that time and of whom bought. As this kind of villainy bears particularly hard on Fishermen it is hoped and expected that they will exert themselves to bring the villain to justice—direct to me at Blanton by mail.

January 25, 1817.

THOS. BROWNIGG.

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