

From the Fayetteville Observer.

WHAT SHALL BE DONE WITH THE SURPLUS REVENUE?

This is becoming an important question.

It is ascertained that the revenue for the year ending June 20th, 1853, amounted to the enormous sum of \$61,387,472, an increase of nearly twelve millions over the revenue of the year previous.

It is also ascertained that the expenditures for the year ending 31st June last, were \$43,543,119, nearly eighteen millions less than the revenue.

And it is further ascertained, that the balance is the treasury on the first of July last was \$21,945,362. And this large balance remains, after paying the usual year's expenses, as above, and \$6,394,508 of the public debt.

It will scarcely be denied by any one, that twenty-millions of dollars is too large a sum of revenue to be accumulated and idle in the public treasury. It is calculated to have a powerful effect on the commerce of the country—indeed on all financial affairs, both public and private; and though perhaps in the present condition of expansion that influence may possibly be beneficial, no one knows how soon a state of affairs may arise in which it will be hurtful. Its presence there is likely to promote corrupt and wasteful legislation by Congress, to which there is already quite a sufficient tendency.

How, then, shall it be disposed of? It is a most important inquiry. Disposed of it will be, beyond doubt, to a very material extent, at the ensuing long session of Congress. The public debt cannot be paid with it, except at an exorbitant premium, say nearly \$25 for every \$100 of the debt.—

There is danger that, elated with the possession of so much money, the dominant power will be tempted to encourage some of the schemes of plunder or war which have so frequently been urged by their restless adherents. Or that it will be corruptly or wastefully granted away.

The only mode, in our opinion, by which some one or other of these evils may be prevented, is that the people insist upon a return to the policy which received the sanction of all parties, and along with them, of General Jackson himself, in 1836, of *protecting with the States a reasonable portion of the surplus of the Revenue.* Of the twenty-two millions, let a third, say be appropriated to paying of the public debt, a third be deposited with the States, and a third be retained in the Treasury to meet any exigency. Or, what would be exactly just, as well as within the ability of the Treasury, let the 4th instalment, amounting to nine millions of dollars, which was ordered to be paid to the States by the act of 1830, but which was withheld from them when the Treasury was bankrupted under the administration of Van Buren in 1837, be now paid; and let the remaining thirteen millions of surplus be applied between the public debt and a contingent fund in the treasury.

There is no doubt about the obligation to pay the nine millions so long withheld. Not only was there a solemn law of Congress, appropriating to the States nine millions of dollars then actually in the treasury; but many of the States went on to contract obligations based on that appropriation. They did not for a moment doubt the faith of Congress. They regarded the money which Congress had ordered to be paid to them as safe, they unhesitatingly permitted their money to be withheld, and applied to the maintenance of the national faith to other creditors. But that state of bankruptcy no longer exists. It is not only convenient for the government now to pay this debt, but it is wise and safe to do it.

The Central Rail Road.

The friends of this road will no doubt be glad to hear that a load of iron, as it was received here last week, we are anxious to see it completed, and as a part of the iron is now here, we hope every effort to have it ready as early as possible will be used by the President.

North Carolina Whig.



Maine Law.

As there is very little doubt that an attempt will be made to have the Maine Law adopted in this State at a day not very far distant, we have given below a synopsis of it, which we find in a South Carolina paper. As far as we can judge from this synopsis, we do not perceive any thing very objectionable in it, and whenever a majority of the people will its adoption we shall have not a word to say.

The first section prohibits the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors, except as allowed in the second section, and in this other section a town or city may appoint an agent annually to sell for mechanical and medicinal purposes, the agent or salesman, receiving a salary, and is therefore not tempted to embezzle, to purchase liquor in order that he may receive gain.

"He must give bond and two good securities to the amount of 200 dollars that he will conform to the regulations prescribed. If he violates the law, he shall be turned out of office, and his bonds sent on in name and the expense of the city or town. This last item will prompt the city or town to appoint the right sort of a man—a shrewd fellow."

"The fourth, fifth, and sixth sections relate to *penalties for illegal sale.* For the first offence a fine of \$10 and imprisonment until paid. The second offence \$20. The third \$50 and from three to six months imprisonment. Any magistrate may try the prosecutions—the fines go to the poor, the prosecutor may be witness in the trial. If an individual is convicted of illegal sale of liquor, and appeals from the sentence, he must give a bond of \$100, with two securities, not to violate the law while the appeal is pending. The bonds must be given in twenty-four hours after conviction, or the appeal is not allowed. He must pay the fees of the jury who are to try him in advance. If the appeal is decided against him, he must submit the double amount of fees, penalties and imprisonment imposed by the first conviction."

"Any person convicted of illegal sale of liquor shall forfeit \$100 and costs; and to be subject to payment, sixty days imprisonment. For the second offence \$200 and costs, or four months imprisonment."

"Person convicted of illegal sale of liquor shall forfeit \$100 and costs, and to be subject to payment, sixty days imprisonment."

"For the third offence \$200 and costs, or four months imprisonment."

"The fourth section provides for the removal of the sheriff or constable who does not search the premises, but shall not search a dwelling house, unless a store or shop is kept in it. If liquor is found in the search it shall be conveyed to a place of safety, the owner or seller summoned to appear before the magistrate, and if he cannot prove positively that the liquors are of foreign production, imported according to the laws of the United States, the liquor shall be destroyed, and the owner or keeper fined \$20 and costs, and to be imprisoned 30 days."

"A man is not forbidden by the Maine Law to keep liquor in his house and drink it when he pleases, but he must not make it of ill except as it is law provided. In other words there must be no gin-shops, no lures, no temptations kept up to pamper vice, promote crime, increase the taxes, and destroy the citizens. Who will say that it is not a wise and wholesome law and should not be enacted in South Carolina?"

CHARLOTTE:

Tuesday Afternoon, October 18, 1853.

EDWARD THOMPSON, Esq., is our agent in Boston, authorized to obtain advertisements and to grant receipts.

E. W. CARR, Esq., our agent in Philadelphia, authorized to obtain advertisements and procure subscriptions.

F. V. R. FALCON, Esq., is our authorized agent to receive advertisements and subscriptions at his offices in Boston, New York and Philadelphia.

We invite attention to our New Advertisements. Friend Will has opened his Daguerreian Gallery again, Fisher, Burroughs & Co., and Davison & Moss have received an extensive supply of New Watches and Jewelry. Also see the advertisements from Charleston, especially the notice of the sale to take place on the 1st of November next.

Apologistic.

Fatigue and serious indisposition since our return will, we hope, excuse us this week for not giving to our readers an account of our travels South, whether we have been for two weeks or more. By our next issue we hope to be well enough to do full justice to the cities of Columbia and Charleston, and the many singular vaginances which kind courtesies we were the recipient of in those two cities. The fall business season was too far spent to make our visit profitable at once,—the merchants having sent out their Country advertisements some time since, but we hope it will tell more largely in future.

The War has Commenced.

We learn by a passenger from Columbia yesterday's train that a telegraphic dispatch was received there the night before which announced that hostilities had actually commenced between Russia and Turkey. The Columbia Daily Carolinian of yesterday morning's date, however, does not mention the fact.

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