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## THE PATRIOT

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ters to the Editor must be post paid.

## THE MIND.

It is the best possession of a youth to be  
found occupying himself with thoughts be-  
yond his present powers, and above his pre-  
sent place.

Sir Walter Scott, who has so long  
amused, and instructed, and astonished  
the literary world, by the fecundity  
and strength of his mind, has declared  
that the most happy and powerful  
sketches of his pen were struck off  
with the greatest rapidity, unlabored  
and unrevised. The writings refer-  
red to, bear internal evidence of the  
truth of the declaration, and vindicate  
the fame of the author as a man of  
extraordinary power. These produc-  
tions which have a sort of spon-  
taneous birth, fresh and lively from  
the mint of nature, can scarcely fail  
to please, and, by their gushing full-  
ness and sparkling vigor, compel a  
warm and lasting admiration.

But the mind, whether of a genius  
or of a common man, is unequal to  
its efforts, and will at one time, and  
under certain circumstances, break  
forth with a strength and clearness  
which at another give place to a weak-  
ness and lassitude "dull as night."  
The experience of every man who  
makes, or attempts to make a daily  
use of his mind, can attest this asser-  
tion. Even Johnson, the great giant  
of English literature, confesses as  
much, when he says, that "casual  
eclipses of the mind will darken learn-  
ing, and that a writer shall often  
trace his memory in vain, at the mo-  
ment of need, for that which yester-  
day he knew with intuitive readiness  
and which will come uncalled into  
his thoughts to-morrow." Especially  
does the mind loathe and abhor  
compulsion; and hence it is that we  
see editors of newspapers, who, from  
the strong necessity they feel that  
they should daily produce something  
worthy of perusal, occasionally fall  
beneath mediocrity, and do discredit  
to themselves, and hence it is, when  
the efforts of the mind are barred  
before hand, and its immortal vigor  
sold in anticipation, its inspiration is  
irretrievably lost, and its vivacity,  
freshness, and life, sink into heartless  
and unmeaning stupidity.

The private correspondence of the  
suffering and elegant poet, Cowper,  
throws a few additional rays of light  
on this subject, and reveals some of  
the motives to authorship in that feel-  
ing and singularly constituted man,  
which, however common and offen-  
sive among grosser spirits, received  
from the fellowship of his, a polish  
and simplicity truly exquisite. The  
love of praise and the desire of fame  
are passions which, in some degree or  
other, pervade all virtuous minds,  
and their total extinction in any hu-  
man breast does not prove a total  
moral degeneracy. Cowper's confi-  
dential intercourse with his friends,  
of a kindred spirit, lays open the  
secret tablets of his heart, and it is  
refreshing and delightful to look at  
the inward spirit of a man so pure,  
frank, and intellectual. He loved  
the praises of those few friends with  
whom he had "gathered up his heart"  
and he told them of it with a sweet-  
ness and modesty which, instead of

offending the ear, cannot fail to thrill  
the heart of the most indifferent read-  
er. To this all powerful motive of  
action, in him so ardent though se-  
cluded, the world is indebted for some  
of the most chaste productions, and  
some of the sweetest poetry that was  
ever penned. His larger and perhaps  
more useful efforts grew out of that  
stubborn and afflictive melancholy  
which most dreadfully preyed upon  
his peace, and robbed the world of  
the presence of a highly gifted and  
pure spirited man. While his mind,  
as he expresses it, was employed in  
presenting a pretty thought in a pret-  
ty manner, he forgot that wretched-  
ness which, however ideal, was to  
him reality, and which laid waste his  
earthly comforts, and to his view  
desolated his eternal hopes.

The single object of the writer of this  
has in view is, to teach young men  
that the human mind is capable of  
towering above the calamities of this  
existence; that even its own inherent  
darkness will yield in time before the  
blaze of its also inherent and inextin-  
guishable fires. A fair intent, and  
zealous and persevering efforts, will  
conduct to usefulness and ensure the  
meed of a well spent life. Let this be  
the motto—"What man has been, man  
can be again."

## SECRETARY OF WAR.

The Report of the Secretary of  
War, accompanying the President's  
Message, is too long for our columns;  
we must, therefore, content ourselves  
by giving abstracts of its contents.

The two "military schools of prac-  
tice," have suffered much in the dimi-  
nution of members by the necessity  
which existed of supplying officers at  
different points nor have all the bene-  
fits promised by their establishment  
been realized, owing to a want of pro-  
per equipments.

The quarrels with the Winnebagoes,  
disturbances in the Leadmine  
District, and in Maine, have rendered  
it necessary to garrison the forts of  
Chicago and Prairie du Chan, and at  
stationing a force to Maine. It has  
also been found necessary to station  
forces along the Niagara frontier, to  
prevent smuggling publicly threat-  
ened. Officers for the above pur-  
poses, have been chiefly drawn from  
the Military School of Practice at Jef-  
ferson Barracks.

From the School of Artillery at  
Fortress Monroe, officers have been  
taken for the fortifications along the  
Atlantic frontiers. The system of  
instruction will, as far as practicable,  
be continued at the different forts.

The general view of the army, and  
of its staff, is represented as highly  
satisfactory, both in military disci-  
pline and fiscal economy.

One portion of the corps of engi-  
neers is engaged in constructing  
works for military defence, and the  
other actively employed in the civil  
departments. The Quartermaster  
General is engaged in erecting places  
for accommodating the soldiers, and  
also in constructing roads & bridges;  
and the ordnance department, with  
the force under its control, displays  
a corresponding energy and skill, in  
the fabrication of arms and other  
munitions of war, as well for the mil-  
itia of the states as for the regular  
army. Indeed the reports from these  
three departments, exhibit the army  
of the United States, not in the light  
in which standing armies in time of  
peace have usually been regarded, as  
done who are consuming the labour  
of others, but as a body of military  
and civil engineers, artificers and  
laborers, who probably contribute  
more than any other equal number  
of citizens, not only to the security  
of the country, but to the advance-  
ment of its useful arts.

The Military Academy at West  
Point is mentioned in terms of ap-  
probation, and its concerns declared

to be in a highly gratifying state. A  
compliment is paid to Congress for  
its wisdom in giving employment to  
so many civil engineers.

The policy of extending our mili-  
tary posts so far within the Indian  
country, (say, Fort Snelling, Fort Le-  
venworth, &c.) is questioned. They  
are more likely to provoke than to  
prevent aggression; and, in addition  
to the great expense of supporting  
them, they are annually exposed to  
the ravages of an unhealthy loca-  
tion.

The removal of a portion of the  
men who compose the most remote  
garrisons of the Indian country, is  
recommended.

The addition of four surgeons and  
ten assistant surgeons, is recommen-  
ded; as also a graduation of the pay  
of the medical staff.

The law constituting the depart-  
ment of the Commissary General of  
Subsistence, will expire on the third  
of March next.

It is recommended, that a code of  
regulations be formed, by which that  
department should be governed in its  
transactions with the Indians; to this  
end Governor Cass and Gen. Clark  
are now labouring in Washington.

It is also recommended to devote  
more attention to the comfort and  
well being of the Indians—to take  
them more under the especial care of  
the government. The plan of remov-  
ing them beyond the limits of the  
states, good in itself, is likely to be  
defeated by the use that is made of  
another well meant enactment:

"The annual appropriation of  
\$10,000, for the purposes of educating  
Indian children, and teaching them  
the mechanic arts, has had the effect  
to draw to almost every Indian reser-  
vation, in addition to the agents  
and interpreters, a considerable num-  
ber of unskilled and teachers,  
with their families, who, having ac-  
quired, principally by the aid of the  
land very comfortable establishments  
are unwilling to be deprived of them  
by the removal of the Indians; and  
thus we have found that, while the  
agents specially employed by the  
government for this purpose are en-  
gaged to persuade, by profuse dis-  
tributions of money and presents, the  
Indians to emigrate, another set of  
government agents are operating,  
more secretly to be sure, but not with-  
less zeal and effect, to prevent such  
emigration."

He recommends a division of the  
new lands among those who will  
improve, and add:

"Let the \$10,000 appropriation  
be applied within the new colony ex-  
clusively, to the same objects for  
which it is now expended; and add  
to it from time to time, so much of  
our other annual contributions as can  
be thus applied without a violation  
of public faith."

Those who remain should be  
provided for—but they should come  
under the municipal laws of the state in  
which they may reside.

He thinks that the education which  
some of the Indians receive, only  
tends to teach them a love of money  
—and then these half educated men  
are turned loose among their respec-  
tive tribes, without any honourable  
means of satisfying the desires and  
wants which have been thus artifi-  
cially created."

The following emphatic paragraph  
closes the document:

"It is, in my opinion, worse than  
useless to impart education and the  
arts to the Indians, without furnishing  
them at the same time with appropri-  
ate subjects on which to employ  
them."

Weak people, are apt to be positive.  
An evil mind, is naturally suspicious.  
An avaricious man, is never rich.  
He who has virtue of his own, need  
not boast of his ancestors.  
Anger is an approach to insanity.

## CONGRESS.

As usual, in the early part of the  
session, we have not much of inter-  
est to record. On the 16th, Mr.  
Hall, of N. C. rose and said, that  
the resolutions which he was about  
to present had been suggested by a  
bill which he found on his table—  
the Cumberland Road bill, the pro-  
visions of which he believed contrary  
to the Constitution and the funda-  
mental principles of our political  
institutions. It was not his purpose,  
himself, to go into a discussion of  
the abstract constitutional question.  
But if it should be thought proper  
by others, the resolutions might of-  
fer an option to the House in discus-  
sion of the question separately from  
the bill. If this should not be done,  
Mr. H. said, the resolutions would  
yet serve him as a protest against  
the bill and its principles. Mr. H.  
then offered the following resolu-  
tions:

*Resolved, &c.* That the People of  
the U. States, in the formation of  
their Governments, did not alienate  
their sovereignty.

*Resolved,* That the rights of juris-  
diction and soil are the essential  
attributes of sovereignty.

*Resolved,* That the power to execute  
a system of Internal Improve-  
ments within the States, involves  
the right of jurisdiction and soil.

*Resolved,* That the power to make  
Roads and Canals within the juris-  
dictional limits of the States, and to  
make laws for their preservation and  
protection, and to erect toll gates,  
and to enforce the collection of tolls,  
involves the right to execute a com-  
plete system of Internal Improve-  
ments.

*Resolved,* That Congress does not,  
under the Constitution, possess this  
power.

The resolutions were read, and  
ordered to lie on the table.

On the next day, Mr. Hall  
moved their reference to the Com-  
mittee of the Whole on the State of  
the Union, which was negatived, as  
was a motion to refer them to the  
Judiciary committee. They lie on  
the table.

In the Senate, on the 17th, Mr.  
Hayne from the Committee on Na-  
val Affairs, reported a bill for the  
relief of Susan Decatur and others.  
This bill provides that 100,000 dol-  
lars shall be appropriated, and di-  
vided, in ratable proportions among  
the surviving captives of the Pata-  
delphia frigates, and the heirs of  
those who have deceased; of which  
the proportion to be given to the  
heirs of Commodore Decatur is fixed  
at \$31,000. The bill was read,  
and passed to a second reading.

Agreeably to notice, Mr. Dick-  
erson asked and obtained leave to  
introduce a bill to provide for the  
distribution of a part of the reve-  
nues of the United States among  
the States; which was read, and  
passed to a second reading.

In the House of Representatives,  
on motion of Mr. Wickliffe, it was

*Resolved,* That the committee  
on the Judiciary be instructed to  
inquire into the expediency of pro-  
viding by law, that in any cause  
decided by the Supreme Court of  
the United States, in which shall  
be drawn in question the validity  
of any part of the Constitution of  
a State, or of an act passed by the  
Legislature of a State, that a greater  
number of Justices than a major-  
ity shall concur in pronouncing  
such a part of the said Constitution  
or act to be invalid, and that with-  
out such concurrence the part of  
the Constitution or act of the Leg-  
islature (as the case may be) so  
drawn in question shall not be  
deemed or holden invalid.

On the 18th, on motion of Mr.

Smith, of Va. the following important  
resolutions were submitted by him at the  
session.

*Resolved, &c.* That the follow-  
ing amendments to the Constitu-  
tion of the United States be propo-  
sed to the Legislatures of the sev-  
eral States, which, when ratified  
by three-fourths thereof shall be a  
part of the said Constitution:

1. After the third day of March,  
1829 no person, who shall have  
been elected President of the U. S.  
shall be again eligible to that office.

2. The election of President and  
Vice President, by Electors ap-  
pointed by the several States shall  
be held in the third year of the  
Presidential term. If, on counting  
the votes, in the presence of the  
Senate and House of Representa-  
tives, no person have a majority  
of the whole number of Electors  
appointed, that fact shall be pub-  
lished by the President of the Sen-  
ate, and a second election for Pres-  
ident shall be held in the fourth  
year of the Presidential term: as  
follows:—The votes in each State,  
qualified to vote in elections of the  
most numerous branch of the State  
Legislature, shall assemble, in the  
month of November, on such days,  
and at such places, as the said Leg-  
islature shall appoint, and vote for  
one of the persons having the two  
highest numbers of the votes given  
by the Electors for President, and  
still living; the officers conducting  
the elections shall meet in each  
State on such day, and at such  
place, as the Legislature thereof  
shall appoint, ascertain the number  
of votes given therein for each per-  
son, and certify who has the great-  
er number, which certifies they  
shall sign, and transmit, sealed up,  
to the Seat of Government of the  
United States directed to the Pres-  
ident of the Senate, who shall, in  
the presence of the Senate and  
House of Representatives, open all  
the certificates, and the votes of the  
States shall then be ascertained,  
each State having one vote, which  
shall be counted for the person  
having the greater number of votes  
given therein; and a majority of  
all the States shall be necessary to  
a choice. Should no person have  
a majority of the States, then from  
the persons last voted for, having  
the two highest numbers of States,  
the House of Representatives shall,  
as heretofore, choose immediately,  
by ballot, the President, the Rep-  
resentation from each State having  
one vote.

3. After the 3d day of March,  
1829, no Senator or Representative  
shall, during the time for which he  
was elected, be appointed to any  
office or employment under the au-  
thority of the United States.

4. When the House of Repre-  
sentatives shall choose a President,  
no person, who shall have been a  
member of that House at the time  
of making the choice shall, during  
the continuance in office of the  
President so chosen, be appointed  
to any office or employment under  
the authority of the United States.

Mr. Smith addressed the House  
at length in support of his resolu-  
tions.

On motion of Mr. Chilton, the  
Committee on Roads and Canals  
were instructed to inquire into the  
expediency of adopting some sys-  
tem by which appropriations of  
public money for Internal Improve-  
ments may, as nearly as practicable,  
be proportioned among the several  
States and Territories belonging to  
the American Union in reference to  
boundary, population and the in-  
ternal condition of said States or  
Territories.

A covetous person, is always in want.