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POLITICAL.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS.

In Congress.....House of Representatives.

Dec. 22.—Mr. M'Duffie, from the Committee to whom was referred the consideration of the expediency of recommending to the several States, the adoption of certain amendments to the Constitution, made a report, accompanied by a joint resolution, in the word, following:

Resolved, &c. That the following amendment to the Constitution of the United States, be proposed to the Legislatures of the several States, which, when ratified by three-fourths thereof, shall be valid, to all intents and purposes, as a part of the said Constitution:

"For the purpose of choosing a President and Vice President of the United States, each State shall be divided by the Legislature thereof, into so many Districts as the State shall be entitled to Representatives to Congress, and each District shall be composed of contiguous or continuous territory, and contain, as nearly as may be conveniently, the number of persons for whom the State is entitled to a Representative according to the apportionment, which Districts, when laid off, may not be altered, until after another census shall be taken. The inhabitants of each of the said Districts, who shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the State Legislature, shall appoint one Elector of President and Vice President, having the same qualifications. The Electors appointed shall meet in their respective States, and appoint the two other Electors to which the State is entitled, and also fill up vacancies, if such there shall be, from death, sickness, inability, or non-attendance, of Electors appointed by the people. The whole number of Electors of each State shall then vote, by ballot, for President and Vice President, one of whom, at least, shall not be an inhabitant of the same State with themselves. They shall name in their ballots the person voted for as President, and, in distinct ballots, the person voted for as Vice President; and they shall make lists of all persons voted for as President, and of all persons voted for as Vice President, shewing the number of votes given for each, which lists they shall sign and certify, and transmit, sealed up, to the seat of government of the United States, directed to the President of the Senate, who, on receiving the same, shall call a joint meeting of the Senate and House of Representatives, in which he shall preside. He shall, in the presence of such joint meeting, open all the certificates, and the votes shall be counted. If any person shall have the votes of a majority of the whole number of Electors appointed, he shall be the President; and if no person shall have the votes of such majority, the President of the Senate shall, by proclamation, and by notification to the Executive of each State, as also to each of the Electors appointed, declare the fact, that no person is chosen President, and the names of the persons having the two highest numbers of votes. The Electors shall thereupon meet again in their respective States, fill up vacancies in their body, if any shall have occurred, from death, sickness, inability, or failure to attend, of any of the Electors previously appointed, and shall then proceed to vote for one of the persons, as President, who, at the first meeting, had one of the two highest numbers of votes of all the Electors; they shall make and transmit, as already prescribed, lists of the persons voted for at the second meeting, which shall be counted in like manner as the votes given at the first meeting; if, on counting the votes given by the Electors of such second meeting, it shall appear that one of the persons who had one of the two highest numbers of the votes given at the first meeting, has a majority of the votes of all the Electors given at the second meeting, he shall be President; and if no person has such a majority, the members of the Senate and House of Representatives, in joint meeting, shall, without separating, voting individually, and not by states, choose the President, in manner following: a majority of the whole number of Senators and Representatives present, and voting, being necessary to a choice; if there be two or more persons each of whom have the highest number of electoral votes, given at the

second meeting, each one of them shall be chosen; if there be only one person having the highest number of electoral votes, less than a majority, one of the persons who have one of the two highest numbers of votes, shall be chosen; when more than two persons shall be eligible by the joint meeting, and no choice shall be made on the first ballot, the number shall be reduced, by dropping those who shall receive the smallest number of votes, until no more than two remain, one of whom shall be chosen; if two persons shall receive an equal number of votes, being each one moiety of the whole number given, he who had the highest number of electoral votes, given at the second meeting, shall be the President; and if they had an equal number of electoral votes, give at the first meeting also, then the Senators and Representatives shall ballot until one of them is chosen.

The person having the highest number of votes as Vice President, given at the first meeting of the electors, shall be the Vice President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of electors appointed; and if no person have such majority, and a President shall not have been chosen at such first meeting, the same proceedings shall be had for the choice of a Vice President as are prescribed for the choice of a President; but if, at the first meeting of the electors, a President shall have been chosen, and a Vice President shall not have been chosen, then, from the persons having the two highest numbers on the list, the Senate shall choose the Vice President; a quorum for the purpose shall consist of two-thirds of the whole number of Senators; and a majority of the whole number present, and voting, shall be necessary to a choice.

The Congress may, by law, fix the day for appointing electors for President and Vice President, and the days for giving their votes, the first and second time, which days shall be the same throughout the United States; and the day for giving their votes the first time, shall be not less than ten, nor more than twenty days from the day fixed for the appointment of electors.

The Legislature of each state shall have power to appoint the places of holding elections for the appointment of electors, to prescribe the manner of voting, and provide the appointment of proper persons to conduct such elections, with authority to declare, definitively, the result thereof; but the Congress may, by law, make or alter such regulations, and may also lay off into districts, for appointing Electors, any State, the Legislature whereof shall have failed to lay off the same as herein directed."

This resolution was twice read, and referred to a Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union.

Mr. M'Duffie, from the same Committee, also reported the following:

Resolved, &c. That the following amendment to the Constitution of the United States be proposed to the Legislatures of the several states, which, when ratified by three-fourths thereof, shall be part of said Constitution.

"For the purpose of electing representatives in Congress, each state shall be divided, by the Legislature thereof, into as many districts as will equal the number of Representatives to which such state may be entitled in Congress, and each district shall be composed of contiguous or continuous territory, and contain, as nearly as may be conveniently, the number of persons which entitles the state to a representative in Congress, according to the apportionment; which districts, when laid off, shall not be altered until after another census shall be taken. Each of the said districts shall elect one Representative to Congress, and the times, places, and manner, of holding the elections in the said districts shall be prescribed by the Legislatures of the states respectively; but the Congress may, at any time, by law, make or alter such regulations."

This resolve was also twice read, and committed.

DOCUMENTS.

We have been favored by our Representative in Congress, with the documents accompanying the President's message. They are so voluminous, that we shall only be able to give summary extracts from them. We this week present the following from the War Department, and shall hereafter continue our extracts from the most interesting of them.

Department of War,
Nov. 29, 1823.

SIR: In compliance with your directions, I herewith transmit statements from the major general of the army, and the several subordinate branches of this

department, lettered from A. to M; which contains, in detail, a view of the administration, for the three first quarters of the year, of the various branches of the public service entrusted to this department, comprising the army, military academy, fortifications, ordnance, including the armories, military pensions, bounty lands, and Indian affairs.

The statements afford satisfactory proof, that order, accuracy, economy, and accountability, have been introduced into every branch of the military service. It will be seen by them, that the money appropriated by Congress had been applied with economy to effect the objects of appropriation: that the accounts have been made up with accuracy, and transmitted with promptitude to the proper departments for settlement, and have there been settled without delay. The observations are true, with scarcely a single exception; and the result has been, that, of the entire amount of money drawn from the treasury in the year 1822, for military service, including the pensions, amounting to \$4,571,961 94, although it passed through the hands of no less than 291 disbursing agents, there has not been a single defalcation, nor the loss of a cent to the government; and that the whole has been accounted for at the treasury, except a small amount, which remained in the hands of the disbursing agents, ready to be applied to the objects for which it was drawn. The disbursements of the three first quarters of this year, have been equally satisfactory; and there is every reason to believe, that no defalcation, nor any loss, will occur in the year. The administration in relation to Indian affairs, though greatly improved, and the expenditure reduced fully one half, is not as perfect as that of the military branch of the department, nor can it be made so, unless rendered equally perfect in its organization. It is impossible under the present arrangement, that the minute and constant attention to its details, which is indispensable to a perfect administration, can be bestowed.

But, it is not only in its disbursements that the military service have attained a high perfection. The condition of the army, in every branch, both of the line and staff, in its material and personal, and its discipline and administration, is highly respectable. If there is any exception, it is in the discipline of the artillery. The officers of that branch of service are equal in skill to any other, and are distinguished for their attention to their duty, yet, it is found impracticable, dispersed as the artillery is, in companies of single companies, to render the discipline of the corps as perfect as is desirable. It is contemplated, during the next year, to concentrate a sufficient number of artilleryists, for discipline, at some proper point, and, by rendering their discipline perfect, gradually extend the perfection, thus acquired, to the whole corps. It can be effected without additional expense to the public; and, it is believed, without material inconvenience to the service.

Of the military academy, it may, with confidence be said, that it has attained a state of perfection as great as it is practicable, under the existing legal provisions; and that it is not inferior to any similar institution in any country.

Under the appropriations of the last session, Forts Washington, Delaware, and the one at the Regolets, will be completed; and it is contemplated, should appropriations be granted, to commence, in the next year, the work projected at New Utrecht, which is intended to cover Fort La Fayette, which commands the Narrows at New-York, and those at Brenton's Point, for the defence of Narragansett Bay.

The board of engineers, besides its ordinary duties, were, during last summer, engaged in executing several special orders; and, among others, in projecting a break-water, at the mouth of the Delaware, under the act of the 7th of May, 1820, and the forming a plan for the improvement of the entrance into the harbor of Presque Isle, on Lake Erie. In relation to both these important subjects, it made very interesting reports, with plans and estimates, which accompany the statement from the engineer department, herewith transmitted.

The completion of the new fortresses, and those to be erected, will require an appropriation, in order to fabricate the cannon and carriages necessary for their armament. It is estimated, that an annual appropriation of \$100,000 will, in ten years, furnish a sufficient number for all of the works contemplated for the defence of the coast. There would, undoubtedly, be great economy in granting a paramount appropriation instead of an annual one, as contractors would vest their capital at much less profit, under the assurance which would be afforded by the former.

Under the appropriation to fix on a site for a National Armory on the western waters, made the last session, a commission, consisting of Col. M'Lee, Col. Lee, and Capt. Talcott, was constituted, which has been incessantly engaged in exploring the country on the western waters, in order to make the location. It has not yet reported, but it is expected that it will make its report in the early part of this session of Congress.

In the month of June last, the Ricaree Indians, who inhabit the country on the Missouri a little below the Mandan villages, attacked Gen. Ashley, with his party, while peaceably engaged in trading with them, at their request, under licence from the government, and killed and wounded several of his party, Col. Leavenworth, who commanded Fort Atkinson, at the Council Bluffs, adopted immediate measures of redress. With a part of his command, he made a successful attack on the village, and compelled the Ricarees, after a considerable loss on their part, to sue for peace. Statement marked L. contains the correspondence in relation to the transaction, and exhibits a full view of the facts.

The report from the adjutant general's office, marked M. contains a return of the militia, according to the latest reports to that office. Returns from only three states have been received in the course of the year, though every effort has been used to ensure punctuality in making them.

I have the honor to be, &c.
J. C. CALHOUN.
The President of the United States.

FROM THE FRANKLIN GAZETTE.
"He that is faithful over a few things, shall be ruler over many."

The report of the Secretary of War, accompanying the President's Message, exhibits a degree of perfection in the administration of the expenditures for the military service of the country which it may very confidently be said was never surpassed under any government. It appears that the highest degree of order and accountability has been introduced into every branch of the military service, that the money appropriated by Congress has been applied with economy to effect the objects of appropriation, that the accounts have been made up with accuracy and transmitted with promptitude to the proper department for settlement, where they have been settled without delay, and of the whole amount of money drawn from the treasury in the year 1822, for military service, including pensions, amounting to 4,571,961 dollars, 94 cents; although it passed through the hands of 291 disbursing agents, there has not been a single cent lost to the government, and that the whole has been accounted for at the treasury, except a small amount in the hands of the disbursing agents ready to be applied to the objects of appropriation.

In the three first quarters of the present year the disbursements have been equally satisfactory, and there is every reason to believe that no defalcation nor any loss will occur in the year. The facts are all proved by the exhibition of the statements rendered by the proper officers, and they present a most interesting spectacle of order, economy and responsibility in this department of government, which must have the happiest effect in attaching to it the best affections of the people; the only foundation upon which a government ought to rest.

Such a government thus administered, is a glorious proof of the excellence of republican institutions, and an illustrious example to those who would reform the rotten governments of the old world. It is but justice to render the award of public approbation for these extraordinary improvements, to the man who, by his assiduity, and faithful and skilful arrangement of his various duties, has accomplished them; that man is JOHN C. CALHOUN. It is but too well known that he found the War Department in the same state of chaos in 1818, in which the war had left it, with an accumulation of near forty-five million of the unsettled accounts on the books. These have been reduced to less than three millions, and the whole department now exhibits a picture of fidelity, order, and economy, unexampled in any country.

But other advantages are derived from these improvements in his administration, which may not strike the eyes of a transient observer: their moral effects, not only upon every officer in the army, but upon the whole community. When the system is known and understood throughout the nation, even the hardened perpetrator of the government as fair game for his depredations, will be forced to respect and venerate the institutions which he would otherwise despise; while the wise and virtuous will contemplate with a sublime gratification this moral perfection, which

when it shall pervade the whole system of our administration, must while unchanged, constitute a foundation of strength and durability irresistible to any combination of human power. Our country has been blessed in the production of many illustrious men, but the combination of talent which distinguishes Mr. CALHOUN, has rarely been met with any where. Nothing too minute for his notice, nothing too vast for his conception; he comprehends as it were intuitively the principles that ought to guide the human mind in promoting the happiness and welfare of society, and practically applies them as fundamental rules for the management of all the detached operations of government. The age in which we live, however distinguished for its rising men, cannot produce another so eminently endowed with all the high pre requisites for the chief magistracy of a great and growing nation, as John C. Calhoun.

FROM THE FRANKLIN GAZETTE.
A Great Mistake.—In the debate in Congress on the bill for payment of a balance due to Vice President TOMPKINS, Mr. CLAY supported it, and to show the propriety of the measure, he said that not only were the accounts of Mr. TOMPKINS "submitted to the severe scrutiny of the most rigid officer of this government; an officer, whose scrupulous accuracy, in the admission of accounts against the government, is as deservedly approved as it is universally known; but, after they had gone through the crucible; after they had been subjected to all the jealous scrutiny of this vigilant officer, they are submitted to the President for revision. The President revises them, and then he sends to the house a message, in which he declares, not only that he is satisfied that this balance is justly due, but that much more is due to him. Under such circumstances, all that is now asked is, that we shall pay so much as has been thus ascertained to be due."

A morning paper, devoted to the Secretary of the Treasury, very strangely applies these complimentary remarks of Mr. CLAY, to Mr. CRAWFORD, when they were intended as an encomium upon Mr. HAGNER, the third auditor, the officer to whose scrutiny all military accounts, such as those of Mr. TOMPKINS, are submitted before they are passed at the treasury. Mr. CRAWFORD has no more to do with such accounts than Mr. CALHOUN; perhaps not so much. This attempt to enlist Mr. CLAY as the ecologist of the Secretary of the Treasury is too ludicrous to be very seriously noticed.

A meeting was held in Philadelphia, on the 20th ult. to ascertain the public sentiment there as to Congressional Caucuses.—It was numerously attended; and on its being attempted to read a paper recommending a caucus nomination of President, the cry of "No Caucuses," resounded from all parts of the room. Order being restored and the paper allowed to be read, there was an instantaneous shout of indignation, and the assembly passed various resolutions against Congressional Caucuses.—New-York Patriot.

In the Pennsylvania Legislature, a resolution was introduced by General Ogle, to tax all Bachelors over the age of 25; the proceedings of which are to be applied to pension the widows of old Soldiers of the Revolution. The humorous old gentleman observed, with great sang froid, that as it was a measure of importance, he wished it to lie on the table a few days.

Raleigh Register.

Fine doings at Princeton.—Reports are in town of strange doings among the young men at Nassau Hall. It is said, that they revolved in a body, and held a convention in one of the rooms of the College, and that one of the Professors who went in to expostulate with them, was put under guard for not pulling off his hat—that being a mark of respect with which the convention would not dispense. Worse than this, it is said that a body of militia who were called out to quell the insurgents, were taken prisoners by these rebellious youths, who having put the foe hors de combat, marched into the Hall with drums beating, files playing, and colors flying. Finally, it is said, that about seventy young men have been dismissed from the College.

We should like to know if there is any truth in these reports. The Trenton Federalist, received this morning, contains no notice of any disturbances at the great Alma Mater of New Jersey.

Phila. Gazette.

The New-York papers mention that Col. Aaron Burr, has recovered the whole of the Eden Estate, which has been so long pending in court, and that by this decision he will come into possession of a very handsome fortune.