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## Political.

From the Washington Republican.

The following article, which we extract from the *Edwardsville (Illinois) Spectator*, is a source of real pleasure to us, and our labours backed with so much energy and ability in that distant section of the Union. It is one more added to the evidences we have received of the correctness of our opinions on the subject of an opposition, and its nature and origin. The march of truth has been rapid, triumph waits upon every step; and when development shall be completed, error and intrigue must vanish together, and talent and virtue be elevated to the high ground which it is their privilege alone to merit and occupy.

## WAR AT HOME.

A party of politicians, it seems, are rapidly springing into existence, with Mr. Crawford the Secretary of the Treasury at their head, who are striving to get into power by gradually undermining Mr. Monroe, the present Chief Magistrate of the Union. With men, who have not merit of their own to sustain their high pretensions, it is an old, and sometimes successful trick, to endeavor to excite the prejudices of the community, against those whose virtues they cannot imitate, and upon those prejudices to ride into power.— Shall this scheme succeed in the election of a President of the United States?

Merit and justice have hitherto conducted those illustrious men to that office, who have filled it. Shall others succeed to it upon different principles? When men attempt to carry any point by the ruin of others, the opposition to them is too often levelled at their motives, without fairly indicating the conduct of those whose destruction they meditate. The man who is conscious of the purity of his own conduct, and is thus assailed, (as is, we venture to say, the case with Mr. Monroe) is not satisfied with a mere development of those motives, but wishes also to show that the cause of complaint against him is unfounded: when he does this, he fights with a two-edged sword, and must eventually triumph.

The motive with this new party, consisting of the restless and discontented of all parties, is, however, the attainment of power. This is legibly written on the forehead of every man who has entered its service, and in the accomplishment of this object, they seem to rely upon shewing an abuse of that power on the part of the President and his constitutional advisers—one only excepted. Do they show it? In so vast and extensive a country as the United States, much of a public nature may transpire, of which the private citizen must almost of necessity be ignorant. We shall therefore be content with expressing our opinion of the degree of confidence due by the people of this section of the Union to the man whose closing days of public life are now attempted to be embittered by these selfish and ungenerous attacks.

In doing this we are naturally led back to that gloomy period of our history when the desolation of this country seemed to be hourly threatened by the savages. For a long period of the late war, it is known that we were almost entirely abandoned & neglected by the Government—the blood of our defenceless frontier settlers ran profusely, and we were without the means to prevent it. At last Mr. Monroe came into the War Department, and although he had the duties of the Department of State devolving upon him, which were both numerous and difficult, yet he adopted such prompt and efficient means for the defence of our helpless settlements, that the country thereafter was but little disturbed by their incursions.

For this, we all said at the time, "well done thou faithful servant." In this we all agreed, that he neither misused nor abused his power.

But as if resting on better ground in making the accusation, he is boldly charged with wasting and squandering the public money since he became President. Forgetting the gross abuses of trust on the part of their leader, in the mismanagement of the monies derived from the sale of the public lands, and deposited in the insolvent banks, *alias swindling shops*—in the different states where the land was sold, they come forward with their assertions against the President, without deigning to furnish a particle of proof in support of their allegations. In repelling this attack, unsupported as it is, by any proof whatsoever, it will not be necessary to rely upon naked assertion, the proof that the contrary is true, being so ready at hand. What evidence could be more satisfactory? In speaking of the state of the Treasury, in his message to Congress of the 14th of November, 1820, the President says—

"A few prominent facts will place this great interest in a just light before you. On the 30th September, 1815, the funded and floating debt of the United States was estimated at one hundred and nineteen millions, six hundred and thirty-five thousand, five hundred and fifty-eight dollars. If to this sum be added the amount of five per cent. stock subscribed to the Bank of the United States, the amount of Mississippi stock, and of the stock which was issued subsequently to that date, the balances ascertained to be due to certain states for military services, and to individuals for supplies furnished, and services rendered during the late war, the public debt may be estimated as amounting at that date, and as after liquidated to one hundred and fifty-eight millions, seven hundred and thirteen thousand and forty-nine dollars. On the 30th day of September, 1820, [five years thereafter] it amounted to ninety-one millions, nine hundred and ninety-three thousand, eight hundred and eighty-three dollars, having been reduced in that interval [five years] by payments, sixty-six millions, eight hundred and seventy-nine thousand, one hundred and sixty-five dollars." Does this look like wasting and squandering the public money?—At no period of our history have such rapid advances been made towards paying off the public debt.

But this is not all; we had just emerged from a distressing war with Great Britain, with bleeding proof of the want of a better system of fortifications, and a more efficient navy than we had through that contest; with our public edifices destroyed or mutilated at the capital of the nation, and with all that exhaustion of public stores and munitions of war, which war inevitably produces. Upon those objects large sums have also been expended—our magazines replenished, our navy increased—large & extensive fortifications have been commenced and in rapid progress—our capital repaired, &c. &c. I say all this has been done, and still greater progress has been made in paying off the public debt than was ever witnessed at any other period of our history.—With this strong proof before us, shall we not require something more from these gentlemen, who wish to rise upon the ruins of others, than bare and naked accusation, before we will consent to tear from James Monroe that share of public confidence, which a whole life of devotion to the welfare of his country, has so deservedly procured for him. Watchful as we are, and as we should be, of our public servants, it will be sinning against wisdom and justice to do so.

I have shewn that in the gloomy period of the late war, the President, then Secretary of War, did not neglect us.—Has he done so since? Will any man deny that there has been a period within the last three years when pecuniary embarrassments afflicted this country as sorely as any country ever was afflicted?

Will any man pretend to say that our all as it were, was not at stake, previous to the passage of the law for the relief of the purchasers of the public land in 1820? I care not whether you went into the house of the wealthy, or the hut of the poor man, you equally saw care and anxiety depicted in his countenance, and with equal facility you found access to the source of his grief. It was, that his house and his home were in danger of being forfeited, and his family being turned out of doors, without some relief from the government.

Tully sensible of this state of things, and feeling the weight of obligation that rested upon him, to aid as far as he could in giving us relief, we find him FIRST to recommend to Congress the measure that was adopted, and by which the pillow again afforded its balmy refreshment to our citizens—by which the desolation of the country was stayed, and perhaps civil war itself averted.

Assertions are easy made; we, however, propose to make none without furnishing the proof to support them. Of the interest he felt for this country, then, let his own words bear testimony. In the same message to which I have already referred, he says: "It is proper to add that there is now due to the Treasury for the sales of the public lands, twenty-two millions nine hundred and ninety-six thousand five hundred and forty-five dollars. In bringing this subject to view, I consider it my duty to submit to Congress whether it may not be advisable to extend to the purchasers of these lands in consideration of the unfavorable change which has occurred since the sales, a reasonable indulgence. It is well known that the purchases were made when the price of every article had risen to its greatest height, and the instalments are becoming due at a period of great depression. It is presumed that some plan can be devised by the wisdom of Congress compatible with the public interest, which would afford great RELIEF to these purchasers."—Here, then, is the FIRST step taken by the President himself to get relief for the suffering inhabitants of this and the other new states. You will hear it said that this member and that member of Con-

gress, procured this relief for the people.— But at least an equal share of the credit of this measure is due to the President. Appreciated of our difficulties, he boldly came forward in our behalf, and under his recommendation we find RELIEF was granted. With these evidences of noble and generous fidelity to the people, will any man here rise up and say, "down with Monroe and up with Crawford?" If there be, it must be because he is working for himself, and not the people. Let the people think of this!

## THE HOLY ALLIANCE.

"You know not, my son," said an old Swedish Minister, "with how little wisdom the affairs of nations are conducted." Such was the first reflection that occurred to us on reading an article which we insert from the *Conservateur Impartial* of St. Petersburg, in praise of the Holy Alliance. When cool observers of the state of Europe are informed that this league against liberty is justified on the ground of its being no more than a defensive league, they will naturally ask what, and whence, is the aggression? When they are further assured by the Ministers of the Holy Alliance, that there exists a conspiracy against established Governments, a "secretly organized conspiracy, which embraces in its fatal ramifications all Europe," and whose existence & object "every thing proves"—the next questions which offer are, "Who are the conspirators, and what is the proof?" Now mark, the conspirators are the insurgent Greeks; the insurgent Spaniards; the Carbonari of Naples; the Jacobins of France; the Whiteboys of Ireland; nay, the Independents of South America are thrown in as a make-weight to the already loaded scale! Is it not humiliating to mankind that such rank insanity should assume to itself the attributes of high state policy; and mournful to think that power is not waiting to enforce, for a time at least, upon millions of reasonable beings, the dictates and resolutions of those whose reason has deserted them? What the nature of the conspiracy is, and has been, will appear from this—that in every part both of Europe and America, where a continued spirit of resistance against the Government has shown itself, and where a revolution has within our memory been accomplished or attempted, the vice and oppression of the old Government had been notorious, intolerable, and undisputed.— Will it be said the Spaniards were well governed before Lord Wellesly and his colleagues in England, excited and assisted them to form their present Constitution? or that the now liberated Spanish colonies were wrong in throwing off the yoke of Spain herself? Will it be affirmed that the fraud and tyranny exercised towards the Neapolitans ought to have been endured by that much injured people, or that England, who had once encouraged, ought to have betrayed them? Is there any Christian subject of any one of the Holy-allied Courts, enough of a renegade to bear with patience that the Greeks ought not to have rebelled against the infidels? that they ought to be robbed, trampled down and butchered without resistance! or that the wretched, untaught, and famished Irish had no grievances explanatory of their eagerness to revolt, without referring their late turbulence to a conspiracy with Greeks or Neapolitans! Why is there no active conspiracy amongst Englishmen to destroy their established Government? Why, first, because we are, thank God, as our ancestors were, in possession (speaking generally) of every good which other nations propose to themselves by a change of government; and secondly, because the constitution we enjoy affords us a medium through which we may peaceably attain to a correction of all crying abuses. Is there, again, the least symptom of a conspiracy among the people of the United States, to subvert that free constitution whose establishment was justified by the tyranny which they had endured from England? None. The best guarantee, the only one, against the conspiracies of nations, is to be found in the plenitude of their enjoyments, and in the practical excellence of their institutions. The Holy Alliance was built upon falacy. In endeavoring to obviate the recurrence of revolutions like that of France, the framers of the Holy Alliance shut his eyes at once to the causes of that revolution, and to its consequences. He forgot that its true origin was the excess of kingly power, and that its effect has been an acquisition of power by the people.

One vast conspiracy does, indeed, exist amongst the nations: its roots are in the nature of man, and it covers with its branches the whole surface of living society. God is its Author, his word its law, and the heart and understanding of the human race constitute its resistless powers: The conspiracy we mean is, that of good against evil. Every individual re-acts under pressure, and seeks to rid himself of pain. Combined as mankind now are throughout their civilized communities, by commerce, which their rulers are too selfish to abridge, and by the press, which no created force can now effectually stifle, there

is a sympathy, sensible and universal, pervading and approximating all the nations of Europe and America. It is idle for two or three confederated monarchs to confront a host like this. As well might Alexander stamp his foot upon the earth and fancy that he had stopped her diurnal motion, as attempt with human instruments to quell the aspirations of the human mind, or to crush the destinies of the intellectual and moral world. The partisan of the Holy Alliance asks, "What would become of 'civilization' but for it? It is new to us that arbitrary power had ever yet civilized its victims. Monarchs are amended, Courts are purified; but it is the people who reform them, not they the people.—*London Times*."

## THE GREEKS.

It is not possible to imagine a nobler cause than the Greeks are now engaged in. Whether we consider the past sufferings of this people, their present sufferings and dangers, and the cruel outrages that are daily committed against them, we cannot but sincerely deplore their present situation. To Americans, indeed, they seem in a peculiar manner the objects of attention and sympathy. We cannot read the history of our own revolution, and compare it with the accounts daily received from Greece, without being forcibly reminded how much their present situation resembles what our own was forty years ago.— They are now emulating the noble examples the Americans then set them, and forwarding the great work the Americans then began.

The spectacle now opening before the world is truly grand. For upwards of four thousand years have the nations of the earth groaned under the yoke of a degrading slavery; or when they have been most favored, have enjoyed but a partial and ill-regulated freedom. During that time empires have been born, have flourished, and have again become extinct.— The same rude forms of government have still prevailed, and handed down from age to age, and fortified by the prejudices of an ignorant and barbarous age, and by long habits of implicit submission, have held mankind in a willing and degrading bondage.

But a new era has arisen. Ignorance so (naturally the ally of tyranny) is fast yielding before the empire of reason. The faded forms of antiquated despotism shrink from the pure light of a liberal philosophy. That nation which had so long been the sport of slaves, which had passed even into a jest and by-word for every thing degraded and contemptible, now leads the way in the glorious career of freedom. It is really an inspiring sight, and promises well for the future destinies of mankind, thus to behold a nation, so long oppressed, and which seemed to have lost even the sense of freedom, rising again from her ashes, and setting an example to the world of constancy, fortitude, perseverance, and exalted courage, which would have done honor to the most brilliant era of Grecian heroism.

It is not a little painful to reflect that the fate of this noble people is uncertain.— Their short day of freedom may be quenched in blood. The rays of promise which has broken so suddenly through the gloom of despotism may pass away like the quick lightning; and a night of slavery, darker and heavier than ever, may succeed to this momentary gleam. At a moment like this, it is much and deeply to be regretted that a stern and necessary policy should be at variance with these generous impulses which all of us must feel. The law of self-preservation, which is tolerated among individuals, is enjoined to nations; and it becomes but too frequently necessary, in the course of human events, to postpone justice in particular cases, to a sense of general expediency. An unprovoked interference in the domestic concerns of a nation must always be dangerous, as an encroachment upon the landmarks of international law. Yet, if it were possible to imagine a case where such an interference might be deemed justifiable, I know none which has so good a claim to be tho't so as that of the Greeks. The cruel war of extermination, which for so many months has been waged against them with so unrelenting and sanguinary a spirit, and with so utter a contempt of all the laws of civilized warfare, has placed their enemies without the pale of all humanity and of those rules which govern the intercourse of nations. Nor should the merit of the sufferers be forgotten, or the obligations we owe their ancestors. It was they who, three thousand years ago, at Thermopylae and Salamis, in a struggle no less generous than the present one, vindicated their liberty against a host of Asiatic barbarians; and who, at a maturer period, and after the vivifying effects of their liberty, thus nobly preserved, began to be felt, produced those imperishable monuments of art, of science, and of literature, which have been the admiration of all succeeding generations. Let America—let England—let Europe, think of this!

*National Intelligencer.*

## Law.

From the *Freeman's Journal*.

## OF LAW IN GENERAL.

Patere legem quam ipse tollit.

Law, as applicable to human conduct in general, may be defined a rule of moral action proceeding from a superior having right to command, and directed to inferiors bound to obey. Of this authority on the one hand, and obligation to obedience on the other, the foundation, or principle, is the happiness of those to whom the rule is directed. If the rule does not substantially contemplate this happiness, it has proceeded without the correspondent authority in the superior, and is not obligatory on the inferior.

From the various relations in which the human species is placed, arise various classes, or denominations of Law; some more, others less general: as

1. From the relation in which man stands to the Deity, arises religion, or the divine law, comprehending those duties, which as a creature variously endowed, he owes to the creator, from whom these endowments proceed. Possessing life, moral perception, reason, the affections of the heart, and all other sources of enjoyment incident to his condition, he recognizes the duty of gratitude, as at once founded in natural sentiment, and demanded by its own reasonableness.

Possessing intelligence by which he derives a glimpse of that infinite wisdom and power which appear to pervade creation, he in some manner acknowledges at once the sentiment and the duty of adoration.

Dependent from day to day for every good he enjoys, and conscious of the ennobling influence of communion with a Being so holy, so beneficent, so powerful, he feels his obligation to prayer, and delights in the exercise of it.

Pereceiving, in fine, that what are usually called the evils of life cannot, consistently with the notions of perfection which he is forced from every consideration to form of the divine nature, be otherwise regarded than as ultimately connected with a scheme of infinite beneficence; and awaiting upon grounds of the highest reason, an immortality beyond the present existence, where the perfect wisdom of that scheme will be fully disclosed, he recognizes the duty of resignation, and derives from the practice of it, a support and satisfaction infinitely beyond the reach of any philosophical precepts unconnected with that principle.

Thus, from the various points of relation between man, and his Creator, may be deemed the various duties of religion, or those divine laws which the Deity has made it at once the duty and happiness of all his rational creatures to observe.

But to these obligations which are common to all the species, being the duties of mere natural religion, the doctrines and duties of revealed religion are to be super-added, which, as Christians, we are in like manner bound to believe and practice.

2. From the relations in which, as partaking of one common nature, the different individuals of the species, under whatever government, or in whatever region of the globe they may be placed, stand to one another, arise the obligation of morality, or ethics. Hence the duty of benevolence, or an affectionate desire of the happiness of all men, prompting us to the actual performance of every kind office within our power. Hence, likewise, the obligations of justice, truth, candor, and all the other duties which form the proper subject of the moralist.

3. From the relation subsisting between men as constituting different nations, communities, or bodies politic, is derived international law, or as it is usually, tho' less accurately called, the law of nations.

4. From the relation subsisting between the different individuals who compose one nation, or community, arises civil or municipal law; being that body of rules, which, issuing from a supreme authority, duly constituted by national consent, direct or implied, are obligatory on each individual alike, for the good of all. Thus, there are as many separate systems of civil or municipal law, as there are separate and independent communities; for no people can exist in a state of union without a system of rules of some sort or another, by which their transactions and conduct may be more or less regulated and controlled.

Each of these general departments, or sorts of law, may again be divided into distinct subordinate branches, according to the subject or class of circumstances to which they more immediately refer. Thus civil law may be divided into the following departments, or heads, viz:

Political law, which relates to the principles of the constitution of the state, and the rights and duties of the governors and governed relatively to one another.

Criminal law, which refers to the moral conduct of the citizens, in cases of such atrocious as are thought to affect the general peace and welfare of the community—and