

Selected Poetry.

**A WINTER-PIECE.**  
 Now WINTER, clad in terror, reigns,  
 And frost and snow obscure the plains:  
 No more the rural woodland strains  
 Re-echo wild?  
 But rueful Ravens, thro' the lanes,  
 Croak hoarsely wild.  
 In vain I wander o'er the mead;  
 In vain I seek my wonted shade;—  
 These braes, of late with daisies spread,  
 Lie black and bare.  
 And every vernal scene is fled  
 The Lord knows where.  
 The tempest thro' the forest rings,  
 Dejected nature doleful sings;  
 Or fast to fountain border clings,  
 There droops and dies,  
 While lonely streamlet dowie sings  
 Her obsequies.  
 The feeble Sheep, denied a shed,  
 By cold and hunger now half dead,  
 Each, to procure the sapless blade  
 The snow up-digs,  
 And finds, thro' night, a cauldron's bed  
 On frozen rigs.  
 Upon the leaf-deferted boughs,  
 The chattering longfingers sit in rows,  
 To nature telling out their woes  
 In sorry mood,  
 While raging Boreas sternly bows  
 The fullen wood!  
 But must of all the helpless Hare  
 Of pity claim the greatest share,  
 Her luckless footsteps now declare  
 Her every path,  
 Before her cold and hunger stare—  
 Behind her—Death!  
 The Bees, secure within their hive,  
 No more along the hedges drive:  
 But warm and full, on plenty thrive,  
 Industrious folk—  
 O! Summer-gather'd store survive  
 Could Winter's shock.  
 O could e'en Man, like them, be wise,  
 And learn in Summer hours to prize!  
 Instead of hunting earthly toys  
 Secure a store  
 Of sweets to quaff aboon the skies,  
 When Time's no more.

An EPIGRAM.

AS Thomas was cudgell'd one day by his wife,  
 He took to his heels, and ran for his life,  
 Tom's three dearest friends came by in the squabble  
 And screen'd him at once from the shrew and the rabble:  
 Then ventur'd to give him some wholesome advice;  
 But Tom is a fellow of honour so nice,  
 Too proud to take counsel, too wise to take warning,  
 That he sent to all three a challenge next morning.  
 He fought with all three, thrice ventur'd his life;  
 —Then went home, and was cudgell'd again by his wife.

Report of the Secretary of War on the measures taken for opening a trade with the Indians.

The situation of the six nations, surrounded either wholly by the settlements of citizens of the United States; or one side by them, and on the other by the British, of Upper Canada, and by both in near neighbourhoods, seemed to exclude them from the experiment proposed to be made, of commencing a trade on the principle of furnishing cheap supplies to the Indians: for the familiar intercourse between them and the whites, would have subjected the public to continual impositions, against which, no checks were provided.

Peace with the tribes northwest of the river Ohio, was only in a train of negotiation. These, of course, were not in a condition to participate in the projected trade.

It remained then to make the experiment with the southern tribes. And because the small appropriation for this object seemed intended merely as an experiment, it was desirable to make it with as little expence as possible. For this, among other reasons, the sum appropriated was divided unequally, and more than two thirds destined for opening a trade with the Creeks, to whom the goods could be conveyed by sea: The remainder was designed for the trade with the Cherokees and Chickasaws. The remote situation of the Choctaws could render either of the two trading posts but of a small and only contingent use to them.

To accommodate the Creeks, Colerain, on the river St. Mary's, was chosen, on the best information to be obtained, as the most eligible situation for a trading post; because

it was easy of access to us, there being depth of water for sea vessels to go to the spot, and sufficiently so to the Creeks, especially of the lower towns.

For the purpose of supplying the Cherokees and Chickasaws, it was supposed that Tellico block-house, within the country of the Cherokees, would be a convenient station. It is already a military post, with a small garrison of regular troops. As such it will be secure; as advanced of the settlements of the white people it will be convenient; and the Indians are already accustomed to resort thither for friendly conferences and negotiations. Notwithstanding, lest there should be any solid objection to that station, the final choice of the trading post, in that quarter, is referred to governor Blount; with a reliance on his knowledge and judgment to fix it in the place most suitable for effecting the true objects of the establishment.

It is obvious that neither the Chickasaws nor Choctaws, especially the latter, can be much benefited by these arrangements; nor can they be well accommodated, until at least one trading post for each, be established on the Mississippi.

But besides that circumstances did not admit of taking such posts, the whole quantity of goods appropriated to this trade would not allow of any other division, than that above mentioned.

It has been unfortunate that this trade could not have been earlier commenced: but after procuring the goods necessary for general Wayne's treaty, and the annuity due to the Chickasaws, with some supplies accidentally demanded for the Choctaws and Chickasaws, by deputations from those tribes; the merchant's stores were so drained, that the requisite allotments, especially of the articles most important for the Indian trade, could not be obtained, either at Philadelphia, New-York, or Baltimore; and the purveyor was obliged to wait the arrival of the fall ships. Then, as soon as the purchases could be made, and that very-trusty persons necessary as factors could be procured, the goods were sent off, under their care, to their respective destinations: they are now on their way.

The Secretary of War begs leave to remark, that the annuities stipulated to be paid to the several tribes of Indians on the borders of the United States, are the following:

To the six Nations and associates, to the value of	Dols.	4,500
To the Chickasaws,		3,000
To the Cherokees,		5,000
To the Creeks,		1,500
To the Wyandots, Delawares, and several other Tribes northwest of the Ohio, agreeably to general Wayne's late treaty,		9,500

Whole amount,	23,500
To which may be added for contingent demands,	6,500
	30,000

Making a total of thirty thousand dollars.

Goods to this amount, to be regularly supplied, should be imported by the government. They will cost less; they will be of the precise kinds and proportions demanded; and always in season. If the wisdom of Congress should decide on a continuance and extension of the Indian trade, on the principle heretofore contemplated, and of which the experiment is now in train, the importance of importing on public account will be vastly increased.

All which is respectfully submitted to the House of Representatives of the United States.

TIMOTHY PICKERING.

Department of War,  
 December 12, 1795.

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 Feb. 20. R. D. SPAIGHT.

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