

HORNETS'



NEST

VOLUME I.

"QUI NE COMMORIT (MELIUS NON TANGERE OLAMO)
"PLEBIT, ET INIGRIS TOYA CANTABITUR VARI."

NUMBER 45

BY BRYANT BRAMBLE, ESQ.

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TERMS OF THE NEST.

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Murfreesboro', Sept. 3, 1812

DOMESTICK.

CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Thursday, June 10.

THE WAYS AND MEANS.

Mr. Eppes, from the committee of Ways and Means, made the following

REPORT.

The committee of Ways and Means, to whom was referred so much of the message of the President of the United States as relates to the establishment of a well digested system of internal revenue, have had the same under consideration. They deem it unnecessary to say any thing as to the necessity of providing additional revenue at a time when the general rate of expenditure has been so much increased by measures necessarily connected with a state of war. A reference to the reports from the Treasury Department and from the committee of Ways and Means, during the last and preceding years, will shew that a provision for additional revenue can no longer be delayed, without a violation of all those principles held sacred in every country where the value and importance of national credit have been justly estimated. They have reviewed the system heretofore presented, and taking into consideration its having been sanctioned in its principles by a vote of the House of Representatives, have determined to recommend its adoption, with some modifications, in preference to commencing a new system at a period when neither the principles or details could receive that mature consideration on which alone they could venture to recommend its adoption. The bills heretofore reported were founded on estimates which assumed for a basis the providing a revenue sufficient to meet the expenses of the peace establishment, the interest on the old debt, and such new loans as have been or may be hereafter authorized. These several items for the year 1814, are estimated as follows: The expenses of the Peace establishment at 7,000,000 The interest on the Public Debt

On the Funded 2,100,000

On 6 per cent stock of 1812, including temporary loans

received in part of the loan of 11,000,000, which will remain unpaid in 1814, 500,000
On six per cent. stock of 1813, 1,090,000
On Treasury Notes which will be reimbursable in 1814, say on 5,000,000 at 5 2-5 per cent. 270,000
————— 3,960,000
On the loan for 1814—interest payable with that year. 440,000
————— 11,400,000
The revenue now established being estimated to produce 5,800,000

Leaves to be provided for 5,600,000

To meet which sum the committee propose

1. A direct tax of 3,000,000
Internal Duties
viz:
Duties on stills, say 765,000
On refined sugar 200,000
On retailers' licences 500,000
On sales at auction 50,300
On carriages 150,000
On bank notes and negotiable paper 400,000
On salt at 20 cents, 400,000
Additional duty on foreign tonnage 900,000
————— 5,665,000

Deduct for expenses of collection, assessment, and losses 750,000

————— Leaves 5,615,000

The committee therefore ask leave to report the following bills:

1. A bill for the assessment and collection of direct taxes.
2. A bill to lay and collect a direct tax within the U. States.
3. A bill laying a duty on imported salt.
4. A bill establishing the office of Commissioner of the Revenue.
5. A bill laying duties on licences to retailers of wines, spirituous liquors, and foreign merchandize.
6. A bill laying duties on carriages for the conveyance of persons.
7. A bill laying duties on licences to distillers of spirituous liquors.
8. A bill laying duties on sales at auction of foreign merchandize and of ships and vessels.
9. A bill laying duties on sugars refined within the U. States.
10. A bill laying duties on Bank Notes and on notes of hand and foreign bills of exchange of certain descriptions.
11. A bill making further provision for the collection of internal duties.
12. A bill laying an additional duty on foreign tonnage.

The several bills above recited were read a first and second time, referred to a committee of the whole, and made the order of the day for Monday.

FROM THE CONNECTICUT GAZETTE.

View of the Lakes.

As the great lakes in our country have become the seat of war, and the movements of our naval and land forces there, are become highly interesting; a brief Geographical Sketch of that part of the United States must be useful and gratifying to many.

The upper Lakes, Superior, Michigan, Huron and St. Clair, discharge their streams by the river Detroit into lake Erie. The outlet of Lake Erie commences at Black Rock and is called Niagara river, extending thirty miles to Lake Ontario. The distance is 307 miles, from Albany to Black Rock. At this place is a ferry, half a mile wide, across to Bertie, in Upper Canada. The stream is here rapid, but after passing the point at Bertie, it moves slowly, as the river expands into a broad bay containing Grand Isle, about seven miles long and just below it Navy Island, which is small—Below this, Niagara river becomes narrower, and the stream is divided by Goat Island, which is about half a mile long, extending to the precipice, the Falls of Niagara. The largest portion of water passes between Goat Island and Upper Canada—At the upper end of this Island the rapids commence. Here the stream passes on each side of the Island, over a bar of rocks and precipices, with astonishing rapidity, descending, sixty feet, in the distance of half a mile, where arriving at the Falls, it descends 137 feet perpendicular.

Niagara river continues from the Falls, a rapid course about half a mile wide, to Lewistown, 7 miles, where is a very good ferry to Queenstown, lying directly opposite. The river, retaining the same width, but deeper is less rapid and is navigable for vessels from Lewistown, 7 miles to Fort Niagara, where it passes into Lake Ontario—Thus this Lake receives all the streams from the large Lakes.

The outlet of Ontario is at the N. W. extremity, near Kingston, and is navigable for vessels of 40 or 50 tons, down to Ogdensburg, 65 miles.

At Ogdensburg, large batteaux, receive the cargoes, and pass by a very rapid current down the River St. Lawrence to Montreal, which is 290 miles below Ontario.

Fort Dearborn, which is the most remote military post in the United States, on the Lakes is situated near the river Chicago, at the head of Lake Michigan, which contrary to the course of the other large Lakes, discharges its stream at the northern extremity. In this outlet is the Island Michilimackinac, on which is situated Fort Michilimackinac. These two forts, having only part of a company in each, were surprised and taken by the British and Indians before the garrisons had been informed of the late declaration of war.

The river Detroit is the outlet of Lake St. Clair and the upper Lakes, into Lake Erie.—The river is 28 miles long, running in a southerly direction, from 1 to 2 miles wide, and is navigable for large vessels. Fort Detroit is on the western side of this river, about 19 miles above the British Fort

Malden, which is on the eastern side near the mouth of the river, about 19 miles above the British Fort Malden, which is on the eastern side near the mouth of the river—Brownstown and the river Raisin are nearly opposite Fort Malden, across the head of Lake Erie.

Fort Meigs is near the Rapids of Miami river, which discharges itself into Erie, at some distance below the river Raisin.

The course of Lake Erie is about north east, and southwest about 220 miles long. It is the shallowest of the large Lakes, and its navigation is rendered more difficult by hedges and points extending far into it.—There are but few good harbors on this Lake; indeed most of the harbors on the Lakes are injured by sand bars at their entrance. There are several square rigged vessels on Erie, among which is a British 20 gun ship built 2 years since.

The town of Erie, formerly called Presque Isle, offers a good harbor, but is injured by a bar at the entrance. Here the United States have a garrison, and are building a number of vessels of war.

At the foot of Lake Erie, Buffalo Creek, enters, on the Border of which is the village of Buffalo, in the state of New York; two miles from which is Black Rock, where Niagara river commences. On the opposite side, in Upper Canada, about 112 miles up the Lake is the British Fort Erie. From this Fort the country is handsomely cultivated, and the roads good, along the border of Niagara to its entrance into Lake Ontario. In the State of New York the country is thinly settled, after leaving Black Rock, for twelve or fourteen miles, till you arrive at the site of Old Fort Schlosser. Here the Rapids commence, extending as above stated half a mile. These present a very convenient situation for all kinds of machinery to be moved by water. It is the first place in our country for accommodating manufactories; as this distance of half a mile may be filled with mills which may be moved by water in its rapid descent. At this place, now called Manchester, there is a small settlement of mills, &c. owned by Augustus and Peter B. Porter, Esqs.

Opposite to the site of Fort Schlosser, distant about 3 miles across Niagara River, is a village called Chippewa, where the British have a small garrison; nine miles below which is Queenstown, where are the king's stores and a number of handsome buildings. Goods are brought from Quebec by water, and landed here; then transported by land to Chippewa, where they are taken in boats and transported to the shipping in Lake Erie.

Fort George and the village of Newark are 6 or 7 miles below Queenstown, on the Niagara river where it enters Lake Ontario.—Fort George is half a mile above the mouth of the river. Newark borders on the river and on the Lake, and has a Light House to direct to the entrance of the river.

Directly across the river which is about a mile wide, is the United States Fort Niagara—lat. 43, n. is situated on a neck of land,

whence is its Indian name.* The neck projects partly across the mouth of Niagara river. Thus the fort presents a front up the river, another front to Newark, and another to the Lake.—It is a very pleasant situation in point of scenery, and very commanding for military purposes. The distance from this to Fort George, in a direct line, is one mile.

Since the commencement of the present war, the United States have erected a battery mounted with 32, 18 and 9 pounders. It is called, the Salt Battery, and being a mile above Fort-Niagara, it forms with that a cross fire on Fort George, to great advantage.

Ontario is a very deep Lake, and may be navigated safely by a first rate ship of war. It is 160 miles long in a direction about E. N. E. and W. S. W. The principal Harbors in the United States, are Niagara river, Genesee river, Gerundiquoe, Sodus, Oswego and Sackett's Harbor. Niagara and Sackett's Harbor are the best. Sodus is a very deep and spacious harbor, but has a bar at its entrance.

On the British side of the Lake, in Upper Canada, is Kingston, distant about 35 miles from Sackett's Harbor, in latitude 43 North, has an excellent harbor, in which the British shipping generally winter.

The bay of Quintillies is westward of Kingston, its entrance being about twenty miles from that port. It is a deep narrow bay, formed by a peninsula running southeasterly from the north shore of the Lake. From the entrance to the head of the bay, the distance is fifty miles, furnishing a good harbor to this extent.

York is the capital of the province. It lies near the west end of Lake Ontario, about one hundred and forty five miles west of Kingston, directly opposite the mouth of Niagara river, distant thirty miles by water, and about ninety miles by land.

Niagara river is a harbor which belongs to the United States and Great Britain—the division line passing along the middle of this river.

There are numerous settlements on the borders of Ontario, but the borders of all the upper Lakes are almost in a state of nature, having but few settlements on either side.

The above sketch is given from observation, and from the most careful inquiries. All the distances, it will be recollected, have not been measured, but generally depend on estimation, which therefore cannot be perfectly correct.

Distance, by water.	Miles.
From Fort Dearborn to Fort Michilimackinac, about	300
From Fort Michilimackinac to Fort Detroit,	340
From Fort Detroit to Black Rock,	220
From Black Rock to Fort Niagara,	30
From Fort Niagara to York, U. C.	30
From Fort Niagara to Kingston and Sackett's Harbor,	150
From Lake Ontario to Montreal,	200
From Montreal to Quebec,	180

New London, May 17, 1813.

*Niagara, an Indian word, meaning cross the neck.