

# MINERVA; or, ANTI-JACOBIN.

TWO AND A HALF DOLLARS PER ANNUM. Payable half Yearly.

PUBLISHED (WEEKLY) BY WILLIAM BOYLAN.

TWO DOLLARS PER ANNUM. Payable in Advance.

Vol. 9.]

RALEIGH, (N. C.) MONDAY, MAY 21, 1804.

[No. 423.]

## REPORT.

Report of the Committee of Commerce and Manufactures, on the resolves of the House of Representatives, directing them to enquire into the expediency of authorizing the President of the United States to cause certain remote and unknown parts of Louisiana to be explored.

By a series of memorable events the United States have lately acquired a large addition of soil and jurisdiction. This is believed, besides the tracts on the east side of the Mississippi, to include all the country which lies to the westward between that river and the great chain of mountains that stretch from north to south, and divide the waters running into the Atlantic, from those which empty into the Pacific Ocean; and beyond that chain between the territories claimed by Great Britain on the one side, & by Spain on the other, quite to the South Sea.

It is highly desirable that this extensive region should be visited, in some parts at least, by intelligent men. Important additions might thereby be made to the science of geography. Various materials might thence be derived to augment our knowledge of natural history. The government would thence acquire correct information of the situation, extent and worth of its own dominions, and individuals of research and curiosity would receive ample gratification as to the works of art and productions of nature which exist in those boundless tracts.

There is no need of informing the house that already an expedition authorised by congress at the second session of the seventh congress, has been actually undertaken and is going on under the president's direction, up the Missouri. The two enterprising conductors of this adventure, captains Lewis and Clark, have been directed to attempt a passage to the western shore of the South Sea; from them, on their return in 1805, a narrative full of instruction may be expected. It is also understood that a survey has been ordered to be made of the Mississippi, from the mouth of the Ohio, to the falls of St. Anthony. Of this a correct map may be expected within a reasonable time. The like also is hoped, in the course of a moderate period, from the latter place to the source of the Mississippi, and thence to the Lake of the Woods.

Men of political research have, in like manner, long known that the course of the Mississippi downwards to the Gulf of Mexico, has been well delineated by captain Hutchings; and that more recently, by the assiduous observations of Mr. Ellicott, the turnings and windings of that river, southward of its junction with the Ohio, & the territorial line on the 31st degree of north latitude, to the north western angle of Florida, have been exhibited in a perspicuous and scientific manner. Along the coast of the ocean too, from Perdido bay to the bay of St. Bernard, navigators have viewed the shores and coast so often, that there is little left to explore.

But although there is so much really known, or in a train of investigation, concerning Louisiana, there are still some part upon which it would be desirable to possess additional information. The tracts alluded to are those which remain principally in their original obscurity, and strongly attract the eye of the adventurer. Their pathless forests may be advantageously penetrated along the channels of the Arkansas and the Red River, two of those large and long water courses which intersect them. An expedition of discovery up those prodigious streams and their branches, might redound as much to the honor, and more to the interest of our government, than the voyages by sea round the terraqueous globe have done for the polished nations of Europe, who authorised them. Such liberal enterprizes will befit the present season of prosperity, and may be expected to succeed best during the reign of peace.

The Red River was visited many years ago, and even settled as high as Nachitoches. This old establishment is laid down in some of the maps, as being only seven leagues distant from the station of Adams, the capital of the province of Texas, and situated on the river Mexicano. Red River is described as difficult to ascend when the waters are low; but when high, a traveller may, by means of them, penetrate where he pleases. More than half a century ago, it was said, that along its banks there were many inferior lakes, and drowned lands,

that abounded with aleigators and fishes; that its shores were inhabited by plenty of bisons, bears, tigers, wolves, deer, & several other species of untamed beasts; as well as by turkeys, geese, swans, ducks, & other kinds of wild fowl; and that all manner of indigenous fruit trees, and grape vines sprout up luxuriantly from the soil. To these accounts, which are common to most other parts of the American wilderness when first visited by civilized men, other facts and considerations are now to be added—the nation has been lately told, on respectable authority, that the Red River is navigable by boats one thousand miles beyond Nachitoches. It is reported to run through a country abounding in rich prairies, where neat cattle and horses range in innumerable herds as independent as the natural inhabitants. There is reason to presume the head of this stream lies concealed in the south western corner of the newly ceded territory. The limits of Louisiana, in that quarter, are obscure and undefined. And it is worthy of legislative consideration, whether the latitude and longitude of the Red River source ought not to be ascertained under the authority of the nation. It may be expected that individuals will venture upon such undertakings for the gratification of their own speculative curiosities, and by discreet management, the journeys of such persons to minister to the national wants, and to general instruction, with but a trifling appropriation from the treasury.

The Arkansas which has been already traced above one thousand miles, also seems worthy of being explored with more care and to a greater extent than has hitherto been done. A spacious plain and valley incrustated annually, (like the soil in some spots about the Feesian Gulf,) with native salt, in quantity sufficient to impregnate a branch of the Arkansas, and occasionally the river into which it falls, with its briny quality, and to make it a salt river down to the settlement of Ouisarque, for considerably more than six hundred miles of its course, might be mentioned as no ordinary occurrences. The masses of virgin silver and gold that glitter in the veins of the rocks which underlay the Arkansas itself, and mingle with the minerals near certain other of its streams, and offer themselves to the hand of him who will gather, refine, and convert them to use, are no less uncommon and wonderful. These extraordinary productions might be dwelt upon to considerable length, in this report; but credible as both the relations are, the committee forbears to offer any thing more than that the existence of a salt river, precious mines & ores, and of some other remarkable objects, are stated upon solid and credible testimony. Omitting these things as not necessary to be urged to congress, the committee considers that the latitude, longitude and relative situation of the source of the Arkansas, are themselves of sufficient moment to render their attainment very desirable.

Without writing a sentence on the advantages of tracing the streams of the Black River, the White River, the Mexicano, and of other rivers to their sources, the committee submits the following opinion:

That it will be honourable and useful to make some public provision for further exploring the extent & ascertaining the boundaries of Louisiana—and

That a sum not exceeding dollars be appropriated for enabling the president of the United States, to cause surveys and observations to be made on the Red River and the Arkansas, or either of them, or elsewhere in Louisiana, as he shall think proper for these purposes.

FROM THE CHARLESTON COURIER,

## PRIVATE WRONG PUBLIC ECONOMIES.

WHEN the mal-administration of government, and the weakness and injustice of executive officers, fall on the great mass of a community, the evil though more extensive is less discernable. The wrong of each individual is lost in those of the crowd, who suffer along with him: The complaints of one man for a grievance that is the lot of all, neither excites sympathy nor attracts notice:—He is looked upon by the world as contumacious, cowardly, or querulous who flinches from the torture which many fellow sufferers are enduring along with him; and we risk nothing in saying that the single criminal who is dragged in solitary horror to the place of execution, receives more pity from the multitude who witness

his agonies, than was divided among the hundreds who fell of a morning under the bloody blade of ROBESPIERE'S guillotine at Paris, the multitude with whose mangled carcasses the Culverins of Collet de Herbois spread the great square of Lyons, or the shiploads of innocent victims which Carriere deliberately sent to the bottom at Nantes. Though the quantum of suffering of each individual is equal, and therefore the mass of misery proportioned to the number, the sympathy of those who contemplate them is divided in the one case, whereas it is concentrated into one focus, and is therefore more intense in the other.

If this holds good in such cases as those to which we allude, it is still stronger in those pecuniary wrongs which come under the heads of legislative taxation, executive exaction, or official fraud, all of which are alike private pillage, whatever name may be conferred upon them—or in whatever country or by whosoever committed—whether exacted under the name of subsidy by the human-shambles masters of Hesse or Prussia—the forced loan of Robespierre & Bonaparte—the Bank Stock shuffle-sale of Mr. Gallatin, or the economies of the Presidential Cabinet. Of the tax, the pillage, or the undue exaction—which all bear in due proportions to their means, none are conceived to have a right to complain: But that which bears upon a solitary individual is held to be a grievance of peculiar severity and injustice. The hand which swept with equal rapacity from a whole nation, and broke into the private recesses of houses to levy taxes, was endured for centuries, but a tax gatherer searching one woman too closely threw that nation into a convulsion which had nigh ended in the overthrow of its government. In fact this is consonant to the dictates of sound sense and to every feeling of honour and honesty. No individual has a right to sacrifice himself or his property to a country while the rest are left untouched. This is a truth so universally acknowledged, and acted upon, that there are but few instances found in history of men corrupt or hardy enough to violate it. The first that was ever attempted in a free government is the fruitless attempt of our present administration to force from Mr. HARTSHORNE, of New-York, his property, without compensation, for the purposes of erecting a light-house, which has been recorded in some of the northern prints, which we gave in Tuesday's Courier, taken in detail from the New-York Evening Post, which we will endeavour to ring in the ears of every individual in the country, and which we should wish to be proclaimed to all nations and transmitted in Black Letter to the latest posterity, if it were not that we think it would be a pity a whole people should be indelibly branded with disgrace and infamy for the malversation of a few worthless, interested, petty-ambitious individuals.

That the transaction may go along with our comments, we beg leave to offer the leading circumstances of the case briefly to our readers.

It being necessary to the safety of the shipping entering New-York harbour to erect a light house at Sandy Hook, the persons authorised to erect it took possession in the year 1801, of a piece of ground belonging to certain gentlemen of New-York, and proceeded to work upon it. The proprietors of the ground gave notice that they would not part with their property without receiving a reasonable compensation, and demanded two thousand dollars for it. Regardless of this notice, the agents of government proceeded to erect a beacon without further communication. The proprietors commenced a suit, offering at the same time to submit their demand to arbitration. The offer was declined, the suit proceeded, and the proprietors got a judgment against the state intruders for one hundred dollars damages. The agents of government instead of shewing any shame for having brought the country into the degraded state of a litigious defendant under the censure of a court of law, or feeling any remorse for the injury attempted to the proprietors, persisted in keeping possession. Another suit was commenced, attended with another offer of arbitration. But Mr. Gallatin, the secretary of the treasury, enraged at the contumacy of the proprietors in not giving up their property, applied to the legislature of Jersey to compel them to give it up without any reference to the value it derived from local situation. A bill for the purpose passed one branch, but did not pass the other. Again offers of arbitration were made by the proprietors: but to no effect. Another bea-

con was erected. And in January last a jury gave the proprietors seven hundred & fifty dollars damages against government for the unlawful continuation of the beacon. The proprietors once more renewed their offer, to avoid farther litigation, but receiving no answer, renewed their suit in February for damages for the further continuation of the trespass, as well as for erecting the second beacon. The secretary of the treasury finding himself foiled, and being as tenacious of his purpose, as his purpose was wrong, resolved in his own mind rather to let the commerce of the country suffer shipwreck than yield to the reasonable demand of the proprietors, or disjoint the system of cabinet economies by the payment of two thousand dollars, and in his royal indignation ordered the lights to be extinguished.

Let us scan the matter diligently and closely, and we shall find it composed of a complication of circumstances, equally unjust, arrogant, and reprobate.

The first question is, "Were or were not those beacons necessary or useful in that spot?" If they were not, it was a scandalous and highly censurable waste of public money to erect them; and still more wicked was it to attempt for a purpose unnecessary and useless, to trespass upon a fellow citizen's private property, to refuse to make him a just compensation for it, to drive him to law for the recovery of his property, to put the country to the expense of suits at law, and to disgrace it by bringing it into court in the odious character of a violator of private right, and a trespasser upon individual property. But if on the other hand the Beacons were necessary or useful, it was an act of high criminality to extinguish the lights and deprive the country of the benefit of them, for a sum in itself inconsiderable; but which when compared with the importance of the object on which it was to be bestowed, may be said to be nothing. Taking it in either of those views, the conduct of the agents of government deserves heavy chastisement.

But that is not all. We see in this transaction the germ of gross injustice, and as downright tyranny as the demon of despotism himself could wish to see exercised. We see government, which is supposed to exist but for the protection of private right, with boundless arrogance and rapacity, using every means which cunning could suggest, the wily trickery of the law contrive, undue influence over legislative councils, hope to effect, or the ruffian hand of lawless plunder dare to execute, in order to strip a man of his property. We see the lawful means taken to assert private rights treated as an insult to the despot who attempted to violate it—as an unpardonable offence—a *Crimen Lese Majestatis* to the mushroom monarchs of our treasury and cabinet, and resented as such, and that resentment exhibited by means which makes it a hundred fold more guilty—that is to say, by extinguishing lights on which the safety of many ships and many lives depended; and in consequence of the loss of which several ships have actually since gone a shore.

The annals of despotism may be searched in vain for a transaction of such enormous wrong, private and public. If the perpetrators of it are not brought to punishment, where is the security of an American citizen?

There is an old saying, that it is easy to be generous at the cost of another: And we think that state Economies practised at the expence of private individuals, has not much of the virtues of generosity or abstinence to recommend it. The conduct & character of government in this affair resembles very much those of SPRUNGE in the play, who boasts of his *cheap living*, while he lodges, eats and drinks burgundy, pays his coach-hire, and lives voluptuously, by extortion on every individual he can cajole out of a dinner or a guinea.

## NOTICE.

THE Subscriber having been qualified as Administrator of the Estate of the late JAMES CADDELL, dec. at last August Court, gives this Notice to all Persons having any Demands against the said Estate, to bring them forward well authenticated within the Time limited by Law, otherwise they will be barred from Recovery; & those indebted to the said Estate, will please to make immediate Payment.

DANIEL CADDELL, Adm.

Moore County, North Carolina,  
May 7, 1804.

Superior and County Court Blanks for sale at the office of the Minerva.