

# MINERVA; or, ANTI-JACOBIN.

PUBLISHED (WEEKLY) BY WILLIAM BOYLAN.

TWO DOLLARS PER ANN. Payable in Advance.

Vol. 9.]

RALEIGH, (N. C.) MONDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1804.

[No. 444.]

From the Boston Centinel.

## Review of Jefferson's Administration.

NO. XIV.

The next subject of attention is an act of Congress, passed about the last of March, 1802, increasing the salaries of certain executive officers. This together with the sale of the bank stock of the United States is a fine comment on the sincerity of the present administration in their professions of love for economy, and the interest of the people in the disposal of their money. On the 11th day of September, 1789, was approved, an act establishing the salaries of certain executive officers. Their compensations have constantly been the same, except a small alteration in those of certain officers in the treasury department, and in that of the attorney general, till an act of March 2, 1799. It was unlimited as to the time of its continuance, and part of a general system. Has this law been repealed? On the second of March, 1799, was approved an act, in which provision was made that certain officers of government should receive higher compensations for services instead of those, before established, for the term of three years. The salary of the Secretary of the treasury was raised from 2000 to 5000 dollars, and that of the Attorney General from 2400 to 3000, and others in a similar ratio. But in this act there was no clause, repealing the law of September, 1789, or in any way affecting it, except for the term of time, we have mentioned. Now it is an undeniable principle, that when a law, whose existence is to continue but for a certain time, alters another, which was general and unlimited, as soon as the former expires, the latter is again in force. It has been held, that when a law has repealed a preceding one, a repeal of this nature is a revival of the former, without provision for that purpose. It is clear that the law of 1789 was in force after the expiration of the act of 1799, which was on the 31st of December, 1801, and consequently the salaries of the executive officers were, after December 31, 1801, neither more nor less, than those granted by the act of 1789. The Secretary of the treasury could again only receive from the 31st of December, 1801, as a year's salary 3500 dollars, and the Attorney General 2400, until the succeeding act of Congress. On the 4th of April, 1802, such an act was approved by Mr. Jefferson. The salary of the Secretary of the Treasury, is again 5000 and that of the Attorney General 3000 dollars. If then 5000 is more, than 3500, and 3000 more, than 2400, it is demonstrably true, that our self denying patriots have raised the salaries, which they themselves formerly voted against as being unnecessarily high, and a waste of public money.

Their patriotism will still be more clearly displayed by comparing the circumstances for an increase of compensation by the federalists in 1799, with those for an augmentation of salary by the democrats in 1802. In 1799 we were at war with France. In 1802, the President informed us, we were at peace with all nations. At the former time every article of living was at the highest price; at the latter they were proportionably cheap.—When the federalists administered the government, it was an unpardonable sin, it was hastening to the crisis of national bankruptcy, to raise salaries though the great expence of living required it. To raise them, when the means of subsistence were much cheaper, was meritorious, was raising the nation to the very pinnacle of wealth, for the only reason, however which can be invented, because they themselves were to receive them. Indeed so forgetful have the democrats been of their former lessons of economy, that they have made exertions since 1802 to increase salaries, enjoyed by themselves, beyond what federalism ever attempted.

The sale of the bank stock has been investigated in congress, and the result is evidence of what might have been expected, that a great sacrifice of the property of the United States has been made. The observations and calculations, shewing the ignorance and corruption of this transaction of Mr. Gallatin, were made by Mr. Bayard. We shall not hesitate to use them, as being the most complete examination of the subject, that the public can receive. Two questions present themselves; first, whether the commissioners of the sinking

fund had any legal right to sell the bank shares at all. Secondly, whether it was fit and expedient to sell them at the time, & on the terms they did?

It is admitted that they were empowered by an act of 1796, under which also they pretend to justify the present transaction, to sell, if they should find the same to be the most advantageous, such and so many of the shares of the stock of the bank of the United States as they might think proper, and to apply the proceeds to the payment of the national debt, due or to become due, during the course of that year, to the bank of the United States, or the bank of New-York. But it is contended that this authority was not permanent, but ceased with the occasion.

In 1797, 5,363,641 dollars of the debt of the United States became due. The principal part of this debt was owing the bank of the United States, the payment of which was required. To discharge this debt the act of Congress provided three ways: First, by an ordinary loan; secondly, by the sale of the six per cent stock below par; thirdly, by the sale of the bank stock. In neither of the former ways could it be paid; the latter therefore was the only one, by which it could be discharged at that time. It was never however the design of Congress to make the bank stock a principal and direct fund for the payment of this debt could it have been liquidated in any other way. It was composed of several loans, authorised by several acts; in each of which a special fund had been provided to answer the debt to be contracted. This fund was the surplus of duties on imports and tonnage.—The surplus of the ordinary revenue was made by law the immediate, and is itself, was the natural fund to meet the debts, which constituted the 5,363,641 dollars.—While therefore such surpluses existed, it was clearly not the intention of the act of 1796 to suffer six per cent stocks to be sold under par, or to allow any of the active and productive funds of the United States to be disposed of. The power to sell the six per cents and the bank stock was evidently predicated upon the failure of the original funds, provided in consequence of the ordinary revenue being absorbed by prior incumbrances. In case of the sale of the bank stock by the commissioners, the ordinary funds were not appropriated. Both Gallatin and the President inform, that there was a surplus of money beyond expenditures in the treasury, during the same year, of 4,500,000 dollars. It may then be advanced that this act of Mr. Gallatin and others in selling the bank stock, while there was an unappropriated surplus in the treasury more than competent to answer the purposes, for which it was sold, was not simply an abuse, but a most unwarrantably assumption of power.

It cannot be doubted, that if this unappropriated surplus had existed at the date of the act of 1796, that the power created by that law to sell the stock, would not have been delegated. The creation of the power was a measure of necessity, and its existence depended on the continuance of the same necessity. The bank stock was not a direct and immediate fund; it was simply auxiliary, and therefore contingent.—The laws under which the debts were contracted, and the funds providing for their payment, considered collectively, plainly speak this language to the commissioners of the sinking fund.—In the event that the surplus of ordinary revenue does not enable you to pay the instalment of the foreign debt, and debts, due to the bank, then you shall have power to sell the bank stock.—A power depending on a certain event has no existence without the concurrence of the event. In the present instance the event did not exist, which was the ground of power, given to the commissioners, and their act therefore, in the sale of the bank stock, was not warranted by law.

From the question of right we come to an examination of that of expediency. This involves two things. First, whether the stock was sold for the best price, the market afforded? Secondly, if not, whether the loss was compensated by any advantage, which the government derived from undertakings upon the part of the purchaser?

The price of stocks, from actual sales about the time of the disposal of the bank stock, was from 150 to 154. In London it was as high as 158. The sale made by the commissioners was in June, 1802, and the instalments of the Dutch debt became due on the 1st January, 1st February, 1st March and 1st June, 1803. In consequence of this the purchaser received two dividends before he was obliged to make any payment, which

of course composes part of the profit of his bargain.

The shares sold, 2220 at 150 were worth 333,000  
The two dividends, which amounted to 32 dollars on a share, were equal to 75,480

The value therefore, the United States parted with, was 1,407,480.  
The sale was in fact made at 145, & yielded only 1,287,000

The United States therefore plainly lost 119,880

The inquiry now is what benefit, afforded by the contract will compensate this loss?

It is stated by the commissioners, that Mr. BARRING, the purchaser, in consideration of the sale of the stock at 45 per cent. advance undertook to pay at Amsterdam, guilders, 3,140,487, 18 1-2 at the rate of 41 cents the guilder. In March, April, & May of this year, bills on London might have been purchased under par; during & subsequent to the same period bills in London or Amsterdam might have also been purchased under par.—The government therefore might have remitted the instalments of the Dutch debt to Amsterdam by way of London, have allowed a commission of one per cent. for the operation, and yet have made the remittance at par, and probably below it. This certainly was practicable, when during the period referred to the average of exchange between the United States and London was two per cent. below par, and between London and Amsterdam more than an half per cent. below par. Let me now ask, what have the commissioners saved by their contract to compensate the loss of 20 dollars on 2220 shares of the stock they have sold? They have taken bills on Holland at a rate nearly 2 1-2 per cent. above par, when the remittance might have been made at par.

It is undeniable then, that a sacrifice of 20 dollars was made on each share, amounting on the whole sale to 44,400; that two dividends were also sacrificed, amounting to 75,480, making the sum of 119,880 dollars, and the compensation for this loss is an agreement to remit 1,287,600 dollars to Amsterdam for a premium of 2 1-2 per cent amounting to the sum of 32,190 when this premium might have been saved, and consequently making the aggregate loss to the United States, in this single transaction 152,070 dollars.

A circumstance, attending this bargain of our Genevan financier, worthy of particular notice, is, that scarcely a merchant in this country had any knowledge of the transaction; until completed. Application was made to the Manhattan Bank, and the Bank of the United States to remit the requisite sums. The latter refused. The former offered to make remittances on even more advantageous terms, than the company in England. It is impossible to determine why the offer was not embraced, unless a resolution had been formed to sacrifice this property, and sacrifice it too to foreigners.

Here, my countrymen, is a specimen of the skill of that wonderful financier, Mr. Gallatin; who, like the philosopher's stone, it was said, could change dust to gold, and who, by a single word, though outlandish, could liquidate the national debt. With this man compare Mr. Pickering; the libeller with the libelled; the villifier with the vilified. Never were his fiscal arrangements stamped with ignorance, or corruption. Never in his public transactions did he prefer the interests of foreigners to that of native citizens. Instead of losing 152,070 he saved America 14,000 by the purchase of bills on the same nation, where we have since lost. But the pretended skill of the administration in finance and their love for economy and the people, are, like the visions of night, delusion, producing disappointment.

HUME.

## LAND.

THE Subscriber has for sale 341 & an half acres of Land, situate 10 miles north west of Raleigh, well adapted to bring Wheat & Corn, about 50 acres of which are cleared and under a good fence.—A tolerable Dwelling House, Kitchen, Smoke-house & other convenient Houses. It will be sold low for Cash or Young Negroes.—For terms apply (before the 6th of October) to

JOSIAH DILLIARD.

Raleigh, Aug. 24.

## FALL GOODS.

THE Subscribers have received a very extensive and general assortment of

### FALL GOODS,

Which they offer by Wholesale and Retail at a moderate advance. By the first of next month the whole assortment will be opened. The Woolens, the Irish Linens, the Hardware and Cutlery, are directly from the Manufacturers; and the whole of the Goods, whether European, East Indian or American, are laid in on the best terms. Every kind of produce will be received in payment, and for cash down a considerable discount will be made.

Among the articles there is about ten thousand bushels of Liverpool Salt.

Donaldson, MacMillan & Co.

Fayetteville, September 14, 1804.

## TO BE SOLD,

At the Court-House in Richmond County, on the first Saturday in December next, the following property for the tax due for the year 1803.

ONE hundred acres of Land on Hedgecock Creek, adjoining the Lands of James Terry, belonging to Joseph White.

50 acres of Land, adjoining the above tract, patented by John M'Kay. Also 100 acres on Coleman's Creek, belonging to Baker or from other person unknown.

Also the following Lots in the town of Rockingham: Nos. 13, 14, 15, 71, 72, 73 and 57.

The above property not being given in as the law directs. M. GAINEY, Sheriff.

Rockingham, Sep. 28, 1804.

## SALISBURY RACES

WILL COMMENCE

On Wednesday the 31st of October next, and will continue four days.

ON that day will only be admitted to run, 3 years old Colts bred within the districts of Salisbury or Morgan, for a Subscription of the owners—one mile heats. On Thursday free for any nag, for a purse of \$200—3 mile heats.—On Friday free for any nag except the winning nags of the preceding days—for a purse of \$200, two mile heats. On Saturday a sweepstake for the entrance money of Thursday, Friday and that day. It is supposed the purse will be higher than any of the other days—free for any nag except the winning nags of the three preceding days.—Weights as regulated by the Jockey Club of that Turf.

L. BEARD.

September 21, 1804.

## Valuable Land for Sale.

THE Subscriber offers for sale a very valuable Tract of Land lying in Orange & Granville counties, bounded by Flat river on the West, by the river Neuse on the South, by Knapp and Reeds creek on the East, and by a straight line from the first to the last mentioned water course on the North, containing 1200 Acres, and forming almost a perfect square; better than one half of the Tract consists of rich low-grounds, the whole being extremely well adapted to the culture of Wheat, Corn, &c. and much of it is Tobacco. No Plantation in the district of Hillsborough is better calculated for raising Stock of all kinds and particularly Hogs, as the uncultured low grounds afford a most excellent range for them—on it there is a good brick Dwelling House, containing five rooms, Kitchen, Smoke house, &c. all of which at a very trifling expence may be put in a condition suitable to the accommodation of a genteel family; there is also on it a large well built granary lately erected and capable of holding several thousand bushels of grain. If the whole tract should be thought too large for one Purchaser, it may be divided into two complete Plantations—possession may be had this fall as soon as the growing crop is taken off & Wheat may be sown earlier if desired by the Purchaser. Such persons as may be disposed to view this Tract of Land, will make application to Mr. Richard Beanchan, who lives near to it & who formerly lived on it, and for terms application may be made either to him or to

DUN: CAMERON.

Hillsborough July 16, 1804. 3 m.

## Lands & Town Lots.

THE Subscriber offers for sale, cheap for cash, Negroes, or good Horses, a Tract of Wood Land, containing 505 acres, situate on the west side of Horse Creek, joining the lands of Col. Sutherland in Wake County. This land is excellently watered—and is adapted to the culture of Wheat, Corn, and Tobacco.

I will also sell low for Cash,

## Six unimproved Lots in Raleigh,

With timber on them.—Those who wish to purchase may view the Lots—they are No. 93, 77, 92, 76, 91, and 75.

JAMES LEWIS.

Wake County, August 25.