

BELIEF OF FORT MEIGS.

Chillicothe, May 22.

Two the politeness of a gentleman in this town we are favoured with the Freeman's Chronicle extra of Tuesday, from which we are enabled to lay before our readers the following account of the late expedition for the relief of Fort Meigs.

The Ohio militia which had rendezvoused at Upper Sandusky, to the amount of about 1,200 men, marched on Wednesday and arrived at Lower Sandusky on Thursday. On our arrival, we found Gen. Harrison and suite, and Major Ball's squadron of Cavalry, who had come in the preceding evening from the Rapids. The siege of Fort Meigs was raised on the 9th, the British and their allies had retired, and the communication was perfectly open. Fort Meigs being safe, and the object for which the militia had marched having been previously accomplished, the troops were consequently ordered to their homes, and an express dispatched to order back all who were then on their march to join the main body. About 600 were met between Lower Sandusky and Delaware, pushing to the point of destination with the greatest zeal and alacrity. Six or seven hundred more were on their march by the way of Fort Riply, who were also ordered to return. Several hundreds, probably thousands, of others were preparing to march from various parts of the state—and all this in the course of a few days. Such zeal, such promptitude, such patriotism, was never surpassed in the annals of the world. All ages and ranks of citizens flocked by one noble impulse simultaneously to the standard of their country. The aged veteran and the bearded stripling, the farmer, the merchant and the mechanic, mingled indiscriminately in the ranks, all clad in armour to revenge their wrongs and protect their beloved country. Every nerve in the political body vibrated with the strongest emotion, & every vessel of the system was ready to pour forth its vital current, rather than permit British tyranny or savage barbarity to pollute this land of freedom and happiness. Never have we witnessed such a scene; never, we believe, was such a scene exhibited in North America. We are confident that if the fort had not relieved itself for ten days longer, ten thousand men from Ohio would have been on their march towards it. Although inexperienced and undisciplined, and sometimes refractory; yet it may be truly said, that on such occasions as the late emergency, the militia is the bulwark of liberty.

The high merit of Gov. Meigs, in his unexampled exertions to relieve Gen. Harrison, is so universally known and admired, as to render comment superfluous.

General HARRISON and suite, and several officers of the army, arrived here on Sunday afternoon from Lower Sandusky—Gen. Cass arrived yesterday; and Maj. Ball's squadron of Cavalry, the distinguished heroes of Massassinway, came into town this morning.

THE MILITARY.

Norfolk, June 2.

On Monday last Maj. Gen. Hampton and suite left this place. The General, we understand, will have an important command in the Northern Army. During the short period that Gen. Hampton has commanded in this district, he has rendered himself highly acceptable to the officers and soldiers of the army, and not less so to the citizens. The command again devolves on Brigadier-General Taylor.

We have very rarely taken notice of military affairs, but having this occasion we shall avail ourselves to express, not only our own, but we believe the opinion of all, who have had an opportunity of observing.

The Army at this place began to assemble some time in February last, and was at first composed of militia and volunteers. Every one knows how difficult it is to establish that discipline among the militia, which is necessary to render it efficient. The men, accustomed at home, to live on terms of intimacy with their officers—in many instances the private occupying a higher ground in talent and fortune, in their respective couples, than his officer, and last, though not least, the officers being often candidates for popular favor, all presented formidable difficulties to the establishment of discipline. Gen. Taylor then commanded, and his bold and comprehensive genius quickly suggested a plan, which having been tried, has succeeded to his most sanguine expectations, and has claimed the admiration of all, and none more than Gen. Hampton, who noticed it in General Orders

upon his first arrival. In terms equally honorable to his own candor, and to the talents of the Brigadier.

Upon the arrival of the militia from the various parts of the state, General Taylor formed them into regiments, and the captains drew for their privates. Thus it happened that a regiment was commanded by field officers who had no acquaintance with the officers and men under them. A company would be composed of men from perhaps ten different counties, not more than three or four of which had ever seen or heard of the captain and subalterns. A plan so novel, was likely to meet some opposition, and it did so, in one instance only; but a slight was the opposition, and so perfectly and cheerfully has it been since acquiesced in, that it is as much forgotten in effect as if it had never existed.

We read in the papers of disorderly conduct in the militia, but we have nothing like it here, and officers of the regular army have declared, that the police and order in this camp, is not surpassed by that of the regular army.—We are acquainted with a number of the officers, and are frequently in camp—many of the officers exhibit much military talent, and the rapid improvement in knowledge of their profession and in the discipline of both officers and soldiers is conspicuous, and highly honorable to both. It is a fact, that since this army has been here, there has not been one single instance of a complaint preferred by a citizen against a soldier, nor do we believe there has been cause.

CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Monday, May 31.

Several petitions of a private nature were presented and referred.

STENOGRAPHERS.

Mr. Grosvenor presented the petition of George Richards, stating, that he had during the last session reported the proceedings of the House for the Federal Republican newspaper; and that on application at the present session for the like privileges, he had been excluded by the decision of the Hon. Speaker; and praying to be admitted as heretofore for the purpose of reporting debates.

Mr. Grosvenor moved to refer the petition to a select committee.

Mr. Grundy remarked, that this was one of those questions which there was no occasion to refer to a committee, as the House were as well qualified to decide on it as any committee could be.

Mr. Grosvenor urged the reference of this memorial to a committee as the best mode of ascertaining whether other stenographers could be admitted on the floor on friendly with the convenience of the House, and a course which would be, perhaps, more decorous to the chair than any other.

Mr. Troup suggested the propriety of referring the memorial to a committee of the whole. He said the paper and the mode of its introduction into the House were calculated directly or indirectly to convey to the House and to the public an intimation that the Speaker had acted with injustice in relation to the individual petitioning. It seemed proper, therefore, that the Speaker should have an opportunity of explaining the grounds on which he had acted.

This course, after a desultory debate, was pursued.

The House having resolved itself into a committee;

Mr. Grosvenor moved the following resolution:

Resolved, That George Richards be admitted on the floor of this House as a stenographer, and that the Speaker be requested to assign him a place thereon.

Mr. Clay (Speaker) after observing that, in his opinion, an importance had been given to this petition which did not well comport with the dignity of the House, stated the ground on which the decision had been made by him of which the petitioner complained; which was simply this: that in consequence of the recent alterations in the House seats had been arranged for but four stenographers—and to those places he had assigned the applicants according to seniority; all of whom having been of longer standing than Mr. Richards, he had by this arrangement been excluded. If the House should deem it proper to admit others than those now on the floor, he hoped they would designate the stations they should occupy, &c.

Mr. Gaston complimented the Speaker for the correctness and dignity with which he had treated this subject. He had been certain that the speaker would give different reasons for the exclusion of the petitioner from those which had been anticipated from him by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. Wright). His expectations had been fully gratified. He thought, as it related to the convenience of the members, that each gentleman would be willing to sacrifice a little personal convenience to accommodate the reporters. As to the petitioner not being a stenographer in strict technical terms, he was informed this was the fact with respect to other reporters in the House. The best reporters in Great Britain used the common hand. What, he asked, would have been said of the British

House of Commons, if they had excluded Dr. Samuel Johnson on the ground that he did not write the short hand? He spoke of the sensibility of the minority on this subject as natural. He urged the propriety of conciliation on the part of the majority in this early period of the session, to prove to the minority that they had no disposition to overbear.

[Much debate took place of a nature uninteresting to the public, and principally regarding the former practice and actual import of the present rule of the House, in which Messrs. Grosvenor, Calhoun, Gholson, Roberts, Eppes, Seybert, Macon, Pitkin, Ingersoll, Bibb, Stockton and others bore a part.]

On the suggestion of Mr. Eppes, Mr. Grosvenor so modified his resolution as to read as follows:

Resolved, That provision ought to be made for the accommodation of additional stenographers on the floor of the House.

The House adjourned without taking the question.

Tuesday, June 1.

Sundry petitions were presented and referred to the standing committees.

On motion of Mr. Robertson, Resolved, That a committee be appointed to enquire into the expediency of establishing a district court in the Mississippi territory, and that the said committee have leave to report by bill or otherwise.

The House resumed the consideration of the business of yesterday left undecided, respecting the memorial of Geo. Richards, requesting the admission into the House as a stenographer.

The desultory debate yesterday commenced was this day resumed.

After considerable debate, and the rejection of one or two proposed amendments,

Mr. Bibb moved to amend the original motion of Mr. Grosvenor; by striking out the whole thereof, and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Resolved, That the prayer of the petitioner ought not to be granted.

After further debate, in which it was said by several gentlemen that to adopt any step in consequence of the petition of Mr. Richards would be to impugn the conduct of the Speaker in the execution of the duties of his station—

The amendment of Mr. Bibb was agreed to, by Yeas and Nays, 85 to 75.

The resolution was then agreed to as amended, and Mr. Richard's petition was not granted.

Mr. Jackson of Va. laid on the table a resolution for appointing a standing committee, to be composed of 7 members, whose duty it should be to attend to all matters relating to the Judiciary of the U. S.

Wednesday, June 2.

A few petitions of a private nature were presented and referred. And the House adjourned after a few minutes sitting, no reports having been prepared by the committees now engaged in digesting and maturing business for the House.

Thursday, June 3.

Several private petitions were presented, principally such as have been heretofore presented and not finally acted on, and referred to the standing committees.

TREASURY REPORT.

The SPEAKER laid before the House a letter from Wm. Jones, Acting Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting the following report:

In obedience to the Act "supplementary to the Act entitled "An Act to establish the Treasury Department," the Acting Secretary of the Treasury respectfully submits the following

REPORT.

The receipts into the treasury from the 1st of Oct. 1812, to the 31st March, 1813 have amounted to \$1,412,416 25

The balance in the treasury on the 30th of Sept. 1812, was 2,366,652 69

Making together 17,775,068 94

The expenditures from the 1st of Oct. 1812, to the 31st of March, 1813, have amounted to \$15,919,334 41

Leaving a balance in the treasury on the 1st of April, 1813, of 1,855,734 53

\$7,775,068 94

The enclosed statement (A.) shows in detail the several sources from which the receipts were derived, and the branches of expenditure to which the disbursements from the Treasury were applied.

Pursuant to the act of the 8th of February last, subscriptions for a loan of sixteen millions of dollars were opened on the 12th, and again on the 25th of March last. But although a thirteen year's annuity of one per cent. was offered in addition to a six per cent. stock at par, for the money which might be subscribed, it being apparent from the result of the first subscription, that the whole amount could not be obtained on those terms, proposals in writing were invited. Offers, exceeding by about a million of dollars the amount wanted, were received, some demanding a thirteen year's annuity of one and a half per cent. in addition to six per cent. stock at par, but most of them requiring a six per cent. stock at the rate of 88 per cent. On these terms, leaving to the subscribers the option, the loan was effected. In conformity with the public notification the same terms were extended to those persons who had subscribed on the first opening of the subscription, and they have the same option; which, if the stock at the rate of 88 per cent. be taken, is equivalent precisely to a premium of 13 dollars and 66 cents and 7-11 of a cent for each hundred dollars loaned to the government. The enclosed papers under the letter (B.) are copies of the several public notices given on this subject, and a

statement of the amount respectively obtained by open subscriptions and by written proposals, and showing also the sums obtained and payable in each place where subscriptions were opened.

Of that sum of sixteen millions of dollars thus obtained, there was paid into the Treasury, to the 1st of April 1813, the sum of \$1,855,737 50 which makes a part of the monies received previously to that day as stated in the statement (A.)

The resources for the residue of the year 1813 consist of the following items, viz:

Table with 2 columns: Item description and Amount. Items include: 1. The residue of the loan above mentioned (\$14,913,262 50), 2. The sums payable on account of Customs and of the sales of Public Lands, estimated at 9,320,000, 3. The five millions of dollars in Treasury notes authorized by the act of Feb. 25, 1813 (5,000,000). Total: Say Dollars, 29,230,000.

The expenses for the last nine months of the present year are calculated as followeth, viz:

Table with 2 columns: Item description and Amount. Items include: 1. Civil list, and all expenses of a civil nature both foreign and domestic (900,000), 2. Payments on account of the Principal and Interest of the Public Debt, as per Estimate (C) herewith (10,510,000), 3. Expenses on account of the War and Navy Departments (17,820,000). Total: 29,230,000.

Of the sum of \$1,855,734 53, remaining in the Treasury on the 1st of April last, a small part may be considered as applicable to such extraordinary expenses already authorized, as may arise during the remainder of the year; and for the same object the sum of one million of dollars authorized by an act of the state of Pennsylvania to be loaned to the United States, but which was not offered in time to be accepted as a part of the loan of sixteen millions, may be considered as a resource.

In this estimate the whole sum of five millions of dollars authorized to be issued in Treasury Notes, is taken as a part of the resources of the present year. But as it is not deemed eligible to increase the amount of Treasury Notes in circulation, and as three millions only of those authorized by the act of 1812 were issued in that year and are reimbursable in the course of the present year, it is respectfully suggested that in lieu of issuing two millions of the five millions authorized by the act of February 1813, Congress should authorize an additional loan for the same amount, it being made a condition of such loan that its terms should not be higher than those of the loan of sixteen millions already effected.

The provision already considered is for the service of the present year only; that which will be necessary for the year 1814 requires an early attention. It is difficult to estimate with accuracy the sum which will be received into the Treasury from the revenue as now established. During a state of war the customs, at the present rate of duties, have been heretofore estimated to produce five millions of dollars. The additional tonnage duty imposed upon foreign vessels by the act of the 1st of July, 1812, producing about 200,000 dollars a year, is not included in that sum. It is believed that during the year 1814, a greater sum than five millions (we hundred thousand dollars ought not to be relied upon as receivable into the Treasury from custom house duties. The sum arising from sales of public lands may be estimated at six hundred thousand dollars, making together 5,800,000 dollars. The interest alone, on the public funded debt on temporary loans and on the Treasury Notes, which will become payable in that year, will amount to four millions four hundred thousand dollars. The other engagements, on account of the principal of the funded debt, of temporary loans, and of Treasury Notes, which will become reimbursable in that year, amount to 7,150,000 dollars, exceeding together, by more than five millions seven hundred thousand dollars, the estimated amount of the receipts into the Treasury derived from the revenue as now established.

This view of the subject is sufficient to evince the necessity of a speedy and effectual provision for the service of that and the ensuing years. The mode and the extent to which this provision should be carried, have been heretofore suggested from this department to Congress, and have received the consideration of that body. The expenses of the peace establishment of the U. S. State, and the interest on the public debt, including that on the loans made for the prosecution of the war, are believed to be the least sum that ought, under any circumstances, to be raised within each year. These, if the expenses of the peace establishment are taken at the sum necessary for the ordinary expenditure of the United States previously to the additional armaments made in the year 1812, with a view to an approaching state of war, and including the interest on the loans of the years 1812 and 1813, and also of that which will probably be necessary in the year 1814, will amount, during that year, to eleven millions four hundred thousand dollars, viz:

Table with 2 columns: Item description and Amount. Items include: The expense of the peace establishment, exclusive of the additional force authorized by the acts passed during the year 1812, may be estimated at \$7,000,000, The interest on the public debt during the year 1814, will be as follows: on old funded debt 2,100,000, On 6 per cent. stock of 1812, including temporary loans received in part of the loan of eleven millions, which will remain unpaid in 1814, 500,000, On 6 per cent. stock of 1813, 1,000,000, On Treasury Notes which will be reimbursable in 1814, say on 5,000,000 at 5 and 2-3 per cent., 270,000, Total: 9,900,000, On the loan for the year 1814, interest payable within that year 440,000, Total: \$11,400,000.

The revenue now established, being estimated to produce 5,800,000 would leave to be raised 5,600,000

To cover the above sum of \$11,400,000

The internal taxes heretofore proposed, were estimated to produce \$5,000,000

And the duty of 20 cents a bushel on salt imported, which though estimated heretofore at only \$400,000 a year, during a state of war, yet, as the consumption considerably exceeds 2,000,000 of bushels, may be estimated to produce 600,000

Making the sum wanted \$5,600,000

Although the taxes, if early laid, may be brought into operation in the commencement of the year 1814, yet, as they cannot be expected to have their full effect during that year, some auxiliary resource will be required. This may be found in the sum of 1,500,000 dollars, which is the excess of the Sinking Fund for the present year, over the demands on that fund, according to the existing engagements of the United States. This sum of 1,500,000 dollars may be carried to the Sinking Fund for the year 1814, and will be wanted in addition to the annual appropriation of 8,000,000 of dollars, to meet the engagements on account of the public debt, which must be fulfilled during that year.

As reliance must be had upon a loan for the war expenses of the year 1814, the laying of the internal taxes may be considered with a view to that object, as essentially necessary; in the first place, to facilitate the obtaining of the loan, and secondly, for procuring it on favorable terms. It is ascertained that the terms of the loan for the present year would have been more favorable if the taxes had been previously laid; and it is obvious enough, that by affording a security for the regular payment of the interest and the eventual reimbursement of the principal, more stable, and less liable to be weakened or cut off by the natural effects of war upon external commerce, than a revenue depending as that of the U. States now does almost wholly upon such external commerce, capitalists will advance with the greater readiness and at a lower rate of interest the funds necessary for the prosecution of the war.

Public confidence will be ensured, and the means afforded of preserving the public credit unimpaired; a measure of the utmost importance in a country like ours, where, from the lightness of the demands made upon the people during the continuance of peace, the extraordinary expenses of a state of war can be supplied only by a resort to that credit.

The resources of the country are ample, and if the means now proposed, are those heretofore recommended from this Department, are adopted, it is believed they may be fairly and fully brought in action.

All which is respectfully submitted.

W. JONES, Acting Secretary of the Treasury, Treasury Department, June 2, 1813.

The report was read and referred to the committee of Ways and Means.

JUDICIARY.

Mr. John G. Jackson called up the resolution which he submitted for consideration a day or two ago, in the following words:

Resolved, That the following be added to the standing rules and orders of the House: An additional standing committee shall be appointed, at the commencement of each session, viz. a committee on the judiciary, to consist of seven members. It shall be the duty of the said committee to take into consideration all such petitions and matters, or things touching judicial proceedings, as shall be presented or may come in question and be referred to them by the House, and to report their opinion thereupon, together with such propositions relative thereto as to them shall seem expedient."

Mr. Jackson said he had been induced to submit this resolution, from the consideration that our laws are in many instances defective, and it is of the utmost importance that they should be amended; and that this object could be best attained by the appointment of a standing committee, to whom should be referred all propositions for establishing new courts and regulating their powers. He recollected two cases, falling within his own observation, which had led him to contemplate some such provision; and it was not without some surprise that he found it had been passed over so long. As long ago as during the existence of the internal taxes, one of those cases occurred. It would be recollected, he said, that prosecutions might be commenced in state courts for the penalties attendant on infractions of those laws. In pursuance of this provision a prosecution had been commenced in Virginia in an inferior court; judgment was rendered against an individual, who it was manifest had not conformed to the provisions of the law. The case was carried to a higher court, however, and on the ground that the constitution had vested the judicial power of the U. S. in the supreme court and such other courts as Congress might establish, it was decided that it was not in the power of Congress to confer jurisdiction on the state courts. The offender of course escaped. Another case occurred in the course of the last year, in which a prosecution was instituted against a post-ridger, for having opened the public mail travelling from Ohio to Kentucky. The fact was notorious, and the same question occurred again, and the same decision took place. The individual was permitted to escape without punishment. An amendment to our laws was unquestionably necessary in this respect. To consider such cases and the various applications for altering the organization of location of courts, &c. he considered the appointment of a standing committee necessary. With this view, and also to render the decisions of the House more uniform on these applications, as they would be if all referred to the same committee, he had thought proper to propose this amendment to the rules. No opposition being made to the motion, it was adopted without a division.