



Our are the plans of fair, delightful Peace.  
Unwar'd by party rage, to live like Brothers.

POLITICAL REMARKS.

From the National Intelligencer.

Under our system of government, in the administration of which every member of society bears a part, there will never be wanting topics on which there will be a diversity of opinions. These topics may be in their nature general, or occasional. When general, parties arise out of them, and, once organized, continue to exist even beyond the questions in which they had their origin. Such were the divisions which arose in the first years of our government, continued to agitate the country with greater or less violence for many years, and do yet exist. Other differences, again, are occasional, of fleeting interest, and of limited influence. Of this latter description, it appears to us, are those which have lately disclosed themselves in Congress, and which, it has been suggested, are to be the germ of new parties. Let us give a few minutes' reflection to this view of the subject.

At the present moment, there is no point in our foreign relations, respecting which there is much difference of opinion. The only proposition connected with that branch of our affairs, which has been before Congress at the present session, has received the unanimous assent of Congress, and of the people. In our domestic concerns, a like tranquillity prevails. The spirit of the Missouri question is laid, and though it had been nearly conjured up again at the present session, in organizing the government of Florida, we are spared that vision. The question respecting the extent of the federal authority, when in conflict with that of the states, on which parties might with some reason have been expected to be arrayed, has not been moved in Congress, as we supposed it would have been. No fundamental question, in fact, has presented itself during this session.

The time will never arrive, however, in which a Congress of the United States will meet and adjourn without having had under consideration some subject of interest enough to excite the feelings of the members, and through them, of their constituents. The famous Compensation bill, for example—the Seminole Campaign, the Missouri Question, &c. &c. have all had their ephemeral influence. Who does not look back with surprise as well as regret at the feeling which was produced by the compensation bill? That was a question which called forth a burst of indignant disapprobation from the people, and drove from their seats some of the best members of both Houses of Congress. But, more soberly considered and better understood, we are not quite sure that even that proposition would not receive the approbation of a majority of the people.—When was ever greater excitement seen than on the Missouri question? Yet the storm has passed away, and left scarcely a vestige to mark its track. These are occasional questions, such as may be expected continually to recur, and to produce great, though often gratuitous, excitement. But who ever heard of the compensation law, or the Seminole war, or the Missouri restriction, being a party question?

When, as at present, no matters of stronger interest offer themselves for the consideration of Congress, a fruitful theme is always present in the finances of the country, which are brought, by the Constitution, annually and directly in review before Congress, involving a variety of distinct subjects of consideration, namely—the Revenue; the Public Debt; the Army Expenditure; the Navy Expenditure; the Civil Expenditure; the moneys due from public officers and others, defaulters; and the accountability of public agents, &c. &c.

These concerns are in themselves of great interest. They are also of considerable intricacy, and are not to be intuitively comprehended. Once comprehended, there is not much perplexity about them; but thoroughly to understand them requires time and study, such as few but Members of Congress can devote to them. Two years' service is as necessary to an acquaintance with them in all their ramifications, as it is to the acquirement of any of the arts or mysteries to which men serve apprenticeship.

The frequency of our elections, particularly of Representatives to Con-

gress, has this disadvantage attending it: that, by the time that individuals become thoroughly qualified to discharge the functions of legislators, they are removed from the theatre of public life, and other citizens supply their place. Thus the advantages of experience in public affairs are lost to the country, however much be gained to the particular division of society to which the late member has returned by the information which he has in his power to diffuse.

The political life of the conductors of this print has not been long; but it has been long enough to see the composition of both Houses of Congress so entirely changed, that there remains but one member in each house, who has been a member of it, without intermission, since the day they first attended the sittings of Congress, (in 1807.) Accidentally looking over a List of the Fourteenth Congress, of as late date as the year 1817, it appears that, of all the members of the House of Representatives at that day, twenty only are members of the present Congress, of whom seven have been out two or more years; so that there are only thirteen who have continued members for each successive Congress since 1817. This fact is stated to shew, that the experience acquired in legislation may soon be lost; and that what is perfectly intelligible and familiar to Congress, now may become obscured, or wholly lost, in the lapse of a very few years, and have to be learnt over again.

Applying these remarks to the present condition of affairs, we shall find that much of the discussion which has taken place in the present Congress—which has protracted its session, and drawn some murmurs from the people, has grown out of endeavors, on the part of the new members, composing, in the House of Representatives, a majority of the whole number, to become acquainted with what they could not well understand before they become Members of Congress. It will be readily understood, also, with this explanation, that the abundance and variety of requisitions made on the Departments for information are attributable, not, as is sometimes wrongly supposed, to a want of confidence in the public officers—much less to a hostility to the Executive or to any of the citizens at the heads of the Departments, but to a laudable desire to acquire information which is indispensable to enable the members correctly to discharge their public duties.

It is evident, then, that the discussions and investigations which have occupied and still occupy the attention of Congress, are in the true spirit of our government, and that they do not shew that any thing is wrong, or that any thing is suspected to be wrong (we mean in a culpable sense) in its administration. Neither have these inquiries, or any of the discussions on the floor of Congress, resulted in establishing any thing to the disadvantage of the administration of the government. They may have disclosed something that is new to those not heretofore versed in public affairs, or who have not been attentive observers of their progress—but nothing is elicited which has not at some former period been well known to Congress, and been legislated upon as far as then appeared to be expedient.

With respect to the Revenue, the subject which seems now to absorb much of the public attention, it has certainly fallen short of the expenses of the government for the last two years, and may do so hereafter. It may be necessary, in consequence, to lay additional duties on particular descriptions of imported goods, or to defer the payment of a part of the principal of the public debt, which the holders would be glad never to pay. There is no mystery in the fact, nor any objection to its being told in the plainest terms. But the engagements of the government are regularly met; no duns are knocking at the gate—and the Ways and Means may be provided deliberately and without difficulty.—It is not in discovering them, but in making the selection between different schemes, all practicable and easy of execution, that any difficulty can occur.

But this deficiency in the revenue, which is spoken of in the public prints, and elsewhere, as though it were a

shocking affair, besides being a great discovery—how has it been created? Is it caused by extravagance of expenditure in the Army, in the Navy, in building ships of war, in fortifications, or in the compensation to Congress and to other public officers? By none of all these. Within the two years after the late Treaty of Peace with Great-Britain, with the lights of experience to guide them, and the pain of recent wounds to stimulate them, Congress fixed the Peace Establishment of the Army and the Navy; directed the gradual increase of the Navy, and the erection of Fortifications on a liberal plan, but so far within the revenue of the country, as to allow the establishment of a sinking fund of ten millions of dollars annually for the redemption of the public debt. In consequence of the stagnation of commerce, the revenue, which depends materially on its prosperity, has indeed since declined. But by the economy introduced by Congress and the Public Officers into the expenditures of the War and Navy Establishments, a corresponding reduction has taken place in the public expenditure. The revenue would have kept even pace with this expenditure, and we should all have been in good humor now, but for a posterior measure. And what was that? The Revolutionary Pension Act; that noble act of national munificence, not exceeded by any in the history of this or any country. It is the expenditure under that act which has made temporary loans necessary for the last two years, which never would have been necessary, had that act never appeared on the statute book. Could the great reduction of the revenue from imposts have been foreseen, it is probable it never would have passed. But, we put it to the reader of this—we put it to every man of humane or generous feelings, whatever may be his abstract opinion of the policy of that law, whether he would now have it repealed, that we might discharge two millions more per year of the public debt? No debt can be more sacred than that for the payment of which the faith of the government is now pledged to the Revolutionary pensioners, who, by a natural process, will soon give release to the country. Instead of shaking their heads at this deficiency of the revenue, and wondering how it happened, we cannot doubt that the People will cheerfully lend their aid, in any manner deemed advisable, to supply a deficiency which has been thus created.

There is one subject incidentally connected with finances and the public expenditure, on which there is an attempt to produce an excitement in the public mind, in regard to which we will stop to say a few words. It is that of the amount of defalcations of public agents. On this subject, there appears to exist also some honest misapprehension, which closer examination would certainly correct.

When this country found itself engaged in the war with Great Britain, we were soon made sensible of the want of preparation, in every respect, for such a contest; and in no respect were we worse than in the organization of the fiscal branch of the military establishment. Those things are very well understood now. The officers educated by the war are generally at the head of the disbursing offices of the military establishment; they know what is proper to be done, what vouchers are necessary to be produced in settlements, and how regular periodical settlements are to be coerced. Every thing is well done, and promptly accounted for. But very different was the state of things in 1812, '13 & '14. Every thing was then to be learnt at great cost. Public property was wasted from the necessary knowledge how to dispose of or take care of it.—Our generous warm-hearted young soldiers did not think as much of vouchers when they were applying the public money, as they would do were it to do over again. From these and various other causes, the unsettled accounts for money disbursed in the War Department amounted, soon after the close of the late war, to forty-three millions of dollars. Means were provided by Congress for examining and settling this immense mass of accounts. When tried in Mr. Hagner's crucible, the heap soon began to be lessened. At the last session, it was reported to Congress that the amount

was reduced, by examination and settlement, to fifteen millions of dollars. At this session, it was reported as having been since sweated down from fifteen to five millions of dollars. And, what is a remarkable fact, shewing the insubstantiality of this formidable List of Balances, it appears that the sum of money found due by individuals, and paid into the Treasury, out of the ten millions thus settled, was only eighty thousand dollars! So the debt to the United States, thus settled, was as 80,000 dollars is to 10,000,000—as 8 to 1,000, or as 1 to 125. There is nothing so inconvenient to a theorist or a declaimer, but there is also nothing so demonstrative, as figures. The facts are even stronger than we have stated them. There was found due to individuals, in the course of this settlement, about eighty thousand dollars; which being paid out, just balances the account—so that on the whole, there was, in the settlement of these ten millions of dollars, found to be absolutely nothing due to the U. States.

We do not undertake to say that the analysis of the remainder of this list of balances will produce a like result. The purest substance in the hands of the skilful chemist leaves some residuum—& we presume that the amount of ultimate loss to the United States will be considerable. But can a government, more than an individual—we put it to the common sense of every reader—be expected to conduct its business without loss? Does not every man in an extensive business, employing many agents, calculate upon an average loss from the unfaithfulness or failure of his agents? To men of business it will be sufficient to say, that with all the irregularity of disbursements during the late war, and taking collectively all the losses the government has sustained by delinquencies of public agents, from the adoption of the constitution to this day, the whole loss has not exceeded one per cent. on the whole amount of the expenditure. We wish it were a great deal less than it is; all we mean to say is, that it is a great deal less than it has been represented to be.

We have not room here to examine all the points which seem to have seriously engaged the attention of Congress, and which have, of course, been taken up and commented upon by our brother editors. We do not, ourselves, see that any new ground is broken in Congress, or that any question is presented at this time differing from those which have annually arisen during the last seven years, and will continue to recur, with greater or less importunity, so long as our form of government exists. There is, we admit, a closer scrutiny than there used to be of appropriations; but it is owing, in a great degree, to so large a proportion of the present Congress being new members, as we have endeavored to explain at the commencement of this article—and, to whatever cause it be owing, cannot but in the end be salutary.

From what precedes, it will be seen, that we are not among those who apprehend an approaching storm from the present indications in Congress.—We know there are those who predict it; and if, in political societies, turbulence must necessarily succeed to tranquillity, we might be disposed to concur in the augury. We fondly hope, however, that the government and people of the United States are in this respect to prove an exception to the general rule; and that, with us, though a calm may precede a storm, it does not follow that a storm must follow a calm.

We cannot think that new parties are to arise out of any questions now depending in Congress. The questions themselves do not appear to us to be questions of principle, but of expediency, respecting which men of the same political principles may well differ in opinion.

Laws of the United States.

An act to establish the District of Blakeley.  
Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That from and after the thirtieth day of June next, the Alabama, Middle, and Tensaw rivers, in the State of Alabama, and all the shores and waters on the east side of the Bay of Mobile, and all the rivers of the said state emptying into the Gulf of Mexico, to the east of said Bay, shall form

a Collection District, to be called the District of Blakeley, of which the port of Blakeley shall be the sole port of entry; and a collector for the district shall be appointed, to reside at such place as the President of the United States shall direct, near said port, who shall be entitled to receive, in addition to the fees and other emoluments established by law, the annual salary of two hundred and fifty dollars.  
Approved—April 17, 1822.

An act to fix the limits of the Port of Entry and Delivery for the District of Philadelphia.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That Philadelphia shall, from and after the passage of this act, be the sole port of entry and delivery for the district of Philadelphia, which said port of entry and delivery shall be bounded by the Navy Yard on the south, and Cohocksink Creek on the north, any thing in any former law to the contrary notwithstanding.  
Approved—April 17, 1822.

An act to amend the act, entitled "An act to establish the District of Bristol, and to annex the towns of Kittery and Berwick to the District of Portsmouth," passed February 25th, eighteen hundred and one.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That from and after the thirtieth day of September next, the District of Bristol, as described in the act, entitled "An act to establish the District of Bristol, and to annex the towns of Kittery and Berwick to the district of Portsmouth," passed February 25th, eighteen hundred and one, shall be called and known by the name of the District of Bristol and Warren, and that Bristol and Warren shall thereafter be considered as one port of entry, and shall possess all the rights and privileges which now belong to the port of Bristol.  
Approved—April 17, 1822.

An act supplementary to an act, entitled "An act to alter the terms of the District Court in Alabama."

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the third section of the act, entitled "An act to alter the terms of the District Court in Alabama," be, and the same is hereby repealed; and so much of the second section of the act, entitled "An act to establish a District Court in the State of Alabama," as was repealed by the said third section, is hereby revived, re-enacted and declared to be of full force and effect.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That all causes, actions, suits, indictments, libels, pleas, processes, and proceedings, of whatever kind, nature or description, sued out, commenced, or made returnable at Cahawba, shall be there proceeded in and determined: and, in like manner, all such sued out, commenced, or made returnable at Mobile, shall be there proceeded in and determined.  
Approved—April 17, 1822.

DUMMER & HEMPSTED,  
Have received per Ships Robert Fulton and Orion, from Liverpool, their Spring Assortment of

CHINA, GLASS & EARTHEN WARE.

Comprising every article in the line. They are also daily expecting per the Scipio, an addition to the above. Also per the Beaver, from Canton, a complete assortment of INDIA CHINA. All of which will be sold at very reduced prices, and to good men on liberal time.  
Petersburg, March 29. 75 8w

HILLSBOROUGH MASONIC LOTTERY.

THE Managers of the Hillsborough Masonic Lottery conceive themselves to be in duty bound to state to those who have purchased tickets of them, the reasons why the drawing did not commence on Saturday the 2d inst. as had been previously announced. They are as follows:

The returns from agents at a distance were not complete as to the number of sold tickets. From the best estimate which the returns made would admit of, it was thought, that although a drawing on that day would be safe according to all probable calculations yet a loss might be sustained; and they felt unwilling to proceed to draw, so long as there could be the least possible risk.

By delaying the drawing until a few hundred more of the tickets could be sold, there would then be no risk whatever; and the managers would be able not only to pay to the fortunate adventurers the prizes they draw, but in addition thereto fully to succeed in raising a sum of money adequate to the building a commodious house for the use of the Lodge.

The managers have determined to draw on TUESDAY the FOURTH DAY OF JUNE next; but should the drawing, however, not then take place, the managers pledge themselves to return the money on demand to every person who may be dissatisfied.

THE MANAGERS.  
March 5.  
TICKETS in the above Lottery, may be had at the Book-store of J. Gales, Raleigh.