

RALEIGH REGISTER.

AND NORTH-CAROLINA GAZETTE.

"OURS ARE THE PLANS OF FAIR DELIGHTFUL PEACE, UNWARD BY PARTY BAGE, TO LIVE LIKE BROTHERS"

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For the Register.

I now propose to show that, by a judicious reform of our State Government, we may increase the Revenues without any additional taxation, and that we may then provide ample means to cover the interest of one million of dollars, and provide a sinking fund to pay off the principal of such a debt. This, Messrs. Editors, is a dull matter of business and of calculation; but it is an important subject.

Let the General Assembly be decreased from 202 Members to 120—let their Sessions be biennial, instead of being annual—let the members resolve, if need be (and what patriot among them will not agree to it?) to reduce their pay to a sum which will do no more than cover their necessary expenses and give their services to their country, and the issue will be, that this Department of the Government will cost the people not exceeding \$50,000 every two years; whereas it now costs \$50,000 per year. This will decrease our expenses \$55,000 per year—this will reduce the ordinary expenses of the Government from \$80,000 per year to 45,000 per year. Will it impair the value of that Department? Will it not give us more vigilant and more wholesome legislation? Will it not increase the honor of this station and magnify its responsibilities?—Can it do us any harm? Let your experience and good sense answer the enquiry.

This most valuable change being effected, and (if it shall be deemed expedient by the Convention) the Senators of the State Legislature being elected in classes, to go out every second or third session as in the Senate of the U. States, we shall find always among them a number whose time and attention have been devoted to public matters and who have become familiar with State Finances and with State Affairs.

These will certainly prevent, for the future, a state of things which I have been surprised to ascertain, which I doubt not you will hardly believe to be true, but which I pledge myself to shew beyond the power of successful contradiction. Sirs! the public taxes imposed by law, are at least one fourth greater than the public taxes paid into the Treasury of the State! I repeat that the Sheriffs of the State do not collect the Poll taxes nor the Land taxes as laid by law. The fault may not be theirs. The fault may be in the laws. Were I not fearful that it would be deemed invidious, I could give you the names of Counties in this State which do not pay one half of the poll taxes laid upon them by law! For I have ascertained by a tedious, but I believe an accurate estimate, that there is not a County in North-Carolina whose poll taxes paid, equal their poll taxes laid by law!

Is it not strange, that this has been the case for many years? Is it not remarkable that no notice has been taken of it in our Legislature and no efforts made to correct it, when we remember the short period after the election before the end of their service—the sectional party spirit which prevails in the General Assembly, and the prevalence of a fashion in the State to denounce every public citizen who dares to write or speak plainly of North-Carolina matters, as a meddling aspirant or a presumptuous fool, and when we think, too, how utterly impracticable it is for a body of 202 men to cooperate upon plans of revenue and investigate matters of finance, who have hastily met together, distracted by party and local interests, little informed of the habits and feelings of the different counties, but above all, who are suspicious of the political aims of each other, and detect a lurking little devil behind every ordinary proposition that is brought up. The West denouncing the East because they will not do them justice and give them equal representation, and the East watching with lynx-eyed jealousy every proposal that comes from the West, or a Representative of the West. I doubt much indeed, if there are five men in the State among those who have served the people in our General Assembly, that know the fact I have stated; much more, whether they will now be able to correct the evil.

This cannot be attributed to a want of capacity or public virtue in that body. For one, I deny the imputation. In patriotism, capacity and public spirit, a majority of our General Assembly equal that of other States. The evil will be found in the organization of this Department of

the Government. It has become too large—it is not allowed by the Constitution to provide for a forfeiture of the right of voting among those who will not give in their tax lists—it cannot declare by law, that he who is too lazy or too mean to pay 20 cents to support his Government, shall have no voice in electing its rulers. It is too much distracted by a sectional party spirit that proceeds from a cause existing in the very structure of the Government, to legislate with concert and confidence in each other, and so as to detect and effectually to cure such an evil. But whether these be the causes or not, the fact is as I have stated it to be; and its existence for many years goes very far towards proving, that there is a loud call upon the people for the hand of reform. It is very certain, that by changing the Constitution, we may restore harmony in our public councils and increase the prospect of success by giving new life and energy to the law and keener insight into the financial concern of the State; and though other expedients may fail, these must and will correct a system under which one fourth of the revenue is uncollected. If it can be done, then there is no need for further argument to sustain the position I have taken.

But allow me to proceed with my proof, that these taxes are not collected, and to demonstrate the connexion which this subject has with that of Internal Improvement.

By recurring to the Comptroller's Statement for 1833, (and I refer to this because it is more generally accessible to your readers and I have ascertained by actual comparison that it is more unfavorable to my calculations than the Statements of many years preceding it) you will perceive that the land tax paid into the Treasury last year amounts to \$23,000 and the town property tax to 1,550

Total, \$24,550
Now the tax imposed by law upon real estate and the improvements, is 6 cents for every \$100 worth thereof. No law has been passed by our Legislature for the assessment of Real Estate since 1815; and it is provided by the Revenue laws, that no citizen's lands shall be valued for taxation at less than the sums at which his lands were then assessed for direct taxes. It may be increased, but it shall not be decreased below that standard. Moreover, it must be recollected, that since that assessment or valuation of real estate in North-Carolina, a very extensive district of country has been discovered to contain valuable Gold Mines—a large territory has been settled after cession from the Indians, which was not included in that estimate. The real estate of North-Carolina, according to the Assessment of 1815 for Direct taxes (which be it remembered cannot be diminished in the collection of taxes, though it may be increased) was valued at \$53,500,000. If we make therefore, no allowance for increased value, or additional territory, the tax imposed by that law upon real estate, at 6 cents for every \$100 worth thereof, is equal to \$32,100
The amount paid into the Treasury, as before stated, is 24,550

Leaving annually uncollected \$ 7,750 !!
A recurrence to preceding Statements will show that this has been the case for many years.

Next as to the Poll taxes. By a reference to the Comptroller's Statement of 1833, it will appear that the whole amount of white and black Poll Taxes paid into the Treasury are \$28,000

Now the poll taxes imposed by law are 20 cents per head upon each free male person, between the ages of 21 and 45. And 20 cents per head, upon each slave male and female between the ages of 12 and 50. There never has been a Census of the State taken under the authority of our Legislature, but by the Census taken under the authority of the United States, in 1830, it appears that there are in North-Carolina about 200,000 taxable Polls, including white and black. So that the tax imposed by law, is \$40,000
While the amount collected and paid, is 28,000

Making a difference of \$12,000
Hence the uncollected land and poll taxes of the State are annually—
Lands \$ 7,750
Polls 12,000

Making together \$19,750 !!

These gross deficiencies being shown in respect to the sources of taxation, about which we have the means of forming a reasonably correct estimate, it might be inferred that the like default occurs in the collection of other taxes. These therefore may be taken as an estimated amount to cover incidental changes of a Reformed Government, after a more rigid system of collection and accountability is established.

Supposing upon these views of the subject, that a prudent reform can be effected—that a system of Internal Improvement is adopted—a loan effected for the purpose, redeemable by instalments of one-fourth at the end of every 10 years, and the economy of more rigid collection

substituted for increased taxation, and what will be the result?

ANNUAL REVENUES.

Regular Revenues of the State, as at present collected, are \$70,000
Dividends on Bank Stock are estimated 24,720
Taxes on individual Bank Shares, about 2,500
Dividends upon Navigation Stock, &c. about 1,000
Additional Land and Poll taxes, to be secured by more vigilant collections, &c. 19,750
Being altogether equal to \$117,970

The expenses of the Government, when reformed, will be.

Ordinary expenses for the Legislature—Executive—Judicial, &c. which heretofore cost \$80,000, being reduced \$5,000 per annum, will leave necessary for those objects only \$45,000

And this sum being deducted from the Annual Revenues will give to the State an available annual surplus of \$117,970
Less 45,000

Or \$72,970
This is a sum which will be amply sufficient for the payment of interest on the loan and the creation of a sinking fund.

If you will superadd the debt due from the General Government to this State, which does not fall short of \$20,000—the Indian lands in our borders, which will very soon be acquired and which are very valuable—the probable income from the public works after they are in part completed—the increased value of real estate by these improvements, and consequent increase of land taxes—and take into view the diminished amount of interest due upon the loan as the interest is discharged, I think none can doubt the practicability of the scheme proposed for improving North-Carolina. But it all depends upon the readiness of the friends of this cause to promote that of Reforming the Constitution. If time and opportunity permit, you shall hear from me again.
PHILO-SENEX.

EXTRACTS FROM THE SPEECH OF MR. CLAY.

"Never (said Mr. C.) Mr. President, have I known or read of an Administration, which expires with so much agony, and so little composure and resignation, as that which now unfortunately has the control of public affairs in this country. It exhibits a state of mind, feverish, fretful and fidgety, bounding recklessly from one desperate expedient to another, without any sober or settled purpose. Ever since the dog-days of last summer, it has been making a succession of the most extravagant plunges, of which the extraordinary Cabinet paper, a sort of appeal from a dissenting Cabinet to the People, was the first; and the Protest, a direct appeal from the Senate to the People, is the last and the worst.

A new Philosophy has sprung up within a few years past, called Phrenology.—There is, I believe, something in it, but not quite as much as its ardent followers proclaim. According to its doctrines, the leading passion, propensity, and characteristics of every man are developed in his physical conformation, chiefly in the structure of his head. Gall and Spurzheim, its founders or most eminent propagators, being dead, I regret that neither of them can examine the head of our illustrious Chief Magistrate. But if it could be surveyed by Dr. Caldwell, of Transylvania University, I am persuaded that he would find the organ of destructiveness, prominently developed. Except an enormous fabric of Executive power for himself, the President has built up nothing, constructed nothing, and will leave no enduring mark of his Administration. He goes for destruction, universal destruction; and it seems to be his greatest ambition to efface and obliterate every trace of the wisdom of his predecessors. He has displayed this remarkable trait throughout his whole life, whether in private walks or in the public service. He signally and gloriously exhibited that peculiar organ when contending against the enemies of his country, in the battle of New Orleans. For that brilliant exploit, no one has been ever more ready than myself to award him all due honor. At the head of our armies was his most appropriate position, and most unfortunate for his fame was the day, when he entered on the career of administration as the Chief Executive officer. He lives by excitement, perpetual agitating excitement, and would die in a state of perfect repose and tranquillity. He has never been without some object of attack, either in individuals or in masses or in institutions.—I have been myself one of his favorites, and do not know but that I have recently recommended myself to his special regard. During his administration this has been his constant course. The Indians and Indian policy; Internal Improvement; the Colonial Trade; the Supreme Court; Congress; the Bank; have successively experienced the attacks of his haughty and imperious spirit. And if he tramples the Bank in the dust, my word for it, we shall see him quickly in chase of some new subject of his vengeance. This is the genuine spirit of Conquerors and of conquest. It is said by the biographer

of Alexander the Great, that, after he had completed his Asiatic conquests, he seemed to sigh because there were no more worlds for him to subdue; and, finding without, no farther employment for his valor or his arms, he turned within himself to gratify his insatiable thirst of glory. What sort of conquest he achieved of himself, the same biographer tragically records.

Already has the President singled out and designated to the Senate of the United States, the new object of his hostile pursuit; and the Protest which I am now to consider, is his declaration of war. What has provoked it? The Senate, a component part of the Congress of the United States, at its last adjournment, left the Treasury of the United States in the safe custody of the persons and places assigned by law to keep it; upon re-assembling, it found the Treasury removed; some of its guardians displaced; all remaining, brought under the immediate control of the President's sole will; and the President having free and unobstructed access to the public money. The Senate believes that the purse of the nation is, by the Constitution, and law, entrusted to the exclusive legislative care of Congress. It has dared to avow and express this opinion, in a resolution adopted on the 28th March last. That resolution was preceded by a debate of three months duration, in the progress of which, the able and zealous supporters of the Executive, in the Senate, were attentively heard. Every argument which their ample resources, of those of the members of the Executive, could supply, was listened to with respect, and duly weighed. After full deliberation, the Senate expressed its conviction that the Executive had violated the Constitution and the laws. It cautiously retained, in the resolution, every allusion to the motives or intention of the Executive; it ascribed no bad ones to him; it restricted itself to a simple declaration of its solemn belief that the constitution and the laws had been violated. This is the extent of the offence of the Senate.—This is what it has done to bring upon the Executive indignation, and to excite upon it the infliction of the repudiatory Protest."

"The President is enraptured by his supporters for his firmness, unbending resolution, and personal courage. The latter is an ordinary quality, the possession of which implies no peculiar merit, although the want of it is discreditable. But if a purpose is seriously entertained, of converting this free republic into monarchy, and to introduce despotic power, the President will find that there is an indomitable spirit in the People of this country, equal to his own; and that, all peaceful remedies failing, a resort will be unhappily had to the musket and bayonet, which I will not be among the last to use and direct.

And why, sir, has this great nation been agitated and convulsed to its centre, bankrupt and ruin spread throughout the land, and a frightful and unmitigated future opened to a distressed people? Congress, at its last session, having reconciled and tranquilized the country, by a parental compromise, previous to its adjournment, placed a seal upon the public treasury. The ensuing Spring opened with the fairest hopes, and never did all the great interests of any country exhibit more unmingled prosperity than those of the people of the United States, up to the adoption of the fatal measure which has scattered disaster and distress throughout all the conditions of an unoffending society. And why was it adopted? The opposition is charged with producing or augmenting the existing discontents. Has not the opposition sustained this Administration when it conscientiously could? Whether wisely or no, was not necessarily no to be determined; but did not the opposition come to the aid of this Administration in its greatest need, during the last session, on the foreign bill, when many who had previously been its supporters, deserted it? Did the opposition advise or provoke the removal of the deposits? Must they submit to a fact not only without resistance, but with acquiescence and approbation, which they solemnly believe in its tendency, and in the principles by which it is supported, threatens to overthrow the Constitution, and to subvert the liberties of the People?

Why did the President resolve on that unfortunate step? Can he not live in quiet and repose, without perpetual excitement? Must he ever have some object of eager and ardent pursuit? All his recent plunges seem to have been made, I will not say for the nation, but unnecessary purpose of trampling under his feet the Bank of the United States, which had offended him and awakened his vengeance. Will the President never cease to regard himself as a great political hunter, who, before he secures the tail or skin of one prize, which he has won in the chase, must dash, with horse and hound, into the depth of the forest to start fresh game?

Who, Mr. President, advised and urged that most extraordinary measure? We are told that two-thirds of the President's Cabinet were opposed to it. You

are charged with having counselled it; but I will not believe it. I cannot allow myself to think that one, of your experience and enlightened understanding, could have recommended a proceeding so repugnant to the Constitution and laws, and so detrimental to all the interests of the country. No sir it was the work of a deep, and dark, and irresponsible cabal, composed of individuals lean, lank, lantern-jawed, hollow-hearted, and with empty purses, who, to the exclusion of his best and wisest friends, have surrounded and taken possession of the person of the President, for their own sinister purposes, and to the hazard of his character and fame. And under what promises was the decision made to remove the public deposits? The public was assured that there would be no interruption in the operations of the general business of the country, that the whole affair was merely taking down one sign, and suspending another; and it was distinctly promised that the People should be supplied with a better general currency than the best which any country ever before possessed. We have the fulfilment of this promise in an official letter recently addressed by the Secretary of the Treasury to the Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means of the House of Representatives. In that letter, it is proposed to select a number of local Banks as the depositories of the public money, the selection of which, the Committee recommend, shall be made by the Secretary himself. They are to give no bonus to the public, to pay no interest for the deposits, and to use them for the benefit of themselves, in the several places of their collection, without that participation in their advantage, on the part of the West and the interior, which they enjoyed under the administration of the Bank of the United States. They are not even bound to receive and credit each other's notes. Instead of the better currency promised, the Secretary cuts the Gordian knot, by declaring that this vast, wide-spread country needs no general currency! He thinks, indeed, it probable that the local Banks may supply drafts and bills for the purpose of remittance.—A more bungling, inefficient, unstatesmanlike scheme was never brought forward by any financier.

And now sir, before I conclude, I have a few more observations to make, in reply to the Senator from Tennessee, (Mr. Grundy.) He supposes the whole struggle now existing in this country is a mere contest for power. Why this perpetual recurrence by the party in office, to the imagined motives which actuate their opponents? Do the friends of the Administration believe that there is nothing worth contending for but spoils, and the public crib and public place? Without meaning to be disrespectful to them, they appear to me to resemble a thief in his flight, with unlawful plunder, who is constantly apprehending that he will be overtaken by the constable and posse comitatus engaged in hot pursuit. Cannot gentlemen conceive the possibility of the existence of higher and better and nobler motives of public action? Can they not comprehend the influence of the love of liberty? the desire of preserving our admirable Constitution? In short the sentiment of pure and disinterested patriotism? They have the possession, the quiet possession of the honors and emoluments of office, for near three years to come. Bright as the existing prospects are of their expulsiion how few of us may survive to witness that happy event! For one, I can assure the Senator from Tennessee, that I am no candidate, that I do not desire to be a candidate, and that, if it depend upon me alone, I never shall be a candidate for any public office whatever.

The Senator from Tennessee (Mr. Grundy) adverted to the chequered condition of the Opposition, without seeming to be conscious that his own party did not present one uniform ground. It is made up of Federalists and Republicans, friends and opponents of Internal Improvements, supporters and opposers of the Tariff, Bank and Anti-Bank men, Nullifiers and Union men, all sorts and sizes and colors, blue, black, and gray. He particularly objects to the exclusive appropriation of the application Whig by the Opposition, or, rather to the correlative appellation being attached to his party. I have no doubt, sir, that there are many true and genuine Whigs in the Administration party, but they are leaving it by hundreds and thousands; and, before the appearance of white frost in the next autumn, they will all have abandoned a position so irreconcilable with their patriotic principles. The Senator thinks that there is no coverlet large enough to protect all the various elements of the Opposition. He is mistaken; there is one sufficiently capacious dimensions recently wove at a Jackson loom, called a Protest; on which is marked a Violation of the Constitution, and an assumption of enormous Executive power; and sir, the honorable Senator had better hasten to place himself under the banners of those who are contending, against power and prerogative, for free institutions and civil liberty. And he had better lose no time; for the Protest is the last stroke upon the

last nail driven into the coffin (not of Jackson—may he live a thousand years! but) of Jacksonism."

Birds.—"The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come."

"See, sister see, on yonder bough
The robin sits, I hear it now!
Listen, sister, to the note
From robin red breast's little throat."

The birds have returned to cheer us with their melody. Who conducted them?—Who was their pilot through the long journey? How manifest is that power which is above all animal instinct! We see God in all his works. These little warblers that wing their way through the devious air, have their instinct, it is true, but who gave them that instinct? Is it a matter of chance altogether? O no! the life of the sparrow alone will refute all infidel schemes. These annual migrations are conducted by a power supreme—the country, the hill tops, the accustomed tree, the safe shelter and secure retreat, are all pointed out by the finger of him whose care and regard is ever extended over the minutest of his works.

The return of the birds is in most undeviating order. Those who left us last, who seemed unwilling to depart from their accustomed haunts, and to turn from those whose friendship they were wont to experience, are the first to greet us with their vernal melody. Thus, as soon as the spring opens, we hear the blue bird chipping on our house tops, and the song of the robin wakes us from our morning drowsiness.—The marsh lark too, is seen skimming thro' the air, and the black-bird returns to his favorite meadow lands. The air is soon re-peopled with its multitudes of songsters, and the fields and woodlands resound with swelling notes of music. What a signal example to man also to join in the Anthem, and to make this song of praise universal!

A Loan.—A person came to beg the loan of fifty ducats, from the schoolmaster of Toledo, founder of the college of St. Catharine, who sent for a purse of ducats, and gave them to him. The borrower took them and put them in his purse without counting them. The schoolmaster observing this, asked for the purse that he might see if there was the sum, but returning it to the client, said, "A man that borrows without counting can never mean to pay."

Among the morning business in the House of Representatives, yesterday, was the report of a bill by Mr. Bell, of Tennessee, (from the Judiciary Committee) farther to extend the Judicial System of the United States. This bill proposes that the Supreme Court of the United States shall hereafter consist of a Chief-Justice and eight Associate Justices, five of whom shall constitute a quorum; to effect which, it is proposed that two additional Associate Justices shall be now appointed. It is further proposed that the districts of Kentucky, Ohio and Indiana, shall hereafter constitute the seventh judicial circuit; the districts of Tennessee, Missouri and Illinois the eighth circuit; the districts of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama the ninth circuit; and the Judges of the said eighth and ninth circuits to reside there.—*Nat. Int.*

The President violates the law and the Constitution.

"Bah! what of that," say his defenders, "see what a fine head of gray hairs he has."

But he is destroying commerce and trampling upon the industrious classes.

"Nonsense! he won the battle of New-Orleans."

But he claims the control over the sword and the purse, and has declared himself the Possessor of unlimited power?

"Can't you be quiet? Do you not see that the old gentleman has sundry welts and scratches about his person which he received in the Revolution!"

Death of a Child occasioned by a Cat.—A friend intimately acquainted with the facts, (says the Daily Advertiser of this morning,) and whose statement may be relied on, informs us that an infant six months old, was killed by a cat having sucked its blood from the nose of the child while asleep in the cradle. The child was found with the blood in its nose, warm but lifeless.—The cat remained in the cradle with its mouth and nose immersed in blood, and so gorged as to be unable to leave the place. A medical examination took place, and the result was, from the loss of blood by the child, and the great quantity found in the cat, which was killed, that the life of the child was taken by the cat.

Notice to Bachelors.—The Evening Star states that Judge Green, of New-Hampshire, has decided "that if a gentleman for a considerable length of time pays particular attention to a lady of the same rank and standing in life with himself, such as to visit with her, take her to visit at his father's, friends, &c. that from these facts the jury have a right to presume a promise of marriage."