

"Ours are the plans of full delightful peace, unwarp'd by party rage, to live like brothers."

JOSEPH GALES & SON, EDITORS AND PROPRIETORS.

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Broken Doses—Dose, No. I.

RETRENCHMENT AND REFORM!!

Among the most useful and instructive speeches delivered in Congress at the present session, is one by Mr. Bond of Ohio, which contains a fund of information and facts for the people.

Mr. Bond takes up the famous Retrenchment and Reform Report of a Committee of the House of Representatives during Mr. Adams' Administration, and shows wherein the precepts of that Report differ from the practice of those it helped to power.

"The Committee, of which, I again repeat, the gentleman from New York (Mr. Cambreleng) was a member, reported that they had obtained information by which they were satisfied that by a judicious system of reform, instituted by the Executive officers themselves, at least one third of the (then) present number of clerks in the departments might be reduced with safety to the public interest."

The number of clerks has not been reduced in any one of the departments, but on the contrary, there has been a considerable increase. I will prove it. The State Department, in the year 1828, included the Patent Office, and the whole number of clerks was sixteen; the salary and compensation of the Secretary and all his clerks and messengers amounted to \$27,750.

The whole number of clerks now employed in the State Department and the Patent Office is forty. The joint salaries and compensation amount to \$56,515!!!

The Patent Office, in 1828, was managed by a Superintendent, with a salary of \$1,500, and two clerks and a messenger, whose joint compensation was \$3,700. It is now under the charge of one of the Reformers; the title of "Superintendent" is exchanged for that of "Commissioner," and with the change of title comes the change of salary from \$1,500 to \$3,500! The number of clerks is increased from two to twenty-four, and the compensation from \$1,800 to \$21,000; and, not content with one messenger, and his old salary of \$400, they provided a salary of \$840 for messenger, and then give him an assistant, to whom is also paid \$15 per month.

The Secretary of the Treasury, in the year 1828, employed eight clerks and two messengers. His salary, and the compensation of the clerks and messengers, amounted to \$18,600.

The present Secretary of that Department (and he was taken from the body of reformers, who made proclamation from the Senate Chamber) employs fifteen clerks and two messengers. His salary and their compensation amount to \$27,100!!! A similar result will be found in comparing the present with the former state of the several subdivisions of the Treasury Department. But, by way of introducing economy and despatch in the Treasury Department, the committee proposed to "simplify the forms of business, and to reorganize its subordinate branches, so as to dispense with one-fourth, if not one-third, of the officers in the Treasury." Now sir, no reorganization of the Department has been attempted. Instead of reducing, they have increased the number of officers; and the forms of business, under the new mode of simplifying, have become so complicated, that the gentleman from New York (Mr. Cambreleng,) now chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means, declared here, during the last special session, that, after fifteen years' experience as a member of this House, he found it difficult to understand these Treasury accounts, and the manner in which the Secretary's Annual Report on the Finances is stated!

Next as to the War Department. In 1828, the Secretary of War employed a chief clerk, besides seventeen clerks and two messengers. His salary, and their compensation, amounted to \$28,650. The business of Indian affairs was then managed by them also. In 1838, the Secretary of that Department employs, exclusive of the Indian business, about forty clerks besides messengers. The joint salaries and compensation of the whole amount to \$62,810.

In 1838, the Commanding General is allowed a clerk at \$1,200 and a messenger at \$600 per year.

In 1828, the Adjutant General's Office employed three clerks, whose joint compensation was \$2,950.

In 1838, the Adjutant General employs seven clerks and a messenger, whose joint compensation is \$8,225.

In 1828, the paymaster General employed three clerks, whose united compensation was \$2,900.

In 1838 the salary of the same number of clerks is \$3,290, besides the messenger's salary.

In 1828 I have been unable to discover any allowance for clerks to the Quartermaster General.

In 1838 that officer employs in the office at Washington seven clerks whose united compensation is \$7,300.

In 1828, the Ordnance office employed three clerks, whose joint salary was \$2,950.

In 1838, the Ordnance office employs nine clerks, besides a messenger, and their aggregate compensation is \$9,225.

In 1828, the Subsistence Department employed four clerks, whose joint compensation was \$2,950.

In 1838, this Subsistence Department employs four clerks and a messenger, whose joint compensation is \$5,880.

In 1828, the Surgeon General was allowed a clerk at \$1,150 per year.

In 1838, the Surgeon General is allowed a clerk, at \$1,266, and a messenger at \$600 per year.

In 1828, the business of Indian affairs was discharged at the War Department, by some one or two of the seventeen clerks which I first mentioned.

In 1838, this Indian business appears to constitute a grand division. We now hear of the "Indian Department," with a Commissioner, whose salary is \$3,000, a chief clerk, at \$1,600, and eleven clerks, and two messengers, the joint compensation and salaries being \$12,400.

In 1828, there was one Superintendent of Indian affairs, who was paid \$1,500 a year, twenty-one Indian Agents, twenty-eight sub-agents, and thirty-nine interpreters.

In 1838, we find four "superintendents of Indian affairs," with salaries of \$1,500 each per year; six "superintendents of emigration, with salaries of \$2,000 each per year; ten "Indian agents," with salaries of \$1,500 each per year; fourteen "Indian sub-agents," with salaries of \$750 per year; thirty-three "commissioners and special-agents," who are paid from 5 to \$8 per day and from 1,500 to \$3,000 per year; fifteen "conducting and enrolling agents," at 3, 4, and \$5 per day; two "conductors of exploring parties," at 3 and \$5 per day, two valuing agents," at \$4 each per day; eight "collecting agents," at \$2.50 per day each; two "issuing agents," at \$1 per day each; one "disbursing agent," at \$5 per day; sixteen "assistant agents," at 3 and \$4 per day; and from 500 to \$1,200 per year; thirty-one "interpreters at agencies," at \$30 each per year; fourteen "interpreters in the emigration of Indians," at 2 50 and \$3 per day each; fifteen "physicians," at salaries varying from 3, 5, and \$6 a day, to \$84 per month; eleven "clerks," (other than those in the office at Washington,) at salaries varying from 3 and \$5 per day, to 40 and \$50 per month, and \$800, and 1,000 per year; fifty-three "blacksmiths," with salaries varying from 240 to \$600 per year; twenty "farmers and assistants," at 2, 3, 5, and \$600 per year; eighteen "teachers," with various salaries, from 500 to \$800 per year; five "millers," with salaries of 500 and \$600; one "surveyor," at \$8 per day; the whole concluding with five "miscellaneous agents," with salaries of \$1 per day, and 600 per year.

But even this is not all. The Commissioner of Indian Affairs says the list given by him in the Blue Book is not accurate or complete. He leaves room to add or alter. Here, indeed, is a display of patronage! Ought we not to be astonished to find this state of things, under an Administration whose friends professed to be shocked at a multiplication of offices, and re-published, in the report of this House in 1828, the warning of that Chief Magistrate, who said "Considering the general tendency to multiply offices and dependencies, and to increase expense to the ultimate term of burden which the citizen can bear, it behoves us to avail ourselves of every occasion which presents itself for taking off the surcharge." It is appropriate, too, now, to refer gentlemen to the censure which that report cast on the Secretary of War in 1828, for paying \$753 for additional clerk hire in the business of Indian Affairs.

Mr. B. said he was here tempted to name one or two officers in particular, which seem to have been created for special favorites: one of them under the law authorizing the President to sign land patents by an agent, instead of doing it as heretofore in person. If he could not find time to do his duty, as Mr. Adams and all his predecessors did, then it would have been better to dispense with the signature altogether, as you have done with that of the Commissioner of the General Land Office. The President's name now is not even written by his proxy, as it should be, but is written by some clerk in the Land Office, and the whole service of the proxy or agent consists in his writing his own name! For this he is paid \$1500 per annum! The place is held by one of the

President's sons, and it is an indirect mode of increasing the President's salary. The compensation is too high under any circumstances. For a service requiring neither skill nor talent, and employing a very small portion of this gentleman's time, he receives a higher salary than many of the Governors and other high officers in the several States do!

Another office especially created is that of the "Smithsonian agent," with a salary of \$3000 a year, and furnishing a convenient sojourn for a gentleman wishing to visit London. The duties of this place might well have been discharged by ordinary correspondence; but at all events they are such as could justly be required at the hands of our resident Minister at London. It cannot be overlooked that Richard Rush was Secretary of the Treasury, and received the censure and condemnation of the Retrenchment Committee. And yet Mr. Rush was appointed to the office of the Smithsonian agent. I will leave it for others to apply what the chairman of the Committee on Retrenchment said at that day, in debate on this floor: "Whenever an office is to be filled, even a zealous, constant, and faithful friend is compelled to yield to a mushroom apostate that may have been purchased but yesterday."

Let us next compare the Navy Department. Mr. Southard, who was Secretary of the Navy in 1828, employed in this Department seven clerks, besides the chief clerk. The salary of the Secretary and the compensation of the clerks and messengers, amounted to 17,250. The Department had been held for many years, and is still managed by Mr. Dickerson, who was a member of the committee, in the Senate, from whom came that famous report on Executive patronage, to which I first referred. He employs eight clerks besides the chief clerk; and his salary and compensation of his clerks and messengers, amounts to \$18,850. And, this very session, he demands more clerks, and an increase in the salary of some of those he already has.

The committee censure Mr. Secretary Southard for unnecessary expense in subscription for newspapers for the Department. They specify, under this head, \$624.43 for three years. It now appears that Mr. Secretary Dickerson has expended for newspapers and fashionable books and literature of the times, in one year, near \$700 and including similar expenses of the Navy Board, near \$950.

The committee also condemn the practice of extra clerk hire. We find Mr. Dickerson not only employing three extra clerks, but what is far more dangerous, paying extra hire to one of the regular clerks in the Department, enjoying, at the time, a salary of 1,760, but to whom is paid, for extra services as clerk," the further sum of \$429 67, making his salary \$2,189 67. Is not this a ready mode of providing for a favorite?

The committee also specify the sum of \$466 26, as paid by the Navy Department, in three years, for printing, and condemn it as extravagant.

The Blue Book of 1837 shows the Navy Department, under that Reformer, Mr. Dickerson, to have paid \$9,557 22 for printing in two years!

The Committee also reported that a "considerable sum, varying from 100 to \$200, was annually expended by the Secretary of the Navy in the purchase of books for his office, most of them having no appropriate relation to the naval service of the country, such as reviews, magazines, and other periodical publications, and the fashionable literature of the day." This usage was, of course, to be abolished. Has it been? I beg leave to read a few items from Mr. Secretary Dickerson's contingent expense account for 1837.

Table listing items and costs: 2d volume Repertory of Patent Inventions \$8 00, 2d Southern Literary Messenger 5 00, One fourth of Audubon's Birds, 165 00, Audubon's Birds, 55 00, No 1. Indian Biography, 6 00, North American Review, 5 00, No 4. Indian Biography, 6 00, One No of American Scenery, 75

Here is a display of the "fashionable literature" in which Mr. Secretary Dickerson indulges himself and his clerks, at the public expense. I wish the gentleman from New York (Mr. Cambreleng,) who aided in concocting the report from which I have just quoted, would inform us "what appropriate relation" the books and reviews just mentioned have "to the naval service?" But, what means the item "one-fourth of Audubon's Birds?" Why, sir, I understand that neither of the four Secretaries being willing "to take the responsibility" "as a unit" they agreed to divide it! The cost to the People is the same; it all comes from the "public coffers." And the mode of doing the thing proves that the Secretaries felt that its expense and propriety were questionable. I have read somewhere, perhaps in Sterne's works, an incident which most happily illustrates this transaction. As I recollect the story, the Abbess of Andonillet, and Margareta, a novice, made a little journey together, in a vehicle drawn by mules. As the evening approached, they were deserted by their muleteer, when ascending a hill. The mules presently became stubborn, and stopped. The travelers were greatly alarmed, and, in

their dilemma, the novice said that there were two certain words which, she had been told, would force these animals on the moment they heard them; but then the words were sinful. The novice was urged, and she gently whispered the words "couger" and "fouter." The Abbess, in her distress turn caruist, and said they were only a venial or slight sin, which might be divided; and by taking half, and leaving the rest, or by taking it all, and amicably halving it betwixt yourself and another person, would become diluted into no sin at all! Therefore, my dear daughter, continued the Abbess, I will say cou; and thou shalt say ger; and thou shalt say fou, and I will say ter. Accordingly, the Abbess giving the pitch note cou, Margareta responded ger; Margareta continued with fou; and the Abbess drew out ter; but still the mules stood. They do not understand us, cried Margareta; but the devil does said the Abbess. And, I think, Mr. Speaker, that these reforming Secretaries will find that they are understood in their patent mode of reform, and, particularly, that the People will not be gulled into the approval of an unauthorized expenditure by dividing its amount among the Departments.

POLITICS OF THE DAY.

The period will soon arrive, when the citizens of North Carolina will be again called upon, through the agency of the ballot box, for a public expression of their sentiments upon the policy of the present Administration. In August next the election of Governor and members of the Legislature, will take place, and we would take this occasion to remind the Whigs throughout the State, of the importance of organizing their Tickets, and preparing themselves to do their duty: In some of the counties, the tickets have been already formed and the parties arrayed for the approaching conflict. The political character of our next Legislature is a subject of interest to every man who sympathizes in the deep distress which now pervades our common country. Opposed, as our State unquestionably is, to those measures of Government, which have proved so fatal to the public weal, she has Senators in Congress who disregard her wishes, and are now the open advocates of this ruinous policy. In defiance of the will of their constituents, they are arrayed on the side of that party whose "wild experiments" upon the currency, have destroyed our credit system, impaired our commerce and paralyzed the energies of our laboring classes. The same causes which inflicted these evils upon us, yet exist, nor has the action of Government cheered us with the hope that the condition of our public affairs are to be soon ameliorated. In view of our present calamities, what is the course marked out for the Whigs to pursue? Let them persevere in the great work of reform which is going on in the country. Let them not despair, but continue to remonstrate against misrule and oppression. The most despotic ruler has been brought to yield to the wishes of his people by repeated appeals to his reason and passion: Onward then, let the Whigs of our own State march animated by the example of New York and Connecticut. In August last, they triumphed over their enemy, and in August next, they can consummate the good work which they have commenced, if due diligence be observed. Let each man engage in the contest as tho' the future destinies of the country depended on his own individual exertions, and the Whig cause must succeed. Let no man then absent himself from the polls, from considerations of interest or business, on the day of election. The State expects that every man will do his duty.

Rutherford Gazette.

THE PROSPECT BEFORE US.

It is a duty which no faithful mariner will neglect, occasionally to take an observation, for the purpose of ascertaining how far he has progressed towards the haven for which he is bound. It is equally the duty of the politician to look about him, to survey the ground which has been conquered, as well as to ascertain how much yet remains to be accomplished. To us this duty is now a pleasing one, and we trust will not be without its benefits, also, in advancing the great cause we all have so much at heart. To our political opponents it may be equally useful, to mark how far their defiance of the public will, and disregard of the public good, have alienated from them the affections of the people.

In November, 1836, just 18 months ago, Mr. Van Buren was elected by the votes of 15 States, giving 170 Electoral votes, as follows:—

Table showing electoral votes for Van Buren: New Hampshire 7, Maine 10, Rhode Island 4, Connecticut 8, New York 42, Pennsylvania 30, Virginia 23, North Carolina 15, Alabama 7, Louisiana 10, Mississippi 4, Arkansas 3, Michigan 3, Missouri 4, Illinois 6.

Thus triumphantly did he come into office,—not, however, buoyed up by the devotion of the people to himself, or to his principles; but on the strength of the popularity of his predecessor. The tendency of the measures of Gen. Jackson's administration was to the destruction of the prosperity of the country; and Mr. Van Buren has but

carried out what he so fatally began; but his popularity sustained him in his course, and would doubtless have sustained him in any course, however palpably ruinous. Not so with Mr. Van Buren. He never had the strength—he could not command the affections of the people to such a degree as to blind them to the faults of his Administration. The consequence has been, that State after State has thrown off the shackles of party, and ranged itself under the banner of its country. Let us see how stands the account now. Of the 15 States which contributed to elect Mr. Van Buren, the following have already abandoned him, viz:

Table showing states that abandoned Van Buren: Maine 10, Rhode Island 4, New York 42, Virginia 23, Connecticut 8, N. Carolina 15.

Six States, which gave him 102 votes, or three-fifths of the whole number received by him, have already, in the brief space of 18 months, abandoned him to his merited fate. Is not this fact calculated to awaken those who still adhere to his fallen fortunes, to a sense of their error? What but a deep, overpowering sense of the evils entailed upon the country by the measures of the Administration, could have driven from the ranks of its supporters so large a portion of those who were attached to it by so many ties of feeling, of interest, and of desire for political power?

But above all is it calculated to animate the Whigs of North Carolina to the most strenuous exertions, not to be the last to assert their claim to a participation in the honor of the great triumph of correct principles.—Much has been done by the election of a Whig Governor, and a majority of Representatives to Congress; but the victory will not be complete until we shall have reformed the Legislature,—until we claim to be anti-Van Buren in every branch of our State government. The occurrences detailed above, assure us, that we cannot fail of this triumph, if we will but fight the battle manfully at the August elections. Political revolutions seldom go backwards;—and we have the most cheering assurances that in many parts of our State its march is forward. The changes are not among the rank and file only, but extend to the leaders. Even at this moment, the most prominent man of the party in a neighboring county, has passed our door, who has recently repudiated Jackson-Van Burenism, of which he had been a firm and efficient supporter, in the Legislature, until he became convinced that its measures were inimical to the best interests of the country, and then he had the high moral courage to avow his change of opinion.

To complete our political regeneration, we should have a full ticket out in every county. Our candidates should place their claims to the support of the people, upon the strong foundations of truth, asserting their principles with firmness, and exposing, on all occasions, the misrule of the Administration. If this be done faithfully and zealously, our cause must succeed. The people are honest, and will do right, if correctly informed.

To complete the above array of statistics, we annex the following statement of the present strength of parties, as evinced by the latest elections:—

Table showing party strength by state: WHIG STATES (Vermont 7, Maine 10, Massachusetts 14, Rhode Island 4, Connecticut 8, New York 42, New Jersey 8, Delaware 3, Maryland 7, Virginia 10, North Carolina 11, South Carolina 15, Indiana 9, Ohio 21, Kentucky 15, Tennessee 15, Sixteen States, giving 215 votes.) VAN BUREN STATES (New Hampshire 7, Pennsylvania 30, Alabama 7, Louisiana 10, Mississippi 4, Arkansas 3, Michigan 3, Missouri 4, Illinois 6, Ten States, giving 79 votes.)

Ten States, giving 79 votes. Some of these States, beggarly as the account is, are doubtful. Pennsylvania, Georgia, and Louisiana, are debateable ground. And Mississippi, we have reason to hope, has already cast off the yoke.—Fayetteville Observer.

What has Congress done?

This is a question which every body asks, and to which there is but one reply, viz: Nothing at all worth mentioning. Congress has this year, including the extra session, been in session for upwards of seven months, and the pay of the members alone, to say nothing of other and heavy expenses, has amounted to about Five Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars. What return have they made to the people for this expenditure of their money? On account of the disastrous condition of the country, and the loud calls made on the President, he convened the National Legislature in September, in compliance with the wishes of the people, who hoped that its collected wisdom would devise some plan to relieve their distress, brought on them by the reckless and infatuated conduct of the government which they created, and which lives by their support. Vain hope. More than seven months have elapsed, and not one measure of relief has been devised. The agents of the People, sent to Washington to do their bidding, regardless of the thousand calls which are daily made upon them from all parts of the country, have wasted more than half a year in the idle discussion of party measures, in disgraceful wranglings and contentions, and

have obstinately refused to hold out one reasonable hope of relief to their anxious distressed constituents. The question then is settled, that if the country is relieved at all, it will be so in spite of the Government. The duelling report is now 'in the full tide' of nonsensical discussion.\* A report which deserved the fate of being nailed with scorn to the table of the House, has for the last fortnight occupied almost exclusively its attention. As we predicted when the Committee was appointed, parties have arrayed themselves on both sides—angry passions have been aroused, and, in all probability, for a month to come, the American People will be entertained by the worse than idle discussion of the Duelling report. Petersburg Intelligencer.

\* This Report has since been laid on the table.

FAMILY QUARRELS.

The New Era, a paper said by the New York Star to be entirely in the confidence of Mr. Van Buren, and edited by an old personal friend of other days, attacks Mr. Ritchie in the following unmeasured terms: "We are always willing to make allowances for the egotism and vanity which any individual may possess, who has long been in the habit of exercising or controlling party influence; and we are inclined to believe that Mr. Ritchie may have somewhat overrated his own influence in the State of Virginia. But he is known to be a man of great experience, and has the reputation of at least common sagacity; and, having the example of the last fall election in this State before his eyes, we cannot for a moment doubt that he was well aware that his ambiguous policy would defeat the democratic party in that State at the recent spring election. We are very sincerely sorry that we cannot compliment his honesty at the expense of his sagacity, but we feel that to be impossible. We feel fully justified in announcing to the Public that Mr. T. Ritchie, of the Richmond Enquirer, State Printer of Virginia, and who has, for more than forty years, been supported and patronized by the democratic party in that State, has knowingly and willfully sacrificed the democratic Administration of this country. And we feel the less scruple in making the imputation, as we find him seizing upon the very first moment, after the Whigs had triumphed entirely through his means, of urging a compromise between his friends and the friends of the Administration. He meant to throw the election into the hands of the Whigs, and thereby coerce the Government to adopt the conservative system. Now, Mr. Ritchie knows very well, that, if he were to succeed in this project, it would most effectually destroy the Administration. And we cannot account for his conduct, and, in fact, of all the Conservative clique, upon any other rational principle than that of personal hostility to the Administration. It is possible that some persons may imagine that they can defeat this Administration, and succeed to its power. All such calculations are foolish. It is very possible that this Administration may be defeated; and it is equally certain, in that event, that a National Bank Whig Administration will succeed to it."

"THE HOUSE THAT JACK BUILT."

A building of great size (containing 155 rooms) has been lately erecting for the use of the Treasury Department; when lo! no sooner are the walls all up, than it is discovered that they must be taken down again.—A committee of Congress, assisted by two able architects, have reported in substance. 1. That the building is placed where it ought not to be, 2. That it is not suited to the purpose for which it is intended. 3. That it is exceedingly ugly. 4. That if completed on the present plan it will inevitably tumble down. They therefore recommend that it be taken to pieces and built at another place on a better plan. The workmanship, &c. already expended, will be a loss of about eighty thousand dollars, and will cost thirty thousand more to rebuild it—total loss \$110,000. No one can fail to be struck by the metaphorical resemblance between the edifice and the Administration itself.

- 1. The Administration is where it ought not to be. 2. It is unfit for its design. 3. It is exceedingly ugly. 4. If it does not tumble down of itself, it will be pulled down.

Columbia Telescope.

Rutherfordton, May 12.

Two of the Volunteer Companies of Infantry, which were raised from the three Regiments of this County, left here on Wednesday last for the Cherokee Nation.—The Company from the Regiment of Col. Jefferson, will leave next week. Lt. Col. Bynum, with his Staff, started on Thursday last.—Gazette.

More Troops.—Gen. Scott has made a requisition on the Governor of Tennessee for additional companies of Volunteer Infantry for the Cherokee service. One Regiment of ten companies and one Battalion of five, were ordered to rendezvous at Calhoun Tenn. on the 10th ult.—Ibid.