

Gazette of the United States.

A NATIONAL PAPER, PUBLISHED WEDNESDAYS AND SATURDAYS BY JOHN FENNO, No. 69, HIGH-STREET, PHILADELPHIA.

[No. 1, of Vol. IV.]

SATURDAY, JUNE 2, 1792.

[Whole No. 323.]

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June 1.

(of 1m & 1aw2m)

For the GAZETTE of the UNITED STATES.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

THE man who pays respect to the opinions of others, as he will if he is conscious he is under their eye, will follow virtue. In like manner the people should keep an eye on government. It is a kind of moral check which keeps safe and turbulent passions down. A well informed people, as every free one should be made, will form a kind of conscience for government which will often guide and always awe their rulers. There is a consequence of raising the body of the citizens by establishing schools and making the means of education general that has not been noticed, tho' it deserves consideration. The administration of a country cannot become very profligate and corrupt unless the body of the citizens are in a great degree degraded by ignorance. An enlightened public will find means to give authority to their opinion; of men and measures; bad men in power may despise the clamours of a London or Paris mob—but the reflected indignation of a wife people like the blast of heaven will penetrate the walls of brass that seem to defend them. The steady light thrown on villainy will be irresistible, for most great crimes against a public can exist only in darkness. Knowledge evidently tends to purify morals in private life, why not in public? A remarkable proof that it does so, appears from the great reformation of the private lives of princes in modern times. Modern Europe would not tolerate the monsters whose enormities pollute the page of ancient history.—Probably the affairs of America have been managed with as much purity as those of any country whatever; the superior knowledge of the people is a principal cause.—As the elections are free, and since the new government the conduct of rulers having become more public and interesting, we may expect to continue to enjoy the two following advantages—that men of bad private characters will not be chosen, and that the public eye will keep them from at least very flagrant violations of duty. The newspapers indeed throw out such insinuations against Congress. But the state of knowledge in the country refutes them. It is not very credible that men of such known base and corrupt principles as they impute to Congress should have been freely elected, at least not a majority of such men; and if members of Congress were not worse than men are usually found, it is strange that they should since have become so shamelessly abandoned as they are represented.

The intention of these remarks however, is to evince the advantage of establishing schools, and providing for the general information of the citizens; we seem to think we are true sons of liberty, and that in our day there is safety. The danger after we leave the stage will be less than it is at present, if we take care that our children shall be wiser than we ourselves are. It is a misfortune that those who have knowledge are satisfied with the possession of it, or they are too few, and their influence too much resisted and suspected by the multitude to give to this first republican duty that preponderance which is necessary to its being observed. Enough is not thought, nor said, nor done about providing free schools. The subject affords many important points of view which it would require some labor to present distinctly. The moral, the political uses of learning, how much it advances human happiness and exalts human nature are topics which the benevolent mind delights to contemplate. Another class of men would be more influenced by our shewing that an ignorant people earn less than those who are well informed—that the spirit of enterprise, the inventive faculties of the mind acquire new force and activity with the latter, especially as the spirit of imitation and a lively emulation will be so evidently incited. Is there a man who doubts that the 24 letters are a more useful invention than the discovery of a new continent.—And yet while we push our enquiries to find out the figure and history of the earth with a curiosity that grows more ardent while we indulge it, how large a part of mankind are yet to receive the advantages of the invention of letters? Learning, like the polar day, gleams in twilight only over a small part of the horizon; while ignorance seems even yet to be condensing her fogs and to brood like chaos over an imperfect world: And even we who enjoy the twilight suffer the children of the poor to remain with the film on their eyes, and to grope their way through life in the dark. Education removes that film. Men of sense and virtue who possess property or power, begin this work; establish schools, make the instruction of youth a common charge and the care of government, and you will not have lived in vain. PHILO.

THOSE equal laws our citizens demand, Justice requires that they should understand; From public schools, shall general knowledge flow, For 'tis the people's sacred right—to know; One solid act of public good outweighs, The boasts of science, and the hero's praise.

For the GAZETTE of the UNITED STATES.

THE DEATH OF ELA.

COME, ye fair nymphs! who, like the gilded fly That flutters heedless o'er the bending grass; In giddy rounds your fleeting moments pass— Come, look, and let soft sorrow fill your eye.

See where sweet ELA, robb'd of balmy breath, From parents, life and her companions torn, Cropt like the rose-bud opening to the morn, Extended lies upon the bed of death.

She once was beautiful and young as you, As sprightly too she rang'd the airy round, In dance fantastic o'er th' enamel'd ground, And tho' her giddy pleasure was the true.

She wak'd the sleeping echoes from their springs, With songs delightful to the list'ning ear, As warbling sounds that fill the trembling air, When Zephyr plays amidst the Eolian strings.

No secret fear of danger shook her mind; But light, and sportive as the playful breeze That winds in Spring around the blossom'd trees, Her minutes flew, nor left a sting behind.

Till the hot fever burning in her veins, Rous'd tyrant-Conscience with his hundred tongues, To tell her of her un-repent'd wrongs, And pierce her flutter'd heart with goading pains.

Then, like the lily rising on the vale, Whose cups are fill'd with pearls of morning dew, Appear'd her pensive eyes of azure blue— And her young cheeks were like this beauty, pale.

Deep mournful sighs rose from her troubled soul; Upon her lifted hand the silent tear Fell frequent 'till th' Eternal heard her pray'r, And bade her flood of sorrow cease to roll.

She felt sweet Hope diffused through her breast, Her heart no longer struggled with Despair; Mild Resignation's calm and heavenly air Smil'd on her face, and spoke her future rest.

True Gratitude now touch'd her tender mind, And oft in silent rapture would she raise Her snowy hands, and her Creator praise, In speaking looks, of a seraphic kind.

Her fair companions would the call around, And bid them turn from folly's flow'ry way, Left they, like her, should wander far astray, And lose themselves in pleasure's fairy ground.

Just when the Holy Angels hover'd near, To bear her spirit to the good on high, And place her 'midst the music of the sky, She warbled sounds that Saints might wish to hear.

"My blooming friends adore the God of Love, 'Tis he alone is worthy of your care; By early piety your souls prepare To meet the glories of eternal JOVE."

"The song of peace salutes my raptur'd ears, My sister Spirit call my soul away— I fly—I mount into the realms of day, Where sorrows end, and music fills the spheres."

Dear Maid! when rested in thy lonely cave, Tho' thy pale cheeks shall be of worms the prey, And thy fair form shall mould to dust away, Yet shall new honors bloom above thy grave.

Each vernal flow'r upon thy grassy bed, With brilliant colors tinctur'd from the sky, In beauty's charms shall catch the traveller's eye, And bend to ev'ry breeze its lovely head.

Thy pensive VINVELA shall musing gaze, And while the fies those beauties wailing there, Her glitt'ring eye shall drop a tender tear, And frequent sighs express her ELA's praise.

VINVELA.

STORY OF THE EVERLASTING TAPER.

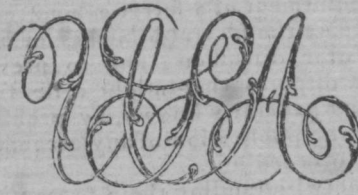
AN EXTRACT—FROM THE FORESTERS.* NOW I have spoken of madam's taper, perhaps you will be amused with some account of it. It is a wax candle of a common size, set in an old fashioned silver candlestick, richly embossed and gilt, but the rust and dirt of it are so sacred, that it is never permitted to be scoured. The tradition is, that this candlestick formerly belonged to St. Peter, and the candle first placed in it is supposed to have been lighted at the sun, and by a mysterious kind of uninterrupted succession, has been kept burning ever since. By the light of this taper, old madam reads her bible and books of devotion, which always lie on a table by her bedside.

Some persons of an incredulous turn of mind, have pretended to call in question this mystery; but it is still held sacred by the old lady, and by most of Mr. Bull's own family. There are some even among the foresters of the same opinion; and such is the liberality in these families, that no one is molested in the indulgence of any innocent whim, which does not affect the peace of the families, nor the interest of the partnership. It was not long after the re-establishment of harmony between them and Mr. Bull, that these persons sent two candles in one lantern, and one in another, to be lighted at this venerable taper, and dip't in the consecrated water. Two of them were actually lighted in old Madam Bull's presence, and to her great satisfaction. The other was lighted at a taper supposed to be derived from the same original, but "hid under a bushel" in one of sister Peg's out-houses, it not being permitted to burn publicly in her family, where the only candles allowed are of the manufacture of Geneva.

* This interesting work is published with the privilege of Copy Right, and will probably be for sale in this city in a few days. We shall not therefore anticipate, by publishing any further extracts.

† American Bishops.

"There has been as long a controversy between different opinions on this subject, as between the sectaries in Lilliput, about breaking the egg at the big or little end. But it is easy enough to accommodate the matter by granting that St. Peter's candle, as well as those from Geneva, were originally lighted at the sun; that the same source of light is open to all; and that it is of no consequence of what materials tapers are made, nor in what kind of candlesticks they are placed, nor by whose hands they are lighted, provided they give so clear a light as to answer the purposes of vision."



CONGRESS.

PHILADELPHIA.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
MARCH 30, 1792.

The proposition respecting a further assumption of the State Debts under consideration.

MR. CLARK, on the further assumption, observed, that he supposed every man had made up his mind on this subject, and that therefore a lengthy debate would be precluded. He should vote against it.—If it had not been for the assumption, we should not have been saddled with the excise, and a great number of officers. He knew of no advantage which had resulted from the great increase of the debt—it had gone into the hands of foreigners—and for it we had got little more than a parcel of gawgaws, tooth-picks, and other baubles. Our lands had not been improved, nor had any other advantages that he knew of resulted from it. The residue of the state debts was not so great, but that the states could easily provide for it.

Mr. Williamson said he considered the proposition as founded on so unequal principles, as it particularly respects North-Carolina, that he should find himself obliged to say NO to it.

Mr. Giles said he was entirely principled against the assumption. The measure originated altogether with the Secretary of the Treasury—and his report contained all the reasons which he had heard urged in favor of it. He then entered into a consideration of the effects of the funding system generally—one was, to draw the public wealth from the remote parts of the union to the seat of government. Money, at the time this system was first in agitation, was drawn from the bank, to accommodate persons who meant to, and did speculate in state paper in the distant parts of the union, where it was extremely low. A system therefore which has had this effect, ought not to be strengthened by adding to it the means of still further draining the distant states—the effect may be a temporary relief to some of the distant states, but will finally operate greatly to their injury.

The next argument he noticed, was that drawn from the inconvenience of conflicting systems of finance. He thought the present debt of the United States was fully equal to the resources of the government, and ought not to be increased; for with that increase, an increase of burthens is necessarily imposed.—The resources of the general government are said to be not yet unequivocally secured—he hardly knew what was meant by this, except it was that the state governments were not yet sufficiently prostrate. The mass of debt already on the shoulders of the United States, he considered as quite sufficient; and to add to it, would be nothing better than adding to a mass of corruption; for he considered the debt in no other light.

The public content, it is said, will be increased by the measure—he thought directly the reverse—he anticipated great and increasing difficulties.

The justice of the measure is mentioned—he adverted to the proportions already assumed on account of the several states, and said it was evident that the most flagrant injustice had been done, and therefore a further assumption was nothing better than a manifest proposition to perpetuate a system of injustice.

The debt, it is said, will be purchased by foreigners, if it is not assumed—he conceived the reverse idea was the true one, and experience sanctioned his supposition.

Additional taxes, it is said in the report, will not be necessary—he thought the report was inconsistent with itself, as was evident by a subsequent remark contained in it. At any rate he should think himself acting an unjustifiable part in assuming a debt when he knew not what resources were contemplated to pay it.

He was therefore in favor of postponing the subject to the time when the sense of the people could be more fully ascertained by a larger representation in that house.

Mr. Smith said, the gentleman has referred to the reasons contained in the last report of the Secretary—whereas his reasons are more fully stated in his first report; to which he wished gentlemen would recur. The gentleman from

New-Jersey (Mr. Clark) has observed, that he supposes every gentleman has made up his mind, and yet he goes on to state his objections to the measure. He hoped the gentleman would not object to other persons giving their reasons why they are in favor of it, or of answering his objections. He then noticed Mr. Clark's remarks respecting the excise. The excise, Mr. Smith said, was not the result of the assumption—it was first thought of for the debt of the United States, and was diverted from this debt, on account of the impost being taken from the states. It has been said that some of the distant states are opposed to a further assumption. In answer to this, he said some of the distant states were in favor of it—he instanced South-Carolina, the legislature of which had expressly instructed their representatives to advocate it.—He instanced that the reasoning of the Secretary was conclusive, in respect to the loss the states would incur by reason of the speculations of foreigners. The debt is due, and must be provided for. Foreigners consider this government as an honest government; and putting confidence in its justice, will purchase the debt.

He further observed, that a great saving would be made by a further assumption—it would reduce the interest from 7 to about 4½ per cent.

The debt is a just debt, and has as good pretensions as that already provided for—and therefore the gentleman is mistaken in saying that a further assumption would be founded in injustice—the gentleman says if the debts are not assumed, foreigners will not buy them—the gentleman surely does not mean that the debt shall never be paid; but his reasoning goes to that. The gentleman calls the public debt a mass of corruption—if the debt is a mass of corruption, it is better to confine it to as narrow limits as possible.

Having established the principle of assumption, it remains that the government should complete the system; otherwise a manifest injustice will take place, by creating a distinction between creditors exactly similarly circumstanced in the first place, and whose demands are precisely the same with those provided for.

A surplus has been assumed in some of the states, in consequence of the restriction as to the sum already assumed.

The subscriptions are in a very awkward situation indeed.

He next noticed Mr. Giles's observations as to a postponement, and his reasoning arising from a deficiency of funds; there was no difficulty on the subject of funds, said he, when the frontiers were under consideration, nor when the gentleman urged paying off the national debt.

With respect to pointing out the amount of the funds necessary—this, he observed, would be premature, till the amount to be provided for was known.

Mr. B. Bourne observed, that though it was supposed that objections would be made to the proposition, it was hardly to be expected that they would be made by gentlemen from states whose debts have already been completely assumed.—He then adverted to the situation of those states who had yet a large debt to pay—and expatiated on the nature of those debts, and urged the absolute necessity and justice of a further assumption. If, said he, the measure was unjust at first, which does not appear, it is now a measure of strict justice and sound policy.—The state of Rhode-Island had not had any thing like justice done to her in the former assumption.—Her debt amounts to one fiftieth of the whole debt assumed, whereas she has only a one hundred and seventieth part provided for—the injustice of this partial provision was so flagrant, that he hoped it would not be continued by rejecting the proposition.

Mr. Clark added some further remarks.—He was for a settlement of the accounts before any further steps were taken in assuming.

Mr. Baldwin said he had always been opposed to the assumption, and on that principle should oppose proceeding any further in the business.—He stated certain objections against the general government's extending their legislation to objects which are not contemplated in the organization of the government.—An inequality of burthens is the inevitable consequence, as no security for an honest apportionment of taxes on so general a scale, from the nature of the government can be expected.

Mr. Baldwin's speech appeared to be designed to impress this idea, that a previous ascertainment of the bona fide debt of the respective States should precede any assumption.

Mr. Smith (S. C.) replied generally to Mr. Baldwin.

Mr. Mercer. Language has changed, public debt is no longer considered as a public blessing, but as a public curse—and this sentiment pervades this House; What is the nature of the present proposition? why it is to assume the debt of the several States—and thus we are to go on assuming as long as any debt exist in any of the States.

There never was a larger sluice to overflow the public with the burthen of an enormous debt, than that contained in the proposition. He considered it as holding out a temptation to originate anew, claims which have been already sunk: A second and third sluice, said he, is opened in the deferred and irredeemable quality