

THE EXPENSES OF THE PAST & PRESENT ADMINISTRATION CONTRASTED.

The amount of expenditures in a government depends in part on its general policy, whether extravagant or economical, and in part on the exigencies of the times.

Looking to all these, it is manifest that the expenses under the administration of the whigs have been much higher, and less justifiable, than those under Mr. Van Buren.

A moment to the proof of this. The exigencies that affect the expenses during Mr. Van Buren's administration were numerous. Among the Florida war was very burdensome, the overflowing revenue, and the bank expansions of 1835 and 1836, led to larger appropriations than usual for the extinguishment of Indian titles, the clearing out of rivers and harbors, the erection of public buildings, forts, and light-houses, and for several other objects deeply interesting to many parts of the Union.

Under such strong impulses, the increased expenses for those objects were generally voted for by both whigs and democrats, and could not be immediately stopped, though their reduction began the very first year of Mr. Van Buren's term, and was again and again urged on the consideration of Congress by the proper organ of the Treasury Department.

It will be seen by the tabular statement, soon given, that the actual expenditures were in this way lessened several millions every year during his term, till in the last one, (1840,) they equalled only about twenty two millions and a third.

As conclusive evidence of this reduction here is an exhibit, officially given by the present secretary of the Treasury, in his annual report of December 6, 1843 pages 30 and 31. It is the whole expenditure for each year of Mr. Van Buren's administration, excluding only the debt and treasury notes, as is usual in ascertaining the actual expenses.

Table with 2 columns: Year and Amount. Rows for 1837, 1838, 1839, 1840.

It was proposed under that all twenty millions; and in 1842, and afterwards, to reduce them to only seventeen or eighteen million. (See the annual Treasury reports in December, 1839, and 1840.)

Reduced as the expenses thus appear to have been, it is also a fact that their amount would appear still lower, by many millions, if the objects which were extraordinary and temporary were deducted.

By the following extract from an official table, it appears, that from the commencement of General Jackson's first term to 1839, inclusive over half of the whole expenditure, yearly, was not on matters of a permanent and ordinary character, but on those arising from various exigencies, such as before alluded to, and which, in the opinion of a majority of both parties in Congress, justified the appropriations, and left the Executive, however differing in opinion or policy in some cases, no alternative, except to execute the laws, which he had sworn to see carried into effect.

But if no reduction is made for extraordinary and temporary objects, the expenses under the democratic administration have been shamefully exaggerated. The average expenses, independent of the debt, were only about \$14,000,000 yearly during General Jackson's terms, and taking his and Mr. Van Buren's together, were only about \$21,000,000; and this, including everything temporary and extraordinary. (See Mr. Ewing's report at the extra session, 1841, to the House of Representatives, No. 31, making the average only \$21,198,251.)

ed in the recesses of 1840. But our opponents held out that, under them, a reduction of the expenses was to be made, not merely to twenty and eighteen millions, but to thirteen millions of dollars yearly; and this from a quarter, among many others, not likely to be gained as not authoritative with the whig party. "The annual expenditure (said Mr. Clay) may, in a reasonable time, be brought down from its present amount of almost forty millions to near one third of that sum."

Table with 2 columns: Year and Amount. Rows for 1841, 1842, 1843, 1844.

This is, on an average, \$24,938,170 a year, & the result will probably exceed that, unless the democratic party succeed in cutting down some of the large estimated expenses for 1844.

Another consideration connected with this subject, and I leave it for the present. Besides the reiterated charge of great expenditures in amount under Mr. Van Buren, which the whigs engaged to reform and reduce to about thirteen millions yearly—but which instead of lowering, they have actually increased, from the twenty two and a half millions of his last year, to more than twenty six millions in one, and higher than that proposed in another year—they complained grievously that the expenses under Mr. Van Buren were not met by the revenue of each year.

They united most harmoniously in passing this resolution: taken from the Journal in February, 1842. Resolved, That it is the duty of the

As some persons might wish to see the whole amount of nominal expenditures, including treasury notes and debt; we give the only two years of the whig administration (1841-2) which are complete, from the same report, and the two which preceded them: 1839, \$36,117,176—1840, 26,437,761—1841, 32,092,724—1842, 28,398,906.

Estimated one quarter of the calendar year Three quarters ascertained—\$16,520,193; add one quarter at same rate.

Estimated by the Secretary, for the fiscal year.

General Government to provide an adequate revenue within the year, to meet the current expense of the year, and the any expedient, either by loan or by treasury notes, to supply, in time of peace, a deficiency of revenue, especially during successive years, is unwise, and most lead to pernicious consequences. Yet, in the face of this, he and his friends have, every year since they came into power, violated both the spirit and letters of the resolve. They began by giving away the revenue from the public lands, and next failed entirely in providing what was adequate from other sources. They have, every year, after, in a period of profound peace, resorted to the shifts of new loans or new treasury notes. And, after thus swelling the debt to more than twenty-six millions, they contemplate an expenditure this year and the next, which, unless prevented by retrenchment or new taxation on the people, will cause a further deficiency and debt, which the Secretary of the Treasury estimates at \$8,577,059 more.

In the Senate where Mr. Clay's majority has been decided during the whole period, numerous additions of appropriations and expenses have originated; rather than retrenchments, and, among the former, that most unwarrantable donation to whig printers of near fifty thousand dollars. There, the reductions attempted by democrats in the other house have also been thwarted in many cases, and in others defeated. And there, last, but not least, in strong proof that the whig party, as a party, meditate no real retrenchment in expenses—there, where Clay whigs outnumber all opposed to them—the great leader himself got up a committee of retrenchment, and had his colleague placed at the head of it. But, incredible as it might seem, even to the present moment—never has a single report of any kind come from that committee, never a single dollar of retrenchment been proposed; never a shilling tried to be saved to the public treasury, nor a single burden on the people recommended to be lightened.

From this signal example let an intelligent yeomanry learn the utter worthlessness of all whig professions as to economy and retrenchment in the public

session, the Clay whigs have had a decided majority in both Houses of Congress over both democrats and Tyler men; and have thus controlled the laws, authorizing expenses as well as receipts. What prudent citizens can rally to the calls for the election of spendthrifts like these for leaders?—who keep the promise of frugality and retrenchment to the ear, but break it to the hopes—who prostrate the public credit at one time, in the close of 1841, and first half of 1842, so as not to be able to borrow a dollar at par, and never restored it till adopting democratic counsels and taking back the proceeds of the public lands—who became for months unable to meet their debts, and if let alone, would have required a bankrupt law for the General Government itself, as ample as that they passed to sponge out the private debts of many of their political friends and public officers.

Murder Will Out.—We learn verbally a strange story of a murder said to have been committed at or near Chippewa. A Captain Brundage, who some years ago ran the little steamboat Victory between this port and Chippewa, and who has since resided at or near that place, is the party implicated. A woman and child were living with him. Some time ago, but how long we are not informed, the woman, who had some six or eight hundred dollars in cash; and her child disappeared but no suspicions were aroused until one morning when its sexton went into the grave yard and discovered a new made grave. He wondered who dug it, & the incident giving rise to some remarks, it at last came to the ears of a half crazy fellow, called "old Moses," living in the neighborhood, who related the following story. He said he was lying in the grave yard the night before, when Brundage brot in a woman and child and buried them. The grave was immediately opened, the bodies of the woman and her child were found in it; Brundage was forthwith arrested, and is now in the jail at Niagara awaiting his trial for murder.—Buffalo Commercial Advertiser.

Indian War.—A letter received at Independence, Missouri, from the mountains, states that at various times during the past winter, the Sioux Indians made incursions up the Pawnee Indians—killing in their encounters eighty of the Pawnees, taking two of them prisoners, and destroying one hundred lodges. Only three of the Sioux Indians were killed. It is further stated that all the independent companies residing on the north fork of Platte, White river, and Missouri, have done well this season.

COMMUNICATIONS.

FOR THE COLUMBIA DEMOCRAT. A Protective Tariff.

When any question of a public character is raised in a nation or a state, holding the right of free discussion, it is the duty of every man to search for light on that question. A high protective tariff has lately been made a political question in some portions of the United States, and especially in the state of Pennsylvania. In the states of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia, there are perhaps, at the present time between fifteen hundred and two thousand incorporated manufacturing companies, with an amount of hundred or thousands of million capital invested. Pennsylvania alone has over three hundred incorporated manufacturing companies, and Massachusetts has nearly as many more. Now it is urged by the advocates of a high protective tariff, that the interests of the country would be greatly enlarged by it. They urge that it would raise competition, and in that event manufacturers would sell cheaper than they now do. But this I hold to be blind philosophy. For the large incorporate manufacturing companies would swallow up the smaller ones and would entirely drive individual competition from the field, and would enable large establishments to monopolize the whole manufacturing interest. Besides a high tariff for protection is not in the power of Congress to grant. The constitution of the United States says nothing that can be construed into a privilege or power of granting to monopolies great favors. All that Congress has the right or the power to do in this matter, is to lay and collect import duties for revenue to support the general government. They may encourage the manufacture of such articles as are indispensably necessary for the defence of the country. Arms and ammunition, and such as are used to equip the army and navy.

But we will take only a single article of daily use, that now has a tariff of thirty per cent, and one which Thomas Jefferson recommended to have admitted free of duty. I mean the article of salt. The salt works in the state of New York produce nearly three millions of bushels annually. This the manufacturers can afford to sell at their establishments for twelve and a half cents

perhaps a million of bushels, which cost the manufacturer less than ten cents a bushel. Now if Mr. Jefferson in one thousand eight hundred and two thought that this important article should be admitted free of duty in order that all classes of society might share in the blessing, how does it happen that the incorporated bodies of this day ask for such a protection; a protection of from thirty to fifty per cent. The farmer and laborer now have to pay one dollar, and one dollar and twenty-five cents a bushel for their salt, and many of the merchants complain that they are making nothing by retailing at that price. How, I ask, can that be, if salt can be had at Salina for twelve and a half cents a bushel? Can it be brought from the Island of Great Britain, or any other foreign port for less money? And when we consider that salt is one of the most powerful manures that can be applied to land, would it not be advantageous to the country at large, that salt at least should be admitted free of import duty? Suppose that salt could be obtained here at 40 or 50 cents a bushel, and that 5 bushels to the acre would add as much to the productive qualities of the soil as 50 bushels of lime, it would be apparent to every one, that salt would then open a large commercial field, if tons where there are now only bushels were carried on our canals and railroads. Would it not bring a revenue to the state, and if every bushel of salt applied as manure, increased the productive properties of the soil, would not the farmer have more bushels of grain to sell to the merchant, and the merchant consequently have more to send to foreign markets, which again would bring an increase of revenue to the state. But the manufacturers of salt at Salina, in New York, upon the passage of the present tariff held a meeting at which a resolution was passed by which it was declared, that the thanks of the salt manufacturers were due to the friend of all monopolies, Harry Clay, for the active part he had taken in support of the bill, and forthwith they agreed to make their inestimable friend a present of five hundred barrels of salt. But, I ask, when was it ever known that an incorporated monopolizing company ever gave a present of a single bushel of salt to the laborer, the farmer or mechanic? Whose interest, then, is advanced by this duty on salt?

Does it advance the general interest of the country? I answer, no. But I will tell you whose interest it does advance. It advances the interest of the monopolist and speculator, and makes the farmer, mechanic and laborer pay one dollar for a bushel of salt when he should only pay fifty cents. Salt by the quantity, can now be had in Philadelphia or Baltimore, at prices that would allow a fair profit and be sold here at sixty cents a bushel, and if the duty was taken off, it could be afforded for forty or at most, for fifty cents a bushel; and if it was thus sold, it very soon would become quite an article of internal commerce. It would be used as a manure, and thousands of bushels would be consumed in that way, where at present there is none, because the high price at which it is sold will not admit of its being thus applied. Many districts of this state might be greatly benefited by the application of salt as a manure.

The question of a high tariff is one, therefore, in which all classes are interested, and which demands investigation. If it can be fairly proven by the constitution of the United States, that Congress has no right to grant exclusive privileges to corporations—no right to levy taxes above the necessary expenses of the government—from what source do they derive the power to grant privileged orders, and take the hard earnings from the poor & give them to the rich? Grant to Congress the power of laying high protective duties, such as the mammoth monopolizing manufacturing corporations ask for, and you may soon see the same state of things existing here as exists under the corn laws in Great Britain; and instead of the laborer getting better paid for his labor, you would see the iron heel of power placed upon his neck; because government having granted an exclusive privilege to corporations, and they being amenable to no law, there would be a union of interest; and of action among manufacturers, to pay such and such wages & no more, in the same manner as there now exists a union among merchants trading in the same town or district. Any person at all acquainted with such business have seen enough to know that one merchant will not undersell the other in the same town. And why, because it is their interest to make as much as they can in like manner it is the interest of manufacturers to reduce the price of labor, and get government to sustain them in selling at a very high price at home, even more than they can get abroad. NUMA.

GREAT FIRE AT NEW ORLEANS.

We learn by the New Orleans Phrygane of the 19th inst. that a most disastrous fire occurred in the city the day previous; which destroyed between two and three hundred houses. The fire commenced in a carpenter shop belonging to Mr. Gout, near the north-west corner of Franklin and Jackson streets, which, before it could be got under spread to the adjoining tenements with frightful rapidity. Every building was of wood, and as dry as tinder itself from the long drought, so that nothing could check the onward progress of the devouring element. The firemen assembled immediately, but as no water could be obtained other than from the gutters, their attempts at first were rendered utterly unavailing. The wind fortunately blew in the direction towards the swamp; had it been otherwise the flames would have swept towards the river, in which case there would have been no bounds to the destruction. As it was, they were carried with lightning rapidity down Jackson street, communicating to the houses on either side, and soon presenting a broad sheet of fire some hundred yards in width. To attempt to arrest them was soon found entirely out of the power of man; no water could be procured, and the engines were thus rendered useless.

To save their furniture was all that the unfortunate residents of this section could hope to achieve, and even in this there were many of them disappointed. No sooner did they move their effects to some house, which they hoped was out of reach of the devouring element, than the flames were upon them and they could only save themselves by flight. In this way the fire raged for three hours, during which time it kept down Jackson street, burning out to Canal on the right and Common on the left, and crossing Tremé, Marais, Vallers and Robertson, to Claiborne streets, in all ten squares. Of all the buildings which occupied this space yesterday morning none are now standing save the Maison de Santé, or Dr. Stone's Hospital, and a few Houses long Common street. At one time it was feared that the Charity Hospital would be destroyed, and it was a sorrowful sight to see its inmates peering from the windows at the broad lake of destruction raging before them; but fortunately the flames, although they leaped, roared and cracked in every direction, did not cross Common street.—The Maison de Santé was saved, but not until its inmates had been removed. At this point, which is near the corner of Canal and Claiborne streets, the firemen directed their strongest energies, and fortunately were successful. The only water they could obtain from the first was drawn from the gutters, the plugs at the different hydrants being permitted to run from the breaking out of the fire.

A little past 4 o'clock the fire had subsided, spent itself for want of farther food to consume. To attempt to give a list of the sufferers, at the amount of property destroyed, would be impossible. Hundreds of citizens have been left without shelter, and the loss has unfortunately fallen mostly upon poor but industrious families, many of whom owned the small but comfortable dwellings in which they resided. Along Canal street between Tremé and Robertson streets, stood a number of large, elegant and costly brick residences, all of which are destroyed.—Their blackened walls are some of them still standing; but as on the other parts of the burned district the houses were mostly of wood, nothing now greets the eye of the beholder save an immense forest of chimneys, all else being burnt smooth with the ground. We can liken the appearance of this unfortunate section of our city to nothing save a new field, just brought into cultivation, and on which the heavy trees have been desecrated and shorn of their branches and tops, but still left standing, sad mementoes of what they were in their freshness and pride.

The number of houses destroyed will not fall short of two hundred and eighty, and many think that three hundred will not cover the entire number.

DEMOCRAT.

"TRUTH WITHOUT FEAR"

BLOOMSBURG: SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 1844.

FOR PRESIDENT.

The Nominee of the Democratic National Convention.

FOR GOVERNOR.

HENRY A. MUEHLBERG Canal Commissioner.

JOSHUA HARTSHORNE.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS.

Table with 2 columns: Representative and Senatorial. Lists names like George F. Lehman, Nathaniel B. Eldred, etc.

The next stated meeting of the ORANGEVILLE AND RHOERSBURG HICKORY CLUB, will be held at Orangeville, on Saturday, the 1st day of June, at one o'clock in the afternoon.

A DEMOCRATIC MASS MEETING will be held at Samuel Harman's Halfway House, this afternoon, (Saturday) at two o'clock. A boat will leave Bloomsburg basin at one o'clock, and will convey all to the place of meeting who may wish to attend.

BLANKS!!!—BLANKS!!!

Justices Blank EXECUTIONS and SUMMONS just printed and for sale at this Office

The new Post Office bill has passed both branches of Congress. A slight amendment was made in the house, which renders its return to the Senate necessary. The following is the rate of postage agreed upon.—For every single letter for a less distance than thirty miles, shall be three cents; over thirty and less than one hundred miles, five cents; over one hundred and less than three hundred, ten cents; for double letters, double the rate affixed to single letters; for triple letters, treble; and for quadruple letters, four times these rates. Each parcel of one sheet not weighing more than a quarter of an ounce, shall be deemed a single letter; if composed of two sheets or pieces, and not weighing more than half an ounce, a double letter; and for every additional quarter of an ounce the postage shall be pro rata increased by the amount of a single letter for the same distance. All letters deposited in an office not for transmission but for delivery only, shall be charged two cents each, and to the postage of all letters advertised at the periods usual in the office where they are delivered shall be added the cost of advertising.

The election of Col. H. B. Wright as President of the Democratic National Convention, is a severe rebuke upon the Harrisburg Argus clique, or Porter faction, for the malignity with which they have assailed him for a year past, and particularly for their recent base attempt to induce the State Central Committee to strike his name from the list of delegates. As to the opposition of the small fry in this county, why, it was like a knot biting an elephant.

Several persons have been arrested and committed or held to bail, on a charge of being engaged in the late Philadelphia riots.