

TERMS OF THE "AMERICAN."

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SUNBURY AMERICAN.

AND SHAMOKIN JOURNAL.

Absolute acquiescence in the decisions of the majority, the vital principle of Republics, from which there is no appeal but to force, the vital principle and immediate parent of despotism.—JAYNESON.

By Masser & Eisely.

Sunbury, Northumberland Co. Pa. Saturday, June 12, 1841.

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Machine Poetry.

Summer is Nigh.
Miss Spring,
The fickle thing,
This year has been upon a spree;
One day
Quite gay,

Tobacco—A Short Patent Sermon.

The following—by whom I know not, either do I care—must serve as a text to my present discourse:
Tobacco is an Indian weed,
It was the devil that sowed the seed.

quantities to make and Egyptian mummy sneeze in its sarcophagus; and I also know that her brains are equally as dirty as the handkerchief she uses—and that's enough to throw a pair of tongs into convulsions.

Reminiscences.

Wednesday was the anniversary of the memorable "Jaik day," which occurred on the 19th of May, 1780, sixty-one years ago.

May 19th.—A remarkable darkness overspread the Heavens, inasmuch that candles were lighted at Noon Day. A dispute among the Philosophers about the cause—Some attributing it to Smoke, others only to the detached appearance of the clouds, many to a concurrence of both these.

The Almanac from which the above is copied, belonged to a venerable and highly distinguished clergyman of this city, who was accustomed to note down what he termed, "important occurrences."

It was the custom in those days for the parishioners to make numerous presents to their Pastor.—Those which this distinguished Clergyman received during this year (1780) we find duly recorded in the almanac.

PRESENTS.—January.—Mr. Parsons, 3 gallons Jamaica Spirit; Mr. Carter, one quart shrub; Capt. Runny, one box wine.

February.—My Brother Sammy, a trunk; Deacon Sharpe, 2 quarts Rum; Mr. Townsend, a 60 dollar bill; Mr. Vernon, in Esquebo, cloth and trimmings for a suit of clothes.

March.—Capt. Thompson a lb. Green Tea.—Mrs. Barrett, a pattern for breeches; Mr. Welsh; a cambic handkerchief; The Society a black coat.

April.—!!!!!!!
May.—Mr. Ingram, a pair of silk stockings; Azora, half a guinea; My Mother, a curious pipe stopper, tipped with gold.

June.—Capt. Soyer, 12 doz. wine, 12 doz. rum 1 bottle sweet Oyle; Mrs. Homes a guinea; Mr. Parsons, Velvet for Shoe trimmings, &c; Mr. Hammet, 12 doz wine, 2 lb. tobacco; Brother Sammy, Soles for a pair of Shoes.

August.—Mrs. Holmes left me a Guinea; Mrs. Fowler gave me 20s hard money; Mrs. Welsh, a pair of Silk Gloves; Mrs. Hall, 5 bottles of Wine.—Deacon Simpkins, a pair of silk stockings.

September.—Capt. Jarvis, some Oranges and lemons; Deacon Sharpe, 6 lb. Sugar; Capt. Bigelow, 3 doz. limes.

October.—Mrs. Hammett, a Handkerchief; Brother Sammy, a pair of Shoes; Capt. Jarvis, 1 doz. Apples; Deacon Barrett, 3 Gallons Wine; Mr. Appleton, a beautiful inkstandish; Mr. White, a quire of paper; Nero Spear, a pair of fowls.

November.—Mr. Sam'l Skillings, a Cane; Pico & Avis, some linen; Capt. Runny a dozen of times; Mrs. Mitchell, two Handkerchiefs.

December.—Mr. Larkin a turkey; Mr. Howard, Oranges and limes; Capt. Runny, a dozen of limes, Mr. Barrett, 3 Gallons of Wine; Mr. Vernon, 240 dollars; Mr. Adams, pair Silk Gloves.

It may be noted, as one of the evidences of the beneficial effects of the temperance reform which is now going on throughout the land, that on the last election day, the polls exhibited quite another scene than the usual one of violence and confusion, of profanity and indecorum, which has heretofore usually disgraced them.

TO TAKE INK OUT OF LINEN.—Take a piece of mould candle—or common candle will do nearly as well—melt it, and dip the spotted part of the linen into the melted tallow. It may then be washed, and the spots will disappear without injuring the linen.

Rose leaves dried in the shade, cloves beat to a powder, with a small quantity of scraped mace, all mixed together and placed in a silk bag, is a choice article for a lady's toilet.

The Shake of the Hand.
The hand of the heart is the index, declaring
If well or ill, how its master will stand;
I heed not the tongue, of its friendship that's awning
I judge of a man by the Shake of his hand.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States:

FELLOW-CITIZENS:
You have been assembled in your respective halls of legislation under a proclamation bearing the signature of the illustrious citizen who was so lately called by the direct suffrages of the people to the discharge of the important functions of their chief executive office.

Upon the expiration of a single month from the day of his installation, he has paid the great debt of nature, leaving behind him a name associated with the recollection of numerous benefits conferred upon the country during a long life of patriotic devotion. With this public bereavement are connected other considerations which will not escape the attention of Congress.

Wednesday was the anniversary of the memorable "Jaik day," which occurred on the 19th of May, 1780, sixty-one years ago. A friend has brought us a copy of Nathaniel Low's Almanac for that year, in which is the following memorandum written on a blank leaf:—

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weakest of the family of nations as well as to the most powerful. Occasional conflicts of opinion may arise, but when the discussions incident to them are conducted in the language of truth, and with a strict regard to justice, the scourge of war will for the most part be avoided.

The census recently taken shows a regularly progressive increase in our population. Upon the breaking out of the war of the Revolution, our numbers scarcely equalled three millions of souls; they already exceed seventeen millions, and will continue to progress in a ratio which which duplicates in a period of about 23 years.

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In entering upon the duties of this office, I did not feel that it would be becoming in me to disturb what had been ordered by my lamented predecessor. Whatever, therefore, may have been my opinion, originally, as to the propriety of convening Congress at so early a day from that of its late adjournment, I found a new and a controlling inducement not to interfere with the patriotic desires of the late President, in the novelty of the situation in which I was so unexpectedly placed.

No important changes having taken place in our foreign relations since the last session of Congress, it is not deemed necessary on this occasion to go into a detailed statement in regard to them. I am happy to say that I see nothing to destroy the hope of being able to preserve peace.

The ratification of the treaty with Portugal has been duly exchanged between the two governments. This Government has not been inattentive to the interests of those of our citizens who have claims on the Government of Spain, founded on express treaty stipulations, and a hope is indulged that the representations which have been made to that Government on this subject, may lead ere long to beneficial results.

A correspondence has taken place between the Secretary of State and the Minister of Her Britannic Majesty, accredited to this Government, on the subject of Alexander McLeod's indictment and imprisonment, copies of which are herewith communicated to Congress.

In addition to what appears from these papers, it may be proper to state that Alexander McLeod has been heard by the Supreme Court of the State of New York, on his motion to be discharged from imprisonment, and that the decision of that Court has not as yet been pronounced.

The Secretary of State has addressed to me a paper upon two subjects, interesting to the commerce of the country, which will receive my consideration, and which I have the honor to communicate to Congress.

So far as it depends on the course of this Government, our relations of good will and friendship will be sedulously cultivated with all nations. The true American policy will be found to consist in the exercise of a spirit of justice to be manifested in the discharge of all our international obligations, to the

from both sources of \$1,236,870 per month. A gradual expansion of trade, growing out of a restoration of confidence, together with a reduction in the expenses of collecting, and punctuality on the part of collecting officers, may cause an addition to the monthly receipts from the customs. They are estimated for the residue of the year from the fourth of March at \$12,000,000; the receipts from the public lands for the same time are estimated at \$5,000,000; and from miscellaneous sources at \$170,000; making an aggregate of available fund within the year, of \$14,670,000; which will leave a probable deficit of \$11,406,132 98.

There will fall due within the next three months, Treasury notes of the issues of 1840, including interest, about \$2,850,000. There is chargeable in the same period, for arrears for taking the 6th census \$294,000; and the estimated expenditures for the current service are about \$8,100,000, making the aggregate demands upon the Treasury, prior to the first of September next, about \$11,340,000.

The ways and means in the Treasury, and estimated to accrue within the above named period, consist of about \$694,000, of funds available on the 28th ultimo; an unissued balance of Treasury notes authorized by the act of 1841, amounting to \$1,965,000, and estimated receipts from all sources of \$3,800,000, making an aggregate of about \$6,459,000, and leaving a probable deficit on the 1st of September next, of \$4,845,000.

In order to supply the wants of the Government, an intelligent constituency, in view of their best interests, will, without hesitation, submit to all necessary burdens. But it is nevertheless important so to impose them as to avoid defeating the just expectations of the country, growing out of pre-existing laws. The act of the 23 March, 1833, commonly called the compromise act, should not be altered except under urgent necessities, which are not believed at this time to exist.

In presenting the foregoing views, I cannot withhold the expression of the opinion that there exists nothing in the extension of our empire over our acknowledged possessions to excite the alarm of the patriot for the safety of our institutions. The Federative system, leaving to each State the care of its domestic concerns, and devolving on the Federal Government those of general import, admits in safety of the greatest expansion, but, at the same time, I deem it proper to add that there will be found to exist at all times an imperious necessity for restraining all the functionaries of this Government within the range of their respective powers, thereby reserving a just balance between the powers granted to the Government and those reserved to the States and to the people.

From the report of the Secretary of the Treasury, you will perceive that the fiscal means present and accruing are insufficient to supply the wants of the Government for the current year. The balance in the Treasury on the fourth day of March last, not covered by outstanding drafts, and exclusive of trust funds, is estimated at \$860,000. This includes the sum of \$215,000 deposited in the Mint and its branches, to procure metal for coining and in process of coinage, and which could not be withdrawn without inconvenience; thus leaving subject to draft in the various depositories, the sum of \$645,000.

By virtue of two several acts of Congress, the Secretary of the Treasury was authorized to issue, on and after the fourth day of March last, Treasury notes to the amount of \$5,413,000, making an aggregate available fund of \$6,058,000 on hand.

But this fund was chargeable with outstanding Treasury notes redeemable in the current year, and interest thereon to the estimated amount of 5,280,000. There is also thrown upon the Treasury the payment of a large amount of demands accrued in whole or in part in former years, which will exhaust the available means of the Treasury and leave the accruing revenue, reduced as it is in amount, burdened with debt and charged with the current expenses of the Government.

The aggregate amount of outstanding appropriations on the fourth day of March last, was \$44,429,616 50, of which \$24,210,000 will be required during the current year; and there will also be required for the use of the War Department additional appropriations to the amount of 2,511,132 98, the special objects of which will be seen by reference to the report of the Secretary of War.

The anticipated means of the Treasury are greatly inadequate to this demand. The receipts from customs for the last three quarters of the last year, and the first quarter of the present year, amounted to \$12,110,000; the receipts for lands for the same time to \$2,742,450; showing an average revenue

ded to, will serve best to show the effect of the whole system. The average sales of the public lands, for a period of ten years prior to 1834, had not much exceeded 2,000,000 per annum. In 1834 they attained, in round numbers, to the amount of \$6,000,000. In the succeeding year of 1835 they reached \$16,000,000. And the next year of 1836, they amounted to the enormous sum of \$26,000,000.

Thus crowding into the short space of three years upwards of twenty-three years' purchase of the public domain. So apparent had become the necessity of arresting this course of things, that the Executive department assumed the highly questionable power of discriminating in the funds to be used in payment by different classes of public debtors—a discrimination which was doubtless designed to correct this most ruinous state of things by the exaction of specie in all payments for the public lands, but which could not at once arrest the tide which had so strongly set in. Hence the demands for specie became increasing, and corresponding prostration rapidly ensued under the necessities created with the banks to curtail their discounts, and thereby to reduce their circulation.

I recur to these things with no disposition to censure pre-existing administration of the Government, but simply in exemplification of the truth of the position which I have assumed. If, then, any fiscal agent which may be created shall be placed, without due restrictions, either in the hands of the administrators of the Government or those of private individuals, the temptation to abuse will prove to be irresistible. Objects of political aggrandizement may seduce the first, and the prompings of a boundless cupidity will assail the last.

Aided by the experience of the past, it will be the pleasure of Congress so to guard and fortify the public interests, in the creation of any new agent, as to place them, so far as human wisdom can accomplish it, on a footing of perfect security. Within a few years past, three different schemes have been before the country. The charter of the Bank of the United States expired by its own limitations in 1836. An effort was made to renew it, which received the sanction of the two Houses of Congress, but the then President of the United States exercised his veto power, and the measure was defeated. A second to truth requires me to say that the President was fully sustained in the course he had taken by the popular voice. His successor in the Chair of State unqualifiedly pronounced his opposition to any new charter of a similar institution; and not only the popular election which brought him into power, but the elections through much of his term, seemed clearly to indicate a concurrence with him in sentiment on the part of the people.

After the public moneys withdrawn from the United States Bank, they were placed in deposit with the State banks, and the result of that policy has been before the country. To say nothing as to the question whether that experiment was made under propitious or adverse circumstances, it may safely be asserted that it did receive the unqualified condemnation of most of its early advocates, and it is believed was also condemned by the popular sentiment. The existing sub-Treasury system does not seem to stand in higher favor with the people, but has recently been condemned in a manner too plainly indicated to admit doubt.

Thus, in the short period of eight years, the popular voice may be regarded as having successively condemned each of three schemes of finance to which I have adverted. As to the first it was introduced at a time (1816) when the State banks, then comparatively few in number, had been forced to suspend specie payments, by reason of the war which had previously prevailed with Great Britain. Whether, if the United States Bank charter which expired in 1811 had been renewed in due season, it would have been enabled to continue specie payments during the war and the disastrous period to the commerce of the country which immediately succeeded, is to say the least, problematical; and whether the United States Bank of 1816, produced a restoration of specie payments, or the same was accomplished through the instrumentality of other means, was a matter of some difficulty at that time to determine.

Certain it is that, for the first years of the operation of that Bank, its course was as disastrous as for the greater part of its subsequent career it became eminently successful. As to the second, the experiment was tried with a redundant Treasury, which continued to increase until it seemed to be the part of wisdom to distribute the surplus revenue among the States, which, operating at the same time with the specie circular, and the causes before adverted to, caused them to suspend specie payments, and involved the country in the greatest embarrassment. And, as to the third, if carried through all the stages of its transmutation, from paper and specie to nothing but the precious metals, it was nothing of the insecurity of the public moneys, its injurious effects have been anticipated by the country in its unqualified condemnation. What is now to be regarded as the judgement of the American people on this whole subject, I have no accurate means of determining but by appealing to their more immediate representatives. The late contest, which terminated in the election of Gen. HARRISON to the Presidency, was decided on principles well known and openly declared; and while the sub-Treasury received in the result the most decided condemnation, yet no other scheme of finance seems to have concurred in. To you, then, who have come more directly from the body of our common constituents, I submit to the entire question, as best qualified to give a full exposition of their wishes and opinions.