

MESSAGE

From the President of the United States, Returning with his Objections, the Bill to Incorporate the Fiscal Bank of the U. States, August 10, 1841.

TO THE SENATE OF THE U. STATES:

The bill entitled "An act to incorporate the subscribers to the Fiscal Bank of the United States," which originated in the Senate, has been considered by me, with a sincere desire to conform my action in regard to it, to that of the two Houses of Congress. By the Constitution it is made my duty, either to approve the bill, by signing it, or to return it with my objections to the House in which it originated. I cannot conscientiously give it my approval, and I proceed to discharge the duty required of me by the constitution—to give my reasons for disapproving.

The power of Congress to create a National Bank to operate PER SE over the Union, has been a question of dispute from the origin of our Government. Men most justly and deservedly esteemed for their high intellectual endowments, their virtue, and their patriotism, have in regard to it, entertained different and conflicting opinions. Congresses have differed. The approval of one President has been followed by the disapproval of another. The people, at different times, have acquiesced in the decisions both for and against. The country has been, and still is agitated by this unsettled question. It will suffice for me to say, that my own opinion has been uniformly maintained to be against the exercise of any such power by this Government.

On all suitable occasions, during a period of twenty-five years, the opinions thus entertained have been unreservedly expressed. I declared it in the Legislature of my native State. In the House of Representatives of the United States, it has been openly vindicated by me. In the Senate Chamber, in the presence and hearing of many who are at this time members of that body, it has been affirmed and reaffirmed, in speeches and reports there made, and by votes there recorded. In popular assemblies I have unhesitatingly announced it; and the last public declaration which I made, and that but a short time before the late Presidential election, I referred to my previously expressed opinions as being those then entertained by me.

With a full knowledge of the opinions thus entertained, and never concealed, I was elected by the people Vice President of the United States. By the occurrence of a contingency provided for by the Constitution, and arising under an impressive dispensation of Providence, I succeeded to the Presidential office. Before entering upon the duties of that office, I took an oath that I would "preserve, and defend the Constitution of the United States." Entertaining the opinions alluded to, and having taken this oath, the Senate and country will see that I could not give my sanction to a measure of the character described, without surrendering all claim to the respect of honorable men—all confidence on the part of the people—all self-respect—all regard for moral and religious obligations, without an observance of which no Government can be prosperous, and no people can be happy. It would be to commit a crime which I would not wilfully consent to gain any earthly reward, and which would justly subject me to the ridicule, and scorn of all virtuous men.

I deem it entirely unnecessary at this time to enter upon the reasons which have brought my mind to the convictions I feel and entertain on this subject. They have been over and over again repeated. If some of those who have preceded me in this high office have entertained and avowed different opinions, I yield all confidence that their convictions were sincere. I claim only to have the same measure voted out to myself. Without going further into the argument, I will say that, in looking to the powers of this Government to collect, safely keep, and disburse the public revenue, and incidentally to regulate the commerce and exchanges, I have not been able to satisfy myself that the establishment by this Government of a bank of discount, in the ordinary acceptance of that term, was a necessary means, or one demanded by propriety, to execute those powers.

What can the local discounts of the bank have to do with the collecting, safe-keeping and disbursing of the revenue? So far as the mere discounting of paper it is concerned, is quite immaterial to this question whether the discount is obtained at a State Bank or a United States Bank. They are both equally local—both beginning and both ending in a local accommodation. What influence have local discounts, granted by any form of bank, in the regulating of the currency and the exchanges? Let the history of the late United States Bank aid us in answering this inquiry.

For several years after the establishment of that institution, it dealt almost exclusively in local discounts, during that period the country was, for the most part disappointed in the consequences anticipated from its incorporation. A uniform currency was not provided, exchanges were not regulated, and little or nothing was added to the general circulation: and in 1820 its embarrassments had become so great, that the directors petitioned to Congress to repeal that article of the charter which made its notes receivable everywhere for public dues. It had, up to that period dealt but a very small extent in exchanges, either foreign or domestic, and as late as 1823 its operations in that line amounted to a little more than seven millions of dollars per annum.

A very rapid augmentation soon after occurred and in 1833 its dealings in exchanges amounted to upwards of one hundred millions of dollars, including the sales of its own drafts; and all these immense transactions were effected without the employment of extraordinary means. The currency of the country became sound, and the negotiation in the exchanges were carried on at the lowest possible rates. The circulation was increased to more than \$22,000,000, and the notes of the bank were regarded as equal to specie all over the country; thus showing almost conclusively that it was the capacity to deal in exchanges, and not in local discounts, which furnished these facilities and advantages.

It may be remarked, too, that notwithstanding the immense transactions of the bank in the purchase of exchange, the losses sustained were merely nominal; while in the line of discounts the suspended debt was enormous, and proved most disastrous to the bank and the country. Its power of local discount has, in fact, proved to be a fruitful source of favoritism and corruption, alike destructive to the public morals and to the general weal.

The capital invested in banks of discount in the United States, created by the States, at this time exceed \$350,000,000, and if the discounting of local paper could have produced any beneficial effects, the United States ought to possess the soundest currency in the world; but the reverse is lamentably the fact.

Is the measure now under consideration of the objectionable character to which I have alluded? It is clearly so, unless by the 14th fundamental article of the 11th section it is made otherwise. That article is in the following words:

"The directors of the said corporation shall establish one competent office of discount and deposit in any State in which two thousand shares shall have been subscribed, or may be held, whenever, upon application of the legislature of such State, Congress may by law require the same. And the said directors may also establish one or more competent offices of discount and deposit in any territory or district of the United States, and in any State, with the assent of such State; and when established, the said office or offices shall be only withdrawn or removed by the said directors prior to the expiration of this charter, with the previous assent of Congress: Provided, in respect to any State which shall not, at the first session of the legislature thereof, held after the passage of this act, by resolution, or other usual legislative proceeding, unconditionally assent or dissent to the establishment of such office or offices, within it, such assent of the said State shall be thereafter presumed: And provided, nevertheless, That whenever it shall become necessary and proper for carrying into execution any of the powers granted by the Constitution, to establish an office or offices in any of the States whatever, and the establishment thereof shall be directed by law, it shall be the duty of the said directors to establish such office or offices accordingly.

It will be seen that by this clause the directors are invested with the fullest power to establish a branch in any State which has yielded its assent; and having once established such branch, it shall not afterwards be withdrawn, except by order of Congress. Such assent is to be implied, and to have the force and sanction of an actually expressed assent, "provided in respect to any State which shall not at the first session of the legislature thereof, held after the passage of this act, by resolution or other usual legislative proceeding, unconditionally assent or dissent to the establishment of such office or offices within it, such assent of said State shall be thereafter presumed." The assent or dissent is to be expressed unconditionally at the first session of the legislature, by some formal legislative act; and if not so expressed, its assent is to be implied, and the directors are thereupon invested with power, at such time thereafter as they may please, to establish branches which cannot afterwards be withdrawn, except by resolve of Congress.

No matter what may be the cause which may operate with the legislature, which either prevents it from speaking or addresses itself to its wisdom, to induce delay, its assent is to be implied. This iron rule is to give way to no circumstance—it is unbending and inflexible. It is the language of the master to the vassal—an unconditional answer is claimed forthwith: and delay, postponement, or incapacity to answer, produce an implied assent which is over after irrevocable. Many of the State elections have already taken place, without any knowledge, on the part of the People, that such a question was to come up. The Representatives may desire a submission of the question to their constituents preparatory to final action upon it, but this high privilege is denied; whatever may be the motives and views entertained by the representatives of the People to induce delay, assent is to be presumed, and is ever afterwards binding, unless their assent shall be unconditionally expressed at their first session after the passage of this bill into a law. They may, by formal resolution, declare the question of assent or dissent to be undecided and postponed, and, yet, in opposition to their express declaration to the contrary, their assent is to be implied—Cases innumerable might be cited to manifest the irrationality of such an inference. Let one or two in addition suffice. The popular branch of the Legislature may express its dissent by an un-

animous vote, and its resolutions may be defeated by a tie vote of the Senate is to be implied.

Both branches of the legislature may concur in a resolution of decided dissent, and yet the Governor may exert the veto power conferred on him by the State Constitution, and their legislative action be defeated; and yet the assent of the legislative authority is implied, and the directors of this contemplated institution are authorized to establish a branch or branches in such State whenever they may find it conducive to the interest of the stockholders to do so; and having once established it, they can under no circumstance withdraw it, except by act of Congress. The State may afterwards protest against such unjust inference, but its authority is gone. Its assent is implied by its failure of inability to act at its first session, and its voice can never be heard.—To inferences so violent, and, as they seem to me, irrational, I cannot yield consent. No court of justice would or could sanction them, without reserving all that is established in judicial proceeding, by introducing presumptions at variance with fact, and inference at the expense of reason. A State in a condition of duress would be presumed to speak, as an individual, manacled and in prison, might be presumed to be in the enjoyment of freedom. Far better to say to the States boldly and frankly—Congress wills and submission is demanded.

It may be said that the directors may not establish branches under such circumstances. But this is a question of power, and this bill invests them with full authority to do so. If the Legislature of New York, or Pennsylvania, or any other State, should be found to be in such condition as I have supposed, could there be any security furnished against such a step on the part of the directors? Nay, is it not fairly to be presumed that this proviso was introduced for the sole purpose of meeting the contingency referred to? Why else should it have been introduced? And I submit to the Senate, whether it can be believed that any State would be likely to sit quietly down under such a state of things? In a great measure of public interest their patriotism may be successfully appealed to: but to infer their assent from circumstances at war with such inference, I cannot but regard as calculated to excite a feeling of fatal enmity with the peace and harmony of the country. I must, therefore regard this clause as asserting the power to be in Congress to establish offices of discount in a State, not only without its assent, but against its dissent; and so regarding it, I cannot sanction it.

On general principles, the right in Congress to prescribe terms to any State, supplies a superiority of power and control, deprive the transaction of all pretence to compact between them, and terminates as we have seen, in the local abrogation of freedom of action on the part of the States. But further, the State may express, after most solemn form of legislation, its dissent, which may from time to time thereafter be repeated, in full view of its own interest, which can never be separated from the wise and beneficent operation of this Government: and yet Congress may, by virtue of the last proviso, overrule its law, and upon grounds which, to such States will appear to rest on constructive necessity and propriety, and not anything more. I regard the bill as asserting for Congress the right to incorporate a U. S. Bank with power and to establish offices of discount and deposit in the several States of this Union with or without their consent, a principle to which I have always heretofore been opposed, and which can never obtain my sanction. And waiving all other considerations growing out of its other provisions, I return it to the House in which it originated, with these my objections to its approval.

JOHN TYLER.

The Drowned Lovers Identified.

The Philadelphia Daily Chronicle of Saturday says: A gentleman residing in the vicinity of Easton, in this State, called at our office yesterday and related to us the following facts. About six miles this side of Easton, resides a highly respectable family of the name of Wood. Their daughter, an amiable and intelligent girl, named Eliza, unfortunately became acquainted with a young man in the neighborhood, whose character was any thing but reputable. He was given to every kind of vice—a spendthrift, a drunkard, and a gambler. For two years, the parents of the unhappy girl opposed the match, knowing that if it did take place, misery, tribulation, and sorrow would be the lot of their daughter. This was only adding fuel to the flame already kindled in the bosom of Eliza. Suffering and disappointment strengthened, instead of weakening her love. She was fondly and devotedly attached to the object of her choice.

A few days before the discovery of the bodies in the Schuylkill, Eliza and her lover left Easton. The mother of the unfortunate girl, reading the account of the transaction in the papers, came to the city for the purpose of seeing the bodies, and if possible, identify them. She repaired to the Green House, at Bush Hill, immediately on her arrival, but to her great grief, the bodies had been interred three days before. She however obtained from Mr. Hill, the keeper of the Green House, a correct and exact description of the female, her appearance, dress, and the ear rings which she wore. The dress answered exactly in color and make to the one her daughter had on the day she eloped from her home, and she felt perfectly satisfied that the unfortunate deceased was her own daughter. These are the facts related to us by the gentleman from Easton, and he says that so certain are the family as to the identity of their child, that they have been in deep mourning ever since the return of the mother to her home.

Narrow Escape of Mr. Webster.

The Washington correspondent of the Atlas says—"Mr. Webster had a narrow escape yesterday. He was riding with his servant in a buggy, when the horse took fright, became unmanageable, and ran at full speed round Capitol Hill, till he arrived at the North Eastern gate, when Mr. W. directed his man to turn him into the grounds. In executing this delicate manœuvre, the wheel struck the post, and was torn off, and the riders were violently thrown out, but escaped with a few light bruises.

DREADFUL STEAMBOAT ACCIDENT.

Burning of the Erie on Lake Erie—Over Two Hundred Lives Lost.

Correspondence of the New York Tribune, Buffalo, August 10, 1841.

DEAR SIR—Enclosed I send you a Buffalo paper of this morning, containing a brief notice of the loss by fire, last night of the Steamboat Erie, together with nearly two hundred persons. I also send a few incidents which I gathered in a brief conversation with one of the survivors, Mr. Parmelee, the bar-keeper of the boat. The Erie left her berth at Buffalo, for Chicago, between 5 and 9 o'clock, P. M., on Monday, with a large number of passengers, nearly a hundred of whom were Swiss emigrants. The list of passengers, as taken by the Captain, numbered 205; but in addition to those, there were several young children whose names were not taken, and some also, it is supposed, who had not paid their fare, when the disaster occurred. So that it is probable that the passengers, together with those attached to the boat, numbered not less than 230 or 240. The fire was discovered about ten minutes before 8 o'clock, off Silver Creek, a distance of 25 or 30 miles from Buffalo. The flames first appeared running rapidly across the boiler deck, a permanent platform of a foot or two in height, to protect the boiler where it projects above the main deck. From its vicinity to the boiler, it had become highly inflammable, and its ignition was facilitated by a recent coat of paint which it had received. The boat's head was immediately directed toward the land, which was five or six miles off.

The flames spread with great rapidity. Perfect confusion succeeded, in the midst of which the small boat, hanging astern, was lowered by its hands and brought to the side. After a few ladies had been landed down, the frenzy of those behind became uncontrollable, and numbers leaped in beyond the capacity of the boat to sustain them, and it swamped. Several of those who fell from the boat were drawn under the wheel, and there were drowned, while a few clung to the boat's sides, and were finally saved. A second and third boat were rendered useless by the same infatuation. Some five minutes after the appearance of the fire, the machinery became deranged and stopped. So rapidly did the flames spread, that although there were a quantity of life preservers in the ladies' cabin, they could not be reached, as the cabin was almost instantly in a light flame. Twenty minutes only had elapsed from the beginning of the fire, but after the intense heat had forced overboard every other person, when Capt. Titus threw himself into the water, and abandoned the boat to its fate. The few who then remained alive were tossing in the midst of a heavy swell, dependant upon the precarious support, one of an oar, another of a plank or box, and liable every moment to loose their hold through exhaustion and the numbing effects of fright. The steamers De Witt Clinton and the Lady received the light about quarter past 8 o'clock from Dunkirk, where they lay, and put out immediately to her relief. But a distance of ten or fifteen miles intervening, they arrived in time to save only 29 out of the large number who a few hours before had left Buffalo, with perfect confidence of a pleasant trip.

The Clinton, with 27 of the saved on board, took the hull of the Erie in tow for Buffalo; after having been drawn, however, fifteen or twenty miles, the remnants of the wreck suddenly sank. The passengers were taken to the American House, where they now are. The Lady returned, with the two she had picked up, to Dunkirk; one of them was my informant. He had thrown himself overboard on a plank, when he saw further efforts to be useless, but he relinquished it to a friend who could not swim, and took for his own support the "fender," which just then fell by its side. He states that those who survived the swamping of the boats clung with desperation to the burning wreck, except as a few found other support. One man he saw standing for some minutes on the galleys beam, the flames encircling him, with his coat-skirts thrown over his head, till he dropped dead into the body of the flames. One of the wheelmen is said to have been burnt up doing his duty at the helm. Young Beebe, (a lad of 14, one of those saved,) is reported to have behaved with great courage. As he descended the guys to the water, the chain was so hot that he left masses of flesh upon the rod at every clasp of his hands. Reaching the rudder he stood upon that, and soaking his jacket in the water, he applied it to assuage the pain of his hands, and then used it to extinguish the fire from his dress and parts of the wreck near him. Though badly burnt he is likely to recover. The only lady who was saved, (Mrs. Lynde, wife of C. J. Lynde, Esq., of Milwaukee,) was standing at the stern of the boat with her husband, arranging her life-preserver about her person, when the lost gave a lurch and precipitated her into the water. She saw nothing more of her husband, but was herself buoyed up till the Clinton arrived.

The first notice which the boat I was upon (the Fulton) had of this sad event, was at Dunkirk, about 8 in the morning, when Mr. Parmelee came on board. The boat was placed upon the track of the Erie, and in about an hour we perceived many indications of the disaster. A basket, a chest of tea, and a box of lemons were picked up. Presently the numerous small pieces of burnt wood, embraced in quite a small area, indicated the immediate scene of the catastrophe. As they were seen at some distance off, the boat checked her speed, and her slow and solemn motion over the unmade graves of hundreds, the measured surge of the waves under her prow, and the sound of the occasionally puffing steam, were felt to be more solemn than any common tribute to the memory of the dead. Soon after we left this spot, we picked up one of her boats, parts of which were covered with the burnt flesh from the hands and feet of those who jumped into it. Most of these facts were derived from the bar-keeper, and some are the rumors current in Buffalo. There is a common agreement in the belief that three demijohns of varnish &c., exploded, and the liquid came in contact with fire.

In great haste. E. A. M. J.

NAMES OF PERSONS KNOWN TO BE LOST.—Mr. Williams, of Chicago, Mr. C. J. Lynde, of Milwaukee, (graduated at New Haven in 1836—formerly of Homer, N. Y.) Mr. W. S. Lynde (a brother) of Homer.

Most of the Swiss were destined for Akron and Cleveland. From the Buffalo Rep., Tuesday, Aug. 10, 7 A. M.

MOST HORRIBLE EVENT.

The steamboat Erie, Capt. Titus, left our port last evening, crowded with passengers. By some means she took fire during the night, and was completely consumed, sinking about daylight. We have barely time to give the names of the saved, nor could we learn many particulars. The De Witt Clinton saved 27, some badly and some slightly burned. The whole of the passengers saved, appeared too much overcome by the horrors of the night to give any account, and we would not add to their misery by asking questions. The Erie was burnt very nearly where the Washington was burnt some years ago. She was a fine boat, almost new, and belonged to Mr. Reed of Erie.

Names of the persons saved from the Erie, by the De Witt Clinton, Capt. Squire: Capt. Titus, master of the Erie, Dennis McBride, First Mate, Wm. Hughes, Second Mate, Edgar Clemens, First Engineer, Jerome McBride, Wheelman, badly burned, Wm. Madworth, one of the Band, Alfred O. Wilkinson, East Euclid, Ohio, Harrison Forrester, Harbor Creek, Pa., Thomas Quinlin, Middlefield, Mass., Robert Robinson, colored, Barber, Hiram De Graf, J. H. St. John, C. Hogg, badly burned, Jno. Winchell, Buffalo, Mr. Williams, Chicago, W. Johnson, colored, Cook, James Lovary, Wheelman, Theodore Sears, Painter, Luther B. Seales, Fireman, Mrs. Lynde, Milwaukee, Thos. J. Tann, Pittsfield, N. Y. Son of George Beebe, Cleveland, F. ve Germans, three of whom were badly burned. We learn further that a quantity of spirits of turpentine and other combustible matter, used by painters, was on deck near the boiler, and it is supposed the heat ignited it, and wrapped the boat instantly in flames.

There were, we learn, a little over two hundred passengers, beside the crew. We heard the shrieks of a woman who came on board the De Witt Clinton, and found her husband dreadfully burned, lying helpless, and almost hopeless. Two other persons were saved by another boat.

Glorious News from Florida.

REPUBLICAN OFFICE, Savannah, August 7, 1841.

CO-A-COO-CHEE'S WHOLE BAND IN—CLOCK OF THE FLORIDA WAR. By the U. S. steamer Gen. Taylor, Capt. Peck, arrived here yesterday, we have the gratifying intelligence from Florida that the war, for the ninety-ninth time, may now be considered at an end. Wild Cat's whole band, men, women, children and negroes, 160 in all, have come in at Tampa, and 40 more Indians of another band were on their way, and were expected at Tampa in two days. A gentleman who came on in the Gen. Taylor says that he does not think another rifle will be fired by the enemy.

When Co-a-coo-chee's family came in, Col. Worth told him that he might go on shore from the schooner where he was confined and see them. He refused to go, saying that though he was anxious to see his family, he would not permit them to see him in irons. The Colonel finally consented to let him go on shore without his shackles, and after a warm greeting with his family, he dined with the Colonel, and then returned on board the schooner. As soon as his irons were replaced, he told Col. Worth that he had but one request more to make, and that was, to allow him and his people to go West as soon as possible!

St. AUGUSTINE, August 3. The accounts from Key West are of the most deplorable nature. The yellow fever is said to be raging at that place, and very fatal—a large number have already fallen victims to it. One of the unfortunate victims is Mr. Landon C. Kenry.

The fever has been still worse at Havana, and we learn that there are nine American ships now lying in that port without a soul on board, all having died of the prevailing fever.

We have no further news from Tampa Bay to communicate, since the last intelligence of the Indians coming in very rapidly.

From Matamoros.

The Matamoros Anchor of the 5th July, says, "information has been received from Vera Cruz, of the arrival there of a Minister from Texas, representing the object of his mission to be, to negotiate for the recognition of the independence of Texas by Mexico. This announcement excited indignant feelings on the part of the government, and was opposed, notwithstanding the British Minister continually urged the Texian request, and appeared to be the main support of the application. Notwithstanding the rejection of the proposals of Texas for peace, we have seen that the Senate have rejected the bill for a loan of two millions passed by the deputies to carry on the Texas campaign. Unfortunate Mexico! If the campaign is not made, the independence of Texas is the same as consummated." There appears to be a general prostration of business throughout Mexico. In the capital it was said Don Lucas Alamán had failed for more than one million of dollars.

THE STEAMBOAT ERIE.—The Albany Advertiser says that there was one deed of heroism on board this boat which should not be left unrecorded. A letter from Buffalo informs us that the Pilot stood to his post at the wheel, keeping the head of the steamboat to the shore, until he burned to death. His name, we believe, was Luther Fuller.



THE AMERICAN.

Saturday, August 21, 1841.

Democratic Candidates.

FOR GOVERNOR, Gen. DAVID R. PORTER.

FOR ASSEMBLY, David B. Montgomery.

FOR COMMISSIONER, Philip Welser.

FOR TREASURER, George Welser.

FOR AUDITOR, Hugh Davison.

WHIG CANDIDATES.

For Governor, JOHN BANKS.

For Assembly, GEN. HENRY FRICK.

For Commissioner, DAVID McWILLIAMS.

For Treasurer, PETER LAZARUS.

For Auditor, JACOB PAINTER.

The Bankrupt Bill has passed both Houses.

We present our readers this week with new of exciting and painful interest. The destruction of the steamboat Erie, which was burned on the lake with the loss of nearly two hundred souls, we carry pain and grief into the bosoms of many a agonized parent and relative. The veto of the Bank Bill, it will be seen by our published proceedings of Congress, created, as might be expected, a unusual degree of excitement. It seems now to be a matter of some doubt whether the Distribution of Land Bill, and the Bankrupt Bill will be passed this session. The fate of both these bills are said to be in a measure inseparably connected. The bill repealing the Subtreasury received the signature of the President on the 13th inst. This had given some of the friends of the Bank Bill some faint hopes that the President would sign the bill, and indeed, that impression had become very general.

The veto of the President, it will be seen, unqualified and unconditional. He will never sign a bill, incorporating a Bank with branches, under any circumstances. Thus, during the administration of John Tyler, there is no hope of such an institution being established. From indications appear for some time past, it is evident that the whig proper will abandon the President. The cup of hope, long deferred, has been dashed from their lips when they least expected it. A dissolution of the cabinet must necessarily follow. Ewing, it is said will be left out. Webster and Badger will be re-appointed.

A correspondent of the last Miltonian says that himself, with a number of democrats intend to vote for Gen. Frick instead of David B. Montgomery, and begs if the General should be elected that the whigs will not claim it as a whig triumph; Whereupon the editor of that paper gravely asserts that if Gen. Frick should be elected, they will agree that he shall owe his election to the Porter men who shall vote for him. Now this is certainly conceding too much, considering that Gov. Porter will not have more than thousand majority in the county. The correspondent of the Miltonian, however, need not fear an such contingency. Good democrats never mal terms with their political opponents, because certain selfish views of their own may have been defeated.

Postage.

We trust at the next session of Congress something will be done in relation to Postage. It is subject in which the country is deeply interested and well worthy of investigation. In England, great reformation has been effected in relation to postage, within the last two years. Letters, not exceeding half an ounce, are carried in any part of the kingdom for about two cents. The postage there formerly, rated even higher than our own. The reduced rates have, however, so increased the correspondence, that in the course of another year the revenue of the department will be fully equal to what it had been under the old rates, while the advantages to the people possessing such cheap facilities, are almost incalculable.

We would not recommend a reduction to the same extent; but we firmly believe, if the rate of letter postage was fixed at five cents, for all letters not exceeding half an ounce in weight, without regard to distance, the revenue in the course of a few years would be fully equal to the expenditures.

It would be, however, necessary to abolish, in measure, the present wholesale franking privilege now enjoyed by members of Congress, breaking down our mails without any real or apparent benefit to the community. Tons of documents are as daily despatched, nine-tenths of which are deemed worthless, and probably not looked into. All important documents of interest are generally published and read in the newspapers, before they can be distributed under the franks of the members. The members of the British Parliament voluntarily surrendered the franking privilege. Have our members of Congress less magnanimity and patriotism. We trust not.