

Last, nineteen months after the banking privileges given by the charter had expired, it had under its control uncancelled notes of the late Bank of the United States to the amount of twenty-seven millions five hundred & sixty-one thousand eight hundred and sixty-six dollars...

As no one could have anticipated a course so extraordinary, the prohibitory clause of the charter above quoted was not accompanied by any penalty or other special provision for enforcing it...

The report of the Commissioner of the General Land Office, which will be laid before you by the Secretary of the Treasury, will show how the affairs of that office have been conducted for the past year...

The position, at all times assumed—that the admission of new States into the Union on the same footing with the original States, was incompatible with a right of soil in the United States...

May not all reasonable desires upon this subject be satisfied without encountering any of these objections? All will concede the abstract principle, that the price of the public lands should be proportioned to their relative value...

These provisions, with occasional enactments in behalf of special interests deemed entitled to the favor of the Government, have, in their execution, produced results as beneficial upon the whole as could reasonably be expected in a

matter so vast, so complicated, and so exciting. Upwards of seventy millions of acres have been sold, the greater part of which is believed to have been purchased for actual settlement...

Thus has been formed a body of free and independent landholders, with a rapidly unequalled in the history of mankind, and this great result has been produced without leaving any thing for future adjustment between the Government and its citizens...

The modification most perseveringly pressed upon Congress, which has occupied so much of its time for years past, and will probably do so for a long time to come, if not sooner satisfactorily adjusted, is a reduction in the cost of such portions of the public lands as are ascertained to be unsaleable at the rate now established by law...

A modification of the existing laws in respect to the prices of the public lands, might also have a favorable influence by the legislation of Congress, in relation to another branch of the subject...

The remedy proposed has been a reduction of prices, according to the length of time the lands have been in market, without reference to any other circumstances. The certainty that the efflux of time would not always in such cases, perhaps not even generally, furnish a true criterion of value...

By the full exposition of the value of the lands thus furnished and extensively promulgated, persons living at a distance would be informed of their true condition, and enabled to enter into competition with

those residing in the vicinity, the means of acquiring an independent home would be brought within the reach of many who are unable to purchase at present prices...

Such a measure would almost seem to be more consistent with the policy of the existing laws—that of converting the public domain into cultivated farms owned by their occupants...

In some sections of the country most of the public lands have been sold, and the registers and receivers have very little to do. It is a subject worthy of inquiry whether, in many cases, two or more districts may not be consolidated...

A moderate increase of the corps, both of military and topographical engineers, has been more than once recommended by my predecessor, and my conviction is, that it is necessary to the performance of their various and important duties...

The Military Academy continues to answer all the purposes of its establishment, and not only furnishes well educated officers to the Army, but serves to diffuse throughout the mass of our citizens, individuals possessed of military knowledge, and the scientific attainments of civil and military engineering...

The creation of a national foundry for cannon, to be common to the service of the Army and Navy of the United States, has been heretofore recommended, and appears to be required in order to place the arms of the service on an equal footing with that of other countries...

The system of removing the Indians west of the Mississippi, commenced by Mr. Jefferson in 1804, has been steadily persevered in by every succeeding President, and may be considered the settled policy of the country...

The Government, therefore, has no adequate pecuniary interest in inducing it to drive these people from the lands they occupy, for the purpose of selling them to others...

Entertaining these views, I recommend the passage of a pre-emption law for their benefit, in connection with the preparatory steps towards the graduation of the prices of the public lands, and further and more effectual provisions to prevent intrusions hereafter...

The accompanying report of the Secretary of War, relating to your view of the state of the Army, and all the various subjects confided to the superintendence of that officer...

The principal part of the Army has been concentrated in Florida, with a view, and in the expectation of bringing the war in that territory to a speedy close. The necessity of stripping the posts on the maritime and inland frontiers of their entire garrisons, for the purpose of assembling in the field an army of less than four thousand men, would seem to indicate the necessity of increasing our regular forces...

The revenue of the Department, within the year ending on the thirtieth June last, was four millions one hundred and thirty seven thousand and fifty-six dollars and fifty-nine cents...

By the report of the Secretary of the Navy, herewith communicated, it appears that unremitted exertions have been made at the different Navy Yards to carry into effect all authorized measures for the extension and employment of our naval force...

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game to be found in the West; but when the beneficial effects of their removal were made apparent, a more philanthropic and enlightened policy was adopted, in purchasing their lands east of the Mississippi...

It will be seen, by referring to the report of the Commissioners of Indian Affairs, that the most sanguine expectations of the friends and promoters of this system have been realized...

Stipulations have been made with all the Indian tribes to remove them beyond the Mississippi, except with the band of the Wyandotts, the Six Nations in New York, the Menomones, Mandans and Stockbridges in Wisconsin, and the Miami in Indiana...

The decrease in numbers of the tribes within the limits of the states and territories has been most rapid. If they be removed, they can be protected from those associations & evil practices which exert so pernicious and destructive an influence over their destinies...

The interests of the United States would also be greatly promoted by free relations between the General and State Governments, from what has proved a most embarrassing circumstance, by a satisfactory adjustment of conflicting titles to lands, caused by the occupation of the Indians, and by the State and General Governments, and improved by the enterprise of white population...

Intimately connected with this subject is the obligation of the Government to fulfill its treaty stipulations, and to protect the Indians thus assembled, at their new residence from all interruptions and disturbances from any other tribes or nations of Indians, or from any other person or persons whatsoever...

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in the Pacific and on the Brazilian station have been much increased, and that in the Mediterranean, although small, adequate to the present wants of our commerce in that sea...

The satisfactory condition of our naval force abroad, leaves at our disposal the means of conveniently providing for a home squadron, for the protection of commerce upon our extensive coast...

The naval officers engaged upon our coast survey have rendered important service to our navigation. The discovery of a new channel into the harbor of New York through which many of our largest ships may pass without danger, most afford important commercial advantages to that harbor, and add greatly to its value as a naval station...

Considerable additions have been made to the number of captains, commanders, lieutenants, surgeons, and assistant surgeons, in the Navy. These additions were rendered necessary by the increased number of vessels put in commission, to answer the exigencies of our growing commerce...

The report of the Postmaster General exhibits the progress and condition of the mail service. The operations of the Post Office Department constitute one of the most active elements of our national prosperity, and it is gratifying to observe with what vigor they are conducted...

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For many interesting details I refer you to the report of the Postmaster General, with the accompanying paper. Your particular attention is invited to the necessity of providing a more safe and convenient building for the accommodation of that Department...

I lay before Congress copies of reports submitted in pursuance of a call made upon the heads of Departments, for such suggestions as their experience might enable them to make, as to which further legislative provisions may be adopted...

By law the terms of service of our most important collecting and disbursing officers in the civil departments are limited to four years, and when reappointed, their bonds are required to be renewed. It is needless to dilate on the importance of providing such new safeguards as are within the power of legislation to promote safety in their disbursements...

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A change in the period of terminating the fiscal year, from the first of October to the first of April has been frequently recommended, and appears to be desirable. The distressing casualties in steamboats, which have so frequently happened during the year, seem to evince the necessity of attempting to prevent them, by means of severe provisions connected with their custom house papers...

Your attention has heretofore been frequently called to the affairs of the District of Columbia, and I should not again ask it, did not their entire dependence on Congress give them a constant claim upon its notice...

This District, however, unfortunately, has been left to linger behind the rest of the Union; its codes, civil and criminal, are not only very defective, but full of obsolete or inconvenient provisions; being formed of portions of two States, discrepancies in the laws prevail in an uncertain part of the territory, small as it is; and although it was selected as the seat of the General Government, the site of its public edifices, the depository of its archives, and the residence of officers entrusted with large amounts of public property, and the management of public business, yet it has never been subjected to, or received, that special and comprehensive legislation which these circumstances peculiarly demand...

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5, 1837. M. VAN BUREN.

DEATH OF GOVERNOR KENT.

By an article in the National Intelligencer, and a short notice in the letter of our Washington Correspondent, which are the only accounts that have reached us of this melancholy event, we learn that JOSEPH KENT, one of our senators in Congress, and a man whom Maryland has delighted to honor—who has been tried in various positions of high public trust; and approved himself able and faithful in all, is now no more. A sudden casualty has deprived the State of one of her most eminent citizens, a true supporter of her best interests and honor, and society of a member, whose amiable qualities and high character fitted him to adorn all its walks...

With a saddened spirit we have set down to announce to our readers the news, which reached us when this paper was nearly ready for the press, of the death of Dr. JOSEPH KENT, the beloved and respected SENATOR of the United States from the State of MARYLAND, who was killed yesterday morning by a fall from his horse, as he was riding over his farm, or in the neighborhood of it. Of the particulars of this fatal accident; the cause of so lamentable a bereavement, we know no more than we have stated, as derived from a person who came to this city express from Rosemont, the residence of the deceased, (about 12 miles distant) yesterday afternoon. We have not the heart, if time allowed us, now to portray to our readers, in fitting terms, the public and private virtues which endeared Governor Kent (so usually called from his having formerly filled the office of Governor of his State) to all who knew him. Of all the world, none of his friends—scarcely excepting his wife and his children—can have more just reason to mourn over his death than the People of this City, and among them, who have never found in him a disinterested, fast, and faithful friend.

A Stranger in these Parts.—According to the Taunton Whig they have a Mississippi roarer in that peevish village. The description which the 'critique gives of himself,' is little less than a whale, with a little tusk of the big elephant—and a light shade of the wild cat amounting to a catastrophe—a small creation, Mount Vesuvius at the top, with red hot lava pouring out the crater, and routing nations; my eyes are two blast furnaces—red hot melted iron, and every inch in my head a granite pillar, my legs are Virginia plantations—legs, rich railroads of whitebone, fests, my mountains, and arms, whig liberties, with cast steel springs. Every step I take is an earthquake, every breath I breathe is a tornado, my disposition is Dupont's best, and goes off in a flash; when I blast, there I be juggling left but a hole three feet in circumference and no end to the depth; I'm a wildcat, with hoop snake will—my team a tandem of a sea seal, with rattlesnake reins, four roolions for body guard; and I advanced retreat like a hurricane.

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REBERT SEVERE.—A high functionary in Washington, since the result ascertained of the late election in New York; remarked that "New York gone to hell!" "You surprise me," replied the other, "I thought administration had parted company."