

The war was made by the men of the existing administration, and I can trace none of the glory to their foresight; their wisdom or their personal agency. The glory is due to the valour, the patriotism, the self-denial of our citizens, who met and repelled the dangers that surrounded them, and not to the administration that brot them upon us; and, in many instances, perhaps a majority, the men who acquired this glory for their country were utterly opposed to the war, to those who made it, and to the policy that produced it. Sir, I am not insensible of national glory; I hope I never shall be—it is the spring of national virtue; the source of high achievements; the people who disregard it are incapable of great actions, and unworthy of honour. But still, I have never understood, that the acquisition of glory is a legitimate cause of war; or an admitted justification of it; and therefore our glory cannot be taken as a gain of one of the objects of the war; which is a true point of enquiry now. In order that this blaze of glory may show the brighter by contrast, the honourable speaker has painted in strong colours, the degraded situation of our country, at the period of declaring war—Our character was sunk almost to infamy; we had become the scorn and contempt of all Europe, and there was no nation so pitiful and weak that it did not insult and tread upon us. It is true, and I am not disposed to question it, let me ask the honourable gentleman, *how made it so?*—Washington raised the reputation of the United States to a pitch of exalted honour, and left them covered with true glory—He is guiltless. In the hands of Mr. Adams, it faded a little, but was not extinguished—then followed Mr. Jefferson, with whom the honourable Speaker has informed us, *his friends* came into power, and they have held it ever since—To what purpose he has told us himself.

Thus, sir, I close the examination of the honourable gentleman's account of the gains of the war; and, be it as it is, I repeat, that I heartily rejoice at the treaty he has made for us; not because it is good in itself, but because it evaded us from infinitely greater evils. I have rashly ventured, on the instant, upon a reply to the argument of the gentleman, which deserved, and, perhaps, required a much more deliberate and careful refutation.

Permit me now to offer a few observations on the subject of the tax immediately under consideration. I repeat my entire willingness to put the resources of the country, fairly and justly, but with proper caution and accountability, at the disposal of those the people have chosen to trust with the administration of their affairs. It is better that unfit men should have the means necessary to govern than that the government should perish for want of means. I repeat, too, that if the administration shall be drawn into any strait or difficulty for these supplies, it must not be charged on the opposition. The first decision into the system of finance, was made by the honourable Speaker himself. It has been followed up, and, as might have been expected, widened and deepened by other gentlemen, on the same side. For myself, sir, I came here to lay taxes. After so expensive a war, which destroyed all the ordinary sources of revenue, while it increased most enormously all the demands for money; it was to be expected that a system of taxation and revenue, and a pretty efficient one too, would be required. For my constituents, I am ready to grant it; and, I doubt not of their approbation, provided it be formed with moderation, justice, and equality. Equality is the great essential principle of taxation. Men are not so apt to complain of quantum as of inequality—Now, in the nature of things, it is impossible that this equality can be obtained in any one tax; which necessarily must affect some of our citizens greatly, while it scarcely touches others. Equality can be produced only by a variety of taxes, judiciously applied and distributed, some of which draw upon one part of the community, and some on another. Proceeding upon this principle, the committee of finance has reported a system, comprehending a great variety of objects of revenue; and, among the rest, a tax upon land, amounting to 3 millions of dollars p. r. ann. This tax I entirely approve of, because it is fair and just, in as much as, without it, many landholders in the interior will contribute but little; it

and, because, it is moderate, being not more than one quarter of one per cent on the whole landed capital of the United States. But, sir, I object, most decidedly, to the modification, in relation to this tax, introduced by the honourable Speaker; because it is unequal and unjust. If all the people of these states are equally bound for the payment of these debts; are equally bound to furnish the future supplies; why should any difference be made in the duration, any more than the amount of the requisite supplies? Why should my constituents, I may say, the citizens of Pennsylvania, be bound to contribute to the end, by the imposition of taxes, made perpetual, while the citizens of other states are to be exempted at the end of a year. The salt tax, the stamp tax, the whiskey tax, and many others, which are perpetual, will press peculiarly on Pennsylvania, and are all perpetual; but the land tax, which reaches some of the states to the south and west, comparatively but little affected by the other taxes, shall be but for a year. No, sir, let us embark fairly, and equally, and honestly together, in the same bark, and hold together for the whole voyage—Let no one be landed and escape further duty and difficulty at the end of the first mile. If four men were united in a firm bond to pay a debt contracted for a common object, and to furnish supplies for a common future, no rest, would not be tolerated that one should ask his companions to acquit him at the end of the year, and go on by themselves afterwards. Not only to contribute their proportions, but make good his deficiency? And yet this is the precise effect of the amendment of the honourable speaker to the report of the committee, which has made the land tax an annual, while the other assessments are perpetual. Besides this change breaks up the whole character of the report, which allows them to be a permanent system.—When, therefore a most essential part of it, both as to principle and amount is thus made annual, what becomes of the permanency of the system? As a ground of objection to this branch of revenue, we have had a most violent philippic pronounced against tax-gatherers—they are caterpillars; they are blood-suckers; nay, one honourable gentleman has said, they are scoundrels. I cannot feel either the justice or policy of these attacks. In justice I do not know that they deserve it—I have no reason to believe they are more dishonest than other men exposed to the same temptations—He, thro' whose hands large sums of money, especially if it be public money, are continually flowing, and whose accountability is far from being rigid and precise, must be strongly urged in integrity if he never fails—But the remark applies no better in theory, and not here so often in practice, to tax-gatherers, than to other officers of the government whose temptations are greater and whose accountability is less.—As to the policy of this sort of abuse, I would submit it to honourable gentlemen to say whether it is wise or politic, to endeavour to bring the odium, and suspicion and contempt of the people, upon a class of public officers, so useful and necessary to the very existence of a free government; that class of officers, too, which comes directly in contact with the people, and brings the government into every man's house—In truth this hostility to tax-gatherers has neither justice nor policy to rest upon, but is founded on a natural aversion we all have to pay money on compulsion; and for benefits too remote to be immediately seen or felt.—But, Sir, I hope my political friends will pursue a more liberal course—I hope I shall never find any of them teaching the doctrine, that tax-gatherers and libellers are the best reformers of a state.

Those gentlemen who oppose every internal tax, raise this clamour against tax-gatherers; and of course, would throw us altogether upon the foreign commerce of the country for our revenue—But is this any more satisfactory even in this respect? Far from it—We must then listen to the assaults upon custom-house officers; we must hear of their insolence, their extortions, their frauds—the tax-gatherer thrusts his hand into your pockets, and the custom-house officer ransacks your trunks and baggage—so that if charges of this sort against the officers who must collect the revenue, are to be received in forming your system of taxation, the consequence is, that you will have

no revenue at all. But, sir, armies, navies and tax s, have been placed, again and again, in dread array before us—are you for armies, navies and taxes, those instruments of despotic power—the destroyers of the liberties of the people; the greedy consumers of their earnings? Yes, sir, I am for armies, navies and taxes; and I have no more idea of a government without them, than I have of a living and moving body without flesh or bones, or blood—But how am I for them? how regulated? to what extent? I am for an army which shall have, in truth, all the physical force it professes to have, and not for a lifeless, useless skeleton, covered with epaulets and sashes and sword-knots, or in other words, for an army of officers without soldiers, affording a wide field for executive patronage and favour; but providing no substantial means of strength or defence for the country. If this abuse exists, as has been asserted, it is our duty to correct it—as to number, I would have it not so large as to be either dangerous to the liberty, or oppressive to the pockets of the people. It is our duty to take care of both these points, and we have it fully in our power to do so. The present establishment appears to me to offend in neither of these particulars; and not to be larger than is really required. As to the navy—I would not have it disproportioned to our wants or strength; but sufficient for the defence of our coast at the commencement of a war, with a provision of means for an immediate enlargement when required. It should not be a monster living on the bosom of the waters, and devouring all the productions of the land; but large enough to maintain its high character on the most sudden emergency. As to taxes, they should neither grind the poor, nor be unjust to the rich; they should be fair and necessary, and above all be equally assessed upon those bound to contribute to the wants of the state. So much every government has a right to exact from its citizens; and so much every good citizen will cheerfully afford to his government. But the first principle in relation to the money concerns of a people, is a regular and inexorable accountability for its expenditures. Without this no taxes will be sufficient to supply the demands of any administration. I will conclude by explaining the course I shall take on the subject directly before the committee—I will vote against the motion of the honourable member from Kentucky (Mr. Hatton) because it expunges a land tax altogether from the system of revenue—I shall, also vote against the resolution of the committee of finance, as amended on the motion of the honourable speaker, because it introduces in a quality and uncertainty in the system, which ought to be and professes to be permanent; but am perfectly willing to maintain the resolution as reported by the committee.

CONGRESSIONAL. THE MEMORY OF WASHINGTON.

The following were the observations with which Mr. Huger prefaced his motion, respecting the pledge of a former congress on the death of Gen. Washington.

Mr. Huger said, that what he deemed a solemn duty obliged him to claim the indulgence of the house for a few moments. He had been detained by severe indisposition from attending his duties in that body since Saturday last, and though fitter, he should not have ventured out to-day, but for a piece of information which had accidentally reached him that morning. In glancing his eyes over the papers just brought him, he was struck by certain resolutions published in the Richmond Inquirer, from which it appeared that the legislature of Virginia had by a unanimous vote, authorised the governor of the state to apply to the honourable Bushrod Washington, to permit the remains of her beloved son, the late Gen. George Washington, to be removed and interred near the capital of Virginia. His heart sunk within him, he confessed, on reading those resolutions, and recalling to mind the scenes he had once witnessed, and in which he had once acted a part on the floor of that Congress, which represented the American nation on the death of that great man. He had often since thought with astonishment, and more than regret, of the apathy of the American people on this subject. But although he remembered with the most poignant grief, the

failure of his exertions, and the far more powerful exertions of some of the best and greatest men who were at that time members of Congress, to get something done worthy of the father of his country, and not unworthy of the American nation; yet he had not forgotten, that the sixth Congress had gone so far as to authorise the President of that day to write in behalf of the nation to Mrs. Washington, and to make of her a like request in regard to the remains of our beloved Washington. Neither had he forgotten the admirable and pathetic letter written by that lady; in which she grants their request. The remains of Washington then were pledged to the whole nation; and he trusted the time was at length come, when the honours sacredly due to them, would be paid, as they ought long ago to have been, by the representatives of the whole American people. He had himself been a member of that Congress, and one of those who had approved of the application made to Mrs. Washington. He had, moreover, been one of the committee, (the only one now honoured with a seat on the floor,) to whom the subject had been referred, when it had last been before congress. He did not therefore, he trusted; assume too much to himself, when he ventured to think that it had in some degree devolved on him, as a sacred and solemn duty, to call the attention of congress to this subject at the present time, and under the particular circumstances which he had noticed above.

Accordingly, indisposed as he was, he had, without the loss of a single moment, hurried down to the house and he seized the first possible opportunity to offer the resolution he held in his hand. Before he read it to the chair, he would be permitted to add, that he trusted no gentleman could possibly suppose he meant thereby to express any disapprobation in regard to the resolutions of the legislature, or to evince the smallest disrespect to the state of Virginia. He was one of the last men in that house to do so—Virginia had been to him, in no small degree, a second alma-mater.— Though he first drew his breath in the capital of South Carolina, he had passed during the revolutionary war several of the early years in the former state; being exiled from his native state then in possession of the enemy. He had met every where, and from thousands in Virginia, hospitality, kindness, friendship, and he might with propriety add parental affection and protection. It was impossible all this could ever be erased from his heart, and as he before observed, he had never ceased to regard Virginia as his second alma-mater. But South Carolina was not less dear to him, nor could he forget her claims on the present occasion. She formed a portion of the great American nation. As such, she had not full interest in the pledge possessed, to the mortal remains of our father and chief. As a South Carolinian, therefore, and member of the American family, as well as from the peculiar circumstances connected with his personal situation, being an immediate representative on the occasion before alluded to, and at the present time of the state of South Carolina, he felt himself imperiously bound to offer the following resolution to the house:—

MORTAL DISEASE!

The Nashville (Ten.) Gazette of January 23, says, "At present, a very mortal disease prevails in our country—it is known by the appellation of the Kentucky Plague, presenting nearly the same symptoms as the disease that desolated that State about two years ago. It is not confined to any section of this State, but pervades every neighbourhood we have heard of—From computations that upwards of a hundred grown persons have been swept off by this fell besom, in this country, in three months; nearly 20 have died in Nashville, in that time. It is nearly confined entirely to men in the prime of life."

A caucus consisting of the democratic members of the legislature of New-York have nominated Daniel D. Tompkins, Gov. of that state, a candidate for the office of President of the U. S. [Phil. Gazette]

An enterprise he was unwilling to second; not because the fame of the virtues of Washington had been fixed on his mind, but because he wished to preserve that fame, which he revered. Mr. R. said this resolution declared the fame of Washington perishable, a monument of marble be not erected to perpetuate it. Sir, his figure fills the four quarters of the globe and will survive long after your marble has crumbled to dust. *perennis*—his fame is more durable than brass or marble. Let his remains slumber on their native plain; for my part, said Mr. R. I would rather his name should live in history than in marble. Erect a monument to him, and it may some future time be exposed to the insults of an enemy. We have had one enemy who would not respect an edifice erected to him, nor could his name protect it from destruction; but they cannot reach his fame—can never touch it. By the resolution too, some may be deprived of the exercise of their political devotion. We know that professional devotees who now come here, to make a pilgrimage to Mount Vernon to show their devotion. The expense likewise, said Mr. R. forms a serious objection to such a scheme, and every good and great man, after, will have a claim to a similar honour. Let us not establish the precedent.

Mr. Huger said in reply, that he none respect the gentleman was in an error; no expense was now proposed. He had endeavoured so to word the resolution as to escape objection. He could not, he said, reconcile it to his mind, as a citizen of this country, long to neglect those sacred remains. Whether that neglect was right or wrong, he had not said, nor did he intend now to pronounce; but this he could with propriety assert, that the U. States are bound to act on the subject in some shape or other, and the object of the resolution was simply to call on them to say what they are willing to do. It was a member of that Congress which gave to the nation a solemn pledge on this subject and he wished them now to decide whether that pledge was to be redeemed or relinquished. He had not thought of a mausoleum, nor indeed had he contemplated any particular object of that kind. But because there may be some expense attending it, are Congress to do nothing in a case where they are so solemnly pledged? Sir, said Mr. H. we are all called on to act on this subject—a great state has most solemnly called on us. The majority may say, "our father is dead; we are satisfied; let his remains rest;" but if such be the case, let Virginia at once have the honour and glory of providing for them.—Unwilling as I am, that any state should possess the venerated remains of Washington; yet if we decline it, let his native state do them honour. Nothing has been said by me about a mausoleum or a monument. All I ask is a decision in one way or other; to redeem or reject the pledge given—in that I surely ask nothing wrong.

The resolution was then modified and agreed to by the House as follows, a committee of seven appointed on the part of this House:—

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to join such committee as may be appointed by the Senate, to examine into the proceedings of a former Congress on the lamented death of the late George Washington, and to take into consideration what further measures it may be expedient to adopt at the present time in relation to that solemn and interesting subject.

LAW OF MARYLAND.

December Session, 1815.
An act to amend the act, entitled, "An act to admit persons conscientiously scrupulous of taking an oath to support the laws."
Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the act called Quakers, those called Menonists, Tunkers, and oth- er persons, shall be allowed to take an oath on any occasion, shall be allowed to make their solemn affirmations in the manner that they have heretofore allowed to affirm, and such affirmations shall be of the same force and effect as if they had taken an oath to all intents and purposes whatsoever.

Be it enacted, That before the persons aforesaid shall be admitted as a juror in any court in this State, the court may be satisfied by such testimony as they may require, that such a one of those who profess conscientiously scrupulous of an oath.

Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That it shall be necessary, (if the county shall deem it to be for the interest of all persons concerned) for the purchaser or purchasers of any real estate of any person deceased, which hath been or may be sold by commission, to get to direct decedents, the supplements thereto, of any one of the representa-

MARYLAND GAZETTE.
BALTIMORE, THURSDAY, MARCH 7.
In this day's paper is inserted the very excellent speech of Mr. Huger on the subject of the remains of Philadelphia, in relation to Mr. Clay. After the delivery of this speech, some remarks appeared in Duane's Aurora, upon the attention and his colleague, Mr. Sergeant, a gentleman of the same political principles, in which the following high and merited encomium was expressed: "In such hands the talents will attract and must command attention in the councils of our country. They are the sons of those who contributed to the establishment of American independence. They possess the spirit which animated their fathers—and have never been contaminated by the influence which surround foreign courts." When men like Hopper and Sergeant, who have ever been steadfast in the principles of republicanism, and who but a few years past were branded with the stigma of "tory" by the friends of the administration, by an honourable and consistent course of conduct, impudently their political enemies sought to acknowledge them to be the high and important positions in them by their fellow-citizens, but to employ the pen of those that justice to which they command eloquence and allied patriotism entitled them, it is presumed by every one that are indeed worthy of it; and from those of their opponents, from their undeviating perseverance in the path pointed out by the mortal Washington, has extorted praise, are not themselves perpetrators of the imbecility and inability of the men who now rule over the destinies of the nation, to restore things to the order in which they stood when Mr. Washington first laid hold of the tiller of the national bark; nor straining to the necessity which existed in placing that tiller in the hands of men untainted by the pollution of foreign courts, of men pacifically disposed, more anxious to administer, and more anxious to preserve the repose and happiness of the American people.

Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That it shall be necessary, (if the county shall deem it to be for the interest of all persons concerned) for the purchaser or purchasers of any real estate of any person deceased, which hath been or may be sold by commission, to get to direct decedents, the supplements thereto, of any one of the representa-