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TO THE PEOPLE OF THE U. STATES.

No. II. A short history of the act of congress of the 3d March 1809, by which the comptroller of the treasury is required to lay an annual statement before congress, during the first week of their session, of the accounts which may have remained more than three years unsettled, or on which balances appear to have been due more than three years, prior to the 30th Sept. preceding.

It was on that day (3d March 1809,) that Mr. Jefferson's second term of office, as president, expired. He was, no doubt, anxious to leave some evidence of his zeal for the public interest; and he probably thought there could be no better way of doing this, than by procuring a law to be passed, exhibiting to the public view a list of the public defaulters, and also of carrying into effect a favourite principle of the republicans of the old school—namely, that "the sums appropriated by law for each branch of expenditure in the several departments should be solely applied to the objects for which they were respectively appropriated, & to no other."

Accordingly Mr. Gallatin, then secretary of the treasury, made a draft of the aforesaid act of the 3d March, 1809. It was introduced, I think, into the house of representatives by the then chairman of the committee of ways and means; passed that body; but was so amended in the senate at the suggestion (as I have always understood) of general Samuel Smith, (whose brother Robert, the then secretary of the navy, was decidedly hostile to its principles, in regard to specific appropriations) as to render the clause in the act, as it regarded the specific application of each sum appropriated, a perfect nullity. There are other provisions in this law for insuring a due accountability of the public money, such as requiring those intrusted with its disbursement, to keep it in some incorporated Bank, and to render monthly returns, &c. of their payments. It has, doubtless, been from the culpable neglect (the mild term that can with any propriety be applied to the case) of him whose duty it is "to see that the laws are faithfully executed," that such vast sums of money have been lost to the community. Pass what laws you will, be they ever so salutary, unless they be "faithfully executed," they become as a dead letter, worse than useless. To be plain; it is the PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES who is principally to blame for the dilapidations recently made on the public treasury.

A word or two as to the manner in which the third auditor has communicated to the comptroller the list of delinquents on his books. He, the third auditor, is, I understand, very much censured by some of the democratic party, for the way in which he makes his communication on this subject, as giving so much importance to it. Verily, I am quite of a different opinion. I think his report rather calculated to screen some of the defaulters at least. I will, for the present, mention a single instance only of this kind. The case of the late Mr. Brent, paymaster general, residing at the seat of the general government, thus put down by Mr. Hagner, on his list, "Robert Brent, paymaster general, \$40,911. 18—balance on settlement 2d June 1820—reported for it." Now if Mr. Hagner did not know of any further debts to be owing against Mr. Brent, this is very well. But will he say that, at the time he made his report, he knew of no further debts to be owing to the account of that officer? I have lately learned, from a person of authority, that the deficiency in this case is actually above 160,000 dollars; and moreover, that the official bond of the late incumbent was not to be found. It is not from any vicious motive that I have selected this particular case—far from it. I do it for the purpose of showing you how your affairs are managed, even at the seat of government, directly under the eye of the President, whose duty it is to see that the laws are "faithfully executed." It is said too, that this will be a total loss or nearly so to the public, the delinquent being dead, and no administration on his estate. And yet, in the face of this, and a hundred times as much more, we are told by our rulers, through their organ, the National Intelligencer, that "it is a shame to impose on the people the absurdity that these balances represent moneys actually due." That some of these are unsettled accounts; nobody ever denied; but there is no qualification in the remark made by the editors of the Intelligencer—they attempt to "impose the absurdity," that they are all "unsettled balances, and exparte accounts!"

I will now advert to one other item in the report of the third auditor, which, though not larger in amount, is, nevertheless, great in point of enormity, and may serve as a sample of the proceedings of the Executive officers of this government. Under the proper head, in the third auditor's list, you will find the following entry: "Charles Gobert, contractor, \$2,850; advanced on account of ordinance—it being on account of his contract for the manufacture of musket balls." A parallel to this case, in point of principle, is not, I believe, to be found in the annals of this country. I will give you the following brief account of it; and if any thing which I state be wrong, it can be corrected by reference to the facts at the proper office.

Charles Gobert, is a Frenchman of specious manners, but of notoriously infamous character. When Mr. Monroe, the present President, was acting secretary of war, he made a contract with this Gobert for the supply of musket balls, which Gobert called of specific gravity; and contrary to all propriety and the principles which had before governed in making contracts, the whole amount of money to be paid was advanced, by order of Mr. Monroe, to Gobert, who put it into his pocket, and, perhaps, never thought of the musket balls afterwards; certain it is, he delivered none to the war department. It is true, the formality of taking security for the public money advanced to Gobert was complied with; I say formality, because the bond was taken in such a way, that the security (a person of the name of Ogden, in N. York) is deemed not to be liable for the money, at least so says the United States district attorney. You will not, perhaps, be so much surprised at this strange and unjustifiable advance of the public money, when you are informed; that this unprincipled Frenchman had married a relation of the wife of Mr. Monroe. This is the same Gobert, who was afterwards detected in a treasonable intercourse with admiral Cockburn, was arraigned for high treason, but, by some means, made his escape. In my next communication, I will advert to some other cases of delinquency; particularly to some in the books of the fourth auditor, and to others on the books of "Receipts and Expenditures," which will enable you to determine whether it be not high time for you to arouse from your apathy, and take yourselves to thinking a little before it is too late. If you do not, ere long, "correct the procedure," in regard to the general administration of your affairs, you may, depend upon it, bid a long farewell to liberty and to happiness.

A Native of Virginia. To the People of the United States. No. III. The remarks of the present number will be principally confined to the balances due from individuals to the United States, and standing on the books of the fourth auditor of the treasury; none of which balances have, as yet, I believe, been exposed to public view, except in the official reports made to congress from the treasury department. The amount on this list is, I think, about Two Millions of Dollars; and I am sorry to add, the greater part of the money will be lost to the public.

To enable you to judge of the shameful and culpable manner in which this money has been disbursed from the public treasury at Washington, I will make a few extracts from one of these reports; and then, after a few comments, leave every reflecting honest man in the country to determine for himself, whether the persons who are entrusted with the management of our public concerns deserve the respect or the confidence of the people.

In the "abstract of balances remaining on the books of the fourth auditor," will be found the following entry: "Theodorick Armistead \$242,981 46, formerly navy agent, deceased, Norfolk, Va." This is, as it appears, a finally settled account; and I understand that the delinquent is dead and insolvent. Nor does it appear from the official report that any security was taken, of course this is a total loss to the public. It may be proper to add, that all navy agents are required, by the standing rules of the department, to render monthly returns to the proper accounting officer at Washington, of their receipts and disbursements during each month. How then, it will be asked, can there possibly happen such an immense deficiency as is here stated? I answer—because the laws are not "faithfully executed;" because the laws, and ancient wholesome regulations, are made to give way to political expediency; thus sacrificing the public interest to promote the unlawful views of party. But in doing this the executive not only acts with injustice to the community—it is a culpable abandonment of his own duty, as enjoined upon him by the constitution, and a violation of his oath.

The next case to which I will call your attention is entered on the official abstract above referred to, thus: "John Crabb, \$672,041 37, paymaster, M. C. Washington city—[remark]—he has rendered accounts to amount of \$163,089 69, but they cannot be adjusted as the pay rolls have not been certified by the inspector of the marine corps." Here then, admitting the entire credit which the paymaster claims, a clear balance appears against him of upwards of half a million of dollars! The fourth auditor has not stated to congress what security the public has for this enormous debt; nor has he even condescended to say what prospects there are of a recovery of any part of it from the principal. The truth, however, is, that the money will not, cannot be recovered; because the debtor is not able to pay it; nor do I believe that any measures whatever have been resorted to, to enforce payment.

In referring to an estimate, made to congress, in order to obtain an appropriation for the expense of pay for the whole of the marine corps, for the year 1820, (and it is believed the estimate is nearly the same every year.) I find the total amount for that object to be 95,760 dollars; so that it would appear from the official report rendered to congress; that the paymaster of this corps has been permitted to retain in his hands, (and which appears to be now an actual balance against him) the sum of \$508,951 68! This, my fellow citizens, was an advance of money at the seat of the general government, directly in view of the president, whose duty it is, by the constitution, "to take care that the laws are faithfully executed." I do not mean to say that the president is, or ought to be, responsible for the misconduct of all the inferior executive officers of the government; but this much I will say, that he is bound to dismiss from the public service every such officer as shall not do his duty. He is moreover, bound to give information to congress "of the state of the Union, and recommend to their consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient." The president has given to congress no direct "information" whatever relative to public defaulters: All the information that congress have had communicated to them on that most important subject, is what the members may be enabled to glean from the vague and unsatisfactory documents rendered under the law of the 3d March, 1809. Mr. Monroe never has in a single instance, that I can recollect, in making his communications to congress, adverted to the shameful and scandalous misapplication of the public money during

his and the next preceding administration, by which so many millions have been squandered and lost. But in the face of all this, and of the notorious fact of public and private embarrassment, we are told of our "extraordinary prosperity." It is not for me to say how long the people will permit themselves to be thus gilded and flattered.

The next item in the official abstract to which I shall refer, stands thus: "Eckford and Brown, contractors; New York, \$480,000—no accounts rendered." This is all the information the department has condescended to give to the representatives of the people on this subject. It is not even stated what Eckford and Brown contracted to do; all the information we have about it is, that they, some years ago, got four hundred and eighty thousand dollars of the people's money, and that, as yet, "no account is rendered" of its application! What will, what can our public functionaries say to this? What will the people of this country say to it?

I shall continue the extracts from the 4th auditor's report in my next communication. A Native of Virginia. THE CITY OF MEXICO. Abridged from the travels of Baron de Humboldt, for the Americas.

The city of Mexico is situated in a vale, surrounded by verdant and lofty mountains. The capitol, reconstructed by the Spaniards, exhibits, perhaps, a less vivid, though a more august and majestic appearance. With the exception of Petersburg, Berlin, and Philadelphia, and some quarters of Westminster, there does not exist a city of the same extent, which can be compared to the capital of New Spain, for the uniform level of the ground on which it stands, for the regularity and breadth of the streets, and the extent of the public places. The architecture generally is of a very pure style, and there are even edifices of very beautiful structure. The balustrades and gates are all of Biscay iron. The edifice destined for the school of mines, for which the country furnished a sum of more than three millions of francs, (125,000l. sterling,) would adorn the principal palaces of Paris or London. Two great palaces were recently constructed by Mexican artists, pupils of the Academy of Fine Arts of the capitol. One of these palaces exhibits a very beautiful oval peristyle of coupled columns. The traveller justly admires a vast circumference, paved with porphyry flags, and enclosed with an iron railing, richly ornamented with bronze, containing an equestrian statue of King Charles IV. The city of Mexico is remarkable for its excellent police. The most part of the streets have very broad pavements, and they are clean and well lighted. The objects which generally attract the attention of the traveller are, 1. The cathedral, which has two towers, ornamented with pillars and statues, & is of very beautiful symmetry. 2. The Treasury, from which, since the beginning of the 16th century, more than 6,500 millions in gold and silver have been coined. 3. The Convents, among which the great convent of St. Francis is particularly distinguished which, from alms alone, possesses an annual revenue of half a million of francs. 4. The Hospital, or rather the two united hospitals, of which the one maintains 600, the other 800 children and old people. 5. The Acordada, a fine edifice, of which the prisons are generally spacious and well aired. 6. The School of mines, with its fine collections in physics, mechanics, and mineralogy. 7. The Botanical Garden, which is extremely rich in vegetable productions. 8. The edifices of the University and Public Library. 9. The equestrian statue of King Charles IV. According to the most recent and least uncertain dates, the actual population of the city of Mexico appears to be from 135 to 140,000 souls. The clergy of Mexico is extremely numerous. The Archbishop possesses a revenue of 682,500 livres, (11,150l. sterling.) The revenue of the Inquisition amounts 200,000 livres. The market of Mexico is richly supplied.

The greater part of the roots are cultivated on the Chinampas, called by the Europeans floating gardens. They are towed with long poles. The edges of the squares are generally ornamented with flowers. The promenade in boats around the Chinampas, is one of the most agreeable that can be enjoyed in the environs of Mexico. No city of the new continent, without even excepting those of the United States, can display such great, solid and scientific establishments as the capital of Mexico. In the Academy of the Arts is a much finer and more complete collection of casts than is to be found in any part of Germany. The collection of casts brought to Mexico, cost the King 200,000 francs. The revenue of the Academy of Fine Arts at Mexico amounts to 125,000 francs. It is impossible not to perceive the influence of this establishment on the taste of the nation. What a number of beautiful edifices are to be seen at Mexico, even in the provincial towns! These monuments, which frequently cost a million, and a million and a half of francs, would appear to advantage in the finest streets of St. Petersburg, Berlin or Paris. M. Tasso, professor of sculpture at Mexico, was even able to cast an equestrian statue of King Charles IV. which, with the exception of the Marcus Aurelius at Rome, surpasses in beauty and purity of style, every thing which remains in this way in Europe. Instruction is communicated gratis at the Academy of Fine Arts. The architectural works carried on in the capital of Mexico are so great, that notwithstanding the low rate of wages, the superb edifice for the school of mines will cost at least three millions of francs. Nothing can present a more rich and varied appearance than the valley, when in a fine summer morning we transport ourselves to the top of one of the towers of the Cathedral of Mexico. The city appears as if washed by the waters of the Lake of Texcoco, whose basin, surrounded by villages and hamlets, brings to mind the most beautiful lakes of the mountains of Switzerland. Large avenues of elms and poplars lead in every direction to the capitol, and two aqueducts, constructed over arches of very great elevation, cross the plain, and exhibit an appearance equally agreeable and interesting. A CURE FOR THE AGUE AND FEVER. Take one ounce of Bark (common yellow Peruvian)—one ounce of Cloves, ground fine and mix them in a bottle of good Madeira wine; of which take a wine glass full every 10 or 15 minutes, beginning two hours before the chill is expected, taking care to shake the bottle well before each drink. When the chill comes on, no more is to be taken until the next day at the same time. When the person has a regular accession of fever, without the chill, the same remedy will answer. CURE FOR THE DYSENTERY. Several persons who have lately laboured under severe attacks of the Dysentery, have experienced a relief and cure from using tea made of the common blackberry root. Extract of a letter from Fort Osage, dated June 15, 1821. Grasshoppers!—Immense swarms of Grasshoppers are overrunning this whole country, and literally eating it up. Our gardens are nearly all destroyed, and we have no reason to hope that any thing will be saved of them. Without some Providential interference, I can see no escape from all the distressing consequences of a general and utter failure of our grain crops, this plague seems to be evidently progressing south-eastwardly, so that you may count upon a similar visitation next fall.—Those who can secure two years supply of grain from the present crops ought to do so by all means; you had better prepare for the coming evil; practice economy in the feeding away of corn &c.; save plenty of forage in order to save grain.

Notice is hereby given That an Election will be held at the Sheriff's election districts, in Anne Arundel county, on the 1st Monday September next, for two Electors, to elect the Sheriff of this state, according to the laws of Maryland. Benjamin Gaither, Sheriff of Anne Arundel County, August 9

BENJAMIN T. PINDLE, Takes this method to inform the citizens of Anne Arundel county, that he offers himself a candidate for their suffrages at the next sheriff's election, and hopes that his long experience in all the duties of that office will entitle him to their support.

New Arrangement of Days.



THE STEAM BOAT MARYLAND.

will continue to run as heretofore until the last day of the present month.—But afterwards she will take her routes as follows: On Sunday the first of April, she leaves Easton at 8 o'clock, and will proceed to Annapolis, leaving there at half past 2 o'clock, for Baltimore, and arrive at 6 o'clock the same day; leaves Commerce street wharf, Baltimore, on Wednesday at 8 o'clock, and returns by Annapolis to Easton at 6 o'clock, the same evening; And so leaves Easton at the same hour, and by the same route, every Sunday and Thursday, and leaving Baltimore in like manner, every Wednesday and Saturday. In every route she will touch at Todd's Point, the Mills and at Oxford, if hailed, to take and land passengers. On Monday of every week she will leave Baltimore at nine o'clock for Chestertown, and arrive there in the afternoon; and on Tuesday morning leaves at 9 o'clock Chestertown and returns to Baltimore, touching in both routes at Queen's town, to take and land passengers. She will take freights from and to the respective places above mentioned, so as not to incommode the passengers, their Horses or Carriages. Passengers wishing to go to Philadelphia will find it the most convenient and expeditious route, as she meets the Union line of steam boats, when they can be put on board, and arrive in Philadelphia the next morning by 9 o'clock. All baggage, of which due care will be taken, will nevertheless be at the risk of the owners as heretofore.

March 22

Dissolution of Partnership. The partnership of Warfield and Ridgely having this day been dissolved by mutual consent, all persons having claims against said firm are requested to present them to either of the subscribers, who are duly authorized to receive and pay all debts due to and from said firm. Those indebted to the firm aforesaid by notes or bonds, are requested to make payment, and those indebted on open account are desired to call and pay the same, or give notes or bonds, on or before the 1st April 1821.

William Warfield, David Ridgely.

The business will be conducted in the future under the firm of D. Ridgely, & Co.

Dry Goods & Groceries. Any who respectfully solicit a continuance of the custom of their friends and the public.

SHERIFFALTY. WILLIAM O'HARA.

Having understood that a report is circulating of his having declined being a Candidate for the office of sheriff, he takes this opportunity of declaring the same to be unfounded. He begs the public not to suffer themselves to be deceived by reports of this kind, as he is still, and means to continue a Candidate for their suffrages for the above appointment, and respectfully solicits their votes.

March 29.

JUST PUBLISHED, AND FOR SALE, AT THIS OFFICE, The Votes & Proceedings of the last session of the Legislature. Price—\$1.00

June 14.