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POLITICAL.

From the Federal Republic.

To the People of the United States.

I do not believe that a single newspaper in the United States has published the report of the committee of the House of Representatives on Military Affairs, of the 13th February last, "upon the subject of the employment of officers in the army, clerks in the departments, and extra pay allowed to them for such services." How this has happened, I will not pretend to say. Not only the report above mentioned, has not been published, (at least as published) but there are several other most important public documents, of a similar nature, exhibiting the conduct of our executive officers in matters of vital importance to the people at large, which I believe, have never been published in any of the public journals of the country. These reports, it is true, have been printed for the use of the House—but they have never been circulated, as they ought to have been, for the information of the people generally. Our gazettes have been filled, page after page, with the fulsome addresses to "The Queen"—(as we were wont to call the half-repudiated wife of the British King, in this country) with the disgusting ossequities of a trial; the "The King's coronation" and so forth, to the exclusion of highly important state papers; which ought to be in the hands of every intelligent freeman in the country. Some printers of newspapers are more excusable. I admit, than others, for this apparent neglect in all—because some cannot, without much trouble, and some expense, obtain the original printed documents from the seat of the general government. But what shall we say of the editors of "the Nation and Intelligencer" is generally and correctly called, in this respect?—These Editors are the printers for both Houses of Congress. From them especially we have a right to expect full and prompt information on all subjects connected with the federal administration. Indeed in their published prospectus they declare, among other things, that the "Nation and Intelligencer" publishes, originally, the "proceedings and debates of Congress; and contains also, all the state papers and documents of public interest, laid before Congress, or originating in that body." Now I will ask who has seen published in that paper or any other, two reports of a select committee from the House of Representatives relative to the contract with James Johnson, of Kentucky, for transporting troops, up the Missouri?—or the report of another committee, last year, on the subject of public abuses by the unauthorized and illegal loan of the public money, and other public property and of the consequent loss thereby?—or of the report of the Military committee above mentioned, and several others which could be named? Who has ever seen a report of the speech of Mr. Johnson, a member of the House of Representatives from Virginia, wherein in a voice of thunder, he berated the President in his palace, for having made for public account, an unauthorized loan from one of the banks, and for having exceeded the appropriation made by Congress for the President's household. N. B. This said Mr. Johnson was a lawyer in one of the interior counties of Virginia; and a few weeks after he made this direct attack upon Mr. Monroe he was made collector of the customs at the port of Norfolk—although it is highly probable that, before his induction into that office, he had never seen "a Clearance" or "a Manifest."

But we will return to the report of the committee on Military Affairs. It is too lengthy to be inserted, entire, in the present communication. I will give you the substance of it.

The committee ascertained and reported that no less than fifteen officers of the army, of different grades, were employed as clerks in the different departments at Washington; and for that service were detailed by order of the War Department. The aggregate amount of money paid, in a very short time, for these "extra" services, as they are called, amounts to \$2,535 50 cents; their pay and emoluments as officers in the army, were, at the same time, received by them. On this head the committee remarks: "The statements furnished them shew, that, in addition to the pay and emoluments, [as army officers] and extra compensation, each of the above named officers have received payment for clothing! The committee are unadvised of any law to justify it, especially when they see neither of them has employed a private servant, and for the clothing of whom only is an officer permitted to receive money in lieu of clothing." The committee, in conclusion of this part of the subject, further remark: "When an officer is detailed to perform duties in the departments, such as have been described, they cease to render any other; when they perform no duties as officers, but merely act as clerks, it seems unreasonable to pay them as officers, and, at the same time, compensation as clerks. When they cease to perform the functions of officers, but yet receive their pay and emoluments, the committee believe they should be content; that they have no legal or equitable claim to extra compensation, because extra payment is predicated on a supposition that additional duties are performed. In the present case, the supposed additional duty is the only service required of them, and that, in reality they perform no service whatever as officers of the army."

On the subject of compensation allowed to the surgeon general of the army, the committee go on and make the following statement:—"The committee thought it incumbent on them to extend their enquiries to the compensation allowed the surgeon general in addition to his salary fixed by law. They find from the statement furnished by the third auditor, that doctor Joseph Lovell, the surgeon general, has been paid, in addition to his annual salary, from the 1st of October, 1818, to the 30th September, 1820, for quarters, \$864; and for fuel for the same period, \$452 25 cents, making an aggregate of \$1,316 25 cents. The act of Congress establishing the office of surgeon general, provides, that he shall be allowed a salary of \$2,500, making no provision for any other or extra compensation. The committee are surprised that a construction should be given to this law by which the surgeon general shall be enabled to receive compensation beyond the limits of his salary, unless they bring to their aid the practice which appears at all times to have prevailed "in some shape or another." [quoting the words of the secretary of war] to allow the officers, at the seat of government, extra compensation."

"If the word salary, [continue the committee] has an appropriate meaning, it certainly must be a stated or settled hire to the person who performs the duties of the office to which the salary is attached; no authority in this government, except the legislative, is deemed competent either to increase or diminish it, [Sound, old fashioned reasoning this.] The committee are of opinion, that no precedent, contrary to law, ought, or can have a binding influence. The case of the physician and surgeon general adverted to by the secretary of war, was erroneous in the beginning, and not an example worthy of imitation." The committee proceed, "It is alleged by the secretary of war, in justification of the extra allowance made the surgeon general, that it hardly admits of a doubt, that he, who is liable to be ordered into active service, would be entitled to claim public quarters, if there were such where he might be stationed, and that it is clear he, in common with other officers, has a right to the allowance for them if he should be stationed where quarters cannot be furnished by the public. It appears to the committee this argument is more specious than solid;

weak and puerile they might have said) the law provides, that other officers shall receive pay and emoluments, and enumerated quarters and fuel as articles included in the provision intended to be made;—but in the case of the surgeon general, the law provides a salary of \$2,500, which they believe the legislature thought, should be full for all services. If the surgeon general would be entitled to quarters and fuel when ordered into active service, it is not understood by the committee how his liability to be ordered into active service could entitle him to compensation for them before that liability attached. If an officer is entitled to either pay or emoluments upon the contingency of being ordered into active service, it seems an arbitrary construction to grant him either before the happening of that contingency.—In no point of view can the committee perceive the propriety of this allowance, which as yet does not appear to be supported even by the authority of precedent."

Such, fellow-citizens, is the report and such the views of some of your immediate Representatives in Congress, of the proceedings and conduct of an important branch of the government, placed by the law which established it under the immediate and direct control of the President. In further proof that the law never intended to give to the surgeon general any other compensation for his services than the annual salary of \$2,500, let it be remembered, that the secretary of war himself, in the annual estimates for the expenses of our military establishment, asks for \$2,500, only for compensation to the surgeon general, without requesting a cent for "fuel or quarters," or any thing else. He well knew that, under the existing laws Congress would not appropriate for anything beyond the salary allowed. See the annual estimates for appropriations, &c. But there are many ways of evading the laws, or in homely phraseology, "whipping the devil round the stump." All of which our rulers seem to understand very well. The large sums appropriated for "contingencies" afford ample scope for the exercise of their ingenuity in disposing of the public treasure committed to their charge, and as may best suit their own views and purposes. But what is here stated is trifling compared to some other things which will, which must appear before the public in due time. The alarm has been given. The people are beginning to open their eyes, and to think. Wee unto those who have so shamefully abused their generous confidence. The awful day of reckoning is not so far distant as many imagine. It is the bounden duty of every honest man in the nation to aid in the great work of reformation. It shall be my especial care, if life and health permit, not to flag, or relax in my present undertaking, until a complete exposure shall have been effected. A Native of Virginia.

P. S. The office of surgeon general is now, and has for some time been a complete sinecure. I am credibly informed, that for the disbursement of about \$30,000 in this department, it cost the public about \$10,000. Here, then, is a much heavier and more expensive "Drone" than any that has yet been exhibited to public view. But whenever a proper investigation shall take place, they will be found to exist "as plenty as blackberries" in their season. Did any body ever hear of our present chief magistrate recommending to Congress the abolishing of an office? What he will say next week, in his message on this subject I know not. He would willingly tell us, no doubt, if he could, how much of the public debt has been paid off this year. He will, however, tell us how much money was in the treasury on the 30th September last; but he will not tell us how much of this was "available funds." He will not tell us, (I think he will not) that there is, at this time, one dollar of available cash in the treasury, nor will he tell us how much the government has over drawn upon the United States' Bank, to "keep the wheels of government" in motion. But all things will, nevertheless, and in due season be found out.

December 1, 1821.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Mistaken Views of Religion.

One cause which impedes the reception of religion, even among the well disposed, is that garment of sadness in which people delight to suppose her dressed; and that life of hard, pining abstinence which they pretend she enjoins on her disciples. And it were well if this were the only misrepresentation of her declared enemies; but unhappily, it is the too frequent mis-conception of her injudicious friends. But such an overcharged picture is not more unamiable than it is unlike; for I will venture to affirm that religion, with all her beautiful and becoming sanctity, imposes fewer sacrifices, not only of rational, but of pleasurable enjoyment, than the uncontrolled dominion of whatever vice. Her service is not only perfect safety, but perfect freedom. She is not so tyrannizing as passion, so exacting as the world, nor so despotick as fashion. Let us try the case by parallel, and examine it, not as affecting our virtue, but our pleasure. Does religion forbid the cheerful enjoyments of life as rigorously as avarice forbids them? Does she require such sacrifices of our ease as ambition; or such renunciations of our quiet as pride? Does devotion murder sleep like dissipation? Does she destroy health like intemperance?—Does she annihilate fortune like gambling? Does she smother life like discord; or abridge it like duelling? Does religion impose more vigilance than suspicion; or half so many mortifications as vanity? Vice has her martyrs, and the most austere and ascetic (who mistakes the genius of christianity almost as her enemy) never tormented herself with such cruel and causeless severity, as that with which envy lacerates her unhappy votaries. Worldly honour obliges us to be at the trouble of resenting injuries, but religion spares us that inconvenience, by commanding us to forgive them, and by this injunction, consults our happiness no less than our virtue; for the torment of constantly hating any, must be at least equal to the sin of it. If this estimate be fairly made, then is the balance clearly on the side of religion, even in the article of pleasure.

PALESTINE MISSION.

Extract from a letter of the Rev. Pliny Fisk, to the Rev. Sereno E. Dwight, of Boston.

Smyrna, May 4, 1821.

[After relating several incidents on their journey to Ephesus, Mr. Fisk continues:]

At 7 o'clock on Wednesday morning we mounted our horses, and leaving the sarcophagus and the old mosque on our right, rode to Mount Prion, and then sent our horses back, and set out on foot to survey the ruins of Ephesus. The ground was covered with high grass or grain, and a very heavy dew rendered the walking rather unpleasant. On the east side of the hill we found nothing worthy of notice: no appearance of having been occupied for buildings. On the north side was the Circus or stadium. Its length from east to west is 40 rods or one stadium. The north or lower side was supported by arches which still remain. The area where the races used to be performed is now a field of wheat. At the west end was the gate. The walls adjoining it are still standing, and of considerable height and strength. North of the stadium and separated only by a street, is a large square inclosed with fallen wall and filled with the ruins of various edifices. A street running north and south divides this square in the centre. West of the stadium is an elevation of ground, level on the top, with an immense pedestal in the centre of it. What building stood there it is not easy to say. Between this and the stadium was a street passing from the great plain north of Ephesus into the midst of the city.

I found on the plains of Ephesus some Greek peasants, men and women, employed in pulling up tares and weeds from the wheat. It reminded me of Matt. xiii. 28. I addressed them in Romanic, but found they understood very little of it, as they usually answered me in Turkish. I ascertained, however, that they all belonged to villages at a

distance, and came there to labour. Not one of them could read, as they said there were priests and a school-master in the village to which they belonged, who could read. I gave them some tracts which they promised to give to their priests & school-master. Tournefort says that when he was at Ephesus there were 30 or 40 Greek families there. Chandler found only ten or 12 individuals. Now no human being lives in Ephesus; but in Aiasalach under another name, though not on precisely the same spot of ground, there are merely a few miserable Turkish huts. "The candlestick is removed out of this place." "How doth the city sit solitary that was full of people."

While wandering among the ruins, it was impossible not to think, with deep interest, of the events which have transpired on this spot. Here has been displayed, from time to time, all the skill of the architect, the musician the tragedian and the orator. Here some of the most splendid works of man have been seen in all their glory, and here the event has shown their transitory nature. How interesting would it be to stand among these walls and have before the mind a full view of the history of Ephesus from its first foundation till now! We might observe the idolatrous and impure rites, and the cruel & bloody sports of pagans succeeding by the preaching, the prayers, the holy and peaceable lives of the first christians—these christians martyred, but their religion still triumphing—pagan rites and pagan sports abolished, and the simple worship of Christ instituted in their room—We might see the city conquered and re-conquered, destroyed and rebuilt, till finally Christianity, arts, learning and prosperity, all vanish before the pestiferous breath of "the only people whose sole occupation has been to destroy."



From the Hartford, Conn. Farmers' Almanac for 1821.

DECEMBER.

The year is closing. Let us inquire of ourselves whether we have closed the labours and duties of it as we ought. Let no one be disposed to say, how short has been this year, until he has examined whether he has made a wise and suitable improvement of the three hundred and sixty-five days which has been allowed him. Has no part of this time hung heavily upon your hands? Are there no blanks, no wastes to be found in our reckoning since the first of January 1821? It is to be feared that we have greater cause to regret the misimprovement, than the shortness of our time.

The fields which but a few days past were clothed in youth and beauty, present to us now out a dreary prospect. This should make us thoughtful—it is a lesson full of instruction. But even winter and age bring with them their enjoyments and comforts, when the Spring Summer and Autumn have been rightly improved. This is the season for contemplation, for intellectual improvement, and for repose. There is nothing better for a man, said Solomon, than that he should eat and drink, and that he should make his soul enjoy good in his labour.

Cure for the Jaundice in Horses.

This disease is indicated by a yellowness of the eyes and mouth, dullness and lassitude; the appetite is generally diminished, the urine of a reddish or dark colour.

When costiveness is one of the symptoms of jaundice, give the ball No. 1 every morning, until moderate purging is produced, but if the bowels are always open, or in a state of purging give the ball, No. 2, every morning. The horse's strength should be supported by infusion of malt or water gruel.

The Ball No. 1.

Calomel, 1 2dr. Barbadoes Aloes, 1 1 2dr. Castile soap 2dr. Rhubarb, 3dr. To be made into a ball with Syrab for one dose.

No. 2.

Calomel and opium, of each, 1dr. Columbo root, powdered, 3dr. Powdered ginger, 3 2dr. Syrab enough to form the ball for one dose.