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The receipts of the present year have amounted to near two millions more than was anticipated at the commencement of the last session of Congress. The amount of duties secured on imports from the first of January to the 30th of September was about twenty millions nine hundred and ninety-three thousand eight hundred and sixty-three dollars and sixty-seven cents, and that of the estimated amount of duties to be received during the year is five millions one hundred and twenty-five thousand six hundred and thirty-eight dollars, fourteen cents. This is one million more than the estimate of the year, and more than the amount of duties received during the year. The amount of duties received during the year was about twenty-five millions six hundred and thirty-seven thousand five hundred and eleven dollars and sixty-three cents, and the amount of duties to be received during the year is five millions one hundred and twenty-five thousand six hundred and thirty-eight dollars, fourteen cents. This is one million more than the estimate of the year, and more than the amount of duties received during the year.

its influence to the others. All these interests are alike under the protecting power of the legislative authority; and the duties of the representative bodies are to conciliate them in harmony together. So far as the object of taxation is to raise a revenue for discharging the debts, and defraying the expenses of the community, it should be such as possible suit the burden with equal hand upon all, in proportion with their ability of bearing it without oppression. But the legislation of one nation is sometimes strenuously made to bear heavily upon the interests of another. That legislation, adapted as it is meant to be, to the special interests of its own people, will often press most unequally upon the several component interests of its neighbor. Thus, the legislation of Great Britain, when, as has recently been avowed, adapted to the depression of a rival nation, will naturally abound with regulations of interest upon the productions of the soil or industry of the other, which will in competition with its own; and will present encouragement, perhaps, even bounty, to the raw material of the other State, which it cannot produce itself, and which is essential for the use of its manufactures, competitors in the markets of the world with those of its commercial rival. Such is the state of the commercial legislation of Great Britain, as it bears upon our interests. It excludes, with interdicting duties, all importation, (except in time of approaching famine) of the great staple productions of our Middle and Western States, it proscribes, with equal rigour, the bulkier lumber and live stock of the same portion, and also of the Northern and Eastern part of our Union. It refuses even the rice of the South, unless aggravated with a charge of duty upon the Northern carrier, who brings it to them. But the cotton, it receives almost duty free, to weave it into a fabric for our own wear, to the destruction of our own manufactures, which they are enabled thus to undersell. Is the self-protecting energy of this nation so helpless that there exists, in the political institutions of our country, no power to counteract the bias of this foreign legislation; that the powers of grain must submit to this exclusion from the foreign markets of their produce; that the shippers must dismantle their ships, the trade of the North stagnate at the wharves, and the manufacturers starve at their looms, while the whole people shall pay tribute to foreign industry, to be clad in a foreign garb; that the Congress of the Union are impotent to restore the balance in favour of native industry destroyed by the statutes of another realm? More just and more generous sentiments will, I trust, prevail. If the tariff adopted at the last session of Congress shall be found by experience to bear oppressively upon the interests of any one section of the Union, it ought to be, and I cannot doubt it will be, so modified as to alleviate its burden. To the voice of just complaint from any portion of our constituents, the Representatives of the States and People will never turn away their ears. But so long as the duty of the foreign sailor operate only as a bounty upon the domestic article—while the planter, and the merchant, and the shepherd, and the husbandman, shall be found thriving in their occupations under the duties imposed for the protection of domestic manufactures, they will not repine at the prosperity shared with themselves by their fellow citizens of other professions, nor denounce, as violations of the Constitution, the deliberations of Congress to shield from the wrong of foreign laws the native industry of the Union. While the tariff of the last session of Congress was a subject of legislative deliberation, it was foretold by some of its opponents that one of its necessary consequences would be to impair the revenue. It is yet too soon to pronounce with confidence, that this prediction was erroneous. The obstruction of one avenue of trade not unfrequently opens an issue to another. The consequence of the tariff will be to increase the exportation, and to diminish the importation of some specific articles. But, by the general law of trade, the increase of exportation of one article will be followed by an increased importation of the deficiencies, which will supply the deficiencies, which the diminished importation would otherwise occasion. The effect of taxation upon revenue can seldom be foreseen with certainty. It must abide the test of experience. As yet no symptoms of diminution are perceptible in the receipts of the Treasury. As yet, little addition of cost has ever been experienced upon the articles supplied with heavier duties by the last tariff. The domestic manufacturer suffers the same or a kindred article at a diminished price, and the consumer pays the same tribute to the labour of his own countryman, which he must otherwise have paid to foreign industry and toil.

The tariff of the last session was, in its details, not acceptable to the great interests of any portion of the Union, not even to the interest which it was specially intended to subserve. Its object was to balance the burden upon native industry imposed by the operation of foreign laws, but not to aggravate the burdens of one section of the Union by the relief afforded to another. To the great principle sanctioned by that act, of one of those upon which the Constitution itself was formed, I hope and trust the authorities of the Union will adhere. But if any of the duties imposed by the act only release the manufacturer by aggravating the burden of the planter, let a careful review of its provisions, enlightened by the practical experience of its effects, be directed to its repeal, and remove or supply the place of those which only alleviate one great national interest by the depression of another.

The United States of America, and the People of every State of which they are composed, are each of them Sovereign Powers. The legislative authority of the whole is exercised by Congress under authority granted them in the common Constitution. The legislative power of each State is exercised by assemblies deriving their authority from the constitution of the State. Each is sovereign within its own province. Each distribution of power between them presupposes that these authorities will move in harmony with each other. The members of the State and general governments are all under oath to support both, and allegiance is due to the one and to the other. Each pronouncing an act between these two powers made for it in our institutions; as a virtuous nation of ancient times existed more than five centuries without a law for the punishment of parricide.

More than once, however, in the progress of our history, have we seen the legislative power of one or more States, in moments of excitement, been instigated to this conflict, and the means of effecting this impulse have been alleged; that the acts of Congress to be resisted were unconstitutional. The people of no one State have the power of proposing any law, or of passing any law, but they have delegated to their representatives, by the exercise of which the execution of the laws of Congress within the State may be resisted. If we suppose the State, such conflicting legislation, and judicial authority, the corresponding legislative and judicial authorities of the State and the United States would be placed, and from that of the people of both, which must be its victims.

The reports from the Secretary of War, and from the various departments, present an account of the public administration of affairs connected with them, about the course of the current year. The present state of the army, and the disposition of the force of which it is composed, will be seen from the report of the Major-General, and the alterations in the department of troops have been found to be in the course of the year, and the discipline of the army, though not entirely free from exception, has been generally good.

The attention of Congress is particularly invited to that part of the report of the Secretary of War which concerns the existing system of the public administration of affairs. At the establishment of the Federal Government, under the present constitution of the United States, the principle was adopted of considering them as foreign and independent powers, and as proprietors of lands. They were, moreover, considered as savages, whose influence in converting to Christianity, and in bringing within the pale of civilization.

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