

have withheld my assent. The one now returned does not contain any appropriations for surveys of a local character which I cannot approve. It gives me satisfaction to find that no serious inconvenience has arisen from withholding my approval from this bill; nor will it, I trust, be cause of regret that an opportunity will be thereby afforded for Congress to review its provisions under circumstances better calculated for full investigation than those...

In speaking of direct appropriations, I mean not to include a practice which has obtained to some extent, and to which I have, in one instance, in a different capacity, given my assent—that of subscribing to the stock of private associations. Positive experience, and a more thorough consideration of the subject, have convinced me of the impropriety as well as ineffectuality of such investments. All improvements effected by the funds of the nation for general use, should be open to the enjoyment of all our fellow-citizens, exempt from the payment of tolls, or any imposition of that character. The practice of thus mingling the concerns of the Government with those of the States or of individuals, is inconsistent with the object of its institution, and highly impolitic. The successful operation of the federal system can only be preserved by confining it to the few and simple, but yet important objects for which it was designed.

A different practice, if allowed to progress, would ultimately change the character of this Government, by consolidating into one the General and State Governments, which were intended to be kept forever distinct. I cannot perceive how bills authorizing such subscriptions can be otherwise regarded than as bills for revenue, and consequently subject to the rule in that respect prescribed by the Constitution. If the interest of the Government in private companies is subordinate to that of individuals, the management and control of a portion of the public funds is delegated to an authority unknown to the Constitution, and beyond the supervision of our constituents; if superior, its officers and agents will be constantly exposed to imputations of favoritism and oppression. Direct prejudice to the public interest, or an alienation of the affections and respect of portions of the people, may, therefore, in addition to the general discredit resulting to the Government from its dealing with its constituents in pecuniary speculations, be looked for as the probable fruit of such associations. It is no answer to this objection to say that the extent of consequences like these cannot be great from a limited and small number of investments; because experience in other matters teaches us, and we are not at liberty to disregard its admonitions, that, unless an entire stop be put to them, it will soon be impossible to prevent their accumulation, until they are spread over the whole country, and made to embrace many of the private and appropriate concerns of individuals.

The power which the General Government would acquire within the several States by becoming the principal stockholder in corporations, controlling every canal and each sixty or hundred miles of every important road, and giving a proportionate vote in all their elections, is almost inconceivable, and, in my view, dangerous to the liberties of the people. This mode of aiding such works is, also, its nature, deceptive, and in many cases conducive to impropriety in the administration of the funds. Appropriations will be obtained with more facility, and granted with less security to the public interest, when the measure is thus disguised, than when definite and direct expenditures of money are asked for. The interests of the nation would doubtless be better served by avoiding all such indirect modes of aiding particular objects. In a Government like ours, more especially, should all public acts be, as far as practicable, simple, undisguised, and intelligible, that they may be come fit subjects for the approbation or animadversion of the people. The bill authorizing a subscription to the Louisville and Portland canal affords a striking illustration of the difficulty of withholding additional appropriations for the same object, when the first erroneous step has been taken by instituting a partnership between the Government and private companies. It proposes a third subscription on the part of the United States, when each preceding one was at the time regarded as the extent of the aid which Government was to render to that work; and the accompanying bill for light houses, too, contains an appropriation for a survey of the bed of the river with a view to its improvement, by removing the obstructions which the canal is designed to clear.

Such appropriations, if successful, would afford a free passage to the river, and render the canal entirely useless. To such impropriety is the course of legislation subject, in relation to internal improvements on local matters, even with the best intentions on the part of Congress. Although the motives which have influenced me in this matter may be already sufficiently stated, I am nevertheless induced by its importance to add a few observations of a general character.

In my objections to the bills authorizing subscriptions to the Maysville and Rockville Road Companies, I expressed my views fully in regard to the power of Congress to construct roads and canals within a State, or to appropriate money for improvements of a local character. I, at the same time, intimated my belief that the right to make appropriations for such as were of a national character had been so generally acted upon, and so long acquiesced in by the Federal and State Governments, and the constituents of each, as to justify its exercise on the ground of continued and uninterrupted usage; but that it was, nevertheless, highly expedient that appropriations, even of that character, should, with the exception made at

the time, be deferred until the national debt is paid, and that, in the mean while, some general rule for the action of the Government in that respect ought to be established. These suggestions were not necessary to the decision of the question then before me, and were, I readily admit, intended to awaken the attention, and draw forth opinions and observations, of our constituents, upon a subject of the highest importance to their interests, and one destined to exert a powerful influence upon the future operations of our political system. I know of no tribunal to which a public opinion in this country, in a case of doubt and difficulty, can appeal with greater advantage or more propriety than the judgment of the people; and although I must necessarily, in the discharge of my official duties, be governed by the dictates of my own judgment, I have no desire to conceal my anxious wish to conform, as far as I can, to the views of those for whom I act.

All irregular expressions of public opinion are necessarily attended with some doubt, as to their accuracy; but making full allowance on that account, I cannot, I think, deceive myself in believing that the acts referred to, as well as the suggestions I allowed myself to make in relation to their bearing upon the future operations of the Government, have been approved by the great body of the people. That those whose immediate pecuniary interests are to be affected by proposed expenditures should shrink from the application of a rule which prefers the general and remote interests to those which are personal and immediate, is to be expected. But even such objections must, from the nature of our population, be but temporary in their duration; and if it were otherwise, our course should be the same; for the time is yet, I hope, far distant, when those entrusted with power, to be exercised for the good of the whole, will consider it either honest or wise to purchase local favor at the sacrifice of principle and the general good.

So understanding public sentiment, and thoroughly satisfied that the best interests of our common country imperiously require that the course which I have recommended in this regard should be adopted, I have, upon the most mature consideration, determined to pursue it. It is due to candor, as well as to my own feelings, that I should express the reluctance and anxiety which I must at all times experience in exercising the undoubted right of the Executive to withhold his assent from bills on other grounds than their unconstitutionality. That this right should not be exercised on slight occasions, and without cause, is only a matter of deep interest, when the principle involved may be justly regarded as next in importance to infractions of the Constitution itself, that such a step can be expected to meet with the approbation of the people. Such an occasion do I conscientiously believe the present to be. In the discharge of this delicate and highly responsible duty, I am sustained by the reflection that the exercise of this power has been deemed consistent with the obligation of official duty by several of my predecessors; and by the persuasion, too, that, whatever liberal institutions may have to fear from the encroachments of Executive power, which has been exercised, the cause of so much strife and bloody contention, but little danger is to be apprehended from a precedent by which that authority denies to itself the exercise of powers that bring in their train influence and patronage of great extent, and thus exclude the operation of personal interests, every where the bane of official trust.

I derive, too, no small degree of satisfaction from the reflection, that, if I have mistaken the interests and wishes of the people, the Constitution affords the means of correcting the error. Executive power, for the places their favor has bestowed upon me a citizen whose opinions may accord with their own. I trust, in the meantime, the interests of the nation will be saved from prejudice, by a rigid application of that portion of the public funds which might otherwise be applied to different objects, to that highest of all our obligations, the payment of the public debt; and an opportunity be afforded for the adoption of some better rule for the operations of the government in this matter than any which has hitherto been acted upon. Profoundly impressed with the importance of the subject, and to the general prosperity of the country, but to the safety of the federal system; I cannot avoid repeating my earnest hope that all good citizens, who take a proper interest in the success and harmony of our admirable political institutions; and who are incapable of desiring to convert an opposite state of things into means for the gratification of personal ambition—will, laying aside minor considerations, and discarding local prejudices, unite their honest exertions to establish some fixed general principle, which shall be calculated to secure the most beneficial result in regard to the subject of internal improvement, and afford the least ground for sectional discontent.

The general ground of my objection to local appropriations has been heretofore expressed; and I shall endeavor to avoid a repetition of what has been already urged—the importance of sustaining the State sovereignties, as far as is consistent with the rightful action of the Federal Government, and of preserving the greatest attainable harmony between them. I will now only add an expression of my conviction—a conviction which every day's experience serves to confirm—that the political creed which inculcates the pursuit of those great objects as a paramount duty is the true faith, and one to which we are mainly indebted for the present success of the entire system, and to which we must also look for its future stability.

That there are diversities in the interests of the different States which compose this extensive confederacy, must be admitted. Those diversities arising from situation, climate, population, and pursuits, are doubtless, as it is natural they should be, greatly exaggerated by jealousies, and that spirit of rivalry so inseparable from neighboring communities. These circumstances make it the duty of those

who are entrusted with the management of its affairs to neutralize their effects, as far as practicable, by making the beneficial operation of the Federal Government as equal and equitable among the several States as can be done consistently with the great ends of its institution. It is only necessary to refer to undoubted facts, to see how far the past acts of the Government upon the subject under consideration have fallen short of this object. The expenditures heretofore made for internal improvements amount to upwards of five millions of dollars, and have been distributed in very unequal proportions among the States. The expense of works of which surveys have been made, together with that of others projected, and partially surveyed, amount to more than ninety millions of dollars. That such improvements, on account of particular circumstances, may be more advantageously and beneficially made in some States than in others, is doubtless true; but that they are of a character which should prevent an equitable distribution of the funds among the several States, is not to be conceded. The want of this equitable distribution cannot fail to prove a prolific source of irritation among the States.

We have it constantly before our eyes, that professions of superior zeal in the cause of internal improvement, and a disposition to lavish the public funds upon objects of that character, are not, as they are so often represented, the result of a disinterested and patriotic regard for the welfare of the people. Would it be strange, under such circumstances, and in times of great excitement, that grants of this description should find their motives in objects which may not accord with the public good? Those who have not had occasion to see and regret the indication of a sinister influence in these matters in past times, have been more fortunate than myself in their observation of the course of public affairs. If to these evils be added the combinations and angry contentions to which such a course of expenditure, with their lateral influence on the legislation of Congress touching the leading and appropriate duties of the Federal Government, it was but doing justice to the character of our people to expect the severe condemnation of the past which the recent exhibition of public sentiment has evinced.

Nothing short of a radical change in the action of the Government upon the subject can, in my opinion, remedy the evil. If, as it would be natural to expect, the States which have been least favored in past appropriations should insist on being preferred in those hereafter, the Federal Government would be obliged to participate, and have, as matters now stand, but little security that the attempt would do more than change the inequality from one quarter to another. Thus viewing the subject, I have heretofore felt it my duty to recommend the adoption of some plan for the distribution of the surplus funds, which may at any time remain in the treasury after the national debt has been paid, and the States, in proportion to the number of their representatives, to be applied by them to objects of internal improvement.

Although this plan has met with favor in some portions of the Union, it has also excited some objections which merit deliberate consideration. The chief of these objections here will not, therefore, I trust, be regarded as out of place. They rest, as far as they have come to my knowledge, on the following grounds: 1st, an objection to the ratio of distribution; 2d, an apprehension that the existence of such a regular mode of proceeding would tend to increase taxation, and consequently to diminish the amount of the surplus; 3d, that the mode proposed would lead to the construction of works of a local nature, to the exclusion of such as were general, and would consequently be of a more useful character; and, last, that it would create a discreditable and injurious dependence on the part of the States upon the Federal power. Of those who object to the ratio of representation as the basis of distribution, some insist that the importations of the respective States would constitute one that would be more equitable; and others, again, that the extent of their respective territories would furnish a standard which would be more expedient, and sufficiently equitable. The ratio of representation presents itself to my mind, and it still does, as one of obvious equity, because of its being the ratio of contribution, whether the funds to be distributed be derived from the customs or from direct taxation. It does not follow, however, that the ratio is responsible to the establishment of the system proposed. There may be considerations appertaining to the subject which would render a departure, to some extent, from the rule of contribution, proper. Nor is it absolutely necessary that the basis of distribution be confined to one ground. It may, in the judgment of those who are in favor of the proposed plan, and just to give that character, have regard to several.

In my first message, I stated it to be my opinion that "it is not probable that any adjustment of the tariff upon principles satisfactory to the people of the Union, will, until a more judicious and equitable system be adopted, without considerable surplus in the treasury beyond what may be required for its current service." I have had no cause to change that opinion, but much to confirm it. Should these expectations be realized, a suitable fund would thus be produced for the plan under consideration to operate upon; and if there be no such fund, its adoption will, in my opinion, work an injury to our interests; for I cannot assent to the justice of the apprehension that the establishment of the proposed system would tend to the encouragement of improvident legislation of the character supposed. Whatever the proper authority, in the exercise of constitutional power, shall, at any time hereafter, decide to be for the general good; will, in that as in other respects, deserve and receive the acquiescence and support of the whole country; and we have ample security that every abuse of power in that regard, by the agents of the people, will receive a speedy and effectual corrective at their hands. The views which I take of the future, founded on the obvious and increasing improvement of all classes of our fellow-citizens, in intelligence, and in public and private virtue, leave me without much apprehension on that head.

I do not doubt that those who come after us will be as much alive as we are to the obligation upon all the trustees of political power to exert the objects in view may be devised. If, so it is to be hoped, that those who disapprove of the past, and dissent from what is proposed for the future, will feel their duty

to direct their attention to it, as they must be enabled to unless some fixed rule for the action of the Federal Government in this respect is established. It is a serious and important duty to be discharged, and one which will be again required to be discharged, if it is not calculated to give the greatest degree of effect and harmony to our legislation upon the subject, which shall best serve to keep the movements of the Federal Government within the sphere intended by those who modeled and those who adopted it—which shall lead to the extinguishment of the national debt in the shortest period, and impose the lightest burthen upon our constituents, that receive from me a cordial and firm support.

Adding the objects of great national consequence which are contained in the Constitution which regulates the election of President and Vice President. The necessity for its amendment is made so clear to my mind by the observation of its evils, and by the many able discussions which they have elicited on the floor of Congress and elsewhere, that I should be wanting to my duty were I to withhold another expression of my deep solicitude upon the subject. Our system fortunately contemplates a recurrence to first principles, differing in this respect from all that have preceded it, and curing it, I trust, equally against the decay and the commotions, which have marked the progress of other Governments. Our fellow-citizens, too, who, in proportion to their love of liberty, seek a steady eye upon the means of sustaining it, do not require to be reminded of the duty they owe to themselves to remedy all essential defects in so vital a part of every well constituted system. While it is not necessary indicative of a bad organization, but may proceed from temporary causes, yet the habitual presence, or even a single instance of evils which can be clearly traced to an organic defect, will, I trust, be overlooked through a temporary generation for the work of their ancestors. The duty of the present generation is to be committed to the virtue and intelligence of the great mass of our countrymen, in whose ranks the framers of it themselves were to perform the part of patriotic observation and scrutiny; and if they have passed from the stage of existence with an increased confidence in its general adaptation to our condition, we should feel authorized so high the duty of fortifying the points in it which time proves to be exposed, rather than be deterred from approaching them by the suggestions of fear, or the dictates of misplaced reverence.

A provision which does not secure to the people a direct choice of their Chief Magistrate, but has a tendency to spread a distrust upon my mind, so far as it is inconsistent with the general spirit of our institutions, that I was induced to suggest for your consideration the substitute which appeared to me at the same time the most likely to correct the evil, and to meet the views of our constituents. The most mature reflection has since added strength to the belief that the best interests of our country require the speedy adoption of some plan calculated to effect this end. A contingency which sometimes places in the power of a single member of the House of Representatives to decide an election of so high and solemn a character, is unjust to the people, and becomes, when it occurs, a source of embarrassment to the individuals thus brought into power, and a cause of distrust of the representative body. Liable as the confederacy is, from its great extent, to parties founded upon sectional interests, and to the consequent multiplication of candidates for the Presidency, the tendency of the constitutional reference to the House of Representatives, is to devolve the election upon that body in almost every instance, and, whatever choice may thus be made, the securities thus presented to the people are not consistent of particular interests to a degree inconsistent with the general good. The consequences of this feature of the Constitution appear far more threatening to the peace and integrity of the Union than any which can conceivably result from the adoption of the simple legislative action of the Federal Government.

It was a leading object with the framers of the Constitution to keep as separate as possible the offices of the Government. To secure this object, no power was granted to the President to remove from the tenure of private interest, and, therefore, so to direct the patronage of the latter as to permit such temptations to be offered. Experience abundantly demonstrates that a separation in this respect is a valuable safeguard of liberty, and one which may incline me to think should be made still stronger. It was for this reason that, in connection with an amendment of the Constitution, removing all intermediate agency from the choice of the President, I recommended some restrictions upon the removal of that officer, and upon the tenure of office generally. The reason still exists; and I renew the recommendation, with an increased confidence that its adoption will strengthen the choice of the President, and promote the healthful and equitable administration of all the trusts which it has created. The agent most likely to controvert this design of the Constitution, is the Chief Magistrate, who, in the exercise of his powers, may be induced to make such appointments as the reach of any improper influence, in order that he may appropriate the solemn responsibilities of the highest office in the gift of a free people, uncommitted to any other course than the strict line of constitutional duty.

It is a source of regret that the President may be rendered as strong as the nature of power, and the weakness of its possessors, will admit, I cannot too earnestly invite your attention to the propriety of promoting such an amendment of the Constitution as will render him ineligible after one term of service. It gives me pleasure to announce to Congress that the benevolent policy of the Government, steadily pursued for nearly thirty years, in relation to the removal of the Indians beyond the white settlements, is approaching to a happy consummation. Two important treaties have been accepted, the provision made for their removal at the last session of Congress; and it is believed that their example will induce the remaining tribes, also, to seek the same obvious advantages. The consequences of a speedy removal will be important to the United States, to individuals, to the Indians themselves. The pecuniary advantages which it promises to the Government are the least of its recommendations. It puts an end to all possible danger of collision between the authorities of the General and State Governments, on account of the Indians. It will spare a large and civilized population in large tracts of country, now occupied by few savage hunters. By opening the whole territory between Tennessee on the north, and Louisiana on the south, to the settlement of the whites, it will incalculably strengthen the southern frontier, and render the adjacent States strong enough to repel future invasion without remote aid. It will

relieve the whole State of Mississippi, and the western part of Alabama, of Indian occupancy, and enable those States to advance rapidly in population, wealth and power. It will separate the Indians from immediate contact with settlements of whites; free them from the power of the States; enable them to pursue their agriculture, trade, and other occupations, and institutions; will retard the progress of decay, which is lessening their numbers; and perhaps cause them gradually under the protection of the Government, and through the influence of good councils, to cast off their savage habits, and become an interesting, civilized, and Christian community. The consequences, some of them so certain, and the rest so probable, make the complete execution of this policy an object of much solicitude.

Towards the aborigines of the country, we are entitled to a more friendly feeling than we are, or would go further in attempting to reclaim them from their wandering habits, and make them a happy and prosperous people. I have endeavored to impress upon them, by an Indian convention, the duties and powers of the Government, and in relation to the laws passed by the States within the scope of their reserved powers. They are not responsible to this Government. As individuals, we may entertain and express our opinions of their past and present Government, we have a right to feel, and to feel, that we are entitled to prescribe laws for our own nations.

With a full understanding of the subject, the Choctaw and Chickasaw tribes have, by their own consent, determined to avail themselves of the liberal offers presented by the act of Congress, and have agreed to remove, and the Mississippi Territory, in the course of their reserved powers. They are not responsible to this Government. As individuals, we may entertain and express our opinions of their past and present Government, we have a right to feel, and to feel, that we are entitled to prescribe laws for our own nations. With a full understanding of the subject, the Choctaw and Chickasaw tribes have, by their own consent, determined to avail themselves of the liberal offers presented by the act of Congress, and have agreed to remove, and the Mississippi Territory, in the course of their reserved powers. They are not responsible to this Government. As individuals, we may entertain and express our opinions of their past and present Government, we have a right to feel, and to feel, that we are entitled to prescribe laws for our own nations.

Humanity has often wept over the fate of the aborigines of this country, and philanthropy has been long busily employed in devising means to avert it. But its progress has never for a moment been arrested; and one by one have many powerful tribes disappeared from the earth. To follow to the tomb the last of this race, and to tread on the graves of extinct nations, excites melancholy reflections. But true philosophy reconciles the mind to these vicissitudes, as it does to the extinction of one generation to make room for another. In the monuments and frescoes of an unknown people, spread over the extensive regions of the West, we behold the memorials of a once powerful race, which was exterminated, or has disappeared, to make room for the existing savage tribes. Nor is there anything in this, which, upon a comprehensive view of the general interests of the human race, is to be regretted. Philanthropy could not wish to see this continent retained to the condition in which it was found by our forefathers. What good man would prefer a country covered with forests and ranged by a few thousand savages, to the existing and cultivated fields, towns, and prosperous farms, embellished with all the improvements which art can devise, or industry execute, occupied by more than twelve millions of happy people, and filled with all the blessings of liberty, civilization, and religion?

The present policy of the Government is not a continuation of the slow progressive change by a milder process. The tribes which occupied the countries now constituting the eastern States were annihilated, or have melted away, to make room for the whites. The waves of population and civilization are rolling to the westward; and we now propose to acquire the countries occupied by the red men of the south and west by a fair exchange, and at the expense of the United States, to send them to a land where their existence may be prolonged, and perhaps made perpetual. Doubtless it will be painful to leave the graves of their fathers; but what do they more than our ancestors did, or than our children are now doing? To better their condition in an unknown land, our forefathers left all that was dear in earthly objects. Our children by thousands, yearly leave the land of their birth, to seek new homes in distant regions. Does humanity weep at these painful separations from every thing, animate and inanimate, with which the young heart has become saturated? Far from it. The country rather a source of joy, that our population may range unconstrained in body or in mind, developing the power and faculties of man in their highest perfection. These remove, however, almost thousands of miles, at their own expense, purchase the lands they occupy, and support themselves at their new home from the moment of their arrival. Can it be cruel in this Government, when by events which it cannot control, the Indian is made discontented in his ancient home, to purchase his lands, to give him a new and extensive territory, to pay the expense of his removal, and support him a year in his new abode? How many thousands of our own people would gladly embrace the opportunity of removing to the west on such conditions? If the offers made to the Indians were extended to them, they would be hailed with gratitude and joy.

And is it supposed that the wandering savage has a stronger attachment to his home than the settled, civilized Christian? Is it more difficult for him to leave the graves of his father and his children, and his brothers and children? Rigidly considered, the policy of the general government towards the red man is not only liberal but generous. He is unwilling to submit to the laws of the States, and mingle with their population. To save him from this alternative, or perhaps utter annihilation, the General Government kindly offers him a new home, and proposes to pay the whole expense of his removal and settlement.

In the present state of the country, it is not probable that any adjustment of the tariff upon principles satisfactory to the people of the Union, will, until a more judicious and equitable system be adopted, without considerable surplus in the treasury beyond what may be required for its current service. I have had no cause to change that opinion, but much to confirm it. Should these expectations be realized, a suitable fund would thus be produced for the plan under consideration to operate upon; and if there be no such fund, its adoption will, in my opinion, work an injury to our interests; for I cannot assent to the justice of the apprehension that the establishment of the proposed system would tend to the encouragement of improvident legislation of the character supposed. Whatever the proper authority, in the exercise of constitutional power, shall, at any time hereafter, decide to be for the general good; will, in that as in other respects, deserve and receive the acquiescence and support of the whole country; and we have ample security that every abuse of power in that regard, by the agents of the people, will receive a speedy and effectual corrective at their hands. The views which I take of the future, founded on the obvious and increasing improvement of all classes of our fellow-citizens, in intelligence, and in public and private virtue, leave me without much apprehension on that head.

I do not doubt that those who come after us will be as much alive as we are to the obligation upon all the trustees of political power to exert the objects in view may be devised. If, so it is to be hoped, that those who disapprove of the past, and dissent from what is proposed for the future, will feel their duty to direct their attention to it, as they must be enabled to unless some fixed rule for the action of the Federal Government in this respect is established. It is a serious and important duty to be discharged, and one which will be again required to be discharged, if it is not calculated to give the greatest degree of effect and harmony to our legislation upon the subject, which shall best serve to keep the movements of the Federal Government within the sphere intended by those who modeled and those who adopted it—which shall lead to the extinguishment of the national debt in the shortest period, and impose the lightest burthen upon our constituents, that receive from me a cordial and firm support.

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It was a leading object with the framers of the Constitution to keep as separate as possible the offices of the Government. To secure this object, no power was granted to the President to remove from the tenure of private interest, and, therefore, so to direct the patronage of the latter as to permit such temptations to be offered. Experience abundantly demonstrates that a separation in this respect is a valuable safeguard of liberty, and one which may incline me to think should be made still stronger. It was for this reason that, in connection with an amendment of the Constitution, removing all intermediate agency from the choice of the President, I recommended some restrictions upon the removal of that officer, and upon the tenure of office generally. The reason still exists; and I renew the recommendation, with an increased confidence that its adoption will strengthen the choice of the President, and promote the healthful and equitable administration of all the trusts which it has created. The agent most likely to controvert this design of the Constitution, is the Chief Magistrate, who, in the exercise of his powers, may be induced to make such appointments as the reach of any improper influence, in order that he may appropriate the solemn responsibilities of the highest office in the gift of a free people, uncommitted to any other course than the strict line of constitutional duty.

It is a source of regret that the President may be rendered as strong as the nature of power, and the weakness of its possessors, will admit, I cannot too earnestly invite your attention to the propriety of promoting such an amendment of the Constitution as will render him ineligible after one term of service. It gives me pleasure to announce to Congress that the benevolent policy of the Government, steadily pursued for nearly thirty years, in relation to the removal of the Indians beyond the white settlements, is approaching to a happy consummation. Two important treaties have been accepted, the provision made for their removal at the last session of Congress; and it is believed that their example will induce the remaining tribes, also, to seek the same obvious advantages. The consequences of a speedy removal will be important to the United States, to individuals, to the Indians themselves. The pecuniary advantages which it promises to the Government are the least of its recommendations. It puts an end to all possible danger of collision between the authorities of the General and State Governments, on account of the Indians. It will spare a large and civilized population in large tracts of country, now occupied by few savage hunters. By opening the whole territory between Tennessee on the north, and Louisiana on the south, to the settlement of the whites, it will incalculably strengthen the southern frontier, and render the adjacent States strong enough to repel future invasion without remote aid. It will

In the present state of the country, it is not probable that any adjustment of the tariff upon principles satisfactory to the people of the Union, will, until a more judicious and equitable system be adopted, without considerable surplus in the treasury beyond what may be required for its current service. I have had no cause to change that opinion, but much to confirm it. Should these expectations be realized, a suitable fund would thus be produced for the plan under consideration to operate upon; and if there be no such fund, its adoption will, in my opinion, work an injury to our interests; for I cannot assent to the justice of the apprehension that the establishment of the proposed system would tend to the encouragement of improvident legislation of the character supposed. Whatever the proper authority, in the exercise of constitutional power, shall, at any time hereafter, decide to be for the general good; will, in that as in other respects, deserve and receive the acquiescence and support of the whole country; and we have ample security that every abuse of power in that regard, by the agents of the people, will receive a speedy and effectual corrective at their hands. The views which I take of the future, founded on the obvious and increasing improvement of all classes of our fellow-citizens, in intelligence, and in public and private virtue, leave me without much apprehension on that head.

THE FREE PRESS.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1830.

In fulfilling our wish to present the President's message this week, we are compelled to omit many articles of interest among them, an interesting letter from our Richmond correspondent. Should the message prove half as interesting as it is long, we feel quite confident that all who shall give it perusal, will be amply compensated for the time occupied in reading it. We trust that our Jackson friends will find no cause for complaint, this week.

At a meeting held in the New Presbyterian Church near Elk River in this county, on Saturday last, we understand that the Rev. SERRVA TRUST was chosen as the Minister of that congregation.

DEATH OF MR. SHEFFEY.

The late Staunton Spectator announces the death of DANIEL SHEFFEY, Esq., of that place. This melancholy event occurred suddenly and unexpectedly on the 3d inst. whilst this distinguished individual was on his return to Staunton, from the Greenbrier Chancery Court. We extract the following from the Spectator:

The circumstances attending the decease of Mr. Sheffey are truly affecting and impressive. He, too, like Pinckney, Emmet, Harper, Webster, and some other eminent members of the bar in our country, was suddenly summoned away at such an hour as he thought not. Mr. Sheffey, we understand, dined late in the day on which he died at the Warm Springs, and seemed to be in excellent health and spirits. On arising at Mr. MCHUGH's he complained of being unwell, but was not much so as to induce him to lie down. He took a seat at a distance from the fire—when, apparently, feeling some oppression at the stomach, and in an effort which nature made to relieve herself, he fell over and expired immediately.

Major Sheffey, it is generally known, was one of those prodigies which now and then start up in the world, unaided by the advantages of a liberal education in early life, and rise to the first eminence in any profession which they may please to adopt. He was for some time a distinguished member of Congress, and for many years he has occupied a high standing as a practicing Attorney in the Courts of Virginia, and in the Supreme Court of the United States. In the latter court, year after year, we recollect that in one case he was matched against the great Daniel Webster.

The Chancery Court at Staunton, at the request of the bar, made an entry upon its record, as a memorial of its regret and sympathy with the family of the deceased. The members of the bar had a meeting, and amongst other things resolved to go into mourning.

DEATH OF MR. GILES.

Our late Richmond papers, bring us the following melancholy intelligence:—Died, at his residence in Amelia County, on Saturday evening the 4th inst. WM. B. GILES, Esq. late Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.

RICHMOND, DEC. 6, 1830.

The Legislature met this day. The Senate, WM. O. HOLY, BAY, a Senator from the Norfolk district, was re-elected Speaker, without opposition; and ADDISON HANFORD, Clerk.

In the House of Delegates, a struggle occurred for the Speaker's chair. Voting is now done, under the New Constitution, viva voce, and much time was consequently consumed. On the first vote, there were

For Linn Banks, of Madison, 53
For Thomas W. Gilmer, of Albemarle, 49
James M. Mason, of Frederick, 32

SECOND VOTE.
Banks 60—Gilmer 52—Mason 40.

Banks 60—Mason 60.

So Col. LINN BANKS was chosen Speaker. He returned thanks in a very neat and appropriate speech. Had there been a little time for concert, by those opposed to Col. B. it is supposed he would have been defeated. He is, however, a very prompt and able presiding officer, as far as an acquaintance with the rules can make him such.

The venerable patriot, FRANCISCO, was re-elected sergeant-at-arms, though several amiable and highly worthy gentlemen were put in competition with him. As evidence of a disposition on the part of the House, to retrench expenses, the office of third door-keeper was dispensed with.

The Governor's message was received about 3 o'clock, and read by the Clerk. It is, upon the whole, a sensible, business-like document; and those who view his allusions to the tariff and state rights, as useless and idle, will pass them by for the more valuable suggestions concerning internal improvement. A system of improvements will doubtless be adopted at the present session; and although the James River interest seems to occupy in this, as in all former messages, the most conspicuous rank; yet the people of the Western part of the State have now better grounded hopes than ever. For myself, I am confident the Legislature will undertake or patronize several important roads in the West. The road from Winchester to Parkersburg, or to some other point on the Ohio, must eventually succeed; and as a continuation of its usefulness, the roads through Jefferson, leading to the great works on the Potomac, must increase in importance. I look forward with cheerful anticipations, to the increase of trade which will be the result. The present era is peculiarly appropriate for the commencement and successful termination of works of improvement. Let us cherish and extend a spirit of enterprise among our citizens, and all will be well.

Several petitions have been presented, by Mr. MASON, of Frederick, by Mr. JACKSON, of Wood, and by other gentlemen, praying the passage of a law to construct a road from Winchester to Parkersburg. This road, in addition to the influence it will receive from the executive recommendation, seems destined to meet with a favorable consideration by the Legislature.

On motion of Mr. GALLAHER, the committee of courts of justice was instructed to bring in a bill, changing the time of holding a quarterly term of the County Court of Jefferson, from the third Monday in June to the third Monday in May, of each year. This alteration was proposed, in conformity with an order of said Court, at a late term, directing such an application to be made to the Legislature; and in compliance with the wishes of a large portion of the citizens of the county, who have felt great inconvenience from

being compelled to attend court during the hay-making season, and at the commencement of the grain harvest. On motion of Mr. WILLIAMS, of Harrison, the house resolved to proceed, to-morrow, jointly with the Senate, to the election of a member of the Board of Public Works, for the District West of the Allegheny, in the place of Col. John McCoy, resigned. Mr. LUCAS suggested the propriety of fixing a more distant day for that purpose, as there would probably be other vacancies to fill—all of which might be filled by the same individual. Mr. WILLIAMS considered it important that the vacancy should be speedily filled, as the gentleman to be appointed would be from a very distant part of the state, and he ought to have time to reach Richmond at the period fixed for the meeting of the Board. This resolution was therefore adopted.

An early report is expected, from the committee of privileges and elections, upon the contested election between Gov. Barbour and Capt. Thomas Davis of Orange. This report will doubtless attempt to fix more certain and uniform rules of conducting elections generally, than have heretofore existed. Much animated debate is expected in this particular case.

The committee of courts of justice have a most arduous and important task to perform, in the re-organization of the judiciary of the state. It is a very able committee, and much is expected from its labors.

From the report, also, of the committee of Roads, &c. I anticipate something important; and I now see no great impediment to a regular system of improvement, except it be found in the magnitude of the revolutionary claims for which the state has become liable. Dear, however, as the object of improvement is to my heart, I would not on any account, wish to see it prosecuted at the expense of the comfort of the revolutionary veterans, whose claims appeal so loudly to the justice and gratitude of the state.

Population of Franklin county, Pa. in 1830, 35,353—in 1820, 31,892—increase in ten years, 3,461.

Census of Hampshire County, Va.—Free White Males 4981, White Females 4815—Male Slaves 683; Female do 647—Free colored Males 90; do Females 63—Total 11279 Increase since 1820, 390. [Romey Intell.]

Population of Pittsburg and environs, by last census, 22,435.

MARRIED.
On Thursday the 9th inst. by the Rev. William Munroe, Mr. ASA B. CORWELL, of Pittsburg, to Miss LUCREIA L., daughter of the late John Dickson, Esq. of Mount Paro, near Charlottesville. Accompanied with the above notice, we received a few slices of most delicious cake. In presenting our thanks for the sweet favor, we at the same time take pleasure in tendering our most hearty congratulations to the happy pair, wishing they may have the best of success in their more lasting material.

ANDREW HUNTER, ATTORNEY AT LAW.

RESPECTFULLY informs his friends and the public generally, that the removal of his residence from Charlottesville, is entirely without foundation. He has no such purpose, immediate or remote. But, so far as human efforts can be frustrated, his present residence is designed to be permanent for life. The report, no doubt, originated in the frequent allusions to a visit to the West, on professional business, contained in his correspondence, during the last fall, but deferred until the ensuing spring. Charlottesville, Dec. 15, 1830.

TEN DOLLARS REWARD.
Strayed or Stolen.
FROM the farm of Mr. John Hurst, in Jefferson county, on Tuesday night the 5th of November, 1830, A SORREL HORSE, about 15 1/2 hands high, stout made, short mane and long tail, has a bald face, and both hind feet white; that year, red last spring, and is marked with the gear. He has the appearance of a stallion. A reward of ten dollars will be paid for the delivery of the horse to Mr. John Hurst or myself, and all reasonable expenses incurred in securing and delivering him to either of us. J. R. H.

TO BE HIRED.
ON Christmas day, at the house of Henry Hines, in Charlottesville, between the hours of 10, A. M. and 2, P. M. the Slaves belonging to the estate of B. Beiler, dec'd, at which place they will be delivered, on that day, by those persons who hired them from the said estate, to the said Henry Hines, JOHN R. HAYDEN, Jan'or, of the estate of B. Beiler, dec'd. Dec. 15, 1830.

SLAVES TO HIRE.
SEVERAL Slaves, consisting of Men, Women, Boys and Girls, will be hired for the ensuing year. The hiring will take place at Miller's Run, 9 miles from Charlottesville, on Wednesday the 30th inst. Dec. 15.

FOR HIRE.
ON the 5th inst. at the tavern of John Buckner, there was an 18 and 20 valuable Slaves, the property of Wm. R. Whiting, of Norfolk, consisting of Men, Women, and Girls. All persons hiring from the subscriber the present year, are requested to return the slaves, with their requisite clothing, to Mr. Buckner's tavern, on the day above named. JOHN R. FLAGG, Agent for Wm. R. Whiting. Dec. 15, 1830.

A SERVANT WANTED.
I wish to hire a female servant for the ensuing year, and will give the usual price. Dec. 15. SEYMOUR TUSTON.

the whole State of Mississippi, the western part of Alabama, of Indian Agency, and under the protection of its population, wealth and territory. It will separate the Indians from contact with settlements of the West, free them from the power of the State, and enable them to pursue happiness in their own way, and under their own regulations; will retard the progress of decay, which is lessening their numbers; and shall cause them gradually under the influence of good councils, to cast off savage habits, and become an enlightened, civilized, and Christian community. As consequences, some of them to progress in their last season, as objects of our solicitude.

Towards the aborigines of the country no one can judge more friendly feeling than we, or would go further in attempting to claim them from their wandering habits, and make them a happy and peaceful people, independent of us, and free from any onerous servitude of the duties and powers of the General Government, relation to the State authorities. For the sake of the laws passed by the States, which the report of the Government, and the responsibility of this Government, individuals, see my sentiments, and as a government, we have a little right to complain, as we have to prescribe laws to foreign nations.

With a full understanding of the subject, the Choctaw and Chickasaw tribes have, with great unanimity, determined to avail themselves of the liberal offers presented by a act of Congress, and have agreed to receive the duties of the Mississippi River. Treaties have been made with them, which, in the season, will be submitted for consideration. In negotiating these treaties, they were made to understand their true condition, and they have professed to be satisfied with the independence of the western forests, and the rights of the States in which they now reside. These treaties being probably the last which will ever be made with them, they are characterized by great liberality in the part of the Government. They give to the Indians a liberal sum in consideration of their removal, and comfortable subsistence on their arrival at their new homes. If it be their real interest to maintain a separate existence, they will there be at liberty to do so, without the inconveniences and vexations to which they would unavoidably have been subject in Alabama and Mississippi.

Humanity has often wept over the fate of the aborigines of this country, and philanthropy has been long busily employed in devising means to avert it. But its progress has never for a moment been arrested; and one by one have many powerful tribes disappeared from the earth, to follow to the shades the last of their kindred, and to tread on the graves of extinct nations, excites melancholy reflections.

But true philanthropy reconciles the mind to these vicissitudes, as it does to the extinction of one generation to make room for another. In the monuments and frescoes of an unknown people, spread over the extensive regions of the West, we behold the memorials of a once powerful race, which was exterminated, or has disappeared, to make room for a nation of savage tribes. No is there anything in this, which, upon a comprehensive view of the general interests of the human race, is to be regretted. Philanthropy could not wish to see this continent reduced to the condition in which it was found by our forefathers. What good man would prefer a country covered with forests and ranged by a few thousand savages, to our extensive republic, with its cities, towns, and cultivated farms, embellished, with all the improvements which art can devise, or industry execute; occupied by more than twelve millions of happy people, and filled with all the blessings of liberty, civilization, and religion?

The present policy of the Government is not a continuation of the same progressive change, by a milder process. The tribes which occupied the countries now constituting the western States were annihilated, or have melted away, to make room for the white. The way of population and civilization are rolling to the westward; and we now propose to acquire the countries occupied by the red men of the south and west by a fair exchange, and, at the expense of the United States, send them to a land where their existence may be prolonged, and perhaps perpetual. Doubtless it will be painful to leave the graves of their fathers; but what do their more than our ancestors did, or than our children are now doing? To better their condition in an unknown land; our forefathers left all that was dear in earthly objects. Our children, by thousands, yearly leave the land of their birth, to seek new homes in distant regions. Does humanity weep at these painful separations from every thing, animate and inanimate, with which the young have become acquainted?

It is rather a source of joy that our country affords scope where our young population may range unconstrained in body or in mind, developing the powers and faculties of man in their highest perfection. The most numerous, and almost thousands of miles, at their own expense, purchase the lands they occupy, and support themselves at their new homes on the moment of their arrival. Can we be cruel in this Government, when, by events which it cannot control, the Indians made discontented in his ancient home, purchase his lands, to give him a new and extensive territory, to pay the expense of his removal, and support him a year in his new abode? How many thousands of our own people would gladly embrace the opportunity of removing to the west in such conditions? If the offers made to the Indians were extended to them, they could be hailed with gratitude and joy.

And is it supposed that the wandering savage has a more ardent attachment to his home than the settled, civilized Christian? Is it more afflicting to him to leave the graves of his fathers, than it is to our brothers and children? Rightly considered, the policy of the general government towards the red man is not only liberal and generous. He is unwilling to submit to the laws of the States, and mingle with their population. To save him from this, he is, perhaps, utterly annihilated, or sent to a new home, and proposed to pay the whole expense of his removal and settlement.

In the consummation of a policy originating at an early period, and steadily pursued by every administration within the present century—so just to the States, and so generous to the Indians, the Executive feels it has a right to expect the co-operation of Congress, and of all good and disinterested men. The States, moreover, have a right to demand it. It was substantially a part of the compact which made them members of our confederacy. With Georgia, there is an express contract, with the new States, an implied one of equal obligation. Why, in authorizing Ohio, Indiana, Missouri, Mississippi, and Alabama, to form constitutions, and become separate States, did Congress include within their limits extensive tracts of Indian lands, and, in some instances, powerful Indian tribes? Was it not understood by both parties that the power of the States was to be co-extensive with their limits, and that, with all convenient dispatch, the General Government should extinguish the Indian title to the soil? Probably not one of those States would have accepted a separate existence—certainly it would never have been granted by Congress—had it been understood that they were to be confined forever to those small portions of their nominal territory, the Indian title to which had at the time been extinguished.

It is therefore, the duty of the Government, as soon as possible, to extinguish the Indian title to all lands which Congress themselves have included within their limits. When this is done, the duties of the General Government in relation to the States and Indians within their limits are at an end. The Indians may leave the state or not, as they choose. The purchase of their lands does not alter, in the least, their personal relations with the state government. No act of the General Government has ever been deemed necessary to give the States jurisdiction over the persons of the Indians. That they possess, by virtue of their sovereign power within their own limits in as full a manner before, as after the purchase of the Indian title, nor can this Government act to diminish it.

May we not hope, therefore, that all good citizens, and none more zealously than those who think the Indians oppressed by subjecting them to the laws of the States, will unite in attempting to open the eyes of these children of the forest to their true condition, and by a speedy removal, to relieve them from the evils, real or imaginary, present or prospective, which they may be supposed to dread?

Among the numerous causes of congratulation, the condition of our impost revenue deserves special mention, inasmuch as it promises the means of extinguishing the Indian title sooner than anticipated, and furnishes a strong illustration of the practical effects of the present tariff upon our commercial interests.

The object of the tariff is objected to by some as unconstitutional, and is complained of by almost all as defective in many of its parts. The power to impose duties on imports originally belonged to the several States. The right to adjust those duties with a view to the encouragement of domestic branches of industry is so completely incidental to that power, that it is difficult to suppose the existence of the one without the other. The States have delegated their whole authority over imports to the General Government, and in the limitation or restriction, saving the very inconsiderable reservation relating to their inspection laws. This authority having been entirely passed from the States, the right to exercise it for a purpose of revenue, or for a duty not existing in them, and consequently, if not possessed by the General Government, it must be extinct. Our political system would thus present the anomaly of a people stripped of the right to legislate over their own industry, and to contract the most selfish and defective policy which might be adopted by foreign nations. This surely cannot be the case. This indispensable power, thus surrendered by the States, must be within the scope of the authority on which it was originally delegated.

In this conclusion, I am confirmed as well by the opinions of Presidents Washington, Jefferson, Madison, and Monroe, who have each repeatedly recommended the exercise of this right to the States, and by the uniform practice of Congress, the continued acquiescence of the States, and the general understanding of the people.

The difficulties of a more expeditious adjustment of the western States were, in fact, insurmountable. Some are unwilling to improve any of its parts, because they would destroy the whole; others fear to touch the objectionable parts, lest those they approve should be jeopardized. I am, therefore, heartily gratified, to see that conflicting views do injustice to the American people and to their Representatives. The general interest is the interest of each; and my confidence is entire, that to ensure the adoption of such a moderate and judicious measure as the general interest requires, it is only necessary that this interest should be understood.

It is an infirmity of our nature to mingle our interests and prejudices with the operations of the mind, and to be misled by the objects of our likes and dislikes quantities they do not possess, and effects they cannot produce. The effects of the present tariff are doubtless overrated, both in its evils and its advantages. By an increase of our agricultural products, and a consequent increase of their value, the general system of fortification which has been sanctioned by Congress, and is recommended by that body, will be rendered inoperative. I refer you to a highly satisfactory account of the manner in which the concerns of that Department have been conducted during the present year. Our position in relation to the most powerful nations of the earth, and the present condition of Europe, admonish us to cherish this arm of our national defence with peculiar care. Separated by wide seas from all those Governments whose power we might have reason to dread, we have nothing to apprehend from attempts at conquest. It is chiefly attacks upon our coast, against which we have to guard. A naval force adequate to the protection of our commerce, always afloat, with an accumulation of stores, and a fleet of ships, will, in case of need, furnish the power by which all such aggressions may be prevented or repelled. The attention of the Government has, therefore, been recently directed more to providing materials to be placed in depot for future use, than to increasing their number. With the aid of Congress, in a few years, the Government will possess a powerful Navy of new ships almost as soon as they could be repaired.

The modification of this part of the service suggested in my last annual message, which is noticed more in detail in the report of the Secretary of the Navy, are again recommended to your serious attention.

The report of the Postmaster General, in his message, exhibits a satisfactory view of the important branch of the Government under his charge. In addition to the benefits already secured by the operations of the Post Office, several desirable improvements, within the present year, have been made, by an increase in the accommodation afforded by stage coaches, and in the frequency of the mail routes. Under the late contracts, improvements have been provided for the southern section of the coast, and for the extension of the mail routes to the most important points of the Union.

Under the late contracts, improvements have been provided for the southern section of the coast, and for the extension of the mail routes to the most important points of the Union. Notwithstanding the excess of expenditure beyond the current receipts for a few years past, necessarily incurred, in fulfillment of the contracts, and in the additional expenses, during the periods of contracting, to meet the demands of the public, the growth and extension of our postal system, and the benefits derived therefrom, are amply sufficient to meet its extensive engagements. The system, recently introduced, of subjecting the contracts to a public and strict regulation, has entirely fulfilled its design. It gives full assurance of the punctual transmission of the mails, and the security of the funds of the Department. The ability and energy of contractors, and the increased confidence in the actual performance of the duties of the Department, are entirely fulfilled its design. It gives full assurance of the punctual transmission of the mails, and the security of the funds of the Department. The ability and energy of contractors, and the increased confidence in the actual performance of the duties of the Department, are entirely fulfilled its design.

The session of Congress was called, on a former occasion, to the necessity of such a modification of the office of Attorney General of the United States, which would render it more adequate to the wants of the public, and to the establishment of the office of a Secretary of the Treasury, and the earliest measures were taken to effect these provisions of the law which authorized the appointment of the Secretary of the Treasury. But it is not believed that this provision, however useful in itself, is calculated to afford relief from the different Executive Departments to the Attorney General, or of frequent occurrence; and the prompt decision of the questions referred, tends much to facilitate the dispatch of business in the Department. The report of the Secretary of the Treasury, heretofore appended, shows a branch of the public service not specifically entrusted to any officer, and more demanded, than that which is committed to the Attorney General.

But, independently of these considerations, this office is now one of daily duty. It was originally organized, and its commission, as well as its occasional service, leaving to the incumbent the power for the exercise of his profession in private practice. The state of things which warranted the creation of this office, and the necessity of its being placed under the supervision of the Attorney General, is now one of daily duty. It was originally organized, and its commission, as well as its occasional service, leaving to the incumbent the power for the exercise of his profession in private practice. The state of things which warranted the creation of this office, and the necessity of its being placed under the supervision of the Attorney General, is now one of daily duty.

That our deliberations on this interesting subject should be uninfluenced by those partial considerations that are incident to free institutions, is the earnest wish of my heart. To make this great question, which unhappily so much divides and excites the public mind, subservient to the short-sighted views of faction, must destroy all hope of settling it satisfactorily to the great body of the people, and for the general interest. I cannot, therefore, on taking leave of the subject, but earnestly for my own feelings, and the common good, warn you against the blighting consequences of such a course.

According to the estimates at the Treasury Department, the receipts in the Treasury during the present year will amount to about four millions one hundred and sixty-one thousand and eighteen dollars, which will exceed by about three hundred thousand dollars the estimate presented in the last annual report of the Secretary of the Treasury. The total expenditure during the year, exclusive of public debt, is estimated at thirteen millions seven hundred and forty-two thousand three hundred and eleven dollars; and the payment on account of public debt for the same period will have been eleven millions three hundred and fifty-four thousand six hundred and thirty dollars, leaving a balance in the Treasury, on the first of January, 1831, of four millions eight hundred and nineteen thousand seven hundred and eighty-one dollars.

In connection with the condition of our finances, it affords me pleasure to remark that judicious and effectual arrangements have been made by the Treasury Department for securing the prompt responsibility of the public officers, and for the most punctual payment of the public debts. The revenue cutter service has been organized, and placed on a good footing; and, aided by an increase of inspectors, it is expected that the operations of the Treasury Department will be improved in the most important particulars. The system of expenditure for sick wages belonging to the merchant service, has been revised, and, by being rendered uniform and economical, the benefit of the applicable to this object have been readily extended.

The property of our country is also further increased by the increased revenue arising from the sale of public lands, as will appear from the report of the Commissioner of the General Land Office, and the documents accompanying it, which have heretofore transmitted. We leave to your attention this report, and to the propriety of making early appropriations for the objects which it specifies.

Your attention is again invited to the subjects connected with that portion of the public interests entrusted to the War Department. Some of them were referred to in my former message, and are presented in detail in the report of the Secretary of War, heretofore submitted. I refer you, also, to the report of that officer for a knowledge of the state of the Army, the fortifications, arsenals, and military supplies, and the condition of the military service, which has been guarded with zealous attention and care. It is worthy of your consideration whether the arrangements necessary for the maintenance of our maritime property, which are now, or shortly will be completed, should not be in readiness sooner than the customary appropriations will authorize.

It is to be regretted that the general system of fortification which has been sanctioned by Congress, and is recommended by that body, will be rendered inoperative. I refer you to a highly satisfactory account of the manner in which the concerns of that Department have been conducted during the present year. Our position in relation to the most powerful nations of the earth, and the present condition of Europe, admonish us to cherish this arm of our national defence with peculiar care. Separated by wide seas from all those Governments whose power we might have reason to dread, we have nothing to apprehend from attempts at conquest. It is chiefly attacks upon our coast, against which we have to guard. A naval force adequate to the protection of our commerce, always afloat, with an accumulation of stores, and a fleet of ships, will, in case of need, furnish the power by which all such aggressions may be prevented or repelled. The attention of the Government has, therefore, been recently directed more to providing materials to be placed in depot for future use, than to increasing their number. With the aid of Congress, in a few years, the Government will possess a powerful Navy of new ships almost as soon as they could be repaired.

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The session of Congress was called, on a former occasion, to the necessity of such a modification of the office of Attorney General of the United States, which would render it more adequate to the wants of the public, and to the establishment of the office of a Secretary of the Treasury, and the earliest measures were taken to effect these provisions of the law which authorized the appointment of the Secretary of the Treasury. But it is not believed that this provision, however useful in itself, is calculated to afford relief from the different Executive Departments to the Attorney General, or of frequent occurrence; and the prompt decision of the questions referred, tends much to facilitate the dispatch of business in the Department. The report of the Secretary of the Treasury, heretofore appended, shows a branch of the public service not specifically entrusted to any officer, and more demanded, than that which is committed to the Attorney General.

But, independently of these considerations, this office is now one of daily duty. It was originally organized, and its commission, as well as its occasional service, leaving to the incumbent the power for the exercise of his profession in private practice. The state of things which warranted the creation of this office, and the necessity of its being placed under the supervision of the Attorney General, is now one of daily duty. It was originally organized, and its commission, as well as its occasional service, leaving to the incumbent the power for the exercise of his profession in private practice. The state of things which warranted the creation of this office, and the necessity of its being placed under the supervision of the Attorney General, is now one of daily duty.

That our deliberations on this interesting subject should be uninfluenced by those partial considerations that are incident to free institutions, is the earnest wish of my heart. To make this great question, which unhappily so much divides and excites the public mind, subservient to the short-sighted views of faction, must destroy all hope of settling it satisfactorily to the great body of the people, and for the general interest. I cannot, therefore, on taking leave of the subject, but earnestly for my own feelings, and the common good, warn you against the blighting consequences of such a course.

According to the estimates at the Treasury Department, the receipts in the Treasury during the present year will amount to about four millions one hundred and sixty-one thousand and eighteen dollars, which will exceed by about three hundred thousand dollars the estimate presented in the last annual report of the Secretary of the Treasury. The total expenditure during the year, exclusive of public debt, is estimated at thirteen millions seven hundred and forty-two thousand three hundred and eleven dollars; and the payment on account of public debt for the same period will have been eleven millions three hundred and fifty-four thousand six hundred and thirty dollars, leaving a balance in the Treasury, on the first of January, 1831, of four millions eight hundred and nineteen thousand seven hundred and eighty-one dollars.

In connection with the condition of our finances, it affords me pleasure to remark that judicious and effectual arrangements have been made by the Treasury Department for securing the prompt responsibility of the public officers, and for the most punctual payment of the public debts. The revenue cutter service has been organized, and placed on a good footing; and, aided by an increase of inspectors, it is expected that the operations of the Treasury Department will be improved in the most important particulars. The system of expenditure for sick wages belonging to the merchant service, has been revised, and, by being rendered uniform and economical, the benefit of the applicable to this object have been readily extended.

The property of our country is also further increased by the increased revenue arising from the sale of public lands, as will appear from the report of the Commissioner of the General Land Office, and the documents accompanying it, which have heretofore transmitted. We leave to your attention this report, and to the propriety of making early appropriations for the objects which it specifies.

Your attention is again invited to the subjects connected with that portion of the public interests entrusted to the War Department. Some of them were referred to in my former message, and are presented in detail in the report of the Secretary of War, heretofore submitted. I refer you, also, to the report of that officer for a knowledge of the state of the Army, the fortifications, arsenals, and military supplies, and the condition of the military service, which has been guarded with zealous attention and care. It is worthy of your consideration whether the arrangements necessary for the maintenance of our maritime property, which are now, or shortly will be completed, should not be in readiness sooner than the customary appropriations will authorize.

It is to be regretted that the general system of fortification which has been sanctioned by Congress, and is recommended by that body, will be rendered inoperative. I refer you to a highly satisfactory account of the manner in which the concerns of that Department have been conducted during the present year. Our position in relation to the most powerful nations of the earth, and the present condition of Europe, admonish us to cherish this arm of our national defence with peculiar care. Separated by wide seas from all those Governments whose power we might have reason to dread, we have nothing to apprehend from attempts at conquest. It is chiefly attacks upon our coast, against which we have to guard. A naval force adequate to the protection of our commerce, always afloat, with an accumulation of stores, and a fleet of ships, will, in case of need, furnish the power by which all such aggressions may be prevented or repelled. The attention of the Government has, therefore, been recently directed more to providing materials to be placed in depot for future use, than to increasing their number. With the aid of Congress, in a few years, the Government will possess a powerful Navy of new ships almost as soon as they could be repaired.

The modification of this part of the service suggested in my last annual message, which is noticed more in detail in the report of the Secretary of the Navy, are again recommended to your serious attention.

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