

VIRGINIA FREE PRESS.

Thursday Morning, February 16, 1865.

THE WEEK'S MARKETS.

WHEAT AND FLOUR.

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FREE TRADE DEBATES.

In the report of the markets brought by the

Imports of Foreign Grain from the 20th of

Dec. to 31 Jan.—From Canada, 396,949 bushels

and 7280 bbls. Flour; U. States, 9 bbls. Flour.

The benefits of this policy is displayed in the

fact that nearly fourteen thousand barrels of Flour

were imported from Canada, which but for the

tariffs would have been exported from the United States.

The Richmond Whig very properly

recommends the Equivocal what a stuporous strain of

administration it broke into when Gen. Jackson, as

President, recommended a distribution of the

proceeds of the public Lands among the States.

It then spoke as follows:

"What might Virginia do with an annual

dividend of \$500,000? or even half of it? How

many miles of road might she not complete? How

many schools establish? How many of her

degraded population might she not transport to

the shores of Africa? Putting aside, however,

all the altitudes of self-interest, and raising

the question alone as between the United

States and the States where the lands are situated,

—we are prompted to ACQUIESCE as ones in the

proprietorship of the Secretary, and very much for

the reason which he assigns, that all causes of

difficulty with the general government on the

subject would then be removed."

It will thus be seen that the National Treasury

is not in a deplorable plight as had generally

been supposed. So far as a retrenchment in

expenses has been dependent on a Whig

Congress they have done it, and that too with

commendable promptitude. If the power be

not wrested from their hands in the next

Congress, they will give still further evidence,

by practical application, that their cry of "re-

form" ends not in their elevation to office.

The 23rd of February.

As a parallel of the military order issued in

order of the 22d, we hope they will witness, by the

number who turn out on that occasion, that they are

willing to commemorate, in an appropriate manner,

the Birth-Day of him who was the first to lead us to

conquest and to victory. We are sure that the

policy which was the first to advance, by his wise and

aggressive policy in administering the affairs of Gov-

ernment, his country to honor and distinction—

and of him, who is justly entitled to be always

remembered in the hearts of his countrymen.

Another paper of to-day's paper will be found

an interesting and detailed account of the

proceedings in Congress upon the presentation to that

body of the "Battle-Sword" of George Washington, and

the "Crab-Apple Cane" of Benjamin Franklin.

Another number of "Fair Play" has

been received, and shall appear in our next.

DECISION OF THE COURT OF INQUIRY.

The decision of the Court of Inquiry in the

case of the brig Somers has been given to the

public.

After recapitulating the facts in regard to the

case, the Court says:

"The Court further find that the conduct of

Commander McKenzie has been held to be

correct, attentive to their wants and their com-

forts; that he was studious to promote their

knowledge of their profession, and that no pun-

ishments were inflicted greater than were neces-

sary in consequence of the nature of the

crime, and the proper discipline of a man of war.

The Court further find that the conduct of

Commander McKenzie, Lieutenant Greenmont,

and the officers of the brig, was, during the trying

scenes through which they passed, collected,

calm and brave, and justified the confidence re-

posed in them by their superiors.

OPINION.

The Court are, therefore of opinion—

That a mutiny had been organized on board

the United States brig Somers, to murder the offi-

cers and take possession of the vessel.

That Midshipman Philip Spencer, Boat-

swain's mate Samuel Crowell, and Seaman

Elisha Small, were concerned in and guilty of

the mutiny.

That had not the execution taken place, an

attempts would have been made to release the

prisoners, murder the officers, and take posses-

sion of the vessel.

That such attempt, had it been made in the

night, or during a squall, would, in the judgment

GOVERNMENT FINANCES.

The Secretary of the Treasury has reported

to Congress on the 15th instant, of the amount

of the receipts and what will be in respect of the end

of the year.

Estimated receipts for 1845:

Customs, \$12,000,000

Land, 2,000,000

Miscellaneous Receipts, 1,000,000

Loans and Treasury Notes, 4,323,353 36

Balance Jan. 1st, 1845, \$50,483,353 36

\$58,806,656 72

The expenditures for the current year are

estimated at \$52,233,773. The Treasury Notes

which were issued under the act of August 1st,

amounting to \$9,409,300, will become due dur-

ing the course of the year, and should they be

redeemed there will be a deficiency of \$3,011,

753, provided the estimates are appropriated,

which so far, is not the fact—and there is no

expectation that the expenditures will be much

over \$20,000,000, or nearly three millions under

the estimates. If the estimates shall all be ap-

propriated, the surplus in the Treasury in Janu-

ary 1846, the Secretary says will be nearly

\$400,000.

It will thus be seen that the National Treasury

is not in a deplorable plight as had generally

been supposed. So far as a retrenchment in

expenses has been dependent on a Whig

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CONSIDER THE LAST WEEK.

On Tuesday, in the Senate, the question of re-

considering the vote which the Oregon bill

passed on Friday came up; the following are

the yeas and nays:

Yeas—Messrs. Archer, Barrow, Felton, Sargent,

Benton, Caldwell, Cass, Conrad, Crittenden,

Crisp, Davis, Evans, Graham, Ham-

ilton, Kerr, McDuffie, Mangum, Miller, Par-

ker, Rives, Simms, Sprague, Tallmadge,

Woodward.

Nays—Messrs. Allen, Bigsby, Benton, Buchanan,

Clayton, Felton, Henderson, King, King,

McRoberts, Marshall, Moore, Phelps, Saylor,

Smith, South, South, South, South, South,

Tappan, Walker, Wilson, Williams, Wright,

Young.

