

Extract from the Message of Gov. CLINTON to the Legislature of New York, now in Session.

As a component part of the great federal republic, it is our incumbent duty to support the general government in all its measures that are worthy of support, to cultivate amity and good will with our confederates, and to discountenance all tendencies to overthrow by consolidation or to destroy by dismemberment, our admirable systems of government. Peace with all the world is with us a primary duty and a cardinal interest. Whatever may be the aspect, or whatever the direction of our foreign negotiations, there is no reason to apprehend any change in our pacific relations; nor can we imagine the possibility of any diplomatic involutions that may place us in a position from which we cannot advance without danger, nor recede without disgrace. Powerful in defensive, and ill adapted for offensive war; calculated by position, destined by interest, and enjoined by duty, to be a pacific nation, we must sedulously abstain from entangling or identifying ourselves with the political arrangements of other nations. In relation to our domestic concerns, the path of duty is equally plain. We have only to pursue the same policy which has conducted us to opulence, and established our prosperity and reputation on an imperishable foundation.

Another attempt, as futile as the former, has been made by a custom house collector in the west, to apply the revenue laws of the United States to the navigation of the Erie canal. It does not appear that this proceeding has received any countenance from higher authorities, nor can it for a moment be believed, that a claim so preposterous in its assumptions, and so pernicious in its results, would at any time be encouraged in any quarter. As the spirit of internal improvement is rapidly extended in every direction, it has become a question of great moment, whether the general government has power, with or without the consent of the state governments, to construct canals and roads in their territories, and whether such power, if not already, vested ought to be granted? High authorities are to be found on both sides of the question; and after devoting to it all the consideration to which, from its importance, it is entitled, I think it due to a sense of duty and a spirit of frankness, to say, that my opinion is equally hostile to its possession or exercise by, or its investment in, the national authorities. I can perceive in it nothing less than the harbinger of certain destruction to the state governments; nor can we but see that it at once breaks down the barrier between a government for national or exterior affairs, and local governments for domestic or interior concerns. As well might congress take cognizance of Agriculture, common schools, universities, penal codes, civil rights and the whole range of local and internal regulations, as of roads and canals. As however the general government is possessed of the national domains, and has exclusive authority over the most productive sources of revenue, I believe that the power of distributing the necessary funds among the several states for objects of public improvement, ought to be incorporated into the constitution if not recognized as already in existence.

While on the subject of amendments to our national constitution. I cannot but express my regret that the enlightened and magnanimous views of this state, in relation to the choice of president and vice president, have not been realized. Our overture was to establish a uniform rule of choosing electors, by the people and by districts. In committing this power to the people, it vests it in its appropriate depository, the legitimate sovereign of the country; diminishes the chances of corruption and the dangers of foreign influence; destroys the evils of pre-existing bodies for the election of the colleges, and prevents combinations of a few great states to create by their own power, the national chief magistrate. The provision is perfectly safe, unless the people be venal and profligate, and then liberty is in all cases without protection, and free government without hope. It is fair and equal, if it be uniform, but without insertion into the constitution, it will subvert a just representation of power. I am persuaded, that as the legislature of a great state, you feel above the influence of any considerations connected with an invidious and dangerous assumption or exercise of power. The great states will always possess an influence correspondent with the most extensive combinations of moral and physical power, unless they become the dupes of extraneous intrigue, or the victims of internal agitation; and they therefore ought to abdicate all pretensions, and avoid all associations, calculated to excite the jealousy or to diminish the just weight of the minor members of the confederacy.

MILITARY ACADEMY.

Engineer Department Washington, Dec. 15

Frequent enquiries being made in regard to the proper mode of procuring admission, as a Cadet, into the Military

Academy at West Point, and in relation to other matters connected with that Institution, all persons interested in the subject are hereby informed, that application should be made by letter, addressed to the Secretary of War. Application can be made, at any time, by the candidate himself, his parent, guardian or any other relatives or friends. No particular form of a letter is required, but the following sketch may serve as a general guide, viz:

Place and date.

To the Secretary of War:

Sir: I offer myself a candidate for the appointment of Cadet, in the Military Academy at West Point, and request that my application may be considered when the next selections shall be made to fill Cadet vacancies in that Institution.

I was born in the State of —, and now reside in the county of —, (or in the city, town or village of — in the county of —) in the State of —. My age is —, and my character and qualifications will appear from the enclosed recommendations of (naming the persons recommending) and certificates of my teacher, professor, &c. (as the case may be, naming them.) A. B.

When application is made for another person, the letter, will, of course, be modified to suit the circumstances of the case.

No preference will be given to applications, on account of priority; nor will any application be entered on the register where the candidate is under or over the age established by law: nor will any application be considered unless the age be stated, and evidence furnished in support of the character and qualifications of the candidate.

No application will be entitled to consideration unless the place of residence of the candidate be truly stated. By place of residence, is meant the fixed abode of the domicile of the candidate or of his family. Where the candidate may have removed from the residence of his family and settled in a different county or State, he must be reported from that county or State; but where he is a transient resident of a different county or State, from those in which his family live (at school or college for instance,) then he will be located at the abode of his family.

Applications, if not renewed annually, will not be considered; this may be done by letter to the Secretary of War, merely stating the fact of such renewal.

Qualifications necessary for Admission into the Military Academy.—Each candidate, previous to his being admitted, must not be under fourteen, nor over twenty one years of age; nor of less height than four feet nine inches: must be free from any deformity, disease, or infirmity, which would render him unfit for the military service, and from any disorder of an infectious character; he must be able to read and write well, and to perform with facility and accuracy, the various operations of the four ground rules of arithmetic; of reduction; of simple and compound proportion, and of vulgar and decimal fractions.

Applications for Cadet appointments, when received at the War Department, are referred to the Chief Engineer, who is the inspector of the Military Academy, has a general supervision over the affairs of the Institution, and is charged with its correspondence. They are regularly arranged under the heads of their respective States and Territories, and entered in the Register of Applicants, which, with the records and papers connected with the Academy, is kept in the Engineer Department, which is under the direction of the Secretary of War, and situated in the War Office. In the month of February or March, annually, selections are made by the Secretary of War, from the applicants thus registered, to fill the anticipated or estimated vacancies for the year; and the selected candidates are conditionally appointed Cadets. They are notified accordingly by letters of appointment, in which they are directed to inform the department of the acceptance or non-acceptance of their appointments. If they accept, their acceptance must be accompanied by the written assent of their parents or guardians, to their (the Cadets) signing articles, by which they become bound to serve the United States five years, unless sooner discharged.—They are enjoined to repair to West Point, and report themselves to the Superintendent of the Military Academy, between the 1st and 20th of June ensuing; and on the last week of that month, they are examined by the Academic Board, in relation to the initiatory qualifications, as above stated. If they pass this examination, they are admitted in probation till the ensuing examination in January; and if they pass that examination in a satisfactory manner, the fact is reported to the Secretary of War, when warrants dated back on the 30th of June, are made out and transmitted to them, and they then become Cadets, and are entitled to all the benefits of that appointment.

Should any of the newly appointed Cadets fail to repair to West Point at the time prescribed, and not render a satisfactory reason for such failure their appointments are considered as cancelled. Cadets found unqualified to pass their

examination for admission are rejected and it is the duty of the Academic Board to make to the Inspector of the Military Academy a report of such cases to be laid before the Secretary of War, setting forth the causes of their failure, and their particular points of disqualification.—Should the legal complement of Cadets (250) be not full, and any of these rejected candidates be deemed worthy of a re-examination, and signify a desire to be allowed this indulgence, it is granted to them in the last week of the succeeding August.

Should Cadets who passed their initiatory examination, fail to pass the probationary examination, they after that event, cease to be members of the Institution.

After each semi-annual examination, the Academic Board report to the secretary of War the names of all such Cadets of the 4th class as have not made due proficiency in their studies, or whose general conduct has not been satisfactory, and whom they may deem it advisable for the Secretary of War, to discharge; the Board noting particularly the moral and military conduct, the habits in regard to study, and the intellectual capacity of each Cadet.

An annual examination of the classes, preparatory to their advancement, takes place on the first Monday in June, in presence of a Board of Visitors, and such other scientific and literary gentlemen as may be invited to attend. Any Cadet found deficient at his examination, in the studies of his class, will not be advanced to the next higher class; and if in the opinion of the Academic Board, his deficiency is to be attributed to incapacity or want of application, his case is represented to the Secretary of War, in order that he may be discharged.

Though fourteen is within the legal age for admission, yet long observation has demonstrated, that in the general, the proper and suitable age is between 16 and 17, and that youths of 14 must labor under serious disadvantages from the mental immaturity, the embarrassing diffidence, and scanty knowledge incident, in most cases, to so tender an age.

The appointments, as before stated, are made annually in the month of February or March, and are distributed equally throughout the various sections of the country, in proportion to the number of Senators and Representatives in Congress.

As a general remark, it may be observed, that no certain information can be given as to the probable success of a candidate for admission into the Military Academy, before the arrival of the period for making the selections from the several applicants, as the number of vacancies cannot, with any accuracy, be anticipated. Persons, therefore, making applications for Cadet appointments, must not expect to receive information on this point, nor that their inquiries or letters in relation to it will be answered. Their applications will be regularly registered, to be considered at a proper time.

ALEXANDER MACOMB, Major Gen. Inspector of the Military Academy.

OHIO CANALS.

At a late meeting of the board of Canal Commissioners, Gen. Thomas Worthington was appointed additional Acting Commissioner. We understand that he will superintend the surveys about to be made on the southern end of the Ohio Canal, and should any part of this section of the line be put under contract in the ensuing season, that he will superintend its construction.

As it is expected that part of the canals will be completed by the 1st of July next, the Board have established the rates of toll to be paid on property transported on the Ohio and Miami Canals; and have appointed the following gentlemen Collectors, viz:

SAMUEL M'HENRY, Cincinnati.
J. P. REYNOLDS, Middletown.
D. H. BEARDSLEY, Cleveland.
WOOLSEY WELLS, Akron.
MAHUE FOLGER, Massillon.

Rates of toll established by the Board of Canal Commissioners, to be paid on property transported on the Ohio and Miami Canals.

On flour, meal, whiskey, all kinds of grain and all other Agricultural productions (not otherwise provided for) salted provisions, domestic animals, pot and pearl-ashes, and on salt, for the first 100 miles, or any distance less than 100 miles one cent and five mills per ton per mile; & for each mile in addition to 100 miles, one cent per ton per mile.

On merchandise, (including dry goods, groceries, hard and hollow ware, wrought iron and steel) for the first 100 miles or any lesser distance, four cents per ton per mile; and for each mile in addition to 100 miles, three cents per ton per mile.

On mineral coal, for the first 100 miles or any lesser distance, five mills per ton per mile; and for each mile in addition to 100 miles, three mills per ton per mile.

On gypsum, brick and lime, for the first fifty miles, or any lesser distance, one cent per ton per mile, for the second fifty miles or any part thereof, seven mills per ton per mile; and for each

mile in addition to 100 miles, five mills per ton per mile.

On staves and heading, stone for building, stone for lime, for monuments or tomb stones, sand, and grind stones, for the first fifty miles or any lesser distance five mills per ton per mile; and for each mile in addition to 50 miles three mills per ton per mile.

On iron ore, for the first 10 miles or any lesser distance, two cents per ton per mile; and for any distance in addition to 10 miles and not exceeding in the whole 50 miles, one cent per ton per mile; and for any distance in addition to 50 miles, five mills per ton per mile.

On pig metal, for the first 50 miles or any lesser distance, two cents per ton per mile; and for any distance in addition to 50 miles, one cent per ton per mile.

On boards, plank, scantling and other sawed stuff (reduced to inch-board, superficial measure) for the first 50 miles or any lesser distance, one cent per thousand feet per mile; and for each mile in addition to 50 miles, five mills per thousand feet per mile.

On timber squared or round, for any distance, one cent per hundred cubic feet per mile.

On shingles, for any distance, two mills per thousand per mile.

On posts and railfencing, for any distance three cents per thousand per mile.

On wood for fuel, for any distance, one cent per cord per mile.

On boats made and used chiefly for the transportation of property, two cents each for each mile of their passage.

On boats made and used chiefly for the transportation of persons, twelve cents on each boat, for each mile of their passage.

On all articles not enumerated, for any distance, three cents per ton per mile.

FLORIDA.

The character and capacity of this territory, so long imperfectly known, begin to develop themselves, and the importance of the acquisition is every day becoming more and more manifest. We take it for granted, that a ship canal will be cut through it—the object is one of such overwhelming interest, that constitution, or law, or power, will be found somewhere or somehow to effect it. To the western states, who have the outlet for their products in the gulf of Mexico—to the Atlantic, which need and require these products—to the whole union, deeply concerned in all prompt and safe communications between all the parts, the making of this canal must assure peculiarly eminent advantages. It may also be the means of preserving peace. With such a canal, the present awful bearing of Cuba would lose most of its terrors, and even piracy could not prosper—our immensely valuable coasting trade would be, as it were, within our own limits, and certainly within the range of immediate protection, if necessary. The canal will be made—must be made.

Florida will soon supply us with large quantities of sugar and coffee, and because of the heavy duties on these articles, the people, it is expected, will be friendly to the protective system! The cane, it appears, grows well, and seeds in Florida, which it does not in Louisiana and Georgia, and there are many peculiar advantages stated as to the cultivation of it—for instance, that the cane may lay on the ground two or three months after being cut, without injury; whereas in Jamaica, it must not lay more than 10 or 12 days—and thus much hurry, and the necessity of keeping extra hands, is avoided. A valuable essay from Mr. George I. F. Clarke, published in the "American Farmer," holds out many other advantages, and will claim an attentive perusal. His summary is peculiarly interesting—after making allowances for beaches, water courses, salt marshes, Spanish grants, &c., he supposes that there will remain to the general government,

7,000,000 (nett) acres of land in the coffee region.
8,000,000 do. sugar do.
9,000,000 do. coffee and grain.

So that there are 24,000,000 acres of marketable land in Florida, belonging to the general government. Here is a splendid source of revenue; and because the lands are fitted for the cultivation of coffee and sugar, they will be sold at high prices. It is evident that the growth of cotton, if not already over done, will soon be so, and that a great amount of labor must be turned to other objects. The fine tobacco, such as is made into "Spanish segars," the vine, the olive, the mulberry tree, &c. &c. may be successfully cultivated in Florida—and we regret not that our brethren of the south have these peculiar advantages, to counterbalance those which really exist, or are supposed to have been obtained, by the peculiar population and habits of our brethren of the north. By mutually supplying one another, both will be benefited, and the general wealth and power of the republic increased.

The following estimate is presented, said to be from a gentleman who has had considerable experience in the cultivation of cane in Florida:

"Culture of sugar cane and its product"

An acre of good land cultivated in cane, with the requisite care, ought to yield commonly 1200 lbs. of sugar, at \$8

\$96 00

It yields also, in addition, a barrel

18 00

and one fifth of syrup,

\$114 00

A negro, besides attending to provisions and forage, ought to cultivate 3 acres of cane, at \$114,

\$42 00

Forty negroes, according to the same proportion, ought to cultivate 120 acres which at the rate of \$342 per head, would be

\$13,680 00

From this production we must deduct a fourth for expenses and wear and tear,

3,420 00

Leaves a nett annual produce of \$10,260 00 I assume in these calculations the houses to be already established, for the formation of a property of this kind leads to great expense; the workmanship, however, if well attended to, does not require renovation in mass, but often nevertheless may be estimated at about \$30,000

Now—here it is shown that the labor of forty work people, may produce 141,000 lbs. of sugar, and about 5,000 gallons of molasses in a year, besides their own provisions. The duty on these products will act as a bounty equal to about 5,000 dollars, or 125 dollars for each laborer! If the calculation be one half true, what other species of labor is so protected—actually protected, in an increased price of the commodity to the consumer? Niles.

Natural History.—In our paper of the 20th June last, we stated that an eel had been caught in the Grapal, near New Galloway, (Scotland,) which contained in its stomach two adders, one of which was quite entire, and measured seven inches in length, and that the other, tho' partly decomposed, must have originally been a full half larger. The angler, Mr. Lorimer, after opening the eel with his penknife, carried it home as a curiosity; but as there was at least a chance that the poison of the adders had been partly absorbed, the fresh water reptile was thrown away as an infected thing. In the course of the very same week he caught several more eels, and though these appeared to be sound and good, the recollection of what had occurred before excited such a prejudice against them, that it was unnecessary to cook what no one would eat. These, therefore, he also threw away under a tree beside the former; and on passing the spot soon after, he was surprised to find myriads of flies preying on the eels he had caught last, and not one attacking the other. To be sure of this fact, he purposely changed the position of the fish—huddling them together at one time, with a stick, and placing them a good ways apart at another—and after repeated experiments of this kind, he found that the flies tho' they occasionally lighted on the infected eel, shifted their quarters as soon as possible, and abstained, so far as could be ascertained, from making a single puncture in its skin. Here, then, we have the testimony of a respectable individual (and we could mention other names) to two rather curious facts; first, that eels devour adders, and secondly, that flies have a perception of, and shun any poisonous substance. That all insects are not so nice, the experience of every day may convince us; but the flies which feast on carrion, are quite different we believe, from those which buzz about and annoy us at midsummer. Dumfries Courier.

From the Montreal Herald,

We are sorry to have to mention a very melancholy occurrence, which took place in the river near Lachine, last Thursday afternoon. A number of Indians, who had been at this city, did not reach that village till it was nearly dark, and, in consequence of the great quantity of ice floating down, several of them resolved to stay in Lachine till next day, when they would have good light to show them across to the Indian village opposite. Among them, however, were five females, who were the mothers of young children. Conceiving that their infants would suffer from their absence, they refused to stay, and embarked in a canoe about 5 o'clock in the afternoon. They had proceeded about half way when their slight vessel was upset by the floating ice. The cries of the unhappy victims to maternal affection were heard from both shores, but no assistance could be extended to them. One of them had a child of seventeen, and an other one of twenty-one days old. Their bodies have not yet been found.

INDIANS IN FLORIDA.—An express has been sent to Pensacola, bearing a requisition to Col. Clinch, of the Army, commanding near that place, for three companies of the force under his command: despatches has also been sent to Col. Brooke, commanding at Tampa Bay, to march with a greater part of his force up the seaboard, towards the mouth of the Suwanee, and to seize all the boats and canoes belonging to the Indians, to assemble the Chiefs of the Seminole nation, and ascertain their temper, as well as to demand the surrender of the murderers, with direction, if resistance is made by the Indians, to repel it with force. We are glad to observe, however that Gov. Duval states it as his opinion, that the body of the Seminole nation is not concerned in the late hostile movements. Those who are believed to have determined on hostilities are the Mickaskey tribe, who may muster about two hundred warriors, and the discontented Creeks.

The legislature of Delaware, on the 12th inst. elected Henry M. Ridgely, esq. to supply the vacancy in the senate of the United States caused by the death of Mr. Van Dyke, and Louis McLane, esq. at present the representative in congress, a senator for six years from the 4th of March next, in place of Mr. Clayton, whose period of service will then expire.