

Indiana Palladium.

EQUALITY OF RIGHTS IS NATURE'S PLAN—AND FOLLOWING NATURE IS THE MARCH OF MAN.—BARLOW.

Volume IV.]

LAWRENCEBURGH, INDIANA; SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 1828.

[Number 22.

To the Electors of the Third Congressional District in the State of Indiana:

GENTLEMEN,

The first session of my service in Congress, as your Representative, being about to terminate: under feelings of unfeigned gratitude to you for the privilege which I now enjoy; I consider it to be my duty to give you a summary statement of the most important subjects that have been submitted to the consideration of Congress at the present session: as well as of such other matters of a general nature, as I think of sufficient importance to interest you, and which may be printed in the compass of a common circular letter.

The session, as was anticipated, will be a long one. Much business of importance of a general, local, and personal character, has been reported to each branch of Congress, and the Senate has finally acted upon a considerable part of what was introduced into that body. But I cannot say so, in relation to the House of Representatives. The Tariff occupied so much of the time of the House, that the exclusion and postponement of a great portion of the other business, will be the inevitable consequence. However, I am in hopes that the session will be productive of some benefit to the people, though perhaps not of so much, as it might have been, had party spirit not intermingled with the business of legislation; for I am satisfied, from what I have already seen, that party is too often blind to the merits of the question submitted, and the true interest of the country.

At an early period of the session the propriety of extending relief, to the debtors to the United States, for the balance still due for the public lands, was submitted to the consideration of Congress, and an act has been passed reviving and continuing in force until the fourth day of July, 1829, the several relief laws which expired on the fourth day of July last. I beg leave most respectfully and earnestly, to solicit those persons who are interested in the laws revived, to use every exertion to avail themselves of the benefit of their provisions, whilst they have it in their power.

An act has been passed, authorizing persons who have made payments on lands which have afterwards forfeited to the United States, to invest the amount paid on such lands, in any other public lands at the minimum price. The time during which the provisions of this act may be enjoyed is indefinite.

A bill making an appropriation of one hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars, to finish the construction of the Cumberland Road to Zanesville, in Ohio, will doubtless become a law. The Western representation generally, seem alive to the interest of our section of the country on that subject, and I feel pretty confident, if that important national work, should be retarded in its progress west, it will be by causes other than a want of exertion in its favour on the part of its western friends, or its abandonment by the friends to internal improvements generally.

The act from the Senate, will become a law, to authorize the Legislature of our State, by and with the consent of the inhabitants of each township, to order a sale of our school lands, and to invest the amount realized from the sale in some productive fund, the proceeds of which, to be forever appropriated to the use of schools in such townships. As so much of the benefits to be derived to the present and future population of the State, from these lands, may depend upon a wise, energetic and economical administration of them, in affording the means of education to all classes of children within the state. I conceive the questions to be submitted to you and your Representatives by the act, to be of great importance, and well entitled to your deliberate consideration.

The Tariff has passed the House of Representatives after occupying about seven weeks of our time, and is now in the Senate; it is thought to be doubtful whether it will pass that body. The Indiana delegation all voted for the bill. The provisions of the bill were not altogether satisfactory to my mind, they were the best however we could get. The amendments of Mr. Mallary placing the bill on the grounds assumed and recommended by the Harrisburg Convention, so far as related to wool and woolens, were rejected by the House; as were all other amendments, giving a sufficient protection, to the domestic manufacturer; hence we were compelled to

question in relation to it. But should take the bill as it is, or get no bill passed on the subject this session, besides being charged with contributing to the defeat of the tariff.

The bill introduced by General Noble in the Senate, to make an appropriation to open the Cumberland Road, through our State eighty feet wide, has passed that body, but from the advanced period in the session at which we have arrived, I fear it will not become a law this year. I certainly think that few measures would be of greater importance to our State, than that proposed by this bill. I shall be much gratified if we can succeed in getting the bill through the House at the present session, but if we should fail for the want of time, I hope to see the measure persevered in, until our exertions are crowned with success.

A bill has been reported by the Committee on Roads and Canals, granting to the state of Indiana, alternate sections of land on each side of a turnpike road, to be constructed from Lawrenceburgh to Fort Wayne, to aid the state in constructing the same. The importance of this road, if we should succeed in getting it completed, to the whole section of country through which it must pass, is so obvious on the first blush, that comment on my part is entirely unnecessary. I have little hopes of getting the bill through this year, but it will be ready to be acted upon at the next session.

The subject of reducing the price of public lands by a regular graduation, being governed by the length of time they shall have been in market, and of donating to actual settlers eighty acres of land each under certain conditions, was brought before Congress, first by a resolution, and then by bill. I presume, however, that we shall not be able to get any final decision in the House on the proposition at this session. I am decidedly in favor of the principles of the bill, and shall certainly go for it, provided the bill shall be sufficiently guarded to keep the land out of the hands of speculators, as I wish to see those lands settled by industrious citizens, and not bought up in large tracts for speculation. By a proper legislation on this subject we may add greatly to the prosperity of the new States, whilst we make them truly the home for the poor man and his family.

A bill to authorize and enable the President to extinguish the Indian title to a tract of country at the mouth of the Oregon river, on the Pacific Ocean, and form a settlement of our citizens there, has been reported to the House, but I presume it will not be acted upon at the present session.

The Committee on Territories, has reported a bill to create a new territory by the name of Huron, over that district of country which lies north of the state of Illinois, and west of the Territory of Michigan. This bill will doubtless share the same fate as the Oregon bill, at the present session.

We have passed a number of acts, and there are between three and four hundred bills before us, besides those which I have enumerated, many of them are of great interest to the country, and some of which bills will doubtless become laws, before the session closes, in which event I will endeavor to make you acquainted with the provisions of such of them as are of a general interest to you.

The national debt is reduced to about sixty millions of dollars, and is subject to an annual reduction of ten millions of dollars, under the operation of the sinking fund. As I am not amongst those who believe that a national debt is a national blessing, any more than I believe that an individual debt is an individual blessing, I hope ere long, to see my country no longer burdened with debt, applying her ten millions annually to works of internal improvement, for the benefit of our citizens.

The regular forces of the government are merely sufficient to keep the different fortifications in repair; to protect our extreme frontiers against the aggressions and depredations of hostile Indians and provincial subjects; to guard our magazines and arsenals; and to furnish a sufficient board of topographical engineers to prosecute surveys for such works of internal improvement as may be thought of sufficient national importance to justify an examination of them by the government. This is as it should be; as I can never consent in time of peace, to augment the regular army beyond a sufficient number for those purposes, believing as I do, that a standing army in time of peace, is justly considered as noxious to republican principles.

The whole number of the militia of the United States, as returned to the of

ice of the adjutant General, is one million one hundred and fifty thousand one hundred and fifty eight; from the State of Indiana, the number returned is thirty-seven thousand seven hundred and eighty-seven. A bill has been introduced into the Senate for the better organization and disciplining of the militia, but that subject will not be finally determined at this session. As it is upon the militia that our government must mainly rely in case of an evasion; that natural arm of national defence, should be well disciplined in time of peace; and it seems to me that by a correct general and uniform discipline, common to all the states, the militia would be rendered much more efficient, when required to act together in the field, than they otherwise would be, if no uniform organization and discipline should be adopted.

The naval force now consists of seven ships of the line, rating seventy-four guns each, seven first rate frigates rating forty-four guns each, three second rate frigates, rating thirty-six guns each, one steam ship, rating thirty guns, two sloops of war, rating twenty-four guns each, and ten sloops of war, rating eighty guns each, and seven schooners and receiving ships. There are on the stocks and unchristened, five ships of the line, six frigates and four sloops of war. Our flag waves resplendently in every ocean and sea, and whilst it commands the respect of all the nations of the earth, by the prowess of our naval heroes, and the character of the nation it represents; it calls in a voice of thunder upon the pirate who would prey upon our commerce, and those inhuman wretches who traffic in the flesh and blood of the unfortunate Africa, to stop their unholy career.

From the annual report of the American Colonization Society, and such other information as I have been able to obtain, I have the satisfaction to state, that the colony of free people of color at Liberia is prospering equal to the most sanguine anticipation of its early friends. Those colored persons whom the society have been able to collocate there, appear to be well satisfied, and little doubt can now remain of the final and complete success of that benevolent and philanthropic institution.

It is difficult to ascertain the real political situation of Greece. The late signal victory obtained by the allied English, French, and Russian squadrons, over the Turco Egyptian fleet, at Navarino, appears to be of doubtful consequence to the Greeks. Whether the allies intend renewing hostilities against the Grand Seignor, for the purpose of liberating Greece, remains as yet a matter of conjecture, notwithstanding the late manifesto of the Sublime Porte. The people of that once powerful nation have drunk of the cup of human degradation and misery, until it is reduced to the very dregs, and it is to be feared that they are at last driven to the dreadful alternative of either submitting to the Ottoman chains triply riveted, or of throwing off the restraint of all laws, both human and divine, and turning pirates and outlaws, to continue for a precarious time a wretched and hopeless existence.

Having previously to my election, declared myself in favour of the exercise by Congress of the power of making internal improvements, roads and canals, and of protecting the industry of our citizens, by a levy of protecting duties on foreign manufactures, when our farmers can supply the raw material; I deem it to be sufficient for me to say at this time, that my former sentiments on these important national measures have not changed. But I am confirmed, by a more full examination of those subjects, in the opinion, that the true interest of our country requires a perseverance on the part of Congress, in that system known as the "American System."

I have the present session supported by my votes, internal improvements, and the protection of the domestic industry of the country; and unless I should be specially instructed by my constituents to the contrary, I shall continue to support those measures, believing that the present and future prosperity of my country, and particularly that section of it in which I reside, are deeply involved in the success of the "American System."

In relation to the presidential question, which excites so much feeling in the country, I wish no person to doubt for one moment as to my sentiments, or the course which I shall pursue, on that subject. My vote at the polls will be given to continue the present administration, for another term, and as there are but two candidates before the people, it is not probable that the House of Representatives will have to decide any

any circumstance occur, not now anticipated, which should bring the election into the House, I shall have the vote to give, whether I shall be re-elected or not, and, in that event, my vote shall be governed by the vote of the state; as I shall consider the electoral vote as the will of my constituents on that subject expressed. But my private vote at the polls is subject alone to my own will, and whilst I cheerfully extend to each of my fellow citizens, the right to vote as he pleases, I cannot consent to yield my right to exercise the same privilege. It, however, a majority of the people should prefer General Jackson for President, and I should be returned again as your representative, I shall give to his administration my cordial support, so far as the measures recommended, may accord with the interest of my country and the will of my constituents. Thus far have I supported the present administration. Thus far, and no farther, will I support every succeeding administration, so long as I may be honored with a seat in Congress.

In conclusion, should you give another proof of your confidence in me, by re-electing me to the office in which your kindness has placed me, and thereby lay me under an additional obligation to you, I can only promise you in the sincerity of my heart, that no exertions on my part shall be spared, to represent you faithfully. I am more than ever impressed with a sense of the great responsibility which devolves upon me, as your representative, and let the period of my service be terminated by your will, sooner or later, I can desire no greater reward than to be able to add to a consciousness of having faithfully discharged my duty, your approbation of the motives by which I have been governed. I am apprised that great exertions have been made, and are still making, in my absence, to prejudice the public mind against me; but I have too much confidence in your intelligence and justice, to believe that you would condemn me unheard, or suffer my absence in the discharge of my public duties, to be seized upon by those who are interested, to destroy either my private reputation, or your confidence in me as your public servant.

The session will close on the twenty-sixth of the present month.

Respectfully, your fellow-citizen,
OLIVER H. SMITH.
Washington City, May 10, 1828.

BY AUTHORITY

By the President of the United States of America.

A PROCLAMATION.

Whereas, a Convention between the United States of America and His Majesty the King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland was concluded and signed by their Plenipotentiaries, at London, on the sixth day of August, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-seven, which Convention is, word for word, as follows:

The United States of America, and His Majesty the King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, being equally desirous to prevent, as far as possible, all hazard of misunderstanding between the two nations, with respect to the territory on the North West Coast of America, west of the Stoney or Rocky Mountains, after the expiration of the third Article of the Convention concluded between them on the 20th of October, 1818; and, also, with a view to give further time for maturing measures which shall have for their object a more definite settlement of the claims of each party to the said Territory, have respectively named their Plenipotentiaries to treat and agree concerning a temporary renewal of the said Article:

The President of the United States of America, Albert Gallatin, their Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to His Britannic Majesty.

And His Majesty the King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, the Right Honorable Charles Grant, a member of His said Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council, & member of Parliament, and Vice President of the Committee of Privy Council for Affairs of Trade and Foreign Plantations, and Henry Unwin Addington, Esquire;

Who, after having communicated to each other their respective full powers, found to be in due and proper form, have agreed upon and concluded the following articles:

ART. 1. All the provisions of the third Article of the Convention concluded between the United States of America, and his majesty the King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, on the 20th of October, 1818, shall be, and they are hereby further indefinitely extended and continued in force in the same manner as if all the provisions of the said Article were herein specifically recited.

ART. 2. It shall be competent, however, to either of the contracting parties, in case either should think fit, at any time after the 20th of October, 1828, on giving due notice of twelve months to the other contracting party, to annul and abrogate this Convention; and it shall in such case, be accordingly entirely annulled and abrogated, after the expiration of the said term of notice.

ART. 3. Nothing contained in this Convention, or in the Third Article of the Convention of the 20th October, 1818 hereby continued in force, shall be construed to impair, or in any manner affect, the claims which either of the contracting parties may have to any part of the country westward of the Stoney or Rocky Mountains.

ART. 4. The present Convention shall be ratified, and the ratifications shall be exchanged in nine months, or sooner if possible.

In witness whereof, the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed the same, and have affixed thereto the seals of their arms.

Done at London, the sixth day of August

in the year our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty-seven.

ALBERT GALLATIN,

CHARLES GRANT,

HENRY UNWIN ADDINGTON.

And whereas, the said Convention has been duly ratified on both parts, and the respective ratifications of the same were exchanged at London, on the second day of April, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-eight, by William Beach Lawrence, Charge d'Affaires of the United States at the Court of His Britannic Majesty, and the Right Honorable Charles Grant and Henry Unwin Addington, Esquire, on the part of their respective Governments.

Now, therefore, be it known that I, John Quincy Adams, President of the United States of America, have caused the said Convention to be made public, to the end that the same and every clause and article thereof, may be observed and fulfilled with good faith, by the United States and the citizens thereof.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington, this fifteenth day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty-eight, and of the Independence of the United States the fifty-second.

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.

H. CLAY, Secretary of State.

The London papers state that the son of Mungo Park, who has been travelling in the interior of Africa, has been poisoned by the native priests in the Akimbo country because he mounted one of the trees which they hold sacred, that he might more conveniently take a sketch of an assembly.—From this it appears that he did not possess his father's discretion, nor in fact that of any ordinary individual, as it is further stated that a friendly native warned him against the attempt.