



# The Indiana Republican.

"WHERE LIBERTY DWELLS, THERE IS MY COUNTRY."

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re-modification of the military academy, the provisions for military invalids, &c. There is one subject of paramount importance, on which a decision had nearly taken place at the last session of congress, which will probably be revived—we might say certainly, if so much indifference towards it had not been shewn by the whole people of the United States, who are so deeply interested in it. We need scarcely say that we refer to the all-important subject of internal improvement. If the constitutional scruples which produced the rejection, by the illustrious Madison, of the act of the last congress, prevail in the mind of his successor, there yet remains the alternative, suggested by him, of an amendment of the constitution in that particular; and in that shape, if not in the other, the question will certainly present itself to congress.

There is a question which, more than any other, promises to revive party feeling, which will certainly come before congress, in one form or other, during the session. It is the claim of Massachusetts, Connecticut, and one or two other states, for payment for their militia, called into service independently of the authority of the general government, and refused to be placed at its disposal. One of the agents appointed by the state of Massachusetts to confer with the general government on the subject, during the last winter, is a member of the present congress; and his character for perseverance forbids the idea of his permitting a subject to sleep, on which he has already employed much of his time and talents.

The proposition will doubtless be renewed, to reduce, if not to abolish, the existing internal taxes. The fate of such a proposition, unless recommended by the financial department of the government, is very doubtful. One of the taxes, the stamp duty, we should ourselves be willing to see repealed, because it is said to be more vexatious, in proportion to its product, than any other. Whatever may be the fate of the internal taxes, we are pretty certain that the accompanying motion of the last session, for reducing the army, will receive a decided negative, nothing having occurred to secure it a more favorable reception than it then met with.

The question of the highest importance which will be agitated during the session, will be the policy of the U. S. to pursue in relation to the South American provinces. If the subject does not

enter into the president's message, we are warranted from our information, in saying, it will be bro't forward by some member of the house of representatives. If we are not mistaken, there is at least one conspicuous member of that body that considers himself pledged to move it.

Of this question there are two distinct branches: first, the expediency of employing the arms of the U. States in support of the embryo independent governments of Southern America, emerging to existence and struggling for life; and secondly, the expediency of recognizing the independence of such of the provinces as have most clearly shewn their claim to it by the establishment of independent governments.

Of the first branch it is perhaps needless to say any thing—not because there are none who favor that course, for there are many—but because we are convinced there will be a decided majority of congress, as there is of the people, opposed to embarking the nation in any war not unavoidable—much less in a war of alliance in behalf of a foreign power, in a cause not involving the rights or honor of this nation.

The second head is that under which, we presume, the question will come before congress. The right can be no more disputed than the policy of recognizing the independence of any or of all of the South American provinces, when the fact of their having declared independence by the general voice of the people, and in a manner authorised by the laws of nations, is satisfactorily ascertained. We do not view this policy, as some do, as enforced by any particular obligation to these provinces of the most successful of which one has invited an European prince to rule over them, and another has offered to our commercial rival a monopoly of its trade for twenty years, as an equivalent for her recognition of its independence. Had such a proposition as the latter been made to the United States, and rejected, there would have been some foundation for the reproaches cast upon this government for not having at once admitted the ministers the provinces have deputed to represent them in this country. It is not, therefore, any obligations to the colonies which require the U. States to recognize the governments of Buenos Ayres, Chili, Caraccas, &c.—but it is our duty to ourselves, our respect for the principles of freedom, and the right of self government on which our own institutions are based,

that demand of us to be among the first to recognize the independence of such provinces as have established governments favorable to civil liberty and promising to be permanent. To those who are struggling for this object, the people of the United States ardently wish success; but it is only when they have shewn their capacity to accomplish it, that the government can interfere. When that happens, the consideration of foreign jealousy or even hostility, will not deter the U. States from doing what is right; nor is any argument necessary to shew that it ought not.

The question then resolves itself into a question of fact, of which men entertaining the same views may, according to their information and impressions, form different opinions, as they do. Such will probably be the case with congress, as we are not likely to have any official information on the subject at their next session, and it is certain entire credit is not due to the conflicting statements we daily receive from the mouth of rumor, nor even to the confused accounts of the parties themselves.

How congress may decide, we shall not predict; but we should not be surprised if they should refer the question back to the executive, being the treaty making branch of our government, with whom, of course, rests the power to receive or reject ministers from foreign nations (if congress do not interfere) and to whom all the sources of information are accessible. Meanwhile, our ports are open to the flags of those provinces, as the government has long ago officially declared, and each province having an established flag, is so far recognized as an independent government. The ministers or deputies from those provinces remain not recognized, it is true, but in the same situation as the present minister of Spain himself was, before his sovereign was firmly seated on the throne recovered for him by the Spanish people.

Whatever may be the decision of congress—and it may be very different from our anticipation—we have no doubt much of their time will be employed on a question affording so fine a theme for the display of their talents yet to be developed among the new members, as well as of those for which the older statesmen are already distinguished.

Upon the whole we look forward to the session with the most pleasing anticipations; which we hope will not be at all disappointed by a revival of the tedious