

COMMUNICATIONS.

FOR THE PUBLIC LEGER.

To the Legislators of Indiana, the following opinion, with conscious deference, is submitted:—The apparent hardship of obliging persons conscientiously scrupulous of bearing arms, or doing militia duty, to pay fines, as well as the irregular compulsion used in their collection, has long since become a topic of interesting discussion among political men, and seems loudly to call for legislative interposition. It is not my intention to contend for their exemption as a constitutional right; for I think the Constitution of this state warrants no such privilege: nor will I insist that the law of nature, or the law of religion entitles them to claim a freedom from a duty, that is expressed or implied in every national compact: to wit, "That, in consideration of the protection, which every member of the compact receives, he shall protect the whole." But, notwithstanding the obligatory duties arising from constitutional authority, and the imperious maxim above mentioned, yet there are many great political motives, which call for a relaxation of those rules, that are indispensable to national existence;—there are also circumstances attending a people—circumstances arising from religion, poverty, local situation, former misfortunes or oppression, which frequently solicit the attention of a legislature, and reasonably claim of it a remission from some political or civil duties, that appear to rest on every member of the state. The Quakers of this state are entitled to an exemption from the payment of military fines, not, as I before said, merely on account of their religious tenets, but for reasons (some of which have been hinted at) which I shall endeavor to assign before I close my remarks on the subject. I have ever considered it the policy of all governments to pass as many temporizing laws as are necessary to excite emulation among all of the people of a community, without impairing its stability; and to apply such measures to every part of the state, as will do to every member a partial good, and advance the interests of the whole collectively. With these prefatory remarks, I will proceed to give my reasons why the policy of this state, as well as the peculiar situation of those people, demand an exemption from the payment of fines.

In the first place, I think that their religious tenets, notwithstanding their opposition to the rudimental formation of governments, entitle them to claim, and authorize the Legislature to grant, a remission of those fines, which have been paid hitherto to the great impoverishment of the whole society of "Friends" within the jurisdiction of this state. And although an exemption in their behalf would be attended with the loss of a large sum of money yearly; yet the reflecting man will, I think, be convinced, that the state will be benefitted more by the grant of these indulgences, than she would by a uniform exaction of military fines. It is a well known fact to every man who has perused ancient and modern history, that a military spirit in all governments, has been that blind prompter that has urged every people, (whose fall and misfortunes have made a lasting impression on the minds of the intelligent,) to a degenerate barbarism, and hurried them to that ruin, which is consequent on the indulgence of a military pride. How admirably are the pacific principles inculcated by the "Friends," disposed to paralyze the ruling spirit of military fame! How consonant are their principles with those imparted by the "Saviour of the world!" Who, that has made himself acquainted with the pacific principles of "Friends," or lived in their society but has become thoroughly convinced of their beneficial effects? They are those tenets of religion, that, in my opinion, should legislative toleration; tenets, that are more congenial to our form of government, (in which equal rights and the liberty of conscience are very distinguishing characteristics,) than that of any other in the world. And although they carry their conscientious scruples further than we deem necessary, shall the legislature of this state allow them no toleration? If their religion alone should not be sufficient to authorize an exemption, I will endeavor to show—

Secondly—That the spirit of busy industry, which has ever distinguished the Friends from the other citizens of this state, and the benefit which the state derives from that industry, are a sufficient requital for the non-performance of militia duty. Let any man ask the collectors of public money, what part of the citizens of this state has the most ability, and are most willing to pay the civil assessments, and they will tell him, I think, that it is the Friends.

But, thirdly, the political men of this state ought to recollect that she is in her infancy, and that the unreasonable seizures and distresses made use of in the collection of fines, tend, in a wonderful man-

ner, to paralyze the exertions of that people, on whom she most depends for her internal improvements. How can it be expected that any class of people will be a benefit to a state, when the property acquired by a summer's labor, is dragged from them in autumn, and sold to pay a militia levy?

Fourthly—The policy of the state demands an immediate exemption from the payment of fines, on account of the check that our laws have given, and will continue to give the emigration of the Friends to this state. In all of the states within the Union, except this, perhaps, laws have been passed allowing them an unrestrained exercise of conscience, and granting them an exceptive exemption from the payment of those fines. No man can reasonably believe that the Friends will emigrate from those states to this, when they very well know that a settlement here would tend to jeopardize their property. This article is entitled to more consideration than I am able to give it at this time. But suffice it to say, that the legislature have neglected this article in their deliberations, and greatly too to the detriment of the state.

Fifthly.—There is no equality in the fines paid by the Friends, and those paid by the other delinquents, owing to the different administration of the militia law. Inasmuch as the law makes a notice to the Friends unnecessary, they thereby cannot always be on an equal footing with those who do military duty; for, in the first place, they cannot know when the musters are, and consequently cannot be prepared to make a defence at the Court of Assessments. This I deem very inequitable.

And if the defects that are prominent in the military law, are not sufficient to authorize an exception, it will, at least, so far claim the attention of the legislature as to make an amendment. It will, perhaps, be contended, that it is immaterial whether those who never do military duty have a notice of the time and place of mustering or not. Suppose, then, that a Friend should have one of his legs broken, on that or a prior day, is it not reasonable that he should be permitted to make his defence at a court of assessments? Most certainly. But this he cannot do. Many arguments might be adduced to show that the law is not equitable; and one will suffice. Every man who has been attendant on the court of assessments must be convinced of the rigid exaction of fines from the Quakers, and the extraordinary relaxation on the part and behalf of other delinquents. As there are many persons who do not attend the court of assessments, I will briefly state the proceedings in that court. The commandant of each company makes out a list of delinquents, which list is presented to the Judge Advocate of the regiment, or the President of the Court, by whom the names of the delinquents are called in succession. When the name of a delinquent is called, he comes forward and tells the court, that he had a sore toe, or that he was obliged to attend to his own business on that day, or that he was obliged to go to mill, or to meeting, or to Cincinnati for a barrel of salt, and consequently could not attend.

Then rises the officer by whom he was returned, and states to the court, that he knows all that the delinquent had said to be true, for the delinquent told him so—upon which the question is asked, "fine or no fine?"—"no fine, no fine," &c. Though I confess it is not always "no fine," yet I have known a collector of the public revenue to be exempted from the payment of a fine because he was collecting taxes, on which he received 9 per centum. For proof of this, search the records of the 16th regiment. But suffer me to ask, what excuse will avail a Quaker? None. Nothing but the payment of two dollars & fifty cents will satisfy the requisition of the law, and those by whom it is administered. Let me ask the sticklers for military duty, (among whom I have been one,) what is the reason that there have not been fines enough collected, in the 16th regiment, during the two last years, to purchase five or six drums? Is it because there are no delinquents at musters? Certainly not. But a more explicit answer I leave for the officers of every regiment; referring the general questions to those whom I address, "the legislators." But I must reserve the further consideration of the subject to next week.

BEHOLDER.

FOR THE PUBLIC LEGER.

Ours is the best.—I was led to reflect on this subject on observing some remarks in the 23d No. of the Leger, taken from the National Journal, relative to the settlement in Texas. It is a hypothesis that generally obtains with nations and individuals, that, their own is the best, let it relate to what it may, and are pretty sure to censure those who may happen to differ from them, and with a boldness that one would suppose they had "no fears as to con-

sequences." The writer has given it as his opinion that the fertility of the land in Texas "is not alone a sufficient attraction to induce men to emigrate, unless it be those unfortunate beings, the victims of tyranny in Europe, to whom any asylum would be acceptable." Now here appears to be a class pointed out viz: "those unfortunate beings, the victims of tyranny," these may emigrate one would suppose without censure to Texas or where they please—and is there none of this class in the United States? yes, there are tens of thousands of those unfortunate beings the victims of tyranny, to whom any asylum would be acceptable." "The many motives for remaining at home," these "unfortunate beings" are unacquainted with.—"Their very going will be proof of the lack of industry." This is a severe bite. Did our ancestors "lack industry"—or were they not rather "unfortunate beings, victims of tyranny in Europe," that caused them to emigrate to America? That there is land enough "in Ohio, Missouri, &c. within the protection of laws, good order, liberty of conscience, and the regular administration of justice, and within visiting distance of relatives, old friends and acquaintances" is very true, but it should be borne in mind, these fine things do not come within the reach of those "victims of tyranny."—And we must be allowed to think the writer of the article alluded to "has taken upon himself a very serious responsibility when he holds out a land of promise" in these United States of the very best grit.

FED.

From the Middlebury, (Vt.) National Standard.

WOOL.—There is perhaps no class in community more slow to give credence to the practicability of innovation in agricultural economy than farmers themselves.—Indeed so many bubbles are constantly bursting upon the world, that we can hardly blame their reverence for tried method, and antiquated customs. But every virtue when carried to excess is apt to degenerate into an opposite vice with which it is allied; and it not unfrequently happens that an individual under the influence of extreme caution will venture to predict the miscarriage of his neighbor in a new scheme of cultivation, until at length he is doomed to behold him far ahead in the course of successful experiment, and to lament too late the effects of his own prejudice and incredulity. These ideas have been suggested to us by the tardy advances and slow belief of our farmers in the advantages of improving our breeds of sheep by the introduction of fine fleeces. The prejudices which have heretofore prevailed to a very considerable extent, seem now to be vanquished, and the emulation which exists for the possession of the more improved breeds of this animal, is highly auspicious to the prosperity of the State. Those who possess flocks with an admixture of the Merino from a half to full bloods, procure from forty to sixty or seventy cents per pound for their wool, while the price of the common fleece is only thirty four cents. These profits of the improved breeds are further greatly enhanced by the superior weight of the fleece, which in ordinary flocks of half and three quarters blood, will average from three and a half to four pounds, while two and a half and three pounds is a good yield for common sheep with the same feed and keeping.

A further benefit is seen in the superiority of price of the fine fleeced animals.—A Merino ewe or buck is worth from ten to twelve dollars, and 3-4ths and 7-8ths blooded from three to six dollars, while from one dollar to one and half and two dollars is the price of native sheep. The preference of rearing sheep rather than cattle may be seen in the diminished labor, the ready profits, and the superior prices of sheep and wool over beef, butter and cheese.

The profits of keeping Merinos may be greatly augmented by improving the staple, which can be easily done by judicious management, by selecting the finest fleeced ewes for breeders, and more especially by crossing the blood with the Saxony race. This family of sheep, it is well known, derived from a selection made from a Spanish flock, and introduced into Saxony about sixty years since, where they have been nourished with peculiar attention until the fineness of their fleeces far surpassed that of the parent stock. This circumstance decides what has often been doubted, that the texture of the fleece improves in a northern climate. It is asserted by a writer in the Baltimore Patriot, that the Saxony wool commands near double the price in Europe and America of the fine Spanish Leonesa.

But we are frequently asked whether the price of wool will not by the present extraordinary competition speedily be reduced, and whether he who devotes his capital exclusively to the production of wool will not eventually be a loser. Of this the agriculturalist can judge perhaps much better than ourselves. We can merely state the facts that the duty on

imported wool is now twenty-five per cent ad valorem, and for some years to come is subject to an annual advance of five per cent—and that woolen manufactory are multiplying probably somewhat in proportion to the increased cultivation of the raw material. Wool, like cotton, must always be an article which will command a fair price and a ready market, and the price will bear a considerable diminution before its production will be an unprofitable business for the grower.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

GREEKS AND TURKS.—We have a large stock of reports. They are generally favorable to the cause of the Greeks, but few of them are of a positive character. The following is a brief notice of some of the things stated:

Ibrahim Pacha, on his second attempt on Napoli di Romania, was given to understand that Greece had sought the protection of Great Britain, through com. Hamilton. While he waited to ask an explanation, he was attacked by the Greeks and completely defeated, with the loss of 1,800 men—after which he retreated to Calamata, where he was surrounded by a force of 23,000 men, under Colocotroni, and reported to have been in a desperate condition. It seems as if, in a subsequent attack, he had lost 1,200 Arabs; and it is said that Hissien Bey, with a foraging party of 1,000 men, had been killed, and his troops utterly defeated. Another division of troops, at Candia, it is added, were about to arrive to relieve Ibrahim.

The defeat of the Turks at Missolonghi was very severe. Their loss was great, and it appears to have deranged all their plans of the campaign.

There was an insurrection in Candia, and 3,000 men were about to embark at Hydra to assist in fighting the Turks and Egyptians on that island.

£40,000 sterling of the Greek loan had been received to pay the troops. Colocotroni and his two sons appear to be acting nobly. Goura is in the North of Athens with 6,000 men. Canaris has sailed for Alexandria, to burn the fleet about to sail from thence.

The accounts from Constantinople would shew that the divan is much alarmed at the appearance of things; but it is said that if the Greeks are successful it will be more because of the defects of the enemy, than the effects of their own skill or means; yet they fight bravely, and especially at sea.

62 LATER.

GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.—A son of admiral Minaulis has arrived in London, with the proposal of the Greeks to throw themselves under the protection of the British government. It will not be accepted. A proclamation has just been issued commanding the strictest neutrality between the Greeks and the Turks—in consequence of which several vessels, laden with stores, some for the supply of one and some for the other had precipitately left England lest they should be stopped. Two had been detained at Deal.

SPAIN.—A Grenada date of the 10th September, says, yesterday were hanged the seven free masons who were caught in the lodge in this city, in the act of receiving an apprentice; the latter is sentenced to eight years imprisonment.

TURKEY AND GREECE.—The insurrection in Candia has gathered so much strength that the Turks have retired to the fortresses of Retimo. Mount Ida, and several strong places, had fallen into hands of the Greeks. Nothing new from Ibrahim Pacha. Many Turkish ships were blocked up in the gulf of Lepanto by the Greeks. Missolonghi was still blockaded on the land side—frequent combats take place. One account says that the attempt to burn the Egyptian fleet at Alexandria had partly succeeded—another informs us, that, though bravely conducted, it failed, on account of a change of the wind. The Greeks capture many European vessels laden with stores from the Turks. Austria is said to have issued positive orders for the preservation of neutrality, and will not allow the protection of vessels conveying troops, &c. We are fearful that the new proclamations of neutrality, by Austria and Great Britain, shew a disposition to leave the Greeks to their fate; for the belief now is, that they cannot succeed without foreign aid, and that the Turks will finally press them down by the mere weight of numbers.

BARBARY STATES.—It is believed that the dey of Algiers is preparing a large force to act against the Greeks. The bashaw of Tripoli has declared war against Sardinia. Letters from Morocco, state that the emperor has put to the sword the whole of the inhabitants of the city of Mettemez, and entirely destroyed the city, in consequence of the late revolt.

BLANK DEEDS.

FOR SALE AT THIS OFFICE.