

military training, is, perhaps an extreme to be equally appreciated with that of our present defective system; but there is a logical call for your wisdom to remedy the existing difficulties. There can be no question, with me, but a modification of that law, so as to tax more of the time of the officers, in training, and abolishing all emoluments of privates, except perhaps one day in each year, would remedy some of the evils complained of; and to enforce among the officers, in more prompt and decisive manner, the system of tactics as laid down by the United States, several hundred copies of which are now on hand, and ready for distribution. How far this course might be free from exceptions, time alone can determine. When we reflect on the necessity of a well regulated militia, in time of war, and the necessary tax, levied on the time and attention of our citizens, in time of peace, the necessity of being prepared for the exigency of the one, and a wish to avoid mis-spent time in the other; these considerations much enhance the difficulties it is our desire to remedy.

Indiana is destined ere long to have a deep interest in the subject of protective duties, if a system of taxation is to be levied by the general government, for other purposes than that of revenue. It will be strictly within your province, gentlemen, to make known to congress, by memorial or otherwise, (if you believe you can act understandingly upon the subject,) the wishes and views of your constituents, upon the subject of the tariff. And here I will be pardoned if I digress from what some may deem my duty, and offer you a few thoughts on this all engrossing subject. The station which Indiana will one day occupy among the grain growing states, with her abundant resources for manufactures, must raise her high in the scale of responsibility to the general government. It is essential that her first step should be made with great circumspection. What may now appear to be her advantageous policy, may not be so in years to come. It is our decided opinion, that the present system of duties, as levied by congress, seriously oppresses our southern neighbors, to our manifest injury; and that it might be so modified, as to bear more equally on all sections of the union, and be equally productive to the general government. That our interest is more immediately identified with that of the south, than any other section of the union, none will deny.—Hence arises our solicitude for their prosperity. Every day's experience teaches us that whatever has a tendency to depress the markets of the south, has a direct effect to subvert the prospects, and control the interests, of the industrious farmers of this state. Is it not the uniform voice of the south, give us a market for our cotton and sugar, and we will give you a market for your pork, whiskey and corn? Their prospects and ours, must in some measure brighten and darken together. The two markets must rise and fall together, and so it must remain, until we can either change our market, or the articles with which we supply them. If there was any absolute necessity for either a majority or minority to suffer, in order for our national good, we should unhesitatingly say, let it be the minority; but we can see no imperative call for even the minority to be oppressed with a sectional tax. How far the present tariff, with its concomitants, may now be a national blessing or a curse, seems at present an undecided question; and much more time is spent by its advocates, in prophesying as to what may be its results, than in calculating what are its positively existing benefits. Perhaps this may be considered by some, as a limited policy; but of this it will be remembered that we speak of our present condition. The time may come, and perhaps shortly too, when the present, or even a tariff on a more extended scale, may better comport with the views and wishes of both our country and us. But we humbly anticipate, that our succeeding generations will be as competent to provide for their own exigencies, as we are to do it for them.

JOHN W. DAVIS.

The subject of further appropriation for improving the national road, within our state, is one which you may act on, with much confidence of success. From the pledge given by the general government, to complete this work, you can make the call on their funds, more as a matter of right, than a matter of power; and its final accomplishment appears to be alike suggested, by policy and expediency, to the nation at large.

There have been some suggestions made to me, on the propriety of establishing a uniform system of doing county business; but in my view of the subject, there has no good reason been presented for the change. I see no cause why the several counties should not continue to enjoy, with your permission, at least the two separate modes of transacting their business. This variety may grow out of the peculiarity of their condition; and I am free to believe that it is their province, if it is their wish, to transact their business, either by magistrates or commissioners, as to them may seem best; but of the two modes, the latter appears to me to be the least exceptionable.

I have thus, gentlemen, cursorily touched upon some of the most important subjects, that may be brought up for your consideration; and will now briefly enumerate some others, that you may deem advisable to act on, without obtruding any opinion of my own, on your better judgments, as to their expediency, or inexpediency. First, your guardian authority in behalf of our youthful, yet flourishing literary institution, at Bloomington, may

be put in requisition; and perhaps some calls by them on your liberality for assistance. She is the legitimate offspring of your deliberations, and has strong claims on your paternal care.

Perhaps some appropriations may be advantageously made, especially if to assist private subscription, in removing the obstruction of our navigable streams.

Your attention will also be directed to the condition of our three per cent. fund. That congress should enlarge the source of that fund, might be expected, and even claimed, if they continue to deny us the right to our own soil, or the soil within our chartered limits.

The condition of our state library might perhaps claim some further aid, if it can be rendered with propriety, having reference to our financial condition.

The Michigan road being in a state of progression, will claim some further attention. The report of the commissioners of surveys, and of the talented commissioner of contracts, will furnish the best data for you to act upon this subject understandingly.

Perhaps you may with perfect propriety, make another call upon congress, to extinguish the Indian title to their remaining lands within our state; and in the accomplishment of that event, for the state to possess a fee simple title to all the lands within her borders, would be desirable. The eminent domain question, however, is one upon which the general government appears to be pertinaciously obstinate.

The proverbial liberality and tolerant spirit of this, as well as our sister states of the west, can leave no doubt on your minds, as to the wishes and views of your constituents, in relation to Sunday mails, should you deem that a proper subject for public expression.

The subject of a state bank, or a call upon the competent power, for a branch of the U. S. bank, may perhaps occupy some part of your deliberations.

You may conceive it your duty, gentlemen, having under your supervision a fund of infinite importance to the metropolis of this state, carefully to examine into its condition, and further to dispose of the same, as to you may seem most beneficial.

You may also deem it proper to express in some form or other, your gratification at the felicitous results of the late struggles in France. They are rendered interesting to us, because they have eventuated in subverting an oppressive monarchy, and substituting in its stead a system of government, as closely appertaining to that of our own as circumstances would permit; but they are more especially of interest, because the veteran of that nation, rendered doubly dear to every American, was also identified with its results, and ardently exerted his sage and venerated, yet active talents, in its accomplishment.

Finally, gentlemen, it is my bounden duty, as the only legitimate executive of this sovereignty, to notice some attempts by voluntary associations, to undermine the grand superstructure of republicanism; latterly within this state, by bringing before the public, topics which should alone be reserved for the exercise of the genius of your executive. The "Hydra should be slain in its own element"—These "unauthorised bodies," under the appellation of mock legislatures, should be put down, or the "dictatorial office" rendered harmless, by some interference on your part, so as to exclude from the substance of these mock "messages," any subject that will come legitimately within the purview of a message from this, the only lawful source.

With these suggestions, gentlemen, and an assurance that I shall always feel it a pleasure, as well as my duty, to grant you any further aid in my power; and with an earnest hope that a reciprocity of good feeling will characterize our mutual exertions, until the consummation of your labors, I respectfully submit these desultory reflections for your inspection.

JOHN W. DAVIS.

***** War may stride over the land with the crushing step of a giant—Pestilence may steal over it like an invisible curse—reaching its victims silently and unseen—unpeopling here a village and there a city until every dwelling is a sepulchre—Famine may brood over it with a long and weary visitation, until the sky itself is brazen, and the beautiful greenness give place to a parched desert. But these are only physical evils. The wild flower will bloom in peace on the field of battle and above the crushed skeleton. The destroying angel of the pestilence will retire when his errand is done, and the nation will again breathe freely—and the barrenness of famine will cease at last—the cloud will be prodigal of its hoarded rain—and the wilderness will blossom. But for moral desolation there is no reviving spring. Let the moral and republican principles of our country be abandoned—our representatives bow in unconditional obsequiousness to individual dictation; let impudence, and intrigue, and corruption, triumph over honesty and intellect, and our liberties and strength will depart forever. Of these there can be no resuscitation. "The abomination of desolation" will be fixed and perpetual; & as the mighty fabric of our glory totters into ruins, the nations of the earth will mock us in our overthrow; like the powers of darkness, when the throned one of Babylon became even as themselves; and the glory of the Chaldees' excellency had gone down forever.—N. E. Review.

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THE GAZETTE.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8, 1831.

The Knox County Temperance Society will meet at the Methodist Chapel, on the 17th inst. at early candlelight. An address will be delivered by the Revd. Aaron Wood.

INDIANAPOLIS.

No nomination of Judges for the Supreme Court had been made on Saturday last. The Legislature were busily engaged—and much harmony appeared to exist. It was supposed Mr. Ewing, Chairman of the Committee on canals and internal improvements, would introduce a bill on Monday, providing for the commencement of the Wabash and Erie Canal.

JACKSON CAUCUS.

A Jackson caucus was held at Indianapolis, on the 18th December—David Robt, in the Chair, and M. G. Bright, Secretary. After passing a string of resolutions lauding the President and his administration to the skies, it was further resolved that Five Thousand copies of the President's Message be printed, for distribution throughout the State; and on motion, J. C. Reily, N. B. Palmer, J. P. Drisk, Jas. Blake, and Thomas Givens, were appointed a committee to select and nominate a Standing Central Committee, to consist of twenty—the committee selected James Blake, Alex' F. Morrison, Alfred Harrison, & Basil Brown, of Indianapolis, Amos Lane, of Dearborn, Nathan B. Palmer, of Jefferson, A. Davidson, of Decatur, Daniel Hankins, of Fayette, George Bon, of Sullivan, R. T. Newland, of Washington, Hiram Aldridge, of Shelby, John M. Lemon, of Clark, Edward Patton, of Switzerland, Gen. John Myers, of Knox, Gen. Daniel Zeigler, of Putnam, A. C. Griffith, of Jackson, John Gardner, of Vermillion, Jacob Bence, of Floyd, William Bussell, of Rush, and Wm. Newland, of Lawrence, which report was unanimously adopted by the meeting.

At a general meeting of the Central Committee, on the 22d Dec. it was

"Resolved"—That the committee will endeavor to designate committee of five persons in every county in the state, as a county corresponding committee; and that said county committees be authorised to organise committees of vigilance in the several townships of their respective counties; and all such committees are invited to correspond with the Central Committee through their Chairman at Indianapolis."

I abominate this Caucus System, as much as I do the present prevailing fashion of riding about and soliciting votes. What right, I would ask, have these men to dictate to the people!—or to meet in caucus and appoint five "overseers" in each county to direct the people how they shall vote? Who made them the organ of the public will? Who authorised them to instruct the freemen of the country the manner in which they shall exercise the invaluable right of suffrage? Not the people surely—for it is believed that a large majority are opposed to these measures. From whence, then, does their power emanate? Whence does it arise? The answer is "from themselves"—they have "assumed a power tho' they have it not."

It is a man honestly believes Gen. Jackson better qualified for the Presidency than Mr. Clay, or any other individual, in the name of heaven let him vote as he thinks—it is his privilege—a right which God has given him—it is a glorious one—and no honest man will quarrel with him for exercising it. But let not a set of men whose very bread is dependent upon the produce of our lands in payment. Every man now has an incentive to industry, being sure of his reward. And what has brought about this happy state of things? That policy which the Jackson party are labouring to do away—that policy for which the country is indebted to Henry Clay, its early, earnest and powerful champion.

This being the present state of things, it becomes the imperative duty of all who wish to see the continued prosperity of the country, to take a decisive stand; to unite in future, in the choice of candidates for office, on men who will be true to this policy, and laying aside all prejudice and personal feelings, give their united suffrages at the polls. It is no idle or vain alarm, for political purposes, or to promote the ambition of a man, or men, which is the object of this communication. Our dearest and most valuable interests are asailed by a powerful faction, who are on all occasions, when needed, found fighting in an emboldened phalanx, without reference to personal differences—a faction, which has always, when it had the power used it without mercy or justice, and which, when weakest, has had the courage to obtain quarter. If this party is the strongest in our country, let us know it, and submit—if not, let us have friends to the American system to represent us—let us elect those who will go for the interests of the country—for measures, not men—and not the blind and fettered representatives of a Party, whose religion is man-worship, whose every vote and act has been swayed by corruption, or governed by selfish interest.

It is General Jackson is as popular as his friends say—if, beyond all doubt, he is to get the vote of this state under any circumstances. If so, why all this preparation for battle by the Central Committee? Does it not show a fear—does it not show a doubt, a dread, that General Jackson is not as popular as his friends would have the people believe?—& wherefore arises this caucusing, this committee of twenty, this council of ten, this county committee of five, and these resolutions?

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The Wabash has risen considerably the present week, and is now sufficiently high for large steam boats. The ice is running in small quantities, but does not obstruct the navigation of the river. The steam boat Forester arrived here on Thursday evening, discharged some freight and proceeded up.

[FOR THE VINCENNES GAZETTE.]

MR. EDITOR—

Late events have had the effect of proving to the world, that one political party at least, are well organised, and determined, at the sacrifice of feelings, principle and duty, to support their party. The election of U. S. Senator in the place of Wm. Hendricks, which took place a few weeks since, proves this beyond doubt.—In that election we find that the two Representatives from Knox county, neither of whom was elected on party strength, but by the promiscuous votes of all parties, without reference to personal politics, as Representatives of the feelings, interests and wishes of Knox county, conceived themselves bound to vote for R. Bonn in preference to a distinguished citizen of Knox county, merely because he was the Jackson candidate, well knowing at the same time, that in so doing they violated the faith reposed in them by their constituents.

This is not all, nor the worst consequence to be apprehended from this state of things. In every thing else, the doctrines promulgated from head quarters are to be supported. Internal improvement is to be stopped—the present Tariff on imports to be altered to a judicious one, to suit the mullers of the South.—These two leading features of the past policy of the country, under which she has had unparalleled prosperity, which have received repeatedly the sanction of large majorities of the people, and which are of vital importance to the Eastern, Middle, and Western States, are to be erased; and the party men, all of whom are either fishing for, or have already obtained office, are bound to "go the whole hog" for this, or any thing else they are bid to. It is therefore, surely high time for the friends of the best interests of their country—of that policy which makes a home market for the produce of the country, and which provides good roads or canals for its transportation to our navigable streams, and which improves the navigation of their rivers at the expense of the General Government, into whose coffers such a vast amount is annually paid by the western people—to be up and doing; to organise; to look well to the principles of those whom they entrust to represent them.

Ten years since, there was no market at any price, for the produce of the western farmer—his pork was hawked about the streets of our villages, and sold for \$1.25 in trade, and that at enormous prices—his corn was a drug which in some cases could scarcely be given away. At that time the Farmers of the west were the very slaves of the English Manufacturer, through the medium of retailers of English Goods in every nook and corner of the country. What is now our situation? There is not an article the farmer has to sell, but he can get cash for at a fair price—he is now, if at all prudent and industrious, what he should always be, independent. Two thirds of the goods now vended in the west are the produce of American Industry; and the manufacturers of them are very glad to receive the produce of our lands in payment. Every man now has an incentive to industry, being sure of his reward. And what has brought about this happy state of things? That policy which the Jackson party are labouring to do away—that policy for which the country is indebted to Henry Clay, its early, earnest and powerful champion.

This being the present state of things, it becomes the imperative duty of all who wish to see the continued prosperity of the country, to take a decisive stand; to unite in future, in the choice of candidates for office, on men who will be true to this policy, and laying aside all prejudice and personal feelings, give their united suffrages at the polls. It is no idle or vain alarm, for political purposes, or to promote the ambition of a man, or men, which is the object of this communication. Our dearest and most valuable interests are asailed by a powerful faction, who are on all occasions, when needed, found fighting in an emboldened phalanx, without reference to personal differences—a faction, which has always, when it had the power used it without mercy or justice, and which, when weakest, has had the courage to obtain quarter. If this party is the strongest in our country, let us know it, and submit—if not, let us have friends to the American system to represent us—let us elect those who will go for the interests of the country—for measures, not men—and not the blind and fettered representatives of a Party, whose religion is man-worship, whose every vote and act has been swayed by corruption, or governed by selfish interest.

[FOR THE VINCENNES GAZETTE.]

THE CHEROKEES.

Much as I admire the independent sentiments expressed in the president's late message, with regard to the tariff, internal improvements, &c. I must be permitted, as an individual of the multitude, to detract from his sentiments on the subject of the removal of certain tribes of Indians, west of the Mississippi. And here I will beg the insertion of a small paragraph, not so much as an illustration of the sentiments of the president, as of the position which I intend to take with regard to them.

Again the president says, "they are unwilling to submit to the laws of the states, and mingle with their population." Submit to the laws of the states!—and to what kind of laws is their submission required? The edicts of Georgia have

"And is it supposed that the wandering savage has a stronger attachment to his home, than the settled, civilized Christian? Is it more afflicting to him to leave the graves of his fathers, than it is for our brothers and children? Rightly considered, the policy of the general government towards the red man is not only liberal but generous. He is unwilling to submit to the laws of the states, and mingle with their population. To save him from this alternative, or perhaps utter annihilation, the general government kindly offers him a new home, and promises to pay the whole expense of his removal and settlement."

From this remark, with regard to the "leaving the graves of their fathers," we must infer, from the frequent use of the quotation, that it applies particularly to the case of the Cherokees. But where, let me ask, is the affinity between the condition of the wandering savage, and that of the civilized Christian? Look at them impartially, and compare the motives of each.

The same steady increase of population, which has, in the vicinity of the Atlantic, utterly annihilated the tribes which formerly hunted on its borders, is the source of the great flood of emigration, which at this moment rolls its mountainous waves in such vast volumes westward. A vigorous rising generation must have a field for their exertions. This is far from the situation of the Indians.—On the contrary, their decrease has been as rapid as their annihilation is sure. All with the exception of the Choctaws and Cherokees, have adhered steadily to their ancient habits; and unfortunately for them, they are habits by the pursuit of which, in a civilized country, they cannot exist. But this remark, though general, is not universal. Portions of the tribes mentioned have been reclaimed from their ancient pursuits, and are making rapid advances in civilization and the cultivation of the useful arts. They have been brought to this, as well by the precepts as the examples of their more cultivated neighbors. The latter have established a form of government; and the rights which they actually possessed, have been acknowledged, strengthened, and stipulated to them, by the official acts of the government of the United States.

Where is this liberal, this generous policy of which the president speaks? Is it in exterminating their race? Is it in driving them from the face of the earth; or compelling them to submit to cruel and oppressive laws? which, however, is only a reader method of bringing about the same object! I confess I cannot see a shadow of liberality or generosity in this. We may be said to possess the soil of the original United States by right of discovery, and conquest or revolution. By what right the aborigines possessed it, we know not, nor have we any power to judge; but that they did possess it, is enough for us to know. The title of the Indians to their lands has been acknowledged by the United States government; and not a foot has been obtained without their permission. If the states have the right to extend their laws over them, or the general government to extinguish their title without their consent, where has been the necessity for expending hundreds of thousands of dollars, in treaties of purchase? But says the president, "the general government is bound to extinguish the Indian title," &c. &c. and it is unhappy for him, that he, at the same time, forgot to mention another provision, i.e. with their permission. It is fortunate for the western states that they have been found willing to dispose of their lands, at a reasonable valuation, and remove to the west; and the treaties made with them have already nearly accomplished the object so much desired; but had they been found otherwise disposed, they must have remained in the hands of the original owners. These same treaties, and this undisputed acknowledgment, on the part of the general government, of their right to the soil, have forever established the correctness of a maxim, which I have understood has met with general acceptance in all countries, that "two parties are required to make a bargain." All portions of their territory, therefore, of which they have recently been dispossessed, have been obtained on the fair terms of bargain and sale. It is true, the United States have the power, because they have the strength to wrest their lands from them, and compel their subjection at any moment; and admitting the correctness of the maxim which has been so much deprecated by freemen, that "the strong must pull down the weak," they have the right. But where has this summary justice its origin? Is it derived, as the president seems to think, from situation or contiguity? It is true, we own the lands on every side of them. But suppose the United States had purchased from Spain the province of Texas, previous to the purchase of Louisiana from France. There would have been nothing impossible, and perhaps nothing impolitic in this measure.—Perhaps we had the power, and if so, undoubtedly the right, according to the same principle, of extending our jurisdiction over the territory of Louisiana, in defiance of the power of France, and of continuing it until the actual purchase by treaty. In another instance, the same arguments may be urged with more force. The United States unquestionably had the power to extend their jurisdiction over the territory of Florida, in utter defiance of poor old Spain. Where, then, according to this outrageous principle of justice, was the necessity of a formal treaty of purchase? for we have acknowledged the sovereignty of one power, no less than that of the other.

Again the