

THE WESTERN SUN,

From the Press of *ELIHU STOUT*; Publisher of the Laws of the United States.

[VOL. 7.]

VINCENNES, (IND. TY.) SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1815.

[No. 4.]

THE WESTERN SUN,

IS printed weekly at Two DOLLARS per annum, paid in advance or an attested Note, payable at the end of the year for Two DOLLARS & FIFTY CENTS.

No Subscription will be received for a less term than one year—and will not be discontinued until all arrearages are paid.

WHERE papers are sent by Post, the person subscribing must pay the postage.

ADVERTISEMENTS of no more length than breadth will be inserted three times for ONE DOLLAR, and TWENTY-FIVE CENTS, for every after insertion.

To avoid unpleasant disputes, it is requested of Advertising customers, that they particularly specify the number of times their Advertisement's are to be continued.—Those sent without such directions will be continued until forbid and must be paid for accordingly.

ALL Letters addressed to the Editor must be Post paid, or they will not be taken out of the office.

WASHINGTON, December 5.

This day, at 12 o'clock, the president of the U. States transmitted to both houses of congress the following Message by Mr. Todd, his secretary :

Fellow Citizens of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives.

I have the satisfaction on our present meeting, of being able to communicate to you the successful termination of the war which had been commenced against the U. States by the regency of Algiers. The squadron in advance on that service, under com. Decatur, lost not a moment after its arrival in the Mediterranean in seeking the naval force of the enemy, then cruizing in that sea; and succeeded in capturing two of his ships, one of them the principal ship commanded by the Algerine admiral. The high character of the American commander was brilliantly sustained on the occasion, which bro't his own ship into close action with that of his adversary; as was the accustomed gallantry of all the officers and men actually engaged. Having prepared the way by this demonstration of American skill and prowess, he halted to the port of Algiers, where peace was promptly yielded to his victorious force. In the terms stipulated, the rights and honor of the U. States were particularly consulted, by a perpetual relinquishment on the part of the Bey of all pretensions of tribute from them. The impressions which have thus been made strengthened as they will have been by subsequent transactions with the regencies of Tunis and Tripoli, by the appearance of the larger force which followed under com. Bainbridge the chief in command of the expedition, and by the judicious precautionary arrangements left by him in that quarter, afford a reasonable prospect of future security, for the valuable portion of our commerce which passes within reach of the Barbary cruisers.

It is another source of satisfaction that the treaty of peace with G. Batain has been succeeded by a convention on the subject of commerce, concluded by the plenipotentiaries of the two countries. In this result a disposition is manifested on the part of that nation, corresponding with the disposition of the U. States, which, it may be hoped, will be improved into liberal arrangements on other subjects, on which the parties have mutual interests, or which might endanger their future harmony. Congress will decide on the expediency of promoting such a sequel, by giving effect to the measure of confining the American navigation to American seamen; a measure which at the same time that it might have that conciliatory tendency would have the further advantage of increasing the independence of our navigation, and the resources for our maritime defence.

In conformity with the articles of the treaty of Ghent, relating to the Indians, as well as with a view to the tranquility of our Western and North Western frontiers, measures were taken to establish an immediate peace with the several tribes who had been engaged in hostilities against the U. States—such of them as were invited to Detroit acceded readily to a renewal of the former treaties of friendship. Of the other tribes who were invited to a nation on the Mississippi, the greater number have also

accepted the peace offered to them. The residue, consisting of the more distant tribes or parts of tribes, remain to be bro't over by further explanations, or by such other means as may be adapted to the disposition they may finally disclose.

The Indian tribes within and bordering on our Southern frontier, whom a cruel war on their part, had compelled us to chastise into peace, have lately shewn a restlessness, which has called for preparatory measures for repressing it, and for protecting the commissioners engaged in carrying the terms of peace into execution.

The execution of the act for fixing the military peace establishment has been attended with difficulties, which even now can only be overcome by legislative aid. The selection of officers, the payment and discharge of the troops enlisted for the war; the payment of the retained troops & their re-union from detached and distant stations; the collection and security of the public property in the Quartermaster, Commissary, and the Ordnance departments; and the constant medical assistance required in hospitals and garrisons, rendered a complete execution of the act impracticable on the 1st of May, the period more immediately contemplated. As soon, however, as circumstances would permit, and as far as it has been practicable, consistently with the public interests, the reduction of the army has been accomplished; but the appropriations for its pay, and for other branches of the military service, having proved inadequate, the earliest attention to that subject will be necessary; and the expediency of continuing upon the peace establishment the staff officers who have been hitherto provisionally retained, is also recommended to consideration of congress.

In the performance of the executive duty upon this occasion there has not been wanting a just sensibility to the merits of the American army, during the late war; but the obvious policy and design in fixing an efficient military peace establishment, did not afford an opportunity to distinguish the aged and infirm, on account of their past services, nor the wounded and disabled on account of their present sufferings. The extent of the reduction, indeed, unavoidably involved the exclusion of many meritorious officers of every rank from the service of their country; and so equal, as well as so numerous, were the claims to attention that a decision by the standard of comparative merit could seldom be attained. Judged, however, in candor, by a general standard of positive merit, the army register will, it is believed, do honor to the establishment; while the case of those officers whose names are not included in it, devolves with the strongest interest upon the legislative authority, for such provision, as shall be deemed the best calculated to give support and solace to the veteran and invalid; to display the buncisence, as well as the justice of the government, and to inspire a martial zeal for the public service, upon every future emergency.

Altho' the embarrassments arising from the want of an uniform national currency have not been diminished since the adjournment of congress, great satisfaction has been derived in contemplating the revival of the public credit, and the efficiency of the public resources. The receipts into the treasury, from the various branches of revenue, during the nine months ending on the 30th of September last, have been estimated at 12 millions and a half of dollars; the issues of treasury notes of every denomination during the same period amounted to the sum of 14 millions of dollars; and there was also obtained upon loan, during the same period a sum of nine millions of dollars; of which the sum of six millions of dollars was subscribed in cash, and the sum of three millions of dollars in treasury notes. With these means, added to the sum of one million and a half of dollars, being the balance of money in the treasury on the 1st of January, there has been paid between the 1st of January and the 1st of October, on account of the appropriations of the preceding and of the present year, (exclusively of the amount of the treasury notes subscribed to the loan, and the amount redeemed in the payment of duties and taxes, the aggregate sum of 33 millions and a half of dollars, leaving a balance then in the treasury estimated at the sum of three millions of dollars. Independent, however, of the arrearages due for military services and supplies, it is presumed that a further sum of five millions of dollars including the interest on the public debt payable on the 1st of January next, will be demanded at the treasury to complete the

expenditures of the present year, for which the existing ways and means will sufficiently provide.

The national debt, as it was ascertained on the 1st of October last, amounted in the whole to the sum of 120 millions of dollars consisting of the unredeemed balance of the debt contracted before the late war, (39 millions of dollars) the amount of the funded debt, contracted in consequence of the war (64 millions of dollars) and the amount of the unfunded and floating debt (including the various issues of treasury notes) 17 millions of dollars, which is in a gradual course of payment. There will probably be some addition to the public debt, upon the liquidation of various claims which are depending; and a conciliatory disposition on the part of congress may lead, honorably and advantageously to an equitable arrangement of the militia expenses, incurred by the several states, without the previous function or authority of the government of the U. States. But when it is considered that the new as well as the old portion of the debt has been contracted in the assertion of the nation rights and independence; and when it is recollect that the public expenditures, not being exclusively bestowed upon subjects of a transient nature, will long be visible in the number and equipments of American navy, in the military works for the defence of our harbors and our frontiers, and in the supplies of our arsenals and magazines; the amount will bear a gratifying comparison with the objects which have been attained, as well as with the resources of the country.

The arrangement of the finances, with a view to the receipts and expenditures of a permanent peace establishment, will necessarily enter into the deliberations of congress during the present session. It is true that the improved condition of the public revenue will not only afford the means of maintaining the faith of the government with its creditors inviolate, and of prosecuting successfully, the measures of the most liberal policy; but will also justify an immediate alleviation of the burthens imposed by the necessities of the war. It is, however, essential to every modification of the finances, that the benefits of an uniform national currency should be restored to the community. The absence of the precious mill, it is believed, be a temporary evil;—but until they can be again rendered the general medium of exchange, it devolves on the wisdom of congress to provide a substitute which shall equally engage the confidence, and accommodate the wants of the citizens throughout the nation. If the operation of the state banks cannot produce this result, the probable operation of a national bank will merit consideration; and if neither of these expedients be deemed effectual, it may become necessary to ascertain the terms upon which the notes of the government, (no longer required as an instrument of credit) shall be issued, upon motives of general policy, as a common medium of circulation.

Notwithstanding the security for future repose which the U. States ought to find in their love of peace, and their constant respect for the rights of other nations, the character of the times particularly inculcates the lesson, that whether to prevent or repel danger, we ought not to be unprepared for it. This consideration will sufficiently recommend to congress a liberal provision for the immediate extension and gradual completion of the work of defence, both fixed and floating, on our maritime frontier; and an adequate provision for guarding our inland frontier, against dangers to which certain portions of it may continue to be exposed.

As an improvement on our military establishment, it will deserve the consideration of congress whether a corps of invalids might not be organized and employed, as a means to aid in the support of meritorious individuals, excluded by age or infirmities from the existing establishment, and to preserve to the public the benefit of their stationary services, and of their exemplary discipline. I recommend also an enlargement of the military academy already established, and the establishment of others in other sections of the union. And I cannot press too much on the attention of congress such a classification and organization of the militia, as will most effectually render it the safe guard of a free state. If experience has shewn in the late splendid achievements of militia, the value of this resource for the public defence, it has shewn also the importance of that skill in the use of arms, and that familiarity with the essential rules of

discipline, which cannot be expected from the regulations now in force. With this subject is intimately connected, the necessity of accommodating the laws, in every respect, to the great object of enabling the political authority of the union to employ promptly and effectually the physical power of the union in the cases designated by the constitution.

The signal services which have been rendered by our navy, and the capacities it has developed for successful operation in the national defence, will give to that portion of the public force its full value in the eyes of congress, at an epoch which calls for the constant vigilance of all governments. To preserve the ships now in a sound state; to complete those already contemplated; to provide amply the unperishable materials for prompt augmentations, and to improve the existing arrangements into more advantageous establishments for the construction, the repairs, and the security of vessels of war, is dictated by the soundest policy.

In adjusting the duties on imports, to the object of revenue, the influence of the tariff on manufactures will necessarily present itself for consideration. However wise the theory may be, which leaves to the facility and interest of individuals the application of their industry & resources, there are in this, as in other cases, exceptions to the general rule. Besides the condition which the theory itself implies, of a reciprocal adoption by other nations, experience teaches that so many circumstances must occur in introducing and maturing manufactures, especially of the more complicated kinds, that a country may remain long without them, altho' sufficiently advanced, and in some respects even peculiarly fitted for carrying them on with success. Under circumstances giving a powerful impulse to manufacturing industry, it has made among us a progress, and exhibited an efficiency, which justify the belief, that with a protection not more than is due to the enterprising citizens whose interests are now at stake, it will become at an early day, not only safe against occasional competitions from abroad, but a source of domestic wealth and even of external commerce. In selecting the branches more especially entitled to the public patronage, a preference is obviously claimed by such as will relieve the U. States from a dependence on foreign supplies, ever subject to casual failures, for articles necessary for the public defence, or connected with the primary wants of individuals. It will be an additional recommendation of particular manufactures where the materials for them are extensively drawn from our agriculture, and consequently import and ensure, to that great fund of national prosperity and independence, an encouragement which cannot fail to be rewarded.

Among the means of advancing the public interest, the occasion is a proper one for recalling the attention of congress to the great importance of establishing throughout our country the roads and canals which can be best executed under the national authority. No objects within the circle of political economy, so richly repay the expence bestowed on them; there are none, the utility of which is more universally ascertained and acknowledged; none that do more honor to the government whose wise and enlarged patriotism duly appreciate them. Nor is there any country which presents a field, where nature invites more the art of man to complete her own work for his accommodation and benefit. These considerations are strengthened, moreover, by the political effect of these facilities for intercommunication, in bringing and binding more closely together the various parts of our extended confederacy. Whilst the states, individually, with a laudable enterprise and emulation, avail themselves of their local advantages, by new roads, by navigable canals, and by improving the streams susceptible of navigation, the general government is the more urged to similar undertakings, requiring a national jurisdiction, and national means, by the prospect of thus systematically completing so invaluable a work. And it is a happy reflection, that any defect of constitutional authority, which may be encountered, can be supplied in a mode which the constitution itself has providentially pointed out.

The present is a favorable season, also, for bringing again into view the establishment of a national seminary of learning within the District of Columbia, and with means drawn from the property therein subject to the authority of the general government—such an institution claims the patronage of congress, as a monument of their