

AN ORDINANCE for imposing and collecting taxes, &c. &c.

Sec. 1. BE it ordained by the Trustees of the Borough of Vincennes, in council assembled and it is hereby ordained by authority of the same, That a tax of one half per cent shall be imposed annually on the value of each and every Lot, half Lot and lesser parts of divided Lots within the Borough of Vincennes, taking into consideration the improvements thereon at the time of assessing the said tax.

Sec. 2. And be it further ordained by the authority aforesaid, That it shall be the duty of the assessor or assessors who may be appointed by the Trustees of said Borough, immediately after the fourth monday in March, and annually thereafter to proceed to make out two fair lists of the Lots or part of Lots within the limits of said Borough, with the number thereof attached, and the owners name if known, and if unknown, then opposite the said Lot, or part of a Lot, shall be written, "non resident," and the said assessor or assessors, shall value the said Lots or parts of Lots, and the said valuation, set down in a column, in figures, opposite to the number of the Lot or parts of Lots, and proportion the tax to be imposed on said Lots, or parts of Lots, and the same also set down in figures, in columns opposite to the said valuation. And it is further made the duty of the said assessor, or assessors to make separate Duplicate lists of all free male inhabitants over the age of twenty one years, who may reside within the limits of the said Borough, and who, at the time may not be subject to pay the Tax aforesaid; one of each of the said lists, shall by the said assessor or assessors, within Ten days after the first day of April, in each year be delivered to the Chairman of the board of Trustees, and the other two to the Collector of said Borough.

Sec. 3. And be it further ordained by the authority aforesaid, That a tax or fine of Fifty Cents be imposed on each free male as described in the second section of this Ordinance, which said tax or fine so imposed, shall be collected by the Collector of said Borough as herein after directed.

Sec. 4. And be it further ordained by the authority aforesaid, That it shall be the duty of the Collector of the said Borough, for the time being to receive the respective lists described in the second section of this Ordinance, and at the time of receiving the same shall give Bond and security to the Trustees of the said Borough in double the amount of the whole tax set down in said lists, conditioned for the faithful discharge of his duty in collecting the said Tax, and paying over the same to the Treasurer of the Board at such time and times as he may be required by the authority of the same.

Sec. 5. And be it further ordained by the authority aforesaid, That it shall be the duty of the said collector immediately after giving Bond as aforesaid, to proceed to the collection of the said Taxes, in manner and form as prescribed in and by the third section of an act of the Legislature of the Territory of Indiana, entitled, "An act to amend the act," entitled, "an act to incorporate the Borough of Vincennes," Approved December twenty-sixth eighteen hundred & fifteen.

Sec. 6. And be it further ordained by the authority aforesaid, That it shall be the duty of the collector aforesaid, to make a Deed to the purchaser of any lot or part of a Lot sold by him for the tax on the same as is directed, in and by the fourth section of the above recited act—and the proprietor or proprietors of any Lot, or Lots, or part of Lot or Lots so sold shall be entitled to the equitable provision in the said last mentioned section contained.

Sec. 7. And be it further ordained by the authority aforesaid, That it shall be the duty of the said collector and he is hereby authorized and empowered to collect the Tax, or fine imposed by virtue of the authority given in the third section of this Ordinance, in case of a refusal to pay the same, by any person so taxed or fined, by attaching any goods or chattels the property of the delinquent (that would be liable to Execution) and the same to sell at public auction to the highest bidder at the Court House door in the said Borough, giving at least ten days notice of the sale thereof, by advertising the same in one of the Newspapers printed in the said Borough, and the balance of the money so raised by the sale of such goods or chattels, if any should be after satisfying the said tax, or fine

and the cost, shall be returned by the collector to the said delinquent.

Sec. 8. And be it further ordained by the authority aforesaid, That any proprietor or proprietors of any Lot or Lots or a part of a Lot or parts of Lots that may be taxed as aforesaid, or any person on whom a tax or fine may be imposed by virtue of the third section of this Ordinance, shall in either case if he or they think themselves aggrieved have the right to be heard before and be redressed by the Board of Trustees, at their next meeting after the assessment taxation or fine.

Sec. 9. And be it further ordained by the authority aforesaid, That the assessor or assessors, and the collector to be appointed by the Trustees for the purposes aforesaid, shall be allowed for their services Seven per cent on the sum collected to be a full compensation for assessing and collecting and to be paid by the Treasurer of the Borough as he may be directed by a bye law of the said Trustees.

Sec. 10. And be it further ordained by the authority aforesaid, That no collector shall either directly or indirectly purchase any Lot or part of a Lot by him sold for the Taxes due thereon under the penalty of one hundred dollars.

Sec. 11. And be it further ordained by the authority aforesaid, That this Ordinance shall take effect and be in full force from and after the legal promulgation thereof, and that an ordinance heretofore passed, entitled "an ordinance for laying and collecting taxes and for other purposes" be and the same is hereby declared to be repealed and of none effect.

R. BUNTING, Chairman.

PASSED—March 24, 1817.

C. H. TILLINGHAST, Clerk.

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For the Western Sun.

JUSTICE & TRUTH.—No. IV.

Mr. Stout,

IF messrs. Hendricks & Noble had correctly conceived the subject matter of their letter—if it had been well expressed, and in time to effect any desirable object—in short, if it had been beneficial instead of injurious, they have clearly shewn by giving to it such immediate publicity, that their intention was to found on its worth, a claim for public favor.—We have exposed it in part, to be worthless, and what will become of their claim? But suppose for a moment that it had been otherwise, and their sham claim for public favor continued, (as no doubt it will be even as it is) could they merit even in that case, one gracious smile of our fellow citizens for so trivial a matter? Could it, or would it be taken as proof of their fitness for the stations they now occupy? No—it is a correct rule in the affairs of life, that when a man be upbraided with benefits received, the obligation is impaired; and if a demand be made for what was conferred as a favour, the obligation is changed into a debt of contract—it should then be weighed in the scale of justice. How far any claim can be founded by them on this letter, and how far we have sustained our just complaints against them on account of its glaring improprieties, the preceding remarks have in part demonstrated, and when we finish one number after this, the public shall be left to judge.

After the passage noticed in our last letter proceeds—"in order to obtain their pay, that he furnish to the officers or officer concerned, upon application thro' the medium of the mail copies of muster rolls and subsistence accounts that may be in his office, also, that he forward forms of the pay rolls that may be necessary. It is probable with the undersigned, that with many of the officers concerned, and the mode of coming at their pay so new to them; in some instances they have not retained in their hands copies of the muster rolls."—We might here appeal to every officer of the Indiana militia and rangers, whether the conduct of maj. Whitlock required such information as the above, to be communicated to the secretary of war? And if it were further necessary to counteract its unfounded but implied censure, we would call upon them to say, if major Whitlock has not always communicated with alacrity and precision, such information as he may have possessed, & such forms as were required? But on these points he requires no defence, all who know any thing of the matter know his incessant and laborious attention to the various duties of his office—that Hendricks & Noble should have touched upon the subject, and yet be ignorant of

this, is only to themselves disgraceful.—

In the mind of maj. Whitlock, so far as he is himself concerned, such language as they use may justly provoke contemptuous meriment, but in our mind, it provokes indignation—the credit and the knowledge of the officers of Indiana are deeply concerned—let us look into this. It is not, it should not be thought surprising, if some of our young officers were unable to make out their company accounts and rolls in due form—but it is, it must be viewed as surprising, that H. & N. should publish this at Washington to the secretary of war—it is the more strange as such information was obviously unnecessary to attain the object they professed to have in view, and could have no other tendency than to bring into discredit our militia officers.—Now, we would ask, have we not throughout Indiana militia officers better acquainted with their duty as such, and as intelligent on every other matter, as either Hendricks or Noble? We believe there are many such, and it is in their behalf we have noticed this passage of the injurious letter. Messrs. H. & N. may think there are no militia officers their superiors—this vanity and pride when it injures nobody, we might pardon—we have often observed how unwillingly conviction is admitted, when vanity or interest opposes it, and we need only remark, if they do think there are none such, it proves a want of knowledge—a want of that best knowledge in the world, self-knowledge.

The letter next goes on—"the undersigned will suggest another difficulty—through necessity some of the militia have sold their claims and transferred their discharges. Capt. Huff has sold his claim and since removed the distance of one hundred miles, it is hoped this will not prejudice the claims of those under his command or the purchaser." This is the last sentence of the renowned letter, except one which gives the honorable secretary to understand what possibly he may not have known before! It tells him "that the departments concerned in the adjustment of the claims of the Indiana militia, feel a disposition that they should be promptly paid"—a disposition is here acknowledged to exist, just the contrary of what they seem throughout the letter to have been arguing against! 'tis strange! 'tis passing strange!—but from such men, nothing like this acknowledgement, tacked as it is even to such a letter, can be long wondered at. The difficulty they mention in regard to claims sold and transferred, and the hope that Capt. Huff's removal will not prejudice the claims of his men, or the purchaser is one we are informed that messrs. Noble and Hendricks must have felt a particular desire to remove. It has been suggested, that either as lawyers or purchasers, they feel an interest in several claims; but whether it be so or not, or whether their friends did so for them, 'tis all one—a certain fact we know—a brother of Mr. Noble's (and we have heard he is a partner in trade) held a great many claims. This is enough—it may explain what otherwise is inexplicable throughout the whole letter.—Self-interest is a busy prompter—but when men are placed in public stations of great importance, they should be cautious not to act upon its dictates.

Next week we shall close our remarks upon the whole matter.

SPANISH AFFAIRS.

It is now high time to conclude that the failure of the several attempts our government have made to settle, on a just and solid footing, our relations with Spain must be ascribed to a long continued determination of his catholic majesty never to satisfy our demands, by peaceable means. It is, on the other hand, to the honor, of the American administration, that we observe a constant and unremitting desire of having justice administered, without resorting to arms. But great as this desire may be, on our part, we confess it has already exhausted the public patience. At this moment, we believe there is scarcely a man throughout the Union, who is not convinced of the unfriendly disposition of the

Spanish government towards the United States.

When our claims on Spain were not so considerable, as they now are, we sent a special mission to that court, in order to bring them to an amicable termination. Every individual must be well acquainted with the correspondence that took place between the hon. Mr. Monroe, and Mr. Cevallos, the very man who is now the Minister of Ferdinand VII. Our affairs then could not be placed in better hands, nor, we dare to say, could not be abler conducted than during the stay of Mr. Monroe at Madrid. A minute investigation was there made on all the points of our differences, and the justice of our demands clearly demonstrated.

The investigation was carried on in the face, and with the consent of his catholic majesty; but when we came to the point of getting reparation, though no obstacles arose to prevent satisfaction, the negociation was finally frustrated. We only got, at that time, from the king of Spain, protestations of friendship and generosity, so common in the mouth of a Spanish minister, but never, or very seldom, accompanied with sincerity.

From that time to the present period, a most interesting epoch, has occurred in our intercourse with Spain. We allude to the time when that nation was nobly engaged in giving to the world a brilliant example of a people who although plunged in misery, by the most abominable combination of priesthood and despotism, yet dared to assert its natural rights, and devote itself entirely to its defence. Such a nation could not be too highly admired, by the American republic: we were then too generous to resume our demands, in the days of her affliction. We, of course, willingly consented to leave our affairs in a *statu quo*, so much more injurious to our national interests in 1808, as it was then probable we should soon be engaged in war with G. Britain: which was declared in June, 1812: our policies in regard to Spain remaining unchanged.

This moderation went undoubtedly too far, as the Florians were, at that time, in a state of complete revolution, and it being our first interest not to expose our southern states to invasion, through the territory of a neighbour incapable of defending its neutrality, it was certainly a fair opportunity to take them under our protection, until a definitive treaty with Spain should have fixed its permanent possessor.

We mention this, because the late conduct of Mr. Cevallos plainly manifests that the Spanish government is not yet actuated by that sense of justice and gratitude which our forbearance entitled us to. We pity, indeed, the puerile diplomatic artifices of his catholic majesty's government; we sincerely lament that we have to treat with a bigotted and uncandid administration, who, boasting too much of justice, liberality and moderation, cannot comprehend, in their own proceedings, the meaning of these words.

"Our government, well know-