

the late war, as military bounties, though they may for a certain time impede the settlement and prosperity of the State, from the circumstance of their being chiefly owned in large quantities by non-resident purchasers, will have the immediate effect of increasing the revenue from taxable lands. As these two sources of revenue, therefore, are more than fall to the lot of other new States, there seems to be a great propriety in appropriating them to the great work of internal improvements—leaving the ordinary expenditures of the civil administration of the State, to be met, as in other States, by ordinary taxation.

The Union being deeply interested in the success of the undertaking, Illinois has a right to expect the assistance of the federal government in opening the proposed connection between the lakes and the Mississippi. It has been seen, however, with regret, that in the act passed on this subject, during the last session of congress, little or nothing was granted, and much required from the state. The act referred to, only gave permission to the state to cut a canal through the public lands connecting the Illinois river with lake Michigan, and granted to it the breadth of the canal, and ninety feet on each side of it. As a consideration for this permission, and very small grant of land it was required that the state should permit all articles belonging to the United States, or to any person in their employ, to pass toll free forever. These conditions are less liberal than individuals holding small tracts of land usually grant for the benefit of having a navigable canal brought by their doors: and when it is recollect that the United States own all the lands through which the proposed canal would pass, and for an immense distance about it, and of course that the immediate benefit in the increased value of the land would be confined to the United States, it cannot but excite surprise that so little should have been granted by a party who had so much to give, and who would be so much benefitted by the gift. From the wise and liberal views, however, which have so generally marked the proceedings of congress, I feel persuaded that a reconsideration of the subject will lead to a more favorable result. To say nothing of the great facilities it will afford to the transportation of the means of defence to the various parts of our great republic, and to its commercial and friendly intercourse, a canal would have the immediate and direct effect of greatly increasing the value of the public lands.—Thus a grant of land to the state which would enable it speedily to complete the canal, would not only be greatly beneficial to the State and Union, but by increasing the value and sale of the public lands, would add to, rather than diminish, the proceeds from them. This view of the subject is calculated to remove objections to the power of congress to make the proposed grant of land, as it is not, strictly speaking, an appropriation of public property to internal improvements, but only such a disposition of it, as is best calculated to advance its value.

To obtain the requisite information, and to enable the state to effect these great objects, I recommend to the legislature—

1st. To form a fund to be appropriated exclusively to internal improvements, to consist of the revenues received into the treasury from the military bounty lands; from the salines; from fines and forfeitures, or such portion hereof as the public exigencies will admit of; and from such other sources as the legislature, in its wisdom, may think proper to set apart for that purpose.

2d. To invite the attention of the states of Ohio and Indiana to the importance of improving the navigation of the Wabash and Maumee rivers, and connecting them by a canal; and to enter into arrangements with those states jointly to effect an object so greatly conducive to the interest of all.

3d. To make provision for examining the rivers; for exploring the country; for making accurate surveys, and for marking out the line of the canals, with detailed estimates of the cost.

And lastly, that these surveys and estimates be transmitted, as soon as they are completed, to the general government, together with a memorial of the legislature to congress, setting forth, on the one hand, the just and reasonable claims of this state, and, on the other, the national inducements to assist by a liberal donation of land, or in some other way, in opening the contemplated communications.

The people of this state take a deep interest in the proposed continuation of the national turnpike road from Wheeling to the Mississippi river. It is much to be desired that the road should be

marked out as soon as possible, as its location will have a considerable influence on the settlements and permanent improvements in its vicinity. As it must necessarily take many years to complete a turnpike road from Wheeling to this state. I would suggest that property of (in some degree) anticipating the great advantages to be derived from it, by the legislature, authorising the road to be opened and put into a state to be used, as soon as practicable, after it is permanently located by the general government.—This, it is believed, would require but little labor, in consequence of the country abounding very much in prairie, and the surface being unusually level and smooth.

The ordinance, established by congress for the government of the North-Western territory, declares that neither slavery nor involuntary servitude shall exist in the country. Yet, notwithstanding this, slavery still exists in the state.—I call the attention of the legislature, in an especial manner, to this subject; and if it should be considered that this fundamental prohibitory declaration has not had the effect of severing the bonds of servitude, I earnestly invoke the interposition of the legislature in the cause of humanity.

By the terms of the session of Virginia to the United States of the country north-west of the river Ohio, it was stipulated that the inhabitants thereof, who professed themselves to have been citizens of Virginia, previous to the session, should "have their possessions and titles confirmed to them, and be protected in the enjoyment of their rights and liberties." Under this stipulation, the negroes who were then in the territory, and who were slaves by the laws of Virginia, were claimed by their masters, and continued in bondage; and in that state they or their posterity have ever since remained. As there is, however, no exception made in relation to these slaves in the general and explicit prohibition contained in the ordinance, it would seem to have been the intention of the framers of it, that slavery and involuntary servitude should cease. Be this, however, as it may, the time has certainly arrived when the subject demands the serious consideration of the legislature. As no one will contend that the stipulation of Virginia was intended to restrict Illinois forever from eradicating this anomaly in her government, so none should deny that after a lapse of near forty years she can do so without being subject to reproach, unless it be from having tolerated it so long. Conceiving it not less due to our principles, than to the rights of those held in bondage, that they should be restored to their liberty, I earnestly recommend to the legislature that just and equitable provisions be made for the abolition of slavery in the state.

Justice and humanity require of us a general revision of the laws relative to negroes, in order the better to adopt them to the character of our institutions, and the situation of our country. In states where there are a great number of slaves, it has been found indispensably necessary, as well for their subjection as for the good order of society, to enact very strict laws for restraining negroes, both bond and free. But in a community like ours, where there are so few, there is no necessity for such severe restrictions—and as the motive for severity ceases, so the unreasonableness of it is augmented.

I would also recommend to the legislature to enact more effective laws to prevent the kidnapping of free blacks—a crime which I am sorry to say is too often perpetrated with impunity in our state.

I should not be for holding out any particular encouragement for the emigration of free negroes to the state, as

they are a kind of population not to be desired; but the duty of society, as well as every benevolent feeling demands of us to protect them as long as they remain among us, especially in the enjoyment of the inestimable right of personal liberty.

The peculiar situation of our state, bordered as it is on three sides by great

navigable rivers, communicating with districts of country where there is al-

ways a ready demand for slaves, offers such a facility and temptation to this

lawless and inhuman practice, as to re-

quire more efficient laws to counteract it.

There is no duty which devolves on society more immediately interesting to it, and to every individual member of it, than the means to be applied for the prevention of crimes. When punishments are excessively severe, the offender too often escape punishment through the avenues of mercy; and accordingly we had from experience that the certainty rather than the severity of punishment operates most beneficially in the prevention of crimes. Attention to this principle is due alike to our feelings and to the good order of society, I know of

no system of punishment which is so just and rational in itself, and which can be apportioned so exactly to the different shades of crimes, as confinement and hard labor; which has also this peculiar advantage that it taxes crimes for the suppression of crime. I would therefore suggest the propriety of erecting, as soon as practicable, a Penitentiary House; and of appropriating the sum now due from the sale of lots in this place to that object.

I have thus frankly and explicitly communicated my views, and called your attention to what appears to me to be the most important objects claiming it. If we should differ as to the policy or expediency of any particular measure, I am sure it will be an honest difference; and mutual respect will teach us to give credit to each other for upright intentions, pure motives, and conscientious convictions. It will be very gratifying to me to witness harmony and kind feelings between the several co-ordinate branches of the government, and between the individual members composing them. Nothing shall be wanting on my part to promote so desirable an object.

From the useful information and interesting views given by my worthy predecessor, and the knowledge you bring with you, coming as you do from the various districts of the State, of the immediate wants and wishes of the people, you will be enabled to adopt such measures as will promote the general, as well as local, interests of the State, and cannot fail to ensure to you the approbation of your constituents.

To the Great Ruler of the Universe we are indebted for all that we enjoy, and it behoves us to be specially grateful for the inestimable privilege of civil and political freedom. May he continue to us his kind protection, and so direct our labors that they may advance the prosperity of our country, and the happiness of its citizens.

## Sale of Furniture at AUCTION.

On Saturday the 4th January,

Samuel Jacobs will sell next door to the office of Saml. Hill Esqr corner of Market and Second streets, his remaining

Furniture consisting of,  
one elegant Brussels carpet,  
" one high post Bedstead,  
" one Urn. do. do. do.  
" one Feather Bed,  
" one sett Windsor chairs,  
" one wash Table,  
Books, Waiters, Stools. Kitchen Furni-  
ture, Garden Tools, &c. &c.—Sale to  
commence at 10 o'clock.

### —ALSO—

A very valuable Horse.

December 28, 1822. 48-2w.

## Valuable Goods.

### REYNOLDS & BONNER, MARKET STREET, VINCENNES,

HAVE just received from NEW YORK PHILADELPHIA & BALTIMORE, a very extensive and general assortment of European, India, & American

## DRY GOODS.

—ALSO—

HARDWARE and CUTLERY,  
CHINA,

GLASS, and LIVERPOOL,

Superior COTTON & WOOL CARDS,

STRAW BONNETS,

Ladie's and Gentlemen's

MOROCCO,

KID, and LEATHER

WARE,

SHOES,

A complete assortment of

GROCERIES,

Patent NAILS,

WINDOW GLASS, &c. &c.

All purchased at the lowest prices

which enables them to sell accordingly.

33-1f September, 1822.

48-2w

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46-6w

48-2w

46-6w