

It will be recollected that a committee of Congress, of which Judge CLAYTON was chairman, was raised to inquire into the expenditures of Government, with a view to retrench the same, and to abolish unnecessary offices. The following report was prepared by the chairman, and submitted to the committee for concurrence; but as none but the chairman and one other member of that committee, Gen. McKAY, of North Carolina, had at all examined into the subject, they were unwilling to return such a report to the House. Accordingly they expunged all the facts, adopted the excuse at the head of the report for not being able to present the subject for the final action of Congress, and merely recommended the resolution at the end of the report. That report was made, but it being considered by the chairman as a "go by" to the subject, (for every one must perceive that without facts, the attention of Congress could not be expected,) he abandoned it to its fate, and it now sleeps upon the clerk's table. In justification of himself, and in proof of the discharge of the important trust committed to him, the original document is published. Though the rest of the committee, with the exception of Gen. McKAY, were unwilling to lend the sanction of their names to the statements therein contained, and they had good reason for so doing, not having personally investigated the matter; yet the chairman feels no such difficulty operating upon him, and as he is aware no thing is said about the facts, or (fair inferences from them, he is unwilling to rest under the imputation (of which he notified his dissenting colleagues,) of having asked a committee for a highly important purpose, and then, to all appearance, having neglected it. We make but a single comment, that this report shows the probability of as great mismanagement, if not corruption, in other departments of Government, as that which has so confessedly and shamelessly characterized the General Post Office.

The Committee appointed for the purpose of inquiring into the expediency of equalizing and reducing the salaries of officers and all other expenses of Government in every department, to abolish such offices as may be deemed unnecessary, of increasing the compensation where the salaries or emoluments are inadequate to the service performed, and of reducing the compensation and mileage of Members of Congress, REPORT—

That upon entering into an investigation of the various subjects of the resolution of the House, it was thought advisable, by way of reducing the inquiry to system, to examine into the expenditures of the three great branches of Government, and to present a comparative statement of their respective amounts, and in what respect they might be reduced as indicated by the defects or abuses which might be discovered.

A very short time, in the prosecution of the work, disclosed to the committee that they had entered upon a field of inquiry too large for the period allowed them.

The most important branch of investigation, viz: the collection of the immense revenue of the Government, with reference to the manner, the agency, and the expenses attending it, could only be successfully reached by information resting in each collector's office, obtainable but by personal examination or by correspondence, either of which was impracticable within the time the House would have a right to expect a report.

As to the information relating to the objects of inquiry within the immediate control of the committee, they found it connected with a vast variety of minute and complicated subjects. It is spread over a wide surface of undigested details, voluminous accounts, unarranged files, and is under the management of functionaries as numerous as they are diversified in their duties. Besides, most of the committee belong to other standing committees whose duties are constant and laborious, and it is well known to the House that its regular sessions have been marked by topics of such deep and vital importance, as to make it an imperative duty for every member to be in his place. These circumstances have rendered it utterly impossible for the committee to bestow upon the trust confided to them that attention which the magnitude of its interest required. They have, however, examined partially into the subject referred to them, and now submit the result of that inquiry.

First, in relation to the Executive branch of Government, and the chief departments connected with it, they feel assured that there is a proper disposition in the high officers who preside over them, to have their subordinate agents perform their duties with honesty, industry, and fidelity, and that they have from time to time instituted inquiries to that end. Nevertheless, from the great multiplication of their duties by legislation, rendering additional officers necessary, from the great increase of business and its extraordinary expansion, necessarily removing officers from the eye of the controlling power, and thereby lessening direct responsibility, abuses have crept into all the offices, and do now exist to an extent which nothing but a new organization can correct. Many of these abuses, some of which the committee will mention, the heads of departments themselves have detected, and it is from their inquiries into the conduct of their subordinates they derive their information.

In some of the departments, clerks have been in the habit of procuring appointments for others, and then exacting from the newly appointed clerks two-thirds and three-fourths of their salaries as compensation for getting them into office.

In the mode of making contracts for the usual supplies of the navy, rules have been adopted by agents manifestly opposed to the interest of the Government, calculated to favor particular contractors, in which Government has been defrauded, and leaving but little doubt that some of the clerks have participated in the benefits of the contract.

Besides these cases, the committee have well-founded reasons to believe, and they obtained their information in such a manner as makes it unnecessary now to detail, but which is sufficient to authorize the course they have recommended at the end of this report, which will establish the true state of the facts—that the labors of the officers of the different departments are disproportioned and very unequally paid, giving the lowest salaries to the greatest laborers—that certain office hours are established for the performance of business, after which extra allowances are given to the regular clerks for what is esteemed extra services, thereby furnishing an inducement to neglect the work in the stated hours, and there are strong reasons to believe that such neglect is the fact—that if the duties of the officers were more equally apportioned, and the time of performing them regulated according to the compensation they received, there might be a considerable reduction of their number—that officers and non-commissioned officers of the army are called to fill civil stations in the departments, and receive pay in both situations, evidently showing, as the committee think, that, if the duties of their original stations do not require their constant attention, their salaries ought to be reduced, in whole or in part, as the true nature of their actual services may require—that the contingent funds of many of the departments are misapplied, and that they are not properly accounted for any where—that no account is taken of the Government purchases for the use of the departments: and that it is bought, used, and disposed of, without any system or regular record of its cost, value, or final disposition. That there is great irregularity in many of the offices, a disregard of the laws regulating the conduct of the officers, a failure to comply with many important provisions, such as taking of oaths, making reports to Congress, omitting requirements as to specific objects, charging more than lawful fees, the clear evidence of some of which is to be found in the late conduct of the Superintendent of the Patent Office, investigated and severely censured by the head of the State Department, and reported to the Senate by a call from that body on the 26th of May last.

These are some of the many abuses it is believed exist, and which a further and fuller examination would develop; but as no definite citation now be had, even if the committee could have investigated the subject, and submitted to the House their report founded thereupon, yet they do think that the subject is one requiring the most searching scrutiny; and that all whom it may concern should be put upon a strict accountability to the Representatives of the People.

The committee would respectfully suggest to the House, that there is an urgent necessity for minute inquiry into all that part of the machinery of Government employed in the collection of the revenue.

First, in relation to that branch of it arising from the sales of the public lands, in which there is much to dis-

pense with and more to correct, and especially in relation to the wasteful and misapplied employment of the contingent fund of the land office.

Second, in relation to the customs. This is indeed a most important subject of consideration and of inquiry. It is believed that there are more collection districts than are necessary, that many might be advantageously abolished, that there are many similar cases to that of the Genesee custom house, where the receipts are only \$800 and the expenses \$5000; that in some of the offices the salaries are perfect sinecures, whilst in others, where real honest necessary services are performed, the pay is quite an inadequate compensation. This applies to many of the districts on the northern and eastern coasts—that in others the most extravagant salaries are paid, and an unusual number of officers allowed, some of which are known to be superannuated and incapable of business, but who are retained from pure feelings of sympathy—a virtue though extremely praiseworthy in its proper place, is unknown to the stern and inflexible execution of the laws. That on the Canada line there are very many officers in the receipt of high salaries, who do not reside the tenth part of their time at the place where their office is established, who perform the very little business required of them by deputies, and these deputies are paid out of all proportion to the extent of their services.

This is said to be justified by the great liability to smuggling on that line, but these establishments need revision, especially since the inducement to smuggling has been so much diminished by the late policy of the Government—that in some of the large ports the increase of expenses and multiplication of officers have very far exceeded the increase of business, and when it is recollected that the late revenue laws have effected a very material change, and lightened the pressure of business in most or all of the transactions of the custom house, little or no doubt is entertained that a very considerable saving to Government may be made, by a revision of the laws regulating the receipts of customs in those ports. The expenses, and they were of no trifling amount, in relation to weighing, marking, gauging, measuring, &c. have been in a great degree rendered unnecessary, by the duty-free character of many of the articles subject heretofore to the process of these respective operations; and no doubt is entertained that there can be a reduction of some, and a union of others, of those employments, contributing in a wholesome degree to the retrenchment of public expenditure.

The same policy of the Government in relation to the change of articles upon which duties are hereafter to be laid, together with the prospective and gradual diminution of those duties, controlling beneficially the usual inducements to fraud upon the revenue, furnishes a decided conviction that the naval establishment employed in the revenue collection might be considerably reduced. That salutary changes might be made in this large branch of the fiscal operations of the Government is not doubted for a single moment. When it is considered what an increase of officers the occasional increase of business has produced in the Treasury Department, a great portion of which is now finished, and no longer requiring the services of those accumulated agents, and when, too, it is recollected what a vital change our revenue laws have undergone, it is not well perceived how the Government can excuse itself to the People, short of a speedy reorganization of this extensive agency. It must be a fact of some surprise, when it is stated, that in the Treasury Department alone in the city of Washington, unconnected with its numerous commissioners and officers elsewhere, there are nearly two hundred officers, at an annual expense of one quarter of a million of dollars.

Before leaving this subject the committee would beg leave earnestly to call the attention of Congress to what is called the Indian Bureau, against which there is a more extensive complaint than against any other of the minor departments. That it is the source of great and unnecessary expenditure, accompanied with an abuse of its original object, is a matter too notorious to be questioned. As the Committee stated before, it is not intended to cast any imputation upon the heads of departments, for it is believed that a due vigilance has been exercised on their part to correct the evils, which seem to have resulted from an unusual mass of legislation growing out of the last war with Great Britain, together with the land and Indian relations of the Government, a large portion of which was temporary, and now greatly needing a thorough revision.

Concerning the Post Office Department, the committee deemed it unnecessary to institute any inquiry, as that subject was specially in charge of a committee of the Senate, whose report has been made, and contemplates the joint action of the two Houses of Congress. Without expressing any opinion on that report, it appears to your committee that it belongs peculiarly to this branch of the Legislature to inquire into the expenditures of that institution, not only for the usual purposes of legislation, but for the special application of another and higher remedy, if there shall be found a criminal appropriation of the funds.

In relation to the expenditures of the Judiciary Department, the committee have had no opportunity to touch that subject at all.

The Legislative Department furnishes ample field for retrenchment, but the committee regret that their limited time and other public obligations, would not allow them to collect and present in the clear and decided manner they could desire, the evidence of this fact. They can, however, say that the contingent expenses of Congress are most unreasonably extravagant. In the articles of stationary, fuel, messengers, laborers, clerk hire, printing, repairs of public buildings, furniture constantly purchasing and repairing, cultivation of public grounds, &c. &c., there is undoubtedly a wasteful expenditure, the correction of which seems to be loudly demanded, and will be readily found in those obvious provisions which a thorough examination into the subject cannot fail to suggest.

There is no system whatever in providing the necessary facilities for legislation, either in the quantity, quality, or cost of material; or the official services required for that purpose. All is left to irresponsible agents, whose mutual wants and dependence upon the Government create an interest to continue if not to increase its expenses, and to prevent, if possible, any alteration of that state of things which would necessarily strike at their support. But Congress owe it to themselves and to their constituents to correct all abuses in the expenditure of the public moneys. Being connected with their appropriate functions, and the immediate guardians of the public revenue, raised and expended by their voice, it is eminently due to their fidelity to see that none of it is improperly expended or applied to themselves. A personal appropriation of it beyond the absolute necessities of their public duties, involves a breach of trust of the most disreputable character. It is confidently believed, that nothing is necessary but a revelation of such abuses, to have them speedily corrected; to this end, an inquiry into the foregoing subjects is earnestly recommended.

There is one other subject which the committee would bring to the notice of the House, and deserves, as they conceive, some legislative interference. It is in reference to mileage of members of Congress. There is a very great inequality in the charges made on this account. These facts are exhibited in the settlement with members.

Between the members of the same State, living, as is believed, not more than seventy miles apart, there is a difference in their account of 256 dollars; one charges for 800 miles, the other for 1120. Between the representatives of two adjoining States, taking the average mileage of each, the payment of one delegation is 776 dollars each, while that of the other is 1,776 dollars—their average residence apart being not more than three hundred miles. Between one member living in one State, and that of another residing in an adjoining one, not exceeding four hundred miles apart, the difference between their pay is \$1,152: one charges 640 dollars, the other 1,792 dollars. This results from the manner of travelling to and from the seat of Government, each charging according to the particular route he takes.

The law now in force, by which that subject is regulated, is the same in language and in substance that has existed from the foundation of the Government. The mileage of each member is estimated, so says the law, "by the most usual road from the place of his residence to the seat of Congress." These words prescribe the rule of computation as it now exists, evidently contemplating that members of Congress are to charge for travelling on the most direct way, upon which convenient travelling can be performed, and only to be paid accordingly. The committee are of opinion that this, as well as all the previous subjects to which they have adverted, requires the immediate legislation of Congress, and to that end they recommend the following resolution:

Resolved, That a committee, consisting of three members, be appointed to continue the inquiries on the several subjects contained in the resolution passed April 19th,

1834, upon which this report is founded, during the recess of Congress, and to report to this House at its next session, such bill or bills as may be necessary to effect the objects of the same.

LIBERTY AND UNION, NOW AND FOREVER, ONE AND INSEPARABLE.

WASHINGTON.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 30, 1834.

Our readers are already aware that HENRY JOHNSON has been elected a Representative to the next Congress from the New Orleans district, in Louisiana. We have now the pleasure to announce, that he has also been elected to fill the vacancy in the present Congress, occasioned by the resignation of E. D. WHITE, (lately chosen to be Governor of the State.)

A SUPPRESSED REPORT.—In the preceding columns our readers will find a Report, which a committee did not make, but which, in its inchoate state, was ready to have been made by its Chairman, if the rest of the committee had made themselves as familiar with the subject as he appears to have done. We do not know but the Report may attract more of the public attention, as is frequent in such cases, from being, as it were, posthumous, or, perhaps, it would be more accurate, to call it postliminious.

MARYLAND.—We are glad to find our appeal to the Whigs of Maryland, seconded as it is by the Baltimore Chronicle in the following paragraph:

"We copy [an article] from the National Intelligencer, and hope that the Whigs of Maryland will reflect seriously on its contents. We have endeavoured to impress upon our friends the absolute necessity of union, if they would deserve or expect success; but the truth is, there is too great a disposition to force their pretensions by aspirants; and the consequence must be division and defeat, unless the Whigs refuse with promptness to admit of more than four candidates in any county. No Whig, who really thinks the cause worth preserving, or who would prevent the triumphs of the Jackson party, will persist in being a candidate where here is a regular ticket—nor is any one who would thus act entitled to the slightest confidence or support. It was by divisions and indifference that we nearly lost the State last year; and if the same conduct be pursued this year, we deserve to be defeated and disgraced."

The Maryland Journal, in publishing calls for primary meetings in MONTGOMERY county, adds the following very fitting remarks:

"It will be observed that these calls are for no specified object, but merely such a primary movement as will bring about an efficient organization—merely, such a primary assembling of the people as will afford an opportunity of ascertaining the wishes of the people, and adopting such measures as shall be deemed most prudent and advisable at this crisis. There is no way of ascertaining the wishes of a majority of a party, but by a public meeting, and no other way in which concert of action can be brought about. The struggle which will be made at the approaching election, demands the aid of every man, and requires the whole strength of the party. Unlike the party conflicts of ordinary times, the importance of the contest is not confined to questions of State policy or measures of local expediency. It is not a conflict of opinions about names or measures springing out of local causes or sectional prejudices.—It is not a petty rivalry of political aspirants or a struggle between individuals for the honors and emoluments of office;—but it is a conflict whose decision will involve the great principles of our Constitution, and the dearest rights of Freeman, and this being the nature of the contest, it becomes our imperative duty to leave nothing to chance, but to adopt and carry into effect such measures as will secure a triumph of the principles we maintain and the policy we approve.—UNANIMITY OF ACTION IS ALONE NECESSARY TO ENSURE SUCCESS; AND WITHOUT IT, DEFEAT IS CERTAIN."

NORTH CAROLINA.—The Official folks have been calling out lustily for news from the North State. We give them below all that we have got that is likely to be interesting to them.

FROM THE CAROLINA (SALISBURY) WATCHMAN.

The contest between the parties in our next General Assembly will be closer than we had anticipated. We have heard from about forty-five out of the sixty-four in the State, and the result is as near equal as well can be. We learn that the Albemarle counties, from which we have not heard, will generally go against the Administration; if such be the fact, there will be a decided majority against Jackson. It is said that several of the men elected as Jackson men, declare they will not vote for Mr. Brown, [at present a Senator of the United States.] It is thought by some, that the party will take up Judge Strange, who is a gentleman of fine talents, and if we were obliged to be beaten, we would much prefer him—but we have little fear on the subject. Brown's re-election we consider impossible, and the success of any one of the party we look upon nearly as hopeless.

GOLD.—Fatuity had for a moment ceased its drivelling nonsense—Impudence slumbered after the fatigue of its previous boldness, and there was a slight pause in the career of Folly and Delusion. The repose, however, was destined to be short. A voice from the Hermitage will wake the jaded spirits into life and activity! "Gold and silver coin!" spoke the oracle from the groves of Nashville! The sound is heard! Impudence already blusters, gold! Weakness simpers, gold! Knavery cries, gold! Delusion falls into ecstasy and exclaims, gold!

Auro pulsa fides, auro venalia jura
Aurum lex sequitur, mox sine lege pædat.

And can it be that the miserable, the wretched, the corrupting exhibition or promise of gold can blind the people of this country to high-handed encroachments of Power; to invasions of law and liberty; to extravagance and corruption; to venality and crime; to a rotten and bankrupt department of the Government; to violations of the Constitution, and the other damning sins of this administration? We ask, can it be? If it can be, then "farewell to all our greatness!" Farewell to public virtue and to private honor! Farewell to all that an American has ever gloried himself upon! Who would then speak of the intelligence of a people who can be blinded with gold? Who would commemorate the patriotism of the ancestors of a people who consent themselves to worship gold? Perish the thought! We will not harbor it.—When the evil-day comes we will believe it—but till then.—Alex. Gaz.

FROM THE GLOBE, AUG. 29.

We are requested to state, that the BANK OF LOUISVILLE has been discontinued as one of the Depositories of the Public Moneys, and the LOUISVILLE SAVINGS INSTITUTION, in the city of Louisville, Ky., has been selected by the Secretary of the Treasury, as the Depository of the Public Moneys at that place.

CINCINNATI, (Ohio) August 19.

A Bad Shot.—A gentleman of this city, residing on Lower Market, made a most determined attempt on Friday night to shoot himself, but, either from awkwardness or carelessness, made a clean miss of it, not even ruffling a feather. He was in tolerable spirits on Saturday morning, and not half as much distressed about his bad marksmanship as might have been expected. Singular as it may seem, he thought himself killed for several minutes after the explosion.