

Columbus Democrat.

Free Trader

H. H. WORTHINGTON Editor.

COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI, SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, 1837.

[W. E. SMITH Publisher. VOL. 3: No. 28.]

THE DEMOCRAT

IS PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY MORNING
At \$5 per annum in advance, or \$6 at the end of the year.

No subscription will be received for a less term than six months, and no paper will be discontinued, (except at the discretion of the Editor or Publisher) until all arrearages have been paid up.

Advertisements will be inserted at \$1 per square, (8 lines or less) for the first insertion, and 50 cents for each subsequent insertion.

Advertisements not marked with the number of insertions, will be published until forbid and charged accordingly.

Publications of a personal nature will be charged double price.

Notes of any specie-paying bank, will be received in payment. The Editor will guarantee the safety of transmitting them by mail.

Letters to the Editor or Publisher on business connected with the office, must be post paid, or they will not be taken from the office.

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

Extracts from Gov. Lynch's Message to the Legislature of Mississippi.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE SURPLUS REVENUE.

A copy of an act of Congress, entitled "an act to regulate the deposits of the public money," is herewith transmitted for your early consideration.

Whether the State can at once avail itself of the provisions of the 13th section of said act, by your immediate action, without violating the intent and spirit of the 9th section of the 7th article of the constitution; or whether the inhibition it imposes does not suspend the acceptance of a deposit to be deposited, for the sanction of the Legislature of January next, is a question that first presents itself for your decision.

The principles involved in this distribution, under the act of Congress, are to be deprecated, as well as an account of their mischievous tendency, as for their unequal operation towards the new States. We should encourage and lend our aid to such measures as are calculated to suppress a revenue—to supersede the necessity of such a distribution among the States, by preventing the accumulation of a fund in the national treasury, beyond the actual wants of the country. If, however, such a surplus is found to exist, there can be but one opinion as to the policy of its equitable disposition in some way; nor do I suppose, in this instance, there can be less unanimity as to the State accepting the trust, and becoming the repository of the fund proposed to be deposited for safe keeping, and its reimbursement when called for.

The reception of the amount allotted to this State, will impose the important consideration as to its judicious investment.

INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT.

On a former occasion, when urging the propriety of certain schemes of internal improvement, I directed the attention of the Legislature to the claims of this State upon the general government, as a source whence a considerable amount would probably be derived, and its proper application as an auxiliary aid in the completion of certain public works; and I beg leave now respectfully to suggest for your consideration, whether this fund may not be safely and profitably disposed of by loan or otherwise, to aid and encourage the vigorous and speedy prosecution of certain measures of internal improvement, whether its application to a general school system promises greater advantages, or whether it shall constitute a loan office. If the fund was more ample, and its disposition to be influenced by stock-jobbing considerations, the immediate profit to be derived to the State, from the latter source, would hold out strong inducements; but there are other enlarged and more liberal views that may claim your attention, and bear forcibly on your deliberations.

The several rail roads already commenced, and now in progress under the most favorable auspices, together with other schemes in contemplation, have enlisted a spirit of enterprise that cannot fail to produce great and lasting benefits if properly encouraged. The direct advantages that must result to our commerce, from the successful experiment witnessed in the safe arrival of vessels, with full cargoes, at Natchez, Grand Gulf, and Vicksburg, will give an impetus and direction to the internal trade of the country, well calculated to promote our best interests, by retaining and circulating among our own citizens, a large amount to be derived from, and incident to the shipment of our cotton, as well as our imports, that now constitute, by monopolizing our commercial operations, a great portion of the circulating currency of a sister State. All the avenues of inter-communication that promise increased facilities, to a safe and easy transport of the products of the country to the various market places, should be opened and encouraged, but more especially those leading to the ports and markets within our own limits, to which this internal policy must naturally give rise. If it should appear that the prosecution of the work is likely to be retarded, from the want of resources beyond the reach of the individual undertakers, your patronage should be liberally bestowed in aid of a project that opens with so cheering a dawn, and so full of promise in its consummation, to the prosperity of the State.

When I had first the honor to recommend and urge the policy of rearing up home markets, the project met with an opposition as strange as suicidal. The spirit and temper with which the idea of towing ships up to Natchez was ridiculed as a wild and visionary scheme, was calculated to damp the enterprise necessary to a bold experiment; and savored more of an interested and foreign policy, than a disposition to advance and protect the immediate interest of the State. But whatever diversity of opinion may have heretofore existed, all, I presume, will now agree both as to the policy and practicability. The decided advantages to flow out of direct shipments to and from foreign ports, are so obvious, that it cannot be necessary to enlarge upon the subject. The introduction of large capital within our borders for purchase—its diffused circulation—the additional facilities afforded, and the increased activity given to enterprise, are some of the benefits fairly to be anticipated.

The act of Congress passed the 1st of March, 1817, provides on the part of the general government, that five per cent of the net proceeds arising from the sales of lands lying within the then

Territory of Mississippi, after the 1st day of December, 1817, should be reserved for making public roads and canals: three fifths of which to be applied to these within the State, under the direction of the Legislature; and the remaining two fifths to the making of a road or roads leading to the State, under the direction of Congress. The two fifths of this fund placed under the direction of Congress, was evidently intended, and had mainly for its object, the benefit of the State; but it has not been applied, and consequently lies unproductive and useless in the Treasury of the United States, as to the purposes contemplated.

From this fact I am induced to believe, that by a proper application on the part of the State, Congress will not hesitate to relinquish the disposition of the amount arising from this two per cent, so that the whole of the five per cent fund may be applied under the direction of the Legislature to such objects of internal improvement as may be deemed proper. Should the control of this sum be yielded to the State, of which I see no reason to doubt, it will, in addition to the amount to accrue to the State, as an equivalent for the net proceeds of the lands sold, and hereafter to be sold, ceded by the Chickasaws, to which the State was entitled; and our probable proportion of the surplus revenue, create a fund, which if properly applied, may render a timely and efficient aid in furthering such measures of internal improvement as you may select.

BANKS AND THE TREASURY CIRCULAR.

Encouraged by the liberal policy manifested by your acts previous to adjournment, chartering some fifteen millions of banking capital, our citizens fondly anticipated a large increase, instead of a curtailment in their discounts; and to this circumstance, in some degree, may be attributed their over trading and present embarrassment. It has been objected to the Banks that they have unnecessarily curtailed their discounts, but such an idea is strained and unnatural. The dangers lie in the other extreme. As the profits are made upon the amount in circulation, it would be idle to ascribe its suppression to their voluntary action. It must therefore be sought for in something of a different character, and the financier will have little difficulty in tracing it to the compulsory process of the Treasury Circular.

The unexpected call for specie payments in the land offices, has produced a shock in the money market, very sensibly felt; and if the system is persisted in, must become excessively oppressive to our citizens.

That an accession to the metallic circulating currency, would give greater solidity to that of paper, may be admitted, but it is equally certain that such a measure should be very gradual in its operations, and taken with great precaution, in order to avoid the ill effects resulting from a general derangement.

No well founded reason, it is believed, existed, either of policy, of justice, or of equity, requiring this act of the Executive interposition: nor could the time have been worse chosen for this community. The trade of the country for years has been adjusting itself, as well as the value of property, to the mixed currency in circulation, based perhaps upon an undue proportion of paper. But the effects of this addition to the currency by the issue of paper money, has been to lessen the value of the circulating medium, compared with that of property for which it is exchanged, and to widen the facilities of borrowing—tending directly to enlarge the general prosperity of the State by a rapid increase of population and wealth. The immediate advantage to the laborer is experienced in his increased wages; to the settler in the aid afforded him in the purchase of a home for himself and family; and to the community generally, by the impulse given to business. The Banks were supposed to be perfectly solvent; no loss had been sustained or apprehended; and it was fairly to be inferred that they had in their coffers a value fully equivalent to the amount of their notes in circulation, either in specie or securities bearing interest; and this confidence in their ability will be sustained, and a large addition made to the circulating medium, so long as their issues possess the credit to circulate as specie; by reducing the amount of coin that must otherwise necessarily remain locked and unproductive in their vaults, yielding neither interest to the stockholders, nor benefit to the community. A season of prosperity begets mutual confidence—the Banks grant accommodations freely, and long loans are made, by which the planter is relieved and benefited. But any measure suddenly interrupting such a state of things by checking the circulation of their issues, occasions an immediate reflux of their notes; and the Banks are constrained, in providing for their redemption, to curtail their discounts, by which a large amount is withdrawn from circulation, and to confine their operations to bills of exchange on New Orleans or elsewhere, at short notice, to be converted into specie. This produces a pressure that becomes onerous, and one that falls with peculiar force at this time on a large portion of this community—all those who have incurred debts, and have money to borrow or pay. The odious feature that discriminates between the actual settler and the non-resident, encroaches on the broad principle of equal rights and privileges, so clearly recognized and guaranteed—the poor emigrant in search of a home among us, should receive all the facilities extended to the citizen. Under the impression that the objects contemplated by the President are not likely to be attained by this Treasury Circular, I suggest the propriety of such an expression as you may think proper, with a view to its rescission.

Under the existing state of things, your attention will be called to some remedial measure. The establishment of a Union Bank to supply the actual or supposed deficit of banking capital, and for the relief of the general embarrassment under the pressure of the times, I am aware is greatly relied upon. But as it would be difficult to impose a restraint entire upon the Banks or individuals, as to the application of the loans they may grant or receive, to the exclusion of further speculation; I am apprehensive that the general and extended relief expected by many will not be realized. The prudent may avail themselves of the increased facilities in borrowing, to aid them in the discharge of their debts, while it may only invite others to enter into more extensive schemes of speculation. But the situation of a large portion of your constituents, seems to require some relief and the resources of the State, so far as you may deem prudent and safe, should be put in requisition to sustain them.

In the organization of such an institution, involving so deeply the interest and credit of the State, your attention will very properly be directed to a close scrutiny of the provisions of its charter; and in throwing around it the most guarded restrictions for the greater safety of the State.

A mortgage on real estate for the payment of stock subscribed for by individuals, affords the best security; and for the payment and redemption of the interest and loan, nothing perhaps can be so safely relied upon as a well regulated banking fund. I would therefore recommend that the bonds of the State to be sold, should bear an interest of at least six per cent; and that the premium arising from the sales should be applied exclusively to that purpose, with such addition as may be deemed necessary. It is believed that bank stock will bear a tax as well, if not better, than most other property upon which it is levied; and I am at a loss to conceive of any good reason why it should be exempt as exclusively by the proposed charter. Grants of exclusive privileges to individuals or corporate companies, separate from the great community, infusing upon equal rights. The principle is foreign, and was one among the strong objections urged against the location of a Branch of the United States Bank within our limits; and it would be strangely inconsistent now, to incorporate into our State institutions this offensive provision. The State being bound for the whole amount, may well, I think, become a stockholder for a third, or at least a fourth of the capital, with a full share if not the preponderance in the Directory. The prospect of effecting a sale of the bonds to advantage in the Northern market is rather discouraging, and it may be well that an agent be appointed by your body, to negotiate a sale in Europe. The prohibitory clause in the constitution, will necessarily suspend your action for the approval of the Legislature in January next; but your agent in the mean time may open a correspondence, and arrange the preliminaries, so that a sale may be effected and the capital procured with but little delay, after the charter shall have been confirmed.

Late events have placed the necessity of a well organized and effective Militia, in a clear and strong point of view. For the security it affords to the government in all emergencies that may arise, no substitute has been discovered that can safely be adopted; and I feel assured, that I need not insist upon the necessity of an efficient reform in the existing system—a reform that I trust will restore it to its wonted energies—to that favor, respect, and spirit of emulous chivalry which it seems to have lost in the public estimation.

The threatening aspect of affairs, since your adjournment, on our borders fronting the Mexican dominions, induced Major General Gaines to make two several calls upon this State for volunteers. On the receipt of the first, orders were immediately issued to the commandants of divisions, requiring them to use their best exertions to effect a speedy, and as far as it could be done, a complete organization of the militia within their respective commands. This order was given with ulterior views, resting upon and preparatory to a possible, if not probable state of things to ensue in the event of a protracted border warfare, that might subject the State to a further and additional demand for troops.

The undertaking was attended with great difficulty, and much is due to the spirited exertions of the few officers then in command.

In addition to this general order, I addressed and forwarded a letter by a special messenger, (whose services I procured for that purpose,) to the president of the board of police of their respective counties, in which elections had not been held under the present constitution; requesting them to order elections for colonels, lieutenant colonels and majors; and the returns from those counties, with a single exception, have been received and commissions issued some time since. The work is now in progress and may be completed with but little further trouble or delay.

I deem it essential to a proper organization and discipline of the militia, that the undivided attention of the Adjutant General should be given to the service; and that a salary should be attached to the office sufficient to insure the able and faithful discharge of the necessary duties.

This office as well as the Quarter Master General, should reside at the seat of Government, and take the rank of Brigadier General.

To remedy the great delay and inconvenience experienced, to the detriment of the public service, the sheriffs should be made returning officers for their respective counties, as well in the military as the civil department; and that it be made their duty to lodge in the office of the Secretary of State, returns of all elections ordered for district and State officers, and for members of Congress; together with all regimental, brigade, and division officers in the militia, within a reasonable and limited time, under a penalty to be prescribed, sufficiently large to ensure its performance; and that they be allowed a suitable compensation for the services thus required. The returns for officers elected in the militia, made to the office of Secretary of State, as required by the Constitution, should be open to the inspection of the Adjutant General; that he may be enabled to fill commissions and to keep a perfect register of their dates, and all resignations; or the sheriffs may be required to make their returns of elections for the officers in the militia, to the Adjutant General, to be lodged by him in the office of the Secretary of State.

Circumstances connected with the late call for mounted gun-men, induce me to present the subject for your consideration; and such legislative interposition as you may deem proper.

The requisition was received at an unfavorable moment. The difficulties to be encountered from the limited and very partial organization of the militia, in addition to the inconvenience and sacrifices incident to the season, presented serious obstacles. But the standing and credit of the State, as I conceived, demanded at least an effort. An appeal was accordingly made to the pride and chivalry of Mississippians, and it was responded to in a manner that fully sustains the high estimate placed upon their determined spirit and patriotism, in defence of their country, when called upon, under any and all circumstances.

Lieutenant Cross, under instructions from the Secretary of War, called upon me with a view of arranging the accounts for expenses incurred, in compliance with the requisition. At that time the accounts of expenditures for the companies of captains Grant and Gholson, and the vouchers sustaining them, had not been received by the Quarter Master at this place; and consequently, were not examined by Lieutenant Cross; but such as were in possession of the Quarter Master were thought to be irregular, and as such he considered himself not justified in paying. On his return to Vicksburg, the accounts there presented were more satisfactory, and paid to the amount of about four thousand dollars. There is now a balance due for advances made out of funds raised by the Executive upon his individual responsibility, covered by a few friends, amounting to about five thousand dollars. The same as well as the further claims of the volunteers for expenses incurred in marching to and from the place of rendezvous, not exceeding, I presume three thousand dollars, and probably but little, if any, over two thousand (the accounts have not yet been audited) is fairly chargeable to, and no doubt will be paid by the General Government when presented, or as soon as an appropriation is made by Congress.

In consequence of the absence of Captain Grant from the State, I could not procure the accounts and vouchers in time to forward them, as agreed upon, to Lieutenant Cross, at New Orleans, to be by him submitted to the War Department; and, as the responsibilities incurred by individuals for advances made, may become rather oppressive before the money can be obtained from the General Government, I submit the propriety of an appropriation on the part of this State for their reimbursement; and that the claim upon the General Government, accompanied with the proper document, be forwarded to our delegation in Congress to be presented for payment.

The accounts and vouchers will be handed to your committee when called for, with any other documents touching the subject, in my possession, that may be desired.

AMENDMENTS OF THE CONSTITUTION.

The difficulties already experienced, growing out of the defects of the Constitution, seem to have satisfied and prepared the public mind for certain amendments, and warrant the belief that propositions submitted for that purpose will be favorably received.

The clause prohibiting the introduction of slaves as merchandise, particularly claims your interposition. The action of the Legislature having been withheld, the provision remained for a time wholly inoperative; but it has now become a mooted question under this clause of the constitution, whether contracts for that description of property can be enforced; and the plea effects at least a delay of justice—opens a door to litigation—and is calculated to impair that confidence and security, that should exist in good faith under the protection of the laws. In earnestly pointing your attention to the propriety and necessity of acting upon this clause; I shall not stop to speak of other provisions that will no doubt present themselves to your notice.

The fact of a proposition to amend this clause, having been once submitted to a vote of the people, and not receiving the majority required, seems to have created a distrust, that has operated to discourage further attempts, and the circumstance has been urged as an argument to prove, that the mode of amendment prescribed is wholly inefficient; but I trust, upon further trial, it may be found fully adequate to all the purposes intended.

The experiment I am persuaded, has not been fully and fairly made. In consequence of the failure of the Legislature to act upon this provision, there exists no penalty to be enforced; and the restrictive and oppressive operations of such an act as was evidently contemplated by the framers of the constitution, have not been brought to bear directly upon our citizens. But the ill consequences now experienced, and here alluded to, I have little doubt will insure a decided vote for its amendment. If, however, such a vote should not be given, on this or any other proposition submitted for amendment, it must be taken as satisfactory evidence that the people are satisfied, and do not desire the change.

The provision prescribing the mode of amending the constitution was considered as a reforming qualification for many of its defects, and possesses this decided advantage over the old constitution, that attempts to modify may be freely indulged in, and if they fail, no injury results. It will scarcely be doubted, I think, that we should have been spared at least some of the evils of which we now complain, if a similar provision had existed in the old constitution.

EDUCATION.

I cannot too strongly recommend to your favorable consideration, the subject of Education; nor can I receive from your action a support too strenuous. The means and resources of this State placed within your reach, and set apart for the promotion of this important object, are abundant and ample, and requires only a judicious application to effect the purposes contemplated.

Primary schools are regarded as demanding, in an especial manner, from legislative action, that fostering care necessary to impart to them life and vigor, for the general diffusion of knowledge.

Experience derived from the history of republics, so far as the analogy holds, as well as numerous examples afforded by the archives of the different States go to establish the fact, that however clear and distinct the lines of organic law may be drawn, they are of themselves insufficient. It is the moral intelligence of the great body of the people which constitutes our strength, and upon which we are to rely as the only efficient security for the support and preservation of our happy institutions.

With this admission, and the strong incentives to action, I am satisfied the subject will receive from your attention and care its merits.

The bonds or notes given for the seminaries, lands, and which amount to \$277,000, are now all due; and the original sales, together with the interest that has accrued, now exceeds \$310,000, which, at ten per cent, the rate of interest they bear, will create an annual revenue of more than \$30,000.

With such an ample endowment, your immediate attention should be directed to the establishment of a seminary of learning upon a large and liberal scale, in which both sexes may receive a finished education. The annual receipts and the interest on this fund, will perhaps some little aid drawn either from the principal or some other source, would probably be sufficient to construct the buildings, and after their completion, the interest may enable the State to defray all the expenses of such an institution.

The time seems to have arrived when you may properly act upon this subject; and I would suggest that five or more commissioners be appointed by your body, whose duty it shall be to select a proper site; or the location may be made by the Legislature at the present session, leaving the commissioners to act and exercise a general supervisory control over the whole subject, under such directions as you may give.

ADMISSION OF THE CHICKASAW MEMBERS.

The attendance of delegates from the counties created by the Legislature at its present session, elected by virtue of writs of election issued by the Board of Police, as members to the House of Representatives, presented the delicate and important question, whether, if their right of admission as members was acquiesced in by both branches, it would not destroy the constitutional organization of your body, and as a consequence render the whole of your actions null and void.

To take place in November next. The adjournment is recommended with a view of giving time to take the census, under the impression that it could not probably be effected early enough for your action without producing a very protracted sitting.

With an anxious solicitude for the welfare and happiness of our constituents and the advancement and prosperity of the State, I tender you my hearty co-operation in all measures calculated to produce those desirable objects.

MICHIGAN.

The following message in writing was received from the President of the United States, by the hands of his private Secretary, ANDREW JACKSON, Jun. Esq.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America:

By the second section of the act "to establish the northern boundary line of the State of Ohio, and to provide for the admission of the State of Michigan into the Union, upon the conditions therein expressed," approved June 15th, 1836, the constitution and State Government which the people of Michigan had formed for themselves, was ratified and confirmed, and the State of Michigan declared to be one of the United States of America, and admitted into the Union, upon an equal footing with the original States, but on the express condition, that the said State should consist of, and have jurisdiction over, all the territory included within certain boundaries described in the act and over no other. It was further enacted, by the third section of the same law, that as a compliance with the fundamental condition of admission, the boundaries of the State of Michigan, as thus described, declared, and established, should "receive the assent of a convention of delegates, elected by the people of said State, for the sole purpose of giving the assent therein required; that, as soon as such assent should be given, the President of the United States should announce the same by proclamation; and that, thereupon, and without any further proceeding on the part of Congress, the admission of the State into the Union, as one of the United States of America, should be considered as complete, and the Senators and Representatives in the Congress of the United States, entitled to take their seats without further delay.

In the month of November last, I received a communication, enclosing the official proceedings of a convention assembled at Ann Arbor, in Michigan, on the 26th of September, 1836, all which (marked A) are herewith laid before you. It will be seen by these papers, that the convention therein referred to, was elected by the people of Michigan, pursuant to an act of the State Legislature, passed on the 25th of July last, in consequence of the above mentioned act of Congress, and that it declared giving its assent to the fundamental condition prescribed by Congress, and rejected the same.

On the 24th instant, the accompanying paper marked B, with its enclosure, containing the proceedings of a convention of delegates subsequently elected, and held in the State of Michigan, was presented to me. By these papers, which are also herewith submitted for your consideration, it appears that elections were held in all counties of the State, except two, on the 5th and 6th days of December instant, for the purpose of electing a convention of delegates to give the assent required by Congress; that the delegates then elected, assembled in convention on the 14th day of December instant, and that on the following day the assent of the body to the fundamental condition, above stated, was formally given.

The latter convention was not held or elected, by virtue of any act of the Territorial or State Legislature; it originated from the people themselves, and was chosen by them in pursuance of resolutions adopted in primary assemblies, held in the respective counties. The act of Congress, however, does not prescribe by what authority the convention shall be ordered, or the time when, or the manner in which, it shall be chosen. Had these latter proceedings come to me during the recess of Congress, I should therefore have felt it my duty, on being satisfied that they emanated from a convention of delegates elected, in point of fact, by the people of the State, for the purpose required, to have issued my proclamation thereon, as provided by law. But as the authority conferred on the President, was evidently given to him under the expectation that the assent of the convention might be laid before him during the recess of Congress, and to avoid the delay of a postponement until the meeting of that body, and as the circumstances which now attend the case, are in other respects peculiar, and such as could not have been foreseen, when the act of June 15th, 1836, was passed, I deem it most agreeable to the intent of that law, and proper for other reasons, that the whole subject should be submitted to the decision of Congress. The importance of your early action upon it is too obvious to need remark.

ANDREW JACKSON.
WASHINGTON, Dec. 27, 1836.

FROM ENGLAND.

By the ship Celin, capt. Blank, arrived at Charleston on the 20th inst. the Editors of the Courier have received Liverpool and London papers to the 9th October, inclusive.

Cotton had declined in Liverpool and London; attributed in some degree, to the derangement in the money market.

The civil war in Spain is kept up with alternate success. The Carlist Gen. Gomez, who had been pursued by forces very superior to his own in numbers, had outmaneuvered them all and returned to Cordova on the 13th October. The Carlists were said to be engaged in machinations at Madrid, to prevent the organization of the Cortez on the 24th of October, and rumors were afloat of an intended revolt on that day.

Much importance appears to be attached, in the London papers, to the expected revolution in Maryland, consequent upon the refusal of the minority of Electors of that State to go into the election of a Senate. Europeans seem to be yet unacquainted with the manner of doing business in the United States. We manage our political affairs by argument (sometimes pretty sharp to be sure) and the ballot box, and not the bayonet; we leave the latter custom to the "man eaters" of European monarchies.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

We learn from the Globe that the business of this Department has been resumed, in the capacious building recently occupied by Mr. A. Fuller, as a hotel. A committee of Congress are investigating the causes and extent of the recent calamity, and until that examination is finished and promulgated, it would be unjust to the parties liable to be implicated, to publish any of the rumors afloat, in regard to the origin of the fire.

GENERAL POST OFFICE.

The Report of the Post Master General is a very lucid document, and exhibits a most satisfactory state of that department.

He says that on the first day of July last, the post roads were 118,264 miles in extent, and the annual transportation of the mail was 27,579,620 miles.

The number of post offices on the 1st July, 1835, was 10,880; on the 1st of July, 1836, the number was 11,091, and on the 1st of December last, it was 11,100.

In the year ending 31st of June last, the number of post offices established was 345, the number of those discontinued was 345, and there were 1844 changes of postmasters.

The revenue of the department for the year ending the 31st June, was \$3,395,455; the engagements and liabilities were \$2,786,623; leaving a balance over engagements and liabilities of \$608,831.

The bank debt was paid off in April last. The cash in bank had accumulated to the amount of \$550,000 on the 1st November last, and it is estimated that the cash in bank before the 1st of May will exceed 600,000.

The above is a gratifying account of the finances of the department.

In regard to the express mail, the postmaster general declares that the success of the experiment cannot be doubted, and that "the size of the mail already affords an assurance that it will afford an income more than sufficient to support it." On the subject of the express mail, the Report adds:

It will give unprecedented activity to commercial transactions between the North and the South. New York communicates with New Orleans in half the usual time; all enterprises are expedited; the whole intervening country and the valley of the Mississippi will feel the impulse.

The editors and people of New Orleans will receive the news from New York in less than half the time it has heretofore occupied in the transit. The editors will have advantage of being the original dispensers of the news to the subscriber; and the people will obtain it through their own papers, without postage, five or six days sooner than it can reach them in the New York papers, with postage. The editors and people along the whole route, and to the right and left, will participate in the same advantages in a greater or less degree. On the other hand, the circulation in the south of newspapers from the principal cities of the north will undoubtedly be diminished. This injury is more than counterbalanced by the benefits secured to the local establishments; and if it were not, it is not to be brought into competition with the advantages of an earlier transmission and dissemination of commercial and other intelligence. No measure should be taken with a view to injure the great city establishments; but it would be unreasonable and unjust in the Department to withhold information from the people of the south, because it cannot carry, with equal expedition, the cumbersome sheets from the northern newspaper presses. It is, and doubtless will continue to be, the policy of the department not to send the news with less expedition, but to bring the whole mail to the speed of the EXPRESS as fast as it can be continuous rail road or steam-boat transportation.

MR. MORFIT'S REPORT ON TEXAS.

We have received the Document accompanying the President's Message of the 22 inst. They consist of 10 letters, addressed by Henry M. Morfit, (the Agent appointed to collect information relative to Texas,) to the Secretary of State. They extend from 13th August to the 14th September.—Mr. Morfit estimates very highly the resources of Texas. He entertains no doubt of her capacity to effect her independence; but hesitates in recommending her recognition by the United States. The following extract closes his correspondence, and, in fact, gives the spirit of the whole:

"The United States have, in common with every other nation, a right to enlarge their resources in the proper acquisition of territory, the extension of their commerce, the increase of revenue, and the promotion of alliances; but, as an offset to this in reference to the present question, may be considered the doubtful policy in the application of the rule, from the infancy of Texas, the uncertainty of her ability to continue her efforts to the full fruition of freedom, the custom of neutrals not to interfere with co-belligerents, and the convention between the United States and Mexico, which incalculates the establishment of friendly relations upon a firm basis.

"These and other considerations referred to in my former communications, constitutes the reason for pausing in expressing the opinion that Texas is now capable of performing the obligation of an independent nation.

"The right course of duty, which requires a candid statement from facts, prevails over partialities that prompt a different picture; and though a regard for truth, a sense of national integrity, and a desire to manifest their strict exercise by the United States, may justly delay the period for enrolling Texas in the list of nations, her citizens, and those who participate in the principles of her cause, may be consoled by the certainty that without the aid of any Government, the career of political freedom, which is extending throughout the world, will of its own speed accomplish what caution now withholds.

"Foreign policy, the conventional faith of nations, or the efforts of Mexico, may detain Texas lingering in her embryonic state for many years; but the fertility of her soil, the remoteness of her situation, which affords an asylum from the angry subjects that often agitate the Northern and Southern parts of our country; and, above all, the current of emigration, which through the whole West looks like the advent of the oppressed of all nations seeking to build up free altars in a new hemisphere must disenthral her by a moral force which no power nor potentates can resist."

IMMORTALITY.—Men, at the age of twenty, remains not a particle of the matter in which his mind was invested when he was born. Nevertheless, at the age of eighty years, he is conscious of being the same individual he was as far back as his memory can go—that is to say, to the period when he was four or five years old. Whatever it be, therefore, in which this consciousness of identity resides, it cannot consist of a material substance, since, if it had been material, it must have been repeatedly changed, and the source of identity had been destroyed. It is, consequently, an ethereal spirit, and as it remains the same, throughout all the alterations that take place in the body, it is not dependent on the body, for its existence, and is thus calculated to survive the ever changing frame by which it is encircled.