

SUMMARY OF THE REPORTS OF THE HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS.

[From the Oneida (N. Y.) Whig. TREASURY REPORT.

This Report occupies, in its original shape, seven and three quarter columns of the Commercial Advertiser. To read it, will occupy the respectable portion of a day; we shall endeavor to condense it, so as to supply all that is essential in the Report, in less than a column. Mr. Woodbury's Report is termed "able and luminous" in the administration prints; we must beg leave to differ from the encomium conveyed by this language. We think the Report unnecessarily minute, and by no means well arranged in its topics. The first portion of it is employed in stating the condition of the finances, the substance of which is contained in the President's Message.—He estimates that the expenditures of 1836, will leave in the Treasury that year, between six and seven millions of dollars. The Secretary then proceeds to state the basis on which he finds his calculations. The Secretary enumerates, with a minuteness not customary in these Reports, the constituent on which he rests his statements, and enters largely into the question of imports for the succeeding year, modified as they must be, by the reduction of duties gradually taking place on a great variety of articles, conformable to the Compromise Bill. These calculations occupy two or three columns & are not essential in the statement of results. The Secretary anticipates a reduction for the ensuing year in the customs, and estimates the receipts from this source for 1836, at \$15,250,000, instead of \$17,000,000, the amount this year.—The proceeds of the sales of public lands for 1836, are estimated at \$4,000,000. The Secretary assigns the reason for an estimate so much lower than the receipts (over nine millions for three quarters of the year) of the present year. He then enters into a calculation of the product of the revenue from miscellaneous sources. It is supposed by him, that the receipts will not vary materially from those of 1835. He next proceeds to an examination of the amount of expenditures under their several distinct heads, for 1836, which he estimates at a little over twenty three millions. He then proceeds to an examination of the objects to which the surplus of the next year (between six and seven millions) can be applied. Three and a half millions of dollars are, in the Secretary's opinion, necessary for additional improvements at the Navy Yards. The Secretary recommends that a portion of the surplus be invested to meet any extraordinary contingency which may occur in our affairs. He specifies some other modes of applying any surplus which may accrue; these however are not essential to a correct understanding of the Report. He however recommends a reduction of duties eventually, in case the surplus continues to accumulate, and a reduction in the price of the public lands. The next head in this Report, is the Deposit Banks and the Currency. The Secretary reiterates the President's approbation of the action of the Deposit Banks in collecting and depositing the public money. The whole number of selected banks in the Union is thirty-four. A general statement of the condition of the Deposit Banks will be made known to Congress in a few days. In all cases deemed proper, they have given collateral security for the Deposits. Most of the Deposit Banks have intimated a willingness to co-operate in the suppression of small notes. Twenty-seven millions of specie have been imported into the United States more than exported from it. The whole amount of specie in the United States is estimated at \$64,000,000. The Secretary believes that there will be no scarcity of specie on the suppression of small bank notes. Under the new valuations, the coinage at the mint from Aug. 15th, 1834, to Nov. 1835, has been \$5,471,505. The Secretary closes this portion of the Report, by suggestions in relation to the winding up of the United States Bank, similar to those in the President's Message. The last division of the Report is on "miscellaneous subjects." The Department has, within the last year, discontinued fourteen custom house officers.

There is a great extent of detail in this Report which no synopsis can present.—We have given all the leading facts and suggestions which could be interesting to a general reader. We omitted to mention in its place, that the imports into the United States for the year ending the 30th September, 1835, were \$151,030,368; and for the past three years, have averaged \$128,558,670. The exports for the

past year were \$118,955,209, being an increase over the preceding year of nearly \$15,000,000.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY.

Mr. Dickinson's Report has been received with greater favor than that of Mr. Woodbury. It is a more business-like and lucid document, and more in unison with the plan of these Reports from the Departments. The Secretary, in the outset, states that the Navy has fulfilled its design in the protection of our commerce during the last year. He proceeds to enumerate the destination and present situation of our vessels of war in different parts of the globe. He has obtained from the Navy Board, an estimate of the increased annual expense of two frigates, three sloops of war, and four steam vessels. This appropriation would amount to 434,000 dollars annually. The Secretary strongly recommends the construction of these vessels. We shall have in commission, if this appropriation is made, in 1835, one ship of the line, six frigates fourteen sloops of war, five schooners and one steam vessel. The Secretary submits an estimate for the improvement of our Navy Yards, including that of a Dry Dock at New York, amounting in all, to \$3,500,000. He recommends the establishment of a national foundry for the casting of cannons; also the enlistment of boys in conformity with the President's suggestion. There are three hundred and five pensioners on the list, the annual expense of whose maintenance is \$24,944—including the widow pensioners the whole annual expense is 57,538 dollars. Six hundred and nineteen thousand dollars have been invested in the United States Bank stock of the surplus fund of the Navy, according to the act. He recommends the erection of marine barracks outside of the Navy Yards. The waters at Brooklyn, near New York, have been sounded by an engineer, Mr. Baldwin and pronounced suitable for a Dry Dock.

In compliance with the act of Congress, directing the Secretary of the Navy to make experiments with a view of testing the safety of steam engines, the Secretary states that a number of experiments have been made without any advantage. Hasler's report of coast soundings is submitted. The Report concludes with recommending the increase of salaries of clerks in the Navy department, the superintendent of the south west executive building, and the sergeants, acting as clerks to the commandant and staff officers to the marine corps.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

Mr. Cass's Reports have usually proved extremely acceptable to the public; we presume that the present will be no less so than the previous ones. He has restricted himself to the usual topics, and within the usual limits established by his predecessors. The general positions of the army are the same as at the last Report. Fourteen companies have been placed in Florida, as a restraint on the Seminole Indians, and to insure the execution of the treaty for the removal of the Indians. The regiment of dragoons has been advantageously employed amongst the Indians west of the Mississippi. The discipline and moral state of the army is satisfactory. The Secretary recommends increased pay to the Engineer Corps; also some alteration in the provisions for the Topographical Corps. The Cumberland Road between the town of Cumberland and the Ohio, has been surrendered to, and accepted by the States through which it passes, with engagements to keep it in repair.—The United States are now exonerated from all expense on account of this road. The Red river has been cleared of raft timber which entirely obstructed its navigation, for the distance of eighty eight miles; at an expense of 155,000 dollars. There are twenty three miles of obstacles yet to remove. A million acres of land will be reclaimed, it is estimated by the removal of these obstructions. The Secretary submits additional estimates for the prosecution of the works on fortifications, no appropriation having been made at the last session. He recommends an adherence to the plans of defence which have been acted upon for years, also the erection of floating steam batteries in the Chesapeake and Delaware bays, and harbor of New York. An appropriation of \$100,000 is asked for the Delaware Breakwater and Fort Calhoun. The Report of West Point Institution is submitted to Congress; the Secretary declares his approbation of their public examination. An additional sum for the armament of fortifications is introduced into the estimates. The Secretary advises the erection of a national foundry. The quantity of cannon required in the country is more than enough, in the opinion of the Secretary, to justify extensive and vigorous arrangements.—He then enters on the subject of the militia—shows the present inefficient

condition of this portion of our national defence—comments on the necessity of an efficient organization, and extracts from Mr. Jefferson's Message of 1805, an outline of the system which he recommends for adoption. The Secretary proposes to classify the whole population above twenty-one years of age, but deems it necessary that the whole number of the militia should be rendered available, as different points of the country might be successively exposed, and of course demand the entire body of its male population at different times for its defence. A new organization would be of little avail; some public provision must be made for elementary instruction, and such equipment as is necessary for improvement in discipline. This expense must be incurred by the Public Treasury, or the system be abandoned. The Secretary dwells with great earnestness on this part of the Report—reiterates the necessity of providing from the Public Treasury for the instruction and equipment of the militia. He adduces the authority of all the Presidents in favor of a national militia, in preference to a standing military corps. The subject has been presented to Congress no less than thirty-one times in official recommendations. All the Indian tribes in the Union east of the Mississippi, appear to be yielding to the necessity of a removal to the west bank. The Secretary enumerates the accommodations and articles provided for the Indians, who have or are about removing—consisting of land, subsistence for a year annuities in specie to some tribes, agricultural instruments, domestic animals, mills, grain, &c. These are the prominent topics and facts in the report of the Secretary of War.

REPORT OF THE POST MASTER GENERAL.

The mail is carried, in the United States, in different conveyances, 22,869,438 miles. The number of Post Offices on the 30th of June last was 10,770. The Post Master General states the debt on the first of July last, at \$1,054,381.92. This is the gross amount, and not the balance of debt. The available means of the department, amounted, at the same time to \$1,040,081.93. This leaves a balance against the department of \$138,700.59. Estimating the productiveness of the department, for the remainder of the year, to the 30th of June, 1836, the department would be clear of debt with a surplus of \$176,227. The Post Master General proceeds to state the embarrassed condition in which he found the department, and the method he adopted to extricate it. One part of the system was the division or classification of Post Offices into 'Collecting,' 'Depositing,' and 'Draft Offices.' Each of these classes had its distinct duties assigned to it, and the results of this arrangement were anticipated, by which the department is placed in a sound condition.—The Post Master General then introduces a table exhibiting the revenue of the department, and its expenditures, in 1833, '34 and '35. It shows a large excess of expenditure, in 1833, a rapid gain since that period, and the excess of income over expenditure.

The Post Office books have not been balanced for twenty years; it was thought best to balance them, and open distinct head or titles in the new book, so as to give each head its quota of revenue and expenditure, and thence to transfer them to a general account, exhibiting the final balance. Several new expedients have been resorted to, to secure the prompt accountability of Post Masters and the rapid conveyance of the Mails, particularly of the newspapers, which are frequently left behind. It has been provided in recent contracts, on the main route west, that the coaches shall be appropriated entirely to the Mails on their outward trips. New Mail contracts have been made to convey the Mail from Louisville to St. Louis, and from St. Louis to New Orleans. The Mail, by present conveyances, can be transmitted from Washington to Boston, by means of rail-roads and steam boats, in 39 hours. Efforts have been made by the Post Master General, to procure the conveyance of the Mail in rail road cars from Washington north through New Jersey, but could not succeed, owing to the exorbitant prices demanded (\$250 a mile)—the Post Master General offered \$100 a mile, which is \$25 a mile more than the Committee of the House of Representatives determined unanimously under any circumstances, to allow. Other rail-road companies have offered terms which have been complied with.

The Post Master General then enters into a statement of the abolition question as brought to his notice by the circulation of obnoxious pamphlets, by Mail through the South. He states the decision he adopted, and the replies he gave when the question was submitted to him, as to the course to be adopted by Post Masters with regard to these publications. The Post Master General then proposes a re-organization of the department, and furnishes an outline of the plan. The object is, to circumscribe the discretion of the Post Master General. As the practice is now, the Post Master General controls the entire net revenue of the department, being \$2,000,000. The proper course, in his opinion, would be to have the money paid into the Treasury, under a distinct head. He proposes another reform, designed to place the Post Office Department on the same footing, in point of accountability, with the Navy and Ar

my Departments. He also recommends the appointment of two or three additional officers. He states the number of persons essential, in his view, to conduct the concerns of the department with efficiency and system. In the whole this amounts to 22 persons. This is the substance of this Report, which occupies five columns in the Commercial Advertiser. We think it a well arranged, business like Report, creditable to the Post Master General and exhibiting an efficiency of the action and system, which the department has long demanded.

OHIO LEGISLATURE.

IN SENATE.

Wednesday, January, 6.

PROTEST OF THE MINORITY.

Mr. Newell presented the following Protest:

THE UNDERSIGNED SENATORS dissent from and protest against the Preamble and Resolutions, passed 28th December, 1835, on the subject of EXPUNGING a Resolution from the Journal of the Senate of the United States.

Because we believe that part of the Preamble which asserts that "the people of the State of Ohio require and demand of their Representatives in the Legislature assembled a solemn expression of disapprobation of the said act of the Senate," to be unfounded in fact,—the subject having never been submitted to the decision of the people of Ohio, and certainly not in the districts from which we are delegated.

Because we do not admit that the adoption of the said Resolution by the Senate of the United States was a manifest usurpation of the impeaching power of the House of Representatives, and we deny that "the right of the vilest criminal to meet his accuser face to face" was thereby refused.

We object to the Resolutions, because they demand of the Senators to violate the Constitution of the United States, and to disregard their oaths. The Constitution requires each House of Congress to keep a Journal of its proceedings, and they have sworn to support that Constitution. The act complained of was an exercise of power by the Senate, and whether authorized or not, they were bound to record it for the knowledge of the people. It is not proposed to undo the act, but to destroy the evidence of its existence. If the Senate may be required to do this in one case, they may of choice do it in all cases, and their responsibility to the people be at once avoided.

We further object, that the General Assembly has no rightful power to govern and control the Senators in Congress; the power is not delegated in the Constitution, and the people have declared that "all powers not thereby delegated are reserved" to themselves. In making choice of Senators, the General Assembly is but an Agent of the People, and we cannot admit the agent to have any powers but what are clearly defined. If a contrary doctrine be admitted, the Governor must also have the power to instruct, for he too has power to appoint Senators during the recess of the Legislature, and must consequently have the adjunct power of controlling their wills and votes while their appointment by him continues.

We recognize and maintain the right of the people to instruct their Representatives; but the people have not given to their co-ordinate agents the power to control one another; and any assumption of such powers by the General Assembly is an open violation of the reserved rights of the people. The claim now set up, to make Senators in Congress obey instructions or resign, is a violation of the spirit of the Constitution of the United States, which ordains the Senators to serve six years. The doctrine now advanced might in practice, reduce the tenure of that office to a single year.

SAMUEL NEWELL,  
JAMES STEELE,  
ANDREW DONALLY,  
WILLIAM KENDALL,  
J. M. HOUSTON,  
FREDERICK WADSWORTH,  
LEICESTER KING,  
SAMUEL J. COX,  
RALPH GRANGER,  
ELIAS FLORENCE,  
HENRY MORSE,  
JOSEPH HOWARD,  
JOHN W. ALLEN,  
JOHN H. JAMES,  
JOSEPH KIRBY.

The Protest was read, and inserted on the journal in conformity with the constitutional provision.

Mr. Newell thus submitted the following resolution:

Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio, That in consideration of the distinguished relation in which the Hon. THOMAS EWING, one of the Senators in Congress from the State of Ohio, stands to the subject of the foregoing Protest, the Governor of the State be requested to transmit a copy thereof to that Senator; and also, a copy to the President and Vice President of the United States.

Mr. Spangler moved that the resolution be indefinitely postponed.

Mr. Patterson wished to amend the resolution, before the question was taken, so as to read, 'Resolved by the minority, &c. or as afterwards explained, "in accordance with the wishes of the minority," and wished the gentleman from Fairfield would withdraw his motion.

Mr. Spangler would not consent to draw his motion. He thought its indefinite postponement would be the proper mode to treat the resolution, inasmuch as he conceived it was introduced to arouse bad feelings and to condemn the acts of the majority. The gentlemen had been gratified in their constitutional right of

entering their Protest on the journals; but he believed they went too far in expecting the majority would pass the resolution. Why should we (said Mr. S.) join in informing Thomas Ewing what his friends are doing for him here?

Mr. Howard had hoped that no warm feelings would be aroused on this subject for it was not so intended. He thought the request was but a reasonable one. Resolutions had been passed expressive of the sentiments of the majority, and he thought it reasonable that the doings of the minority, though they were a minority, should be co-extensive in their diffusion.

Mr. Newell and Mr. King expressed similar sentiments.

Mr. Patterson suggested that the resolution be laid on the table. It was his wish to treat the minority with every courtesy and by laying the subject on the table, there would be time for consideration.

Mr. McLaughlin said if the question were pressed he would feel himself bound to vote in favor of the indefinite postponement. He would prefer, however, that the Senator from Fairfield (Mr. Spangler) would withdraw his motion. He thought it was due to the minority to give time for consideration, and this could best be done by laying the resolution on the table. He was of opinion that an amendment in the nature of that proposed by the gentleman from Adams, (Mr. Paterson,) might be adopted; and he did not think that the resolutions were intended to convey any insult to the majority.

Mr. Spangler reiterated his opinion of the nature of the resolution, and would not consent to waive his motion.

Mr. James moved that the Senate take a recess—which was lost.

The question was then taken on the indefinite postponement, which was carried in the affirmative, 17 to 15, by the following vote:

YEAS—Messrs. Blake, Hopkins, Hunt Medary, McLaughlin, McMechan, Paterson, Price, Scott, Sharp, Shepler, Spangler, Taylor, Thompson, Vincent, Wellhouse, and Speaker—17.

NAYS—Messrs. Allen, Cox, Donally, Florence, Granger, Houston, Howard, James, Kendall, King, Kirby, Morse, Newell, Steele, and Wadsworth—15.

WASHINGTON'S OPINIONS OF SLAVERY. The annexed extracts of letters written by general Washington may be found in the ninth volume of Mr. Sparks's edition, just published.

To Robert Morris, dated April 12th 1786

"I hope it will not be conceived from these observations, that it is my wish to hold the unhappy people, who are the subject of this letter, in slavery. I can only say, that there is not a man living, who wishes more sincerely than I do to see a plan adopted for the abolition of it; but there is only one proper and effectual mode by which it can be accomplished, and that is by legislative authority; and this as far as my suffrage will go, shall never be wanting."

To the marquis de Lafayette, May 10th, 1786.

"The benevolence of your heart my dear marquis, is so conspicuous on all occasions, that I never wonder at any fresh proofs of it; but your late purchase of an estate in the colony of Cayenne, with a view of emancipating the slaves on it, is a generous and noble proof of your humanity. Would to God a like spirit might diffuse itself generally into the minds of the people of this country. But I despair of seeing it. Some petitions were presented to the assembly, at its last session for the abolition of slavery, but they could scarcely obtain a reading. To set the slaves at once would, I really believe; be productive of much inconvenience and mischief; but by degrees it certainly might and assuredly ought to be effected; and that too by legislative authority."

To John F. Mercer, September 9th, 1786.

"I never mean, unless some particular circumstance should compel me to it, to possess another slave by purchase it being among my first wishes to see some plan adopted, by which slavery in this country may be abolished by law."

To the editors of the New York Mercantile Advertiser.

Gentlemen—I have just heard, through a friend of a very gallant and heroic deed, performed by a young gentleman,\* during the late awful conflagration, and think it but justice to him, and indeed to our frail human nature, that it should be made known.

Passing along one of the streets, then a prey to the devouring element, his ears were assailed with the agonizing cries of a female, to who he immediately rushed, and on hearing from her that her only child, an infant, was then in the upper part of a house already in flames, and would inevitably be burnt up if some one did not instantly fly to its rescue, he forced his way up stairs, notwithstanding the repeated warnings of the firemen and other spectators, that he would inevitably perish in the attempt, and there found the innocent in bed, who, unconscious of its danger, was playing with its little hands, pleased no doubt with the brilliancy of the scene, (for the room itself was on fire!) He seized it, and happily succeeding in effecting his escape, restored it to the embraces of its almost distracted mother, who, with frantic joy, threw her arms round his neck, exclaiming, with a heart

overflowing with gratitude, "My God! My God! thou hast not forsaken me!" As such heroism is always accompanied, by modesty, and by feelings overpowered by scenes like this, he made his escape from the applauding crowd, with as much precipitation as possible but he will, I trust long live to remember, (and when called to "his account" find them true,) the words of one of them exclaiming as he passed, "For that act alone you have gained a place in heaven." No reward that could be offered to him on earth can equal the satisfaction that such a deed carries with it.

\* Mr. Louis Wilkins (son of Martin S. Wilkins) a midshipman, returned a few months since from the Pacific.

THE UNITED STATES & MEXICO.

In relation to the intelligence respecting the closing of the Mexican ports against the commerce of the U. States, the following paragraph appears in the New Orleans Bee of the 24th ult. It will be seen (says the Baltimore American) that the measure alluded to was only partial, and not general, and that it had not received the sanction of the Central Government.—Nat. Intell.

"THE EMBARGO said to have been laid on American ships entering the ports of Mexico is not wholly without foundation; yet it is not of such a nature as to warrant apprehensions of a rupture with the Mexican Government, or of any cessation of our trade with that country.

"It is true that the port of Tampico was closed for a few days, but that was to prevent intelligence being communicated of the equipment of Mexican cutters for the coast of Texas; and it is also true that the Kanawha was not permitted to land any of her passengers, or discharge her freight; but that was because she had been freighted with provisions, which are declared contraband by the revenue laws of Mexico, and because she had gone victualled purposely to support the attempt of General Melia on Tampico.

"It is equally true that the port of Vera Cruz has been closed for a short time by arbitrary orders, and from similar motives; but it is also true that this species of embargo had not received the sanction of the General Government, and must be considered rather as individual acts, and as resorts supposed to be required by policy or a just indignation.

"The ports of Mexico are now open to our trade and greater tranquility prevails in the interior of that country than we had supposed—at least, so we are informed. It was also stated that the former refractory States of Jalisco & Guanabato have declared in favor of Santa Anna & Centralism; and that even Zacatecas is likely to give her adhesion to the central form of government, as her citizens seem more disposed to follow trade than to promote war or insurrection, and are engaged in forwarding conductas with large amounts of specie to the maritime coasts. We were also informed yesterday by an experienced merchant that most of the Mexican States will now combine against Texas in a common cause.

"The embargo rumored was therefore rather menaced than enforced, or, if enforced, was resorted to in only a few instances, and for special purposes."

ANNAPOLIS, JAN. 4 1836.

In the fulfilment of the requisitions of the Constitution, the General Assembly went into the election of Governor of the State of Maryland to day at 12 o'clock. THOMAS W. VEAZEY of Cecil, was the only person put in nomination, and received fifty-three out of seventy-six votes, twenty-three being blank ballots. The governor elect has been long known to the people of Maryland as a man of intelligence, and of inflexible integrity. The confidence of his fellow citizens has frequently called him into the public service, and he has never been wanting in a strict & faithful performance of the duties devolved on him. Both as a politician and as a private citizen his honesty has been above suspicion. Conversant with, and experienced as he is in public affairs, his fellow-citizens will feel assured that, in the discharge of his duties as Chief Magistrate; he will take care that "the Republic receive no detriment."

Investigation of Free Masonry by the Pennsylvania Legislature.

On Saturday last, it was ordered by the House of Representatives, on motion of Mr. Stevens, that a committee be appointed, with power to send for persons and papers, for the purpose of "investigating the evils of Free Masonry." The committee was appointed by the Speaker, and the names of individual members appeared upon the journals of yesterday morning—they were Messrs. Stevens, Cox, Huston of Fayette, Spackman and Frew. From the character of the two first and last named gentlemen, we presume that the investigation will be prosecuted with vigor, and that the secrets of the lodge, if there be indeed any yet undisclosed, will be fully laid open to the world, & once affording proof of the truth or falsity of the numerous charges which have been made against the masonic institution.—Dem. State Journal.

Baron Rothschild, from his close and confidential intercourse with the fiscal concerns of France, and Europe generally, may be deemed conclusive authority on the subject of the French claim. He writes by the Utica that the money will be paid if the President's Message is of a pacific character.