

# CHARLOTTE JOURNAL.

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[NO. 274.

From the Columbia Telescope.  
PUBLIC MEETING.

Cincinnati and Charleston Rail Road.

A large and respectable meeting of citizens from all parts of the State, held in the Hall of the House of Representatives, Friday evening, Dec. 4, on the subject of the proposed Rail Road, on motion of General Hamilton, his Excellency Governor McDowell was called to the chair, and Thomas J. Wethers, Esq., appointed Secretary.

General Hayne, Chairman of the Charleston Committee, then rose, and offered the following resolutions, which being seconded by Col. Preston, Chairman of the Columbia Committee, were unanimously adopted, viz:

1. Resolved, That the citizens here assembled from all parts of the State, contemplate with the most satisfaction, the proposed extension of commercial and social relations, between the South and West, by the construction of a Rail Road from Cincinnati to Charleston; a work in which all the people of this State are prepared most cordially to co-operate.

2. Resolved, That viewing this noble enterprise as closely connected with the best interests of South Carolina, and calculated to advance the welfare of the whole country, we deem it highly important, that a spirit of harmony and concord, and mutual concert of action, should be promoted and established, among the people of all the States interested therein.

3. Resolved, That for this purpose, we would most ardently inculcate upon our fellow citizens, the necessity, in the further prosecution of this work, of overlooking all sectional jealousies and local interests, and of suffering no considerations to impair their conduct, but such as may be dictated by an enlarged and liberal view of the important objects to be promoted by the proposed Rail.

4. Resolved, That in order to bring about that harmony and concert, on which the success of the contemplated work must depend, we recommend a Rail Road Convention to be held at Knoxville, the State of Tennessee, on the 4th of July next, to be composed of Delegates from all the States interested in the proposed Rail, for the purpose of freely consulting together, and adopting such measures as may be best calculated to ensure the completion of the Rail, at the earliest period possible.

5. Resolved, That Robert Y. Hayne, John C. Calhoun, Aloram Blanding, Bayless J. Earle, A. Foster, and William McWillie, be, and they are hereby appointed in behalf of this meeting, to attend said Convention, and that they be authorized to fill any vacancy that may occur in their number—and the people in each of the several judicial circuits of this State be, and they are hereby, instructed to appoint delegates to represent them in said convention.

Resolved, That the citizens of the several states through which the said road may pass, be, by this meeting, earnestly requested also to appoint delegates to said Convention, in such manner as they may think proper.

6. Resolved, That should the people of any of the states interested in the contemplated Rail, call a Convention for the above purpose at any time and place, the Delegates appointed from this meeting be requested to attend the same, and to vote in all such measures, as may be necessary for the advancement of the common object.

Resolved, That the committees of correspondence of Charleston and Columbia, be requested to cause these resolutions to be published, and generally circulated, and to take the proper measures to carry the same into effect.

The vote was taken on the above resolution, it was voted to the meeting, that the Engineers, Colonel Gadsden, and Brisbane, and Major Holmes, who had been for several weeks joint commissioners in exploring the route of the proposed Rail, should attend the town, and were now present—

On the Chairman called upon these gentlemen for information. Col. Gadsden then rose and made a clear and highly interesting report, which satisfactorily appeared, that there was serious obstacle to the construction of the Rail, at a reasonable expense; that the cost could be passed with comparative ease, if the inhabitants of the country, were even disposed to be highly favorable to the enterprise.

Brisbane and Major Holmes followed Col. Gadsden, making interesting statements, respecting the information afforded by those engaged in the project of the entire practicability of the Rail, and of the immense advantages that would result from it.

Col. Patrick Noble, Speaker of the House, moved the following Resolution, which was unanimously adopted, viz:

Resolved, That the thanks of this meeting be tendered to Colonel Gadsden and Brisbane, and Major Holmes, for their great exertions in exploring the contemplated Rail Road, and for the satisfactory information they have given in this meeting.

GEO. McDUFFIE, Chairman.

T. J. WETHERS, Secretary.

Clermont, (S. C.) Dec. 12, 1835.

CHICAGO.

We hear the news of the late very destructive fire, which may have an effect injurious to us for the remainder of the season, in consequence of wrong impressions in the country, we underlined, merchants of Clermont, do not particularly, that there still remains in store, and there is daily arriving, every variety, Wares and Merchandise, in the greatest quantity, which we will sell on as favorable terms as we have always been in the habit of doing.

We will also pay the highest prices for Cotton and other produce, which may be brought to us, and we confidently rely on our friends and correspondents to continue their services, support and business with us; and we shall not (with our other losses) have to bear the destruction of the trade of the place, any mistaken notion that we are unable fully satisfactorily to meet the wants of the whole country.

Forast & McKay, Brown Bryan, Jas. Wright, Head & Co., Felix Long, J. & C. Powell, R. H. Hale, John Evans & Co., A. & R. McRae, Clarke & Smith, L. S. Drake, David B. Johnson, Malcom Buchanan, J. Lazarus & Co., Finch, R. C. Davis, B. H. Crckett & Co., M. M. & J. G. McKenzie, D. & J. Mallory, G. B. Bishop, J. & W. Lead, Scott & Keeley, Joseph B. T. Tilden, Alex. McKenzie, Jr., Goodwin & Webb, John C. Wadeworth, Joseph Hart, McKenzie & Adams, Franklin Turner, D. C. Johnson, John G. McLendon, D. B. McArm, and J. E. Westervell.

A few of the merchants are absent from town, whose names would no doubt be added to this Circular, if there were an opportunity of consulting

## President's Message. CONCLUDED.

The condition of the Public Finances was never more flattering than at the present period. Since my last annual communication, all the remains of the Public Debt have been redeemed, or money has been placed in deposit for this purpose, whenever the creditors choose to receive it. All the other pecuniary engagements of the Government have been honorably and promptly fulfilled, and there will be a balance in the Treasury, at the close of the present year, of about nineteen millions of dollars. It is believed, that after meeting all outstanding and unexpended appropriations, there will remain near eleven millions to be applied to any new objects which Congress may designate, or to the more rapid execution of the works already in progress. In aid of these objects, and to satisfy the current expenditures of the ensuing year, it is estimated that there will be received, from various sources, twenty millions more.

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direction. The mere manual operation of affixing his signature to the vast number of documents issuing from his office, subtracts so largely from the time and attention claimed by the weighty and complicated subjects daily accumulating in that branch of the public service, as to indicate the strong necessity of revising the organic law of the establishment. It will be easy for Congress, hereafter, to proportion the expenditure on account of this branch of the service to its real wants, by abiding, from time to time, the offices which can be dispensed with.

The extinction of the Public Debt having taken place, there is no longer any use for the offices of Commissioners of Loans and of the Sinking Fund. I recommend, therefore, that they be abolished, and that proper measures be taken for the transfer, to the Treasury Department, of any funds, books, and papers, connected with the operations of those offices; and that the proper power be given to that Department for closing finally, any portion of their business which may remain to be settled.

It is also incumbent on Congress, in guarding the pecuniary interests of the country, to discontinue, by such a law as was passed in 1812, the receipt of the bills of the Bank of the United States in payment of the public revenue; and to provide for the designation of an agent, whose duty it shall be to take charge of the books and stock of the United States in that institution, and to close all connection with it, after the 3d of March, 1836, when its charter expires. In making provision in regard to the disposition of this stock, it will be essential to define, clearly and strictly, the duties and powers of the officer charged with that branch of the public service.

It will be seen from the correspondence which the Secretary of the Treasury will lay before you, that notwithstanding the large amount of the stock which the United States hold in that institution, no information has yet been communicated which will enable the Government to anticipate when it can receive any dividends, or derive any benefit from it.

Connected with the condition of the finances, and the flourishing state of the country in all its branches of industry, it is pleasing to witness the advantages which have been already derived from the recent laws regulating the value of the gold coinage. These advantages will be more apparent in the course of the next year, when the branch mints authorized to be established in North Carolina, Georgia, and Louisiana, shall have gone into operation. As far as is expected they will be, by further reforms in the banking system of the States, and by judicious regulations on the part of Congress, in relation to the custody of the public moneys, it may be conveniently anticipated that the use of gold and silver, as a circulating medium, will become general in the ordinary transactions, connected with the labor of the country. The great depreciation, in modern times, is an efficient check upon the power of banks, preventing that excessive issue of paper whence are often derivations in the standard of value, which render uncertain the rewards of labor. It was supposed by those who established the Bank of the United States, that this, the credit given out by the custody of the public moneys, and other privileges, and the pecuniary force to govern against the evils which the country had suffered in the bankruptcy of many of the State institutions of that period, would be necessary to a power which the use of gold and silver, as a circulating medium, will not be tempted, nor will they have the power which we have seen exercised, to divert the public funds from the legitimate purposes of the Government.—The collection and custody of the revenue being, on the contrary, a source of credit to them, will increase the security which the States provide for a faithful execution of their trusts, by multiplying the scrutinies to which their operations and accounts will be subjected. Thus disposed, as well from interest as the obligations of their charters, it cannot be doubted that such conditions as Congress may see fit to adopt respecting the depositories in these institutions, with a view to the gradual disappearance of the small bills, it will be cheerfully complied with; and that we shall soon gain, in place of the Bank of the United States, a practical reform in the whole paper system of the country. If, by this policy, we can ultimately witness the suppression of all bank bills below twenty dollars, it is apparent that gold and silver will take their place, and become the principal circulating medium in the common business of the farmers and mechanics of the country. The attainment of such a result will form an era in the history of our country which will be dwelt upon with delight by every true friend of its liberty and independence. It will lighten the great tax which our paper system has so long collected from the earnings of labor, and do more to revive and perpetuate those habits of economy and simplicity which are so congenial to the character of republicans, than all the legislation which has yet been attempted.

To this subject I feel that I cannot too earnestly invite the especial attention of Congress, without the exercise of whose authority, the opportunity to accomplish so much public good must pass unimproved.

Deeply impressed with its vital importance, the Executive has taken all the steps within its constitutional power, to guard the public revenue, and defeat the expectation which the Bank of the United States indulged, of renewing and perpetuating its monopoly, on the ground of its necessity as a fiscal agent, and as affording a sound currency than could be obtained without such an institution.

In the performance of this duty, I was aware that there was, in the act of the removal of the depositories, a liability to excite sensitiveness to Executive power which it is the characteristic and the duty of freemen to indulge: but I relied on this feeling, also, directed by patriotism and intelligence, to vindicate the conduct which, in the end, would appear to have been called for by the best interests of my country.

The apprehensions natural to this feeling, that there may have been a desire, through the instrumentality of that measure, to extend the power of the great body of the People. Wherever this spirit has effected an alliance with political power, tyranny and despotism have been the fruit. It is ever used for the ends of Government, and it presumes that knowledge, both theoretical and practical, which education and experience alone can give; and which, if not acquired and preserved in time of peace, must be sought under great disadvantages in time of war.

The duties of the Engineer Corps press

of high responsibility, should feel in the freedom which gives rise to such apprehensions, his highest security. When unfounded, the attention which they arouse, and the discussions which they excite, deprive those who indulge them, of the power to do harm: when just, they but hasten the certainty with which the great body of our citizens never fail to repel an attempt to procure their sanction to any exercise of power inconsistent with the jealous maintenance of their rights. Under such convictions, and entailing no doubt that my constitutional obligations demanded the steps which were taken in reference to the removal of the depositories, it was impossible for me to be deterred from the path of duty, by a fear that my motives could be misjudged, or that political prejudices could defeat the just consideration of the merits of my conduct.—The result has shown how safe is this reliance upon the patriotic temper and enlightened discernment of the People. That measure has now been before them, and has stood the test of all the severe analysis which its general importance, the interests it affected, and the apprehensions it excited, were calculated to produce: and it now remains for Congress to consider what legislation has become necessary in consequence.

I need only add to what I have, on former occasions, said on this subject generally, that in the regulations which Congress may prescribe respecting the custody of the public moneys, it is desirable that as little discretion as may be deemed consistent with their safe keeping should be given to the Executive agents. No one can be more deeply impressed than I am with the soundness of the doctrine which restrains and limits, by specific provisions, Executive discretion, as far as it can be done consistently with the preservation of its constitutional character. In respect to the control over the public money, this doctrine is peculiarly applicable, and is in harmony with the great principle which I felt I was sustaining in the controversy with the Bank of the United States; which has resulted in severing, to some extent, a dangerous connexion between a moneyed and political power. The duty of the legislature to define, by clear and positive enactment, the nature and extent of the action which it belongs to the Executive to superintend, springs out of a policy analogous to that which enjoins upon all the branches of the Federal Government an abstinen<sup>e</sup>ce from the exercise of powers not clearly granted. In such a Government, possessing only limited and specific powers, the spirit of its general administration cannot be wise or just, when it opposes the reference of all doubtful points to the great source of authority, the States and the People; whose number and diversified relations, secure them against the influences and excitements which may mislead their agents, make the safest depository of power. In its application to the Executive, with reference to the Legislative branch of the Government, the same rule of action should make the President ever anxious to avoid the exercise of any discretionary authority, which can be regulated by Congress. The biases which may operate upon him will not be so likely to extend to the representatives of the People in that body.

In my former messages to Congress I have repeatedly urged the propriety of lessening the discretionary authority lodged in the various departments; but it has produced no effect as yet, except the discontinuance of extra allowances in the Army and Navy, and the substitution of fixed salaries in the latter. It is believed that the same principles could be advantageously applied, in all cases, and would promote the efficiency and economy of the public service, at the same time that greater satisfaction and more equal justice would be secured to the public officers generally.

The accompanying Report of the Secretary of War will put you in possession of the operations of the department confided to his care, in all its diversified relations, during the past year.

I am gratified in being able to inform you that no occurrence has required any movement of the military force, except such as is common to a state of peace. The services of the army have been limited to their usual duties at the various garrisons upon the Atlantic and inland frontier, with the exceptions stated by the Secretary of War. Our small military establishment appears to be adequate to the purposes for which it is maintained, and it forms a nucleus around which any additional force may be collected, should the public exigencies unfortunately require any increase of our military means.

The various acts of Congress which have been recently passed in relation to the army, have improved its condition and have rendered its organization more useful and efficient. It is at all times in a state for prompt and vigorous action, and it contains within itself the power of extension to any useful limit; while, at the same time, it preserves that knowledge, both theoretical and practical, which education and experience alone can give; and which, if not acquired and preserved in time of peace, must be sought under great disadvantages in time of war.

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