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BY A. G. CHADWICK.

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MISCELLANEOUS.

INDIAN CRUELITIES. Ross Cox in his adventures on the Columbia River, gives the following description of the tortures inflicted on one of the Blackfoot tribe of Indians, by the Flatheads, by whom he was made prisoner—

"Having been informed that they were about putting one of their prisoners to death, I went to their camp to witness the spectacle. The man was tied to a tree; after which they heated an old barrel of a gun until it became red hot, with which they burned him on the legs, thighs, neck, cheeks and belly. They then commenced cutting the flesh from about the nails, which they pulled out, and next separated the fingers from the hand joint by joint. During the performance of these cruelties the wretched captive never winced, and instead of suing for mercy, he added fresh stimulents to their barbarous ingenuity by the most irritating reproaches, part of which our interpreter translated as follows:—'My heart is strong. You do not hurt me. You can't hurt me. You are fools. You do not know how to torture.— Try it again. I don't feel any pain yet. We torture your relations a great deal better, because we make them cry out loud like little children. You are not brave; you have small hearts, and you are always afraid to fight.'" Then addressing one in particular, he said, "It was by my arrow you lost your eye;" upon which the Flathead darted at him, and with a knife in a moment scooped out one of his eyes; at the same time cutting the bridge of his nose nearly in two.— This did not stop him; with the remaining eye he looked sternly at another, and said, "I killed your brother, and I scalped your old fool of a father." The warrior to whom this was addressed instantly sprang at him, and separated the scalp from his head. He was then about plunging a knife in his heart, until he was told to desist by the chief. The raw skull, bloody socket, and mutilated nose, now presented a horrible appearance, but by no means changed his tone of defiance.—

"It was I," said he to the chief, "that made your wife a prisoner last fall—we put out her eyes—we tore out her tongue—we treated her like a dog. Forty of our young warriors—" The chief then became incensed the moment his wife's name was mentioned; he seized his gun, and, before the last sentence was ended, a ball from it passed through the brave fellow's heart, and terminated his frightful sufferings. Shocking, however as this dreadful exhibition was, it was far exceeded by the atrocious cruelties practised on the female prisoners; in which I am sorry to say, the Flat-head women assisted with more savage fury than the men. I only witnessed part of what one wretched young woman suffered, a detail of which would be too revolting for publicity. We remonstrated against the exercise of such horrible cruelties. They replied by saying the Blackfeet treated their relations in the same manner; that it was the course adopted by all red warriors; and that they could not think of giving up the gratification of their revenge to the foolish and womanish feelings of white men."

FEMALE EDUCATION.

Female education is of immense importance, as connected with domestic life. It is at home where man generally passes the largest portion of his time, where he seeks a refuge from the vexations and embarrassments of business, an enchanting repose from exertion, a relaxation from care by the interchange of affection; where some of his finest sympathies, tastes, and moral and religious feelings are formed and nourished; where is the treasure of pure and disinterested love, such as is seldom found in the busy walks of the selfish and calculating world. Nothing can be more desirable than to make one's domestic abode the highest object of his attachment and satisfaction.

Well ordered home, man's best delight to make,
And by submissive wisdom, modest skill,
With every gentle care eluding art
To raise her virtues, animate the bliss,
And sweeten all the toils of human life—
This be the female dignity and praise.

Neither rank nor splendid mansions, nor expensively furnished apartments, nor luxurious repasts can accomplish these actions. They are to be obtained only from the riches of elevated principles, from the nobility of virtue, from the splendor of religious and moral beauty, from the banquet of refined taste, affectionate deportment, and intellectual pleasures. Intelligence and piety throw the brightest sunshine over the dwellings of private life, and these are the results of female education.

Intelligence and animated discourse, imminently exalt the dignity, and multiply the charms of every female that can excel in them—

It is a sacred and home-felt delight,
A sober certainty of walking bliss,
She who can sustain an elevated course of conversation; whose mind soars above the trifles

and common things of time and sense; who is distinguished for well-digested opinions, sensible remarks, habits of thinking and observation, good judgment, and well disciplined temper, is a perpetual source of blessings and exhilaration to all within her circle—she will make all that is desirable, so that none of her household will need or wish to seek elsewhere for happiness. They will be able "to drink waters out of their own cisterns, and running waters of their own wells."

MR WEBSTER'S SPEECH,

On the Currency and on the New Plan for collecting and keeping the public money, delivered in the Senate of the United States Sept. 23th, 1837.

MR. PRESIDENT: I am opposed to the doctrines of the message, to the bill, and to the amendment of the member from South Carolina, [Mr. Calhoun.] In all these, I see nothing for the relief of the country; but I do see, as I think, a question involved, the importance of which transcends all the interest of the present occasion.

It is my purpose to state that question; to present it, as well to the country as to the Senate; to show the length and breadth of it, as a question of practical politics, and in its bearing on the powers of the Government; to exhibit its importance, and to express my own opinions in regard to it.

A short recital of events and occurrences will show how this question has arisen.

The Government of the United States completed the forty-eighth year of its existence, under the present constitution, on the third day of March last. During this whole period, it has felt itself bound to take proper care of the currency of the country; and no administration has admitted this obligation, more clearly or more frequently, than the last. For the fulfillment of this acknowledged duty, as well as to accomplish other useful purposes, a national bank has been maintained for forty out of these forty-eight years. Two institutions of this kind have been created by law; one, commencing in 1791, and limited to twenty years, and expiring, therefore, in 1811; the other commencing in 1816, with a like term of duration, and ending, therefore, in 1836. Both these institutions, each in its time, accomplished their purposes, so far as currency was concerned, to the general satisfaction of the country. But before the last bank expired, it had the misfortune to become obnoxious to the last administration. I need not, at present, speak of the causes of this hostility. My purpose only requires a statement of that fact, as an important one in the chain of occurrences. The late President's dissatisfaction of the bank was intimated in his first annual message, that is to say, in 1829. But the bank stood very well with the country, the President's known and growing hostility notwithstanding; and in 1832, four years before its charter was to expire, both Houses of Congress passed a bill for its continuance; there being in its favor a large majority of the Senate, and a large majority of the House of Representatives. The bill, however, was negatived by the President. In 1833, by an order of the President, the public moneys were removed from the custody of the bank, and were deposited with certain selected State banks. This removal was accompanied with the most confident declarations and assurances, put forth in every form by the President and the Secretary of the Treasury, that these State banks would not only prove safe depositories of the public money, but that they would also furnish the country with as good a currency as it ever had enjoyed, and probably better; and would also accomplish all that could be wished in regard to domestic exchanges. The substitution of State banks for a national institution, for the discharge of these duties, was that operation, which has become known, and is likely to be long remembered, as the "Experiment."

For some years, all was said to go on extremely well, although it seemed plain enough to a great part of the community that the system was radically vicious; that its operations were all inconvenient, clumsy, and wholly inadequate to the proposed ends; and that, sooner or later, there must be an explosion. The administration, however, adhered to its experiment. The more it was complained of, the louder it was praised. Its commendation was one of the standing topics of all official communication; and in his last message, in December, 1836, the late President was more than usually emphatic upon the great success of this attempt to improve the currency, and the happy results of the experiment upon the important business of the exchange. But a reverse was at hand. The ripening glories of the experiment were soon to meet a dreadful blighting. In the early part of May last, these banks all stopped payment. This event, of course, produced great distress in the country, and it produced also singular embarrassments to the administration.

The present administration was then only two months old; but it had already become formally pledged to maintain the policy of that which had gone before it. The President had avowed his purpose of treading in the footsteps of his predecessor. Here then, was difficulty. Here was a political knot, to be either untied or cut. The experiment had failed, and failed, as it was thought, so utterly and hopelessly, that it could not be tried again.

What, then, was to be done? Committed against a bank of the United States in the strongest manner, and the substitute, from which so much was expected, having disappointed all hopes, what was the administration to do? Two distinct classes of duties had been performed, in times past, by the Bank of the United States; one more immediately to the Government, the other to the community. The first, was the safe-keeping and the transfer, when required, of the public moneys; the other, the supplying of a sound and convenient paper currency, of equal credit all over the country, and every where equivalent to specie, and the giving of most important facilities to the operations of exchange. These objects were highly important, and their most perfect accomplishment by the experiment had been promised, from the first. The State banks, it was declared, could perform all these duties, and should perform them. But the "experiment" came to a dishonored end in the early part of May. The deposit banks, with the others, stopped payment. They could not render back the deposits; and so far from being able to furnish a general currency, or to assist exchanges

(purposes, indeed, which they never had fulfilled, with any success) their paper became immediately depreciated, even in its local circulation. What course, then, was the administration now to adopt? Why, sir, it is plain, that it had but one alternative. It must either return to the former practice of the Government, take the currency into its own hands, and maintain it, as well as provide for the safe-keeping of the public money by some institution of its own; or else, adopt some new mode of merely keeping the public money, it must abandon all further care over currency and exchange. One of these courses became inevitable. The administration had no other choice. The State banks could be tried no more, with the opinion which the administration now entertained of them; and how else could any thing be done, to maintain the currency? In no way, but by the establishment of a national institution.

There was no escape from this dilemma. One course was, to go back to that which the party had so much condemned; the other, to give up the whole duty and leave the currency to its fate. Between these two, the administration found itself absolutely obliged to decide; and it has decided, and decided boldly. It was decided to surrender the duty, and abandon the constitution. That decision is before us, in the message, and in the measures now under consideration. The choice has been made; and that choice, in my opinion, raises a question of the utmost importance to the people of this country, both for the present and all future time. That question is, whether Congress has, or ought to have, any duty to perform in relation to the currency of the country, beyond the mere regulation of the gold and silver coin.

Mr. President, the honorable member from South Carolina remarked, the other day, with great frankness and good humor, that in the political classification of the times he desired to be considered as nothing but an honest nullifier. That, he said, was his character. I believe, sir, the country will readily concede that character to the honorable gentleman. For one, certainly, I am willing to say, that I believe him a very honest and very sincere nullifier, using the term in the same sense in which he used it himself, and in which he meant to apply it to himself. And I am very much afraid, sir, that (whatever he may think of it himself) it has been under the influence of these sentiments, which belong to his character as a nullifier, that he has so readily and so zealously embraced the doctrines of the President's message. In my opinion, the message, the bill before us, and the honorable member's amendment, form, together, a system, a code of practical politics, the direct tendency of which is to nullify and expunge, or perhaps, more correctly speaking, by a united and mixed process of nullification and expunging, to abolish, a highly important and useful power of the Government. It strikes down the principle upon which the Government has been administered, in regard to the subject of the currency, through its whole history; and it seeks to obliterate, or to draw black lines around, that part of the constitution on which this principle of administration has rested. The system proposed, in my opinion, is not only anti-commercial, but anti-constitutional also, and anti-union, in a high degree.

You will say, sir, that this is a strong way of stating an opinion. It is so. I mean to state the opinion in the strongest manner. I do not wish indeed, at every turn, to say, of measures which oppose, that they either violate or surrender the constitution. But when, in all soberness and candor, I do so think, in all soberness and candor, I must so speak; and whether the opinion which I have now expressed be true, let the sequel decide.

Now, sir, Congress has been called together in a moment of great difficulty. The characteristic of the crisis is commercial distress. We are not suffering from war, or pestilence, or famine; and it is alleged, by the President and Secretary, that there is no want of revenue. Our means, it is asserted, are abundant. And yet the Government is in distress, and the country is in distress; and Congress is assembled, by a call of the President, to provide relief. The immediate and direct cause of all, is derangement of the currency and the exchanges; commercial credit is gone, and property no longer answers the common ends and purposes of property. Government cannot use its own means, and individuals are alike unable to command their own resources. The operations, both of Government and people, are obstructed; and they are obstructed, because the money of the country, the great instrument of commerce and exchange, has become disordered and useless. The Government has funds; that is to say, it has credits in the banks; but it cannot turn these credits into cash; and individual citizens are as bad off as Government. The Government is a great creditor and a great debtor. It collects and it disburses large sums. In the loss, therefore, of a proper medium of payments and receipts, Government is a sufferer. But the people are sufferers from the same causes, and inasmuch as the whole amount of payments and receipts by the people, in their individual transactions, is many times greater than the amount of payments and receipts by Government, the aggregate of evil suffered by the people is also many times greater than that suffered by the Government. Individuals have means as ample, in proportion to their wants, as Government; but they share with Government the common calamity arising from the overthrow of the currency. The honorable member from Mississippi (Mr. Walker) has stated, or has quoted the statement from others, that while the payments and receipts of Government are twenty millions a year, the payments and receipts of individuals are two or three hundred millions. He has, I think, underrated the amount of individual payments and receipts. But even if he has not, the statement shows how little a part of the whole evil falls on Government. The great mass of suffering is on the people.

Now, sir, when we look at the message, the bill, and the proposed amendment, their single, exclusive, and undivided object is found to be, *relief to the Government.* Not one single provision is adopted or recommended, with direct reference to the relief of the people. They all speak of the revenue, of finance, of duties and customs, of taxes and collections; and the evils which the people suffer, by the derangement of the currency and the exchanges, and the breaking up of commercial credit, instead of being put forth as prominent and leading objects of re-

gard, are dismissed with a slight intimation, here and there, that, in providing for the superior and paramount interests of Government, some incidental or collateral benefits may perhaps, accrue to the community. But is Government, I ask, to care for nothing but itself? Is self-preservation the great end of Government? Has it no trust powers? Does it owe no duties, but to itself? If it keeps itself in being, does it fulfill all the objects of its creation? I think not. I think Government exists, not for its own ends, but for the public utility. It is an agency, established to promote the common good, by common councils; its chief duties are to the people; and it seems to me strange and preposterous, in a moment of great and general distress, that Government should confine all its deliberations to the single object of its revenues, its own convenience, its own undisturbed administration.

I cannot say, sir, that I was surprised to see this general character impressed on the face of the message. I confess it appeared to me, when the banks stopped specie payment, that the administration had come to a pass, in which it was unavoidable that it should take some such course. But that necessity was imposed, not for the nature of the crisis, but by its own commitment to the line of policies which its predecessor had adopted, and which it had pledged itself to pursue.

It withdraws its care from the currency, because it has left itself no means of performing its own duties, connected with that subject. It has, voluntarily, and on calculation, discarded and renounced the policy which has been approved for half a century, because it could not return to that policy, without admitting its own inconsistency, and violating its party pledges. This is the truth of the whole matter.

Now, sir, my present purpose chiefly is, to maintain two propositions.

I. That it is the constitutional duty of this Government to see that a proper currency, suitable to the circumstances of the times, and to the wants of trade and business, as well as to the payment of debts due to Government, be maintained and preserved; a currency of general credit, and capable of aiding the operations of exchange, so far as those operations may be conducted by means of the circulating medium; and that there are duties, therefore, devolving on Congress, in relation to currency, beyond the mere regulation of gold and silver coins.

II. That the message, the bill, and the proposed amendment, all, in effect, deny any such duty, and disclaim all such power, and confine the constitutional obligation of Government to the mere regulation of the coins, and the care of its own revenues.

I have well weighed, Mr. President, and fully considered, the first of these propositions; to wit, that which respects the duty of this Government, in regard to the currency. I mean to stand by it. It expresses, in my judgment, a principle, fully sustained by the constitution, and by the usage of the Government, and which is of the highest practical importance. With this proposition, or this principle, I am willing to stand connected, and to share in the judgment which the community shall ultimately pronounce upon it. If the country shall sustain it, and be ready, in due time, to carry it into effect, by such means and instruments as the general opinion shall think best to adopt, I shall co-operate, cheerfully in any such undertaking; and shall look again, with confidence, to prosperity in this branch of our national concerns. On the other hand, if the country shall reject this proposition, and act on that rejection; if it shall decide that Congress has no power, nor is under any duty, in relation to the currency, beyond the mere regulation of the coins; then, upon that construction of the powers and duties of Congress, I am willing to acknowledge, that I do not feel myself competent to render any substantial service to the public councils, on these great interests. I admit at once, that if the currency is not to be preserved by the Government of the United States, I know not how it is to be guarded against constantly occurring disorders and derangements.

Before entering into the discussion of the grounds of this proposition, however, allow me, sir, a few words by way of preliminary explanation. In the first place, I wish it to be observed, that I am now contending only for the general principle, and not insisting either on the constitutionality, or expediency, of any particular means, or any part of a program. I am not saying by what instrument or agent Congress ought to perform this duty; I only say it is a duty, which, in some mode, and by some means, Congress is bound to perform. In the next place, let it be remembered, that I carry the absolute duty of Government, in regard to exchange, no farther than the operations of exchange may be performed by currency. No doubt, sir, a proper institution, established by Government, might, as heretofore, give other facilities to exchange, of great importance, and to a very great extent. But I intend, on this occasion, to keep clearly within the constitution, and to assign no duty to Congress, not plainly enjoined by the provisions of that instrument, as fairly interpreted, and as heretofore understood.

The President says, it is not the province of Government to aid individuals in the transfer of their funds, other than by the use of the post-office; and that it might as justly be called on to provide for the transportation of their merchandise.

Now, I beg leave to say, sir, with all respect and deference, that funds are transferred from individual to individual, usually for the direct purpose of the payment and receipt of debts; and payment & receipts are duties of currency; that, in my opinion, currency is a thing Government is bound to provide for, and superintend; that the case, therefore, has not the slightest resemblance to the transportation of merchandise, because the transportation of merchandise is carried on by ships and boats, by carts and waggons, and not by the use of currency, or of any thing else over which Government has usually exclusive control. These things individuals can provide for themselves. But the transfer of funds is done by credit, and must be so done; and some proper medium for this transfer it is the duty of Government to provide, because it belongs to currency, to money, and is therefore beyond the power of individuals.

The nature of exchange, sir, is well understood by persons engaged in commerce; but as its operations are a little out of the sight of other classes of the community, although they have all a deep and permanent interest in the subject, I may

be pardoned for a word or two of general explanation. I speak of domestic exchanges only. We mean, then, by exchange, this same transfer of funds. We mean the making of payment from a distant place, by some mode of paper credits. It is done by a draft, order, or bill of exchange, that is one form; if done by the transmission of bank notes, through the post office, or otherwise, that is another form. In each, credit is used; in the first, the credit of the parties whose names are on the bill or draft; in the last, the credit of the bank. Every man, sir, who looks over this vast country, and contemplates the commercial connexion of its various parts, must see the great importance that this exchange should be cheap and easy. To the producer and to the consumer, to the manufacturer and to the planter, to the merchant, to all, in all classes, this becomes a matter of moment. We may see an instance in the common articles of manufacture produced in the North, and sent to the South and West for subsistence consumption. Hats, shoes, furniture, carriages, domestic hardware, and various other articles, the produce of those manufactories and of these employments which are carried on without the aid of large capital, constitutes a large part of this trade, as well as the fabrics of cotton and wool. Now a state of exchange which shall enable the producers to receive payment regularly, and without loss, is indispensable to any useful prosecution of this intercourse. Derangement of currency and exchange is ruinous. The notes of local banks will not answer the purpose of remittance; and if bills of exchange cannot be had, or can be had only at a high rate, how is payment to be received without great loss? This evil was severely felt, even before the suspension of specie payment by the banks; and it will always be felt, more or less, till there is a currency of general credit and circulation through the country. But when the banks suspended, it became overwhelming. All gentlemen having northern acquaintance, must know the existence of this evil. I have heard it said that the hitherto prosperous and flourishing town of Newark has already lost a considerable part of its population by the breaking up of its business, in consequence of these commercial embarrassments. And in cases in which business is not wholly broken up, if five or six per cent, or more, is to be paid for exchange, it is by so much enhanced the cost to the consumer, or takes away his profit from the producer. I have mentioned these articles of common product of northern labor; but the same evil exists in all the sales of imported goods; and it must exist, also, in the South, in the operations connected with its great staples. All the South must have, and has, constant occasion for remittance by exchange; and no part of the country is likely to suffer more severely by its derangement. In short, there can be no satisfactory state of internal trade, when there is neither cheapness, nor regularity, nor security, in the domestic exchanges.

I say again, sir, that I do not hold Government bound to provide bills of exchange, for purchase & sale. Nobody thinks of such a thing. If any institution established by Government can do this, as might be the case, and has been the case, so much the better. But the positive obligation of Government, I am content to look to the currency, and so far as exchange is concerned, to the aid which may be afforded to exchange by currency. I have been informed that, a few years ago, before the charter of the late Bank expired, at those seasons of the year when southern and western merchants usually visit the northern cities to make purchases, or make payment for existing liabilities, that bank redeemed its notes to the amount of fifty, or even a hundred thousand dollars a day. These notes having been issued in the west, were brought over the mountains, as funds to be used in the eastern cities. This was exchange; and it was exchange through the medium of currency; it was perfectly safe, and it cost nothing. This fact illustrates the importance of a currency of universal credit, to the business of exchange.

Having made these remarks, for the purpose of explaining exchange, and showing its connexion with currency, I proceed to discuss the general propositions.

It is then the duty of this Government, to see that a currency be maintained, suited to the circumstances of the times, and to the uses of trade and commerce?

I need not, sir, on this occasion, enter historically into the well-known causes which led to the adoption of the present constitution. These causes are familiar to all public men; and among them, certainly, was this very matter of giving credit and uniformity to the money system of the country. The States possessed no system of money and circulation; and that was among the causes of the stagnation of commerce. Indeed, all commercial affairs were in a disordered, deranged and miserable state. The restoration of commerce, the object of giving it uniformity, credit, and national character, were among the first incentives to a more perfect union of the States. We all know, that the meeting at Annapolis, in 1786, sprang from a desire to attempt something which should give uniformity to the commercial operations of the States; and that in and with this meeting arose the proposition for a general convention, to consider of a new constitution of government. Every where State currencies were depreciated, and continental money was depreciated also. Debts could not be paid, and there was no value to property. From the close of the war to the time of the adoption of this constitution, as I verily believe, the people suffered as much, except in the loss of life, from the disordered state of the currency, and the prostration of commerce and business, as they suffered during the war. All our history shows the disasters and afflictions which sprang from these sources; and it would be waste of time to go into a detailed recital of them. For the remedy of these evils, as one of its great objects, and as great as any one, the constitution was formed and adopted.

Now, sir, by this constitution, Congress is authorized to "coin money, to regulate the value thereof, and of foreign coins;" and all the States are prohibited from coining money, and from making any thing but gold and silver coin as tender in payment of debts. Suppose the constitution had stopped here, it would still have established that all important point of a uniform money system. By this provision, Congress is to furnish coin, or regulate coin, for all the States. There is to be but one money standard for the country. And the standard of value to be established by Congress, is to be a currency, and not a bullion merely; because we find it is to be coin;

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