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BY A. G. CHADWICK.

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MISCELLANEOUS.

HOW TO IMPROVE A POOR FARM.

Richard A. Leonard, of Middletown, N. J., has furnished us an interesting account of his manner of improving a worn-out farm, and of the sale of its products the last year.

Mr Leonard came into possession of 90 acres of cultivated but exhausted land, in May, 1833. In that year the sale of its products amounted to \$559 88; in 1834, the sales amounted 718 05; in 1835, to \$1125 04; and in 1836, notwithstanding the unfavorable season, to \$1166 13; thus more than doubling its products, by judicious management three years. His expense during the last year for labor, manure, and freight, amounted to \$254 72, thus leaving him a net profit on his farm of \$912 41, or more than ten dollars per acre per annum. We will quote Mr Leonard's statement of the means he adopted to thus double the fertility of his soil.

"My farm," says he, "was in so low a condition that it would not produce more than ten bushels of rye, or twenty of corn per acre; and as I had no other income but what I could make upon my poor farm, I set about farming in earnest. I found it was vain to attempt improvement without manure, so I continued to get about four hundred loads a year, three hundred of which I made in the following manner. I have marl, though of a very inferior quality. I cart about one hundred loads of this into my barn yard, and yard my cattle upon it through the season; I also cart about fifty loads to my hog-pen on which I keep my hogs the year round. In this way I get one hundred loads more, which is excellent for potatoes, corn, &c.; and as my farm is situated near the bay, I obtain from New York annually from 50 to 75 loads of the best stable dung, at one dollar per load on delivery, and by mixing it with the earth, &c., make up the four hundred loads. By this treatment I find my land improves rapidly, and my income in a like proportion. But I am sorry to say there are many farmers among us who still pursue the old manure system, scarcely making both ends meet. I might say something concerning the beneficial results of underdraining, and of lime as a manure; but I conclude for the present."

"This communication affords a worthy example of prudent industry and good management, and shows that even a poor farm, well managed, may be made to produce more profit than many a good one now is, under bad management.—*Albany Cultivator.*"

MOUNT SINAI. Among all the stupendous works of nature, not a place can be selected more fitted for the exhibition of Almighty power. I have stood upon the summits of the giant Etna, and looked over the clouds flowing beneath it upon the old scenery of Sicily and the distant mountains of Calabria; upon the top of Vesuvius, and looked down upon the waves of lava, and the ruined and half-recovered cities at its foot;—but they are nothing compared with the terrific solitudes and bleak majesty of Sinai. An observing traveller has well called it "a perfect sea of desolation." Not a tree, or shrub, or a blade of grass is to be seen upon the bare and rugged sides of innumerable mountains, leaving their naked summits to the skies, while the crumbling masses of granite all round, and the distant view of the Syrian desert, with its boundless waste of sands, form the wildest and most dreary, the most terrific and desolate picture that imagination can conceive. The level surface of the very top or pinnacle, is about 60 feet square. At one end is a single rock about twenty feet high, upon which as said the monk, the spirit of God descended while in the crevice beneath, his favored servant received the tables of the law. The ruins of the church and convent are still to be seen upon the mountain, to which before the convent below was built, monks and hermits used to retire, and secluded from the world, sing the praises of God upon his chosen hill. Near this, also in ruins, stands a Mohammedan mosque; for on this sacred spot the followers of Christ and Mohammed have united in worshipping the true and living God. Under the chapel is a hermit's cell, where in the iron age of fanaticism, the anchorite, lingered out his days in fasting, meditation, and prayer.—*Incidents of Travel, by an American.*

MORTALITY AT NACHEZ.—The Mississippi Free Trader contains an account of the ravages of yellow fever in Natchez, with the number of deaths in the months of September and October. Those in the former month amounted to 76, in the latter to 168. The editor adds, "this is quite a title abstracted from the number of our citizens who have remained in the city."

The yellow fever is making great havoc at Opelousas, La.

TEMPERANCE. The virtue of temperance in the use of food is too little practiced by many, who, at the same time, would be shocked by the charge of excess in the use of strong drink. Yet intemperance in eating is, perhaps, no less mischievous than in drinking; and, when properly considered, equally disgraceful. Excess in the use of food begins at a point far short of that brutal intemperance which shocks every beholder; it begins soon after hunger is appeased, and the animal spirits are refreshed; it begins when the otherwise satiated appetite must be tempted by variety and by dainties; it begins when a person begins to feel oppression.

For my part, when I behold a fashionable table,

set out in all its magnificence, I fancy that I see gout and dropsies, fevers and lethargies, with other innumerable distempers lying in ambush among the dishes.—*Addison.*

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. 28th, 1837.

[Concluded from our last.]

Sir, mine is not the ruthless hand that shall strike at the State Banks, nor mine the tongue that shall carelessly upbraid them with treachery or perfidy. I admit their lawful existence; I admit their utility in the circle to which they properly belong. I only say they cannot perform a national part in the operations of commerce. A general and universal accredited currency, therefore, is an instrument of commerce, which is necessary to the enjoyment of its just advantages, or, in other words, which is essential to its beneficial regulation. Congress has power to establish it, and no other power can establish it; and therefore Congress is bound to exercise its own power. It is an absurdity, on the very face of the proposition, to allege that Congress shall regulate commerce, but shall, nevertheless, abandon to others the duty of maintaining and regulating its essential means and instruments. We have in actual use a mixed currency; the coin circulating under the authority of Congress, the paper under the authority of the States. But this paper, though it fills so great a portion of all the channels of circulation, is not of general and universal credit; it is made up of various local currencies, none of which have the same credit, or the same value, in all parts of the country; and therefore these local currencies answer but very loosely and defectively the purposes of general currency, and of remittance. Now, is it to be contended that there is no remedy for this? Are we to agree that the Constitution, with all its care, circumspection, and wisdom, has, nevertheless, left this great interest unprovided for? Is our commercial system so lame and impotent? Are our constitutional provisions and our political institutions so radically defective? I think not, sir. They do not deserve this reproach; and I think it may now be easily shown that, under all administrations, from General Washington's time down to the third of March last, the Government has felt and acknowledged its obligation in regard to the currency, to the full extent in which I have stated it, and has constantly endeavored to fulfill that obligation. Allow me to go back to the beginning, and trace this matter down to our times a little in detail.

In his first speech to Congress, in 1789, having just then assumed his new office, General Washington recommended no particular subjects to the consideration of Congress; but in his speech at the opening of the second session, he suggested the importance of a uniform currency, without distinguishing coinage from paper; and this body, in its answer, assured him that it was a subject that should receive his attention. Recollect, sir, at that time there were State Banks having notes in circulation, though they were few. The first Bank of the United States was established at the third session of the Congress, in 1791. The bill for its creation originated in the Senate; the debates in which at that time are not public. We have, however, the debates in the House, we have the reports of the Secretaries, and we have the law itself. Let us endeavor to learn, from these sources, for what objects this institution was created, and whether a national currency was one of those objects.

Certainly, sir, it must be admitted that currency was not the only object in incorporating the bank of 1791. The Government was new, its fiscal affairs were not well arranged, it was greatly in debt, and the political state of things at the time rendered it highly probable that sudden occasions for making loans would arise. That it might assist the operations of the Treasury, therefore, and that it might make those loans to Government, if pressing occasions should arise, were two of the purposes had in view in establishing the bank. But it is equally clear that there was a third purpose, and that respected commerce and currency. To furnish a currency for general circulation, and to aid exchange, was, demonstrably, a clear, distinct, and avowed object, in the creation of the first bank.

On the 13th of December, 1790, the Secretary of the Treasury made a report to the House of Representatives, recommending a national bank. In this report, he set forth the advantages of such an institution; one of these advantages, he says, consists "in increasing the quantity of circulating medium, and quickening the circulation." And he then proceeds to observe: "This last may require some illustration. When payments are to be made between different places, having an intercourse of business with each other, if there happen to be no private bills at market, and there are no bank notes which have a currency in both, the consequence is, that coin must be remitted. This is attended with trouble, delay, expense, and risk. If, on the contrary, there are bank notes current in both places, the transmission of these, by the post, or any other speedy or convenient conveyance, answers the purpose, and these again, in the alternations of demand, are frequently returned, very soon after, to the place whence they were first sent; whence the transportation and re-transportation of the metals are obviated, and a more convenient and a more expeditious medium of payment is substituted."

Is not this clear proof, that one object, in establishing the bank, in the opinion of the Secretary, was the creation of a currency which should have general credit throughout the country, and, by means of such credit, should become a convenient and expeditious medium of exchange? Currency, sir, currency and exchange were then, beyond all doubt, important objects, in the opinion of the proposer of the measure, to be accomplished by the institution. The debates which took place in the House of Representatives confirm the same idea. Mr Madison, who objected to the bill on constitutional grounds, admitted nevertheless, that one of the advantages of a bank consists "in facilitating occasional remittances, from different places where notes happen to circulate;" and Mr Ames, who was one of the most distinguished friends of the measure, and who represented a commercial district, enlarged on the great benefit of the proposed institution to commerce. He insisted that the intercourse between the States could never be on a good footing, without an institution whose paper would

circulate more extensively than that of any State bank; and what he saw in the future we have seen in the past, and feel in the present. Other gentlemen, also, contended that some such institution was necessary, in order to enable Congress to regulate the commerce of the country, and, for that reason that it would be constitutional, as being proper means for lawful ends.

When the bill had passed the two Houses, the President, as we all know, asked the opinion of his cabinet upon its constitutionality. The Secretary of State and the Attorney General were against it; and among the grounds on which he placed the right of Congress to pass the law, was its adaptation to the exercise of the commercial power, conferred by the constitution on Congress. His language is—"The institution of a Bank, has also, a natural relation to the regulation of trade between the States; in so far as it is conducive to the creation of a convenient medium of exchange between them, and to the keeping up a full circulation, by preventing the frequent displacement of the metals in reciprocal remittances. Money is the very hinge on which commerce turns.—And this does not mean merely gold and silver; many other things have served the purpose, with different degrees of utility. Paper has been extensively employed. It cannot, therefore, be admitted, with the Attorney General, that the regulation of trade between the States, as it concerns the medium of circulation and exchange, ought to be considered as confined to coin." "And it is," he adds, "in reference to these general relations of commerce, that an establishment which furnishes facilities to circulation, and a convenient medium of exchange and alienation, is to be regarded as a regulation of trade."

Nothing can be plainer, sir, than this language; and therefore nothing is more certain than that those who recommended and supported the first bank, regarded it as a fit and necessary measure, in order to enable Congress to exercise its important duty of regulating commerce, and to fulfill, especially, that provision of a proper and suitable currency for circulation and exchange.

But it is not necessary to rely on these opinions of individual friends of the measure. Let the act speak for itself. What are the grounds and objects of the law, as set forth in the law itself? The preamble tells us. It declares—

"That the establishing of a bank will be very conducive to the successful conducting of the national finances; and will tend to give facility to the obtaining of loans for the use of Government in sudden emergencies; and will be productive of considerable advantage to trade and industry in general."

Trade and industry in general, therefore, constituted one distinct and definite object of the incorporation, if the law truly expounds its own purposes. It was not revenue alone; it was not mere utility to Government; but, in addition to these, it was trade and business in general, which among other considerations, formed an important part of the objects of the incorporation. And indeed, sir, events proved that it was vastly the most important part of all. What else did the first bank do, for the Government of the country, at all to be compared, in the amount of benefit, to its influence on the currency and the exchanges?

It is as clear as demonstration, therefore, that the Government in General Washington's time did feel itself authorized by the constitution, and bound in duty, to provide a safe currency, or general credit, for circulation and for exchange. It did provide such a currency. It is remarkable enough, so comparatively small was the mere object of keeping the public money, that no provision for that purpose was inserted in the charter; nor was there any law on the subject, so far as I remember, till the year 1800.

The bank went into operation, and its success was great and instantaneous; and during the whole period of its existence, there was no complaint of the state of the currency or the exchanges.

And now, sir, let me ask, what was it that gave this success to the new institution? Its capital was small, and Government had no participation in its direction; it was committed entirely to individual management and control.

Its notes, it is true, were made receivable in payments to government; that was one advantage. It had a solid capital, and its paper was at all times convertible into gold and silver at the will and pleasure of the holder; that was another and a most important ground of its prosperity. But, sir, there was something more than all this. There was something which touched men's sentiments, as well as their understandings. There was a cause which carried the credit of the new born bank, as on the wings of the wind, to every quarter and every extremity of the country.—There was a charm, which created trust, and faith, and reliance, not only in the great marts of commerce, but in every corner into which money, in any form, could penetrate. That cause was its nationality of character. It had the broad seal of the Union to its charter. It was the institution of the nation, established by that new Government, which the People already loved; and it was known to be designed to revive and foster that commerce which had so long been prostrate and lifeless.

Mr President, let it be borne in mind that I am not now urging the constitutionality or present expediency of a Bank of the United States. My sentiments are already well known on that subject, and it is not now before us.

But I have adverted to the history of the first bank, and examined the grounds on which, and the purposes for which, it was established, in order to show the fact, that the Government from the first, has acknowledged the important duty and obligation of providing for currency and exchange, as part of the necessary regulation of commerce. I do not mean, at present, to say that a bank is the only, or the indispensable, means by which this duty can and must be performed; although I certainly think it is the best. Yet I will not set limits to the wisdom and sagacity of gentlemen, in the invention and adaptation of means. If they do not like a bank, let them try whatever they do like. If they know a better instrument or agent, let them use it. But I maintain that the performance of the duty, by some means, or some instrument, is indispensable; and that so long as it shall be neglected, so long the commerce and business of the country must suffer.

And I now proceed to say, sir, that the late Pres. of the U. S. has acknowledged the duty of Congress to provide a national currency as often

and as fully and clearly, as any of his predecessors. His various admissions, or recognitions of this obligation, are too recent and too fresh in every one's recollection, to require, or to justify particular citation. All the evils we now feel, indeed we have encountered in the search of a better currency. It has been in the avowed attempt to discharge the duty of Government, connected with the circulation, that the late administration has led us to where we now are. The very fine charge that the late President ever brought against the bank was, that it had not maintained a sound and uniform currency. Most persons, probably, will think the charge quite unfounded; yet this was the charge. Its dereliction of duty, or its want of ability to perform what had been expected from it—its failure, in some way, to maintain a good currency, was the original proffered cause of dissatisfaction. And when the bill for rechartering the bank was negatived, it was not on the ground that Government had nothing to do with the national currency, but that a better provision for it might be made, than we had in the bank. The duty was not to be disclaimed, or thrown off, or neglected; new agents only were to be employed, that it might be better performed. The State banks would do better than the national bank had done; the President was confident of this, and therefore he rejected the national bank as an agent, and adopted the State banks. And what he so constantly promised us would happen, he as resolutely maintained, afterwards had happened. Down to his last message, down to the late hour of his administration, he insisted upon it that the State banks had fulfilled all his expectations, and all their own duties; and had enabled the Government to accomplish, in the very best manner, the great and important objects of currency and exchange. We have the same head of the Treasury, sir, who has repeated and echoed all these statements, whether of prophecy or fulfillment, in successive reports, some of them not less tersely and intelligibly written than the now before us; and we have heads of other departments, who concurred, I presume, from time to time, in the original statements, and in the faithful echoes of them from the Treasury. All these functionaries have been laboring with the utmost zeal, as they professed, to perform their constitutional obligations of furnishing the country with a good currency; and they have dragged themselves, into difficulty, perplexity, and distress, in this long and hot pursuit. And now, behold, they draw up all at once, and I declare that the object of all this toil and struggle is one which they have nothing at all to do!

But, as the last message of the late President was loud and warm in its praise of the State banks, for the good service which they rendered to currency and exchange, so no doubt, would the first message of the present President have commoned with equal earnestness, the success with which Government has been able, by means of the State banks, to discharge this important part of its duties, if the event of May last had not left them subject no longer a topic of felicitation. By the suspension of specie payments, all was changed. The duty of Government was changed, and the constitution was changed also. Government was now to give up, and abandon forever that very thing which had been the proffered object of its most assiduous care, and most earnest pursuit, for eight long and arduous years!

Mr President when I heard of the suspension of the banks, I was by the side of the Ohio, on a journey in the course of which I had occasion, frequently, to express my opinion on this new state of things; and those who have heard me, or noticed my remarks, will bear witness that I constantly expressed the opinion that a new era had commenced; that a question of principle, and a question of the highest importance had arisen, or would immediately arise; that hereafter the dispute would not be so much about means as ends; that the extent of the constitutional obligations of the Government would be controverted; in short, that the question, whether it was the duty of Congress to concern itself with the national currency, must, inevitably, become the leading topic of the times. So I thought, when I had the pleasure of addressing my fellow-citizens, and so I feel and think now. I said often on these occasions, and I say now, that it is a question which the people, by the regular exercise of their elective franchise, must decide. The subject is one of so much permanent importance, and public men have become so committed, on the one side or the other, that the decision must, as I think, be made by the country. We see an entirely new state of things. We behold new and untried principles of administration advanced and adopted. We witness an avowed and bold rejection of the policy hitherto always prevailing. The government has come, not to a pause, but to a revolution. It not only stops, but it starts back; it abandons the course which it has been pursuing for nearly fifty years, and it reproaches itself with having been acting, all that time, beyond the limits of its constitutional power.

It was my second proposition, sir, that the message, the bill, and the amendment, taken together, deny, in substance, that this Government has any power or duty connected with the currency, or the exchanges, beyond the mere regulation of the coins.

And, sir, is this not true? We are to judge of the message by what it omits, as well as by what it proposes. Congress is called together in a great commercial crisis. The whole business of the country is arrested by a sudden disorder of the currency. And what is proposed? Any thing to restore the currency? Any thing, with a direct view of producing the resumption of payment by the banks? Is a single measure offered, or suggested, the main purpose of which is general relief to the country? Not one, sir, not one. The administration confines its measures to the Government itself. It proposes a loan by the means of Treasury notes, to make good the deficiency, in the revenue; and it proposes secure vaults, and strong boxes, for the safe-keeping of the public moneys; and here its paternal care ends. Does the message propose to grapple, in any way, with the main evil of the times? Seeing that evil is one affecting the currency, does the message, like that of Mr Madison in 1815, address itself directly to that point, and recommend measures of adequate relief? No such thing. It abstains from all general relief. It looks out for the interest of the Government, as a Government, and it looks no

further. Sir, let me turn to the message itself, to show that all its recommendations, and, indeed, all the objects in calling Congress together, are confined to the narrow and exclusive purpose of relieving the wants of Government.

The President says, that the regulations established by Congress for the deposits and safe-keeping of the public moneys, have become inoperative by the suspension of payments by the banks, and apprehending that the same cause would so diminish the revenue, that the receipts into the Treasury would not be sufficient to defray the expenses of Government; and as questions were expected to arise, respecting the October instalment of the deposits to the States, and doubting whether government would be able to pay its creditors in specie or its equivalent, according to law, he felt it to be his duty to call Congress together. These are the reasons for calling Congress together. They are all the reasons; and they all have exclusive regard to the Government itself.

In the next place, let us see what measures the message recommends to Congress. In its own language, the objects demanding its attention are—

"To regulate, by law, the safe-keeping, transfer, and disbursement of the public moneys; to designate the funds to be received and paid by the Government; to enable the Treasury to meet promptly every demand upon it; to prescribe the terms of indulgence, and the mode of settlement to be adopted, as well in collecting from individuals the revenue that has accrued, as in withdrawing it from former depositories."

These are all the objects recommended particularly to the care of Congress; and the enumeration of them is followed by a general suggestion that Congress will adopt such further measures as may promote the prosperity of the country. This whole enumeration, it is obvious, is confined to the wants and convenience of the Government itself.

And now, sir, let us see on what grounds it is that the message refrains from recommending measures of general relief. The President says—

"It was not designed by the constitution that the Government should assume the management of domestic or foreign exchanges. It is, indeed, authorized to regulate, by law, the commerce between the States, and to provide a general standard of value or medium of exchange in gold and silver; but it is not its province to aid individuals in the transfer of their funds, otherwise than through the facilities afforded by the Post Office Department. As justly might it be called on to provide for the transportation of their merchandise."

And again: "If, therefore, I refrain from suggesting to Congress any specific plan for regulating the exchanges of the country, relieving mercantile embarrassments, or interfering with the ordinary operations of foreign and domestic commerce, it is from a conviction that such measures are not within the constitutional province of the General Government, and that their adoption would not promote the real and permanent welfare of those they might be designed to aid."

The President, then, sir, declines to recommend any measure for the relief of commerce, for the restoration of the currency, or for the benefit of exchanges, on the avowed ground, that, in his opinion, such measures are not within the constitutional power of Congress. He is distinct and explicit, and so far entitled to credit. He denies broadly and flatly, that there is any authority in this Government to regulate the currency, and the exchanges, beyond its care of the coin. The question, then, is fairly stated. It cannot be misunderstood; and we are now to see how Congress, and, what is much more important, how the country will settle it.

Mr President, if, in May last, when specie payments were suspended, the president of one of the banks had called his council of directors together, informed them that their affairs were threatened with danger, that they could not collect their debts in specie, and might not be able to pay their creditors in specie, and recommended such measures as he thought their interest required; his policy, in all this, would have been no more exclusively confined to the interests of his corporation, than the policy of the message is confined to the interests of this great corporation of Government. Both in practice, therefore, and on principle, in reality, and avowedly, the administration abandons the currency to its fate. It surrenders all care over it, declines all concern about it, and denies that it has any duty connected with it.

Sir, the question then comes to be this: Shall one of the great powers of the constitution, a power essential to it, on any just plan or theory of government, a power which has been exercised from the beginning, a power absolutely necessary and indispensable to the proper regulations of the commerce of the country, be now surrendered and abandoned forever? To this point we have come, sir, after pursuing the "experiment" of the late administration for five years. And from this point, I am persuaded, the country will move strongly, in one direction or another. We shall either go over to the gentleman from Missouri, and suffer him to embrace us in his gold and silver arms, and hug us to his hard-breasted, or we shall return to the long tried, well-approved, constitutional practice of the Government.

As to the employment of the State banks, for the purpose of maintaining the currency, and carrying on the operations of exchange, I certainly never had any confidence in that system, and I have none now.

I think the State banks can never furnish a medium for circulation, which shall have universal credit, and be of equal value every where. I think they have no powers or facilities, which can enable them to restrain their excessive issues of paper.

I think their respective spheres of action are so limited, and their currencies so local, that they can never accomplish what is desired in relation to exchanges.

Still, I prefer the employment of State banks to the project before us; because it is less of a project; because it is less dangerous; and, chiefly, because it does not surrender, effectually and in terms, a great power of the Constitution.

In every respect this project is objectionable. It is but another "EXPERIMENT;" and those who