

# The McArthur Democrat.

NO NORTH, NO SOUTH, UNDER THE CONSTITUTION, BUT A SACRED MAINTENANCE OF THAT INSTRUMENT AND THE UNION

V. L. 14.

McARTHUR, VINTON COUNTY, OHIO, DECEMBER 21, 1865.

NO 20

## The McArthur Democrat.

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY BY  
E. A. & W. E. BRATTON,  
OFFICE

in Bratton's Building East of the Court  
House up Stairs.

**TERMS, CASH.**  
The Democrat will be sent one year for one  
Dollar; and fifty cents for Six Months; for Sev-  
enty-five cents; Four Months, for Fifty Cents.  
All papers will be discontinued at the  
expiration of the time paid for.

### TERMS FOR ADVERTISING.

One Square one insertion, .50  
Each additional insertion, .50  
Cards one year, 5.00  
Notice of appointments of a minister, 2.00  
Attorney notices before A. P., 2.00  
Editorial notices per line, 10  
Yearly advertisements will be charged \$60,  
per column per annum.  
And in proportionate rates for less than a  
column, and for less time.  
For lines running charged as one square,  
and all advertisements as legal notices must  
be paid in advance.  
The above terms must be complied with.  
All payments must be made to the Propri-  
etor, as we have no agents.

## The Democrat a Job Office.

We are prepared to execute with neatness,  
dispatch and at prices that defy competition,  
all kinds of Job Work, such as—

**BOOKS,  
PAMPHLETS,  
HAND BILLS,  
SHOW BILLS,  
POSTERS,  
PROGRAMMES**

**BILL HEADS,  
BLANKS OF ALL KINDS,  
SHIPPING BILLS,  
LABELS, &c., &c.**

Give us a trial and be convinced that we can  
not only do the best but the cheapest work in  
this part of the country.

E. E. CONSTABLE, R. A. CONSTABLE  
Athens, O. McArthur, O.

## CONSTABLE & CONSTABLE, Attorneys at Law.

McArthur, Ohio.  
Will attend promptly to all business con-  
nected to their care, in Vinton and  
Athens Counties, or any of the Courts of  
the 7th Judicial District, and in the circuit  
and District courts of the United States,  
for the Southern District of Ohio.

Claims against the Government, Pen-  
sions, Bounty and Backpay collected.  
Oct 12th 1865—1yr

## E. A. BRATTON, Attorney at Law and McArthur, Ohio.

Being licensed by the U. S., for the purpose  
of acting in the prosecution and collection  
of every description of claims against the  
United States, and State of Ohio, including the  
Morgan raid claims.

Bounties and arrears of Pay  
Procured.

PENSIONS for wounded and disabled sol-  
diers and seamen, and for the heirs of soldiers  
and seamen who have died and been killed in  
the service. I would say to my friends, that  
I will attend promptly to their business and  
moderate terms.  
June 15th 1864.

## A. BRATTON ARCH. MAYO BRATTON & MAYO

Attorneys at Law,  
McARTHUR, VINTON Co. O.

Will attend to all legal business intrusted  
to their care in Vinton, Athens, Jackson, Ross,  
Hocking and Adams counties.  
Particular attention given to the collection  
of soldiers claims for Pensions, Bounties, ar-  
rears of pay &c., against the United States or  
Ohio, including Morgan raid claims.  
April 12th 1865—1yr

## JONES HOUSE, PORTSMOUTH OHIO.

Mr. Jones has purchased the Old Ply-  
mouth House, and changed its name as  
above. The House has been renovated and  
is now open for the reception of the public.  
It is on the wharf, a healthy location, and  
no pains will be spared to make the stay of  
visitors at this house, all they can wish.  
Charges low as the times will afford.  
June 29th 1865—6mo.

## CONDEE, M. D. A. SAMINGER, M. D. CONDEE & SAMINGER, PHYSICIAN AND SURGEONS McArthur, Ohio.

Will attend promptly and carefully to  
the practice of their profession in all its  
branches.  
SPECIAL ATTENTION GIVEN TO  
URGERY. 20  
n. 5th, 1865. U.

## G. W. J. WOLIZ, REPAIRER OF Watches, Clocks, AND MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS, HULBERT'S BUILDING, McARTHUR, OHIO.

—JUSTICES BLANKS, BLANK DEED  
etc. full descriptions for sale at 10  
Office.

## President's Message.

The report of the Postmaster Gen'l represents an encouraging exhibit of the operations of the Post Office Department during the year. The revenues of the past year from the loyal States alone exceeded the maximum annual receipts from all the States previous to the rebellion, in the sum of \$6,038,091, and the annual average increase during the last four years, compared with the revenues of the four years immediately preceding the rebellion, was \$3,533,845. The revenues of the last fiscal year amounted to \$14,556,158, and the expenditures to \$13,694,728, leaving a surplus of receipts over expenditures of \$861,430. Progress has been made in restoring the postal service in the Southern States. The views presented by the Postmaster General against the policy of granting subsidies to ocean mail steamship lines upon established routes, and in favor of continuing the present system, which limits the compensation for ocean service to the postage earnings, are recommended to the careful consideration of Congress.

It appears from the report of the Secretary of the Navy, that, while at the commencement of the present year, there were in commission 530 vessels of all classes and descriptions, armed with 3,000 guns and manned by 51,000 men, the number of vessels at present in commission is 117, with 830 guns and 12,123 men. By this prompt reduction of the naval force, the expenses have been largely diminished, and a number of vessels, purchased for naval purposes, from the merchant marine, have been returned to the peaceful pursuits of commerce. Since the suppression of active hostilities our foreign squadrons have been re-established, and consists of vessels much more efficient than those employed on similar service previous to the rebellion. The suggestion for the enlargement of the navy yards, and especially for the establishment of one in fresh water for iron clad vessels, is deserving of consideration, as is also the recommendation for a different location and more ample grounds for the Naval Academy.

In the report of the Secretary of War, a general summary is given of the military campaigns of 1864 and 1865, ending in the suppression of armed resistance to the national authority in the insurgent States. The operations of the general administrative Bureaus of the War Department during the past year are detailed, and an estimate made of the appropriations that will be required for military purposes in the fiscal year commencing the 30th day of June, 1866. The national military force on the 1st of May, 1865, numbered 1,090,516 men. It is proposed to reduce the military establishment to a peace footing, comprehending 50,000 troops of all arms, organized so as to admit of an enlargement by filling up the ranks to 82,600, if the circumstances of the country should require an augmentation of the army. The volunteer force has already been reduced by the discharge from service of over 800,000 troops, and the Department is proceeding rapidly in the work of further reduction. The war estimates are reduced from \$516,240,131 to \$33,814,461, which amount in the opinion of the Department, is adequate for a peace establishment. The measures of retrenchment in each Bureau and branch of the service exhibit a diligent economy worthy of commendation. Reference is also made in the report to the necessity of providing for a uniform militia system, and to the propriety of making suitable provision for wounded and disabled officers and soldiers.

The revenue system of the country is subject of vital interest to its honor and property, and should command the earnest consideration of Congress. The Secretary of the Treasury will lay before you a full detailed report of the receipts and disbursements of the last fiscal year, of the first quarter of the present fiscal year, of the probable receipts and expenditures for the other three quarters, and the estimates for the year following the 30th of June, 1866. I might content myself with a reference to that report, in which you will find all the information required for your deliberations and decision. But the paramount importance of the subject so pressed itself on my own mind, that I can but lay before you my views of the measures which are required for the good

character, and I might almost say, for the existence of this people. The life of a republic lies certainly in the energy, virtue and intelligence of its citizens; but it is equally true that a good revenue system is the life of an organized government. I meet you at a time when the nation has voluntarily burdened itself with a debt unprecedented in our annals. Vast as is its amount, it fades away into nothing when compared with the countless blessings that will be conferred upon our country and upon man by the preservation of the nation's life. Now, on the first occasion of the meeting of Congress since the return of peace, it is of the utmost importance to inaugurate a just policy, which shall at once be put in motion, and which shall commend itself to those who come after us for its continuance. We must aim at nothing less than the complete effacement of the financial evils that necessarily followed a state of civil war. We must endeavor to apply the earliest remedy to the deranged state of the currency, and not shrink from devising a policy which, without being oppressive to the people, shall immediately begin to effect a reduction of the debt, and, if persisted in, discharge it fully within a definite fixed number of years.

It is our first duty to prepare in earnest for our recovery from the ever-increasing evils of an irredeemable currency, without a sudden revulsion, and yet without untimely procrastination. For that end, we must each in our respective positions, prepare the way. I hold it the duty of the Executive to insist upon frugality in the expenditures, and a sparing economy is itself a great national resource. Of the banks to which authority has been given to issue notes secured by bonds of the United States, we may require the greatest moderation and prudence, and the law must be rigidly enforced when its limits are exceeded. We may, each one of us counsel our active and enterprising countrymen to be constantly on their guard, to liquidate debts contracted in a paper currency, and, by conducting business as nearly as possible on a system of cash payments on short credits, to hold themselves prepared to return to the standard of gold and silver. To aid our fellow-citizens in the prudent management of their monetary affairs, the duty devolves on us to diminish by law the amount of paper money now in circulation. Five years ago the bank-note circulation of the country amounted to not much more than two hundred millions; now the circulation, bank and national, exceeds seven hundred millions. The simple statement of the fact recommends more strongly than any words of mine could do, the necessity of our retrenching this expansion. The gradual reduction of the currency is the only measure that can save the business of the country from disastrous calamities; and this can be almost imperceptibly accomplished by gradually funding the national circulation in securities that may be made redeemable at the pleasure of the Government.

Our debt is doubly secure—first in the actual wealth and still greater undeveloped resources of the country; and next in the character of our institutions. The most intelligent observers among political economists have not failed to remark that the public debt of a country is safe in proportion as its people are free; that the debt of a republic is the safest of all. Our history confirms and establishes the theory, and is, I firmly believe, destined to give it a still more signal illustration. The secret of this superiority springs not merely from the fact that in a republic the national obligations are distributed more widely through countless numbers in all classes of society; it has its root in the character of our laws. Here all men contribute to the public welfare, and bear their fair share of the public burdens. During the war, under the impulses of patriotism, the men of the great body of the people, without regard to their own comparative want of wealth, thronged to our armies and filled our fleets of war, and held themselves ready to offer their lives for the public good. Now, in their turn, the property and income of the country should bear their just proportion of taxation, while in our impost system, through means of which increased vitality is incidentally imparted to all the industrial interests of the nation, the duties should be so adjusted as to

fall most heavily on articles of luxury, leaving the necessities of life as free from taxation as the absolute wants of the Government, economically administered, will justify. No favored class should demand freedom from assessment, and the taxes should be so distributed as not to fall unduly on the poor, but rather on the accumulated wealth of the country. We should look at the national debt just as it is—not as a national blessing, but as a heavy burden on the industry of the country, to be discharged without unnecessary delay.

It is estimated by the Secretary of the Treasury that the expenditures for the fiscal year ending the 30th of June, 1866, will exceed the receipts \$112,194,947. It is gratifying, however, to state that it is also estimated that the revenue for the year ending the 30th of June, 1867, will exceed the expenditures in the sum of \$111,620,818. This amount, or so much as may be deemed sufficient for the purpose, may be applied to the reduction of the public debt, which on the 31st day of October, 1865, was \$2,740,854,750.

Every reduction will diminish the total amount of interest to be paid, and so enlarge the means of still further reductions, until the whole shall be liquidated; and this, as will be seen from the estimates of the Secretary of the Treasury, may be accomplished by annual payments, even within a period not exceeding thirty years. I have faith that we shall do all this within a reasonable time; that, as we have amazed the world by the suppression of a civil war which was thought to be beyond the control of any Government, so we shall equally show the superiority of our institutions by the prompt and faithful discharge of our national obligations.

The Department of Agriculture, under its present direction, is accomplishing much in developing and utilizing the vast agricultural capabilities of the country, and for information respecting the details of its management, reference is made to the annual report of the Commissioner. I have dwelt thus fully on our domestic affairs because of their transcendent importance. Under any circumstances our great extent of territory and variety of climate, producing almost everything that is necessary for the wants and even the comforts of man, makes us singularly independent of the varying policy of foreign powers, and protects us from every temptation to "entangle alliances," while at the present moment the re-establishment of harmony and the strength that comes from harmony will be our best security against "nations who feel power and forget right."

For myself, it has been and will be my constant aim to promote peace and amity with all foreign nations and powers; and I have every reason to believe that, they all, without exception, are animated by the same disposition. Our relations with the Emperor of China, so recent in their origin, are most friendly. Our commerce with his dominions is receiving new developments, and it is very pleasing to find that the Government of that great Empire manifests satisfaction with our policy, and reposes just confidence in the fairness which marks our intercourse.

The unbroken harmony between the United States and the Emperor of Russia is receiving a new support from an enterprise designed to carry telegraphic lines across the continent of Asia, through his dominions, and so to connect us with all Europe by a new channel of intercourse. Our commerce with South America is about to receive encouragement by a direct line of mail steamships to the rising Empire of Brazil.

The distinguished party of men of science who have recently left our country to make a scientific exploration of the natural history and rivers and mountain ranges of that region, have received from the Emperor that generous welcome which was to have been expected from his constant friendship for the United States, and his well-known zeal is promoting the advancement of knowledge.

A hope is entertained that our commerce with the rich and populous countries that border the Mediterranean Sea may be largely increased. Nothing will be wanting, on the part of this Government, to extend the protection of our flag over the enterprise of our fellow-citizens. We received from the powers in that re-

gion assurances of good will; and it is a worthy of note that a special envoy has brought us messages of condolence on the death of our late Chief Magistrate from the Bay of Tunis, whose rule includes the old dominions of Carthage, on the African coast.

Our domestic contest, now happily ended, has left some traces in our relations with one at least of the great maritime powers. The formal accordance of belligerent rights to the insurgent States was unprecedented, and has not been justified by the issue. But in the systems of neutrality pursued by the powers which made that concession, there was a marked difference.

The materials of war for the insurgent States were furnished in a great measure, from the workshops of Great Britain; and British ships, manned by British subjects, and prepared for receiving British armaments, sailed from the ports of Great Britain to make war on American commerce, under the shelter of a commission from the insurgent States. These ships, having once escaped from British ports ever afterward entered them in every part of the world, to refit, and so renew their depredations.

The consequences of this conduct were most disastrous to the States then in rebellion, increasing their desolation and misery by the prolongation of our civil contest. It had, moreover, the effect, to a great extent, to drive the American flag from the sea, and to transfer much of our shipping and our commerce to the very Power whose subjects had created the necessity for such a change. These events took place before I was called to the administration of the Government.

The sincere desire for peace by which I am animated led me to approve the proposal, already made, to submit the questions which had thus arisen between the countries to arbitration. These questions are of such moment that they must have commanded the attention of the great Powers, and are so interwoven with the peace and interests of every one of them as to have ensured an impartial decision.

I regret to inform you that Great Britain declined the arbitration, but, on the other hand, invited us to the formation of a joint commission to settle mutual claims between the two countries, from which those for the depredations before mentioned should be excluded. These propositions, in that very unsatisfactory form, has been declined.

The United States did not present the subject as an impeachment of the good faith of a Power which was professing the most friendly disposition, but as involving questions of public law, of which the settlement is essential to the peace of nations; and though pecuniary reparation to their injured citizens would have followed incidentally on a decision against Great Britain, such compensation was not their primary object. They had a higher motive, and it was in the interests of peace and justice to establish important principles of international law.

The correspondence will be placed before you. The ground on which the British Minister rests his justification is, substantially, that the municipal law of a nation, and the domestic interpretations of that law, are the measure of its duty as a neutral; and I feel bound to declare my opinion, before you and before the world, that justification can not be sustained before the tribunal of nations. At the same time I do not advise to any present attempt at redress by acts of legislation. For the future, friendship between the two countries must rest on the basis of mutual justice.

From the moment of the establishment of our free Constitution, the civilized world has been convulsed by revolutions in the interests of democracy or of monarchy; but through all these revolutions the United States have wisely and firmly refused to become propagandists of Republicanism. It is the only Government suited to our condition, but we have never sought to oppose it on others; and we have consistently followed the advice of Washington to recommend it only by the careful preservation and prudent use of the blessing.

During all the intervening period the policy of European Powers and of the United States has, on the whole, been harmonious. Twice, indeed, rumors of the invasion of some parts of America, in the interests of monarchy, have prevailed;

twice my predecessors have had occasion to announce the views of this nation in respect to interference. On both occasions the remonstrance of the United States was respected, from a deep conviction, on the part of European Governments, that the system of non-interference and mutual abstinence from propagandism was the true rule from the two hemispheres.

Since these times we have advanced in wealth and power, but we retain the same purpose to leave the nations of Europe to choose their own dynasties and form their own systems of government. This consistent moderation may justly demand a corresponding moderation. We should regard it as a great calamity to ourselves, to the cause of good government, and to the peace of the world, should any European power challenge the American people, as it were, to the defense of republicanism against foreign interferences.

We cannot foresee, and are unwilling to consider what opportunities might present themselves, what combinations might offer to protect ourselves against designs inimicable to our form of government. The United States desire to act in the future as they have acted heretofore; they never will be driven from that course but by the aggression of European Powers, and we rely on the wisdom and justice of these Powers to respect the system of non-interference which has so long been sanctioned by time, and which, by its good results, has proved itself to both continents.

The correspondences between the United States and France, in reference to questions which have become subjects of discussion between the two Governments, will, at a proper time be laid before Congress.

When, on the organization of our Government, under the Constitution, the President of the United States delivered his inaugural address to the two Houses of Congress, he said to them, and through them to the country and mankind, that "the preservation of the sacred fire of liberty and the destiny of the republican model of government are justly considered as deeply, perhaps as finally staked on the experiment intrusted to the American people."

And the House of Representatives answered Washington by the voice of Madison: "We adore the invisible hand which has led the American people, through so many difficulties, to cherish a conscientious responsibility for the destiny of republican liberty." More than seventy-six years have glided away since these words were spoken, and the United States have passed through severer trials than were foreseen, and now, at this new epoch, in our existence as one nation, with our Union purified by sorrow, and strengthened by conflict, and established by the virtue of the people, the greatness of the occasion invites us once more to repeat, with solemnity, the pledges of our fathers to hold ourselves answerable before our fellow-men for the success of the republican form of government.

Experience has proved its sufficiency in peace and in war, it has vindicated its authority through dangers, and afflictions, and sudden and terrible emergencies, which would have crushed any system that had been less firmly fixed in the hearts of the people. At the inauguration of Washington the foreign relations of the country were few, and its trade was repressed by hostile regulations, now all the civilized nations of the globe welcome our commerce, and their Government profess toward us amity.

Then our country felt its way hesitatingly along an untried path with States so little bound together by rapid means of communications as to be hardly known to one another, and with historic traditions extending over very few years—now intercourse between the States is swift and intimate—the experience of centuries has been crowded into a few generations, and has created an intense, indelible nationality. Then our jurisdiction did not reach beyond the inconvenient boundaries of the territory which had achieved independence, now, through cessations of lands, first colonized by Spain and France, the country has acquired a more complex character, and has for its natural limits the chain of Lakes, the Gulf of Mexico, and on the east an west two great oceans.

[CONCLUDED ON SECOND PAGE.]