

The friends of Col. WILLIAM F. JOHNS, of Madison county, are making him a candidate for Brigadier-General, of the 2nd Brigade, 3rd Division, Mississippi Militia, Elections to take place on the 23rd of February next.

NOTICE TO DELINQUENTS. Who know themselves indebted to the office for Advertising and Advertisements, and who have delayed paying their bills, are hereby notified that unless they come forward and settle their respective accounts, by the first day of January, that they will be put in the hands of an officer who will collect them.

In order to publish as large a portion of the President's Message, as the nature of the case would admit of, we have excluded nearly every thing else. Much other matter, (interesting to some,) both original and selected, has been crowded out by this "most potent, grave, and revered" emanation of President Van Buren.

For the Canton Herald TO HIS EXCELLENCY, A. G. McNUIT.

LETTER NO. 4.

Dear Sir:— In my last letter, I called your attention to the system of encampments for Militia Officers. Feeling so deeply the importance of the establishment of this system, in this State, I beg leave to address your attention particularly to the subject. It is the only way that Militia officers can become qualified for the discharge of their duty. The officers must be qualified, or there can be nothing like organization or discipline in the Militia; consequently, that system best calculated to accomplish the object desired, and which is so essential, should be established. The people of this State cannot be too deeply impressed with the importance of having a well trained and well organized Militia; their very existence depends on it; if they value freedom they should look to it; if they value prosperity they should regard it; if they would escape midnight assassinations, they should encourage the arming, training and disciplining of the Militia. And what even may be said to the contrary? Let it be remembered (in the language of the Governor of So. Car. in his late message to the Legislature) "that good or bad, ignorant or intelligent, spirited or without spirit, as your wise or careless legislation may effect them, the Militia are still your only means of protection. In the appeal to force, which every State pertaining to the character of independence must be prepared to meet, they are your only argument." The Militia of So. Car. are probably better organized, and in better training, than any State in the Union.— This has been effected by the encampment system. It has been four years since the system was established there, and I learn that there are a great many Regiments in that State that would compare with a regiment in the United States Army. It is said that it is rare to meet with an officer from the highest to the lowest in command, who is not well qualified and capable of doing credit to his station. The present Governor of So. Car. is by education and profession, a military man. During his term of office he has devoted much time to the improvement of the Militia. He speaks of the encampment system, in the following language in his late message to the Legislature: "The system of encampments has wrought the best effects. Its success has been such that the inconveniences still arising from the defects in our experiment, comparatively new, should only urge us to a more diligent enquiry for the means to obviate them." In this spirit, I beg leave to recommend to your consideration, First, the purchase of a suitable parade ground for each regiment; Second, the issue of rations to the officers attending encampments. The first of these propositions, though apparently of little importance, will be of essential advantage in effect. At present, the convenience or caprice of individuals may at any moment, defeat the orders of the Commander-in-Chief, and frustrate the intentions of the law. The adoption of this measure, will also give an air of permanence to the system. The issue of rations will relieve considerably the burden of private expenses, in attending the encampments, and will initiate the soldier into a department of military affairs, which it is important he should understand. It will also tend to the better ordering of the Camps, and will facilitate the enforcing of discipline." I am convinced that your

My conviction of the necessity of further legislative provisions for the safe keeping and disbursement of the public moneys, and my opinion in regard to the measures best adapted to the accomplishment of these objects, have already been submitted to you. They have been strengthened by recent events, and the full conviction that time and experience must still further demonstrate their propriety, I feel it my duty, with respectful deference to the conflicting views of others, again to invite your attention to them.

With the exception of limited sums deposited in the few banks, still employed under the act of 1835, the amount received for duties, and with very inconsiderable exceptions, those accruing from lands also, since the general suspension of specie payments by the deposit banks, been kept and disbursed by the treasurer, under his general legal powers, subject to the superintendence of the Secretary of the Treasury. The propriety of defining more specifically and of regulating by law, the exercise of this wide scope of Executive discretion, has been already submitted to Congress.

A change in the office of collector at one of our principal ports, has brought to light a delinquency of the gravest character, the particulars of which will be laid before you in a special report from the Secretary of the Treasury. By his report and the accompanying documents, it will be seen that the weekly returns of this delinquent officer apparently exhibited throughout, a faithful administration of the affairs intrusted to his management. It however, now appears that he commenced abstracting the public moneys shortly after his appointment, and continued to do so, progressively increasing the amount, for the term of more than seven years, embracing a portion of the period, during which the public moneys were deposited in the Bank of the United States, the whole of that of the state bank deposit system, and concluding only on his retirement from office, after that system had substantially failed, in consequence of the suspension of specie payments.

The way in which this delinquency was so long concealed, and the steps taken to indemnify the United States, as far as practicable, against loss, will also be presented to you. The case is one which imperatively claims the attention of Congress, and furnishes the strongest motive for the establishment of a more severe and secure system for the safe keeping and disbursement of the public moneys than any that has heretofore existed.

It seems proper, at all events, that by an early enactment, similar to that of other countries, the application of public money by an officer of government to private uses, should be made a felony, and visited with severe and ignominious punishment.— This is already in effect, the law in respect to the mint, and has been productive of the most salutary results. Whatever system is adopted, such an enactment would be wise as an independent measure, since much of the public moneys, most, in their collection and ultimate disbursement, pass twice through the hands of public officers, in whatever manner they are immediately kept. The government, it must be admitted, has been, from its commencement, comparatively fortunate in this respect. But the appointing power cannot always be well advised in its selections, and the experience of almost every country has shown that public officers are not at all times proof against temptation. It is a duty, therefore, which the government owes, as well to the interests committed to its care, as to the officers themselves, to provide every guard against transgressions of this character, that is consistent with reason and humanity. Congress cannot be too jealous of the conduct of those who are entrusted with the public money, and I shall at all times be disposed to encourage a watchful discharge of this duty. If a more direct cooperation on the part of Congress, in the supervision of the conduct of the officers entrusted with the

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BY virtue of the above to me directed from the circuit court of the highest bidder for each house door, in the town of On Monday the 23rd day of Dec. 1889.