the compass of the same last ten years, the receipts of the Treasury were not adequate to the expenditures of the year; and that in two successive years it was found necessary to resort to loans to meet the engagements of the nation. The returning tides of the succeeding years replenished the public coffers, until they had again begun to feel the vicissitudes of a decline.

To produce these alterations of fullness and exhaustion, the relative operation of abundant or of unfruitful seasons, the regulations of foreign Governments, political revolutions, the prosperous or decaying condition of manufactures, commercial speculations, and many other causes, not always to be traced, variously combine. We have found the alternate swells and diminutions embracing periods of from two or three years. The last period of depression to us was from 1819 to 1822.—The corresponding revival was from 1823 to the commencement of the present year. Still we have no cause to apprehend a depression comparable to that of the former period, or even to anticipate a deficiency which will intrench upon the ability to apply the annual ten millions to the reduction of the debt. It is well for us, however, to be admonished of the necessity of abiding by the maxims of the most vigilant economy, and of resorting to all honorable and useful expedients, for pursuing with steady and inflexible perseverance the total discharge of the debt.

Besides the seven millions of the loans of 1813 which will have been discharged in the course of the present year, there are nine millions which, by the terms of the contracts, would have been and are now redeemable. Thirteen millions more of the loan of 1814 will become redeemable from and after the expiration of the present month; and nine other millions from and after the close of the ensuing year.—They constitute a mass of 31 millions of dollars, all bearing an interest of six per cent, more than 20 millions of which will be immediately redeemable, and the rest within little more than a year. Leaving of this amount, fifteen millions to continue at the interest of 6 per cent but to be as far as shall be found practicable, paid off in the years 1827 and 1828. There is scarcely a doubt, that the remaining 16 millions might within a few months be discharged by a loan at not exceeding five per cent redeemable in the years 1829 and 1830.—By this operation a sum of nearly half a million of dollars may be saved to the nation; and the discharge of the whole thirty one millions within the four years, may be greatly facilitated if not wholly accomplished.

By an act of Congress of 3d March 1825, a loan for the purpose now referred to, or a subscription to stock was authorized at an interest not exceeding four and a half per cent. But at that time, so large a portion of the floating capital of the country was absorded in commercial speculations, and so little was left for investment in the stocks, that the measure was but partially successful. At the last Session of Congress, the condition of the funds was still unpropitious to the measure; but the change so soon afterwards occurred that had the authority existed to redeem the nine millions now redeemable by an exchange of stocks, or a loan at five per cent. it is morally certain that it might have been effected and with it a yearly saving of ninety thousand dollars.

With regard to the collection of Revenue of Impost, certain occurrences have, within the last year, been disclosed in one or two of our principal ports, which engaged the attention of Congress at their last session, and may hereafter require further consideration. Until within a very few years, the execution of the laws for raising the revenue, like that of all our other laws, has been ensured more by the moral sense of the community, than by the rigors of a jealous precautiou, or by penal sanctions. Confiding in the exemplary punctuality and unsullied integrity of our importing merchants, a gradual relaxation from the provisions of the Collection Laws, a close adherence to which would have caused inconvenience and expense to them had long become habitual, and indulgence had been extended universally, because they had never been abused. It may be worthy of your serious consideration, whether some further legislative provisions may not be necessary to come in aid of this state of unguarded security.

From the reports herewith communicated of the Secretaries of War and of the Navy, with the subsidary documents annexed to them, will be discovered the present condition and administration of our Military establishment on the land and on the sea. The organization of the Army having undergone no change since its reduction to the present Peace Establishment in 1821, it remains only to observe, that it is yet found adequate to all the purposes for which a permanent armed force in time of peace can be needed, or useful. It may be proper to add, that, from a difference of opinion between the late President of the United States and the Senate, with regard to the construction of the act of Congress, of 2d March, 1821, to reduce and fix the Military Peace Establishment of the U. States, it remains hitherto so far without execution, that no Col. has been appointed to command one of the Regiments of Artillery. A supplementary, or explanatory act of the Legislature, appears to be the only expedient practicable for removing the difficulty of this appointment.

In a period of profound peace, the conduct of the mere military establishment forms but a very inconsiderable portion of the duties devolving upon the administration of the Department of War. It will be seen by the returns from the subordinate departments of the Army, that every branch of the service is marked with order, regularity and discipline. That from the Commanding General through all the gradations of superintendance, the officers feel themselves to have been citizens before they were soldiers, and that the glory of a Republican Army must consist in the spirit of freedom by which it is animated, and of patriotism by which it is impelled. It may be confidently stated, that the moral character of the Army is in a state of continual improvement, and that all the arrangements for the disposal of its parts have a constant reference to that end.

But to the War Department are attributed other duties, having indeed relation to a future possible condition of war, but being purely defensive, and in their tendency contributing rather to the security and permanency of peace. The erection of the fortifications provided for by Congress and adapted to secure our shores from hostile invasion; the distribution of the fund of public gratitude and justice to the pensioners of the Revolutionary War; the maintenance of our relations of peace and of protection with the Indian Tribes; and the internal improvements and surveys for the location of Roads and Canals, which during the last three sessions of Congress have engaged so much of their attention, & may engross so large a share of their future benefactions to our country.

By the act of the 30th of April, 1824 suggested and approved by my predecessor, the sum of thirty thousand dollars was appropriated, for the purpose of causing to be made the necessary surveys, plans, and estimates, of the routes of such roads and canals as the President of the United States might deem of national importance, in a commercial or military point of view, or necessary for the transportation of the public mail—the surveys, plans, and estimates, for each, when completed, to be laid before Congress.

In execution of this act, a board of Engineers was immediately instituted, and have been since most assiduously and constantly occupied, in carrying it into effect. The first object to which their labors were directed, by order of the late President, was the examination of the country between the tide waters of the Potomac, the Ohio, and Lake Erie, to ascertain the practicability of a communication between them, to designate the most suitable route for the same, and to form plans and estimates in detail of the expense of execution.

On the 3d of February, 1825, they made their first report, which was immediately communicated to Congress, and in which they declared that having maturely considered the circumstances observed by them personally, and carefully studied the results of such of the preliminary surveys as were then completed, they were decidedly of opinion that the communication was practicable.

At the last Session of Congress, before the board of Engineers were enabled to make up their second report, containing a general plan, and preparatory estimate for the work, the Committee of the House of Representatives upon Roads and Canals, closed the session with a report, expressing the hope that the plan and estimate of the Board of Engineers might at this time be prepared, and that the subject be referred to the early and favorable consideration of Congress, at their present session. That expected Report of the Board of Engineers is prepared, and will be forthwith laid before you.

Under the resolution of Congress authorizing the Secretary of War to have prepared a complete system of Cavalry Tactics of the United States, to be reported to Congress at the present session, a board of Distinguished Officers of the Army, and of the Militia, has been convened, whose Report will be submitted to you, with that of the Secretary of War.

The occasion was thought favorable for consulting the same Board, aided by the results of a correspondence with the Governors of the several states and territories, & other citizens of intelligence and experience, upon the acknowledged defective condition of our Militia system, and upon the improvements of which it is susceptible. The report of the board upon this subject is also submitted for your consideration.

In the estimates of appropriations for the ensuing year, upwards of five millions of dollars will be submitted for the expenditures to be paid from the Department of War. Less than two fifths of this will be applicable to the maintenance and support of the army. A million and a half in the form of pensions, goes as a scarcely adequate tribute to the services and sacrifices of a former age: and a more than equal sum, invested in fortifications, or for the preparations of internal improvement, provides for the quiet, the comfort, and the happier existence of the ages to come.—The appropriations to idemnify those unfortunate remnants of another race, unable alike to share in the enjoyments, and to exist in the presence of civilization, though swelling in recent years to a magnitude burdensome to the Treasury, are generally not without their equivalent, in profitable value; or serve to discharge the Union from engagements more burdensome than debt.

In like manner the estimate of appropriations for the Navy Department will present an aggregate sum of upwards of three millions of dollars. About one half of these, however, cover the current expenditures of the Navy in actual service, and one half constitutes a fund of national property, the pledge of our future glory and defence. It was scarcely one short year after the close of the late war, and when the burthen of its expenses and charges was weighing heaviest upon the country, that Congress, by the act of 29th April, 1816, appropriated one million of dollars annually, for eight years, to the *gradual increase of the Navy*. At a subsequent period, this annual appropriation was reduced to half a million for six years, of which the present year is the last. A yet more recent appropriation the last two years for building ten Sloops of War, has nearly restored the orignal appropriation of 1816, of a million forevery year. The result is before us all. We have twelve line of battle Ships, twenty Frigates, and Sloops of War in proportion, which with a few months of preparation, may present a line of floating fortifications along the whole range of our coast, ready to meet any invader who might attempt to set foot upon our shores.—Combining with a system of fortifications upon the shores themselves, commenced about the same time, under the auspices of my immediate predecessor, and hitherto systematically pursued, it has placed in our possession the most effective sinews of war, and has left us at once an example and a lesson, from which our own duties may be inferred. The gradual increase of the Navy was the principle of which the act of 29th April, 1816, was the first developement. It was the introduction of a system to act upon the character and history of our country for an indefinite series of ages. It was a declaration of that Congress to their constituents and to posterity, that it was the destiny and the duty of these Confederated States, to become, in regular process of time, and by no petty advances, a great Naval power. That which they proposed to accomplish in eight years, is rather to be considered as the measure of their means, than the limitation of their design.

They looked forward for a term of years, sufficient for the accomplishment of a definite portion of their purpose; and they left to their successors to fill up the canvas of which they had traced the large and prophetic outline. The ships of the line and frigates which they had in contemplation, will be shortly completed. The time which they had allotted for the accomplishment of the work has more than elapsed. It remains for your consideration, how their successors may contribute their portion of toil and of treasure for the benefit of the succeeding age, in the gradual increase of our Navy. There is, perhaps, no part of the exercise of the Constitutional Powers of the Federal Government, which has given more general satisfaction to the people of the Union, than this. The system has not been thus vigorously introduced, and hitherto sustained, to be now departed from, or abandoned. In continuing to provide for the gradual increase of the Navy, it may not be necessary or expedient to add for the present any more to the number of our ships; but should you deem it advisable to continue the yearly appropriation of half a million to the same objects, it may be profitably expended, in providing a supply of timber to be seasoned, and other materials for future use; in the construction of docks; or in lying the foundations of a School for Naval Education, as to the wisdom of Congress either of those measures may appear to claim the preference.

Of the small portion of this Navy engaged in actual service during the peace, squadrons have continued to be maintained in the Pacific Ocean, in the West India Seas, and in the Mediterranean; to which has been added a small armament to cruise on the Eastern coast of South America. In all they have afforded protection to our commerce, have contributed to make our country advantageously known to foreign nations, have honorably employed multitudes of our seamen in the service of their country, and have inured numbers of youths of the rising generation to lives of manly hardihood and of nautical experience and skill. The piracies with which the West India Seas were for several years infested, have been totally suppressed. But, in the Mediterranean, they have increased in a manner afflictive to other nations, and but for the continual presence of our squadron, would probably have been distressing to our own. The war which has unfortunately broken out between the Republic of Buenos Ayes and the Brazilian Government, has given rise to very great irregularities among the Naval officers of the latter, by whom principles in relation to blockades, and to neutral navigation, have been brought forward, to which we cannot subscribe, and which our own commanders have found it necessary to resist. From the friendly disposition towards the United States constantly manifested by the Emperor of Brazil, and the very useful and friendly commercial intercourse between the United States and his dominions, we have reason to believe that the just reparation demanded for the injuries sustained by several of our citizens from some of his officers, will not be withheld. Abstracts from the recent despatches of the Commanders of our several squadrons, are communicated with the Report of the Secretary of the Navy to Congress.

A report from the Postmaster General is likewise communicated, presenting in a highly satisfactory manner, the result of a vigorous, efficient, and economical administration of that Department. The revenue of the office, even of the year including the latter half of 1824, and the first half of 1825, had exceeded its expenditures by a sum of more than forty-five thousand dollars. That of the succeeding year has been still more productive. The increase of the receipts, in the year preceding the first of July last, over that of the year before, exceeds one hundred and thirty-six thousand dollars, and the excess of the receipts over the expenditures of the year has swollen from forty-five thousand to nearly eighty thousand dollars. During the same period, contracts for additional transportation of the mail, in stages, for about two hundred and sixty thousand miles, have been made, and for seventy thousand miles, annually, on horseback. Seven hundred and fourteen new Post Offices have been established within the year; and the increase of revenue within the last three years, as well as the augmentation of the transportation by mail, is more than equal to the whole amount of receipts, and of mail conveyance, at the commencement of the present century, when the seat of the General Government was removed to this place. When we reflect that the objects effected by the transportation of the mail are among the choicest comforts and enjoyments of social life, it is pleasing to observe, that the dissemination of them to every corner of our country has outstripped in their increase even the rapid march of our population.

By the Treaty with France and Spain, respectively ceding Louisiana and the Floridas to the United States, provision was made for the security of land titles derived from the Government of those nations. Some progress has been made, under the authority of various Acts of Congress, in the ascertainment and establishment of those titles; but claims to a very large extent remain unadjusted. The public faith, no less than the just rights of individuals, and the interest of the community itself, appears to require further provision for the speedy settlement of these claims, which I therefore recommend to the care and attention of the Legislature.

In conformity with the provisions of the Act of 20th May last, to provide for erecting a Penitentiary in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes, three commissioners were appointed to select a scite for the erection of a Penitentiary for the District, and also a scite in the county of Alexandria for a county jail; both of which objects have been effected. The building of the Penitentiary has been commenced, and is in such a degree of forwardness as to promise that it will be completed before the meeting of the next Congress. This consideration points to the expediency of maturing, at the present session, a system for the regulation & government of the penitentiary, and of defining the class of offences which shall be punishable by confinement in this edifice.

In closing this communication, I trust that it will not be deemed inappropriate to the occasion and purposes upon which we are here assembled, to indulge a momentary retrospect, combining, in a single glance, the period of our origin as a National Confederation with that of our present existence, at the precise interval of half a century from each other. Since your last meeting at this place, the Fiftieth Anniversary of the day when Independence was declared, has been celebrated throughout our land; & on that day, when every heart was bounding with joy, and every voice was tuned to gratulation, amid the blessings of Freedom and Independence, which the sires of a former age had handed down to their children, two of the principal actors in that solemn scene, the hand that penned the ever memorable declaration, and the voice that sustained it in debate, were, by one summons, at the distance of seven hundred miles from each other, called before the Judge of all, to account for their deeds done upon earth. They departed cheered by the benedictions of their country, to whom they left the inheritance of their fame, and the memory of their bright example. If we turn our thoughts to the condition of their country, in the contrast of the first and last day of that half century, how resplendent and sublime is the transition from gloom to glory. Then glancing through the same lapse of time, in condition of the individuals, we see the first day marked with the fullness and vigor of youth, in the pledge of their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor, to the cause of freedom and of mankind. And on the last, extended on the bed of death, with but sense and sensibility left to breathe a last aspiration to Heaven of blessing upon their country; may we not humbly hope that to them, too, it was a pledge of transition from gloom to glory; and that while their mortal vestments were sinking into the clod of the valley, their emancipated spirits were ascending to the bosom of their God.

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.

Washington, Dec. 5, 1826.

From the Baltimore Chronicle.

THE OFFICERS OF THE REVOLUTION.

We have already shown that by an act of the Continental Congress, passed on the 21st of October 1780, those officers of the Revolution, who remained in service till the end of the war, *were entitled to half pay for life*, and we shall now show the bad faith with which this *solemn pledge* of the nation has been observed. Those who may read this part of our history will scarcely believe when these truths are told them, *that not in one solitary instance has the United States redeemed this pledge; and, that though many of the officers of the Revolution have received a species of compensation for their various sacrifices and toils in the cause of the country, it has never been extended to them in a ratio of justice, commensurate with the obligations of government.*

We have said that Congress on the 21st October 1780, passed the following resolve.

"*Resolved by the Congress, &c. That half pay for life, be granted to the Officers in the Army of the United States who shall continue in service to the end of the war.*"

Now let us see how they fulfilled its conditions at the time of peace.

On the 30th November 1782, the preliminary articles of peace were signed at Paris, whereby, in effect, the war was brought to a successful issue, and Congress became bound by every obligation which should obtain acceptation, either in theory or practice in civilized communities, to provide funds from which might be discharged, not only the long arrears of pay, but the half pay thereafter to grow due under the act of the 21st October 1780, to each Officer, according to his individual right. It will here be borne in mind, that the preliminary articles of peace, were signed in November 1782, and that Congress (as it was reasonable to have been expected they would have done) did not provide any funds whereby the half pay which had *already* been voted to certain officers could be paid—but on the contrary, if we are to judge from their entire and culpable indifference we must believe, that nothing was further from their intentions, than to redeem the solemn pledge of the nation. Tired out by such delay, in the spring of 1783, the officers made an appeal to their beloved chief, *General Washington*, in which they described their destitute situation, and called upon him to exert his influence in their behalf. Here we would remind our readers, that this appeal to Washington, was preferred by men, who had resisted the eloquent, though insiduous one, made to their feelings and sufferings by the author of the Newberg letter—that it was made by those, who preferring the cause of country to that of self, had come to the patriotic determination, of giving an example to the world, that however unjustly they had been treated—however grossly the conditions of a sacred contract, entered into between them and their country, had been violated, that they were not to be tempted from the paths of duty and of honor, by the injustice of those by whom its civil institutions were administered—that rather than compromise the happiness and tarnish the glory of their country, they would still continue to endure their wrongs and await its returning sense of justice.

This appeal to Washington, founded as it was in justice, struck deep into his mind. He saw his brothers in arms on the eve of being disbanded by the government of that country, for whom they had endured every thing in the shape of human suffering but death, without the least provision or attempt being made, to alleviate their situation—he saw them on the eve of being disbanded under the act of Congress, of the 26th of May 1783. *directing him to issue*, and *obliging the officers to receive furloughs*, without one cent of pay being advanced to preserve them from the most appalling wants—they had appealed to him to avert, if possible, an evil so fraught with ruin; and reposing confidence in its justice, he assured his brother officers, that Congress *would attend to their grievances*, and while he gave *them* this assurance, he addressed a letter to Congress on the 7th of June, in which he deprecated the carrying into effect the *law of furlough*, and called upon them to render justice to his brethren in arms—for himself he asked nothing; he also enclosed the address of the officers to him—an address filled with patriotic sentiments, and a manly and dignified assertion of rights.

We know not how we can better serve the cause of the survivors of this gallant band of heroes and patriots, than by giving an extract of their address to their loved chief;—they say;—

"Having recently expressed our sense of what was due to our distress; having repeated, from your Excellency, the confidence we had that our accounts would be liquidated, the balances ascertained, and adequate funds provided for payment, previous to our being dispersed or disbanded; having seen, with pleasure the approbation which Congress gave of our reliance, *it is with a mixture of astonishment* and chagrin that we view the late resolve of Congress, by which the soldiers for the war, and a proportionate number of officers are to be *furloughed without any one of those important objects being accomplished;* and to complete the scene of woe, *are to be compelled* to leave the army without the means of defraying the debts we have necessarily incurred in the course of service, or even of gratifying those menials, in the pittance which is their due, much less to carry with us that support and comfort to our families, of which from our long military services, they have been deprived. No less exposed, then, to the insults of the meanest followers of the army, than to the arrests of the sheriff; deprived of the ability to assist our families, and without an evidence that any thing is due to us for our services, and consequently, without the least prospect of obtaining credit for even a temporary subsistence until we can get into business—to what quarter can we look? We take the liberty to say, Sir, only to your Excellency. And from the sincerity of our hearts, we do it no less from a persuasion of the efficiency of your farther efforts in our favour, than from the kind assurances you have been pleased to give us of your support.

To your Excellency, then, we make our appeal, and in the most solemn manner, from that abhorence of oppression and injustice which first unsheathed our swords; from the remembrance of the common dangers through which we have passed, and from the recollection of those astonishing events which have been effected by our united efforts, permit us to solicit your further aid, and to entreat that the order of the 2d instant, (June 1783) founded on the act of Congress of the 26th of May last, may be suspended or varied in its operations, so far as that no officer or soldier *be obliged* to receive a furlough until that honorable body can be apprized of the wretched situation into which the army must be plunged by a conformity to it. That your Excellency will endeavour to prevail on Congress—nay, that, on the principle of common justice, you will *insist*, that neither officer nor soldier *be compelled to leave the field* until a liquidation of accounts can be effected; till the balances are ascertained, certificates for the sums due given, including the commutation of half pay to officers, and the gratuity of eighty dollars to the soldiers, and till a supply of money can be furnished sufficient to carry us from the field of glory, with honor to ourselves and credit to our country."

Previous to the adoption of the address from which we have taken the above extract, the Commander in Chief had assured the officers, assembled at his request, that in his opinion, Congress would as soon as their time would allow, *establish funds for their military stipends.* This assurance was given by the Commander in Chief, because of his implicit reliance in the honor of Congress, and of their intention to redeem their plighted faith; it, however, was one among the few instances in which he was disappointed in his estimation of the intentions of the government towards that army, by which its liberty had

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