can now spare for a purpose *so dear to every parent's heart*, $600, or even half of it, from their money income, to send their sons from home?

Need we say that we contemplate with sorrow the sombre picture we have drawn, and that our greatest happiness would be to find that it is not warranted by the actual condition of that class of worthy and honourable citizens, whose interests will never cease to be the subject of our most earnest solicitude. Whether it be the natural tendency of some part of our political machinery to accelerate the march of poverty, and, as a consequence, to beget ignorance and crime, or whether the increase of these deplorable evils amongst ourselves be the inevitable result of the present general state and relations of the world—whether it be within the scope and power of domestic legislation, to arrest their progress and to mitigate their effects, are questions which imperiously demand the consideration of the philanthropist and the lawgiver. That poverty is progressive, and licentiousness increasing in our country cannot be denied. When reckless necessities stimulate *ignorance*, vices spring up in society as spontaneously as the rankest weeds from unclean soil. Far be it from us to offend or disparage those whom we so much regard. The surgeon uses his probe, not to inflict pain, but to cure the wound that gives it. Our object is to invite the suggestions of those who can benefit society by exposing the sources of actual depreciation & by specifying the appropriate remedy. Does it result from the subdivision of estates; the existence of slavery, and the more and more unprofitable results of that species of labour; from the desertion of their native abodes by all the most enterprising young men, the *elite* of the country to seek richer soils in newer countries, or more pleasure with less labour in a city life; or is this last specification an effect rather than a cause?—of one thing he who runs may read; it requires no Socrates nor Solon to tell us that, as when a *people* become poor and ignorant, corruption and slavery are treading close upon their heels; so something should be done, and done speedily and effectually, to educate the *mass* of the rising generation. The power to do this resides in the *legislature of the states*. Let them use it whilst yet there is amongst the people discernment and good sense enough to support them in the measure. The various features of this unpleasant subject will be hereafter taken up and canvassed more in detail.

THE VICE PRESIDENT.

Mr. Wright, from the Select Committee appointed on the subject of the Vice President, made the following report, which was ordered to be laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE.

The Select Committee to whom was referred the communication of the Vice President of the 29th December last, respectfully report:

That immediately after they assembled, they informed the Vice President of their being organized, and of their readiness to receive any communication which he might see fit to make. On the receipt of his reply, dated the 3d of January, and which accompanies this report, Mr. McDuffie, as the friend and representative of the Vice President, was admitted before the committee, and attended throughout the examination which followed.

The first object of inquiry, in proceeding to business, was to ascertain, whether any charges against the Vice President had been placed among the public records of the war department. And after an examination on this point, the committee became satisfied that no such charges were, or had been, among the records or papers of that department—But, as the letter from Elijah Mix, addressed to Major Saterlee Clark, under the name of "Hancock," had been published in the Alexandria Phenix Gazette, of the 28th December, which publication the Vice President had particularly referred to, in his note to the committee, they felt bound to examine fully and freely into the truth or falsity of the matters contained in that letter.

From the nature of the duties imposed upon a Committee of Inquiry, especially when connected with the distinct wish, as expressed by the Vice President in the present instance for the "freest investigation," has been impossible for the committee to give to their proceedings the connexion and conciseness incident to trials, when the testimony is ascertained and arranged before it is presented. They have, however, diligently applied themselves to the subject referred to them, and after a long and laborious examination, they are unanimously of opinion, that there are no facts which will authorise the belief, or even suspicion, that the Vice President was ever interested, or that he participated, directly or indirectly, in the profits of any contract formed with the Government through the Department of War, while he was entrusted with the discharge of its duties, or at any other time

They are also of opinion that the conduct of Mr. Barbour, the present Secretary of War, in regard to the letter of E. Mix, is not, in the slightest degree, deserving of censure.—The accusation contained in the letter was regarded by him as a base calumny upon the Vice President, penned by a man wholly unworthy of notice; and the Committee have no reason to believe that the supposed truth of that accusation was at any time the basis of any act of the War Department. The publication of the letter appears to have been produced as follows:

In the month of December last, Howes Goldsborough and Elijah Mix were competitors for a contract with the War Department: Goldsborough, soon after his arrival in Washington, obtained from Major S. Clark a copy of the letter, with a view to use the same against Mix, should he find it necessary. From this copy a transcript was obtained by Wm. F. Thornton, the junior editor of the Phenix Gazette, on the 27th December, which he published the next morning in that paper, accompanied by his editorial remarks. In this publication Mr. Barbour had no agency, either direct or indirect. When he heard that the letter had been made public, he requested Col. R. M. Johnson, of the Senate, to call upon the Vice President as a mutual friend, and inform him of the manner in which the letter had come to his (Mr. Barbour's) hands, and that the same had been subsequently transmitted through the post office in an envelop to Major Clark, to whom it belonged. This information was given by Col. Johnson to the Vice President in the morning of the 29th of December, just before he transmitted his communication to the house.

The letter to "Hancock," as published, & to which the Vice President had referred, contained, among other things, the following assertion: "And I have written letters of Vandeventer's, which most positively mention that he (meaning Mr. Calhoun) was engaged, and received some portion of the contract." As such letters, if they existed, might lead to further evidence, and be important to aid the Committee in their inquiries, they thought proper in the early stage of their proceedings to issue a subpœna both for Mix and Vandeventer, with a clause therein contained, commanding them to produce any papers in their possession, tending to prove the accusation which Mix had made in his letter to Hancock. In obedience to this summons, the witnesses appeared, and Mix having been first called upon to testify, produced, during his examination, the letters from Major Vandeventer, dated August 7th, 1818, September 10th, 1818, July 8th, 1820, March 24th, 1821, and the letter from Col. W. K. Armistead, dated March 24th, 1821.

On his second examination, he produced the letters from Major Vandeventer, dated August 3d, 1818, September 19th, 1818, and Oct. 17th, 1820. When it was perceived that in one of the letters of Major Vandeventer, to wit, the one dated the 7th of August 1818, and to which they here particularly refer, allusion was made to a partner in the contract, whose name was to have been kept secret, they felt it to be their duty to discover, if they could, who this secret partner was, or, at any rate to push the enquiry so far as to leave no room for suspicion that the Vice President was the person alluded to. This Branch of the subject has been the principal cause of their consuming so much time in the investigation; they found that they were here led into a wider field than could have been at first anticipated, and that it was necessary, in order to get a full view of the whole ground, to go thoroughly into the origin and history of what is commonly called the Mix contract. The letters of Major Vandeventer, above referred to, appear to relate principally to the private and confidential transactions between him and E. Mix, in regard to the contract; and there is no reason to believe or presume that the Vice President was ever made acquainted with their contents.

The letter from Col. Armistead, written while he was at the head of the Engineer Department, although it wears the appearance of an official paper and was improperly intended, as the Committee believe, to bring the weight of official influence to bear upon the private transactions between Vandeventer and Mix, was not written with the sanction or knowledge of the Vice President, and no copy of it was ever entered in the letter book of the Department.

The Committee will here remark, that they place no reliance whatever on the testimony of Elijah Mix. From the self contradictions, apparent on the face of his testimony, and which it is unnecessary here to recapitulate, aside from the infamy attached to his character, the committee were satisfied that he ought not to be believed on his oath.—The letters, however, just referred to, and produced by him during his examination, do not rest for their authenticity on this testimony. Those from Major Vandeventer, excepting such parts as had been defaced or obliterated were acknowledged by Major Vandeventer himself to be genuine; and he was requested in every instance, to state, with the letters before him what names or words had occupied the obliterated places, when the letters were written.

The letter from Col. Armistead was also acknowledged by that officer to be genuine. But the three papers purporting to be copies or the substance of a letter from Major Vandeventer to Mr. Calhoun, rest for their authenticity on the unsupported testimony of E. Mix and are regarded by the committee as having been fabricated by him. They are also of opinion that the words or names defaced from the letters of Major Vandeventer were so defaced by E. Mix: and the committee have been unable to ascertain with certainty, either from Vandeventer, the admitted author of the letters, or from any other source what the words or names were, which have been thus obliterated.

The offer for the contract appears to have been made by E. Mix on the 23d of July, 1818, and proposes to deliver at Old point Comfort, "from one to one hundred and fifty thousand perches of stone, at $3 per perch." The contract, as furnished from the War Department, bears date the 25th of July, 1818. It stipulates for the delivery of one hundred and fifty thousand perches of stone, at three dollars per perch—is drawn up in the hand writing of Maj. Vandeventer, and by him alone witnessed, and is signed by Gen. Joseph G. Swift, then chief engineer, and by E. Mix. Although Mix here appears to have been the only contractor, yet, from the evidence, there is reason to believe, that at the time the contract was made, or soon after, and before the execution of any valid bond for the performance thereof, it was divided into shares, and that one fourth belonged to Major Vandeventer, one fourth to Elijah Mix, one fourth to R. C. Jennings, and the remaining fourth, to a person whose name was not to have been mentioned.

The title of Vandeventer to his fourth, at the time above referred to, appears to have rested on a verbal and confidential agreement between him and Mix, and so remained till the 24th of April, 1819, when he received a written bill of sale of one half of the whole contract. Howes Goldsborough & Co. subsequently became the owners of one fourth, by purchase from Samuel Cooper, who had previously purchased from Major Vandeventer; and they (Goldsborough & Co) were recognised at the War Department, by the consent of E. Mix, expressed in a letter sent by him to the Secretary of War, and dated the 13th of April, 1821.

The first bond, received at the Engineer Department, of the contract, is dated 5th of August, 1818, and describes the contract as having been made by Elijah Mix and *George Cooper*, for the delivery of *one hundred thousand* perches of stone, being fifty thousand less than Mix was entitled to deliver. This bond is signed by E. Mix and George Cooper, as contractors; and by Samuel Cooper and James Oakley, as sureties; the sureties were regularly approved by R. Riker, Recorder of the City of New York as appears by the certificate following immediately after his signatures, and dated the same as the bond. It will be perceived at once that there is an obvious & fatal variance between this bond & the contract. In an official letter written from the engineer department, on the 11th day of August, 1818, to Lieut. George Blaney, and copied into the letter book of that Department, the contract is described as for one hundred thousand perches of stone.—The language of the letter is as follows:—"You will inform the agent that a contract has been made with Capt. E. Mix, to deliver, as soon as practicable, at the Rip Raps, one hundred thousand perch of stone."

In a subsequent letter, written to James Maurice, also copied into the same letter book and dated the 21st day of August, 1818, the contract is described as being for two hundred thousand perches. The language of this letter is as follows: 'Mr. E. Mix will soon commence to deliver stone at the Rip Raps, under contract with this Department, for two hundred thousand perch.'

Some time after the delivery at the Engineer Department of the first bond, but at what precise time does not appear, a new bond was given for the delivery of one hundred and fifty thousand perches, describing the contract as made by E. Mix. This second bond is signed by E. Mix as contractor, and Samuel Cooper and James Oakley, as sureties—and it is ante-dated to 5th of August, 1818—but no certificate, in regard to the sufficiency of the sureties, was attached to this instrument. The Committee have been unable to ascertain when this second bond was received at the Engineer Department; though the impression of Gen. Swift is, that it was received before he left the office, which was on the 11th of November, 1818. Major Vandeventer also expressed his belief, that it was delivered during the Fall 1818. How far his testimony conflicts, if at all, with his letter to Mix, dated 17th of October, 1820, in which he urges upon the latter to attend to 'the bond,' the Committee will not undertake to determine.

The attention of Gen. Swift was particularly directed before the Committee, to the discrepancies in the bonds, and also to the two letters from the Engineer Department, in which the contract is alluded to. The explanation which he gives will be found in his testimony, to which the Committee refer.

During an investigation relative to this contract, by a Committee of the House of Representatives, in 1822, a copy of the bond was requested by that Committee. In answer to which, the Engineer Department furnished a copy of the second bond, which had been substituted for the one first given—but, as there was no certificate of the Recorder of New York, approving the sureties on the second bond a copy of the certificate annexed to the cancelled bond, was made and attached to the copy of the bond furnished Capt. Smith, of the Engineer Department, who attested these copies, has explained the cause of his certifying to this inaccuracy, and to his testimony, in that particular, the Committee here refer.

The question still remains, who was the secret partner? But the committee being entirely satisfied that the secret partner was not the Vice President, which was the main question to be decided, will leave the conflicting testimony on the other point with the House, without attempting to decide upon its relative weight.

On the 27th January, 1827, the Committee closed the examination of witnesses on their part, except as to one or two, who had been summoned, but had not attended. On that day, the friend and representative of the Vice President was advised that the Committee, had so closed their examination and he was also informed by a member of the Committee, in its presence, that the Committee were unanimously of opinion that the Vice President was innocent of the charge of having participated in any manner in any contract made with the War Department, while he was Secretary of War. The same day, at the instance of Mr. M'Duffie, subpœnas were issued for witnesses to appear and testify on behalf of the Vice President. On the 29th of January, the Committee received from the friend and representative of the Vice President, a paper protesting against the previous proceedings of the committee. Considering this paper as prepared and presented under the sanction of the high officer, in whose behalf it protests, the Committee have deemed it their duty to transmit it to the House, but they forbear all comment on its contents.

The Committee submit herewith all the testimony they have received during the examination.

CONGRESS.

From the National Journal.

TUESDAY, Feb. 13.

In the Senate, yesterday, Mr. Cobb presented sundry proceedings of the Executive and Legislature of the State of Georgia, on the subject of Treaties lately concluded by the United States with the Creek Indians. Mr. Sanford, from the committee on Foreign Relations, made a report on the memorials of sundry merchants and traders who have lost property by French depredations, accompanied by a resolution for the discharge of the committee from the further consideration of the memorials. A bill was reported from the committee on the District of Columbia, appropriating $37,000 for McAdamizing Pennsylvania Avenue from the Capitol to Georgetown. The Senate spent three hours in the consideration of Executive business.

In the House of Representatives, yesterday, the discussion of the resolution offered by Mr. Saunders was resumed and Mr. Dorsey concluded his remarks, being compelled to cut them short in consequence of indisposition. Mr. Saunders will speak in reply this morning. The House then went into Committee of the whole on the state of the Union, and took up the bill authorizing an exchange of stock. Mr. Verplanck's amendment providing that, as a third alternative, Treasury notes should be issued to the amount required, was negatived, and the Committee rose and reported the bill to the House.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 14.

In the Senate yesterday, Mr. Findlay submitted a resolution instructing the Committee on Manufactures to inquire into the expediency of increasing the duties on imported spirits. The bill from the other House for altering the acts imposing duties on wool and certain articles of woollen manufacture, was read a second time, and, after some debate, referred to the Committee on Manufactures. The bill to aid the State of Indiana in the construction of a canal between the Wabash River and Lake Erie, by appropriating five sections of public land, laying on either side of the route contemplated, to that object, was taken up for consideration. Some amendments were offered and discussed, when the bill was ordered to a third reading, Ayes 28—noes 14. The bill to aid the State of Illinois in the construction of a Canal connecting the waters of Illinois river with those of Lake Michigan, was considered, & as amended, ordered to a third reading. The bill for reducing the duties on imported Wines, Teas, and Coffee, was taken up for consideration; and after some discussion, ordered, as amended, to a third reading.

In the House of Representatives yesterday, the Select Committee appointed on the letter of the Vice President, made their Report, which was read. This report, which acquits the Vice President, in the most unequivocal terms, of any participation in the profits of the Mix Contract will be found in another part of our paper, as well as another Report made by Mr. Floyd, the Chairman of the Committee which was rejected in committee: both Reports were ordered to be printed.—We understand that five of the Committee were decidedly in favor of the first Report, presented by Mr Wright, that the Chairman (Mr. Floyd) was in favor of that which he presented, and that the other member of the Committee was indifferent as to which of the Reports was adopted. There is no essential difference between the Reports.

The House subsequently ordered the Bill authorizing an exchange of Stock, and the Bill to relieve Swedish and Norwegian vessels from the payment of discriminating duties, to be engrossed, in the form in which they were reported, and read a third time to-day.

THURSDAY, Feb. 15

In the Senate yesterday, the Vice President of the United States attended and resumed the chair. The bill for the location and opening of a road in the State of Indiana, was read a third time and passed. The bill for reducing the duties heretofore levied on Teas, Coffee, and Wine, was read a third time and passed. The bill appropriating certain sections of public land, to aid the State of Illinois in opening a Canal communication between the river Illinois and Lake Michigan, was read a third time and passed. The bill appropriating certain sections of public lands for the purpose of aiding the State of Indiana to open a Canal between the Wabash river and Lake Erie, was read a third time and passed. The bill for the relief of John Smith, T. and Wilson P. Hunt, was considered, and after a long discussion, rejected by the casting vote of the Vice President. The bill for the relief of Ebenezer Oliver & Co. and the bill for graduating the price of public lands were laid on the table, with the understanding that they would not be called up this session.

In the House of Representatives yesterday, the bills ordered to be engrossed on the preceding day were read a third time and passed. The bill to refund certain duties paid upon vessels and cargoes belonging to the city of Hamburg, went through Committee of the Whole, and was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time to-day. The House then went through Committee with the General Appropriation Bill, and reported it to the House with the amendments which the Chairman of the Committee moved. Some discussion took place in Committee, and in the House, in the clause appropriating 9,000 dollars for an outfit for a minister to succeed Mr. Anderson at the Congress of Tucubaya; and the ayes and noes were called on the question, but the house adjourned before it was taken.

FRIDAY, Feb. 16.

In the Senate yesterday, Mr. Dickerson, from the Committee on Manufactures reported the bill for altering the acts imposing duties on imported woollens without amendment. The Senate took up the bill appropriating five hundred thousand dollars annually, for six years, for the gradual improvement of the Navy of the United States—and after a long discussion and the adoption of several amendments, the bill was laid on the table, with the understanding that it would be taken up to day.

In the House of Representatives yesterday, the discussion was resumed on the clause in the General Appropriation Bill, which provided an outfit of $9,000 for a Minister to succeed Mr. Anderson to the mission to Tucubaya; when finally it was determined not to fill the blank with that sum, by a vote of 117 to 45. The blank was then on motion of Mr. Cook, filled with $4,500, and thus amended, the bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time to day. The resolution of Mr. Saunders was taken up and discussed; Mr. Saunders concluding the observations which he commenced on the preceding day, after which, he was followed by Mr. Buckner in reply.

SATURDAY, Feb. 17.

In the Senate, yesterday, the bill further to amend "an act to establish the Judicial Courts of the United States," passed the 24th of September, 1789," was read a second time, considered, and after some debate, laid on the table. The Senate resumed the bill for the gradual improvement of the Navy of the United States—contemplating the establishment of two dry docks the collection and preservation of ship timber, and the establishment of a Naval Academy. Mr. Smith, of South Carolina, moved to strike out that portion of the bill which provides for a Naval Academy. This motion, after long debate, was negatived; Ayes 22—Noes 24. The bill was ordered to a third reading.

In the House of Representatives yesterday, Mr. F. Johnson spoke on the subject of the resolution of Mr. Saunders, until the hour had expired. The General Appropriation Bill was passed. The House then took up the Bill making appropriations for the Military Service, when some discussion took place on the clause for the continuation of the Cumberland Road, but it was finally carried. The amendment moved by Mr. Vance, to introduce an appropriation for the Georgia Militia claims, and the clause relative to surveys for Internal Improvement, will lead to much discussion to day.

LEGISLATURE OF MARYLAND.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

ABSTRACT OF PROCEEDINGS.

TUESDAY, Feb. 13.

Mr. Goldsborough presented the petition of Lucretia Vane, of Dorchester county, praying a pension for the services of John Vane, her late husband, as a private in the army of the revolution. Ordered, That the petition be referred to the committee on pensions and revolutionary claims.

By Mr. Dennis, the petition of William Wailes of Somerset county, praying the passage of an act supplementary to an act vesting in the levy courts the power of opening roads.

Mr. Banning submitted the following message, which was twice read.

By the House of Delegates, Feb. 13.

Gentlemen of the Senate,

As an inducement to produce despatch of business, and to draw the session to as early a close as possible, we propose, with the concurrence of your honourable body, to fix on ——— to adjourn the legislature. There is every reason to believe that, by that time all essential business may be brought to a close, and as we all agree, that the less done besides what is indispensably necessary, the better, the earlier we can return to our homes, the more welcome we shall be to our constituents.

Mr. Teackle offered the following as a substitute therefor, which was also twice read.

By the House of Delegates, Feb. 13.

Gentlemen of the Senate.

With a view to the adjournment of the legislature, we propose, with your concurrence, to appoint a joint committee to examine into and report upon the business necessary to be acted upon. Messrs. —— are appointed on the part of this house to act, in conjunction with such gentlemen as may be appointed on the part of your honourable body.

On motion by Mr. John W. Thomas, the question was taken, That the further consideration of the message and substitute proposed, be indefinitely postponed? And the same was decided in the affirmative.

Mr. Chapman, the chairman of the committee on ways and means, submitted their report; which was read, and ordered to be laid upon the table.

Mr. Tidball submitted the following order, which was twice read.

Ordered, That one thousand copies of the report of the committee on ways and means, be printed in octavo form for distribution.

Mr Brown moved to amend the order by striking out, "one thousand," and inserting "five hundred," and the question being taken thereon, it was determined in the negative.

The order was then adopted.

Mr. Ridgaway submitted the following order, which was twice read.

Ordered, That the committee on public instruction, inquire into the expediency of purchasing fifty thousand spelling books, written and compiled by Noah Webster, esqr. for the use of primary schools.

And on motion by Mr. John Hughes, the further consideration thereof was referred to the first day of September next.

And then the house adjourned until to-morrow morning ten o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 14.

Petitions and memorials, of the following titles, were this day presented, viz.

By Mr. Campbell the petition of sundry citizens of Kent county, praying pecuniary relief for Elizabeth Davis of said county.

Also, the petition of Rebecca Davis, of Kent county, praying pecuniary relief.

And, the petition of Sarah Taylor, of Kent county, praying pecuniary relief.

By Mr. Bean, the petition of George O. Trenchard, and others, of Kent county, praying support for the orphan child of William Start.

Ordered that the petitions, last mentioned be severally referred to the committee on pecuniary relief.

By Mr. Bennett, the petition of Nicholas Connelly Harrison, of Talbot county praying a divorce.

By Mr. Dennis, the petition of sundry inhabitants of Somerset county praying the passage of an act for the revaluation of real and personal property in said county.

And the petition of sundry citizens of Somerset county, praying that the levy court may be vested with the power of appointing commissioners of the tax for said county.

By Mr. Teackle, from the committee on ways and means, An act to regulate sales by public auction. This bill was read the first time, laid on the table, and made the order of the day for Monday next, the 19th instant. And,

By Mr. Stevens, as chairman of the committee on lotteries, An act requiring the commissioners of lotteries to give bond.—This bill was read the first time, and ordered to lie on the table.

The house resumed the further consid-

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