and that at the close of this tremendous effort to control our Government, the Bank found itself powerless, and no longer able to loan out its surplus means. The community had learned to manage its affairs without its assistance; and trade had already found new auxilliaries; so that on the first of October last, the extrordinary spectacle was presented of a National Bank, more than half of whose capital was either lying unproductive in its vaults or in the hands of foreign bankers.

To the needless distresses brought on the country during the late session of Congress, has since been added the open seizure of the dividends on the public stock, to the amount of one hundred and seventy thousand and forty-one dollars, under pretence of paying damages costs and interest, upon the protested French bill. This sum constituted a portion of the estimated revenues for the year 1834, upon which the appropriations made by Congress were based. It would as soon have been expected that our collectors would seize on the customs, or the receivers of our land offices on the moneys arising from the sale of public lands, under pretences of claims against the United States, as that the Bank would have retained the dividends. Indeed, if the principle be established that any one who chooses to set up a claim against the United States, may, without authority or law, seize on the public property or money, wherever they can find it, to pay such claim, there will remain no assurance that our revenue will reach the Treasury, or that it will be applied after the appropriation to the purposes designated in the law. The paymasters of our army, and the pursers of our navy, may, under like pretences, apply to their own use, moneys appropriated to set in motion the public force, and in the time of war leave the country without defence. This measure resorted to by the Bank is disorganizing and revolutionary, and if generally resorted to by private citizens in like cases, would fill the land with anarchy and violence.

It is a constitutional provision, that "no money shall be drawn from the Treasury but in consequence of appropriation made by law." The palpable object of this provision is to prevent the expenditure of the public money, for any purpose whatsoever, which shall not have been first approved by the Representatives of the people and the States in Congress assembled. It vests the power of declaring for what purpose the public money shall be expended, in the Legislative Department of the Government, to the exclusion of the Executive and Judicial, and it is not within the constitutional authority of either of those Departments, to pay it away without law, or to sanction its payment. According this plain constitutional provision, the claim of the Bank can never be paid without an appropriation by act of Congress. But the Bank has never asked or an appropriation. It attempts to defeat the provision of the constitution, & obtain payment without an act of Congress. Instead of awaiting an appropriation passed by both Houses, and approved by the President, it makes an appropriation for itself, and invites an appeal to the Judiciary to sanction it. That the money had not been technically paid into the Treasury, does not affect the principle intended to be established by the constitution. The Executive and Judiciary have as little right to appropriate and expend the public money without authority of law, before it is placed to the credit of the Treasury, as to take it from the Treasury. In the annual report of the Secretary of the Treasury, and in his correspondence with the President of the Bank, and the opinions of the Attorney General accompanying it, you will find a further examination of the claims of the Bank, and the course it has pursued.

It seems due to the safety of the public funds remaining in that Bank, and to the honor of the American People, that measures be taken to separate the government entirely from an institution so mischievous to the public prosperity, and so regardless of the Constitution and laws. By transferring the public deposites, by appointing other pension agents, as far as it had the power, by ordering the discontinuance of the receipt of Bank checks in payment of the public dues after the first day of January next, the Executive has exerted its lawful authority to sever the connexion between the government and this faithless corporation.

The high handed career of this institution imposes upon the constitutional functionaries of this government, duties of the gravest and most imperative character—duties which they cannot avoid, and from which I trust there will be no inclination on the part of any of them to shrink. My own sense of them is most clear, as is also my readiness to discharge those which may rightfully fall on me. To continue any business relations with the Bank of the U. States that may be avoided without a violation of the national faith after that institution has set at open defiance the conceded right of the government to examine its affairs; after it has done all in its power to deride the public authority in other respects, and to bring it into disrepute at home and abroad; after it has attempted to defeat the clearly expressed will of the People, by turning against them the immense power intrusted to its hands, and by involving a country otherwise peaceful, flourishing and happy, in dissension, embarrassment, and distress—would make the nation itself a party to the degradation so sedulously prepared for its public agents—and do much to destroy the confidence of mankind in popular governments & to bring into contempt their authority and efficiency. In guarding against an evil of such magnitude, considerations of temporary convenience should be thrown out of the question, and we should be influenced by such motives only as look to the honor and preservation of the republican system. Deeply and solemnly impressed with the justice of these views, I feel it to be my duty to recommend to you, that a law be passed authorizing the sale of the public stock; that the provision of the charter requiring the receipt of notes of the Bank in payment of public dues, shall in accordance with the power reserved to Congress in the 14th section of the charter, be suspended until the Bank pays to the Treasury the dividends withheld; and that all laws connecting the government or its officers with the Bank, directly or indirectly, be repealed; and that the institution be left hereafter to its own resources and means.

Events have satisfied my mind, and I think the minds of the American People, that the mischiefs and dangers which flow from a National Bank, far overbalance all its advantages. The bold effort the present Bank has made to control the Government, the distresses it has wantonly produced, the violence of which it has been the occasion in one of our cities famed for its observance of law and order, are but premonitions of the fate which awaits the American People, should they be deluded into a perpetuation of this institution, or the establishment of another like it. It is fervently hoped that thus admonished those who have heretofore favored the establishment of a substitute for the present Bank, will be induced to abandon it, as it is evidently better to incur any inconvenience that may be reasonably expected, than to concentrate the whole moneyed power of the Republic in any from whatsoever, or under any restriction.

Happily, it is already illustrated that the agency of such an institution is not necessary to the fiscal operations of the Government. The State Banks are found fully adequate to the performance of all services which were required of the Bank of the United States, quite as promptly, and with the same cheapness. They have maintained themselves, and discharged all these duties, while the Bank of the U. S. was still powerful, and in the field as an open enemy; and it is not possible to conceive that they will find greater difficulties in their operations; when that enemy shall cease to exist.

The attention of Congress in earnestly invited to the regulation of the deposites in the State Banks, by law.—Although the power now exercised by the Executive Department in this behalf; is only such as was uniformly exerted through every Administration from the origin of the Government up to the establishment of the present Bank, yet, it is one which is susceptible of regulation by law, and, therefore ought to be regulated. The power of Congress to direct in what places the Treasurer shall keep the moneys in the Treasury, and to impose restrictions upon the Executive authority, in relation to their custody and removal, is unlimited, and its exercise will rather be courted than discouraged by those public officers and agents on whom rests the responsibility for their safety. It is desirable that as little power as possible should be left to the President or Secretary of the Treasury over those institutions—which, being thus free from Executive influence, and without a common head to direct their operations, would have neither the temptation nor the ability to interfere in the political conflicts of the country. Not deriving their charters from the national authorities they would never have those inducements to meddle in general elections, which have led the Bank of the United States to agitate and convulse the country for upwards of two years.

The progress of our Gold Coinage is creditable to the officers of the Mint, and promises in a short period to furnish the country with a sound and protable Currency which will much diminish the inconvenience to travellers of the want of a general paper currency, should the State Banks be incapable of furnishing it. Those institutions have already shown themselves competent to purchase and furnish domestic exchange for the convenience of trade, at reasonable rates, and not a doubt is entertained that in a short period, all the wants of the country in bank accommodations and exchange, will be supplied as promptly and cheaply as they have heretofore been by the Bank of the United States. If the several States shall be induced gradually to reform their banking systems, and prohibit the issue of all small notes, we shall in a few years have a currency as sound, and as little liable to fluctuation as any other commercial country.

The Report of the Secretary of War, together with the accompanying documents from the several bureaux of that Department, will exhibit the situation of the various objects committed to its administration.

No event has occurred since your last session rendering necessary any movements of the Army, with the exception of the expedition of the regiment of dragoons into the territory of the wandering and predatory tribes inhabiting the western frontier and living adjacent to the Mexican boundary. These tribes have been known to us principally by their attacks upon our own citizens and upon other Indians entitled to the protection of the United States It became necessary for the peace of the frontiers to check these habitual inroads, and I am happy to inform you that the object has been effected without the commission of any act of hostility. Col Dodge and the troops under his command, have acted with equal firmness and humanity, and an arrangement has been made which those Indians, which it is hoped will assure their paramount pacific relations with the United States and the other tribes of Indians upon that border. It is to be regretted that the prevalence of sickness in that quarter has deprived the country of a number of valuable lives, and particularly that General Leavenworth, an officer, well known and esteemed for his gallant services in the late war, and for his subsequent good conduct, has fallen a victim to his zeal and exertions in the discharge of his duty.

The Army is in a high state of discipline. Its moral condition, so far as that is known here, is good, and the various branches of the public service are carefully attended to. It is amply sufficient under its present organization, for providing the necessary garrisons for the sea-board and for the defence of the internal frontier, and also for preserving the elements of military knowledge, and for keeping pace with those improvements which modern experience is continually making. And these objects appear to me to embrace all the legitimate purposes for which a permanent military force should be maintained in our country. The lessons of history teach us its danger, and the tendency which exists to an increase. This can be best met and everted by a just caution on the part of the public itself, and of those who represent them in Congress.

From the duties which devolve on the Engineer department, and upon the Topographical Engineers, a different organizaton seems to be demanded by the public interest, and I recommend the subject to your consideration.

No important change has, during this season, taken place in the condition of the Indians Arrangements are in progress for the removal of the Creeks, and will soon be for the removal of the Seminoles. I regret that the Cherokees, east of the Missippi have not yet determined as a community, to remove. How long the personal causes which have hitherto retarded that ultimately inevitable measure, will continue to operate, I am unable to conjecture. It is certain however, that delay will bring with it accumulated evils, which will render their condition more & more unpleasant. The experience of every year adds to the conviction, that emigration, and that alone, can preserve from destruction the remnant of the tribes yet living among us. The facility with which the necessaries of life are procured, and the treaty stipulations providing aid for the emigrant Indians in their agricultural pursuits, and in the important concern of education, and their removal from those causes which have heretofore depressed all and destroyed many of the tribes, cannot fail to stimulate their exertions and to reward their industry.

The two laws passed at the last session of Congress on the subject of Indian affairs, have been carried into effect, and detailed instructions for their administration have been given. It will be seen by the estimates for the present session, that a great reduction will take place in the expenditures of the Department in consequence of these laws. And there is reason to believe that their operation will be salutary, and that the colonization of the Indians on the western frontier, together with a judicious system of administration, will still farther reduce the expenses of this branch of the public service, and at the same time promote its usefulness and efficiency.

Circumstances have been recently developed showing the existence of extensive frauds under the various laws granting pensions and gratuities for revolutionary services. It is impossible to estimate the amount which may have been thus fraudulently obtained from the National Treasury. I am satisfied however it has been such as to justify a re-examination of the system, and the adoption of the necessary checks in its administration. All will agree that the services & sufferings of the remnant of our revolutionary bands, should be fully compensated. But while this is done, every proper precaution should be taken to prevent the admission of fabricated and fraudulent claims.

In the present mode of proceeding, the attestations and certificates of judicial officers of the various States form a considerable portion of the checks which are interposed against the commission of frauds. These however, have been, and may be, fabricated, and in such a way as to elude detection at the examining offices. And independently of this practical difficulty, it is ascertained that these documents are often loosely granted, sometimes, even blank certificates have been issued; sometimes prepared papers have been signed without inquiry; and in one instance at least, the seal of the court has been within reach of a person most interested in its improper application. It is obvious that, under such circumstances, no severity of administration can check the abuse of the law; and information has, from time to time, been communicated to the Pension Office questioning or denying the right of persons placed on the pension list, to the bounty of the country. Such cautions are always attented to and examined. But a far more general investigation is called for. And I therefore recommend, in conformity with the suggestion of the Secretary of War, that an actual inspection should be made, in each State, into the circumstances and claims of every person now drawing a pension.

The honest veteran has nothing to fear from such a scrutiny, while the fraudulent claimant will be detected, and the public treasury relieved to an amount, I have reason to believe, far greater than has heretofore been suspected. The details of such a plan could be so regulated as to interpose the necessary checks without any burthensome operation upon the pensioners. The object should be two-fold:

1. To look into the original justice of the claims, so far as this can be done under a proper system of regulations, by an examination of the claimants themselves and by inquiring, in the vicinity as their residence, into their history, and into the opinion entertained of their revolutionary services.

2. To ascertain, in all cases, whether the original claimant is living, and this by actual personal inspection.

This measure will if adopted, be productive I think of the desired results; and I therefore recommend it to your consideration, with the further suggestion, that all payments should be suspended till the necessary reports are received.

It will be seen by a tabular statement annexed to the documents transmitted to congress that the appropriations for objects connected with the War Department made at the last session, for the service of the year 1834, excluding the permanent appropriation for the payment of military gratuities under the act of June 7, 1832, the appropriation of two hundred thousand dollars for arming and equipping the militia, and the appropriation of ten thousand dollars for the civilization of the Indians, which are not annually renewed, amounted to the sum of nine millions three thousand two hundred and sixty one dollars, and that the estimates of appropriation necessary for the same branches of service for the year 1835, amounted to the sum of five millions seven hundred and seventy eight thousand nine hundred and sixty four dollars making a difference in the appropriations of the current year over the estimates of appropriations for the next, of three millions two hundred and twenty four thousand two hundred and ninety seven dollars.

The principal causes which have operated at this time to produce this great difference, are shown in the reports and documents, and in the detailed estimates. Some of these causes are accidental and temporary, while others are permanent, and, aided by a just course of administration, may continue to operate beneficially upon the public expenditures.

A just economy, expending where the public service requires, and withholding where it does not, is among the indispensable duties of the Government.

I refer you to the accompanying Report of the Secretary of the Navy, and to the documents with it, for a full view of the operations of that important branch of our service, during the present year. It will be seen that the wisdom and liberality with which Congress have provided for the gradual increase of our Navy material, have been seconded by a corresponding zeal and fidelity on the part of those to whom has been confided to the execution of the laws on the subject: and that but a short period would be now required to put in commission a force large enough for any exigency into which the country may be thrown.

When we reflect upon our position in relation to other nations: it must be apparent; that in the event of conflicts with them, we must look chiefly to our navy for the protection of our national rights. The wide seas which separate us from other governments, must of necessity be the theatre on which an enemy will aim to assail us, and unless we are prepared to meet him on this element, we cannot be said to possess the power requisite to repel or prevent aggressions. We cannot, therefore, watch with too much attention this arm of our defence or cherish with too much care the means by which it can possess the necessary efficiency and extension. To this end our policy has been heretofore wisely directed to the constant employment of a force sufficient to guard our commerce, and to the rapid accumulation of the materials which are necessary to repair our vessels and construct with ease such new ones as may be required in a state of war.

In accordance with this policy, I recommend to your consideration the erection of the additional Dry Dock described by the Secretary of the Navy, and also the construction of the Steam Batteries to which he has referred, for the purpose of testing their efficacy as auxiliaries to the sytem of defence now in use.

The Report of the Postmaster General herewith submitted, exhibits the condition and prospects of that department. From that document it appears that there was a deficit in the funds of the Department, at the commencement of the present year beyond its available means, of three hundred and fifteen thousand five hundred and ninety nine dollars and ninety eight cents, which on the first of July last had been reduced to two hundred and sixty eight thousand ninety-two dollars and seventy four cents. It appears, also that the revenues for the coming year will exceed the expenditures about two hundred and seventy thousand dollars, which with the excess of revenue which will result from the operations of the current half year, may be expected, independently of any increase in the gross amount of postages, to supply the entire deficit before the end of 1835. But as this calculation is based on the gross amount of postages which had accrued within the period embraced by the times of striking the balances, it is obvious that without a progressive increase in the amount of postages, existing retrenchments must be persevered in through the year 1836, that this Department may accumulate a surplus fund sufficient to place it in a condition of perfect ease.

It will be observed that the revenues of the Post Office Department; though they have increased and their amount is above that of any former year, have yet fallen short of the estimates more than a hundred thousand dollars. This is attributed in a great degree to the increase of free letters growing out of the extension and abuse of the franking privilege. There has been a gradual increase in the number of executive offices to which it has been granted, and by an act passed in March 1833, it was extended to Members of Congress throughout the whole year. It is believed that a revision of the laws relative to the franking privilege, with some enactments to enforce more rigidly the restrictions under which it is granted, would operate beneficially to the country, by enabling the Department at an earlier period to restore the mail facilities that have been withdrawn, and to extend them more widely as the growing settlements of the country may require.

To a measure so important to the Government, and so just to our constituents, who ask no exclusive privileges for themselves, and are not willing to concede them to others, I earnestly recommend the serious attention of Congress.

The importance of the Post Office Department, & the magnitude to which it has grown, both in its revenues and in its operations, seem to demand its re-organization by law. The whole of its receipts and disbursements have hitherto been left entirely to Executive control, and individual discretion. The principle is as sound in relation to this as to any other Department of the Government, that as little discretion should be confided to the Executive officer who controls it, as is compatible with its efficiency. It is therefore earnestly recommended that it be organized with an Auditor and Treasurer of its own, appointed by the President and Senate, who shall be branches of the Treasury Department.

Your attention is again respectfully invited to the defect which exists in the judicial system of the U. States. Nothing can be more desirable than the uniform operation of the Federal Judiciary throughout the several States, all of which, standing on the same footing as members of the Union, have equal rights to the advantages and benefits resulting from its laws. This object is not attained by the judicial acts now in force, because they leave one fourth of the States without Circuit Courts

It is undoubtedly the duty of Congress to place all the States on the same footing in this respect: either by the creation of an additional number of associate judges, or by an enlargement of the circuits assigned to those already appointed, so as to include the new States.—Whatever may be the difficulty in a proper organization of the judicial system, so as to secure its efficiency and uniformity in all parts of the Union, and at the same time to avoid such an increase of judges as would encumber the supreme appellate tribunal, it should not be allowed to weigh against the great injustice which the present operation of the system produces.

I trust that I may be also pardoned for renewing the recommendation I have so often submitted to your attention, in regard to the mode of electing the President and Vice President of the United States. All the reflection I have been able to bestow upon the subject, increases my conviction that the best interests of the country will be promoted by the adoption of some plan which will secure, in all contingencies, that important right of sovereignty to the direct control of the People.—Could this be attained, and the terms of those officers be limited to a single period of either four or six years, I think our liberties would possess an additional safeguard.

At your last session I called the attention of Congress to the destruction of the public building occupied by the Treasury Department.—As the public interests requires that another building should be erected, with as little delay as possible, it is hoped that the means will be seasonably provided, and that they will be ample enough to authorise such an enlargement and improvement in the plan of the building as will more effectually accommodate the public officers, and secure the public documents deposited in it from the casualities of fire.

I have not been able to satisfy myself that the bill entitled "An act to improve the navigation of the Wabash river," which was sent to me at the close of your last session, ought to pass, and have therefore withheld from it my approval, and now return it to the Senate, the body in which it originated.

There can be no question connected with the administration of public affairs, more important or more difficult to be satisfactorily dealt with, than that which relates to the rightful authority and proper action of the Federal Government upon the subject of Internal Improvements. To inherent embarrassments have been added others resulting from the course of our legislation concerning it.

I have therefore communicated freely with Congress upon this subject, and in adverting to it again, I cannot refrain from expressing my increased conviction of its extreme importance, as well in regard to its bearing upon the maintainance of the Constitution and the prudent management of the public revenue, as on account of its disturbing effect upon the harmony of the Union.

We are in no danger from violations of the Constitution by which encroachments are made upon the personal rights of the citizen. The sentence of condemnation long since pronounced by the American People upon acts of that character, will, I doubt not, continue to prove as salutary in its effects as it is irreversible in its nature. But against the dangers of unconstitutional acts, which, instead of menacing the vengeance of offended authority, proffer local advantages, and bring in their train the patronage of the Government, we are, I fear, not so safe. To suppose that because our Government has been instituted for the benefit of the people, it must therefore have the power to do whatever may seem to conduce to the public good, is an error into which even honest minds are too apt to fall.

In yielding themselves to this fallacy, they overlook the great considerations in which the Federal Constitution was founded. They forgot that in consequence of the conceded diversities in the interests and condition of the different States, it was foreseen, at the period of its adoption, that although a particular measure of the Government might be beneficial and proper in one State, it might be the reverse in another—that it was for this reason the States would not consent to make a grant to the Federal Government, of the general and usual powers of Government, but of such only as were specifically enumerated, and the probable effects of which they could, as they thought, safely anticipate: and they forgot also the paramount obligation upon all to abide by the compact, then so solemnly, and, as it was hoped, so firmly established.

In addition to the dangers to the Constitution springing from the sources I have stated, there has been one which was perhaps greater than all. I allude to the materials which this subject has afforded for sinister appeals to selfish feelings and the opinion heretofore so extensively entertained of its adaptation to the purposes of personal ambition. With such stimulants it is not surprising that the acts & pretensions of the Federal Government in this behalf should sometimes have been carried to an alarming extent. The questions which have arisen upon this subject have related—

1st. To the power of making Internal Improvements within the limits of a State, with the right of territorial jurisdiction, sufficient at least for their preservation and use.

2 To the right of appropriating money in aid of such works when carried on by a state or by a company in virtue of State authority, surrendering the claim of jurisdiction, and

3d. To the propriety of appropriation for improvements of a particular class, viz. for light-houses, beacons, buoys, public piers, and for the removal of sand-bars, sawyers, and other temporary and partial impediments in our navigable rivers and harbors.

The claims of power for the General Government upon each of these points, certainly present matter of the deepest interest The first is however, of much the greater importance, inasmuch as, in addition to the dangers of unequal and improvident expenditures of public moneys common to all, there is superadded to that the conflicting jurisdictions of the respective governments. Federal jurisdiction, at least to the extent I have stated, has been justly regarded by its advocates as necessarily appertenant to the power in question, if that exists by the constitution.

That the most injurious conflicts would unavoidably arise between the respective jurisdictions of the State and Federal Governments in the absence of constitutional provision marking out their respective boundaries, cannot be doubted. The local advantages to be obtained would induce the State to overlook in the beginning the dangers and difficulties to which they might ultimately be exposed. The powers exercised by the Federal Government would soon be regarded with jealousy by the State authorities, and originating as they must from implication or assumption, it would be impossible to affix to them certain and safe limits. Opportunities and temptations to the assumption of powers incompatible with State sovereignty, would be increased, and those barriers which resist the tendency of our system towards consolidation greatly weakened.

The officers and agents of the General Government might not always have the discretion to abstain from intermeddling with state concerns; and if they did, they would not always escape the suspicion of having done so. Collisions and consequent irritations would spring up—that harmony which should ever exist between the General Government and each member of the Confederacy, would be frequently interrupted—a spirit of contention would be engendered—and the dangers of division greatly multiplied.

Yet we all know, that notwithstanding these grave objections, this dangerous doctrine was at one time apparently proceeding to its final establishment with fearful rapidity. The desire to embark the Federal Government in works of Internal Improvement, prevailed in the highest degree, during the first session of the first Congress that I had the honor to meet in my present situation. When the bill authorizing a subscription on the part of the U. States for stock in the Maysville and Lexington Turnpike Company, passed the two Houses, there had been reported, by the Committees of Internal Improvements, bills containing appropriations for such objects, exclusive of those for the Cumberland road, and for harbors and light houses, to the amount of about one hundred and six millions of dollars.

In this amount was included authority to the Secretary of the Treasury to subscribe for the stock of different companies to a great extent, and the residue was principally for the direct construction of roads by this Government In addition to these projects which had been presented to the two Houses, under the sanction and recommendation of their respective Committees on Internal Improvements, there were then still pending before the committees, and in memorial to Congress, presented, but not referred, different projects for works of a similar character, the expense of which cannot be estimated with certainty, but must have exceeded one hundred millions of dollars.

Regarding the bill authorising a subscription to the stock of the Maysville and Lexington Turnpike Company as the entering wedge of a system, which, however weak at first, might soon become strong enough to rive the bands of the Union asunder, and believing that if its passage was acquiesced in by the Executive and the people, there would no longer be any limitation upon the authority of the General Government in respect to the appropriation of money for such objects, I deemed it an imperative duty to withhold from it the Executive approval. Although from the obviously local character of that work, I might well have contented myself with a refusal to approve the bill upon that ground, yet, sensible of the vital importance of the subject, and anxious that my views and opinions in regard to the whole matter should be fully understood by Congress, and by my constituents, I felt it my duty to go further.

I therefore embraced that early occasion to apprize Congress, that, in my opinion, the constitution did not confer upon it the power to authorize the construction of ordinary roads and canals within the limits of a State, and to say respectfully, that no bill admitting such a power could receive my official sanction. I did so in the confident expectation that the speedy settlement of the public mind upon the whole subject would be greatly facilitated by the difference between the two Houses and myself, and that the harmonious action of the several Departments of the Federal Government in regard to it, would be ultimately secured.

So far at least as it regards this branch of the subject, my best hopes have been realized. Nearly four years have elapsed, and several sessions of congress have intervened, and no attempt, within my recollection, has been made to induce congress to exercise this power. The applications for the construction of roads and canals which were formerly multiplied upon your files, are no longer presented; and we have good reason to infer that the current of public sentiment has become so decided against the pretension as effectually to discourage its re-assertion. So thinking, I derive the greatest satisfaction from the conviction, that thus much at least has been secured upon this important and embarrassing subject.

From attempts to appropriate the national funds to objects which are confessedly of a local character, we cannot, I trust, have any thing further to apprehend. My views in regard to the expediency of making appropriations for works which are claimed to be of a national character, and prosecuted under State authority, assuming that Congress have the right to do so, were stated in my annual message to Congress in 1830 and also in that containing my objections to the Maysville Road bill.

So thoroughly convinced am I, that no such appropriations ought to be made by congress, until a suitable constitutional provision is made upon the subject, and so essential do I regard the point to the highest interests of our country that I could not consider myself as discharging my duty to my constituents in giving the Executive sanction to any bill containing such an appropriation

If the People of the U. States desire that the public Treasury shall be resorted to for the means to prosecute such works, they will cause it to be done by an amendment of the constitution prescribing a rule by which the national character of the works is to be tested, and by which the greatest practical equality of benefits may be secured to each member of the confederacy — The effects of such a regulation would be most salutary in preventing unprofitable expenditures, in securing our legislation from the pernicious consequences of a scramble for the favors of Government & in repressing the spirit of discontent which must inevitably arise from an unequal distribution of treasures which belonging alike to all.

There is another class of appropriations for what may be called without impropriety, Internal Improvements which have always been regarded as standing upon different grounds from those to which I have referred. I allude to such as have for their objects the improvement of our harbours, the removal of partial and temporary obstructions in our navigable rivers, for the facility and security of our foreign commerce The grounds upon which I distinguish appropriations of this character from others, have already been stated to Congress. I will now only add that at the first session of Congress under the new constitution it was provided by law, that all expenses which should accrue from & after the 15th day of August 1789, in the necessary support and maintenance and repairs of all light-houses, beacons, buoys, and public piers erected, placed or sunk before the passage of the act, within any inlet, harbor or port of the United States, for rendering the navigation there f easy and safe, should be defrayed out of the Treasury of the U. States, and further, that it should be the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury to provide by contracts, with the approbation of the President; for rebuilding when necessary and keeping in good repair the light-houses, beacons, buoys, and public piers in the several States, and for furnishing them with supplies. Appropriations for similar objects have been continued from that time to the present without interruption or dispute — As a natural consequence of the increase and extension of our foreign commerce, ports of entry and delivery have been multiplied and established, not only upon our seaboard, but in the interior of the country, upon our lakes and navigable rivers. The convenience and safety of this commerce have led to the gradual extension of these expenditures, to the erection of light house; the placing planting and sinking of buoys, beacons and piers, and to the removal of partial and temporary obstructions in our navigable rivers, and in the harbors upon our great lakes, as well as on the seaboard.

Although I have expressed to Congress my apprehension that these expenditures have sometimes been extravagant & disproportionate to the advantages to be derived from them, I have not felt it to be my duty to refuse my assent to bills containing them, and have contented myself to follow in this respect in the footsteps of all my predecessors Sensible, however, from experience and observation, of the great abuses to which the unrestricted exercise of this authority by Congress was exposed, I have prescribed a limitation for the Government of my own conduct by which expenditures of this character are confined to places below the ports of entry or delivery established by law. I am very sensible that this restriction is not as satisfactory as could be desired, and that much embarrassment may be caused to the Executive Department in its execution; by appropriations for remote and not well understood objects. But as neither my own reflections, nor the lights which I may properly derive from other sources, have supplied me with a better, I shall continue to apply my best exertions to a faithful application of the rule upon which it is founded I sincerely regret that I could not give my assent to the bill entitled "An act to improve the navigation of the Wabash river;" but I could not have done so without receding from the ground which I have, upon the fullest consideration, taken upon this subject, and of which Congress has been heretofore apprized, and without throwing the subject again open to abuses which no good citizen, entertaining my opinion, could desire

I rely upon the intelligence and candor of my fellow citizens in whose liberal indulgence I have already so largely participated for a correct appreciation of my motives in interposing, as I have done, on this, and other occasions, checks to a course of legislation which, without, in the slightest degree, calling in question the motives of others, I consider as sanctioning improper and unconstitutional expenditures of public treasure

I am not hostile to internal improvements, and wish to see them extended to every part of the country.—But I am fully persuaded, if they are not commenced in a proper manner, confined to proper objects, and conducted under authority generally conceded to be rightful, that a successful prosecution of them cannot be reasonably expected The attempt will meet with resistance where it might otherwise receive support, and instead of strengthening the bonds of our confederacy, it will only multiply and aggravate the causes of disunion.

ANDREW JACKSON.

December 1, 1834.

EASTON GAZETTE

EASTON, (MD.)

Saturday Morning, Dec. 6.

The great length of the President's Message and the absence of the Editor during the week, who was unable to return to his duties until late last night, will account for the barrenness and late appearance of the Gazette to-day.

The citizens of Easton and Talbot county are invited to assemble at the Court House, on Tuesday afternoon, the 9th inst. at half past 3 o'clock, for the purpose of adopting such measures for the relief of the sufferers by the late fire at Snow Hill, as may be necessary.

The Hon. John M. Clayton, Senator in Congress from Delaware, has published an address to the people of that State, signifying his intention of resigning his seat in the Senate as soon as the Legislature of the State shall convene.

For the Easton Gazette.

FELLOW CITIZENS OF EASTON.—The late lamentable calamity by fire in the town of Snow Hill, in Worcester, so soon upon the heel of like distress from the same cause in the town of Cumberland in Alleghany, in both of which instances a number of fellow men have been brought to poverty and others to great loss and distress, ought to be an awful warning to the inhabitants of all small Towns in what a perilous and helpless condition they are, without the utmost vigilance both on the part of the inhabitants themselves and on that of their police officers.

In all these Towns the police officers should be daily employed in looking around and examining into every probable cause of disaster, and where serious or probable danger exists the Town Council should instantly make it the object of special attention, and, if necessary, with the aid of the Citizens remove or put down the danger immediately, with prompt energy—this is an official duty, this is the duty of humanity.

The Citizens too of these towns should form themselves into fire companies, with every full preparation of an adequate fire Engine, hose, buckets, ladders—and they ought to be drilled regularly, so that the engine be kept in

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