EASTON GAZETTE.

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CONGRESS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SATURDAY, Feb. 8, 1840.

The business before the House being the memorial heretofore presented by Mr. Davis, of Indiana, from the National Convention of delegates from the States of Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, held at Terre Haute, in the State of Indiana, for the purpose of recommending such measures as may be best calculated to insure the final competition of the Cumberland Road with the least possible delay, which memorial Mr. D. had moved to refer to the Committee of Ways and Means—

And which motion Mr. Casey had heretofore moved to amend by adding thereto the following instructions:

"And that said committee be instructed to report a bill making an appropriation of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars for each of the States of Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, to be expended on the National Road in said States, in the year 1840, under the direction of the War Department; said appropriation to be subject to all the restrictions and conditions of former appropriations on said road."

Mr. BIDDLE remarked that the course he had taken on the question of order, he was not actuated by the slightest feeling of unkindness towards the gentleman from Indiana, (Mr. Wick.) He had risen, on the impulse of the moment, at the first striking recurrence of a practice which, during the last Congress, had led to great abuse. A gentleman in possession of the floor concluded his remarks by a motion which forbade further debate. A dozen members, who had been eagerly awaiting an opportunity to speak, quietly though reluctantly acquiesced and kept their seats.—After a while, some one, who might have had little or no chance in the competition for the Speaker's eye, gets up and asks as a favor that the motion be withdrawn on a pledge to renew it. If this be granted, there is secured to him, perhaps by preconcert, a much prized advantage denied to all who would have sought it in the usual and legitimate mode. Mr. B., had no reason to conclude that any such plan existed in the present case, although, if the practice be recognised, there would be nothing more unfair, he supposed, in this than in any other of the turns of Parliamentary tactics. He spoke of the principle. If tolerated, it would enable every member in possession of the floor to nominate his successor; and this might be carried on indefinitely, the last who consented to withdraw the motion only looking round and getting the assent of his predecessors, who were supposed to retain some vague right of passing on the expediency of continuing the debate or terminating it. There would be no difficulty in arranging out of doors the whole course and and order of debate for a week together. The practice would not be so intolerable if it could be confined to cases where a member, from a magnanimous impulse, was willing that his own argument should be answered, although it was obvious that such appeals could be indefinitely multiplied on specious pretexts, and gave to a man of dogged temper a great advantage over one of keener sensibilities. But it was found that these refined notions always gave way before eager passions and interests. On critical occasions the floor would be yielded with more cheerfulness to one who was likely to sustain yours position than to one who might overturn them. The effect frequently, if not ordinarily, was to increase rather than to allay, chagrin & disgust on the part of gentlemen who were finally cut off from participation in debate. It was impossible that the House could be impotent to check a practice destructive of all fairness. The instinct of self-preservation gave the power. The notion seemed to be that the Speaker must consider as not spoken a part of what had been addressed to him; and that the House must be alike deaf to a compact made in its presence, and which all had known effectual, a hundred times, to produce mischievous results. Now, he took it that the common sense of the matter was that a withdrawal, clogged with unauthorized and pernicious conditions, was no withdrawal at all; that it must be deemed an abuse of the privilege, and be disregarded.

But quite enough of this. Mr. B. said he would now turn to what the gentleman from Indiana had introduced as personal to himself, and take up the issue as to the ingeniousness of the course which the present Administration had pursued in this matter. He was glad that the House had afforded him an opportunity to meet that boast. He desired anxiously to fix, if he could, the attention of every member of the House, and of every fair man in the country, upon the manner in which the President had gone into the approaching canvass.

Sir, said Mr. B. that part of the Message which relates to the expenditures is prepared with the skill of a veteran politician. It has gone to the country far in advance of the estimates. It has been eagerly seized upon by partisans. You find it in staring capitals in every village newspaper of the Administration. it contains a round assertion, brief and portable—such as any one can catch up at the Cross Roads and readily carry home from mill or market. He says that the expenditures of 1839

"Will not, in all probability, exceed twenty-six millions, or *six millions less* than it was last year. With a determination, *so far as depends on me*, to continue this reduction, I have directed the estimates for 1840 to be subjected to the severest scrutiny, and to be limited to the absolute requirements of the public service. They will be found *less than the expenditures of* 1839 by over *five* millions of dollars."

Now, Mr. Speaker, will any candid person deny that this is calculated to make a false impression upon the country? What is the inference drawn by any plain man? Doubtless that the President has been anxiously engaged, day and night, in a severe and laborious scrutiny into abuses; that the pruning-knife has never been out of his hand; that he has encountered fearlessly, and without regard to friend or foe, the odium and stubborn resistance which retrenchment must always provoke; and that he has brought down the expenditure at a rate so rapid that if the People will but re-elect him, it may possibly disappear altogether.

Who will say that the credit thus claimed in the anxieties of an election eering campaign is justly due? Let the friends of the Administration turn to a single instance in which retrenchment has been brought about by Mr. Van Buren. What office has he abolished—what clerk even dispensed with—what foreign minister held to his post, so as to save outfit—what abuse, in short, of any kind corrected? It is notorious, and so the estimates show, that this boasted reduction is found in the abandonment of military operations in Florida, which, under imbecility and mismanagement, had swelled up to a frightful charge.—If the necessity for that expenditure had ceased, the merit of economy belonged not to the President; but if, in trepidation at the approach of the canvass, the war had been ingloriously abandoned or if the waste of public property was to take a new and disguised form, not so readily estimated in money, then there ought to be a deeper sentiment of indignation than might have been directed at a mere empty electioneering flourish.

But it remained to point out the most artful paragraph of the Message. After glorysfying himself about the reduction, and promising great things, *"so far as depends upon me,"* he thus gives a clew to his partisans, and prepares the public mind to look with odium upon Congress:

"These are circumstances that impose the necessity of rigid economy, and require its prompt and constant exercise. WITH THE LEGISLATURE rest the power and duty of so adjusting the public expenditure as to promote this end. By the provisions of the Constitution it is only in consequence of appropriations made by law that money can be drawn from the Treasury. No instance has occurred since the establishment of the Government, in which THE EXECUTIVE, though a component part of the legislative power, has interposed an objection to an appropriation bill on the sole ground of its extravagance. His duty, in this respect, has been considered FULFILLED by requesting such appropriations only as the public service may be reasonably expected to require."

Can any man, not wilfully blind, fail to see the purpose and drift of the anxious and elaborate contrast between the President and the Legislature? Every dollar not demanded by the estimates is denounced beforehand as a lavish expenditure. The President had rejected it from the estimates because NOT 'such as the public service may be expected to require." Let Congress reinstate it at their peril. The materials for denunciation are furnished. The President states the amount of his estimates; the newspapers, published by authority, will give the ultimate amount of appropriation at the end of the session. The difference is found by a simple rule of arithmetic. That difference, the People are led to believe is the price they pay for our complex form of Government. A despotism would save it. It is the unhappy power of Congress to intermeddle with appropriations that cause a profligate waste.—And how idle, sir, as the President well knows, will it be to talk to the People about Executive control over the purse, if their minds can be pre-occupied with a belief that this very fact will save them from an annual tax of seven millions of dollars?

It was humiliating to an American to note the miserable stratagems which had been resorted to in order to keep up the delusion. Aside from this matter of the Cumberland road how was it as to the bill for the armed occupation of Florida? It was proposed, by that measure, to give away three million two hundred thousand acres of the choicest lands, to be selected at will by settlers. This land had been bought from Spain in 1819, by money paid out of the public Treasury. It was proposed, also, to spend an immense sum in cash upon these settlers. But not a dollar appeared in the estimates.—Yet it was proclaimed as an Administration measure. The gratitude of the South was claimed for it accordingly.—The Commanding General in Florida had been denounced on the floor of the Senate, by the author of that bill, for presuming to express an unfavorable opinion of a project sanctioned by the Administration. The result was that, after answering a local party purpose in one quarter, it would subserve, in other quarters, the great general purpose of deception indicated by the Message.

Again, as to the additional military force for Florida. The President asks for one thousand men. Yet he had kept this item out of the estimates! A Whig member of the Committee on Military Affairs (Mr. Thompson) consents to be visible in reporting a bill. My honorable friend, whose disposition involves a lofty ignorance of such artifices, is thus made to play into the hands of the deceivers. The President gets credit with the South; he gets all the patronage, and we shall have this piece of Whig extravagance to encounter next fall!!

The subject of *light-houses* was one of deep interest. The reputation of the country, the interests of commerce and the claims of humanity, were alike involved. Every one must have been surprised at the omission in the estimates. Mr. B had ascertained that, after keeping out this item from the estimates which were got up to sustain the President's boast, the Fifth Auditor had been sent to the Committee on Commerce with urgent entreaties to report in favor of light-houses to an amount exceeding two hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars, and that various other points were anxiously indicated.

Mr. B. said that he sickened at such exhibitions. Can it be that an intelligent and generous people will be thus duped? Will they be the victims of a pitiful conspiracy to foster discontent at their own free institutions? The frank and manly spirit of the West, he knew, would revolt from the spectacle. Suppose the president of a board of commissioners to expend public money should attempt to get a false reputation for himself, and to decry his associates by hinting that he was opposed to certain expenditures but was overruled; that he could not control the majority, &c.; and it appeared, afterwards, that he had slily countenanced that very expenditure: would not a storm of indignation arise? Could such a man ever pretend to show himself as a candidate? What was the difference, in morals, between gaining reputation by false pretences, and gaining money by false pretences?

Sir, it is not a mere matter of personal feeling or calculation to resist such attempts. Something is due to the station we occupy. We must not bring it needlessly into odium. The question is higher than mere party. For two months we have been circulating this message, at the public expense, far and wide. It contains what we see may be employed in connexion with this measure, to do a vital injury to the representative principle. It is a matter of grave reflection whether, if we take no active measure to disabuse the public mind, it yet becomes us to peril great and permanent interest by falling quietly into the trap that is laid for us. We hold this high office in trust for the People, and it must not in our hands, be tarnished or betrayed

There was consumate dexterity in the way the President had put this matter in the Message. If the bill passed, he must, on his theory of duty, give it his signature. Those who profited by its passage would not care to scan very closely the reasons which invested it with legislative sanctions, whilst in quarters where the bill was odious Congress would be held responsible not only for its own sins, but for the painful restraint imposed upon the tender conscience of the President!

Mr. B. said he did not know whether explanation would ever overtake imposture that had got so long a start. It had been said that Falsehood would travel from Maine to Georgia whilst Truth was putting on his boots. He trusted, however, to the intelligence of the People; and he believed that before long every farmer would nail these deceptive professions about economy against the barn, as he did a hawk or other bird of prey, which, after long hovering in the clouds over the poultry, at length made a stoop within rifle distance!

'Hollo, you man with a pail and frock,' said a British officer, as he brought his fiery steed to a stand in front of Governor Chittenden's dwelling,—can you inform me whether his honor the Governor of Vermont resides here?'

'He does,' was the response of the man, still wending his way to the pigsty.

'Is his honor at home?' continued the man of the spurs.

'Most certainly,' replied the man of the frock.

'Take my horse by the bit then,' said the officer; 'I have business to transact with your *master*.'

Without a second bidding, the man did as requested, and the officer alighted and made his way up to the door and gave the pannel several hearty taps with the butt of his whip—for, be it known, in those days of Republican simplicity, knockers and bells, like servants, were in but little use. The good dame of the house answered the summons in person, and having seated the officer, and ascertained his desire to see the Governor, departed to inform her husband of the guest's arrival, but on ascertaining that the officer had made a hitching-post of her husband she immediately returned and informed him that the Governor was engaged in the yard, and could not well wait upon his honor and his *horse* at the same time. The predicament of the officer can be better imagined than described.

The modes which have operated on the Chinese government in endeavoring to break up at all hazards, the Opium trade with that country, are made apparent by the annexed article, copied from the New York Star.

Few persons have any idea of the nature and extent of the opium trade in China. Of the horrible events of the drug, more may be known.—He who begins taking opium habitually at twenty, must scarcely expect to live longer than to the age of thirty, or from that age to thirty six; the latter is the utmost age that, for the most part, is attained. Tocqueville in his "Travels in the Morea," states that the class of opium eaters known under the name of Theriakis, after some years accustom themselves to take doses of an drachm each. Then comes on a frightful paleness of countenance; and the victim wastes away in a kind of marasmus, that can be compared to nothing but itself. Alopecia, and a total loss of memory, with rickets, are the nevertailing consequences of this deplorable habit. But no consideration—neither the certainty of premature death, nor of the infirmities by which it must be preceded—can correct a theriaki; he answers madly to any one who would warn him of his danger, that his happiness is inconceivable when he has taken his opium pill. If he be asked to define this supernatural happiness, he answers that it is impossible to account for it—that pleasure cannot be defined. Always beside themselves, the theriakis are incapable of work: they seem no more to belong to society. Toward the end of their career, they, however, experience violent pain, and are devoured by constant hunger; nor can their paregoric in any way relieve their sufferings; become hideous to behold, deprived of their teeth, their eyes sunk in their heads, in a constant tremor, they cease to live long before they cease to exist.

The dealers in opium are little aware of how much harm they are the instruments of doing, by carrying on this demoralizing and destructive traffic; but the difference between the increase of the Chinese people, before and after the introduction of opium ought to open their eyes, and lead them to ask themselves whether they are not accountable for the diseases and deaths of all those who have suffered by its introduction. It is authentically stated, that the Chinese increased at the rate of three per cent. per annum before the commencement of the traffic, and at the rate of one per cent per annum since.

The efforts of the Chinese government during the last ten years to arrest this inhuman traffic have been of the most energetic and persevering description; but their praiseworthy attempts have been continually baffled by the ingenuity of English and American dealers. The Emperor appears now to be exasperated to the last degree against the abettors of the trade. Never was a weak and pusillanimous government more violently roused than the Chinese authorities appear to be on the subject of the illicit traffic in opium. That the traffic is demoralizing, cruel, and antichristian, there appears to be no doubt. A distinguished missionary has told us that almost the first word uttered by a native Chinese, when urged to believe in Christ, is, 'Why do Christians bring us opium and bring it directly in defiance of our own laws?"

Alas, for the glory of England, should she stoop to take sides with the venal hucksters, and pedlars, who are enraged at being cut off from a profitable though impious traffic by the temperance reform of the Pagan "brother of the sun and uncle of the moon!"

The following is from the Morning Chronicle, a new paper just started at New York by an association of gentlemen, and edited by Wm. H Hudson.

Great Ship Race.—The packet ship South America, Capt. D. G. Bailey, sailed on the 3d inst. for Liverpool, taking out an account of the doings of the Legislature of Pennsylvania in relation to compelling the banks of that State to resume specie payments. Immediately after the South America had sailed, the Governor of Pennsylvania issued his message in favor of granting the Banks further time. This important document was sent out by the Philadelphia Banks on the 5th instant, in the crack ship Rochester, Capt. Woodhouse, with directions to Capt. W. to engage extra hands, and to beat the South America if possible. We understand that the suspended Banks of Philadelphia have contributed a fund of 1000 dollars, to be divided amongst the crew of the Rochester if she arrives at Liverpool first.

MARYLAND LEGISLATURE.

THE SENATE.

FRIDAY, Feb. 7th, 1840

Mr. Magruder submitted the following message:

Gentlemen of the House of Delegates,

We have received your message, in answer to that which we sent to you on Tuesday, in regard to the bill to confirm an act to limit the sessions of the legislature.

We did not suppose that there was any thing in our message to which exception could be taken by your honorable body

The bill to which we call your attention was merely disigned to confirm an act of the last session, about the propriety of passing or rejecting which it was to be presumed no member of either branch of the legislature came to the seat of government in doubt. Such messages from either branch to the other are not unusual. In proof of this we refer you to two messages which went from this body to your immediate predecessors; the one of April 1st, 1839, expressing our anxiety to have some suggestion from them for the prosecution of the internal improvement works, and to maintain the credit of the State; the other of the 5th of April, asking of the House of Delegates, a consideration and the passage of the very bill which it is now proposed to confirm.

It was of course, not our wish to divert the attention of the House from matters of grave importance, but we entertained a hope that this bill might have been acted upon "in the course of a day, 'the greater part of which was devoted to 'the consideration of bills to prevent the 'shooting of Woodcocks out of season, '—for the relief of the representatives of 'Susan Pryor, and to incorporate the Deer 'Creek Improving Company. These, we 'had hoped might have been delayed until a bill of three or four lines of consid-'erable importance to the State, had been 'disposed of; especially as the first it 'seems, would admit of an indefinite 'postponement, and the two last might 'have been passed by the last legislature, 'but that the one or the other body did 'not approve of them."

When we read upon your journal a few days since, an order "that it be 'entered on the journal, that there being 'no business before the House, ready 'for its consideration,' &c., we might well conclude that our little bill had been mislaid, and would not again come under the notice of your honorable body, unless you were reminded of it.

'When in the same journal we found 'how much of the time of the House, on 'the 31st January, was spent in securing 'to the members thereof the privilege of 'forwarding, at the expense of the State, "bill and concert tickets, or invitation cards, either in letter form or otherwise," we did hope that it would be in 'your 'power, without neglecting matters of 'grave concern to the State, to confirm 'the act limiting the sessions of the Gen-'eral Assembly.'

We considered it of importance to our constituents, that the bill should before this have been acted upon. Had it been passed, the community would then have been apprised, that if they had any business for the General Assembly, they must forthwith submit it. Time, sufficient to transact all the public business, is certainly allowed by that bill, and it is of vital importance to our constituents, that the session of the legislature should be as short as possible, as every day of legislation costs the State at least five hundred dollars.

We may not perhaps understand your meaning when you speak of "the evils of past legislation, which has for many years controled the destinies of the State." One, and perhaps the best way of correcting the evils of legislation, is to remember that the great art of legislation is not to legislate too much, and that long sessions are apt to produce many useless and mischievous laws. The alteration proposed in the constitution, would lessen the expenses and we have no doubt, increase the usefulness of our legislation, as very much mischief is often done at the close of a protracted session.

Perhaps you allude to the state of the treasury, and the heavy debt which has been contracted by the State. In any measures which your honorable body can devise for correcting those evils, and maintaining the credit of the State we shall be most happy to co-operate with you. 'But you must permit us to re-'mind you that as all bills, with any such 'object, must originate in your body, it 'is not our fault that although the Gen-'eral Assembly has been in session up-'wards of five weeks, no bill or resolution 'for any such purpose is before us.'

The debt is unquestionably a very heavy one and if the whole expense of the works in which the State has invested its money, is to be borne by our constituents, oppressive taxation may be the consequences. We had a right to expect considerable pecuniary aid from others, and among them the National Government, in the construction of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, and perhaps in this respect it was truly unfortunate for Maryland that General Jackson was elected the chief magistrate of the country. Perhaps it would be well here also to notice that during his administration, he deprived the State of a large sum of money (it is believed about $200,000) which was justly due to it, and the payment of which had been regularly authorised by Congress. *We ask* the House of Delegates to consider this matter.

As one of the States of this Union, we have an unquestionable title to a proportion of the proceeds of the public domain. This claim has oftentimes been asserted by our General Assembly, and men of all parties have maintained it. Could justice be done us, in this respect, the people of this, as well as of other States, would be relieved from taxation. We regret to learn, that it has become the fashion of late, with some of our politicians, to doubt and even dispute the right of the several States, to any portion of this money. With regard to this, however, the people will in a short time, have it in their power, to take care of themselves and of their rights; and we entertain no fears, that they will prefer taxation, and unite with those who seem to think it wise, to surrender the public lands to the General Government.

We are fearful, indeed, that some who have heretofore 'controlled the destinies of the State,' have not been so careful as they might have been, of its money and its credit. In Maryland we have had, for years an Internal Improvement party, consisting of men of all political parties, and too numerous to be controled by the political party to which they belonged. Men of all political parties claim the merit of having resisted, as far as they were able, what they deemed improvident acts of the majority, and as your honorable body must well know a much larger proportion of the Whig party than of their political adversaries, were in the minority when the bills which have involved the state in its present debt, was passed. The "evils of legislation" would perhaps have been avoided, but for the singular notion which seems, to have been entertained by some, that, as they were of a political party which had not the ascendency in the state, they would not be responsible for their own votes; and although they contributed by their votes to increase the debt, yet to the members of a different party, even those who opposed the laws, the censure would attack. No wonder, as there were among us politicians who entertained this notion, and at the same time were struggling for political power, that we now endure "evils of legislation."

If by 'evils of legislation,' you mean the derangement of the currency, here too, we are not disposed to deny, that there is some foundation for it. We are sorry to add, it is not probable that any State legislation is likely to diminish them. Perhaps, indeed, it will be found at last that we have had too much legislation about the currency; and all past efforts, by our State physicians, to improve it, have only increased the evil.—Gentlemen who compose our legislative bodies are not very conversant with such matters, and may do mischief when they really design to do good. Here, too, we have had to deplore the mischievous effect of party.—Ever since President Jackson determined to give us a sound currency; and submitted to the wisdom of the legislature whether or not institutions founded upon the credit of the Government and its resources, might not be devised, "a deranged currency" has been among the "evils of legislation," and of Executive experiments and expedients. It is a matter of joy to many among us, that the people will soon have an opportunity of providing a remedy for these evils, and by selecting better men for the management of their concerns, insure wiser measures.

We are ready, whenever your honorable body affords us an opportunity to direct our serious attention also to this subject; but candor obliges us to say, we have little reason to hope that the State Government can, in this respect, be very serviceable while those who rule the nation are so much disposed to take care of themselves, and maintain that "all communities are apt to look to Government for too much." We have much cause to regret that any, for party purposes should deem it expedient to war against our banking institutions, and should design to injure them. But for this, it is probable that a sale of bank stocks of which the state is the owner, might have relieved us for a time from taxation, and in consequence of this, any attempt to

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