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THE DEW DROP'S SONG.

I have gemmed the white Magnolia,
When gleaming in the light,
From the queen of beauty flowing
To irradiate the night;
I caress the tiny flowers
In the morn when fast asleep,
But alas, sometimes, at even
O'er their death I'm doomed to weep;
For often are they blasted
By the angry Sun's hot ray,
While their dew-drop friend and comforter
Has vanished far away.
And often I appear
In the emblem of God's word—
The holy bow which stretches wide
Its glistening hand abroad.
Thus mine's a life of usefulness,
Though a tiny thing I seem,
But not too small to pass through life
In doing good, I ween.
So all ye little people,
Hold up your heads as high,
As the dew-drop is above the earth
When glistening in the sky;
And remember 'tis not size nor strength
That ever makes the man;
But to "go ahead," with all your might,
And do what'er you can.

Report of the Committee on Finance

To the Legislature of Maryland, Relative to a Reduction of the Taxes

IN SENATE, March 9, 1852.

The Committee on Finance, to whom was referred that part of the Governor's Message which recommends a reduction of the taxes, submit the following Report.

The financial embarrassments of the State had been rapidly increasing till the year 1845, when the present revenue system went into full operation. At that time, the arrears of interest on the public debt amounted to nearly fifteen hundred thousand dollars, and the annual demands against the Treasury, after deducting the sums derived from the Internal Improvement companies, had increased to upwards of six hundred thousand. Under the new system of taxation, the arrears of interest were rapidly reduced, but were not finally paid till the year 1851. During this period, State bonds to the amount of nearly $600 000, were purchased for the use of the Sinking Fund; and there remained in the Treasury, on the first Monday of December last, a balance of $250,000, subject to the expenses of a long session of the Legislature, and to other unavoidable appropriations. The annual revenue being now free from the charge of interest in arrear, will produce an annually increasing surplus, applicable to the extinguishment of the public debt. The Governor is apprehensive that this surplus will accumulate to so large an amount as not to admit of proper application or investment; and, therefore, recommends the immediate repeal of the Stamp Tax, and a reduction of twenty per cent. of the Direct Tax, so as to relieve the Treasury from an excess of revenue, and the people from a portion of their burdens.

If, however, the improved condition of the revenue will justify a repeal of any of the taxes, it is difficult to perceive why the Stamp Tax or Direct Tax should be selected for that purpose in preference to others. The Direct Tax is more equal and just than any other, and the Stamp Tax, though inconvenient in its operation, is paid with less difficulty because it is imposed on large pecuniary transactions. It is true that it falls more heavily on the commercial classes, which, however, are more exempt from the taxes that are levied on real and personal property. It is to be remembered, too, that the agricultural interests are submitting to heavy burdens to pay a debt which was not contracted for their benefit. It is admitted that the Stamp Tax is objectionable, as well to merchants, who are more frequently compelled to pay it, as to the people of the country, who, from the difficulty of procuring stamps, are subjected to greater inconvenience in the execution of notes, contracts, and other instruments of writing. But is it more objectionable than many other taxes, the repeal or modification of which is not recommended in the message?

A tax is levied on the capital invested by our citizens in the stocks and securities of other States, though it is beyond the protection of our laws, and on all debts due to residents of this State, without allowing a deduction for the debts which they owe. Their debts and credits are perhaps nearly equal, yet the credits are considered as capital and taxed accordingly. A farm may be sold to several persons in succession, and each may give a bond for the purchase money; in which case, a tax is paid on the farm itself and on each separate bond. Vessels are taxed, whether in port or on a foreign voyage, while they are also taxed by the general government in being compelled to take out an annual license; and thus their owners are discouraged in their competition with the shipping interests of the eastern States. Collateral inheritances are taxed, or rather, the State makes herself one of the heirs of every person, who dies without leaving a father, mother, or wife, or lineal descendants. A tax is also imposed on the State bonds, whether held by our own citizens or foreigners, and without a previous notice, or intimation, that the State intended to pay any part of her debt by a deduction from the claims of her creditors.

The taxes now enumerated, and others equally oppressive, as well as the Stamp Tax, were the result of an urgent necessity, which exhausted the ordinary sources of revenue, and compelled the Legislature to resort to doubtful subjects of taxation, as the only means of restoring the credit of the State. Separately, they fall unequally upon different interests, but in their general operation, affect all classes so nearly alike, that no one of them can justly complain of being a disproportionate part of the public burdens. For this reason, if a particular class or section were relieved from an inconvenient tax, other classes and sections would contend for correspondent exemptions; and the whole revenue system would be endangered before it had effected any considerable reduction in the principal of the public debt. But if a part of the system could be modified, without disturbing the whole, the repeal or reduction of any tax, at the present time, for the benefit of particular classes, would necessarily prolong, for an indefinite period, the burdens which are imposed on the rest of the community.

The committee, therefore, think it inexpedient to repeal or reduce any particular tax, till the reduction of the public debt will justify a general modification of the revenue laws, and a repeal of all such as are oppressive in their operation or injurious to the great interests of the State.

Unless some adverse change should take place in the trade and commerce of the country, the condition of the Treasury will be such, in two or three years, as to admit of a general reduction of the taxes; and the question arises, whether the immediate reduction or repeal of the Direct and Stamp Tax will be necessary to avert the evils, which the Governor apprehends from a redundant revenue.

It appears, from the Treasurer's Report, that the public debt is now 15,290,688 dollars. The sinking fund is $2,253,796, and the productive capital of the State is 5,534,013 dollars. By deducting the two last sums from the first, it will be seen, that the sum now chargeable upon the treasury is seven millions five hundred and two thousand and thirteen dollars. The arrears of interest, for many years, have absorbed the surplus revenue, and prevented the augmentation of the Sinking Fund.—As the Treasury is now liberated from this charge, a rapid reduction will be made in the debt itself, if no legislative measures, and no unfavorable change in the course of public affairs, should diminish the annual surplus revenue. From the commencement of the payment of interest, and arrears of interest, to the present time, the general prosperity of the United States has been uninterrupted; and the people of this State have, consequently, been able to bear a system of taxation, which, under adverse circumstances, might have been considered an intolerable burden. We are now at peace with all the world, property and produce of every kind are advancing in price, the people are accustomed to taxes, which, at first, were considered oppressive, and they are now satisfied that their efforts, if persevered in, will soon relieve them from the evils of a permanent debt. They have, therefore, strong inducements, at the present time, to resist every suggestion that is likely to lead to a diminution of the public revenue. The repeal of one or two taxes would protract the period of their embarrassments, without affording them much temporary relief; while an adherence to the present system, for two or three years, will reduce the public debt to a limit that will admit of the repeal of such taxes as are detrimental to the agriculture, commerce, and capital of the State, and of a reduction of the rest to so low a rate as not to be seriously felt by the people.

It is feared, that unless there be an immediate reduction in the revenue, the State stocks will rapidly advance, till they command so high a premium as to make it unprofitable and improper to purchase them for the use of the sinking fund; and, that the surplus revenue, accumulating to a vast amount, must lie in the Treasury, or be employed, at considerable risk, in speculating in the securities of other States. The evils of an overflowing Treasury are too remote to cause any serious apprehension at the present time. As soon as they begin to be felt, the proper remedy can be easily applied. If the State stocks rise above the limit of profitable investment, and there should be more money in the Treasury than could be properly employed, it would be easy to reduce or abolish the taxes so as to prevent a surplus in the revenue. It may be supposed, that the sinking fund will produce a surplus by its own operation; but it will cease to accumulate when its interest is withheld and the taxes are repealed. The sinking fund is a fallacy, so far as it is considered the means of discharging any portion of the public debt. It consists of State bonds, and is the effect, and not the cause, of every reduction of the debt. The compounding of interest is very effective in its results, where there is one party to pay and another to receive it; but in the case of the sinking fund, the Treasurer receives it in behalf of the State, and pays it himself out of the surplus revenue. The result is the same, as if an individual were to purchase a part of his own bonds, and then, from his annual income, pay to himself the interest which they would have borne in the hands of a creditor, and, with the amount of interest so received, purchase another portion of his bonds. A more simple, and quite as effectual a process, would be to make a direct application of the surplus revenue to the extinguishment of the public debt, and to cancel or destroy the State bonds as fast as they were redeemed.

But it is unnecessary, at present to perplex ourselves with evils, which, at some distant period, may *possibly* arise from a redundant Treasury. Bonds, to the amount of more than a million of dollars are now due. These may be postponed till they are presented for payment; and, in the mean time, the Treasurer can apply the surplus revenue to the purchase of such as are redeemable at distant dates, while they are selling at par or at a slight premium.—When they advance beyond the limit of a profitable investment, he will have the alternative of purchasing such as have arrived at maturity. The general abundance of money has caused an advance in every kind of stocks, and the unsettled condition of Europe has induced capitalists to make larger investments in American securities. A pressure in the money market, such as periodically occurs, or a war, in which the United States are as likely as other nations to involve themselves, would immediately depress the stocks of every State in the Union. But under no circumstances, can the bonds of Maryland advance materially beyond their present rates, or remain permanently above par, while State and government securities, of every description, are seeking purchasers in every market. These stocks are the subject of speculation, as well as a fund for investment; and command prices according to the profit or interest they are expected to yield. When a particular kind of stock advances above its relative value, the holders find it to their advantage to dispose of it, and invest the proceeds in some other, equally safe and profitable, which can be purchased at a lower rate. The difference, therefore, between the price they command in the market, and their real value, is nearly the same in all. A provision for paying them before they became due, enhances their value only so far as it furnishes evidence that the interest will be regularly paid. The certainty of interest, and not the prospect of redemption, makes them a desirable fund for investment.—The certainty that the British funds will never be redeemed, has no tendency to impair their value. The only serious cause of their occasional depression, is the apprehension of a war, which would enlarge the national debt and make it impossible to pay the increased interest, or of some revolution that might dissolve the government and all its obligations. If it were known that a sufficient amount was now in the treasury to pay the State debt, it would cause but a slight advance in our bonds, unless the Treasurer was bound to purchase them all at the same time, and without limitation as to price. But if the holders discovered that he had authority, in case of any extravagant demands, to make temporary investments in other stocks, they would surrender them with as little reluctance, and upon as moderate terms, as they would be in Virginia, New York, or Massachusetts. And it is only when our bonds cannot be obtained at reasonable rates, that the Treasurer ought to have the choice of purchasing the securities of other States. To deny him the power altogether, would embarrass him in his negotiations with the public creditors; and the knowledge that he was invested with such authority, would, in nearly every case, prevent the necessity of exercising it.—The State might certainly provide for such cases, which, however are not likely to occur, without becoming a speculator in stocks. The temporary investment of the surplus revenue in other stocks, till it could be advantageously applied to the purchase of our own, would be merely to convert bank notes, which would not be profitably used for any other purpose, into a fund, bearing interest, and less liable to accident or depreciation.

There is a general impression, that the Sinking Fund, as now constituted, is to be permitted to accumulate till it absorbs or extinguishes the public debt. The Governor appears to entertain this opinion, and admits that its re-investments will produce the stock speculations, which he apprehends from an excessive revenue. He proposes to mitigate the evil by restricting the Sinking Fund to the accumulation of its own interest. But even under that limitation, it would increase its demands upon the Treasury, in proportion to the reduction of the public debt. The people would be taxed to pay an imaginary creditor, and the Treasurer would be employed in counting his liquidated bonds, and calculating how much interest he would be entitled to receive from himself.

After a careful consideration of the subject, the committee have came to the conclusion, that the Stamp Tax could not be repealed, or the Direct Tax reduced, without causing the repeal of others equally oppressive; that no reduction could be now made in the revenue, without postponing, to a distant period, the repeal of all such taxes are as unjust and unequal in their operation; that, until the public debt is considerably reduced, there will be no unnecessary surplus in the Treasury; and that the possibility of such surplus hereafter, is not a sufficient reason for repealing any of the taxes at the present time.

WM. GRASON, Chairman.

[COMMUNICATED.]

A puissant champion, full of 'wrath and cabbage', appears over the signature of "Jeems," in nearly a full length column of the last Star, brandishing, not a pitch fork, but a pin-feather in the face of Osceola. I propose to foil, not to fight him, as his weapon has no point, and the wielder no vim. Moreover I cannot condescend to reply to a large portion of his language, for I take my pen only to notice the departures from the *rules of grammar*, *not* those from the rules courtesy.

"Jeems" quotes from Osceola the following sentence: "We would respectfully inquire what the term *this*, at the commencement of the last sentence *refers to;*" and rails about its *ending* with a preposition. To make short work with this yearling critic, I refer him to Noah Webster's English Grammar, page 136, where is the following authority: "The preposition is sometimes separated from the word which it governs," 'as,' "with a longing for that state which he is *charmed with*," instead of, "*with which* he is charmed." "I know not what person he gave the *present to*." To point out, and ridicule this construction, the astute 'Jeems' of the Star employs twenty-six lines of gaseous, abusive words, ranting about 'mist and fog,' 'the shadow of St. Blair,' 'manifest disregard of old principles;' and 'error sufficient to brand one with the marks of self-conceit and ignorance,' &c. &c. Unfortunately the great lexicographer stands between this pseudo critic and Osceola, shielding the latter from cut and thrust, and himself alone exposed to the direful, *murderous* effect of the smoke and flame, and noise of this terrible Don Quixotic's bursting bomb-shells.—The disciples of Mr. Webster will, doubtless, now that their favorite has been summarily turned down, abandon *him* and take to his vanquisher, this wondrous New Light in philology. The next sentence from Osceola which 'Jeems' quotes for criticism is the following: "The above quotation contains a cluster of beauties and excellences such as is rarely seen." Would any one that understands English Grammar, seriously assert that a grammatical error exists in the sentence quoted? Can any such error be pointed out? Certainly not; yet 'Jeems' makes a great parade of capitals, and italics, to show the inaccuracy. I will again waive my right of silence, and condescend to set the verdant Linguist right.—The verb *is* has for its nominative the relative *as* whose antecedent is the singular noun cluster, and *not* the joint and plural nouns beauties and excellencies.—'Jeems's third and last quotation from Osceola is this: "Grammarians instruct us that the tense to be used in giving notice of an event to happen hereafter is the future." The sapient critic expounds the above sentence thus: "Grammarians instruct us that the tense *to be*, used in giving notice of an event to happen hereafter *is the future*;" and afterwards comments upon it in the following perspicuous manner: "Of course this is right *because you cannot err in grammar; 'to be'* is in the present tense to agree with *is*, and *is*, is not in the present tense to agree with *'to be*,' according to rule third of Osceola's syntax." "All this is plain enough to you but it is a little beyond the reach of common mortals: just clean it off with that 'feather' that none of its beauties be lost or obscured." What the thirteen critical lines mean which the profound Thinker expends in comments on my sentence after he has given, by his punctuation, and italics *his* understanding of it, I leave for those to ascertain who have more leisure, and greater discernment than myself. I will however notice his *expounding* of the sentence: he puts a comma after the verb *to be*, thus making it the *nominative* to the verb *is*, making the reading thus: "Grammarians instruct us that the verb *to be*, used, &c *is* the future." He calls the *verb* 'to be' a *tense*, and says it (the verb) agrees with *is;* and also that when used to give notice of an event to happen hereafter it is *future*, of course he implies that it (the *verb* to be) is some *other* tense when used to give notice of an event which happens in some *other* time. Next after his utter failure to understand the sentence which he was criticising, I know not which is the more ridiculous, his nonsensical exposition of it, or his pompous comments. Both show conclusively, and for the third time, that he is incapable of analyzing correctly a plain English sentence. I will inform this precious specimen of scholarship and intellectual astuteness, that the sentence is correct, his raw opinion and comments to the contrary notwithstanding; and, once more, out of purely unmerited favor, attempt to enlighten *him* by resolving it according to the rules of grammar. The noun *tense* is *nominative* to the verb *is*, and the verb *be* is connected by the preposition *to*, to the verb *is* in the relative clause, *not* expressed because sufficiently evident. Thus: "Grammarians instruct us that the tense *which is* to be used &c. *is* the future." What lack of perspicuity, or what grammatical error is there in this, or in any of the three sentences quoted, &c. criticised, and upon which the 'Jeems' of the Star decants his senseless verbiage? None. To what end serve his coarse language and vulgar ridicule? Only to disclose a heart covered with pustules which are filled with the foul virus of ulcerated malice. With him I have nearly done; henceforth let him be sure he hits before he counts the licks, and learn that to be abusive is not the *only* way to be severe. If, in his own language, "a single error is sufficient to *blast* the critic, and brand him with the marks of self-conceit and ignorance," we shall hear no more from the quondam 'Jeems', though the 'brand,' if in his *face*, will of course remain, as an engraving on *brass* is durable. His twaddle about 'modesty' and 'learning' become *him* about as naturally as the skin of the lion became the Ass In fact he would do well to stop the operation of his *gas-works*, as the reading public, if I mistake not, have spared about as much space to him as they can yield in patience. He may derive a useful hint from the following fable: "There is one for every business, and a business for every one, but *this* is *not* the business for me" as the fox who had set up carpentering said, *when his tail caught in the plank he was sawing.*

OSCEOLA.

PREPARING SEED CORN.

A very good thing we find in the *Journal of Agriculture*, respecting the preparation of seed corn before it is planted, and it is all the better and more reliable because it is the result of an experiment—an experiment which, we are confident, many of our readers will try for themselves.

Says the correspondent of that journal:

In October, 1850, I turned over a piece of green sward. In the spring I manured it highly with green manure from the barn yard, ploughed it about the usual depth, and harrowed it thoroughly. I then marked the rows north and south, planting three and a half feet apart, by drawing a chain.

My seed was steeped six hours in a solution of chlorid of lime, and I dropped three kernels in the hill—the hills eighteen inches apart in the row. In each hill was dropped a small handfull of compost made of plaster, unleached ashes, and hen manure—say two and a half bushels of plaster, three of hen manure, and eight of ashes. The hen manure was taken dry and pulverised, and mixed with the other ingredients in a dry state, and applied in that condition. The corn was covered one inch deep.

The corn came up quickly and grew with great vigor, and I had an excellent crop, estimated at eighty bushels to the acre.

To determine the value of the chloride of lime and the compost supplied to the hill, I planted two rows through the middle of the field with the same seed and in the same manner, with the omission of the soaking and the compost. The difference was visible at a glance, through the season; and in harvesting and weighing the produce on adjacent rows, I found that the rows planted with dry corn and without the compost, yielded fifty-seven pounds less to the row than the other—making a difference in sixty-four rows—one and a half acres—of 368 lbs. or 52 bushels, or about 35 bushels to the acre. I should add also, that besides the great difference in the quantity, the corn from the steeped seed, manured with compost, is vastly better than the other, and worth much more pound for pound.

PLANTING POTATOES.

Almost every farmer, now-a-days, adopts the practice of cutting his potatoes for seed in order to economise cost. Some cut the tubers into as many pieces as there are "eyes" in the potatoe, and allow from one to three pieces to a hill. Others divide the roots in the centre, pressing the knife through them longitudinally, and one half a potatoe only to a hill. Quarters are also used. Now it may not be generally known that there are two distinct parts of the potatoe, and that the apex or end which presents a number of small eyes, will produce a crop earlier by some ten or fifteen days than the middle or body part. The produce of the latter, however, is always superior in point of size, while that of the butt or naval is inferior, the eyes being imperfectly developed or immature. In selecting roots for seed, the preference should always be given to the largest, soundest and most symmetrical, as large well-formed roots will produce better progeny than those of a more diminutive character. Having made your seclection, cut off the seed ends, then the butts, and divide the middle into sections; the two pieces being sufficient for a "hill."—If you are desirous to have early potatoes, for use, or for marketing, plant your seed ends. Feed the butts to your swine or cattle, and after allowing your middles to remain spread out on a dry floor for a fortnight to heal the wounds, plant them, and the result will be a liberal and healthy crop of well formed and good sized roots.

GEN. CASS IN THE ASCENDANT.—It is confidently asserted that the Democracy of Maryland will send Cass delegates to the Convention to be held in June next, and it is also confidently asserted, that he will get the nomination of the Convention on the first or second ballot, thus distancing Buchanan, Douglas & Co. As the Whigs beat him in the last race over the National course, they must do it again at the next contest.

Maryland Legislature.

ANNAPOLIS, March 15.

The Senate was not in session to-day.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

On motion of Mr. Davis, the Treasurer was directed to ascertain from the Banks of Baltimore, the terms upon which they would be willing to receive the deposits of the public money, and the rate of interest they would be willing to allow upon the average balance for each and every year. That J. S. Gittings, furnish this House the average balance of the public money of the State in the Chesapeake Bank during every year, since first of January, 1846.

The bill to extend the time for certain sheriffs and collectors to complete their collections, was amended by the addition of sundry other names, &c.

The exemption bill was then taken up. The question being on the amendment of the exemption. Mr. Thomas, of St. Mary's moved $100, and Mr. Landing $50. The motion of Mr. Thomas was agreed to—yeas 28, nays 22.

Mr. Everett moved to strike out $100, and insert $500, the extent allowed by the Constitution. Rejected—yeas, Messrs. Roberts Davis, Morris, Weathers and Everett, 5; nays, 43.

Mr. Davis then moved to strike out $100 and insert 300. Rejected—yeas 9, nays 42.

Mr. Buchanan moved to strike out $100 and insert $150. Rejected.

Mr. Weathers moved to strike out $100 & insert $250. Rejected—yeas 15, nays 37.

Mr. Daniels moved to strike out $100 and insert $200. Messrs. Crout and Davis advocated it, and Messrs. Morris and Landing in opposition, and without coming to a vote the House on motion adjourned.

ANNAPOLIS, March 16.

SENATE.

The bill making valid a deed from Mr. Sullivan, trustee to Francis Haines was rejected.

The bill imposing a fine for circulating foreign notes of a less denomination than $5, was taken up. On motion of Mr. Doane, it was so amended as to prohibit under a penalty of $6, the circulation of any bank note of a less denomination than $5, after the first day of October, 1852.—This prohibition applies alike to the Banks, &c., of this State, as those of other states. The bill as thus amended, was passed—Messrs. Cady, French, Longwell and Sothoron voting against it.

Bills passed—Amendatory to the charter of the New York and Maryland Steamship Company; increasing the per diem of the bailiff to the Orphans' Court of Baltimore city; relating to the fees of clerks and Registers whose terms have recently expired by constitutional limitation; to refund to Thomas B Billingsley, of Calvert county, a certain fine paid by him; for the relief of Chiffelle & Bouldin; making valid a deed from Ann Jenkins, and others, to Elizabeth P. O'Neal, all of Howard county; prohibiting the sale of ardent spirits in or at the village of Charlotte Hall.

The President announced the order of the day, being the bill to amend the charter of the Cumberland Coal and Iron Company, and the Senate proceeded to consider said bill, the discussion on which continued until the hour of adjournment.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

On motion of Mr. Baker, of Kent, the report of the Committee on Elections, in regard to the election of Circuit Clerk, of Charles county, was reconsidered and laid on the table.

On motion of Mr. Baker, of Baltimore, the House took up the bill providing for the publication of cases argued and determined by Court of Appeals, which was passed.

The consideration of the exemption bill was then resumed. The question being on the motion of Mr. Daniels, to strike out $100 as the amount of the exemption, and insert $200. After debate the vote was taken and resulted as follows:—yeas 24, nays 29.

Mr. Frazier stated that he was in favor of exempting a small amount, because he believed the whole subject was conceived in error, and if enacted into a law, would end in confusion. He moved to strike out $100, and insert $50. Rejected—yeas 14; nays 39.

Mr. Dent moved an amendment giving the benefit of the exemption to white persons only. Rejected, after debate, by a vote of 13 yeas to 36 nays.

Mr. Davis moved the amendment, that the exemption contained in this bill be in addition to the working tools, farming utensils, necessary to the prosecution of the debtor's occupation, not exceeding $75.—Before the vote was taken, adjourned.

ANNAPOLIS, March 17.

SENATE.

Mr. Sothoron, from the committee on the library, reported favorably on the petition of George L. Davis, so far as to grant him access to any of the colonial records of Maryland, but against their removal from their present place of deposit.

The bill to amend the law in criminal cases was passed.

On motion of Mr. Doane, a resolution was adopted, providing a joint committee of one Senator and two Delegates to examine the books of the Commissioner of Loans preparatory to their delivery to the Treasurer.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

On motion of Mr. Davis, the sum of $50

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