supplied from the Scottish manufactories.—The payment of the duty is evaded by the introduction of the foreign fabric, under the name of burlaps, or some other mercantile phrase, and instead of paying five cents the square yard, it is entered with a duty of only fifteen per cent. ad valorem. That this practice prevails, is demonstrated by the Treasury report of the duties accruing on cotton bagging for the years 1828, 1829, and 1830.—During the first year the amount was $137,506, the second $106,068, and the third it sunk down to $14.141!

The time has arrived when the enquiry ought be seriously made whether it be not practicable to arrest this legitimate course of trade, and secure the faithful execution of the laws. No time could be more suitable than that at which it is contemplated to make a great reduction of the public revenue. Two radical changes have presented themselves to my mind, and which I will now suggest for consideration and investigation. On such a subject, I would however, seek from the mercantile community and practical men, all the light which they are so capable of affording, and should be reluctant to act on my own convictions, however strong.

The first is to make a total change in the place of valuation. Now the valuation is made in foreign Countries. We fix the duties, and we leave to foreigners to assess the value on articles paying ad valorem duties. That is, we prescribe the rule, and leave its execution to the foreigner. This is an anomaly, I believe, peculiar to this country. It is evident that the amount of duty payable on a given article subject to an ad valorem duty, may be affected as much by the fixation of the value, as by the specification of the duty. And, for all practical purposes, it would be just as safe to retain to ourselves the ascertainment of the value, and leave to the foreigner to prescribe the duty, as it is to reserve to ourselves the right to declare the duty and allow to him the privilege to assess the value.

The effect of this vicious condition of the law has been, to throw almost the whole import trade of the country, as to some important articles, into the hands of the foreigner. I have been informed, that seven eights of the importation of woollens into the port of New York, where more is received than in all the other ports of the United States together, are in his hands. This has not proceeded from any want of enterprize, intelligence or capital on the part of the American merchant; for in these particulars he is surpassed by the merchant of no country. It has resulted from his probity, his character, and his respect to the laws and institutions of his country—a respect which does not influence the foreigner. I am aware that it is made by law, the duty of the appraiser to ascertain the value of the goods in certain cases. But what is his chief guide? It is the foreign invoice, made by whom he knows not, certainly by no person responsible to our laws. And, if its fairness be contested; they will bring you cart loads of certificates and affidavits from unknown persons to verify its correctness, and the first cost of the article.

Now, sir, it seems to me that this is a state of things to which we should promptly apply an efficacious remedy, and no other appears to me, but that of taking into our own hands both parts of the operation, the ascertainment of the value as well as the duty to be paid on the goods. If it be said that we might have, in different ports, different rules, the answer is, that there could be no diversity greater than that to which we are liable from the fact of the valuation being now made in all the ports of foreign countries from which we make our importations. [illegible] valuation made by persons responsible to our own Government, and regulated by one head, than by unknown foreigners, standing under no responsibility whatever to us.

The other change to which I allude, is to reduce the credits allowed for the payment of duties and to render them uniform. It would be better, if not injurious to commerce, to abolish them altogether. Now we have various periods of credit graduated according to the distance of the foreign port, and the nature of the trade. These credits operate as so much capital on which the foreign merchant can sometimes make several adventures before the arrival of the day of payment. There is no reciprocal advantage afforded to the American merchant, I believe in any foreign port. As we shall probably abolish or reduce greatly the duties on all articles imported from beyond the Cape of Good Hope, on which the longest credits are allowed, the moment would seem to be propitious for restricting the other credits in such manner, that whilst they afforded a reasonable facility to the merchant, they should not supply the foreigner at the instance of the public, with capital for his mercantile operations. If the laws can be strictly enforced, and some such alterations as have been suggested, can be carried into effect, it is quite probable that a satisfactory reduction may be made of the duties upon some of the articles falling within the system of protection.—And without imparing its principle, other modes of relief, may be devised to some of those interests upon which it is supposed to press most heavily. There remains one view to present to the Senate in respect to the amount of reduction of the revenue which will be produced by the proposed measure if adopted, and its influence upon the payment of the public debt within the time suggested by the Secretary of the Treasury. The estimate which I have made of that amount is founded upon Treasury returns prior to the reduction of duties on tea, coffee, and cocoa. Supposing the duties on wines and silks to be reduced as low as I think they may be, the total amount of revenue with which the proposed measure will dispense, will be above $7,000,000. The Secretary of the Treasury estimates the receipts of the present year from all sources at $30,100,000, and he supposes those of the next year will be of an equal amount. He acknowledges that the past year has been one of extraordinary commercial activity; but on what principles does he anticipate that the present will also be? The history of our commerce demonstrates that it alternates, and that a year of intemperate speculation is usually followed by one of more guarded importation. That the importations of the past year have been excessive, I believe is generally confessed, and is demonstrated by two unerring facts. The first is that the imports have exceeded the exports by about seventeen millions of dollars.

Whatever may be the qualifications to which the theory of the balance of trade may be liable, it may be safely affirmed, that when the aggregate of the importations from foreign countries exceeds the aggregate of the exportations to all foreign countries considerably, the unfavorable balance must be made up by a remittance of the precious metals to some extent. Accordingly we find the existence of the other fact to which I allude, the high price of bills of exchange on England. It is therefore, fairly to be anticipated that the duties accruing this year will be less in amount than those of the past year. And I think it would be unwise to rely upon our present information as to the income in either of these two years as furnishing a safe guide for the future. The years 1829 and 1830, will supply a surer criterion. There is a remarkable coincidence in the amount of the receipts into the Treasury during those two years, it having been, the first, from all sources $24,827,627 38, and the second $24,844,116 51, differing about only $17,000.

The mode recommended by the Secretary for the modification of the Tariff, is to reduce no part of the duties on the unprotected articles, prior to March 1833, and then to retain a considerable portion of them. And as to the protected class, he would make a gradual but prospective reduction of the duties.—The effect of this would be to destroy the protecting system by a slow but certain poison.—The object being to reduce the revenue, every descending degree in the scale of his plan of gradual reduction, by letting in more of the foreign articles to displace the domestic rival fabric, would increase the revenue and beget a necessity for further and further reduction of duties until they would be carried so low as to end in the entire subversion of the system of protection.

For the reasons which have been assigned, it would, I think, be unwise in Congress at this time, to assume, for the future, that there would be a greater amount of nett annual revenue, from all sources, including the public lands, than $25,000,000. Deducting from that sum the amount of seven millions which it has been supposed ought to be subtracted, if the resolution before you should be adopted there would remain $18,000,000 as the probable revenue of future years. This includes the sum of three millions estimated as the future annual receipt from the sale of the public lands—an estimate which I believe will be demonstrated by experience to be much too large.

If a reduction so large as seven millions be made at this session; and if the necessary measures be also adopted, to detect and punish frauds, and ensure a faithful execution of the laws, we may safely make a temporary pause, and await the developement of the effect upon the revenue of these arrangements. That the authority of the laws should be vindicated, all ought to agree. Now, the fraudulent importer, after an exposure of his fraud, by a most strange Treasury construction of the law, (made I understand, however not by the present Secretary,) eludes all punishment, and is only required to pay those very duties which he was originally bound for, but which he dishonestly sought to evade. Other measures, with a view to a further reduction of the revenue, may be adopted. In some instances, there might be an augmentation of duties for that purpose. I will mention the article of foreign distilled spirits. In no country upon earth is there so much of the foreign article imported as in this. The duties ought to be doubled, and the revenue thereby further reduced from $6,000,000 to a million.—The public morals, the grain growing country, the fruit raising, and the cane planting country, would be all benefitted by rendering the duty prohibitory. I have not proposed the measure, because it, perhaps, ought to originate in the other House.

That the measure which I have proposed may be adopted, without interfering with the plan of the Secretary of the Treasury for the payment of the public debt by the 4th of March next, I will now proceed to show. The Secretary estimates that the receipts of the present year, after meeting all other just engagements, will leave a surplus of 14 millions applicable to the payment of the principal of the debt. With this sum, 8 millions which he proposes to derive from the sale of the bank stock, and 3 millions which he would anticipate from the revenue of the next year, he suggests that the whole of the debt remaining may be discharged by the time indicated.—The 14 millions, I understand, (although on this subject the report is not perfectly explicit) are receipts anticipated this year from duties which *accrued* last year. If this be the Secretary's meaning, it is evident that he wants no part of the duties which may accrue during the current year to execute his plan. But if his meaning be, that the fourteen millions will be composed in part of duties *accruing* and *payable* within the present year, then the measure proposed might prevent the payment of the whole of the remnant of the debt by the exact day which has been stated. If however, the entire seven millions, embraced by the resolution on your table, were subtracted from the fourteen it would still leave him seven millions, besides the bank stock, to be applied to the debt, and that, of itself, would be three millions more than can be properly applied to the object, in the course of this year, as I have already endeavored to show.

I came here sir, most anxiously desiring that an arrangement of the Public Revenue should be made which, without sacrificing any of the great interests of the country, would reconcile and satisfy all its parts. I thought I perceived in the class of objects not produced within the country, a field on which we could all enter, in a true and genuine spirit of compromise and harmony, and agree upon an amicable adjustment. Why should it not be done? Why should those who are opposed to the American System, demand of its friends an unconditional surrender? Our common object should be so to reduce the public revenue as to relieve the burthens of the people, if the people of this country can be truly said to be burthened. The Government must have a certain amount of revenue, and that amount must be collected from the imports. Is it material to the consumer, wherever situated, whether the collection be made upon a few or many objects, provided whatever be the mode the amount of his contribution to the public exchequer remains the same? If the assessment can be made on subjects which will greatly benefit large portions of the Union, without injury to him, why should he object to the selection of those objects? Yes, sir, I came here, in a spirit of warm attachment to all parts of our beloved country, with a lively solicitude to restore and preserve its harmony, and with a firm determination to pour oil and balm into existing wounds, rather than further to lacerate them. For the truth and sincerity of those declarations, I appeal to HIM whom no one can deceive: I expected to be met by corresponding dispositions, and hoped that our deliberations, guided by paternal sentiments and feelings, would terminate in diffusing contentment and satisfaction throughout the land. And that such may be the spirit presiding over them, and such their issue, I yet most fervently hope.

Value of Newspapers.—Travelling on the road from this place to Fall River a short time since, we engaged in conversation with a person whom we supposed, from the good farmer. He complained bitterly of not being able to find out what was going on in the world, and on inquiry we found he took no newspaper. On our expressing astonishment that he should deprive himself and family (for he acknowledged he had one) of the means of acquiring much useful information, he replied that money could be appropriated to much better advantage, and that two quarts of meal would do his hogs more good than all the newspapers in the world.—*New Bedford Gaz.*

The subject of the coloured population of Virginia is apparently exciting deep interest in that State. Hitherto, if it has been alluded to at all, it has only been in a distant and indistinct manner, but recent occurrences have brought the subject forward in a way which puts former fastidiousness entirely aside.—Take the following, for example, from the Richmond Enq. of the 7th instant:

It is probable, from what we hear, that the committee on the coloured population will report [to the Legislature, now in session] some plan for getting rid of the free people of color—but is this all that can be done? Are we forever to suffer the greatest evil which can scourge our land, not only to remain, but to increase in its dimensions? "We may shut our eyes and avert our faces, if we please," (writes an eloquent South Carolinian, on his return from the north a few weeks ago)—"But there it is the dark and growing evil, at our doors; and meet the question we must at no distant day. God only knows what it is the part of wise men to do on that momentous and appalling subject, of *this* I am very sure, that the difference—nothing short of frightful—between all that exists on one side of the Potomac, and all on the other, is owing to *that cause alone*.—The disease is deep-seated—it is at the heart's core—it is consuming, and has all along been consuming our vitals, and I could laugh, if I *could* laugh on such a subject, at the ignorance and folly of the politician, who ascribes *that* to an act of the government, which is the inevitable effect of the eternal laws of Nature. What is to be done? Oh! my God—I don't know, but something must be done."

Yes—something must be done—and it is the part of no honest man to deny it—of no free press to affect to conceal it. When this dark population is growing upon us; when every new census is but gathering its appalling numbers upon us; when within a period equal to that in which this Federal Constitution has been in existence, those numbers will increase to more than two millions within Virginia;—when our Sister States are closing their doors upon our blacks for sale, and when our whites are moving Westwardly in greater numbers than we like to hear of—When this, the fairest land on all this Continent, for soil and climate and situation combined, might become a sort of garden spot, if it were worked by the hands of white men alone, *can we, ought we*, to sit quietly down, fold our arms, and say to each other, "Well, well; this thing will not come to the worst in our day. We will leave it to our children and our grand-children, and great grand-children, to take care of themselves—and to brave the storm?" Is this to act as wise men? Heaven knows! we are no fanatics—We detest the madness which actuated the *Amis des Noirs*.—But something ought to be done—Means sure, but gradual, systematic, but discreet, ought to be adopted, for reducing the mass of evil, which is pressing upon the South, and will still more press upon her, the longer it is put off. We ought not to shut our eyes, nor avert our faces. And though we speak almost without a hope, that the Committee or that the Legislature, will do any thing, at the present session, to meet this question, yet we say now, in the utmost sincerity of our hearts, that our wisest men cannot give too much of their attention to this subject—nor can they give it too soon.

Some years before the French Revolution, a compositor at a printing house left his workshop—he was seized by four men, who promised that they would not do him any injury if he made no resistance; they tied a bandage over his eyes and pushed him into a coach. The poor man did not dare to utter a word during the whole time he was on the road. When they untied the bandage he found himself in a large room in which where cases was filled with characters, and presses; they ordered him to print some pamphlets, and many of those obscene books which have multiplied so greatly within these few years with such frightful audacity. He was obliged to obey, and was kept fifteen days at work, for which they liberally paid him; and then, having again tied a bandage over his eyes, they placed him in a coach, and carried him back to the spot from whence they first took him. He never disclosed his adventure to any one, having been bound to secrecy, which he promised to perform. When the Bastile was taken he was amongst the number of the assailants, and he there recognised the secret printing press, to which he had been conducted with so much mystery. What a subject for reflection.—PARIS IN LONDON.

MARYLAND LEGISLATURE.

IN SENATE,

Wednesday, January 11, 1832.

The bill, entitled, an act to provide for the cession of Territorial Jurisdiction at Hooper's or Barns' Island, in Dorchester county, and at Sharp's Island, in Talbot county, for the erection of Light Houses thereon by the Government of the United States; was read the third time and passed, and returned to the House of Delegates.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

Wednesday, Jan. 11, 1832.

The Speaker laid before the house a report from Richard H Hall, Tobacco Inspector, in the city of Baltimore, relative to the several sums of money paid by him into the Western Shore treasury within the year ending on the 30th of November 1831.

The bill reported by Mr. Hunt, entitled an Act to incorporate the Baltimore and Wheeling transportation Company, was taken up for consideration, read the second time, amended and passed.

Thursday, January 12*th*, 1832.

On motion by Mr. Johns, the house took up for consideration the bill reported by him entitled an Act to repeal an act, entitled An act to abolish imprisonment for debt, on certain judgments rendered by justices of the peace, passed at December session 1830, chap. 155.

When on motion by Mr Teackle, said bill was laid on the table, and made the order of the day for Wednesday next, the 18th inst.

In the *House of Delegates*, on Monday, Jan 16th the bill to regulate sales of real estate by collectors of taxes in the several counties and cities in this state; and the additional supplement to the act, entitled, an act to incorporate a company for erecting a bridge over Choptank river, at or near Dover fery, were sent to the Senate.

Mr. Sutton submitted the following order;

Ordered, That the committee on Education, be instructed to inquire into the propriety and expediency of withdrawing the donations from the several colleges and academies of this state, for the purpose of appropriating the same to the poor schools in each county of this state, and that they report by bill or otherwise;—which was read, and the question being taken by yeas and nays was decided in the negative, ayes 24, noes 44; Messrs. Dudley, Bruff and Stevens, of Talbot voting in the negative.

On Tuesday, 17th the report of the trustees of the Academy at Easton, was referred to the committee on education.

The bill to alter the constitution, so as to have

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and also any excess which might yearly be in the treasury, beyond two millions of dollars, which it was thought prudent to reserve for unforseen exigencies.

But this system of regular and perodical application of public revenue to the payment of the public debt, would have been unavailing if Congress had neglected to provide the necessary ways and means. Congress did not, however, neglect the performance of that duty. By various acts, and more especially by the tariff of 1824—the abused tariff of 1824—the public coffers were amply replenished, and we have been enabled to reach our present proud eminence of financial prosperity. After Congress had thus abundantly provided funds; and directed their systematical application, the duty remaining to be performed by the Executive was one simply ministerial. And no Executive and no Administration can justly claim for itself any other merit in the discharge of the public debt, than that of a faithful execution of the laws. No other merit than that similar one to which it is entitled for directing a regular payment of what is due from time to time to the army and navy, or to the officers of the Civil Government for their salaries.

The operations of the sinking fund act commenced with the commencement of Mr. Monroe's Administration. During its continuance of eight years, owing to the embarrassments of the Treasury, the ten millions were not regularly applied to the payment of the debt; and, upon the termination of that Administration, the Treasury, stood largely in arrear to the sinking fund. During the subsequent Administration of four years, not only was the ten millions faithfully applied during each year, but those arrears were brought up, and all the previous deficiencies made good. So that, when the present Administration began, a plain, unincumbered and well defined path lay directly before it. Under the measures which have been devised, in the short term of fifteen years, the Government has paid nearly one hundred millions of principal and about an equal sum of interest, leaving the small remnant behind of twenty-four millions.

Of that remnant, thirteen millions consist of the 3 per cent. stock created by the act of 1790, which the Government does not stand bound to redeem at any prescribed time, but which it may discharge whenever it suits its own convenience, and when it is discharged it must be done by payment of dollar for dollar. I cannot think, and I should suppose, Congress can hardly believe, with the Secretary of the Treasury, that it would be wise to pay off a stock of thirteen millions, entitling its holders to but three per cent. [illegible] of thirteen millions worth an inte[illegible] per cent. In other words, to take fro[illegible] the pockets of the people two dollars to pay one, in the hands of the stockholder.

The moral value of the payment of a national Debt, consists in the demonstration which it affords of the ability of a country to meet, and its integrity in fulfilling all its engagements. That the resources of this country, increasing as it constantly is in population and wealth, are abundantly sufficient to meet any debt which it may ever prudently contract, cannot be doubted. And its punctuality and probity, from the period of the assumption, 1790, of the debt of the Revolution down to the present time, rests upon a solid and [illegible] foundation. The danger, perhaps, is not that it will not fairly meet its engagements, but that [illegible] moderate wait[illegible] from temporary causes, it may bring discredit

French spoliations previous to the convention of 1800, which is perhaps not short of five millions; and to some extent, I have no doubt, it has a just foundation. In any provision of a public revenue, Congress ought so to fix it, as to admit of the payment of honest and proper demands, which its justice cannot reject or evade.

I hope too, that either in the adjustment of the public revenue, or, what would be preferable, in the appropriation of the proceeds of the public lands, effectual and permanent provision will be made for such interal improvements as may be sanctioned by Congress. This is due to the American people, and emphatically due to the western people. Sir, temporary causes may exact a reluctant acquiescence from the people of the west, in the suspension of appropriations to objects of internal improvement, but as certain as you preside in that chair, or as the sun performs its diurnal revolution, they will not be satisfied with an abandonment of the policy. They will come here and tell you, not in a tone of menace or supplication, but in the language of conscious right, that they must share with you in the benefits, as they divide with you the burthens and the perils of a common Government.—They will say that they have no direct interest in the expenditures for the navy, the fortifications, nor even the army those greatest absorbants of the public treasure. That they are not indifferent, indeed, to the safety and prosperity of any part of our common country. On the contrary, that every portion of the Republic is indirectly, at least, interested in the welfare of the whole; and that they ever sympathise in the distress and rejoice in the happiness of the most distant quarter of the Union. And to demonstrate that they are not careless or indifferent to interests not directly their own, they may triumphantly, and proudly appeal to the gallant part which they bore in the late war, and point to the bloody fields on which some of their most patriotic sons nobly fell fighting in the common cause. But they will also say that these fraternal and just sentiments ought to be reciprocated by their Atlantic brethren. That these ought not to be indifferent to the welfare of the west, and that they have the same collateral or indirect interests in its success and advancement that the west has in theirs. That it does not ask internal improvements to be exclusively confined to itself, but that it may receive, in common with the re[illegible] the Union, a practical benefit in the only [illegible] compatible with its interior condition.

The appropriation of the proceeds of the public lands, or a considerable portion of them, to that obje[illegible] would be a most natural and [illegible]sition. And I do hope, Sir, that [illegible] great resource will be cherished, and dedicated to some national purpose worthy of the Republic. Utterly opposed, as I trust Congress will show itself to be to all the mad and wild schemes—and to that latest, but maddest and wildest of all, recommended by the Secretary of the Treasury—for squandering the public domain, I hope it will be preserved for the present generation and for posterity, as it has been received from our ancestors, a rich and bountiful inheritance. In these halcyon days of peace and plenty, and an overflowing treasury, we appear to embarrass ourselves in devising visionary schemes for casting away the bounties with which the goodness of Providence has blessed us. But, Sir, the storm of war will come, when we know not; the day of trial and difficulty will assuredly come, and now is the time, by a prudent forecast, to husband our resources, and this the greatest of them all. Let them not be hoarded and hugged

founded, by the adoption of this measure it will be relieved at once, as will be hereafter shown, from at least a fourth of its burthens. The measure is in conformity with the uniform practice of the Government, from its commencement, and with the professions of all the eminent politicians of the South, until of late. It assumes the right of the Government, in the assessment of duties, to discriminate between those articles which sound policy requires it to foster, and those which it need not encourage. This has been the invariable principle, on which the Government has proceeded, from the act of Congress of the 4th of July, 1789, down to the present time. And has it not been admitted by almost every prominent Southern politician? Has it not been even acknowledged by the fathers of the Free trade Church, in their late address, promulgated, from Philadelphia, to the people of the United States? If we never had a system of foreign imposts, and were now called upon for the first time, to originate one, should we not discriminate between the objects of our own industry, and those produced by foreigners? And is there any difference in its application, between the modification of an existing system and the organization of a new one? If the gentlemen of the South, opposed to the Tariff, were to obtain complete possession of the powers of Government, would they hazard their exercise upon any *other* principle? If it be said that *some* of the articles which would, by this measure be liberated from duties, are luxuries, the remark is equally true of some of the articles remaining subject to duties. In the present advanced stage of comfort and civilization, it is not easy to draw the line between luxuries and necessaries. It would be difficult to make the people believe that bohea tea is a luxury, and the article of fine broad cloths is a necessary of life.

In stating that the duties on the protected class ought to be retained, it has been far from my wish to preclude enquiry into their adequacy or propriety. If it can be shewn that in any instance they are excessive or disproportionately burthensome on any section of the Union, for I am ready to vote for their reduction or modification. The system contemplates an *adequate* protection; beyond that it is not necessary to go. Short of that, its operation will be injurious to all parties.

The people of this country, or a large majority of them, expect that the system will be preserved. And its abandonment would produce general surprise, spread desolation over the land, and occasion as great a shock as a declaration of war forthwith against the most powerful nation of Europe.

But if the system be preserved, it ought to be honestly, fairly, and faithfully enforced.—That there do exist the most scandalous violations of it, and the grossest frauds upon the public revneue, in regard to some of the most important articles, cannot be doubted. As to iron, objects really belonging to one denomination, to which a higher duty is attached, are imported under another name, to which a lower duty is assigned, and the law thus evaded.—False invoices are made as to woollens, and the classification into minimums is constantly eluded. The success of the American manufacture of cotton bagging has been such as that, by furnishing a better and cheaper article, the bagging of Inversness and Dundee has been almost excluded from the consumption of the States bordering on the Mississippi and its tributaries. There has not yet been sufficient time to fabricate and transport the article in necessary quantities from the Western States to the Southern Atlantic States, which therefore have been almost exclusively

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