Easton and Baltimore Packet

MARLFORD WHIG & ADVOCATE.

EASTON MD,

TUESDAY MORNING, MAY 22, 1838.

draw up. That issue is hard money or paper money. You maintain that the Administration is entirely for hard money, and, *therefore*, you will give nothing but paper money. But do you not perceive that in forceing this issue, you put yourself upon the feeble leg? If you make the people take the alternative, as you present it, if you make the Administration take the best side of the question, as you state it, whose fault will it be, if it goes against you? The Administration has as yet said nothing to justify the extreme to which you would drive it, far less to justify you in catching up the opposite extreme. That opposition extreme is, by your own admission, *irredeemable paper money*. It can be nothing else, because the credit system, when abused, as it has been, inevitably produces it, and yet you tell us that we must not now think of the abuse or of reform. We must take gold and silver exclusively, or paper, with all its abuses. "There can be no other issue." Now I will insist upon it, that the people make no such issue—that they approve the credit system, within reasonable limits and under sufficient restraints; but if you insist upon denying those limits and refusing those restraints, you must take the consequences which may flow from your violent and extreme course. The people never will sanction, for a length of time, irredeemable paper money.

In the course of this letter, I have ventured to doubt the truth of the motives of action which you impute to the administration, for the sake of raising an argument to release you from resuming your obligations. But supposing that I now grant you all your premises, I nevertheless deny that it has the power to hurt you, or any other sound bank in the country. And a strong argument in favor of my denial is to be drawn from the very tone of your letter. A tone, which you would never have indulged in, if you had not felt that instead of your being at the mercy of the government, it was more likely to be at yours. You knew the administration had been defeated in the popular elections. You knew that it could not carry its measures, excepting in a very qualified form, in the National Senate, and that it was doubtful if it could do so, in any shape whatsoever, in the House of Representatives. You knew that it had no revenue at command—that the expenditures were daily overrunning the receipts—and that the issue of treasury notes authorized by law, barely kept up the motion of the machinery. How then could you venture to ascribe to the administration any power of doing you injury if you decided upon returning to specie payments?—Particularly if we are to believe you in your confident statement of the condition of your bank. "The great prerogative of strength," you tell us, 'is not to be afraid of doing right.' Then why do you profess a fear, which you cannot seriously entertain, of the influence of the government which you are defying, for the mere purpose of fortifying yourself against the performance of one of your most imperative duties?

For, I do maintain, it is your duty to resume specie payments as soon as you possibly can, and that without any reference to what you suppose may be the interests of the country at large. Those interests are not now in your keeping. You derive all your authority from the Legislature of a State, and to that Legislature you should look for the signs of approbation of your conduct. I now ask you, Mr. Biddle, do you find them there? Has not one branch of it at least, unequivocally expressed itself almost equally divided? I very much mistake the character of the people of your State, if they do not agree with their representatives. They are proverbially a people who detest the idea of a debt, who do not imagine a man rich, because he counts his millions on *both* sides of his books—who do not believe in the modern theory, that credit is capital in any sense in which the words may be used. To them, of what consequence is the coming of a second cotton crop, compared to the loss of $3,600,000 a year in the depreciation of your paper, not to speak of that by all the other banks in the State, whose conduct your course influences?—They hold that your duty to them is to redeem your bills in specie, and nobody can doubt that in this they are right.

With respect to this matter of the second cotton crop, as connected with the system of foreign exchanges, it is of so much importance, that I must reserve the discussion of it for an entire letter.

Very respectfully,

A CITIZEN.

Mr. James M. Scott, the contractor who was engaged in erecting a steeple upon the Methodist Church in Natchez, fell to the ground from the height of ninety feet, and expired in four hours.

The Augusta (Geo.) Chronicle mentions the arrival of General Scott in that city, on the 2d inst., on his way to assume the command of the forces in the Cherokee Nation.

The Seventh Ward Bank is drawing bills on England in sums of 5*l.* and upwards, a safe and convenient opportunity for persons desirous of remitting small sums to the old country.—*N. Y. Star.*

Thomas Bradford, Esq. successor to Doctor Franklin, and the oldest Printer and Editor in the Union died on Monday, the 7th inst. at Philadelphia, in the ninety fourth year of his age.

A Sucker.—A man in Monroe, Highland county, Ohio, the other day sucked five dozen and eight eggs in less than ten minutes, for a wager of a shilling. The paragraph stating this is headed "hard to beat." If the man were well beaten he would be madea custurd of.

Michigan Banks.—The Legislature of Michigan have passed an order directing the Banks of that State to resume specie payments June 16th.

Vicksburg, Miss.—This ill-fated city was the scene of another destructive conflagration on the 20th April. Nearly a whole square was destroyed. Loss estimated at $30,000.

Bank Robbers.—Alfred A. Dwight and Sherman D Dix, two of the officers of the Bank of Kensington, Michigan, recently absconded with about $40,000 of the paper of said bank, fraudulently abstracted.

We have known some men to become actually poor by simply quitting work and crying hard times. But there are other instances on record where men have acquired quite a competency by minding their own business, and coming in when it rained.—*Man. Adv.*

Tremendous.—The Philadelphia banks have agreed to redeem in specie all their bills under *one dollar!* What distress there will be in the city of the 35,000,000 Bank when the six-cent shin-plasters disappear?

NOTICE.

We respectfully give notice to all persons in arrears to the Whig office for the years 1836 and 1837 to settle their accounts by the first of June, or we will be compelled to place them in the hands of an officer for collection. The present week will afford many an opportunity to liquidate their debts and have their names placed among the punctual patrons that *honor* our subscription list.

CONVENTION

To nominate a candidate for Governor meets in Baltimore on Thursday the 31st inst.

DELEGATES FROM TALBOT.

Easton District—James Ll. Martin, Wm. Hayward, Joseph Marshall, Geo. W. Sherwood, P. F. Thomas.

St. Michaels—Joseph Caulk, Morris O. Colston, A. B. Harrison, William W. Lowe, Charles H. Rigby.

Trappe—Wm. B. Willis, Jno. Newnam, Dr. Jno. A. Clough, Peter Webb, Thomas S. Hayward.

Chappel—Daniel Lloyd, Charles Jump, Wm. Rose, Jno. S. Blake, Jesse Scott.

The committees are empowered by a resolution passed at the time of their appointment to fill any vacancy that may occur.

The May Term of Talbot County Court commenced yesterday. Present, Judges Chambers, Hopper and Eccleston.

SNOW.—The Cumberland Advocate says that on the 8th inst. snow was three inches deep at Frostburg, in Allegany County. On the 10th ice was seen at Cumberland as thick as a knife blade.

Treasury note bill passed.—We are happy to state that the Treasury note bill has passed. The opposition in Congress have been defeated, and all things look well again Our friends remained firm, and the schemes of a faction have been triumphantly defeated.

The bill passed about 10 o'clock on Wednesday night by a vote of 106 to 99.

FORGERY.—Mr. William Bromwell, a merchant of Baltimore, whose character has hitherto stood above reproach, has been detected in extensive forgeries, by which one or more banks and various individuals, it is said, will sustain considerable loss. By forgeing duplicates of the notes of his country customers and using them as collateral securities, he has to $100,000. He has since absconded.

☞ The second letter of a "Citizen" from the Boston (whig) Courier, appears in our columns to-day. Read it carefully, it is a triumphant exposure of the false issue that Mr. Biddle in his recent letter so lamely endeavored to establish. The remaining two will appear in our next.

THE RIGHT WAY.—A Mr. Washington Burgess, of Frederick County, challenges Mr. Henry Nelson, to give him that satisfactiou which is recognized by gentlemen as the proper mode of settling controversies. To which Mr. Nelson publishes the following reply:

LINGANORE, April 30th, 1838.

SIR—I received your note challenging me to mortal combat, which will be presented to the grand jury in due time. Yours,

HENRY NELSON,

Washington Burgess.

☞ The Whigs claim the election of Messrs. Prentis and Word in Mississippi by a majority of from 3 to 500.

☞ Parris, the Democratic candidate to Congress from Maine has been elected by about 700 majority.

LINN BANKS, (V. B.) has obtained the return as Representative in Congress from Virginia, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Mr. PATTON.

Philadelphia Election—Democratic Triumph—The election of Commissioners in the District of Moyamensing, Philadelphia county, has resulted in the election of the democratic ticket by a handsome majority.

The like result was had in Southwark. The Pennsylvanian says:

That the democratic party in the county of Philadelphia will in October next, triumphantly elect their county ticket, and the majority in the county for the democratic candidate for Governor, David R. Porter, will probably be from 1500 to 2000 votes over Joseph Ritner, the antimason."

☞ In addition to the burning of the Pennsylvania Hall, we learn by last night's mail, that on Friday an attempt was made to burn the Orphan School for colored boys, in Thirteenth near Callow hill street.

The Hall was only finished about a week ago. So much for Abolitionism!

Among the passengers arrived here on Monday last by the splendid steamer Sultana, we notice the name of THOMAS WILDEY, Esq., Past Grand Sire of the Grand Lodge of the United States Independent Order of Odd Fellows, who is now on a tour visiting every Lodge throughout the southern and western section of the United States. His arrival was very opportune, as the Brethren were assembled at their Lodge Room prior to joining the grand procession for laying the Corner Stone of the New Theatre. From the manner of his reception and the high estimation he is held by all who have the pleasure of his acquaintance, we have no doubt his sojourn with us will be as gratifying to himself as agreeable to the I. O. O. F. Who that has heard of the Odd Fellows Society, but must have heard at the same time the name of that persevering brother, Wildey, mentioned with every mark of respect and esteem by the Fraternity.

The old gentleman looks as well and as hearty as he did when he visited New Orleans, five years ago.—New Orleans Courier of the 9th May.

"Fourteen mortal hours," says the National Intelligencer were consumed on Saturday week last, by the House of Representatives in discussing the bill to provide means for the Treasury. The House did not adjourn until 1 o'clock Sunday morning. The people will be told by the opposition that the National Treasury is bankrupt, and every species of sophistry about loans and taxes will be resorted to, to persuade them, that the wheels of Government are stopt, and that she is unable to meet the demands against her. The Whigs are now zealously laboring to force her into a resort to loans, that Mr. Clay may the better be enabled to work his way to the Presidency. The friends of the administration, on the other hand, honestly and correctly repudiate the contracting of a National Debt, when the Government possesses ample funds for all her financial purposes, though not immediately available. For instance, she has *twenty-eight* millions on deposit with the States, *four millions* on merchant's bonds, on which an extension of time was granted for their payment, and about *seven millions* due by the U. S. Bank and the late Deposite Banks, and receivable this year. The revenue of the Government paid in has been equal to anticipation. But the cancelling of five and a half millions of Treasury Notes, which were received in payment of public dues, and which, by the late act, cannot be re-issued cause the temporary embarrassment. This difficulty can be easily obviated by Congress allowing other notes to be issued in their stead, and which alone is desired by the friends of the Government. No new taxes or loans are needed nor desired, and we hope the electioneering tricks of the opposition in Congress will be met in a manly manner and nakedly exposed by the Republican members.

Every effort will be made to delude the people, and nothing left undone to keep alive the distracting excitement that naturally arises from an overwrought panic; for distress and excitement comprise the only aliment of the opposition, while prosperity and quietness become the invigorating spirit of the Democracy.

Mr. Bell, one of the leaders of the opposition in Congress, proposes the following resolution, which we are happy to say, from all the indications we can gather will be calmly but zealously opposed and defeated by the Republicans. The bill reported by the Committee of Ways and Means will undoubtedly pass, and the Government relieved from the poisonous fangs of the opposition, which threaten to fasten upon her the weight of a national debt.

"*Resolved*, That the Committee of Ways and Means be instructed to report to this House forthwith a bill authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to raise, by LOAN, the sum of two millions of dollars, to supply any demands upon the Treasury, *to meet which there are no available means on hand.*"

The Baltimore Republican in commenting on this scheme of the opposition very correctly asks, "can any one mistake the meaning of this? Ponder it—and do you not perceive that there are special reasons why the loan is so ardently adhered to? The truth is, the federal opposition have thrown the whole machinery of the Government into embarrassment, and they are now at the crisis when they are to make the most of their hand. Let our friends remain firm.—Let them breast themselves as a man against the schemes of faction. We ourselves, have no fear of the result. All things will work right in the end.—Democracy must triumph. THE SUSPENSION OF SPECIE PAYMENTS BY THE BANKS CAME A YEAR TOO LATE TO AFFECT THE ELECTION OF MARTIN VAN BUREN—AND TWO YEARS TOO EARLY TO PREVENT HIS RE-ELECTION. Mark that."

of Mr. Cambreleng, which will place the whole matter in its proper light before the reader.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

FRIDAY May 11, 1838.

TREASURY NOTES.

On motion of Mr. CAMBRELENG, the committee took up the following bill.

A BILL to carry into effect an act approved the twelfth day of October, eighteen hundred and thirty-seven, to "authorise the issuing of Treasury notes."

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Treasury, with the approbation of the President of the United States is hereby authorized to cause Treasury notes to be issued, according to the provisions of an act entitled "An act to authorise the issuing of Treasury notes," approved the twelfth day of October last, in place of such notes as have been, or may be, issued under the authority of the act aforesaid, which have been, or may hereafter be, paid into the Treasury and cancelled.

Mr. CAMBRELING congratulated the committee on the resumption of its labors after so long an interval. The delay was unfortunate. It had been not only embarrassing to the Treasury, but highly injurious to the public creditors, and to all in any manner connected with the public services. It is an extraordinary occurrence, that Goverment, whose actual resources, in proportion to its annual receipts and expenditures, were more ample than those of any other Goverment, should, by mere delay in legislature, be unable to discharge its obligations for current expenditures.

All that the Treasury require is the full benefit of the act of the 12th October, as is proposed by the bill under consideration. That act authorized an issue of ten millions of Treasury notes, redeemable in twelve months from the date when issued, for the purpose of enabling the Government to collect, in the mean time, an equal amount which was receivable in 1838 from our banks and merchants. Had these Treasury notes been redeemed after the expiration of the twelve months, that is, between October, 1838 and June, 1839 the Treasury would have been able to meet all its engagements without any other financial measures. They were, however, made receivable for customs and lands, and about five millions and a half had been already paid into the Treasury and concelled. It becomes necessary, therefore, in order to secure to the Treasury the benefit of the October act, to authorise an issue of Treasury notes equal to the amount paid into the Treasury and canceiled prior to the period fixed for their redemption. This was the extent of the aid the committee proposed, notwithstanding the impression here and the misrepresentations abroad, that twenty millions would be required.

We have heard much sir here and elsewhere about a bankrupt Treasury, loans and a public debt. Such statements and anticipations are without foundation. Were it otherwise, I trust the bankruptcy of our Treasury, and the prospect of a public debt, would not be subjects of rejoicing to any gentleman. What, sir, was the origin of these Treasury notes, about which so much has been said? The country was in the midst of a commercial revulsion, and Congress assembled for the purpose of exercising all its constitutional powers, through its financial measures, to relieve trade as far as it was practicable. There was no bankruptcy of the Treasury. The resources of the Government were ample, but the public creditors were unable to meet their engagements. We had extended the credit to the Bank of the United States to one, two and three years, and were about to postpone the payment of our custom house bonds to twelve and fifteen months, and the debt of the deposite banks still longer. Thus twenty millions of dollars of the revenue of 1837, and previous years, were postponed to 1838, '39, and '40. To grant this indulgence, it was necessary to make a temporary use of our credit for one-half of the amount of our existing resources. Such was the origin of the Treasury note act of October.

The present embarrassment of the Treasury does not arise from any deficiency of resources, but from the mode of executing the act of October. The rate of interest on the notes was discretionary with the President, not exceeding six per cent per annum. Had he directed none to be issued under six per cent, most of them would have been taken up by capitalists or remitted abroad, the Treasury would have been protected, and no supplementary act would have been necessary But there existed a suspension of specie payments, a derangement of exchanges, and severe commercial embarrassment. The immediate interest of the Treasury was deemed subordinate to the general interests of the country. These interests were consulted by furnishing the public debtors with an additional medium of payment, and different sections of the Union with facilities of exchange. Nearly two millions were issued at a nominal rate of interest, nearly three at two per cent. They were consequently paid into the Treasury nine months before they were due; and this is the origin of its temporary embarrassment.

There is nothing, sir, in the past or present condition of the Treasury, nor in the prospect ahead, to warrant this charge of bankruptcy, or to authorize a public debt. In October last, although we had drawn eight-and-twenty millions from the Federal Treasury and transferred it to the States, we had still due us six millions from the United States Bank, eight millions from the deposite banks, and six millions from our merchants, making twenty millions. In January last, with little more than two millions of our credit outstanding, we had due us and in the Treasury eighteen millions; and at this moment, if the debts due us from out banks and merchants, arising from the revenue of former years, were paid, we should have a balance of fifteen millions in the Treasury, even after paying off five millions and a half of Treasury notes.

The resources of the year too, are sufficient to meet every demand upon the Treasury for ordinary and extraordinary purposes, if the act of October is carried into effect. On the 1st of January we had half a million in the Treasury. Treasury notes not then issued amounted to 7,000,000. The amount receivable from merchants and banks in 1838 is about ten millions, and if the revenue from customs and lands should amount to fifteen millions and a half, (being three millions less than the estimate of the Secretary of the Treasury,) the aggregate resources of the year would be thirty three millions of dollars. In a long session the appropriations are made at a late period. It is not, therefore, probable that the demands upon the Treasury, during the year, will exceed thirty-one millions.

Should, however, the resources of the year fall below the foregoing estimate, or the demands upon the Treasury exceed even thirty three millions, we should still not be justified in resorting to a loan while we have a reserved fund of seven millions and a half due us in 1839 and '40 from the deposite banks and the Bank of the United States.

As to the prospect of our future revenue every thing is encouraging. Confidence and trade are evidently reviving. We must not anticipate years of stagnation because such resemblance whatever between the condition of the country in 1815 and 1835. At the former period we had passed through eight years of commercial restriction and war. Millions of capital had been suddenly transferred to new channels. Confidence had been destroyed and trade impoverished for years. Such was our condition in 1815, when we suddenly commenced a wild career of speculation, which was continued 1816 and '17, and arrested in 1818. The revulsion of 1819 prostrated all classes and trades, and paralyzed every section of the country But such was not our condition in 1835, when the speculations of that and the following year commenced. These were founded on a vast and solid capital, the accumulations of twenty years of peace and prosperity. The revulsion of 1837 overwhelmed trade, but there never was a period when the country possessed more substantial wealth, or enjoyed more general prosperity. Some cities in the Union, where they attempted to postpone the payment of the debts may yet suffer, but in the present prosperous condition of the country trade must soon revive.

There are other and gratifying evidence of a restoration of confidence and a revival of trade. Our northern banks have resumed specie payments earlier than was anticipated twelve months ago, and much earlier than they would have done had this administration yielded to the demands of trade. We can now, sir, look back calmly upon the events of the past year, and judge the conduct of all parties. The time is rapidly approaching, when intelligent and candid men will do justice to this administration, for its firmness in rejecting the counsels of fear, and in disregarding the denunciation of phrenzy—for its elevated patriotism in sacrificing temporary popularity to preserve the supremacy of the laws and the welfare of the Union. Had the President faltered for one moment—had he imitated the timid and temporizing policy of some of our State Governments; had he adopted the suggestions of some of the statesmen of both houses of Congress; had he yielded one inch of constitutional ground violated the laws, and sanctioned the collection of the revenue in depreciated State bank paper—who could have anticipated the period when the banks of any state in the Union could have resumed specie payments?

The firmness and wisdom of the Executive have saved us from years of embarrassment, and from a precedent which would have proved equally fatal to our currency and destructive of all integrity among men. The country will do justice to all who disregard considerations of popularity when called upon to discharge the highest of constitutional duties.

This resumption, sir, is powerfully sustained, and our northern banks have nothing to fear. At no former period have our foreign exchanges and currency been so well fortified They are strongly sustained by an annually increasing export of cotton, and a tide of emigration to this continent. Latterly the stocks and bonds of every kind transmitted abroad for investment, form what is equivalent to a heavy item in our export trade. But a collateral aid, of no ordinary power, has suddenly fortified the banks in their resolution to resume specie payments. The troubles in Canada, the establishment of a Vice Royalty, and the introduction of a British army to sustain it, must sensibly affect our foreign exchanges, as they have done already. This is no temporary aid. The Government now established in Canada may be considered as permanent, while Great Britain holds her Northern possessions, and such a Government can only be supported at an expense of many millions annually. All these causes combined must create a heavy draft upon Great Britain for merchandise and specie. The latter is protected by our coin law of 1834, which encourages the importation of European gold, and tends to secure its circulation in this country. All the banks in the Union may now resume with safety, except the Southwestern. These will not resume till it ceases to be the interest of the cotton speculating banks to depreciate the currencies of Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana.

But among the most encouraging events of the day, is that great reform measure—the free banking law of New York. The passage of that act ought to be a subject of general congratulation; for whatever animates the centre, must give an impulse to every part of our commercial system. The union which has so long existed—the mutually embarrassing and corrupting union—between banking and legislation, is dissolved, and, I trust, forever. The question is not entirely settled. Whether paper, when substituted for the current coin of the country, is a public or private concern, is a question which remains to be adjusted hereafter. It would have been well, too, had these associations been founded on unlimited responsibility. But the great commercial point is gained. It is now the legitimate office of trade, and not the officious province of Government, to regulate the amount of capital which trade may deem it expedient at any time to employ in the business of banking. This simple and just proposition has been wisely appreciated, and successfully acted upon, for more than a century in Scotland. It was introduced into England in 1826, and must eventually become the policy of every enlightened government.

The free banking law of New York must not only affect sensibly the trade of the Union, but operate more powerfully than all our legislative experiments, State or Federal, upon the exchanges, and local currencies of the States. Trade, which can alone regulate exchanges, has been chained down by restrictions of the centre of its power and of our circulations. New York has been, from the commencement of our Government, the victim of unjust and oppressive legislation, State and Federal. This government has made two experiments—in 1791, and in 1816—to create an artificial centre of trade and circulation. It has attempted by the mere power of law to place the commercial metropolis of the Union—the natural centre and regulator of its exchanges and commercial system—under the control and direction of a Federal banker general. While we were thus treated by the Federal Government, our own State government, denied us even the humble privilege of defending ourselves. We were not permitted to exercise our natural right to regulate the amount of our banking capital. The State Government usurped this office, and we were only allowed to employ about one fifth of the amount necessary to sustain our own credit, and the exchanges of the Union. When our periodical revulsions came, the pressure of our credits did not fall upon the point selected by the Federal Government, but the whole commercial system of the U. States pressed upon New York, the natural centre of exchanges. We had no banking capital adequate to the pressure, and trade was prostrated. We are now free. Banking will hereafter keep pace with and regulate all other trades; and increase in a ratio to the accumulation of wealth, and enlargement of commercial credit. Prepared at the natural centre of trade with a broad foundation of banking capital, we shall be ready to receive the pressure of commercial credit, and to moderate the shock of every revulsion.—We need no chartered regulator State or Federal. Our own banking law, the perpetual charter of free trade, is all we require to bid defiance to all hostile combinations and regulate exchanges. It is for our interest and the interest of the country that the Federal Government should never again unite banking with legislation, and that it should confine itself to its constitutional duty of regulating the coinage, and preserving a broad and solid basis for the local currencies of our confederacies.

With such evidencies of a revival of confidence, and trade, and an increase of revenue, and with outstanding resources more than equal to any amount we now require, we are not authorized to resort to loans, or to make any other than a temporary use of our credit, by carrying into effect the Treasury Note act of October last. As to the sale of the two bonds of the Bank of the United States, even if practicable at all to dispose of bonds of the denomination of two millions each, it would not answer the purpose of this bill; nor, at this time, afford any relief whatever to the Treasury. The Treasury will have collected a sufficient amount of its postponed debts to pay off all the Treasury notes, before the amount could be realized from the sale of these bonds. That proposition is not designed, however, to interfere with this bill; it is admitted not to be that measure the Treasury now requires.—Should such sale be authorized and effected, it will, however, so far diminish the amount of Treasury notes to be issued.

The measure proposed is the only one applicable to the actual condition of the Treasury.—I am aware of, and justly appreciate the general objections to Treasury notes. I concur with gentlemen, that where there is a deficiency of resources, Treasury notes ought not to be substited for a direct loan. We are not, however, in that condition, and are not, therefore, justified in creating a public debt. Treasury notes of no denomination should be issued to raise money, when there are no immediate resources existing to redeem them. They never should be issued of small denomination to circulate as currency. These notes are not designed for either of these purposes We have resources in hand to redeem them, and notes of fifty dollars and upwards cannot interfere with the circulation of our current coin.

Our case, sir, is simply this: we are to receive before the close of the year a sufficient amount from the banks and the merchants to redeem all the notes we may authorize, and we propose to make a temporary use of our credit to avoid the necessity of a loan, for which we have no occasion whatever. We only ask the benefit of the Treasury note act of October last. Upon a question of such obvious expediency, I shall no longer detain the committee.

A Hard Place.—Mr. James Black, being interrogated upon his oath, before Allegany county court, how long a man could live in Old-town, in that county, without fighting? answered—"The Angel Gabriel himself could not help fighting if he were to live there."—

It is stated in a letter from New York that at Lewistown, on the frontiers, the novels of Capt. Marryatt, have been made a bonfire of, on account of his toast at Toronto—"Captain Drew and his brave comrades who cut out the Caroline."

Federal Whiggery.—The Boston Atlas says "the present times are profitable to "heavy capitalists, and they have a deep interest in their "continuance." Pretty fair confession!

Cure for Wounds in Cattle.—It is said that the most aggravated wounds of cattle are easily cured with a portion of the yolks of eggs, mixed with Florence spirits of turpentine—bathe the parts injured several times a day, and a cure will be soon effected.

FOR THE WHIG.

Mr Sherwood—Sir: I discover that there has been a *change* in the *primary* school law of Talbot County. My purpose is, at present, to give your readers a sketch of the history of the free school system of Talbot, and try, if possible, to point out the *cause* that has produced the present effect. Some time, on or about the year '31, Mr. Bruff, then a member of the Legislature of Maryland, from Talbot, procured the passage of the law known as Bruff's law, which provided that certain funds, therein particularly described, should be appropriated to the use of education in Talbot County.

The operation of this law was a matter of complaint amongst the people of Talbot, because it created a distinction between the RICH and the POOR. In proof of this position, I have only to point the readers to the election of Richard Spencer and P. Horney to the Legislature of Maryland, who procured the passage of a law providing for a general system of education in Talbot County.

This law (commonly known as Spencer's law,) was objectionable to a certain portion of the community, because it compelled the rich man to pay proportionably for the education of the children of the poor man and widow, and brought them into the schools upon an equal footing; the tuition being paid out of a common fund raised by a system of general taxation upon the assessable property of the county, and every man paying according to his worth. The question here, very naturally arises, did the people approve this law? I unhesitatingly answer in the affirmative. I have but to refer the reader to the result at the next election. When the people were called on to express their opinion of that law, they spoke through the ballot box, in a voice as loud as thunder, and in a language not to be misunderstood.—This, then was the law of the people, passed in their sovereign capacity; and I hold the doctrine that was held by one of the opponents of this law, who, before the people, for a seat in the Legislature, said "that the people make it a law and the people can annul its provisions." The question then arises did the people revoke their former action? I answer no! 'Ah! But the PEOPLE *petitioned* the Legislature to alter or repeal the law, and they have *amended* the the law, not repealed it" say the opponents of the law. Well, let us see how true it is, that the *people* petitioned for an *amendment*, or repeal of the law; and whether the present law is not a virtual repeal of the people's law. Who petitioned the Legislature to *amend* or repeal the law? Did a *majority* of the *people* of Talbot County? I answer no. Not more than *one tenth* of the *voters* of the county signed the petition. Then the *people* did not repeal, alter, or amend the law. But a junto, in and about Easton, a regular dynasty, which undertake to wield the unsheathed sword of opposition to republican principles in Talbot County, got up this petition, and took much trouble in getting signers to it. Who was foremost in the affair? The advocate of making physician's bills debts of preference. Avarice proposed the one, and avarice conceived the other! This act is in keeping with the doctrines of the rulers of Maryland, "take care of the rich and the rich will take care of the poor." But who voted for the *amendment*, as they call it? John B. Kerr and Spry Denny; the other two delegates having "dodged the question." Now, by reference to the vote on the law of the people's choice at its ratification, it will be found that these very men had a positive hatred for that law, for they *then voted against it*, and carried out their opposition in "the passage of the recent substitute." The people had nothing to do with the alteration, but the noble *junto*, of some dozen or fifteen men about Easton, was the source of the opposition.

I shall try to show that the present law is a virtual repeal of the people's law, and not an *amendment*, as it is said by some to be.—What is an amendment? It is to make the thing to which it is applied better. Now, does the act of the last Legislature make the old law better? By no means; for the old law was in successful operation, notwithstanding all the opposition that could be thrown in its way.—Ah! But say its opponents, "it is so complicated that no one could probably understand it," "and therefore it ought to be made more plain."

But this objection is refuted by the known fact that it was made so plain in a communication in one of the newspapers of Easton about 3 years since, that even the commissioners themselves became ashamed of their pretended ignorance of the manner in which it could be carried into operation, and set to work and put it in operation. But how did they do it? by doing every thing in their power to make it oppressive and burthensome to the people; the first year's taxes were not collected until the second year which made two year's taxes in one year to be paid, and School Houses to be erected in the same year, all of which came upon the people at one dash, and they were told that this is the rate of tax under the school law, yet the people paid the taxes, and the law with all the opposition, went into operation.

But the present cannot go into general operation because the funds raised are not sufficient to make the distributive share of each district an object for a teacher to engage to keep the school, unless he could have assurance of a certain number of scholars at a fair rate of tuition besides, which cannot be had in many of the districts.

Then the old law did raise all the funds actually necessary to carry its provisions into operation, and its provisions were such as to give to the people a trial of the general system of Primary Schools which brought every man's child to the school on an equal footing, and which was one of the greatest objects of the law. The distinction that was created between the rich and the poor by Bruff's Law was done away with. Inasmuch therefore, as the present *thing* called an *amendment* draws that same line of distinction *between* THE RICH AND THE POOR which was the leading feature of Bruff's law. It virtually repeals the Spencer law, and leaves the people where Bruff's law found them, which law the people have said (by their ratification of Spencer's law) they would not have. But say the opponents it is very different it gives a great deal more money than Bruff's law. But here let me remind the reader that it is not so much the lack of funds in the present system as the line of distinction it draws. By making it the duty of the trustees of the several schools to determine who is and is not able to pay for the schooling of their children, the black mark of poverty is to be set upon the children of those who may perchance not be able to educate them.

This distinction is intolerable. It cannot be submitted to only through the force of necessity in yielding to the law that imposes it. People of Talbot you have the power; will you submit to or reject the law that has been given you by Mr. Kerr?

I propose to trouble your readers again on this subject, as soon as I can get that much time.

TALBOT.

Some of the papers are mentioning oil and charcoal as an antidote for arsenic. The best antidote is not to take it at all, and particularly to keep it out of way of children.

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