

THE CAMDEN JOURNAL.

[NEW SERIES.] VOL. I.

CAMDEN, SOUTH CAROLINA, SATURDAY DECEMBER 7, 1839.

NO. 1.

THE CAMDEN JOURNAL
Is Published every Saturday Morning,
BY THOMAS W. PEGUES,
At three dollars in advance; three dollars and fifty cents in six months; or four dollars at the expiration of the year.

Advertisements inserted at 75 cents per square for the first, and 37 1/2 for each subsequent insertion.—The number of insertions to be noted on all advertisements, or they will be published until ordered to be discontinued, and charged accordingly. One dollar per square will be charged for a single insertion.

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Accounts for Advertising and Job Work will be presented for payment, quarterly.

All Letters by mail must be post paid to insure punctual attention.

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

COLUMBIA, Nov. 26, 1839.

At 12 o'clock to-day, His Excellency, Governor Noble, transmitted to the General Assembly, by Col. Beaufort T. Watts, the following Message, which was read by him in both Houses.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT.

Fellow Citizens of the Senate, and House of Representatives:

In tracing a retrospect of the past year, our most devout gratitude is called into lively exercise, to the Almighty Dispenser of all good, for the very abundant harvests with which He has been pleased to reward the toils of the husbandman.—The teeming earth has brought forth in great profusion all the products of the soil usually cultivated. But these signal blessings have been accompanied, in the course of an All-Wise Providence, by visitations of a painful and melancholy character.—Disease has afflicted a portion of our State, and death has consigned to the tomb many eminent and valuable citizens—men, distinguished for their shining virtues, great talents and public services.

As a member of the Confederacy, South Carolina must necessarily feel a deep interest in the legislation of the General Government; and in looking towards the various important subjects which may probably, at an early day, engage the deliberations of Congress, our attention will be arrested by one topic of vast magnitude and momentous importance, and which, as it shall be settled, I mean the Tariff question. By the Compromise Act of 1833, it was provided, that by a gradual reduction of the duties, they should be brought down to 20 per cent. in 1842, which will then be their established rate, unless the amount, in the meantime, shall be altered by law. But the same act contains the pledge of Congress, that the revenue shall be reduced to the economical wants of the Government. It is believed, that a duty below 20 per cent. upon the importations, would raise a sufficient revenue for all the essential purposes of Government. The main obstacle to this reduction is to be found in the strong disposition which, in some sections of the Union, is felt to increase the public expenditures, for the promotion of sectional interests. If these are not diminished to the lowest necessary point, they will, at least, afford a convenient pretext for an effort to reduce the impost. If the impost should be made sensible of the enormity which is annually exacted from the people, by this indirect mode of taxation, they would demand the repeal of oppressive laws, in a voice which their representatives would not dare to disregard. If the Government would consent to accept of the system of direct taxes, and attempt to draw such large sums from the people, it would soon be discovered that no tax-paying citizens would not, for a moment, endure the burden. The very fact, that each man in the community could then know the precise amount of tax which he paid, establishes the soundness of the proposition, that in a popular government, direct taxes are to be preferred to those which are indirect. But such a change cannot now be introduced by our Federal legislation, the adjustment of the Tariff, upon such modifications as will conduce to the peace, harmony and integrity, of the Union, is solemnly required, as well by the dictates of wisdom, as of patriotism. The past history of our country will indicate the evils which are to be avoided—evils of a menacing aspect. The planting States will endure protective duties. They will insist, that duties shall be laid exclusively upon the raw materials, and that no more revenue shall be raised, than is required by the economical wants of the Government.—

Some of this section contend for a uniform duty upon all imports, and upon a scale graduated with reference to diminished expenditures, and the economical demands of the Government. From the Comptroller's Report, the following abstract is obtained, exhibiting

the condition of the Finances of the State, on the 1st October, 1839.

The undrawn balances of existing appropriations amount to	\$108,139 25
The usual and necessary appropriations for the year 1840,	\$282,420 00

Making,	\$390,559 25
To meet the payment of which, there is cash in the two Treasuries, October 1st, 1839,	\$113,037 68
And nett amount of taxes to be collected in 1840,	290,000 00

Making	\$403,077 68
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Which will leave only a balance of about \$12,500 in the Treasury, on the 1st October next, without the prospect of any receipts until the taxes shall be collected and paid into the Treasury, in May and June 1841.

It is important to know the precise situation of the State, in relation to the debts due by it, and the funds belonging to it, to meet those debts. For this purpose, I have caused a statement to be prepared, giving this information, and herewith communicate it. From this document, the following general result is obtained:

Aggregate amount of funds belonging to the State,	\$3,630,830 21
Do. of debts, due by the State,	3,039,243 81

Balance in favor of the State	\$591,586 40
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But it is proper to state, that in the amount of debts, due by the State, is included the Deposit of \$1,051,422 09 of the surplus revenue of the United States, in relation to the above liabilities, the State is responsible for the two millions of dollars, advanced for the rebuilding of Charleston, and for the guarantee of the two millions loan, for the Louisville, Cincinnati, and Charleston Rail Road.

The Bank of the State of South Carolina is in a sound condition, and under the prudent management of an efficient Directory, and able and assiduous officers, it merits your continued confidence. The proceeds of this institution, the present year, are \$2,000,000, which sum has been carried to the Sinking Fund, now amounting to \$918,057 39. \$700,000 of this amount will be applied, on the 1st January next, to pay the interest of the 6 per cent. Stock of this State, created under an act of the Legislature, passed in one thousand eight hundred and twenty, and redeemable on the above mentioned day. I herewith submit the Annual Statement of the Bank.

The true condition of the Banks of the States, is, at all times, a subject of deep interest to the people, but more especially at a crisis like the one in which we are now placed. For the purpose, therefore, of exhibiting to the public their present situation, I applied to them for statements, shewing their respective liabilities and assets. With a praiseworthy promptitude, each of them responded to the call, by furnishing me with reports on the several points of enquiry, which I now lay before you for your information. The country was just recovering from the shock which the revulsion of eighteen hundred and thirty seven had produced, which another crisis in our momentary affairs, accompanied by the suspension of specie payments by some of the Banks, has again thrown the business and commerce of the community into confusion. The frequency of these suspensions, demonstrates the existence of some inherent vices in the Banking system, or mismanagement by those who control its operations, and administer its affairs. It becomes your duty, as the guardians of the rights and interests of the people, to take care that the Republic receive no detriment. You are urged by every consideration of sound policy, and a just regard to the welfare of the country, to probe the evil to the bottom, and, by the application of the proper remedies, to bring back these moneyed corporations, to a healthy performance of their functions. Indeed, the Banks are as much interested in the investigation and reformation of these defects, as the community; for, without an efficient remedy, the Banking system must terminate in convulsion, which it is the interest of all to avoid. If, however, the mischief recoiled upon the Banks alone, then it would be a matter which would not concern the public. But, unhappily, the whole community are the victims of the evils which ensue. The derangement in the currency, consequent on the refusal of the Banks to redeem their bills in specie, affects the price of the great staples of our country, which are the instruments of all our commercial exchanges. The value of property, of every description, the disturbance of the relations between

creditor and debtor, and in fact, the whole business of society, in all its relations, experience the disastrous effects of this depreciation in the currency. This is not an exaggerated picture of the evil. The suspension, by the Banks, is a departure from the purposes for which their charters were granted, and a plain violation of those duties, which are enjoined upon them, in the terms of their creation. The previous history of the country, in relation to the chartered companies, enforces the necessity of placing new safeguards to prevent the evils which have been felt. All charters, which confer exclusive privileges on certain persons, trench upon the equal rights of the rest of the community. It is certain, they require to be restrained by legal enactments; and yet the charters, by which artificial persons are created, are held up as containing all the regulations concerning them within the competency of the Legislature. It might be wise and politic, to prevent future evil, for the Legislature to pass a general law upon the subject of all charters, subsequently to be granted, reserving the right to make such further provisions, as may be required to keep them within the limits of their appropriate duties, and compel them to fulfil the objects of their creation.

In giving you "information of the condition of the State," I should feel that I was justly obnoxious to the charge, of neglecting one of the most important branches of industry, were I to be silent on the subject of Agriculture. This pursuit of the great mass of the people, has claims upon your fostering care and attention. It is the source of our wealth, and power, and furnishes the means of our commercial exchanges. Yet its importance seems never to have been realized by the constituted authorities of the State; for it is a lamentable truth, that while other branches of industry have received an impulse, by wholesome laws, the great interests of Agriculture have been passed by almost with silent contempt. It is now time for the State to dismiss from her councils this cold indifference, and to take such action on the subject, as will promote its success which have retarded the progress of the State in population, wealth, and importance, none is more prominent than the utter neglect of this primary pursuit. It cannot be doubted, that South Carolina once possessed a soil of unsurpassed fertility. But this rich gift of a kind Providence, has been, in a great measure, lost, by a most pernicious course of husbandry. A large portion of this once flourishing region; blessed, too, with a propitious climate, has been reduced to sterility. Yet, all hope of reclaiming and restoring to its wonted productiveness, our exhausted soil, is not in vain. It is a beneficent provision of a good Providence, that beneath the surface of the earth, are to be found substances of the most fertilizing qualities. Their discovery, however, requires the application of science, and means seldom possessed by individuals. It is, in such a case, that a wise and patriotic Legislature should extend its aid. But to subserve fully, the interests of Agriculture, the Legislature should not continue its operations to a Geological Survey alone. With this should be connected an Agricultural Survey. While the former would bring us acquainted with all the substances which enter into the composition of that portion of the earth to which we can have access, the latter will elicit a mass of information, in relation to every thing that concerns agriculture, which cannot fail to be highly useful. In other countries, the utility of agricultural surveys has been fully proved, by the valuable results.—But, in carrying into effect such surveys as have been mentioned, the value of the results would depend upon the selection of an individual, possessing the highest qualifications, combining a profound knowledge of the subjects of investigation, a sound discriminating judgment, and an untiring zeal and industry. The expense of such a project, should not be weighed against the incalculable importance of the end proposed. Being deeply impressed with the practical usefulness of such surveys, I earnestly recommend that you provide for their accomplishment.

But while the development of the physical resources of our country should claim so large a share of your serious attention, popular education ought to hold the first place in your estimation. It is knowledge, intellectual, moral, and religious, that constitutes the man. Without its possession, wealth would be a curse, instead of a blessing. Besides, the stability and permanence of our republican institutions, have their only guarantee, in an intelligent, moral, and religious population. Hence, this important subject has commanded the warmest regard, of those who have preceded us. The establishment of the College, and the adoption of the Free School system, are enduring monuments, to the memory of those, by whose sagacious efforts they were brought into existence. The former, from small beginnings, has risen to a prominent eminence among the literary institutions of our great Confederacy, and is annual-

ly sending forth a band of well educated youths, the future glory and ornament of their country; the latter, although based upon the soundest principles of a free government, has not yielded all those benefits which its intrinsic excellence so justly deserved. At your last session, commissioners were appointed, in every election district of the State, to examine and revise the Free School system, and to report to the Executive such amendments, or alterations, as they might deem useful. Many of these commissioners, with a very commendable zeal and ability, have discharged the important duty assigned to them, while others have failed to make reports. In obedience to your resolution, I have placed the reports which have been made, in the hands of a commission of two gentlemen, Professors Elliott and Thorn well, to be examined by them, and a system to be advised and submitted to you, at the present session.—Their report, as soon as prepared, shall be transmitted to you, with the reports of the district commissioners.

It affords me unfeigned pleasure, to announce to you, that the College continues to answer the high expectations of the State. It is rapidly advancing in a career of prosperity and usefulness, which must redound to the lasting benefit of the country. It steadily increases in numbers, although the standard of admission is higher than formerly. I ardently recommend this noble institution to your parental and fostering care. The State can only expect to maintain its wonted high character, by an enlightened population, well grounded in solid learning, and a lofty moral elevation.

In a free government, there exists a just jealousy of standing armies. The history of all nations justifies this feeling. Its records are replete with instances of their danger to liberty. Our ancestors had a practical knowledge on this subject, which led them to guard, by constitutional restrictions, against their introduction. Hence, the reliance of the framers of our constitution, on the Militia, and the provision for organizing, arming, and disciplining it. Hence, the recognition of the great political truth, that a well regulated Militia, is essential to the safety of a free State; and certainly our ancestors were not deceived, in their estimate of the dependence which might be reposed in its efficiency. For the purpose of defensive warfare, it will not be hazardous too much, to assert, that Militia are equal, if not superior, to mercenary troops. The noblest and highest motive that can actuate the bosom of man, impels the citizen soldier to draw his sword, to repel the invader of his soil, and to defend his altar and fireside. It may be conceded that, for purposes of foreign conquest, regular troops are more available. But, happy for us that it is so: this great Confederacy of Republican States, is, from its character, pacific, and never can be prone to engage in wars merely for winning glory, or acquiring foreign dominion. From these considerations, we learn the vast importance of a well regulated Militia. To prepare them to fulfil the high destinies for which they are intended, care should be taken, to train and discipline them in times of peace; but this duty applies more especially to the officers. I am aware that freemen will not submit to those rigid rules, which are applicable to the regular soldier; nor is this required. The idea is not entertained, that the private militia-man can, or ought to be, subjected to the same degree of rigorous discipline, as a soldier, in the regular ranks. Indeed, it is questionable, whether the attempt to give the private militia-man the automation precision of the soldier, should be made at all. It is not believed to be essential to the perfection of our system, that any such attempt should be made. But the case is widely different with the militia officers; they may be instructed, and brought to a high degree of discipline in the military art. And if the officers have attained to a respectable degree of knowledge, it will not be difficult for them, in a period of actual service, to train their men, in a short time, in all the duties of the soldier. South Carolina has acted on the assumption of this idea, and all her militia laws look particularly to a body of well trained and disciplined officers. And perhaps no instrument has been more useful in accomplishing this end, than Brigade Encampments. It will be readily admitted, that these assemblies are attended with much inconvenience to the officers and sergeants. But liberty can only be maintained at the expense of great sacrifices, and eternal vigilance. Exemption from inconvenience, would be an inadequate compensation, for the ease and inactivity of despotism, which would follow the introduction of standing armies, in the place of the Militia. Nevertheless, the Legislature should seek to render the performance of this duty as little onerous as possible, consistent with the great object to be effected. Perhaps the system hears with more oppressive weight on the sergeants, who are compelled by law to serve a limited time, no matter what may be their means. To alleviate the burden as much as possible, I would repeat the

recommendation of my predecessor, that ratings should be issued to the officers and sergeants, at Brigade Encampments. I herewith transmit the Report of the Adjutant and Inspector General, for the year 1839.

Perhaps nothing exhibits the progress of civilization more strikingly, than well constructed highways throughout a country; and surely nothing conduces more to the ease and comfort of the citizen. In a community like ours, where the articles transported by the planter to market, are heavy and bulky, the necessity is doubly urgent, to construct such highways as will facilitate the transportation. The repairs of the roads, by the existing laws, depend upon the labor of the inhabitants, for not more than twelve days in the year. The system operates unequally. While the labor bestowed upon certain portions of the roads is sufficient to maintain them in good order, in other portions, the same labor would be wholly insufficient. From the face of the country, its unevenness, and the nature of the soil, more labor will be required in some sections, than in others. Again, those portions of the country, which lie more contiguous to the market towns, from the greater amount of travelling over them with heavy wagons, and often from the nature of the soil, and irregularity of surface, require vastly more work to put and keep them in good order, than in other portions, more remote, and more favored, in the circumstances mentioned. Hence, one portion of the inhabitants, is subjected to a greater degree of labor, than another, and not exclusively for their own benefit, but for the benefit of perhaps a more numerous class, who have expended no labor on these roads. To remedy this inequality, and injustice, presents a difficult question. If, however, the twelve days' labor, most faithfully expended, which the inhabitants are bound to bestow, would place the highways in a serviceable condition, the inconvenience complained of would be the less regretted. But, from the difficulties already pointed out, this amount of work, however faithfully executed, would, in many places, be insufficient to effect the object. Hence, it often happens, that the planter has to encounter such a wretched state of the highways, as to cause great damage of vehicles and horses, and much consumption of time; and, in many instances, the bad condition of the roads presents an utter obstacle to further progress. It is probable that the inducement which the Legislature, by a late act, has held out for the formation of companies, to establish turnpike roads, will fail of its purpose, as men cannot be persuaded to vest money in any enterprise, without a fair prospect of a profitable return, in the shape of interest, or dividends. I trust your wisdom will be able to devise some remedy, for these great evils. Before leaving the subject, I would recommend what has already been pressed upon your consideration, by one of my predecessors, that the Commissioners of the Roads, throughout the State, should be allowed to commute labor, for money, in all cases where the person liable to road duty, might prefer it: The money thus raised, to constitute a fund, to let out, in contracts, for repairing, and keeping in repair, certain portions of the roads.

The Legislature, in 1837, by an Act entitled "An Act to lend the credit of the State to secure any loan which may be made by the Louisville, Charleston and Cincinnati Railroad company," authorized the company to borrow two millions of dollars and pledge the faith of the state to secure the payment of the principal and interest; and, as an indemnity to the state, the estate, property, and funds within the state, which the said company then possessed, or might afterwards acquire, were pledged and mortgaged to the state for the performance on the part of the company, of such contract, in priority and preference of any other debt which the said company might then, or at any other time owe. But, at the same time, the company was allowed in case it should purchase the Railroad of the South Carolina Canal and Railroad company, to mortgage the said road to the said South Carolina Canal & Railroad company, for any sum not exceeding two-thirds of the purchase money; and give to the said South Carolina Canal and Railroad company, a lien thereon, in preference to the mortgage of the State. The Louisville, Cincinnati, and Charleston Railroad company did purchase the South Carolina canal and rail road. A large balance, of about \$600,000 of the purchase money, still remains due; for which a lien upon the road exists, and for which the road is liable to be sold, to raise money in case of the failure of the Louisville, Cincinnati and Charleston rail road company to make payment. This sum is due the first day of January next. As the South Carolina canal and railroad is the principal security which the State possesses, for its guarantee of the two millions loan, it may be highly important for the state to look to the sufficiency of its lien. It seems that the Louisville Cincinnati and Charleston rail road company can-