

PUBLISHED WEEKLY
BY THOMAS W. LORRAIN,
 AT THE CORNER OF RICHARDSON AND LAST STREETS, OPPOSITE
 TO GREEN'S TAYLOR.

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PROSPECTUS

THE TELESCOPE.

THE growing taste for literature in South-Carolina; the liberal encouragement given to the means for its improvement and diffusion; the importance of Columbia to the state as the seat of its legislature, of its highest judicial tribunals, and of its great seminary of learning; together with its increasing commercial consequence, render palpable the necessity for another press and another periodical vehicle of public information. Mr. William Harper, having declined the publication of "THE TELESCOPE," for which proposals have been before the public, it is now intended to carry his design into effect, and as far as possible in exact conformity to his original plan.

Standing alone; with feelings harmonized to the enjoyments of social life; unsupported but by the good wishes of the benevolent and liberal; unconnected with political men; pledged to no particular measures; having nothing to obtain or lose, and no feelings to be gratified or humbled by the dominance or fall of any party or set of men, the Editor feels free in the exercise of his vocation to pursue that course which his heart and his understandings shall instruct him is the correct and proper one. Towards the constituted authorities of the country he will observe the justice and liberality due from a faithful citizen to the government of his choice and affection, neither permitting them to be wantonly attacked, nor veiling their measures altogether from public scrutiny. Truth his guide and the public good his object, he will pursue "the even tenor of his way," ambitious of no higher or other honor than that of being useful. For the animated, if you will, irritating discussion of party politics he is totally disqualified by their discordance to his feelings and repugnance to his principles. If politics are ever seen in The Telescope, it shall be when deemed necessary to explain principles and events; to remove prejudice and calm irritation, enlighten public opinion and add to the permanent stock of general knowledge; but never to gratify the illiberal or malignant passions of any. The Editor believes, and he has great pleasure in the belief, as it is an involuntary homage to our name and to the glories of our government, that its facts are fair and impartially stated, and prejudices are not artificially excited, the decisions of the public voice will almost invariably be correct. If however, essays dictated by intelligence and characterized by a spirit of candour, are offered upon either side of the questions which divide the public sentiment, they shall have a place, if required by the circumstances of the occasion, and do not occupy a space that will preclude objects of more importance to the public and essential to the plan of this journal. Though it is determined that between the two great political parties which divide and agitate society, the scales of justice shall be held with even and impartial hand; yet it is intended political subjects shall always be subordinate to those of higher interest and more agreeable discussion, and be very seldom brought into view, unless when necessary to maintain the purity, and defend the existence of our free republican institutions.

Having disclaimed the trammels of political party and declared what this paper shall not be, it remains for the Editor to say what it shall be, if practicable to describe the Proteus form of a public journal.

Various, that the mind of a literary man, steeped in change and pleased with novelty, may be indulged. But though varied in matter and contents, it will be steady and uniform in its ultimate purpose—to promote the literature, to elevate the character, and advance the interests of the State of South-Carolina.

The paper shall contain select specimens of the best modern literature in prose and verse; moral and religious apothegms and essays; detailed accounts of the various improvements and discoveries making in agriculture and the useful arts; lists of new publications, with some connected sketch of the progress of scientific and literary enquiry; selections of the most interesting foreign and American reviews of recent works; a summary, and when interesting, a detail of foreign and domestic news; sketches of the proceedings and debates of the National and South-Carolina State Legislatures, and occasionally speeches of unusual interest in each will be given at length; important opinions and decisions of the Constitutional Court, and Court of Appeals; prices current and rates of exchange in different commercial places, and various miscellaneous particulars not reducible to distinct heads, or not meriting the notice of individual mention. For these the Editor expects to be indebted chiefly to gleanings from the newspapers, the magazines, and the reviews of this country and of Europe; but he hopes for much and efficient aid from the many able pens which the liberal and enlightened bounty of the state has enabled her sons to wield in the cause of science, of virtue and of country.

T. W. LORRAIN.

August 2, 1815. JOB PRINTING.

THE Office of "The Telescope," is furnished with materials for executing, in a style of unusual neatness, Books, Pamphlets, Cards, BLANKS, and Job Printing of every description, for which will be thankfully received and promptly attended to.

CONGRESS.

Washington, Dec. 5.

The Congress of the United States convened on Monday, Dec. 4th, when a quorum appeared in both Houses. Hon. JOHN GAILLARD, President pro tempore, took the Chair of the Senate, and Hon. HENRY CLAY was chosen Speaker of the House of Representatives. Thomas Dougherty, Esq. was elected Clerk of the House of Representatives.

No other business was done in either House but that incidental to its organization.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Tuesday, Dec. 5.—This day, at 12 o'clock, the President of the United States transmitted to both Houses of Congress, the following Message, by Mr. Todd, his Secretary:

Fellow Citizens of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives:

I have the satisfaction, on our present meeting, of being able to communicate to you the successful termination of the war which had been commenced against the United States by the Regency of Algiers. The squadron in advance, on that service, under Commodore Decatur, lost not a moment after its arrival in the Mediterranean, in seeking the naval force of the enemy, then cruising in that sea, and succeeded in capturing two of his ships, one of them the principal ship, commanded by the Algerine admiral. The high character of the American commander was brilliantly sustained on the occasion, which brought his own ship into close action with that of his adversary, as was the accustomed gallantry of all the officers and men actually engaged. Having prepared the way by this demonstration of American skill and prowess, he hastened to the port of Algiers, where peace was promptly yielded to his victorious force. In the terms stipulated, the rights and honor of the United States were particularly consulted, by a perpetual relinquishment, on the part of the Dey, of all pretensions to tribute from them. The impressions which have thus been made, strengthened as they will have been, by subsequent transactions with the regency of Tunis and Tripoli, by the appearance of the larger force which followed under Commodore Bainbridge, the chief in command of the expedition, and by the judicious precautionary arrangements left by him in that quarter, afford a reasonable prospect of future security, for the valuable portion of our commerce which passes within reach of their cruisers.

It is another source of satisfaction that the treaty of peace with Great Britain has been succeeded by a convention on the subject of commerce, concluded by the plenipotentiaries of the two countries. In this result a disposition is manifested on the part of that nation corresponding with the disposition of the United States, when, it may be hoped, will be improved into liberal arrangements on other subjects, on which the parties have mutual interests, or which might endanger their future harmony. Congress will decide on the expediency of promoting such a sequel, by giving effect to the measure of confining the American navigation to American vessels; a measure which, at the same time that it might have the further advantage of increasing the independence of our navigation and the resources for our maritime defence.

In conformity with the articles of the treaty of Ghent, relating to the Indians, as well as with a view to the tranquility of our western and northwestern frontiers, measures were taken to establish an immediate peace with the several tribes who had been engaged in hostilities against the United States. Such of them as were invited to Detroit acceded readily to a renewal of the former treaties of friendship. Of the other tribes who were invited to a station on the Mississippi, the greater number have also accepted the peace offered to them. The residue, consisting of the more distant tribes or parts of tribes, remain to be brought over by further explanations, or by such other means as may be adapted to the disposition they may finally disclose.

The Indian tribes within, and bordering on our southern frontier, whom a cruel war on their part had compelled us to chastise into peace, have latterly shown a restlessness, which has called for preparatory measures for repressing it, and carrying the terms of the peace into execution.

The execution of the Act for fixing the military peace establishment, has been attended with difficulties which even now can only be overcome by legislative aid. The selection of officers; the payment and the discharge of troops enlisted for the war; the payment of the retained troops, and their re-union from detached and distant stations; the collection and security of the public property, in the quarter-master, commissary, and ordnance departments; and the constant medical assistance required in hospitals and garrisons, rendered a complete execution of the act impracticable on the first of May, the period more immediately contemplated. As, however, as circumstances would permit, and as far as it has been practicable, consistently with the public interests, the reduction of the army has been accomplished; but the appropriations for its pay, and for other branches of the military service, having proved inadequate, the earliest attention to that subject will be necessary, and the expediency of continuing upon the peace establishment, the staff officers who have hitherto been provisionally retained, is also recommended to the consideration of Congress.

In the performance of the executive duty upon this occasion, there has not been wanting a just sensibility to the merit of the American army, during the late war; but the obvious policy and design in fixing an efficient military peace establishment, did not afford an opportunity to distinguish the aged and infirm, on account of their past services; nor the wounded and disabled, on account of their present sufferings,—

The extent of the reduction indeed unavoidably involved the exclusion of many meritorious officers of every rank, from the service of their country; and so equal, as well as so numerous, were the claims to attention, that a decision by the standard of comparative merit, could seldom be attained. Judged, however, in candor, by a general standard of positive merit, the Army Register will, it is believed, do honor to the establishment; while the case of those officers, whose names are not included in it, devolves, with the strongest interest, upon the legislative authority, for such provision as shall be deemed the best calculated to give support and solace to the veteran and invalid; to display the beneficence, as well as the justice of the government; and to inspire a martial zeal for the public service, upon every future emergency.

Although the embarrassments arising from the want of uniform national currency have not been diminished, since the adjournment of Congress, great satisfaction has been derived in contemplating the revival of public credit, and the efficiency of the public resources. The receipts into the Treasury, from the various branches of resources, during the nine months ending on the 30th of September last, have been estimated at twelve millions and a half of dollars; the issues of Treasury Notes of every denomination, during the same period, amounted to the sum of fourteen millions of dollars; and there was also obtained upon loan, during the same period, a sum of five millions of dollars, of which the sum of six millions of dollars was subscribed in cash, and the sum of three millions of dollars in Treasury Notes. With these means, added to the sum of one million and a half dollars, being the balance of money in the Treasury on the 1st of January, there has been paid, between the 1st of January and the 1st of October, on account of the appropriations of the preceding and of the present year, (exclusively of the amount of the Treasury Notes subscribed to the loan, and the amount redeemed in the payment of duties and taxes) the aggregate sum of thirty three millions and a half of dollars, leaving a balance then in the Treasury estimated at the sum of three millions of dollars. Independent, however, of the arrearages due for military services and supplies, it is presumed, that a further sum of five millions of dollars, including the interest on the public debt payable on the 1st of January next, will be demanded at the Treasury to complete the expenditures of the present year, and for which the existing ways and means, will sufficiently provide.

The national debt, as it was ascertained, on the 1st of October last, amounted in the whole to the sum of one hundred and twenty millions of dollars, consisting of the unredeemed balance of the debt contracted before the late war, (thirty nine millions of dollars) the amount of the funded debt contracted in consequence of the war, (sixty four millions of dollars) and the amount of the unfunded and floating debt (including the various issues of Treasury Notes) seventeen millions of dollars, which is in a gradual course of payment. There will, probably, be some addition to the public debt, upon the liquidation of various claims which are depending, and a conciliatory disposition on the part of Congress may lead honorably and advantageously to an equitable arrangement of the militia expenses, incurred by the several states, without the previous sanction or authority of the government of the United States; but, when it is considered that the new, as well as the old, portion of the debt has been contracted in the assertion of the national rights and independence; and when it is recollected, that the public expenditures, not being exclusively bestowed upon subjects of a transient nature, will long be visible in the number and equipments of the American navy, in the military works for the defence of our harbors and our frontiers, and in the supplies of our arsenals and magazines; the amount will bear a gratifying comparison with the objects which have been attained, as well as with the resources of the country.

The arrangement of the finances, with a view to the receipts and expenditures of a permanent peace establishment, will necessarily enter into the deliberations of Congress during the present session. It is true that the improved condition of the revenue will not only afford the means of maintaining the faith of the government, with its creditors inviolate, and of prosecuting, successfully, the measures of the most liberal policy; but will also, justify an immediate alleviation of the burthens imposed by the necessities of the war. It is, however, essential to every modification of the finances, that the benefits of an uniform national currency should be restored to the community. The absence of the precious metals will, it is believed, be a temporary evil; but, until they can be again rendered the general medium of exchange, it devolves on the wisdom of Congress, to provide a substitute which shall equally engage the confidence, and accommodate the wants of the citizens throughout the union. If the operation of the State Banks cannot produce this result, the probable operation of a National Bank will merit consideration; and, if neither of these expedients be deemed effectual, it may become necessary to ascertain the terms upon which the notes of the government, (no longer required as an instrument of credit) shall be issued, upon motives of general policy, as a common medium of circulation.

Notwithstanding the security for future repose which the U. States ought to find in their love of peace and their constant respect for the rights of other nations, the character of the times particularly inculcates the lesson, that, whether to prevent or repel danger, we ought not to be unprepared for it. This consideration will sufficiently recommend to Congress a liberal provision for the immediate extension and gradual completion of the works of defence, both fixed and floating, on our maritime frontier; and an adequate provision for guarding our inland frontier against dangers, to which certain portions of it may remain exposed.

As an improvement on our military establishment, it will deserve the consideration of Congress, whether a corps of invalids might not be organized and employed, as at once to aid in the support of meritorious individuals, excluded by age or infirmities from the existing establishment, and to preserve to the public the benefit of their stationary services and of their exemplary discipline. I recommend, also, an enlargement of the military academy already established, and the establishment of others in other sections of the Union. And I cannot press too much on the attention of Congress, such a classification and organization of the militia, as will most effectually render it the safeguard of a free state. If experience has shown in the late splendid achievements of our gallant militia, the value of this resource for the public defence, it has shown, also, the importance of that skill in the use of arms, and that familiarity with the essential rules of discipline, which cannot be expected from the regulations now in force. With this subject is intimately connected the necessity of accommodating the laws in every respect to the great object of enabling the militia to exert, in the most judicious and effectual manner, the physical power of the union, in the cases designated by the constitution.

The signal services which have been rendered by our navy, and the capacities it has developed for successful co-operation in the national defence, will give to that portion of the public force its full value in the eyes of Congress, at an epoch which calls for the constant vigilance of all governments. To preserve the ships now in sound state; to complete those already contemplated; to provide ample the unperishable materials for prompt augmentations, and to improve the existing arrangements into more advantageous establishments, for the construction, the repairs, and the security of vessels of war, is dictated by the soundest policy.

In adjusting the duties on imports, to the object of revenue, the influence of the tariff on manufactures, will necessarily present itself for consideration. However wise the theory may be, which leaves to the agency and interest of individuals the application of their industry and resources, there are in this, as in other cases, exceptions to the general rule. Besides the condition which the theory itself implies, of a reciprocal adoption by other nations, experience teaches that so many circumstances must occur in introducing and maturing manufacturing establishments, especially of the more complicated kinds, that a country may remain long without them, although sufficiently advanced, and in some respects even peculiarly fitted for carrying them on with success. Under circumstances giving a powerful impulse to manufacturing industry, it has made among us a progress, and exhibited an efficiency, which justify the belief, that with a protection not more than is due to the enterprising citizens whose interests are now at stake, it will become, at an early day, not only safe against occasional competitions from abroad, but a source of domestic wealth, and even of external commerce. In selecting the branches more especially entitled to the public patronage, a preference is obviously claimed by such as will relieve the United States from a dependence on foreign supplies, ever subject to casual failures, for articles necessary for the public defence, or connected with the primary wants of individuals. It will be an additional recommendation of particular manufactures, where the materials for them are extensively drawn from our agriculture, and consequently impart and ensure to that great fund of national prosperity and independence, an encouragement which cannot fail to be rewarded.

Among the means of advancing the public interest, the occasion is a proper one for recalling the attention of Congress to the great importance of establishing throughout our country the roads and canals which can best be executed, under the national authority. No objects within the circle of political economy so richly repay the expense bestowed on them; there are none the utility of which is more universally ascertained & acknowledged; none that do more honor to the government, whose wise and enlarged patriotism duly appreciates them. Nor is there any country which presents a field, where Nature invites more the art of man, to complete her own work for his accommodation and benefit. These considerations are strengthened, moreover, by the political effect of these facilities for intercommunication, in bringing and binding more closely together the various parts of our extended confederacy. Whilst the states, individually, with a laudable enterprise and emulation, avail themselves of their local advantages, by new roads, by navigable canals, and by improving the streams susceptible of navigation, the general government is the more urged to similar undertakings, requiring a national jurisdiction, and national means, by the prospect of thus systematically completing so inestimable a work. And it is a happy reflection, that any defect of constitutional authority, which may be encountered, can be supplied in a mode which the constitution itself has providently pointed out.

The present is a favourable season also for bringing again into view the establishment of a national seminary of learning within the District of Columbia, and with means drawn from the property therein subject to the authority of the general government. Such an institution claims the patronage of Congress, as a monument of their solicitude for the advancement of knowledge, without which the blessings of liberty cannot be fully enjoyed, or long preserved; as a model instructive in the formation of seminaries; as a nursery of enlightened preceptors; as a central resort of youth & genius from every part of their country, diffusing on their return examples of those national feelings, those liberal sentiments, and those congenial manners, which contribute so much to our union and strength to the great political fabric, of which that is the firmament.