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SCIENTIFIC.

As we understand, that Mr. Blackburn's memorial to the Legislature, proposing to construct a Map of the State of South-Carolina, has excited some enquiry. It is not impertinent to give it to the public. Independently of our glorious victories in the late war, the consequent unlimited extension of our commerce and the influx of wealth, we find that a spirit of scientific enquiry is excited in our country. Our sires acquired immortal honour, in the first struggle for independence; their sons have not proved unworthy of their descent—they have waged unequal war, and they have conquered. Returning to the bosom of society, to their homes, and families, and literally enjoying the shade of their fig trees and their vines, they now cultivate the arts and sciences. The labours of the illustrious Fulton, once deemed the illusions of a visionary mind, have produced for us advantages that we would not now forego for millions of dollars. The people of the United States feeling their importance, are roused to active exertions; and in their labours, are animated by a nobler zeal than his who made "the astonished Euxine hear the Baltic roar." Canals, roads, bridges, extensive combinations of machinery, and agricultural improvements are unerring proofs of national prosperity.

MEMORIAL.

To the Hon. the members of the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of South-Carolina.

Gentlemen—I propose to perform for you a great work. The public calls for a good map of our State, and it is much wanted. You frequently find that in the formation of your laws, and your local regulations, such a map would be extremely useful to you, as well as to our citizens in general. South-Carolina is the only State, east of the Mountains, that has not a map, constructed upon a large scale, and calculated to answer all the topographical purposes of the geographer, the historian, the legislator and the statesman.

The map of a state ought to be constructed by order of the government, and under its immediate inspection, since it requires unremitting attention, and considerable skill in science. It ought to be done in such a manner that all the data, and circumstances, respecting it may meet the view of scientific men. In France, in England, and in almost every country of Europe, no pains or expense have been spared for this purpose; the most able mathematicians, & astronomers, have been selected; and characters of the highest rank have superintended their operations. Independent of the great utility, and importance of such a map to a state, in its internal regulations, it renders the state respectable in the eyes of other nations, and is useful to them in their intercourse with us, as it presents, at one view, a variety of circumstances, which when verbally explained, require much circumlocution, and yet leave no distinct impression on the mind.

In order that a map may be well constructed, the following circumstances must be attended to. The positions of a number of noted points must be first astronomically determined, the latitudes of them: all, true to a fraction of a minute, and their longitudes, as nearly as circumstances will admit. Of these points there are, in South-Carolina, perhaps about fifty.

The scale and projection being once fixed on, these points properly disposed, are to serve as the basis of the map; all the principal roads and their bendings are then to be determined by actual mensuration, plotted upon a large scale, and reduced to the scale of the map. Many points on the rivers will be marked in the course of these itineraries, but their meanders must be traced in a different way. In the course of this survey it will be necessary to run the length and breadth of the state many times, perhaps three or four thousand miles in all, but this heavy work may be facilitated by means of way-wisers and perambulators, fitted up so as to take bearings and distances at the same time. In surveying the Islands that border this coast, a variety of methods may be adopted; those in general, that are recommended by McKenzie, in his nautical survey of the British Isles, a work in which he was three years employed by that government will be preferred. But whatever may be the general plan, a great number of difficulties will occur in the execution of particular parts of it, which none but a good mathematician and particular astronomer, can surmount. A work of this kind ought therefore to be committed to none but one who anticipates such difficulties, and who knows how to overcome them. The qualities proper for such a person are skill, patience and perseverance. The observations are to be principally made in the night—Lunar distances, and Jupiter's moons for the longitude; and of stars for the latitude, render almost sleepless vigilance, indispensably necessary. The observer must moreover be furnished with good instruments, without these all his skill will avail but little; by a mean of many observations, he may, with bad instruments, come near to the truth, but there will be an immense waste of time, & very little certainty in the result. This I state from experience; when lately sent by Governor Alston, to assist in fixing the north western boundary of our state, I

could procure no instruments for meridian altitudes, but a common sextant, an instrument that will not take the sun on land, when his mer. alt. exceeds sixty degrees, and therefore can be of no use for this purpose, but in the winter months: I think that, with such instruments, the principal point in dispute, was determined true to a second, but it was by a reiteration of observations, which sometimes employed us a fortnight, in doing what, with better means, might have been done in a day.

A man who proposes himself for an employment, a national one especially, ought to give proofs of his fitness for it.—I give mine. Twenty years since, I was, in my native country, deemed a good mathematician; my testimonials from there have been seen by the worthy President of your college. I was seven years professor of the college of William and Mary in Virginia, and it was a part of my duty in that college, to examine the county surveyors of that state, who, without my certificate, could not obtain a licence, and I know that my talents in my professional way, are still respected there; I was moreover surveyor of a district. I have been three years professor of the college of South-Carolina, where my labors have been also useful to the youth of this state. This I believe no one presumes to doubt, who has any respect for truth. My connection with the college is now dissolved, and to the unequivocal regret of every student who loves mathematical and philosophical learning; this their ingenious testimonies in my favour fully evince.

I have stated that I was sent by the late Governor Alston, to settle the disputed portion of our northern boundary line; busied as I then was, with observations, I had but little time for other work, yet at leisure intervals, I found means to construct a map of this mountainous, romantic and interesting tract, for an extent of about seventy miles, which map is now in your hall; it was done under disadvantageous circumstances, yet, it is more accurate than could have been expected. I have heard General Pickens, who is intimate with every part of that country commend it. In the year 1807, the executive of the United States proposed to have executed a national survey and chart of our whole extensive coast from Maine to Georgia. The secretary of the treasury Albert Gallatin, wrote to the Rt. Rev. Bishop Madison on the subject, who selected me as one of the persons proper to be employed in that work. I have therefore all the theory and all the practice; there is nothing wanting but the patronage of the state, and the encouragement of liberal and enlightened patriots.

A few mathematical instruments, of the best kind, will be requisite, which must be procured from the northward, as there are not any amongst the college apparatus that can answer the purposes; a good theodolite, a circle of reflection, a transit instrument, a small achromatic telescope, a small theodolite, and a few common instruments, are the proper instruments; to these ought to be added a zenith sector or an astronomical quadrant, if it can be procured. I propose that, after I have used these instruments, in the contemplated survey of the state, they shall be deposited, in good order, in the apparatus room of the college, where they will be wanted, and indeed indispensably so, if practical astronomy should ever be cultivated there, as, two telescopes excepted, there is not in it, a single instrument fit for astronomical purposes. It may be important that, if it should be found convenient for my purpose, I shall have the inspection of all the large surveys, and lines of boundary, or division, deposited in the public offices, and that the officers charged with records, any way connected with the business, should permit me to peruse or copy them.

The plan, which I now have the honor of submitting to the legislature of South-Carolina, I have had in contemplation for more than two years. It originated in the following circumstance: When I was called to fill the mathematical chair here, I could learn, at the northward, very little respecting this state, save the slight sketch of it given in Morse's Geography. Upon my arrival I was solicitous to obtain information respecting the state and its subdivisions, but found that there was no good map of them, and I heard intelligent men frequently express their regret that we had not, like all our sister states, such a map as would afford correct information.

The legislature of Carolina has done much to introduce learning into their state; their liberal donations for this purpose, are appreciated by the world: The fruit which their bounty has encouraged, will soon appear in abundance, and indeed, is already, in many instances, matured. Untoward circumstances may check its growth, but these will pass away. The sciences will rise superior to the clouds that obscure them, and to the prejudices that may depress them; the idle opinion that they cannot flourish, in perfection, near the torrid zone, will be thrown amongst the heaps of signments visionary minds have framed. A good map of a country is one proof that science is estimable there, for, without science, such a map cannot be formed. Astronomy is, in most cases, made subservient to Geography; one of its primary objects is to ascertain the true position of a point upon the surface of the earth or of a ship at sea; and it is only by the aid of Astronomy that this can be correctly done. By the rude and common methods something resembling the truth may be produced, but it is not the truth, and may be widely different from it.

The map shall be done upon a scale of five miles to an inch, its diagonal will be, of course, near five feet, or about four feet square; in that space there will be room enough to note all the important estates in this country. The time necessary for the astronomical operations, I presume to be one year at least, possibly

more; as these operations depend upon the state of the weather, and upon incidental circumstances, the complete execution of the whole plan may perhaps require two or three years.

If the legislature confides this work to me, I shall, immediately procure instruments from the northward, my operations shall commence, in the upper country, early in the spring of 1816, and I shall continue them constantly, spending the winter along the seaboard, and the summer in the western districts. I shall keep a faithful and regular journal of all my transactions, which journal shall be submitted, at the close of each year, to the executive, and of course, through that medium, to the legislature, by which means they will have a full view of the progress of the work.

I would suggest that, in all such extensive operations, there ought to be one directing head; that he should be at liberty to pursue, without controul, such measure as he deems correct, and to employ such persons, and such only, as he knows to be competent; that they should act solely under his direction, and be guided by his instructions. Without this, the best devised system of operations may be marred, and rendered nugatory.

I have thus, Gentlemen, sketched an outline of my plan, which I submit to your superior wisdom; but I have omitted many minor articles, which, should I be employed in your service, I may at some future day, lay before you. It remains for me to assure you, that, if this task is assigned to me, I will use all due diligence in the performance of it; that it shall exclusively occupy my time and attention, and that it shall be done with as much economy as is consistent with its being done in the best manner.

South-Carolina, though not ranking as one of the largest states of the Union, is not less noted for its public spirit; and its means of carrying useful plans into effect, are inferior to none. This important state ought not, then, to appear as a blank upon the atlas of the greatest and the most enlightened republic that has ever existed.

I am, Gentlemen, with great respect, your obedient humble servant,

GEORGE BLACKBURN.

From the Richmond Compiler, of Dec. 19.

We received yesterday the South-Carolina Gazette for December 3 and 12. This last rectifies an error in Mr. George Blackburn's Memorial, to the Legislature for a Map of the State. We will thank the Editors of the Gazette for the number containing that Memorial. Mr. B.'s abilities are well known in Virginia, and we should be happy to hear that those abilities are duly appreciated, usefully employed, and liberally remunerated in South-Carolina.

CONGRESS.

IN SENATE.

Monday, December 13, 1815.

The bill from the house, "making additional appropriations to defray the expenses of the army and militia during the late war," was twice read and referred to the committee of finance.

Tuesday, Dec. 19.

Mr. Barbour submitted the following motion for consideration: "Resolved, That a committee be appointed whose duty it shall be to enquire into the justice and expediency of extending relief to the officers and soldiers of Virginia, of the Revolutionary war, both on the state and continental establishments, to whom the faith of the state was pledged before the transfer by Virginia, of the lands northwest of the river Ohio to the United States, and to whom, in redemption of that pledge, warrants for their bounty in land had been granted, but which from such transfer cannot be carried into effect; and that the said committee do also enquire into the means which in their opinion will be best calculated to establish on equitable principles the line of demarcation between the lands reserved by Virginia northwest of the river Ohio, and those granted the United States; and that they have leave to report by bill or otherwise."

The remainder of the day's sitting was on confidential business.

Wednesday, Dec. 20.

The motion of Mr. Barbour, published in our last, for appointing a committee to enquire respecting the claims to lands yet unsatisfied, of the Virginia Officers in the revolutionary war, was taken up and agreed to.—Messrs. Barbour, Morrow, King, Chace and Macon are the committee.

Mr. Dana gave notice that he should at the next sitting present a bill relative to evidence in cases of naturalization. The bill making additional appropriations for defraying the expenses of the army and militia during the war was read a third time and passed, with a verbal amendment, which requires concurrence of the House of Representatives.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Monday, Dec. 18.

A number of petitions, were presented and referred to appropriate committees.

Mr. Gold offered for consideration the following resolution: "Resolved, That the committee on the Judiciary be instructed to enquire as to the official duties of the respective District Judges of the United States; whether the same in certain districts have not been greatly increased since their salaries were established by law, and whether the compensation now allowed by law be adequate to the duties enjoined on the Judges." Mr. G. remarked, in support of this motion, that when the compensation of the District Judges had been fixed, it was no doubt adequate to the services, they then had to perform; but it was notorious the duties had increased in some districts in a four-fold degree.

Such had been the increase of the business of the District Judge in New-York state, that it had been found necessary by Congress to divide the state into two districts. The act for that purpose however contained a provision that in case the Judge of one of those districts should be unable to attend to the duties of his office, the Judge of the remaining district should perform the duties of both. Now, the fact was, that the Judge of one of those districts had been wholly unable to attend to his judicial duties; in consequence of which the duties of that district had devolved on the Judge of the other. He was by this circumstance obliged to travel two thousand miles a year, at an expense which nearly absorbed in necessary travelling expenses the whole amount of his salary. As there might be other districts in the same situation, he had couched the motion in terms so general as would embrace all. The resolution was agreed to.

Mr. Robertson, after adverting to the very laborious duties at present devolving on the committees of the house, and to the practice of some of the State legislatures in this respect, which greatly facilitated the progress of public business, moved "that the committee on the rules of the house be instructed to enquire into the expediency of authorizing the appointment of Clerks to the standing committees of the house." Agreed to.

On motion of Mr. Easton, the two following resolves were agreed to, embracing objects on which the house had acted, by passing a bill at the last session, but which had not been acted on in the Senate: "Resolved, That the committee on public lands be instructed to enquire if a law, and, if any, what, further provisions by law are expedient to be made for ratifying unconfirmed claims to lands in the Missouri Territory." 2. "That the committee on public lands be instructed to enquire whether any, and what, alterations are necessary in the act for the final adjustment of land titles in the state of Louisiana and territory of Missouri."

Mr. Easton, also offered for consideration, a resolution, the object of which was to appoint a select committee to enquire into the expediency of changing the mode of leasing the Lead mines in the Missouri territory, in such manner as to secure the lessees in the quiet enjoyment of their leases, and to enable the government to realize a revenue therefrom.

Mr. Yancey proposed so to amend the motion as to refer the subject to the committee on public lands; when, on motion of Mr. Robertson, (who thought of including the Salt Springs in the enquiry) the resolve was ordered to lie on the table.

Additional military appropriations. On motion of Mr. Lowndes, the house resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. Yancey in the chair, on the bill making additional appropriations for defraying the expenses of the army and militia during the years 1814 and 1815. Mr. Lowndes explained briefly the object of the bill. The deficiency in the present year's appropriations, arose from the error in estimating the expense at four millions only, barely enough for the support of ten thousand men, when in fact for the principal part of the two first quarters of the year more than forty times that number ought to have been provided for. The deficiency of preceding years, it was well known, was caused by the heavy expenses of large detachments of Militia exceeding the estimate which had been made, &c. &c. handed to the Chair, for the information of the house, the following letter from the Secretary of the Army to the Secretary of War, which was read:

Sir—From the best calculations I have been able to make, the deficiency of appropriations for the regular military establishment for the year 1815, may be estimated at 800,000 dollars, namely,

On account of pay,	615,000
On account of subsistence of officers including their private servants,	83,000
On account of retained bounties to recruits,	100,000
	\$ 800,000

And for the year 1815, at 1,700,000 dollars, namely,

On account of pay,	1,250,000
On account of the subsistence of officers including their private servants,	150,000
On account of retained bounties to recruits,	300,000
	\$ 1,700,000

Forming an aggregate arrearage for these two years of 2,500,000 dollars, viz.

On account of pay,	1,865,000
On account of the subsistence of officers, as above mentioned,	233,000
On account of retained bounties,	400,000
	\$ 2,500,000

A further sum of 3,500,000 dollars, is also estimated to meet, in part, the outstanding claims of militia, volunteers and Indian warriors, heretofore called into the service of the United States, exclusive, however, of the claims of certain states for expenditures upon the militia, which are not yet duly recognized on the part of the United States. It may be classed as follows:

On account of pay,	3,095,000
On account of the subsistence of officers, including their private servants,	265,000
On account of forage of the horses of officers, only,	60,000
On account of the clothing of officers' private servants,	80,000
	\$ 3,500,000

To give you a more condensed view of the preceding statements, the following recapitulation is submitted:

Pay of regular troops,	1,865,000	
Pay of militia, &c.	3,095,000	4,960,000
Subsistence of regular troops,	233,000	
Subsistence of militia, &c.	265,000	500,000
Forage of militia, &c.	60,000	
Clothing of militia, &c.	80,000	
Retained bounties to recruits for the regular services,	400,000	
		\$ 5,400,000