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## THE BOXES.

[The frequent use of the English word *box* is happily ridiculed in the following letter, purporting to be from a Frenchman travelling in England to the editor of *Blackwood's Magazine*.]

Sir—In the course of my study in the English language, which I made now for three years, I always read your periodicals, and now think myself capable to write at your Magazine. I love always the modesty, or you shall have a letter of me very long time past. But never mind. I would well tell you, that I am come to this country to instruct me in the manners, the customs, the habits, the policies, and the other affairs of Great Britain. And truly I think me good fortunate being received in many families, so as I can to speak your language now with so much facility as the French.

But, never mind. This what I would you say, is not only for the English, but for the strangers who come at your country from all the other kingdoms, polite and instructed; because, they tell me, that they are abominations for you in all the kingdoms in Europe, so well as in the Orientals and Occidentals.

No, sir, upon my honor I am not egotist. I not proud myself with chateaux en Espagne. I am but a particular gentleman, come here for what I said; but since I learn to comprehend the language, I discover that I am become an object of pleasure, and for himself to mock, to one of your comedians even before I put my foot upon the ground at Douvres. He was Mr. Mathew, who tell of some contrivances of me and your word delectable *box*. Well, never mind, I know at present how it happen, because I see him since in some parties and dinners; and he confess he love much to go travel and mix himself altogether up with the stage coach vapouring boat for fun, what he brings at his theatre.

Well, never mind. He see me, perhaps, to ask a question in the paquebot—but he not confess after, that he good and bribe the garçon at the hotel and one coachman to mystify me with all the boxes; but, very well, I shall tell you how it arrived, so as you shall see that it was impossible that a stranger could miss to be perplexed, and to advertise the travellers what will come after, that they shall converse with the gentlemen and not with the bad instructs.

But, it must that I begin. I am a gentleman, and my goods are in the public reates, and a chateau with a handsome propriety on the bank of the Loire, which I lend to a merchant English, who pay me very well in London for my expenses. Very well, I like the peace, nevertheless that I was force, at other time, to go to war with Napoleon. But it is passed. So I come to Paris in my proper postchaise, where I sell him, and hire one, for almost nothing at all, for bring me to Calais all alone, because I will not bring my valet to speak French here where all the world is ignorant.

The morning following, I get upon the vapouring boat to walk so far as Douvres. It was fine day—and, after I am recover myself of the malady of the sea, I walk myself about the ship, and I see a great mechanic of wood, with iron wheel, and thing to push up inside, and handle to turn. It seemed to be ingenious, and proper to hoist great burthens. They use it for shoving the timber, what come down of the vessel into the place; and they tell me it was called "Jaques in the box;" and I was very much please with the invention so novel.

Very well. I go again promenade upon the board of the vessel, and I look at the compass, and little boy sailor come and sit him down and begin to chatter like the little monkey. Then the man what turns the wheel about and about laugh, and say, "very well Jaques," but I do not understand one word the little fellow say. So I make inquire and they tell me he was "box the compass." I was surprise, but I tell myself, "well, never mind;" and so we arrive at Douvres. I find myself enough well in the hotel, but as there has been no table d'hotel, I ask for some dinner, and it was long time I wait; and so I walk myself to the customary house, and give the key to my portmanteau to the Dovaniers, or excisemen, as you call, for them to see as I had no snuggles in my equipage. Very well—I return at my hotel, and meet one of the waiters, who tell me, (after I stand little moment to the door to see the world what pass by upon a coach at the instant,) "sir," he say "your dinner is ready;" "very well," I make response, "where was it?" "This way, sir," he answer, "I have put it in a box in the cafe room." "Well—never mind," I say to myself, "when a man himself finds in a stranger country, he must be never surprised—Nil admirari." Keep the eyes opened and stare at nothing at all.

I found my dinner only there there, because I was so soon come from France; but I learn, another sort of the box was a partition and table particular in a saloon, and I keep there when I eat some good sole fritted, and some not cooked mutten cutlet; and a gentleman what was put into another box, perhaps, Mr. Mathew because no body can know him twice, like a camelion he call for the "pepper box." Very well, I take a cup of coffee, and then all my harness and portmanteau come with a wheelbarrow; and because it was my intention to voyage up at London with the coach, and I find

my many little things was not convenient, I ask the waiter where I may buy a night sack, or get them tie up all together in a burden. He was well attentive at my cares, and responded, that he shall find me a box to put them all into. Well, I say nothing to all but "Yes," for fear to discover my ignorance; so he bring the little box for the clothes and things into the great box what I was put into; and he did my affairs in it very well. Then I ask him for some spectacle in the town, and he sent boot-boy with me so far as the theatre, and I go in to pay. It was shabby poor little place, but the man what set to have the money, when I say "how much," asked me if I would not go into the boxes. "Very well," I say, "never mind—oh yes—to be sure," and I find very soon the box was the lodge; same thing. I had not understanding sufficient in your tongue then to comprehend all what I hear—only one poor mauger doctor, who had been to give his physic too long time at a cavalier old man, was condemned to swallow up a whole box of his proper pills. "Very well," I say, "that must be agreeable. It is cannot be possible;" but they bring little a box not more grand nor my thumb. It seem to be to me very ridiculous; so I returned at my hotel at despair how I could possibility learn a language what meant so many different in one word.

I found the same waiter, who, so soon as I came in, tell me, "Sir, did you not say that you would go by the coach tomorrow morning?" I replied "Yes, and I have bespoken a seat out of the side, because I shall wish to amuse myself with the country, and have no cabriolets in your coaches." "Sir," he say, very polite, "if you shall allow me, I would recommend you the box, and then the coachman shall tell every thing." "Very well," I reply, "yes, to be sure, I shall have a box then, yes;" and then I demanded a fire into my chamber, because I think myself enraptured upon the sea, and the maid of the chamber, come to send me in bed; but I say, "No so quick, if you please: I will write to some friend—how I find myself in England. Very well, here is the fire, but perhaps it shall go out before I have finished." She was pretty laughing young woman and say, "Oh no, sir, if you pull the bell, the porter who sit up all night, will come, unless you like to attend to it yourself, and then you will find the coal-box in the closet." Well, I say nothing but "yes, oh yes." But, when she is gone, I look direct into the closet, and see a box not more like none of the other boxes what I see all day than nothing.

Well—I write at my friends, and then I tumble about when I wake, and dream in the sleep what should possible be the description of the box what I must be put into tomorrow for my voyage.

In the morning, it was very fine time, I see the coach at the door, and I walk all round before they bring the horses; but I see nothing what they can call boxes, only the same kind as what my little business was put into. So I ask for the post of letters at a little boots boy, who showed me by the Quay, and tell me, pointing by his finger at a window, "there see, there was the letter-box;" and I perceive a crevice. "Very well, all box again to-day," I say, and give my letter to the master of postes, and go away again at the coach, where I very soon find out what was coach-box, and mount myself upon it. Then come the coachman, habilitated like the gentleman, and the first word he say was—"Keep horses! bring my box-coat!" and he push up a grand capote with many serapes.

"But, never mind," I say; "I shall see all the boxes in time. So he kick his leg upon the board, and cry 'cheat!' and we are out into the country in lesser than one minute, and roll at so grand pace, what I have had feared we will be reversed. But after little times I take courage, and we begin to entertain together; but I hear one of the wheels cry squeak, so I tell him 'Sir, one of the wheel would be greased;' then he mak: reply, nonchalantly, "Oh, it is nothing but one of the boxes which is too tight." But it is very long time after as I learn that wheel a box was pipe of iron what go turn round upon the axle.

Well, we fly away at the pace of charge. I see great castles, many; then come a pretty house of country well ornamented, and I make inquire what it should be. "Oh," responded he, "I not remember the gentleman's name, but it is what we call a snug country box."

Then I feel myself abayed at despair, and begin to suspect that he amused himself. "Well, never mind; we shall see." And then after sometimes, there come another house, all alone in a forest, not ornated at all. "What, how you call that?" I demand of him. "Oh," he responded again, "that is a shooting box of lord Killfots." "Oh," I cry at last, "that is little too strong;" but he hoisted his shoulders and say nothing. Well we come at house of country, ancient, with the tress cut like some peacocks, and I demand, "what you call these trees?" "Box sir," he tell me. "Devil is in the box," I say at myself. "But, never mind, we shall see." So I myself refreshed with a pinch of snuff, and offer him, and he take very polite and remark upon an instant, "that is very handsome box of yours sir." "Morbien!" I exclaimed with inadvertency, but I stop myself. Then he pull out his snuff-box, and I take a pinch, because I like at home to be sociable when I am out at voyages, and not show some pride with inferior. It was a wood beautiful with turnines, and color of yellowish. So I was pleased to admire very much, and inquire the name of the wood, and again he say "box sir." Well, hold myself with patience, but it was difficultly; and we keep with great gallop, till we come at great crowd of the people. Then I say "what for all so large concourse?" "Oh," he response again, "there is one grand boxing

match—a battle here to-day." "Peste!" I tell myself, "a battle of boxes!" Well, never mind. I hope it can be a combat at the outrance, and they all shall destroy one another, for I am fatigued.

Well, we arrive at an hotel, very superb, all as it ought, and I demand a morsel to refresh myself. I go into a saloon, but, before I finish, great noise come into the passage, and I pull the bell's rope to demand why so great tapage? The waiter tell me, and he laugh at same time, but very civil no less, "Oh sir, it is only two of the women what quarrel, and one has given another a box on the ear."

Well, I go back on the coach box, but I look, as I pass, at all the women, for the box, but not one I see. "Well," I tell myself once more, "never mind, we shall see;" and we drive on very passable and agreeable times till we approached ourselves near London; but then come one other coach of the opposition to pass by, and the coachman say, "no my boy, it shan't do!" and then he whip his horses, and made some traverse upon the road, and tell to me, all the times, a long explication what the other coachmen have done otherwhiles, and finish not till we stop, and the coach of opposition come behind him in one narrow place. Well, then he twist himself round, and with full voice cry himself out at the another man, who was so angry as himself, "I'll tell you what, my hearty! if you comes some more of your jammon at me, I shan't stand, and you shall yourself find in the wrong box." It was not for many weeks after as I find out the wrong box meaning.

Well—we get at London, at the coaches office, and I unlightened from my seat, and go at the bureau for pay my passage, and gentleman very polite demanded if I had some friend at London. I converse with him a very little time in voyaging, because he was in the interior; but I perceive he is real gentleman. So I say, "No, sir, I am stranger." Then he very honestly recommend me at an hotel, very proper, and tell me, because I have some affairs in the Banque, I must sleep in the city this night, but to-morrow I shall come at the hotel, where you shall find some good attentions if you made the use of my name." "Very well," I tell myself, "this is best." So we exchange the cards and I have hackney coach to come at my hotel, where they say, "No room, sir—very sorry—no room." But I demand to stop the moment, and produce the card what I could not read before, in the movements of the coach with the darkness. The master of the hotel take it from my hand, and become very polite at the instant, and whisper to the ear of some waiters, and these come at me, and say, "Oh yes, sir, I know Mr. Box very well. Worthy gentleman, Mr. Box—very proud to accommodate any friend of Mr. Box—pray enlighten yourself, and walk in my house." So I go in, and find myself very proper, and soon come so as if I was in my own particular chamber; and Mr. Box come next day, and I find very soon that he was the right box, and not the wrong box. "Ha, ha! You shall excuse my badinage—ch! but never mind—I am going to Leicestershire to see the foxes hunting, and perhaps will get upon a coach-box in the spring, and get at Edinburgh; but I have fear, cannot come at your 'Noctes," because I have not learn yet to eat so great supper. I always read what they speak there twice over except what Mons. Le "Shepherd" say, what I read three time; but never could comprehend exactly what he say, though I discern some time the grand idea, what talk in darkness "visible," as your divine Milton say. I am particular fond of the piece. I read three books of the "Paradise Lost" to Mr. Box, but he not hear me no more—he pronounce me perfect.

After one such compliment, it would be almost the same as to ask you for another, if I shall make apology in case I do not find the correct idiom of your language in this letter; so I shall not make none at all, only throw myself at your mercy, like a great critic. But never mind,—we shall see. If you take this letter as it ought I shall not promise if I would not write you at other some time.

I conclude in presenting at you my compliments very respectful. I am sorry for your gout and crutchedness, and hope you shall miss them in the spring.

I have the honor of subscribe myself, Sir, your very humble and much obliged servant,  
LOUIS LE CHEMANT.

P. S. Ha, ha!—It is very dry!—I tell my valet, we go at Leicestershire for the hunting fox.—Very well.—So soon as I finish this letter, he come and demand what I shall leave behind in orders for some presents, to give at what people will come at my judgments for Christmas Boxes.

\* The cabriolet is the front part of the old French diligence, with a hood and wheels, holding three persons, including the driver and conductor.

ADDRESS OF WARRICK GAVIS,  
of South Carolina, to his Constituents.—  
Washington, March 4, 1829. To the electors of Greenville, Pickens and Anderson districts:—

Fellow-citizens:—The twenty Congress having terminated its second session, it becomes my duty, as a steward whom you placed a high and unmerited trust, to render to you an account of some of the important actings and doings of the Federal Government, and more especially of that branch of it in which you placed me your representative. This I will endeavor to do with a sacred regard to truth; and if I shall state any error of fact, or draw any false conclusion, they will not only be intentional, but (being public) very easy to correct. The last session has been a short one, and therefore less mischief was done, than you

will hereafter see, was openly attempted in both Houses of Congress! But I should in the first place however, exhibit to you the state of fiscal concerns of the General Government, the amount of the national revenue and the separate sources of it; the amount of the national debt, and the probable period of its payment; the state and cost of the army and navy; together with current annual expenditures for public purposes, separated and classified, before I touch other matters. This I do, from an anxiety to place in the hands of those, whose temporary agent I am all the information within my reach in a condensed form; and that information will be as true, as the veracity of our public functionaries may be—as I have made the abstract from their own reports.

We will first hear Mr. Rush, the Secretary of the Treasury Department: He estimates the receipts (from all sources) into the Treasury, for the last year, at \$24,948,863; and further states, the balance left in the treasury, from the last year, at \$5,861,972. The national debt amounted, on the 1st day of January last, to \$51,862,135; and the secretary declares that the whole may be paid off in four years.

The annual expenses of the Government, for the last year, were as follows:  
Civil, miscellaneous, and foreign, \$2,999,312.

According to the report of the Secretary at War, the expenses of the army, including pay, sustenance and clothing, appropriations for fortifications, internal improvement, and the Indian department, for the last year, amounted to \$4,684,666.

The Secretary of the Navy states the naval expenses, of the last year, at \$3,201,140. The whole cost of that department, including the appropriation for the gradual increase of the Navy is about \$4,100,000 per annum. The Navy consists of seven 74 gun ships afloat, and five building; seven 44 gun frigates afloat and six building; three 36 gun frigates afloat, and one steam ship of 30 guns; two 24 gun sloops of war; fourteen of 18 guns; four 12 gun schooners, and three smaller vessels.

The Post Office Department has been well managed, and instead of being an expense to the government, as heretofore, actually yields a revenue of more than \$100,000.

The Pension list is enormous; it numbers I understand, more than sixteen thousand of Revolutionary and War-pensioners; and costs the nation more than \$1,000,000 per annum. The number of Revolutionary pensioners still on the list, after the lapse of half a century, is truly astonishing. There is now but one person in existence out of the sixty who signed the Declaration of Independence in 1776; and were to take that ratio as a fair rule of calculation, (even on the presumption that every survivor is poor and helpless) it would make the army of the revolution, numerically, greater than ever Xerxes led into Greece.

All the public lands that have been sold from the foundation of the government to the 30th of June last have produced but \$42,000,000, or but little more than a million a year. I have long thought that the whole system of land sales is radically wrong; and that we have shown a very unnecessary haste in disposing of the national domain. But I am apprehensive it will be almost impossible, from various causes, to effect, at this day my material alteration in the system.

The revenue derived from the stock held by the government in the United States Bank is very inconsiderable; not amounting I believe, to more than \$70,000 per annum; and here permit me to remark, that if the profits from this source were ten times as great and its facilities to the financial operations of the government, ten fold what they are, it would afford no adequate considerations to my mind, to cherish and sustain that gigantic power, which, in my opinion, is destined at no very distant day, to be wielded with a blighting and withering energy against the purity of our free institutions. Should the country however, determine to re-charter this bank, I shall still hope to see the day when the funds of the government will be withdrawn from its vaults.

This government has recently received from Great Britain, the sum of one million two hundred thousand dollars, to satisfy our citizens for private property, taken from them during the last war, but remaining in the limits of the United States on the day the treaty of Ghent was concluded.

The militia of the United States, according to the irregular and defective returns, made to the War Department, for the year 1827, amounted to one million two hundred and eight thousand four hundred and ninety-nine. I perceive from these documents, the militia of South Carolina, is put to the diminutive number of 36,429. And the State of Georgia, having two representatives less, at 52,056. There must be some mistake in this, and it ought to be corrected; as the arms furnished by the federal government, to the militia of the several States, are apportioned according to their number.

You will doubtless have seen, before this reaches you, the inaugural address of Gen. Jackson, on taking the oath of fidelity to the Constitution of the United States. There is a spirit of plain dealing, honesty, and love of justice breathing through it, calculated, I think, to excite the warmest hopes of the patriot and especially cheering to the insulted and burthened people of the southern and staple States. He there solemnly pledges himself to the policy, loudly demanded by the people, of a speedy payment of the national debt. The payment of the national debt would destroy one of the strongest pretenses, (used by those who thrive on your labor,) or the continuance of a system of high duties and taxes; for it is not to be believed that the people of this country would long submit to be taxed annually ten million dollars, be-

yond the purpose of revenue, and necessities of the government, for the sake alone of building up the manufacturing interest, on the ruins of agriculture and commerce. Equally unwilling, in my opinion, would the tax paying States be, to see the sources of their wealth and comfort, dried up by this immense annual drain, and their funds levied in the receiving States, under the pretext of what is called a great system of national internal improvement. But pretense will never be weighing on the part of those who consider national debt as a national blessing, for high duties and a large surplus of money in the treasury; and this brings in review some of the leading measures attempted at the last session of Congress.

It is now apparent that there is a party in this nation, although not numerically great, yet powerful in wealth, talent, and industry, who are resolved, at almost any hazard, to continue in existence a national debt; and for the plain reason that these great capitalists are the owners of the debts, and are deriving from it a higher rate of interest, with the most perfect security, than can be obtained from any other stock on this continent; and for the further reason, that when the fifty million dollars (the amount of the debt) is paid off, and thrown back upon them, they will be forced to invest this immense capital either in manufactures, (already overdone,) or in foreign trade and commerce, and thereby create in themselves, an antagonistic interest to their favorite tariff. These large stockholders find ready co-operators in the manufacturers, and that portion of the friends of internal improvement, who expect large disbursements of public money in their immediate vicinity. The junction of these interests presents formidable obstacles to the honest and just administration of the government, according to the true spirit of that instrument, from which arose this confederation.

To show that these views are not without foundation, I invite your attention to a few measures introduced into both houses of Congress, during the last session, of a nature so extravagant, as to be utterly unaccountable, not from a desire to keep up a national debt, or another motive still more selfish and reprehensible. The first was a mammoth pension bill, which actually passed the House of Representatives by a considerable majority; but was happily arrested in its progress, by the firmness, wisdom, and virtue of the Senate. The operation of this bill, had it passed into a law would have saddled the government with a debt of about \$10,000,000. The provisions of the bill embraced every person who served in the revolutionary war, whether rich or poor and helpless.

Another pension bill, specifying certain persons to the number of 160, and providing annuities for them, and other persons *similiter admodum* were also crushed in the Senate. By that bill every European who had ever been commanded by an American officer during the revolutionary war, would be entitled to an annuity, and be billeted on the tax paying people of this country for the remainder of their lives. This bill also had its advocate from the same class of politicians. The effects of these attempts was, the rejection of the claims of many poor and meritorious soldiers, by enumbering an original bill of humble pretensions, with the monstrous provisions. I will pass over the numerous unwarrantable appropriations of public money, donations of land, and subscriptions to joint stock companies, for roads and canals, because the detail would be tedious and disgusting; and present to you another scheme offered in the Senate, that wants but few of the attributes of robbery, and obviously springing from the principles I have endeavored to delineate. The bill was based upon the expectation, that the present system of high duties; is to be continued even after the payment of the national debt, and was intended by the proposer to ensure its continuance for the exclusive benefit of the manufacturers and holders of government stock. It proposed that the surplus money remaining in the treasury at the end of every fiscal year, which would amount, under a continuance of the present high rate of duties, to eight or ten millions per annum, should be divided among the several States, not according to the proportionate amount paid by each State, but according to the number of Representatives! The result would be, that those States that are more than indemnified through the bounties given by the tariff, for the small amount they contribute to the treasury, would, on the fraudulent division proposed, receive, not only what they never paid in, but more than those States which chiefly support the government. The southern or staple States contribute annually two thirds of the national revenue; but according to the ratio of representation, they would receive back one third only, as they have but 76 members to 137. But again, suppose an equal and just division of the surplus could be made, where in the name of common sense, is the propriety of drawing out of the pockets of the people so many millions annually, merely for the purpose of giving back the same money to the States? But would the same be given back? Would not custom house officers, tax gatherers, &c. &c. in the mean time, finger their per cent? Yet this scheme, monstrous as it is, has many warm advocates, apparently confident of its final adoption.

Another assault was made upon the Federal Constitution, and on the sovereign rights of a State, in the House of Representatives, by the insertion and adoption of a clause in the Cumberland Road Bill, claiming the right and exercising the power of establishing toll gates on that road. If this power belongs to the general government, what is to prevent it from seizing your passes and highways, your Saluda turnpike, that cost your State so much money, erecting toll gates, and forcing your citizens to pay for the privilege of passing over their own road? The Senate again interposed its shield, and protected for the season, the constitution from violation.

The discussion of this bill, by its friends alone, continued near ten weeks! Indeed, the practice of making three hour speeches has become so general and inveterate, that the time of Congress, particularly a short session, is almost entirely taken up by it, to the hindrance of public business, and great injury to private claims. You will require no further proof of this, than the fact that only 71 bills have been passed this session; leaving on the docket 328. I regret to say, that among those that could not be reached, are some claims of my own immediate constituents.

An attempt was made to repeal the tonnage duty, and passed the House of Representatives, but was nullified by the table in the

\* Abonements—subscriptions.  
† Batear on vapour—a steam boat.  
‡ Rentes—public funds.  
§ La la, signifies possible, indifferent.