

The National Intelligencer,

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WASHINGTON ADVERTISER.

VOL. 7. WASHINGTON CITY, PRINTED BY SAMUEL HARRISON SMITH, NEW JERSEY AVENUE, NEAR THE CAPITOL. No. 30.

FIVE DOLLS. PER ANNO.

FRIDAY, MAY 29th, 1861.

PAID IN ADVANCE.

FOR THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

Thoughts on the policy of limiting the right of the General Government to lay taxes.

[CONTINUED.]

It is this view of the subject but not absolutely conclusive, let us invest the picture already presented, and view the parts of the system which shall give to the States as well as the federal government, an independent existence.

In this case no fatal jealousy of each other would exist, to the perpetual frustration of some valuable purpose. Each, having allotted to a particular source of revenue, would move in an independent way, and as interference of one with the other would occur. The general government, knowing the extent of its pecuniary resources, would not be tempted, by the impulses of ambition, to attempt projects beyond its power of accomplishment. On the other hand, the States would, as they ought to do, pay greater attention to internal improvements, to the advancement of the arts, to the promotion of useful knowledge. At present they do little, not so much because their means are small, as from the fear, lest these means, small as they are, may be withdrawn from them.

Such would be the beneficial effects of this system of tranquility and independence. Its effects would be no less efficient in periods of great emergency. In such periods, the resources of the general government being great, would be fully competent to every purpose of immediate defence against sudden aggression, and equal in a great if not an absolute degree, to preserving and firmly protecting of the country. Should, however, more extensive resources be required than those at the immediate disposal of Congress, the States must be referred to. The same reason which would render in the opinion of Congress these additional resources unnecessary, would not be equally obvious to the States, who would not hesitate in periods of political peril, to throw the united funds into the general treasury. We cannot imagine any great crisis, in which the country would be in danger, when the States would not be anxious to contribute to the general government itself. Feeling more feebly the impulses of the public sentiment, in proportion to the animation and exhibition of that sentiment would give their spirit of courage and resistance. The confidence too, of the nation would be complete and entire.

For the wisdom of measures which disengage from them the greatest immediate interests of their property they would have the guaranty, in the first place of the federal government which formed the measures, and of the State governments which sanctioned them. In this way more money could be raised than in any other. It would be raised too in a shorter time. For the general government being obliged by the constitution to apply its taxes generally and equally throughout the nation, would require longer time than would be necessary for each State, as none can previously practice, to impose and collect a tax peculiarly accommodated to the pre-conceived opinions, and pre-contracted habits of its citizens.

Some objections may, on first thought, be made to the proposed modification of the Constitution, by those who recollect the imbecility of the general government under the old articles of confederation. But on reflection it will be found that none of the just objections to the inefficient system under which we then lived, have the most remote application to the proposed plan. First, under the confederation the States possessed the exclusive right of taxation, and Congress had only the right to recommend certain taxes; whereas under the proposed modification Congress will have the right to exercise a right of imposing duties on the greater part of the objects of taxation; while the States will enjoy the exclusive right of taxing minor objects. The absolute power possessed by the general government, and assigned to it in the subject of the States, and

enable it to crush unaided by the States any unconstitutional attempts of the latter to encroach on forbidden ground.

So far then from being an object of derision, it will always command respect, while it continues to exercise the authority with which it is invested in the promotion of the public welfare, and from the beneficial effects it will diffuse through the nation.

There is one idea, already noticed, too important not to be brought more distinctly into view. I mean the promotion of arts and sciences. That our agriculture, many of our mechanic arts, and science generally should be encouraged by public aid, is acknowledged by every one. But by whom shall it be done? It can only be done by the general or State governments.

With regard to the power of the general government to encourage the arts, great doubt, to say no more, exists. No such power is expressly delegated by the very constitution, which reserves to the States the people all powers not expressly imparted. The same constitution indeed declares that Congress shall have power to promote the progress of science and useful arts, by securing, for limited times, to authors and inventors, the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries. It is strongly implied that Congress shall in no other way promote the progress of science and useful arts. Under these circumstances it would be irrational to expect the general or liberal interposition of Congress. It may, by the particular modification of duties, and imposition of taxes, incidentally encourage the arts; but this is not that kind of encouragement which is calculated to give them that expansion which more direct aid could not fail to produce.

For this aid then we must necessarily resort to the State governments. When applied to, we are told by the State governments that they have laudable objects before them, they are too good to grant the feeble contributions of the general government. Thus in a country whose peculiar character not only recommends, but absolutely requires, the widest diffusion of useful knowledge and the greatest facility to acquire it, we behold systems of government endowed with powers more calculated to frustrate the great ends than any other government in existence. And thus they hold the plumes of the national government lowly and unbecomingly enforcing measures, which cannot be accomplished from the conflicting powers of the government. Let us see an American, also, our true republican on earth, to feel banishment at seeing despotic governments do more for the advancement of knowledge than their own government; that government which cannot continue to exist, but must sink into the delirium of tyrannical rule, in the great body of the people be well informed.

This objection alone is fully a great one. Let us then see the public attention, and let us hope for constitutional remedies applied to an evil so easily cured.

FOR SALE OR RENT,

Two elegant brick houses, 40 by 20 feet each, and 15 or 20 feet high. One is on Alexandria, and well calculated for the grocery and flour business as any the city; also one on the corner of the above houses, 30 feet front, by 26 feet deep, and I will likewise sell or rent, 7 or 8 valuable lots on King and Patrick streets, and on a most good corner. The plan will be given of one of the houses immediately, and the other in 30 days. Any person wishing to purchase, or to rent, or to see the premises will be required in hand, one fourth of the purchase money, and the balance in 15 months, and an interest and giving a security on the property.

I will also sell,

65 or eight thousand acres valuable Kentucky land, the interest of persons will be required on the above mentioned.

The subscriber is carrying on the brick business, and is desirous of selling his stock, and will be a constant supply of brick, and will be well situated to furnish all materials to any person who may wish to build in the City on the most reasonable terms for cash. Application to be made to Francis Peyton, Esq. for the property in Alexandria, or to

N. VOSS, City of Washington, April 8, 1861. 3M

WASHINGTON CITY.

FRIDAY, Mar 29, 1861.

My yesterday published in EXTRA paper the following important letter respecting the disposition of TRIPOLI and ALGIERS, received by the Secretary of State.

Extract of a letter from Col. Humphreys to the Secretary of State, dated April 14th, 1861.

"I think I cannot display too much gratitude in communicating to you, by different conveyances, the news this moment received by me from Algiers. I hasten then to transmit copies of Consul O'Brien's letter to the Secretary, which came to me through the Department of the first number of those of his Catholic majesty.

From the fall of these letters you will learn that the Bey of Tripoli, having refused the mediation of Algiers, the presents sent from thence and the bills of Consul Cathcart, was determined upon to resist the United States, and was sending his emissaries to sea accordingly. It is doubtfully to be wished that he may find reason to repent this wicked and rash proceeding at his leisure. As it is a considerable time since Consul Cathcart (whom I consider a very faithful and vigilant public officer) took the wise precaution of giving extensive advice of the great probability of this event, I cannot but hope that our honored merchant vessels will not be exposed to the hazard of falling into the clutches of pirates, but that they will rather be retained in port (however inconvenient or expensive it may be) until they can be protected by armed vessels of the United States, adequate to the purpose. On the policy of compelling force by force, and of blocking the ports of this aggressor, I can add little to the motives which I have already had the honor to offer. I may, however, justly be allowed to say, that the circumstances seem more than at any former time to reduce us to the alternative of having a few frigates sent, or of relinquishing our trade in it. To be at war with one of the Barbary powers, subjects our commerce to nearly the same risk as to be at war with all of them. To challenge that authority but uncontrollable power which now dares first to insult us by its aggression, would certainly serve, not only as a salutary example to the other piratical States, but it would produce an almost incalculable effect in elevating our national character in the estimation of all Europe."

Algiers, the 5th of April, 1861.

Sir,

The Algerine corsairs are as yet in port, and wait the result of the foundation to Constantino. I hope something will come forward from the United States before they fall; if not, I have my own. On the 15th inst. I sent to the Dept. requesting he would permit a second letter to be wrote by his orders to the Bahaw of Tripoli; he answered that his letter had certainly gone safe, and would answer the purpose. On the 18th inst. I was this morning at 8 A. M. the prime minister of Algiers sent a choice or suitable to me, to inform me that the Americans were in arrears in their annuities nearly three years; that what had been first lately is very trifling, and that the Day is not well pleased at this neglect or detention. I answered by my telegram, to give my best respects to the prime minister, to inform him that in our first settlement we arranged the annuities for two years and nine months; that one year was considered by the U. States to be emitted, that we had brought forty

florins since (in the Sophia and Washington) which were not counted; that great commissions of timber and other articles were wrote for or ordered by the regency on the annuities; that these articles, I expected, were preparing in the U. States to be shipped for Algiers; that our rivers were frozen till March, and that by this time I expected said articles were shipped, and would of course come forward immediately to answer all the requisite fulfillment on the part of the U. States, which were due to the regency.

The prime minister observed, that we were much in arrears, more than is customary to admit any nation; that he hoped these requisite articles on the annuities would soon arrive at Algiers; that they were the chain of friendship with this regency. This looks equally.

Sir, I am very respectfully,
Your most obedient servant,
(Signed) RICHARD O'BRIEN.

The Hon. William Smith,
at Lisbon.

Algiers, the 6th of April, 1861.

ESTERED SIR,

YESTERDAY I received letters from Consul Cathcart, dated Tripoli, the 19th and 26th of February. The Bahaw of Tripoli had disregarded the friendly letters and interference of the Day of Algiers; has rejected to receive the presents I sent from Algiers. Consul Cathcart offered to give him bills, &c. for the amount of 25,000 dollars, to gain time to lay a reference to the U. States; but this also was rejected. Our treaty is in a manner declared void, and the Bahaw of Tripoli has sent his corsairs to sea, with an intent to capture Americans. He wants war, and should have it. Even if his money accept of the bills, I have not money of credit to pay or answer them; further, at present we are establishing a struggle for Algiers and Tunis to make greater demands, and I have no such powers to do without a reference, on such a great affair, to the government and Mr. Smith. I have sent many important papers on this subject to Mr. Montgomery, to copy and forward, and am so hurried that I have not time to add more than to inform you of this unexpected event, and to show you, Sir,

Of the incense regard and esteem
of your most obedient servant,
(Signed) RICHARD O'BRIEN,

Hon. Col. Humphreys,
at Madrid.

The requisite precautions should be taken. I have your circular letters on this event to the Consuls in Spain, Gibraltar, and Malaga. Copy of this letter will please to forward to the Secretary of State and Mr. Smith.

OFFICIAL.

Appointments by the President of the United States.

S. BISHOP, Collector of New-Haven, in Connecticut.

DAVID L. BARNES, judge of Rhode-Island Districts.

REUBEN ETTING, Marshal for the District of Maryland.

By the Secretary of the Navy:

WOODBURY LANGDON, is appointed NAVY AGENT at Portsmouth, N. H.

WILLIAM HUNTER, is appointed NAVY AGENT at Savannah (Geo.) in the place of Ebenezer Jackson, resigned.

The Essex arrived in Hampton Roads on the 20th inst. to join the Squadron under commodore DALE.

On the 23rd inst. the frigate FRIDELPHIA left New Castle, to join the Squadron.