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FEATURES of a Bill reported by Messrs. H. Lee, Evans, Craik, Bird, S. Lee, Goodrich, and Dennis.

For the Government of the District of Columbia.

I. A legislature is to be eſtabliſhed, to conſiſt of a Senate and a Houſe of Repreſentatives.

II. The diſtrict ſhall be divided into two precincts, one on the weſt, the other on the eaſt ſide of the Potomack.

III. *The Houſe of Repreſentatives* ſhall conſiſt of fourteen members, ſeven reſident in the Eaſtern, and ſeven in the Weſtern precinct, choſen for two years, by citizens of U. S. reſident 12 months in the diſtrict and 1 month in the precinct of the United States, who are freeholders.

The qualifications of a member of the Houſe of Repreſentatives are, being 25 years of age, being a citizen of the United States, reſident in the diſtrict for 12 months, and in the precinct for 1 month, and being a freeholder therein.

IV. The *Senate* ſhall conſiſt of fourteen members, three reſident in the Eaſtern, and three in the Weſtern precinct, choſen for ſix years.

The qualifications of a Senator are being thirty years of age, being a citizen of the United States, reſident in the diſtrict for twelve months, and in the precinct for one month, and being a freeholder therein.

The Senators are to be choſen by eight electors, four whereof to be elected by the citizens of the Eaſtern, and four by the citizens of the Weſtern precinct, which electors ſhall have the ſame qualifications as members of the Houſe of Repreſentatives, and who ſhall be elected by the ſame citizens who vote for members of the Houſe of Repreſentatives.

The Senate to be divided, at the organization, into three claſſes, one of which is to be replaced every ſecond year.

V. The members of the legiſlature to be compenſated by the diſtrict.

VI. A Governor ſhall be appointed by the Preſident of the United States for three years, unleſs ſooner removed.

The Governor ſhall be a citizen, and thirty-five years of age.

He ſhall appoint all officers eſtabliſhed by the legiſlature of the diſtrict.

He ſhall have a veto upon the paſſage of all laws; and if after his diſapprovinge a law, it ſhall be repaſſed by two thirds of each houſe, he ſhall lay the law before Congreſs to be acted upon by them.

VII. The Governor, Members of the legiſlature, and Electors, ſhall be prohibited from holding any office under the United States, or any ſtate.

VIII. Taxes, excepting exciſes, impoſts and tonnage duties, may be layed by the legiſlature; but no law ſhall be paſſed for taxing the diſtrict for opening, paving, repairing, improving, lighting or regulating the ſtreets, in any town or city within the diſtrict.

IX. The ſheriffs ſhall be appointed annually by the governor, one for the Eaſtern, and one for the Weſtern precinct, who before the ordinary duties of ſheriffs, ſhall act as judges of all elections.

X. The judicial power of the diſtrict ſhall be veſted in two ſuperior, and two inferior courts, the judges to be appointed by the Preſident, to be paid by the United States, and to hold their offices during good behaviour.

XI. The laws of Virginia and Maryland, as they now exiſt, ſhall remain in force, ſo far as the ſame may be conſiſtent with the motives of the ceſſion by ſaid ſtates.

XII. The legiſlature may paſs all laws neceſſary for the government and police of the diſtrict, repealable or alterable by Congreſs, who may make any law, which ſhall be ſupreme.

XIII. A governor ſhall be immediately appointed.

XIV. The election of the members of the legiſlature ſhall be held on the 1d Monday of April, and the legiſlature ſhall convene at Wathington on the firſt Monday in June.

FOR THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

On the Government of the Territory of Columbia.

To form a ſyſtem of government for any people has always been conſidered by the enlightened as an object of peculiar delicacy and importance. The difficulties attending it have been great, even when thoſe, who were to be the ſubjects of the ſyſtem, themſelves formed it. How much greater may the embarraſſments be expected to be, when the ſyſtem is formed by thoſe who have little, if any common intereſt with thoſe who are to be governed by it, without not only their approbation, but even their advice.

In ſuch circumſtances the ground which is taken ſhould be ſelected with circumſpection, and every principle that is reared upon it ſhould emanate from the pureſt ſource and terminate in the moſt beneficial effect.

He who is regardful of the inſtruction of experience knows the futility, not to ſay temerity, of putting into operation, in a free country, principles, which, inſtead of advancing the great intereſts of ſociety, ſacrifice them to narrow views or partial objects. He knows that ſuch principles, however bold the impulſe by which they are firſt directed, will loon loſe their power, and be ſubſtituted by others more correct and appropriate.

Under the guidance of thoſe acknowledged principles, it is propoſed, with the ſame reſpect to examine the outlines of the plan for the government of Columbia, which has been ſubmitted by a committee of the Houſe of Repreſentatives.

The intereſt, which the individual who makes theſe remarks, has embarked in the territory, and the ſolicitous regard which he cherriſhes for the political inſtitutions of his country, will be his apology, if apology be required, for the ingenuous and unheſitating manner in which he may expreſs his opinions.

In forming a ſyſtem of government the firſt enquiry ſhould be into the character, the habits, and the purſuits of the individuals to be governed; as there are certain political principles, which apply alike to all men under all poſſible circumſtances, ſo there are certain modifications of principles, which are required by peculiar ſtates of ſociety.

The diſtrict of Columbia at preſent contains but a ſmall population. Of this population, nearly one half is formed of the citizens of the towns of Alexandria in George-Town, and the city of Wathington. Nearly the whole of that great aſſeſſion which is contemplated will attach itſelf to thoſe towns. The conſequence will be that in a few years the propondrating, if not excluſive intereſts will be commercial and manufacturing. It will ſpring from the ſecond ſtate of ſociety the ſtruments of wealth that the proſperity of the Territory muſt hereafter be derived. That ſyſtem, therefore, which ſhall be beſt calculated to protect and invigorate theſe intereſts will, other conſiderations being equal, be that which wiſdom will dictate.

It has become almoſt a maxim that the proſperity of manufactures and manufactures depends upon their exemption from reſtraint, and their protection from invaſion. This maxim has been ſo fully verified by facts, that it is not a rare thing, to behold commercial and manufacturing towns poſſeſſed of extenſive rights, and in the enjoyment of a mild ſyſtem of laws, even in the heart of a deſpotiſm. Hence we find that almoſt all the trading towns in Europe poſſeſs peculiar privileges, and that to their citizens is entruſted the right of ſelf government, while thoſe around them are imperioiuſly ruled by others.

This eiſher is, or till lately has been, the caſe in England, Holland, and the Netherlands, in which countries trade and manufactures have reached unrivalled eminence.

If then any inſtruction be ſought in the peculiar character, habits and purſuits of the citizens of Columbia, it demonſtrates the commanding policy of a ſpirit of liberal confidence in their promptneſs to diſcern, and readineſs to purſue their true intereſts.

How far this policy, heretofore the ornament and boaſt of our country, has prevailed over the formation of the plan ſubmitted we come now to enquire.

The moſt important feature reſpects the *right of ſuffrage.*

By the ſyſtem propoſed it is limited to citizens who poſſeſs *ten acres* of land, *or a lot with a houſe erected thereon.*

To the citizens of Wathington, of George-Town, and of Alexandria, this proviſion will be more equal and unjuſt. It requires the latter, to qualify them for the enjoyment of certain rights to poſſeſs property much ſuperior in value, to that of the citizens who reſide in the country. The direct effect will be to depreſs the intereſts of thoſe who reſide in Wathington, and the two towns.

In another reſpect, it will be peculiarly ſubverſive of the intereſts of the city of Wathington. In this place the maſs of property is held by a few individuals. The votes, therefore, which the citizens of Wathington will carry to the election of repreſentatives, by whom they are to be governed, will be inſignificant, compared to thoſe which will be given in George-town, Alexandria, and the country. The inevitable reſult will be the entire proſtration of Wathington. It were folly to conceal that jealouſy already exiſts. It is a fact that while the citizens of Wathington are traverſing the coffers of Prince George county, thoſe coffers are never opened to her wants, however imperious. Will it be ſaid that the diſpoſition to oppreſs will be relaxed by an invigoration of the power? Theſe are, it ſeems, always true, when can the intereſts of Wathington find ſecurity, when that population, on which her real greatneſs muſt depend, is made the paſſive inſtrument of diſtribution to laws in the formation of which ſhe will have only the name?

As if to place her at the uncontrolled mercy of a power extrinſic to herſelf, while, by the propoſed ſyſtem the legiſlature have a right to tax her for the general purpoſes of the diſtrict, the right is abſolutely prohibited to taxing the diſtrict for *opening, paving, repairing, improving, lighting or regulating her ſtreets.*

Further; what will be the effect of this ſtature of the ſyſtem on the different deſcriptions of citizens in the city of Wathington?

It has already been made to appear that by its effects, the great intereſts of Wathington, and eſpecially the landed intereſt, muſt fall victims to the ſuperior power of the other parts of the diſtrict. It is equally true that the laboring, the mechanic and the manufacturing intereſt in Wathington must be ſacrificed to the landed intereſt. If the latter, vindictive from a ſenſe of oppreſſion inflicted by the other parts of the diſtrict, and eſpecially the landed intereſt, may, in operation of human paſſions & excluſive regard to ſelf intereſt, exercile the power with which they are inveſted; what would be the ſituation of by far the greater part of the citizens, of thoſe induſtry, whoſe induſtry, virtue and talents, would be their only poſſeſſions? For the objects of poliice the city is excluſively to be taxed. Theſe objects undoubtedly require large ſums; and may be made the cover for immoderate ones. How are theſe demands to be anſwered, and by whom? Shall taxation find its baſis in wealth derived from real property? Or ſhall it operate upon population? On this point the ſyſtem is ſilent.—Why is it ſilent?—*I anſwer, that it will operate upon population.*—To the rich will be given all power; even the power of extorting from the poor, for the aggrandiſement of themſelves, the little property their induſtry ſupplies.

Who, that knows any thing of human nature, can doubt this? Are not all claſſes of men in purſuit of wealth? And can there be a more direct or ſure road to this goal, than by one claſs keeping all it poſſeſſes, and adding to it the little poſſeſſed by other claſſes. That this would be the reſult of a taxation whoſe baſis was numbers, cannot be queſtioned, when it is ſtated that nearly the whole maſs of taxes would go to increaſe the value of landed eſtates, by paving ſtreets, building bridges, erecting public buildings, &c.

If theſe ideas be juſt, they diſcover with irreſragable force the pernicious tendency of that narrow right of ſuffrage which the propoſed ſyſtem recommends; they demonſtrate, that, in the firſt place, Wathington would be ſacrificed to the other parts of the diſtrict, and the larger part of Wathington itſelf ſacrificed to a ſmaller part.

But theſe conſiderations are trifling compared with thoſe, which are preſented by a wider field of obſervation.

The principle that taxation and repreſentation ſhall be equal is the rock not only of republicaniſm, but of individual felicity. It is the principle for which our citizens have fought and bled. It is a principle not only rooted in their hearts but engraven in the conſtitution. How much of their happineſs ſpringe from this ſource, let the contrafted ſtate of America and Europe proclaim. Is it then poſſible that a principle, around which cling not only the moſt fold fingerſtions of reaſon, but all the amiable prejudices of the heart, is thus to be proſtrated in a day? And this too without any promiſed benefit to be fulfillinl in its place? Where be fitch a boon, let it be deſcribed. Until it is deſcribed, its exiſtence muſt be diſbelieved.

WASHINGTON.

Conrad & M'Munn

HAVE opened houſes of entertainment in the range of buildings formerly occupied by Mr. Law, about two hundred paces from the Capitol, in New Jerſey avenue, leading from thence to the Eaſtern Branch. They are greatly indebted to the public, and will be diſpoſed for ſtage paſſengers and travellers, the o her for the accommodation of boarders. There is ſtabling ſufficient for 60 horſes—They hope to merit public patronage.

City of Wathington, Nov. 24, 1800.

Take particular Notice.

WITH aſtoniſhment, I read the diſſolution of the partnerſhip of the firm of PHELAN and NOYES, bearing date the 24th Inſtant, without my conſent, and under the peculiar circumſtances of my ſituation. My own property, conſiſting of ſundry articles to a large amount, being made over for the ſecurity of the rent, that other creditors, the firm is reſponſible for—No large ſums of money received by Levi Noyes, accounted for—While thus ſituated, I do hereby declare the notification of Levi Noyes, under the firm of Phelan and Noyes, to be illegal and unjuſt, and that the public take no notice of it—All perſons are forbid trufting Levi Noyes on account of ſaid firm.

JOHN PHELAN,
of the firm of Phelan and Noyes.

Wathington city, Jan. 24, 1801. 3t

THE SUBSCRIBER, *Will Sell or Exchange*

FOR approved lands near the Blue Ridge a valuable tract of land in Northumberland County, two miles from the Court houſe, on Cocktail bank of the Potomac, containing 2163 acres. This tract is divided into two plantations, on the one there is a brick dwelling houſe 36 by 33 feet conveniently divided, and two brick kitchens, the other a dwelling houſe 20 by 46 feet deſigned for an Overſeer, and other outbuildings.

The conveniencies of this place are equalled by few, and the proſpect excelled by none in the ſtate.—The houſe is ſituated on a high hill and commands an extenſive view of the Potomac. In this tract is ſituated a Creek abounding with the fineſt Fiſh and Oyſters, which terminates the flat land of this tract, that is navigable for bay craft, and affords a good landing place within half a mile of the houſes. On this part of the tract there is in excellent bearing Apple and Peach orchard, and a variety of other fruit trees. It has a great ſufficiency of Oak and Hickory timber, for the uſe of the plantation, beſides a large quantity of fine timber other plantation there is a framed dwelling houſe 24 by 16 feet, and a few out houſes, ſuch as tenants generally have about them. This part of the tract is as well ſituated for farming as any lands in Virginia. It is well watered, has a ſufficiency of timber for its ſupport, and abundiſhing young peach and apple orchards.

It is probable that no perſon will purchaſe ſuch a purchaſe without viewing the premiſes all that is neceſſary to add is that Mr. Spencer Ball living thereon will ſhew the whole, and is fully authorized to make ſale thereof.

JAMES C. BALL.

N. B. Any perſon purchaſing may be ſupplied with ſtock of all kinds neceſſary and ſufficient for the plantation.

January 28, 1801. 6t