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TRANSLATED

For the National Intelligencer.

A SPEECH

Of Jacquemont in the Tribunate, on a plan of public instruction.

[*Concluded from our last.*]

The first title of this project marks the division of public instruction. I. Into primary schools, established by the communes. II. Secondary schools established by the communes, or kept by private masters. III. Lyceums and special schools, supported at the expence of the public Treasury.

The primary schools of the second title should be of less enumeration than those of the first, because those of the first degree are more necessary to the generality of citizens. To read, write and cypher, are necessary to every one; these are the only branches of knowledge in which they will have time to be instructed, as in general the inhabitants of the towns and villages are necessarily occupied by domestic and rural labours. The principles of morality and the direction of natural propensities to the ends of political association, is another important part of instruction, since it supplies the insufficiency, and adds to the authority of written laws; and the means of this instruction, are possessed by, and will be supplied by government.

The choice of instructors is confided to the mayors and municipal councils.—Their support is to be derived from compensations furnished by the parents, but fixed by the councils. The poor are to be instructed gratuitously, one fifth of the pupils being exempted from all payment.

The secondary schools, instituted by the III. title, suppose the first branches of knowledge to be acquired, and will teach the Latin and French languages, the elements of geography, of history and mathematics. It is in this school that the young persons will be received, who are not to go the whole round of public instruction in the Lyceums and special schools. The progressive course of these studies is not fixed by law, but will be regulated in each place, by the wants and situation of the pupils and will be limited or extended according to the ability of the parents and the destination of the children; the same circumstances will determine the other parts of instruction; and the prefects under whose superintendance the schools are placed, will hasten to add any new branches of instruction in relation to the arts and sciences, which the communes or individuals shall desire.

Under the active influence of government and the large premium of encouragement that is offered both to the Professors and pupils, no doubt can be entained of the utility and respectability which these schools will soon attain, and which will render them the best establishments in our system of general instruction.

For, if we have the right to expect from the superior schools, men whose talents will preserve to France that eclat and ascendency which she now possesses in all kinds of glory; it is to these other schools we owe that mass of able and enlightened citizens, who will henceforth constitute the real strength and superiority of a nation.

Title IV. establishes and organizes Lyceums, in which shall be taught by eight professors at least, the ancient languages, rhetoric, logic, moral philosophy, and the elements of the mathematical and physical sciences.

This third degree of instruction is evidently not designed for the generality of citizens, who will unavoidably be engaged in the business by which they are to gain a livelihood; it can only answer for those young persons exclusively, who are destined to the profession of the sciences and liberal arts, either by the affluence of their families, or by the marks of genius which the government may be willing to favour.

One Lyceum in each arrondissement of the tribunal of appeal it is presumed will be found sufficient for the above purposes. The law reserves to government the power of augmenting in each Lyceum the objects of instruction and the number of professors, together with the right of increasing the number of these establishments accordingly as they may appear useful, and it is the number of pupils which will determine this progressive augmentation.

The Lyceums are not schools solely for the instruction of the generality of young men who will attend them; they are at the same time establishments for the education of pupils whom the government may place there, for the pupils of the secondary schools, who shall enter by the prescribed rotation, and for day scholars, whose parents may wish to send. Teachers in all the different studies, of painting, music and the fine arts, will be furnished: The whole will be governed by a common regime.

The administration of the Lyceums will be confided to the immediate agents of government. When it is recollected that a large proportion of the pupils will be supported at the public expence, it will appear just and proper that the government should have the superintendance.

The administrative council of the Lyceums composed of a Proviseur, a Censor of studies, and a Steward, who are to be instructed, superintended and inspected in all their functions, by a union of the magistrates of the administrative and judiciary order; this regulation it is presumed, will insure an impartial and exact discipline.

Another regulation still adds to the certainty of a good administration of the Lyceums; it is the appointment of three general inspectors who are to visit them once a year, to examine the modes of instruction and administration, and to render an account thereof to the minister of the Interior.

The mode of nominating the professors, both for the first and subsequent administrations, is concerted in such a manner that the choice must be the best.

Whoever shall be the one chosen, from the two candidates presented to the first Consul, both will have been judged by men capable of appreciating their morality and talents, and the motives which determine the choice, will be those which will insure able and virtuous professors.

The last article of this title fixes the entire organization of the Lyceums for three years; but the taste for study which is every where awakened, the necessity for more general instruction, since it is now one of the surest roads to employment, and the great number of able and experienced professors who every where offer to the examiners, authorises us to hope that in the year 13, the establishment of many supplementary Lyceums will justify the confidence which these institutions have already inspired.

One of the most important principles in relation to the Republic and the glory of the nation, is that the knowledge on which liberty rests, should be cultivated extended and propagated among all classes of society; this result is insured by the 1st article which determines the objects of instruction in the Lyceums. Minds, improved and enlarged by the study of ancient languages, of literature, logic, and morality, are necessarily acquainted with sufficient data on which to form a clear and sound judgment concerning the advantages of a free constitution; they are enabled to judge of the institutions, which relate to their great interests; They will be possessed of all those ideas, the clearness, force and simplicity of which gave to the mass of the nation that power, which has conquered all the obstacles which prejudice and personal interest opposed, and which have accomplished our grand Revolution; ideas which will *preserve* the blessings which they acquired.

The 2d title relates to special schools, in which plan of instruction, both the sciences and arts will be completed.

Already have we gathered the fruits of these excellent institutions. We well know, and all Europe will soon perceive, how much the sciences are indebted, to the indefatigable zeal, to the truly paternal cares, and to the perfect method of the celebrated professors of our Polytecnique school, of our schools of medicine, of our museum of national history and of the college of France.

This project of law, preserves all the special schools already established, giving to the government the power of making certain alterations, and regulations, which are generally allowed to be necessary.

Nothing more can be added to the considerations already before you, to make you more sensible of the importance of the new schools, which the present plan adds to existing ones. Most of them are of imperious necessity; such are the ten schools of law, the three new schools of medicine, the four schools of natural history, of physics and chemistry, and those of the mechanic arts. They will place within the reach of the inhabitants of the departments, knowledge as useful to themselves as to society.

In title V. You have seen that the pupils in the lyceums will be trained to military exercise, by the ablest teachers; and you must be sensible how important it is that our youth be initiated in an art, which the conscription may call them to practise. To this general regulation, title VI. adds a special military school, in which 500 pupils, chosen from the lyceums, and forming a battalion, will be instructed in all the theoretic parts of the military art, as well as in the history of wars and of great generals.

It is but justice to pay a distinguished attention to an art, which has gained us so much glory, and the constant benefits of which have supported our fortunes, until it has at length conducted us to the pinacle of fame. How many famous generals have risen, from the ranks which concealed them, by a genius which supplied the place of instruction or experience. But we must not always depend on nature's performing miracles for us! An institution in which the young men who display talents, or are led by inclination to the brilliant career of arms, may find that instruction and discipline which make good officers, cannot fail of being highly useful, and of preserving the eclat by which our armies are now covered.

The VII title respects the 6,400 pensionary scholars, to be educated in the lyceum at the public expence, and is the basis of the hopes of success, which the new system inspires. The considerable number of pupils which will be immediately placed in the lyceum by the government, will allow of an immediate attention to all the elements of a good education; at the same time, that it will guarantee to the parents an exact and well ordered administration, in regard to the mind, to the morals and health of the scholar. The number of scholars in these pensionates will therefore doubtless be increased by the children of affluent families, who will be likewise admitted, and will assist in the support of these schools.

Out of these 400 pupils will, after an examination, be chosen from the secondary schools, to follow, in the lyceum and special schools, a course of studies at the expence of the government. The chance of being thus chosen, is so great an advantage, that it should induce parents the least affluent, to give to their children the education of the secondary schools. The certainty of procuring for their children at the end of their studies, an honorable situation, or even the procuring for them gratuitously a complete education, are motives too powerful not to be generally felt. Thus, the regulations, which open the doors of the lyceum, at the same time secure the establishment of the secondary schools.

Among the pensionary scholars of the French Republic, 2400 will be chosen by government, from the families of military and civil officers who have well served their country. This regulation promises an honorable addition, to the emoluments of offices well filled.

Title VIII fixes the amount of the pensions and their application, as well as the application of the money drawn from the external pupils of the lyceum and special schools. It also gives to government the right of determining the compensation of the officers and professors of the different schools, which will be proportioned to the number of scholars. The arrangement is the best imaginable, and calculated to excite zeal and emulation among the professors, and to maintain throughout all the parts of administration the order most favourable to the prosperity of the schools.

The IX and last title contains some general rules, among which there is one which merits the greatest attention, from the happy effects which it will have upon the new organization of public instruction. It is that which establishes a fund destined to secure comfortable retreats to the officers and professors who have served in the schools 20 years.

This guaranty which the professors will receive of the stability of their conditions, will attach them exclusively to the labours of their situation, and engage them to every effort to finish gloriously a career, which will be crowned with a recompense proportioned to their services.

Whatever may be the expences of a system of public instruction, it is neither a vain or unproductive expenditure; the knowledge and talents spread through a nation, are the sources of its happiness and prosperity, in short when a people has the means of its independence without, and of its tranquility within, nothing more remains than for it to procure by the developement of all the faculties of industry, the greatest possible sum of felicity attainable in human associations.

The section of the interior proposes your taking the votes on the adoption of this plan.

To Rent,

A THREE story brick house on Pennsylvania Avenue, west of the Seven Buildings.—Possession may be had the 25th inst. For further particulars enquire of EBENEZER ELIASON, Bladensburg; or Samuel M'Intire, near the premises.

June 21, 1802. 1aw3t

HISTORY

OF THE

Last Session of Congress.

[CONTINUED]

Selection of Jurors.

On the 4th of January, the house resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the President's Message, when Mr. Randolph submitted the following resolutions, which were agreed to without a division, and immediately confirmed in the house, and referred to a select committee.

1. *Resolved*, That it is expedient to enquire whether any and what alterations should be made in the Judicial establishment of the United States.

2. *Resolved*, That provision ought to be made for the impartial selection of juries.

3. *Resolved*, That it is expedient to enquire whether any, and what reductions can be made in the civil expences of the government of the United States.

On the agreement to these resolutions some conversation took place, in which Messrs. Randolph and Smilie affirmed, and Mr. Bayard denied, the past existence of abuses in the selection of jurors.

Connecticut Claim.

On the 5th of January, a petition was received from 1200 inhabitants of the state of Pennsylvania, settled on lands claimed under grants from the state of Connecticut, antecedent to the trial before the court of commissioners, praying that the authority of the supreme court of the United States to re-examine, reverse, or affirm, a final judgment or decree in the cases provided for in the 25th sec. of the judiciary act, may be extended or declared already to extend to cases of criminal prosecution, as well as of civil actions; that original and exclusive jurisdiction may, agreeably to the constitution, be given to the proper courts of the United States in all controversies between citizens of the same state claiming lands under grants of different states; and that the supreme court may be empowered, at their discretion, to direct the trial of such causes, to be holden in districts other than the states in which the two opposite titles are claimed (unless the claimant under the other than that in which the land is shall wave the right of trial in a federal court) or that some other adequate relief may be granted in respect to the disputed claims of the petitioners for the lands aforesaid.

Mr. Goddard moved to refer the petition to a select committee, and was supported by Messrs. Bayard, T. Morris, Hemphill, Rutledge and Bacon; and opposed by Messrs. Smilie and Randolph.

In support of the reference it was declared that all petitions couched in decent terms ought to be referred, else the house would be precipitated into decisions without possessing correct information; that this case was important in its effects upon a large class of citizens, who had a claim to the attention of Congress; that the controversy to which the petition related was of long standing, and that it became that house to treat the prayer of the memorialists with respect; that it was believed that Congress neither could or would interpose; and that, if such were the determination of Congress, expressed after mature consideration, it would tend more effectually than a present suppression of the petition to deprive the memorialists of any expectations derived from the hoped for interposition of the federal legislature; that in this result Pennsylvania was as deeply interested as the petitioners.

On the other hand, it was declared that Congress had no power to interfere; that the question was entirely judicial, and had been decided by the first judicial authorities of the nation; that the rights of Pennsylvania were conclusively established; and that Congress could do nothing that would impair them.

On the 8th of March, Mr. Giles, in the name of the committee made a report, which was taken into consideration on the 11th of the same month.

The report of the committee contained an historical view of the Wyoming controversy, recited the act of Pennsylvania, for preventing intrusions upon land in Northampton, Northumberland, and Luzerne counties; and then proceeded to state:

"The petitioners complain of these acts as unconstitutional, and pray that provision may be made by law for transferring the proceedings under these laws from the state courts of Pennsylvania to the courts of the United States; and that further provision may be made by law, that in the trial of any prosecution in virtue of the said acts, the defendant may have a veneri facias to summon juries from some state, other than Pennsylvania. Your committee conceive that the right of jurisdiction was finally settled by the decree of Trenton, of the 30th December 1782, and that by the decision of the circuit court for the district of Pennsylvania in April 1795, the whole question of the right of soil was fully taken up and decided by the court, in a case the most favorable for the defendant; which decision not having been revised and reversed, should also be considered as final and conclusive.

"Your committee therefore upon the whole circumstances of the case, are of opinion, that the measures contemplated by the petitioners would tend very much to increase the embarrassments already experienced by the state of Pennsylvania, in extending and enforcing its lawful jurisdiction over the lands in question, and that it would be highly inexpedient on the part of the United States to interfere with the regulations of the states in that respect, or to countenance, by any means whatever, any circumstance of insubordination to the state authority.

"Your committee are therefore of opinion, that the prayer of the petitioners ought not to be granted."

After debate, the committee rose and reported their agreement to the report.

A motion was made and lost to recommit the report to a select committee.

A motion to postpone the further consideration of the report till the last day of November next met the same fate; when the question was then taken on concurring with the committee of the whole in their report, by Yeas and Nays, and agreed to—Yeas 60—Nays 17.

On the 7th of January an interesting memorial was received from Evan Thomas and others, a committee appointed for Indian affairs by the yearly meeting of the people called Friends, held in the town of Baltimore, praying the attention and interference of Congress to prevent the supply of spirituous liquors to the Indian tribes residing in the territory of the United States north-west of the river Ohio, by traders and settlers on the frontiers; and to introduce among the said Indian tribes, the most simple and useful arts of civil life.

The memorial was accompanied by a speech of Little Turtle, eloquently delineating the injurious effects of spirituous liquors.

The House referred the papers to a select committee, and directed them to be printed.

Mr. Nicholson presented a letter which he had received from the governor of Maryland, inclosing a letter to the legislature of that state from the commissioners of the City of Washington, stating their present inability to defray the interest on loans accruing on loans of about 250,000 dollars, made by Maryland, and suggested the expediency of that legislature, offering to receive from Congress, who had guarantied the loans, 6 per cent. stock at par, the loans having been originally made in 6 per cents. with an engagement that repayment should be made in specie—Also resolutions of the legislature of Maryland, agreeing to the proposition of the commissioners.

These communications were referred to the Secretary of the Treasury who made a report, afterwards adopted, and carried into a law authorising the President to pay the loans made, and to suspend, under certain circumstances, the sale of city lots.

Stenographers.

During the proceedings of the day, in discussing the standing rules of the House, Dr. Leib moved the addition of the following rule, which was carried—Yeas 47—Nays 23.

"Stenographers shall be admitted, and the Speaker shall assign such places to them on the floor, as shall not interfere with the convenience of the House."

This rule was not carried without great opposition. It was opposed by Messrs. Griswold, Rutledge, Varnum, Hemphill, T. Morris, Eustis, Dana, Elmer and Goddard; the remarks of some of whom were urged with a vehemence altogether unknown [illegible] to the subject, while, on the other hand, it was strenuously supported by Messrs. Leib, S. Smith, Nicholson, Claiborne, Smilie, Holland and Spring, who drew their chief arguments from the abuse to which the discretion heretofore reposed in the Speaker had been subject.

The majority, in the adoption of the resolution, evinced a determination to carry into operation their previous professions. Though a republican now filled the chair, from whose impartial exercise of power they had not [illegible] thing