

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER,

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WASHINGTON ADVERTISER.

Vol. III

WASHINGTON CITY, PRINTED BY SAMUEL HARRISON SMITH, PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE.

No. CCCCXXVI.

FIVE DOLLARS PER ANNO.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 13th, 1862.

PAID IN ADVANCE.

FOR THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER. SERIOUS CONSIDERATIONS ADDRESSED TO ALL SINCERE FEDERALISTS.

No. V.

Fellow Citizens,

The third great object of the constitution was to insure domestic tranquility.

On this subject there do not appear to be any particular specified provisions of the constitution which do not equally apply to other points. Such as there are respect the raising of armies, the disciplining the militia, and the imposition of taxes.

There may be viewed as the instruments of preserving by coercion the domestic tranquility when violated by the application of illegal force. But as this is a circumstance of rare occurrence, it will not be incorrect to consider this part of the constitution as involving a higher and more important effect, viz. the preservation of domestic tranquility by measures so promotive of the public good, and so consonant with the public sentiment, as to prevent a resort to force.

This is in truth the only point of view in which the subject can, with reference to our present situation, be considered, as there is, at this time, neither real or apprehended danger of insurrection.

Let us then concisely compare the claims which the nation had on the present administration with the measures pursued by it. In doing this, it ought not to be forgotten that since the commencement of that administration but one session of Congress has intervened, and that, however solicitous they in authority may have been to satisfy the general expectation, they had not time to accomplish all they may have desired, nor did many important objects admit of accomplishment in any other except the most deliberate manner, involving therein more time than has yet elapsed. This consideration will, it is presumed, satisfactorily account for many omissions.

The nation had a right to expect from the present administration, as the guardians of domestic tranquility.

1. Justice, free from favor, to all foreign powers.
2. All practicable reduction of expenses.
3. The speediest payment of the public debt.
4. A distribution of offices in some degree conformable to the prevalence of public opinion.
5. An abridgement of the period of probation before an alien should become entitled to citizenship.
6. The reduction or abolition of all unnecessary taxes.
7. The avoidance to pass any laws, either unconstitutional, or productive of more individual evil than general good.

It is believed that this enumeration embraces all the points on which national expectation had been excited. It certainly embraces all the great points.

Let us distinctly compare each point with the measures of the present government.

In the first place the nation had a right to expect from the administration justice, free from favor, to all foreign powers.

If there be such a thing as national policy, it is that of America, while she is just to all the world to count the friendship or favor of no part of it. There may be emergencies, though it is not easy to foresee them, when it may be our interest to give exclusive rights to other nations in exchange for correspondent benefits received from them. But it is most evident that no such emergency exists at present. It is equally evident that since the establishment of the constitution, we have received no favors from foreign powers for which we have not paid more than they have been found to be worth. It is also evident that, judging from the past, it is much more advisable to consider them all in the light of enemies than of friends. Such is happily the present opinion of America, and the measures of the government announce the same conviction. Hence, we hear of no new alliance. One arrangement, it is true, has been made with Great Britain, by which, to avoid the threatened & possible payment of twenty millions, the government has agreed to pay 600,000 pounds sterling, and on the condition that our merchants shall proceed, without impediment, to recover their just claims against the government or subjects of Britain. But, whether this measure be right or wrong, though nominally the act of the present, it is virtually that of the past administration.

A further and conclusive evidence of the disposition of the administration to be found in the vacation of two foreign embassies, whereby a considerable expense is saved, independently of the great effect already sufficiently explained.

In the second place, the nation had a right to expect all practicable reduction of expenses.

And has not the expectation been completely realized? In the period of one year, an habitual annual expenditure of one million two hundred thousand dollars has been retrenched. This point requires no comment. All will feel, as all can appreciate its importance.

In the third place, the nation had a right to expect the speediest payment of the public debt.

It was not expected that this interesting object would be furthered by the imposition of new taxes. It was felt that the public burdens had been extended quite far enough. But it was expected that the debt would be early discharged by an inflexible purpose not to hazard the resources of the nation in any wild scheme, which, however flattering in prospect, might prove disastrous in result; by an hostility to war; by avoiding all new unnecessary expenses, and by lapsing off all present ones that are useless. All this has been done the first session of the republican Congress. More still has been done. Seven millions three hundred dollars out of the aggregate revenue have been primarily pledged, in preference, and to the exclusion of all other interfering appropriations, except 600,000 dollars annually appropriated to the civil list, before the funding debt. Whatever, therefore, may be the fate of other appropriations of the government, this is sacred and inviolable; and by its efficacy the whole debt will be paid in the year 1817. Do not these measures equal; do they not surpass public expectation?

In the fourth place, the nation had a right to expect a distribution of offices in some degree conformable to the prevalence of public opinion.

It is well known, it has not indeed been disputed, that under the late administration, and for the twelve preceding years, at least nineteen-twentieths of the public offices were in the hands of federalists. Why was this so? It was because public opinion, operating through the successive administrations, as its organs, had so willed; or, it was not so, then the exclusive appointment of one class of political men must have been a violation of public opinion. If the latter was the case, then it became the duty of the new administration, as the organ of public opinion, thus violated, to restore to it its legitimate efficacy; and if the former was the case, it was the duty of the new administration as sincerely to respect the existing demands of public opinion, as they had been respected by the preceding administrations. In either case some change was justified and demanded.

Other administrations have dismissed all officers inimical to them. The present administration has not dismissed one in ten. Is this intolerance, or forbearance? To your judgment be the appeal? Remember that an office is not conferred to oblige or benefit an individual, however distinguished or meritorious; but to promote the public interest. Do not all who accept offices know this? And when the public interest, dictated by the public will, required a change of public officers, was it not the duty of the President to make the change, and the duty of the minority of the nation, including the removed offices, to acquiesce, and should not that minority feel grateful that they are left in possession of the greater number of civil offices in the gift of the government?

In the fifth place the nation had a right to expect an abridgement of the period of probation before an alien should become entitled to citizenship.

When we became an independent nation so far from frowning upon the admission of foreigners, our political declarations and intensions invited them to our shores, and our government was vigilant to discover and prompt to reward their merit by notice and employment. Our revolutionary council produced no prejudices against them. Our late constitutions and laws, almost without exception, rendered the acquisition of citizenship easy; in most instances but one or two years residence was required. The constitution of the United States imposed no prohibitions; it only empowered Congress to make them.

A new state of things occurred a few years past, alarms, certainly by and reason, arose, and a period of fourteen years residence was fixed before a foreigner could become a citizen. This was a long term; considering the age at which

most men emigrate, it amounted almost to a prohibition to become a citizen.

At the commencement of the new administration, this alarm subsided, and five years of residence was situated in the place of fourteen.

Consider a few circumstances. An alien in the bosom of our country must be its friend or its enemy. Which is most defensible? Surely that he should be its friend. What will be most likely to make him such? Our friendship to him, our holding forth the hand of philanthropy, our admitting him to an early participation in our common rights. Can human nature resist these attentions? It cannot. He will become one of us, and feel as much attached to our government as our native citizens. He will feel that when a citizen of the United States, his destiny is committed with theirs. In the character of a citizen, he becomes entitled to acquire and hold real property, which in many of the states is prohibited to Aliens. Once required, he will defend it with as much zeal as any of us. Reverse the picture. What will be most likely to make him the enemy of the country? Our ill-will, our jealousy, our refusing him a participation in our common rights until a period too distant to render them an object even of hope. For fourteen years he is no citizen, possessed of no real property, not one of us, subject to the power of the government, viewing him in the light of an alien enemy, to remove him from the country. His destiny is not slightly connected with ours. He will not view this as his permanent country. He will constantly look to the period, when, after accumulating wealth, he may return to his native soil. Calculate the number of souls so situated that would be produced by the lapse of fourteen years, and say whether the vast amount of men, in the bosom of the country, inimical to its welfare, would be a circumstance calculated to impart security or benefit?

In the sixth place, the nation had a right to expect the reduction or abolition of all unnecessary taxes.

That taxation had been wantonly extended was unquestionably believed by those who had produced the recent change of rulers, that is by a majority of the nation. It is well known that a considerable portion of federal citizens disapproved many of the measures of the late administration which had been most productive of expenses. Both these descriptions of citizens had reason, therefore, to expect that men who had opposed these measures and checked, as far as in them lay, the vast expenditures under them, would by removing the occasion for all unnecessary taxes open the way to their reduction or abolition.

This has been done. The internal revenues, those last resorted to by the government, most odious to the people, and most expensive of collection, have been abolished; and, in addition, a system of economy has been commenced, which may enable the government at an early period to reduce the duties on imports, if the country continues to prosper.

In the seventh place, the nation had a right to expect the avoidance to pass any laws, either unconstitutional, or productive of more individual evil than general good.

It is not my purpose, neither is it in my heart, to censure the late administration. Whatever their errors, their motives may have been pure. But it is impossible to decline here reminding that the present administration, though covered in the first period of eighteen months with more vulgar and insistent abuse than has illuded from the American press (since the era of independence, has passed no session bill, subversive of the constitution and destructive of the liberty of the press;—has passed no alien law, equally subversive of the constitution, and placing an insidious bait of foreigners at the mercy of executive favor or vengeance;—has passed no naturalization law inhibiting to aliens the enjoyment of rights, denied them in their own countries on account of their virtues;—has not, in truth, passed a single act in favor of a few at the expense of the many. Under the present administration not a right has been impaired that previously existed; the entire study has been to defend and extend every political blessing.

Such, fellow citizens, are the means pursued by the present administration to insure domestic tranquility. When they came into the possession of power they found public opinion divided on a number of important acts of the government. To restore harmony to the nation they repeated them. Though there was not a single act of this nature that did not invest them with considerable power over men and things, they parted with them without a sigh, because their object was

not to exercise authority for their own gratification, but to promote the public good.

A TRUE FEDERALIST.

COLUMBIA, (S. C.)

MESSAGE NO. I. FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

To the honorable the President and members of the Senate.

Honorable Gentlemen,
The public service again requires the attendance of constituted authorities, at the seat of government; and again they have convened, for entering on those duties which the present situation of our country may render necessary. Peaceful and happy within her jurisdiction, Carolina offers to her citizens every advantage which industry may obtain, or moderation desire. No dangers at present darken the bright prospects which are in view; but opportunities are presented, which, if well improved, will go far to appreciate her national consequence; and to call forth those riches, whose fountains of abundance and happiness, which her situation peculiarly embraces. Under the impressions, and with the ardent hope that your collected wisdom will be exerted for the public good, I trust a blessing will attend your councils; that harmony will concentrate your endeavors; and that wholesome laws will evince your justice and patriotism in having enacted them.

Sec. 1. Among other matters of importance, which will require your consideration, it will be necessary that a law be passed, authorizing the election of eight members from this State, to the house of representatives in the Congress of these United States; as, by the last census, and a law of Congress founded thereon, this State is entitled to that number. And in doing so, you will no doubt appoint as early a day for the election to take place throughout the State, as such service will permit; in order that the members elected may be enabled to repair to the seat of government of these United States, by the fourth day of March next; at which time they will be entitled to take their seats.

Sec. 2. The militia laws will also require some revision; the better to prepare our citizens to repel all dangers which may be directed against them; and to guard their rights and liberties, and that free and happy government, which is our good fortune at present to enjoy. Convinced of these truths, as far as I have been enabled, my efforts have been directed to enforce discipline and due subordination throughout the militia of this State; to impress on their minds the duties which their country required of them, both as citizens and soldiers; and to prepare them by military exercises, skillfully conducted by the adjutant-general, to meet with confidence and ability, those dangers and changes of fortune, which ever attend an appeal to arms. I flatter myself they have not been unprofitable; and hope a steady perseverance in such measures will be continued, as the best means of insuring the safety and tranquility of our country. Pursuing this object, my endeavors have been directed to carry into execution the appropriations which were made last year by the legislature, for procuring arms for the militia. Some of the money has accordingly been drawn from the treasury for that purpose; as will no doubt be particularly mentioned in the treasurer's accounts of the lower division of this State. And the same has been applied to the purchase of two thousand one hundred and forty-two muskets and bayonets, which have been received at the arsenal in Charleston; to ordering twenty brass field pieces, of four pounders; and one or more pair of light field howitzers, to be cast; and for eleven hundred workmen's fabrics, and thirteen hundred pistols; all of which will arrive in this State early next spring; and will then be subject to such disposal as the laws shall authorize. In addition to this, I have procured a few samples of different kinds of arms, suitable for the militia, with very reasonable prices, at which they can be obtained; and a suitable occasion will be taken of offering them to view, during your present session.

Sec. 3. The government of these United States has at length taken long steps towards establishing an army and magazine for the Southern States; and from surveys which have been made by Lieut. Col. Seaf, and reports which have been forwarded to government, it is probable they will be erected at the head of the Catawba falls, two or three miles above Rocky-Mount. This will no doubt be a great encouragement to the enter-

prises of the company, incorporated for the purpose of opening the navigation of that river; and as a matter not only of national, but of State concern, will, I hope, meet your cordial support in all cases where it may be requisite; as its operations will certainly produce much benefit in that quarter of the State. The navigation, also of Broad River, in consequence of appropriations made for that purpose by the last legislature, has been much forwarded; and the commissioners have been active in executing the trust they had in charge; in so much that the navigation of that river is now nearly opened from Fairfield district to Columbia ferry.

Sec. 4. I have the pleasure to inform you, that the trustees of the South-Carolina College, have made arrangements, which will enable them shortly to proceed in erecting the same at Columbia; and in carrying into effect that establishment, so honorable to the legislature which originated it. This, however, will be a work of time; it will take some years before it will be completed; and the appropriations which are granted for defraying the expense of the same, will not be drawn from the treasury but by degrees. Hence, with the blessing of divine providence, it will be completed, without taking at any one time, too large a portion of the appropriation from the treasury. But while this beneficial establishment is drawing towards perfection, there is no opportunity of doing good to the children of your country by other means? Is there no way of extending general information, and of encouraging virtue and morality among your fellow citizens, so necessary in all governments, but particularly in a republican one, which owes its support as much to reason as to strength? There is. Promote, then, as objects of inculcable good, institutions for the general diffusion of knowledge; originate public schools, and support them, if necessary, from the public treasury, in each district of the State. To these schools let all the children of your citizens have access, at such early rates, that they may be as free to the poor as to the rich. Instruct them in all useful knowledge; and under proper regulations some may be advanced to the study of the classics. From these, let, under proper examination, let one promising youth be annually transferred from each district school to the South-Carolina College; and there (if poor) complete his education at the public expense. By that time the college, under your fostering care, will be ready to receive them; and, thus supporting and supported, these seminaries will rise, the ornament of your country; and her youth from all parts, will be connected in friendships; and be prepared to enter on those duties which their education and abilities will enable them to perform. Happy indeed will be the time when this shall arrive; nor need it be distant, provided the means which are in your power be duly economized and applied.

Sec. 5. From the commencement of the American revolution, the efforts for defence which were requisite, necessarily involved this State in debt. She has however at length discharged them; and has arisen above those clouds, which obscured her brightness. Her treasury is full, and her taxes are light. Seize the present opportunity; use these precious moments as they fly, while your country is in peace, and your government is undisturbed; and apply the public energies to the public service. Where public buildings are requisite, erect them; where roads and bridges require legislative aid, bestow it; and where navigation is impeded, hasten to remove obstructions through all parts of the State. On this subject I particularly recommend to your attention the navigation of Savannah River, from the confluence of Tugaloo and Keowee Rivers to the mouth of Broad River opposite Vienna; and that you grant a suitable pecuniary assistance for opening the same. A co-operation of the State of Georgia will probably take place in prosecuting this work, which will render the expense less impeding on this State than it would otherwise be. The advantages resulting therefrom will be great in every point of view, by raising the price of produce, enhancing the value of lands, encouraging industry in agriculture and manufactures; and thereby introducing wealth into the interior of your country, as well as adding to commodities for sale in the sea ports.

Sec. 6. In executing the duties of a station to which, for near three years I have been appointed, I have had sufficient experience of our criminal code to believe that it is more sanguinary than requisite. The consequence is, that persons who have been guilty of crimes, are often acquitted by juries, rather than submit them to punishment than they