

CONDITIONS.

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CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 3.

MILITARY ACADEMIES.

Mr. KING, of Mass. said that had he been satisfied with the course of this debate, or could have hoped for such a decision on this bill, as he could acquiesce in, he should not have troubled the house with any observations thereon.

it even intended, were they capable, that they should do duty as soldiers? Not at all, Sir; I do not like this mode of legislating the people out of their rights and their property, by degrees.

Grating however, for the argument, that you have the power to pass this bill—where is the necessity or the expediency of doing it? As I before remarked, and as was on a former occasion contended by these who now advocate this bill, will not your standing army of ten thousand men, afford you officers sufficient? Better instructed and accustomed to command? Nor, sir, is the expense of this establishment to be overlooked.

But, Sir, plausible as the reasons are which have been urged by some in favor of this bill—harmless as some of its features may appear—I am persuaded that what is thus shown to the public, are only the ostensible purposes for which it is recommended—for the real purposes, we must go to the dark recesses of palace—or the still more dark recesses of the mind of the President, or of his declared successor.

scriptio and embargo laws; to suppress insurrections, which his own tyranny and oppression may have caused; and to repel invasions, which his own rashness and folly, as in the late war, invited.

But, sir, the real object of this bill is executive patronage—patronage is written in every feature of it. The President is not to organize this corps as every other military corps are; but, he is to appoint the eight hundred cadets: A fine opportunity to provide for the young fry of the administration—the mere under brush of the government, and the royal cousins of the palace.

The friends of this bill have introduced many things in the debate, which have no connexion with the subject.—An honorable gentleman from South Carolina, (Mr. Calhoun) whose intelligence and acuteness we often have occasion to admire, congratulates himself and the house, on the expression of national feeling and patriotism, which he thinks he can discover in the country—and he is pleased to ascribe it to what he is pleased to call, the glory and success of the war.

the wrongs and insults you had suffered, and intimated that the sword you drew was not to be sheathed until they were redressed, and future aggressions provided against. Let me ask, then, sir, have you obtained a single object for which you drew the sword—look at your declaration—your causes of war, and see if you find one of them provided for in your treaty of peace.

Sir, your government is not yet identified with the navy, nor the individuals of the administration with those heroes who are encircled with glory. Will you, sir, attempt to strip the garland from the brow of a Hull, a Decatur, nay, all our gallant sailors, to decorate the prolific head of the miserable projector of contemptible gun-boats; or tear by the roots, from a Ripley, a Scott, a Jackson, and a Brown, if you please, and their brave companions in arms, their well earned laurels to adorn the brows of the heroes of the ruined capital, or to transplant them in the barren fields of Biadensburg? Believe me, sir, their brows cannot bear the weight of such glory; any more than the individuals can acquire it—will such blasted fields yield the fruit of honor? Foreign nations, sir, and impartial posterity will do justice to them all.

Mr. HULBERT said he begged the indulgence of the committee a few minutes; he wished to reply to some observations which had fallen from his honorable colleague (Mr. King). He said he was surprised to hear the objection, that Congress have no constitutional right to establish military academies.—He believed it was the first time the objection had ever been made. If as his colleague contended, the establishment of military academies was unconstitutional, it was not a little surprising that no one had ever before made the discovery.

ed, as a very serious objection against the proposed appropriation. Mr. H. said he believed the treasury had been completely exhausted: but, he said, and rapid current of revenue was pouring into it, and he hoped soon be replenished. The amount proposed for the erection of three academies was only two hundred dollars, and even that sum was considerably less than what it had been determined to establish as an additional school. He hoped he was fully aware of the necessity and importance of economy; but it was not economy to refuse to give small sums of money for great and important benefits, and such he believed would be the fruits of this measure.

My honorable colleague, continued Mr. Hulbert, says he strongly suspects that the real object of this bill is not disclosed. He fears that some mischief lurks behind the curtain. This may he says, be a part a plan of the present administration to get the military power under their control, and thereby destroy the liberties of the country.—Mr. H. said he belonged to the committee who reported this bill. He thought it a plain, and simple proposition to enlarge the present establishment of the military academy. He saw in the measure none of those frightful evils so strongly apprehended by the gentleman. He hoped his honorable colleague would not be too much alarmed; would not be too suspicious. He said he had, when young, often been cautioned not to be looking out for bears; for they always appeared to those who expected to see them. This caution he recommended to the attention of his honorable colleague.

My colleague, said Mr. Hulbert, has strenuously urged that the appointment of so great a number of cadets, as is contemplated by the bill, would give to the president an improper and dangerous patronage. To whom would the gentleman give the power of appointment? Might it not be made a system of favoritism by any other man, or body of men, as well as by the president? The president has by the constitution the power of appointing all officers of the army, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. But since the senate cannot with convenience be consulted on the election of each cadet, why not give the authority to the president alone? Mr. H. said he was one of those who never believed that executive patronage was too great in this country. He would rather see it increased than lessened. All grants of power might be abused, but that was not a sufficient argument against the grant. As to the story of children strutting in the dress of midshipmen, Mr. H. said he strongly suspected that his colleague here had seen another bear; that he had been deceived by some mock military exhibition of the school boys of this city, which he had himself sometimes seen here and elsewhere on holidays.

His honorable friend and others, had contended that the number of cadets proposed was too great; that there would be more than could be commissioned by the government. Mr. H. said it was not expected that all of the cadets should be employed as officers in time of peace. The very object of this military institution was, to be prepared for war. Undoubtedly many of the cadets, after having finished their military education, would willingly return to their homes, and engage in the pursuits of civil life. But in time of war, in the day of peril and danger, in the hour that should try men's souls, they would come forth at the call of their government and lead the hardy freemen of their country to victory and glory. Let gentlemen calculate how many commissioned officers are employed in the present peace establishment, and then reflect that the time may come, when we may have an army of sixty or a hundred thousand men to be officered, and surely they will not think the proposed number of cadets too large.

It had been said that the plan proposed for our adoption, was calculated to excite a military spirit in our country, which would perpetually urge us to war with other nations, and might in the end destroy our own liberties. Were such, said Mr. H. the effects of that military spirit, and military science, so eminently displayed in our revolutionary war? No, but directly the reverse.—That spirit and that science gave us the very liberty and independence which we now enjoy.

Mr. H. said he had anxiously hoped that the distressing calamities, the defeat and foul disgrace which we had experienced in the beginning of the