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FROM THE WESTERN MONITOR.

NO. III.

TO THE HON. HENRY CLAY,
Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States.

SIR—I am aware that in submitting to you my ideas on the recent change of compensation to members of Congress, I labor under the disadvantage of discussing a thread-bare topic, and of being compelled to use arguments, obvious as well as trite, & I fear, to you, both tedious and unpleasant. But, sir, it is a subject of so much importance, that it cannot be too often discussed, and you, I am sure, will be willing to hear what opinions your constituents entertain of it.

I observed in my last, that the people are always most likely to be excited, when they believed their money is unnecessarily expended. This circumstance arises not so much from the prevalence of a niggardly parsimony, as from a praise-worthy jealousy of men entrusted with power.—It is not that the people care for a few cents or a few dollars taken from the pockets of each individual, but they have always been taught the duty of economy, and they very well know that money is power, and that power ill-got will most certainly be abused. Be assured, therefore, sir, that the people of Kentucky require no arguments addressed to their liberality.—They wish no man to serve them without sufficient compensation: they are willing indeed to pay not only abundantly, but generously. But on the contrary, they are too well acquainted with their rights, to be drawn aside from the support of them by any fear of being called mean; and, sir, most assuredly, you misunderstand the state of public feeling, if you believe that the Compensation Law is objected to, from any unwillingness to see the representatives of the people well paid, or if you think to silence opposition to it, by offering to serve the public at your own expense. For my own part, I have always been of opinion that too much use has been made of that favorite word, *economy*, and that too many arguments have been addressed to the avarice of the people. The salaries of our public officers have, in our estimation, been generally too small, and I am not yet prepared to say that the allowance to members of Congress has heretofore been sufficiently large. But, sir, you well know there is a medium in all things. Six dollars a day may not have been sufficient, but to a plain republican, like myself, it is entirely inconceivable, how you can have found it difficult to "make both ends meet" with double that amount. Twelve dollars a day, if paid throughout the year, would amount to the sum of four thousand three hundred and eighty dollars!—a sum nearly equal to the salary of the highest officer in the government, with the exception of the President. But, sir, upon this point I do not wish to dwell. I think, indeed, that the compensation allowed by the present law is too much, and entirely disproportionate to the salaries of other officers: but this is the very least of all my objections. Admit for a moment that, for years past, members of Congress have received insufficient pay, permit me to ask you, sir, was this a proper time to increase it?

You very well recollect, that when you were zealously promoting the declaration of a war, which you said would secure to us invaluable objects, you declared no sacrifices too great in order to carry it on. Nor, sir, can you have forgotten, that you have repeatedly told the people, that most cheerfully would you sustain your

share of the public burdens. The war was declared. Our patriotic citizens endured all the privations, submitted to all the sacrifices, and sustained all the losses, which followed in its train. And what, sir, let me ask you, has been your share? I admit that you have been in the service of your country. But, sir, your labors, however great, have been in the cabinet and not in the field. Every faculty of your elevated mind may have been enlisted in the great common cause, but the path of your exertions has been nevertheless comparatively smooth. While your fellow-citizens have been encountering without a murmur the dangers and privations incident to a camp, penetrating the pathless wilderness, amid the scorching heat of the summer's sun, or exposed to the storms and frosts of winter, enduring all the horrors of savage warfare, and sacrificing ease, health, and often life in defence of their country's honor—you have been visiting the polished courts of Europe, travelling in and from one nation to another, and mixing in all of them with "the higher circles of society." While your friends and neighbors at home have been receiving a paltry pittance often unequal to their expenses, you have been enjoying your nine thousand dollars a year, together with an outfit of a similar sum. And yet, strange to tell! no sooner have you returned home, than you begin to complain of small pay. While the nation is yet groaning under the burdens of the war, and your fellow-citizens are cheerfully paying the taxes it has imposed upon them, you, who were an efficient promoter of that war, are heard to complain, that, with your old accustomed pay, it is out of your power to "make both ends meet," and that your constituents must pay you more, lest you should feel the consequences of the war. I do not mean to insinuate, as some indeed have done, that you have formed extravagant habits, or gained lordly notions during your late tour in Europe, nor do I intend to say, that you shrunk from the performance of your duty in the war. My meaning simply is, that it has been your good fortune to sacrifice less in your exertions for your country, than most of your fellow-citizens, and that you ought now to be willing at least to share equally the burdens which remain.

Most ungenerous, indeed, does it appear to me, in the members of Congress, who have been among the loudest in patriotic pledges, at this moment to take advantage of the power, which the constitution gives them, to free themselves from the privations to which their constituents are subjected. What can approach more nearly to the establishment of a privileged order, than conduct like this? There is indeed one important difference between members of Congress and a nobility; I mean, the power of removal by the voice of the people.—The exercise of this power may save the country from perdition, but, permit me to tell you, I think it the only effectual safeguard of our liberty.

Even were the country sufficiently prosperous to admit of an augmentation in the pay of public men—were we free from national debt, with an overflowing treasury and a contented, easy people—even then I should think it indelicate for Congress to take notice of its own case first.—Charity, it is said, begins at home; but the steward, who is entrusted with the unlimited control of the money of his master, ought, if merely for appearance sake, to take care how he employs it in charity to himself. If the pay of members of Congress were manifestly insufficient, the salaries of other public men required augmentation too. Their money has depreciated precisely as much as yours, and they wish to live like gentlemen, no doubt, as well as you. Why then this partial, this interested measure? I appeal to your candor, does it look honorable and fair? I know some exertions were made to increase the salaries of other officers, but, it seems those exertions were, from some cause, unsuccessful. Had the decision of the question been left with themselves, permit me to enquire, how do you think it would have been decided?

The more I contemplate the subject, the more I am astonished at the course you have pursued. I should have supposed, judging from your

past character and uniform professions, that if, in the discussion of this question you thought fit to depart from that neutral ground, which I think it should have been your policy to maintain, at least you would have stood forth in the defence of *economy*. If the magic of that word has lost with you its charm, I should certainly have imagined that the state of the country would have entered into your calculations. Not that it would have induced you to reason, as some, I fear, have done; "the people now are oppressed and loaded down with taxes, of course they will not feel a slight burden more; and if per chance they should complain, we can silence their murmurs by appeals to their generosity, by telling them that the addition is a mere trifle in amount, and by inducing them to compare it with the whole weight which they sustain."—Nor, sir, should I have expected, that regarding your own interest rather than that of your country's you would have said to yourself, "money having depreciated, and my taxes having increased, I must contrive to make up for losses from these sources, by taxing my constituents, only a few cents a piece." No, sir, from you I should have expected a far different course of reasoning. Regarding with admiration the cheerful sacrifices of the people, in support of the dignity and glory of their country, I should have imagined you ready to burst forth with the exclamation, "Beware! I entreat you, how you increase expenses at this moment. The people have already enough to bear. In every feather there is some weight, and the present is no time for heaping on more." But alas! events have disappointed me: and the course of things lately has taught me a lesson, which I hope I shall ever continue to regard with WATCHFUL RULERS WITH CARELESS CARE.

I have thus opened to you the discussion of the merits of this measure. The objections I have urged, must already I think appear to be entitled to some weight: but they are nothing in my estimation, when viewed in comparison with those, which remain to be discussed.

LEOLIN.

CAPT. BLAKELY.

The last Analectic Magazine contains a likeness of Captain Blakely, of the Wasp, said to be tolerably correct in the outlines, but deficient in expression. It is a singular circumstance, that while the biography of all our distinguished naval commanders have been the theme of various pens, the life of Blakely should never have been written, although the materials are abundant and accessible, and the details would be highly interesting. The following particulars of the early life of this lamented officer, are gathered from an authentic source: Capt Blakely was born at Wilmington in North Carolina, about the year 1783, and received the first rudiments of his education at Fayetteville. Here his parents died when he was not more than 10 or 12 years of age. Edward Jones, Esq. Solicitor General of that state, a gentleman who has in many instances distinguished himself by his sagacity in discovering merit in youths "to fortune and to fame unknown," and by his liberality in fostering their genius and conducting their education, became the patron of young Blakely. Though it may illy comport with the delicacy of her feelings to be drawn from the retirement she loves, to the notice of a world she is calculated to adorn, I am constrained by the occasion to add, that to Mrs. J. the excellent and accomplished wife of the solicitor, who loved Blakely as her son, and whom he revered as a parent, he probably owed much of that noble refined cast of thought, for which he was so eminently distinguished. After a course of instruction under Mr. J's. roof, he was placed at the University, then recently established at Chapel Hill, where he acquired a large fund of scientific knowledge. Without completing, or indeed pursuing, the routine of study necessary to entitle him to a degree, he quit college and entered the navy. He equipped the Enterprize, and disciplined the crew which achieved the victory over the Boxer, and his own actions in the Wasp, when he "Stopt'd the Avon's course, And overhaul'd the Reindeer"—form splendid trophies in the temple of our naval glory. The Congress have been legally just to the widow and the child of this pride and boast of his country; but their munificence would have been more grateful to the feelings of the nation.

NEW-YORK, May 28.

A few days since, the right bank of the Hudson, at Tappan, was visited by James Smith, Esq. Gen. Delavan, Mr. Yale, Dr. Howell, Professor Mitchell, and several other gentlemen, for the purpose of settling a question of some importance in Geology. It had been asserted that the strata of sand-stone, forming the quarries of Nyack, in Rockland county, cover a layer of loose earth which abounded in bones of land animals. On digging to the bottom, in presence of the proprietor, Mr. W. Palmer, the party were convinced of the correctness of the story. Fragments of bones, some of which are conjectured to belong to a human skeleton, were disinterred from the situation in which they have rested ever since the flood; and the gentlemen carried away parcels of these curious and ancient relics.

For twenty years past, the labourers in this quarry, which is situated near the Methodist meeting house at Nyack, have occasionally found bones and their fragments beneath the solid rock. It was the opinion of the former owner, that the creatures to whose bodies they belonged, had been buried there by some overwhelming earthquake; but the late visitors are inclined to ascribe them to the operations of the *Deluge*, of which the most cogent evidence exists in the county of New-York, in King's and Queen's counties, on Long Island, and in the counties of Monmouth and Burlington in New-Jersey.

The environs of New-York are as remarkable for these atediluvian monuments as those of Paris or London.

NORFOLK, MAY 24,

In noticing the death of Peter Faure, (or Foyle, as he was commonly called) in Monday's Herald, we observed that in the smallest possible line of business, he had accumulated \$20,000. We have since understood from unquestionable authority, that we considerably overrated his stock in trade, which never exceeded \$200, and that, by no other visible means than the profits of this scanty business, he had hoarded up nearly fifty thousand dollars!! About 20,000 were deposited in the Banks, 15,000 he had some time ago remitted to France, and invested in real estate, and about 10,000 in gold, were accidentally found after his death, deposited in the false bottom of a wooden chest, under a quantity of old cloaths and rubbish! The extraordinary weight of the chest, after its visible contents were taken out, excited curiosity, and led to the discovery of the treasure!—We erred in saying he left no relation; he left a brother who is living in France, and has a large family; to this brother, it was the last request of the deceased, that all his effects in this country might be remitted.

Office of claims for property lost, captured or destroyed, whilst in the military service of the United States, during the late war.

WASHINGTON, June 3, 1816.

NOTICE is hereby given, pursuant to the act of the United States, passed the 9th day of April last, entitled "An act to authorize the payment for property lost, captured or destroyed while in the military service of the United States, and for other purposes," that all claims provided for by the said act, must be presented at this office on or before the 9th day of April, in the year 1818; as if not presented within that period, they cannot be received, examined and decided on at this office.

First Class of Cases.

The claims provided for by the said act are, first, "Any volunteer or drafted militiaman, whether of cavalry, mounted riflemen, or infantry, who in the late war between the United States and Great Britain, has sustained damage by the loss of any horse which was killed in battle, or which has died in consequence of a wound therein received, or in consequence of failure on the part of the United States to furnish such horse with sufficient forage while in the service of the United States, shall be allowed and paid the value of such horse." This provision comprehends three descriptions of cases.

- 1st. An horse killed in battle.
- 2d. An horse dying in consequence of a wound received in battle.
- 3d. An horse dying in consequence of not being furnished with sufficient forage by the United States.

To substantiate a claim of either description.

1st. The order of the government, authorizing the employment of the corps to which the original claimant belonged, or the subsequent acceptance of such corps, or approbation of its employment must be produced.

2d. The certificate of the officer, or surviving officer, commanding the claimant at the time of the accident on which the claim is founded, which

certificate, if not given while the officer was in the service of the U. States, must be sworn to; and in every case it must, if practicable state the then value of the horse so killed or dying.—Before any other evidence will be received, the claimant must make oath that it is not in his power to procure that which is above specified; and that the evidence, which he shall produce in lieu thereof, is the best which he is able to obtain. In every case the evidence must be on oath, and the value of the horse so killed or dying ascertained. All evidence offered must be taken and authenticated in the manner herein after directed; and in all these cases the claimant must declare on oath, that he has not received any other horse from any officer or agent of the government in lieu of the one lost.

Second Class of Cases.

"Any person, whether of cavalry or mounted riflemen, or volunteers, who in the late war aforesaid, has sustained damage by the loss of an horse in consequence of the owner thereof being dismounted, or separated and detached from the same by order of the commanding officer, or in consequence of the rider being killed or wounded in battle, shall be allowed and paid the value of such horse at the time he was received into the public service."—This class comprehends two descriptions of cases.

1st. When the owner has been dismounted or separated from and detached from such horse by order of the commanding officer.

2d. When the rider has been killed or wounded in battle, and the horse lost in consequence thereof.

The same evidence, in all respects, which is required in the first class of cases will be required in this.

Third Class of Cases.

"Any person who, in the late war aforesaid, has sustained damage by the loss, capture or destruction by an enemy of any horse, mule, or wagon, cart, boat, sleigh or harness, while such property was employed in the military service of the United States, either by impressment or by contract, except in cases where the risk to which the property would be exposed, was agreed to be incurred by the owner, if it shall appear that such loss, capture or destruction was without any fault or negligence of the owner; and any person during the time aforesaid, who has sustained damage by the death of such horse, mule, or in consequence of failure on the part of the United States to furnish sufficient forage while in the service aforesaid, shall be allowed and paid the value thereof."

This class comprehends two cases.

1st. The loss or destruction of property by an enemy, taken by impressment, or engaged by contract, in the military service of the U. States, being either a horse, a mule, an ox, wagon, cart, boat, sleigh, or harness, excepting articles for which the owners had agreed to run all risks, or which were lost or destroyed by the fault or negligence of the owners.

2d. When a horse, mule or ox, so taken or employed, has died from the failure of the U. States to furnish sufficient forage.

In the first of these cases, the claimant must produce the certificate of the officer or agent of the U. States who impressed or contracted for the property above mentioned, and of the officer, or surviving officer, under whose immediate command it was taken or destroyed by an enemy. Such certificates, if such officers or agents at the time of giving them be not in the military service of the U. S. must be sworn to, and must positively state that the property was not lost or destroyed thro' the fault or negligence of the owner, and that the owner did not agree to run all risks. Furthermore, the usual hire of the articles so impressed or contracted for in the country, in which they were employed must be stated.

In the second case, the certificate of the officer or agent of the U. States under whose command such horse, mule or ox was employed at the time of its death must be produced.

Before any other evidence will be received, the claimant must make oath that it is not in his power to produce that which is above specified, and further, that the evidence which he offers in lieu thereof, is the best which he is able to obtain. In every case the evidence must state distinctly the time, place and manner of the loss, and the value thereof.

Fourth Class of Cases

"Any person who, during the late war, has acted in the military service of the United States, as a volunteer or drafted militia man, and who has furnished himself with arms or accoutrements, and has sustained loss by the capture or destruction of them, without any fault or negligence on his part,