

ances, & demands on the treasury, requested information from the treasury department. The information obtained accompanies this report. It will be observed that the surplus revenue applicable to these objects, is hypothetically stated in the secretary's letter as necessarily it must be in the present state of the revenue laws.

It appears, however, under any contemplated change in the existing system, that the revenue would be sufficient to supply, after the present year, and during a state of peace, an annual appropriation of \$600,000 for the purpose of internal improvement. That sum would constitute a fund capable of effecting many valuable objects of that kind; and under prosperous circumstances the fund might be gradually augmented in the proportion of the decrease of the public debt. But, if it shall enter into the policy of government to authorize expenditures in the execution of the works calculated for public advantage and general convenience, the same policy will direct to the provision of the means. For it cannot be doubted that the resources of the nation are amply sufficient; when brought in aid of private means, to effect every object of improvement on roads and canals, that are of an extensive nature, and of national concern.

The committee respectfully proposes that an annual appropriation be made to constitute a fund for making roads and opening canals; that the fund shall be put under the direction of the Secretary of the Treasury, who shall, whenever authorized by Congress, subscribe for shares in the stock of companies incorporated for making artificial roads or opening canals, and shall pay out of the aforesaid fund the instalments as they become due on shares; and that any dividends thence arising, when any work shall be completed, shall be paid into, and become a part of said fund, and the Secretary shall report, at each session, to Congress, all expenditures, and the general state of the fund as well as the state of the works in which the government are concerned.

The committee have directed a bill to be reported embracing the above provisions.

Treasury Department, Jan. 26th 1816.

SIR—In your letter of the 27th ultimo, information is requested upon the two following points; 1st. In case the revenue law should be modified according to the plan proposed by the secretary of the treasury, whether the surplus revenue arising from permanent sources would authorize a standing appropriation of monies, annually, applicable to the construction of roads and canals, and to what amount. 2. In case the creation of stock should be authorized, redeemable at a future period, to be employed in the purchase of shares in the companies formed for making roads and canals, what particular branches of the existing revenue would be most proper to change, and to what amount, with the redemption of such stock.

In answer to the first inquiry, I have the honor to state, that if the revenue were permanently established upon the footing proposed in the report from this department of the 6th of December last, and if the public expenditures should not exceed the annual surplus of revenue, which might be estimated, during the continuance of the peace, at about four millions of dollars. Whether the facts assumed by which this result is produced will actually exist, can only be ascertained when the intentions of congress upon these points shall have been developed.

As to the second inquiry, it may be observed that there are no branches of the existing revenue, which are not already pledged, either specially, or in a general manner, for expenditures, already authorized, excepting certain duties which will expire on the 17th of Feb. next; and which, if continued by congress after that time, will probably be substituted in lieu of other duties which are now pledged, and which will be diminished or entirely abolished. If stock should be issued under any modifications for the purpose of internal improvements, there is therefore no branch of the revenue which could be exclusively charged with redemption, without violating prior appropriations and pledges. But as the aggregate mass of the revenue is estimated, the year 1816, to exceed the aggregate amount of the charges upon it, this surplus, if congress should think proper, might be applied either directly to the defraying of the expenses of internal improvements, or, if stock should be issued, as a fund for its redemption. No necessity is perceived for issuing stock, for this purpose, unless it shall be determined to commence the expenditures before the termination of the present year; during which year there will be no surplus of revenue. After its expiration, when there shall be a surplus, there can be no reason for constituting stock, or, in other words, for borrowing money. The money in hand derived from the surplus revenue can be applied directly to the purpose proposed. I have the honor to be, &c.

A. J. DALLAS.

Hon. Jeremiah Morrow, Chairman of the committee of the Senate on roads and canals.

Interesting Correspondence.

Letter from BENJAMIN AUSTIN, Esq. to the Hon. THOMAS JEFFERSON.

BOSTON, December 9, 1815.

SIR—Since the return of General Monticello, from his visit to Monticello, I am highly gratified in hearing that you enjoy your health, and that you are so happily situated in your domestic retirement.

During the convulsions in Europe, and the events which have taken place, in our country, a person of your accurate observation must have experienced the most anxious solicitude, for the result of those important controversies. As to France; we are all disappointed in the termination of a revolution which promised a relief from the tyranny of establishments, which have been inconsiderately advocated in the federal papers as "legitimate." But the ways of Heaven are dark and intricate, and we are obliged to submit to the decrees of Providence, however contrary to what we may think, are productive to the general happiness of mankind. As France has fallen by an alliance of foreign despots, America must expect to rise by a Union of Freemen, acting in their constitutional capacity. The destiny of France should be a lesson of admonition to the United States.

It must afford the highest consolation to find, that the honor and glory of our Republic have been promoted by the very means which our enemies had predicted would be ruinous and destructive. Nothing but the interposition of Providence could have produced so much good, from what was considered by some as productive of so much evil. The United States were forced into a controversy in defence of their marine rights, which if they had failed in vindicating would have checked, if not terminated their future prospects as an independent nation. At the beginning of the conflict, the prospect was gloomy and perilous. Repeated disasters appalled the timid in the prosecution, while the disaffected were daily attempting to counteract our national efforts, by systematic combinations, and illegitimate conventions—amidst these complicated difficulties, we have succeeded in our "APPEAL TO HEAVEN," and every real American must feel a pride in contemplating, that the energies of an administration, beset with such a phalanx of opposition, have triumphed, not only over a foreign enemy, but have baffled the wily projects of a more dangerous body of internal foes: I would not wish to be censorious, but the fact is too evident to be denied. Not that we consider every nominal federalist was thus inimical, but the artful proceedings of certain leaders urged many honest men to adopt those resolutions which have produced numberless serious evils. We can easily distinguish between the enticers and the enticed.

As the present state of our country demands some extraordinary efforts in Congress to bring forward the *Agricultural and Manufacturing interests* of the United States, I am induced to mention a plea, often used by the friends of England, that the work shops of Europe are recommended by you, as the most proper to furnish articles of manufacture to the citizens of the United States, by which they infer that it is your opinion, the MANUFACTURES of this country are not proper objects for Congressional pursuits. They frequently enlarge on this idea as corresponding with your sentiments, and endeavor to weaken our exertions in this particular, by quoting you as the advocate of foreign manufactures, to the exclusion of domestic. Not that these persons have any friendly motive towards you, but they think it will answer their purposes, if such sentiments can be promulgated with an appearance of respect to your opinion. I am sensible that many of these persons mean to misrepresent your real intentions, being convinced that the latitude they take with your remarks on manufactures, is far beyond what you contemplated at the period they were written. The purity of your mind could not lead you to anticipate the perfidy of foreign nations, which has since taken place. If you had, it is impossible that you would have discouraged the manufactures of a nation, whose fields have since been abundantly covered with merino sheep, flax and cotton, or depended on booms at 6000 miles distance, to furnish the citizens with clothing, when their internal resources were adequate to produce such necessities by their domestic industry. You will pardon my remarks, and excuse my freedom in writing you on this subject. But it would be an essential service at this crisis, when the subject of manufactures will come so powerfully before Congress, by petitions from various establishments, if you condescend to express more minutely, your idea of the "work shops of Europe," in the supply of such articles as can be manufactured among ourselves. An explanation from you on this subject would greatly contribute to the advancement of those manufactures, which have risen during the late war to a respectable state of maturity and improvement. Domestic manufactures is the object contemplated; instead of estab-

lishments under the sole control of capitalists, our children may be educated under the inspection of their parents, while the habits of industry may be duly inculcated.

If the general idea should prevail that you prefer foreign work shops to domestic, the high character you sustain among the friends of our country, may lead them to a discouragement of that enterprise which is viewed by many as an essential object of our national independence. I should not have taken the freedom of suggesting my ideas, but being convinced of your patriotism, and devotedness to the good of your country, have urged me to make the foregoing observations; your candor will excuse me if they are wrong.

I shall be happy in receiving an answer to this letter, for in the present state of political controversy and intrigue, the real republicans must rely on our "long tried patriots," (among whom you stand pre-eminent) to guide and direct in the future pursuits of the government. Though retired from public life, yet your private council is essential, and we must solicit your aid to help the administration to substantiate by wise measures in peace, what we have obtained in war. The patriot is always called on duty, while the exigencies of his country need his advice, and his exertions are required to carry his principles into operation. We are limited but to a few years, to discharge our trust as citizens; and we must be more active as the period shortens. The real patriot never sacrificed principles to policy—Washington, Adams, Hancock, Madison & yourself, rose superior to such a degradation. The old patriots, if not employed in conducting the ship, yet they are viewed as BEACONS, by which helmsmen may steer to the haven of safety.

I remain, sir, with sentiments of the highest respect, and cordial wishes for your happiness, your undeviating friend;

BENJAMIN AUSTIN.

Hon. THOMAS JEFFERSON.

MR. JEFFERSON'S ANSWER.

MONTICELLO, Jan. 9, 1816.

DEAR SIR—I acknowledged with pleasure your letter of the 9th Dec. last.

Your opinions on the events which have taken place in France, are entirely just, so far as these events are yet developed. But we have reason to suppose, that they have not reached their ultimate termination. There is still an awful void between the present, and what is to be, the last chapter of that history; and I fear it is to be filled with abominations as frightful, as those which have already disgraced it.—That nation is too high minded; has too much innate force, intelligence and elasticity, to remain quiet under its present compression. Sampson will arise in his strength, and probably will ere long burst asunder the cords and the webs of the Philistines. But what are to be the scenes of havoc and horror, and how widely they may spread between the brethren of one family, our ignorance of the interior feuds and antipathies of the country, pierces beyond our ken. Whatever may be the convulsions, we cannot but indulge the pleasing hope, they will end in the permanent establishment of a representative government; a government in which the will of the people will be an effective ingredient. This important element has taken root in the European mind, and will have its growth. Their rulers sensible of this, are already offering this modification of their governments, under the plausible pretence, that it is a voluntary concession on their part.—Had Bonaparte used his legitimate power honestly for the establishment and support of a free government, France would now have been in prosperity and rest, and her example operating for the benefit of mankind, every nation in Europe would eventually have founded a government over which the will of the people would have had a powerful control. His improper conduct however has checked the salutary progress of principle; but the object is fixed in the eye of nations, and they will press to its accomplishment, and to the general amelioration of the condition of man. What a germ have the Freemen of the United States planted, and how faithfully should they cherish the parent tree at home.—Chagrine and mortification are the punishments our enemies receive.

You tell me I am quoted by those who wish to continue our dependence on England for manufactures. There was a time when I might have been so quoted with more candor. But within the thirty years which have since elapsed, how are circumstances changed? We were then in peace—our independent place among nations was acknowledged. A commerce which offered the raw materials in exchange for the same material, after receiving the last touch of industry, was worthy the attention of all the nations. It was expected, that those especially to whom manufacturing industry was important, would cherish the friendship of such customers by every favor, and particularly cultivate their peace by every act of justice and friendship.—

Under this prospect the question seemed legitimate, whether, with such an immensity of unimproved land courting the hand of husbandry, the industry of agriculture, or that of manufactures, would add most to the national wealth? And the doubt on the utility of American manufactures was entertained on this consideration chiefly, that to the labor of the husbandman a vast addition is made by the spontaneous energies of the earth on which it is employed. For one grain of wheat committed to the earth, she renders 20, 30, and even 50 fold.—Whereas the labour of the manufacturer falls in most instances vastly below this profit.—Pounds of flax in his hands; yield but penny weights of lace.—This exchange, too, laborious as it might seem, what a field did it promise for the occupation of the ocean—what a nursery for that class of citizens who were to exercise and maintain our equal wrights on that element? This was the state of things in 1785, when the Notes on Virginia were first published; when the ocean being open to all nations, and their common rights in it acknowledged and exercised under regulations sanctioned by the assent and usage of all, it was thought that the doubt might claim some consideration. But who in 1785, could foresee this rapid depravity which was to render the close of that century a disgrace to the history of civilized society? Who could have imagined that the two most distinguished in the rank of nations, for science and civilization, would have suddenly descended from that honorable eminence, and setting at defiance all those moral laws established by the Author of Nature between man and nation as between man and man, would cover earth and sea with robberies and piracies, merely because strong enough to do it with temporal impunity, and that under this disbandment of nations from social order, we should have been despoiled of a thousand ships, and of thousands of our citizens reduced to Algerine slavery?—And all this has taken place.—The British interdicted to our vessels all harbors of the globe without having first proceeded to some one of hers, there paid a tribute proportioned to the cargo, obtained her license to proceed to the port of destination.—The French declared them to be lawful prize if they had touched at the port, or been visited by a ship of the enemy nation. Thus were we completely excluded from the ocean.—Compare this state of things with that of '85, and say whether an opinion founded in the circumstances of that day, can be fairly applied to those of the present. We have experienced what we did not then believe; that there exists both profligacy and power enough to exclude us from the field of interchange with other nations—that to be independent for the comforts of life, we must fabricate them ourselves. We must now place the MANUFACTURER by the side of the AGRICULTURIST. The former question is suppressed, or rather assumes a new form. The grand enquiry now is, shall we make our own comforts, or go without them at the will of a foreign nation? He therefore who is now against domestic manufactures, must be for reducing us either to dependence on that nation, or be clothed in skins and to live like wild beast in dens and caverns. I am proud to say, I am not one of these.

Experience has taught me that manufactures are now as necessary to our independence as to our comforts—and if those who quote me as of a different opinion, will keep pace with me in purchasing nothing foreign, where an equivalent of domestic fabric can be obtained, without regard to difference of price, it will not be our fault if we do not soon have a supply at home equal to our demand, and wrest that weapon of distress from the hand which has so long wantonly wielded it. If it shall be proposed to go beyond our own supply, the question of '85 will then recur, viz: Will our surplus labor be then more beneficially employed in the culture of the earth or in the fabrications of art? We have time yet for consideration, before that question will press upon us; and the maxim to be applied will depend on the circumstances which shall then exist. For in so complicated a science as political economy, no one axiom can be laid down as wise and expedient for all times & circumstances. Inattention to this is what has called for this explanation to answer the cavils of the uncandid, who use my former opinion only as a stalking horse to keep us in eternal vassalage to a foreign and unfriendly nation.

I salute you with assurances of great respect and esteem.

TH. JEFFERSON.

BENJAMIN AUSTIN, Esq.

It is estimated that one man's speeches in congress, (who is constantly complaining of abridgments of the freedom of debate!) will cost the United States at least \$70,000, for the present session.

President Petion has purchased an elegant vessel, built at New-York; by certain shipwrights there on private account, for \$220,000. She carries 40 guns and 300 men, and is cruising against his majesty king Henry.

WOOLEN MANUFACTURES.

The following extract from report made to the committee of commerce and Manufactures of the Senate and House of Representatives, shews the importance of giving the encouragement to this extensive and highly valuable branch of our manufactures, so that it may go on prosperously for so many years to come, when we may defiance at all attempts to put it down.

At this time, there are in the state of Connecticut alone, twenty five establishments for the manufacture of woollen cloths, employing 1200 persons and as many more who do not directly appertain to the establishments. The capital already invested therein amounts to 450,000 dollars, and they are capable of making, and probably do manufacture annually, equal in amount to 375,000 yards narrow, or 125,000 yards of broadcloths. Besides this quantity made at the establishments, it is calculated there are 500,000 yards made annually in families, and dressed at the country clothiers shops; part of which is regularly sold at the country store-keepers—doing away, thus for their former practice of supplying themselves with British goods of a similar description. The value of all the woollen cloth thus manufactured, at the lowest estimate, is \$1,500,000, making a home market for a staple of our country of 900,000 pounds of wool, or the produce of 400,000 sheep. With regard to the whole quantity of woollen cloths manufactured in the U. States we cannot speak with precision; but from the best information obtained, there is, at this time, annually manufactured in all the states, to the amount of nineteen millions of dollars, requiring a capital, in buildings and machinery, of twelve millions of dollars, and employing directly 50,000 persons, and as many more incidentally. With encouragement, which we deem it the policy of the government to bestow on this branch of our industry, the quantity of woollens manufactured in this country would be doubled in four years, and be nearly sufficient to supply the whole demand of the United States.—When it is considered, that the woollen manufacture is now making a domestic market for an important staple of our country, equal in value to seven millions of dollars, that the product of this industry, equal to nineteen millions of dollars, is a great gain of national wealth in giving employment to various kinds of labor, at the same time preventing foreigners from drawing great resources from us in the sale of their manufactured goods; that it produces an interest in the country, that, under all circumstances must be an American interest; the policy of giving it all necessary support, becomes obvious to every unprejudiced mind. At the same time that it is aiding and encouraging agriculture in consuming her productions, it is in no degree taking from her the labour necessary to carry on her operations. A great proportion of woollen manufacture is carried on by the aid of labor-saving machinery, which is almost exclusively superintended by women and children and the infirm, who would otherwise be wholly destitute of employment, whereas they are now able to maintain themselves.—The manual labor employed is of that class who, from their previous habits and occupations in life, are wholly unfitted for agricultural pursuits, & who if not thus employed, would in many instances, be a burden on society; among this description are to be numbered many valuable foreigners who are daily arriving among us in needy and indigent circumstances, and whose only employment has been in the manufacturing business at home.

In the exchange between the different states of the manufactured goods and of the raw materials, and in the growing wants of many foreign articles, as dye stuffs, &c. the commerce of our country, particularly the coasting trade, is equally benefited with our agriculture.

If the woollen manufactures do not languish for want of necessary support from government at this time, there cannot be a doubt, but in the course of a very few years we shall be able to supply the whole demands of the United States at a lower rate than a similar manufacture can now be imported from abroad. Great Britain excludes all woollen goods nor suffers a yard to be imported except in a finished state. It is not now a question with her manufacturers who shall sell at highest prices, but who can manufacture cheapest, and the competition thus produced, has enabled her to undersell all the nations in Europe. The same encouragement to the business in this country will produce a like competition, and enable us eventually to undersell her, even in foreign markets.

The amount of woollen cloths now imported into the United States is about the quantity at this time manufactured, about nineteen millions of dollars in value. It is a business susceptible of an increase of 25 or 30 per cent annually, so that in the course of five years at least, we may be able to clothe ourselves, independent of any foreign nation, and give a new stimulus to agriculture, which is now languishing under the necessity of depending upon a precarious foreign market for most of her important productions.