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Tax Payers, Letter to the Editor, For the Statesman & Register, The Concord Statesman & Register, Feb. 14, 1826

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STATESMAN & REGISTER.

been not a few—and in their opposition to each other, the contending parties gone so far as to accuse their opponents with mischievous intentions, and designs hostile to the interests and liberties of their country; and even to bespatter them with opprobrious epithets. This is a state of things painful indeed to the timid and liberal mind, and was sincerely to be deplored; but while it was the result of a breach of principle, it was endured as a necessary evil, out of which, it was early hoped, that much good might flow. With the close of the late war, at the termination of which all parties most cordially rejoiced, most of the great questions which had separated the citizens of the republic had ceased to exist; and an era commenced, in which honest and enlightened men deemed it wiser, as well as more honorable, to exert their influence in promoting the public welfare, than in attempting to perpetuate the feuds and animosities of party contention. Some of the measures of the two great parties, which had for a series of years, agitated and distracted the country, had been proved by the test of experience to be salutary and promotive of the public good; while others most clearly manifested that, which might have been the dominant party at the time of their adoption, they were received in error of the judgment, or were the offspring of party considerations and views. While the former were retained, or suffered to remain, the latter were, by common consent, permitted to be abandoned as fast as possible to the tomb of oblivion.

Notwithstanding the general satisfaction and harmony which now so happily prevail throughout our widely extended and rapidly increasing republic, and the prevailing opinion, that the affairs of the Union, and, with few exceptions, the concerns of the States, are wisely conducted; notwithstanding a spirit of candor and liberality has gone abroad in our country, viewing with impartiality the acts of governments as well as of individuals, and rendering to all the just tribute due to them; yet there are a few of those restless beings, who are most apt to grumble at a time of general quiet, and who have grown, or who expect to grow fat upon the spoils of party warfare, endeavoring

he will sacrifice every consideration to keep up the lines of party distinction.

FOR THE STATESMAN & REGISTER.

Mr. Editor—The Patriot gives us, in a paper of the 16th Jan. a precious report of the Committee on Claims in Congress—made on the petition of one Isaac Hodsdon, who in the war of 1812, figured in furtherance of the embargo upon the northern line of New-Hampshire. In his petition, the Captain prays remuneration of sundry fines and costs imposed on him in consequence of his coming in contact, in divers instances, with the laws of the land.

Considering his epaulette and sword to contain a charm of irresistible power over the civil law, and deeming the country in a state of military subjugation, this hero of the north undertook in the J—k—n style to write his processes, and effect the service of them on obnoxious citizens, with the point of the bayonet.

His alertness in the exercise of his authority may be learned from the fact, that "General Cushing placed full confidence in his talents and zeal," when he "instructed him that the act laying the embargo" on the impatient ships cooped up in our harbors "would justify them in stopping every person or thing which he might find in motion" and the woods of Stewartstown, and the adjacent wilderness; sabies, racoons and catamounts not excepted.

In construing this marine restriction to reach from the sea shore, across the mountains, to the inland frontiers—this war like expounder "stopped" a number of our citizens of this land of liberty—abridged them of the power of moving about their business, and shut them up in military durance—which wholesome discipline, saith the decorous report, "was considered by the then constituted authorities of New-Hampshire and Vermont" as making him "a fit subject for prosecution."

We should rather say that it rendered him as worthy a subject of prosecution as ever peeped through the perforations of a pilory, or the lattice of a "stone jug"—and had not a violent fever then agitated the pulse of the body politic, and disqualified men to judge coolly and correctly—this upstart tyrant had not ventured among the republicans of New-England, to march up and take their laws by the very beard. The scoundrel shut up republican citizens with all the effrontery of Caius Verres—and with as little

The opposition to the Administration, (says the Alexandria Gazette) said to be organizing in Congress, begins, we think, to show itself pretty plainly. Mr. Kreamer, of Pennsylvania, may be considered its head; Mr Mitchell, of Tenn. its right arm, and Mr Forsyth, of Georgia, its sinister, or left. The body and legs are likewise discoverable, but being constituted of minor materials, it is unnecessary to point them out.

GEORGIA AND THE CREEKS. The National Journal says—"We are gratified to learn that it is at length probable an arrangement will be made, by which a full and amicable adjustment of all the Creek differences will be speedily effected."

The force actually at work on Chesapeake and Delaware Canal, exceeds 2500 men.

At a recent Court of Common Pleas, held at Cayuga, N. Y., the case of Julia Ann Seely against John H. Grover, resulted in the recovery of \$400 for a breach of promise of marriage.

A counterfeiting establishment was discovered on Saturday evening, 28th ult., at Catharine slip, New-York, and four men engaged in the concern, were secured. Apparatus for coining on a large scale, tools for engraving plates for notes, and some of the stock in trade, in an unfinished state, were found.

From the Connecticut Mirror.

Instead of racking our brains for something to fill up, and putting on an appearance of mudday wisdom to make out a column of intellectual inspiration and political sagacity, we content ourselves with saying that an influenza has so invaded the eyes, the nose, and the head of almost every body, that clear thoughts in good English, are scarce in any market about here, and not very rife in those two Emporiums, the commercial and the literary, of our country. In Boston they seem to have absolutely nothing to say for themselves this week, and from New-York what have we but stories of counterfeiters, Reports of uninteresting proceedings in Legislatures—paragraphs of fires and murders, and worn out jokes upon the Governor and Judge of Israel. The last Commercial Advertiser, has quitted all these matters in despair, and given us an article of two columns on the subject of the Spanish Inquisition. Whether the facts were obtained from hard study, or compiled for want of other matter from books and pamphlets is no business of ours. We have read the ar-

eighteen victims and 97,37 or prison. General. and VII. five in eff. Under the burnt, and the reigns none have as follows. 18,049.

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concerns of the States, are wisely conducted; notwithstanding a spirit of candor and liberality has gone abroad in our land, viewing with impartiality the acts of governments as well as of individuals, and awarding to all the just tribute due to merit; yet there are a few of those restless beings, who are most apt to grumble at a time of general quiet, and who have grown, or who expect to grow fat upon the spoils of party warfare, endeavoring with unceasing efforts to fan the embers of discord, and again disturb the quiet of their fellow-citizens by their senseless cavillings at the conduct of those, who soar above the horizon of their influence. Several recent and very highly important appointments have called forth all the bitterness and malevolence of these pseudo-politicians. The appointment of Rufus KING, as minister to the Court of Great Britain, and his son as Secretary of Legation; the nomination of JOHN SARGENT, of Philadelphia, as delegate to the Congress of Panama; the appointment of SAMUEL JONES, by a unanimous vote of the Legislature, as Chancellor of the State of New-York; the election of NATHAN SANFORD, by the same legislature, as U. States Senator; the election of a highly respectable and distinguished citizen, as Mayor of the city of New-York, and the election of a member of the legislature in the city of Philadelphia, have roused all the fears and disconcerted the hopes of those who have foolishly believed that they only were competent to decide every question of legislation, and dictate every act of the government. Should the question be asked, why such elections and appointments alarm their fears? it is readily answered, that the persons above named are pre-eminently distinguished for their inflexible integrity, for their superior wisdom and experience in the duties of their respective departments, and do not need the aid and instruction, nor will they be influenced in the performance of their duties by the unprincipled management of the demagogues of party. They have higher and nobler views, and prefer the satisfaction of a faithful and conscientious discharge of their high and important duties, to the miserable applause of a few factious editors of newspapers.

The grumbling and fault-finding propensity of the editor of the N. H. Patriot, and a few other editors and their correspondents, alike factious and uneasy, when their dictation is not regarded as the supreme law of the land, has not failed to

We should rather say that it rendered him as worthy a subject of prosecution as ever peeped through the perforations of a pilory, or the lattice of a "stone jug"—and had not a violent fever then agitated the pulse of the body politic, and disqualified men to judge coolly and correctly—this upstart tyrant had not ventured among the republicans of New-England, to march up and take their laws by the very beard. The scoundrel shut up republican citizens with all the effrontery of Caius Verres—and with as little ceremony as he would pen his pigs or tie up his cattle.

But it did not happen with us to realize the Roman maxim "silent leges inter arma."—The Supreme Court of N. H. ventured to exercise some legal authority, without being dazzled into submission by the glitter of the unground and unstained cutlass of Captain Hodsdon! "Father Aate the Law" firmly got the grip of the Captain, and its penalties elicited some of his ill earned wages in the shape of fines and costs; and it happened to him that he "felt the" stricture of its "halter" with no "good opinion" of it, and he now calls on the injured and insulted people of the United States to refund the penalties with interest! And the sagacious committee report "that he is entitled to relief both on principle and precedent." On what principle, unless it be that whatever the law exacts of rogues in penalty, should be considered as borrowed money—it is difficult to conjecture; or on what precedent, unless some Stephen Burroughs has heretofore thus called in his dues, "for money lent and accommodated" to the government.

The committee would have required proof were it not that "Mr Williamson made a written statement—and appeared to have been satisfied, and that the committee understood the proceedings were generally within his knowledge," and that this statement was confirmed by Mr Holmes of the Senate, who was counsel for this Capt. Kid when he thus jostled against the laws.

If Congress should refund this money to Hodsdon, with his travel and attendance, as he boldly claims, all rogues hereafter, especially those whose trade is that of "stopping" travellers, may if detected and punished, consider their pains and penalties as only monies vested in the public funds, to be drawn out, with interest, whenever a scarcity of prey reduces them to straits;—and we may expect to see the galleries of our State Legislatures thronged with military gentlemen of the half-uniform, pressing their claims for "labor done and performed" for government in the State Prison.

TAX PAYERS.

Mr Editor,

In those two Emporiums, the commercial and the literary, of our country. In Boston they seem to have absolutely nothing to say for themselves this week, and from New-York what have we but stories of counterfeiters, Reports of uninteresting proceedings in Legislatures—paragraphs of fires and murders, and worn out jokes upon the Governor and Judge of Israel. The last Commercial Advertiser, has quitted all these matters in despair, and given us an article of two columns on the subject of the Spanish Inquisition. Whether the facts were obtained from hard study, or compiled for want of other matter from books and pamphlets is no business of ours. We have read the article with interest, and shall proceed to take from it, as many of the facts that are collected in it as shall answer our purpose. M. Latorre, part, ecclesiastic and part politician was connected with the Inquisition in 1785, and enjoyed many high offices in it until 1791. He possessed himself of the records of its proceedings—revealed them, was imprisoned, got clear—took part with Joseph Buonaparte—was ordered in 1807 under a sort of *sub poena duces* to muster his papers and write a history of the Inquisition, and this book is now translated, and for sale in this country. Roman Catholics deny, and we believe them, that this tribunal is any part of their religion. It has however stuck to their potentates like original sin.

Previous to the peace of Constantine, the church, following the precepts of the apostles punished heresies only by excommunication—and even then, not until attempts at reconciliation had become fruitless. But from the fourth to the eighth century the popes and bishops esteemed it their duty, to extirpate heresies, and civil laws were from time to time enacted for their punishment.—These punishments were gradually increased in severity, from fines, a deprivation of honor, &c. until whipping, exile, transportation and even death, against some classes of heretics, were tolerated. In the third period of the church, after Gregory II. had assumed, and his successor, Gregory III. exercised the temporal power at Rome, the laws became still more severe; persons were appointed specially to ascertain the orthodoxy of their fellow men, and the pontiffs did not hesitate "to declare the burning of heretics according to the spirit of the gospel." Favored by the general ignorance of the world, the popes had assumed and exercised the right of throning and dethroning kings, releasing subjects from their allegiance, &c. and thus compelling all christian monarchs to cultivate their friendship, and maintain their favor.

The Inquisition commenced in 1203, under Pope Innocent III. It was established in France in 1208. In 1215, this Pope convoked a new council, and decreed new measures much more severe and extensive, against the heretics; but he died before he had finished giving the Inquisition that firm and permanent foundation which it took under the subsequent popes. Honorius III. successor to Innocent III. followed up his measures. The Inquisition took, wherever it was established, the most menacing attitude; but it did not acquire the form of a permanent tribunal, until after the accession of Gregory IV. to the pontifical throne.—In 1231, Gregory issued his flaming bull, excommunicating all heretics, and ordaining that they should be delivered over to the secular arm for chastisement.

At this period, (1231) France and Italy were bowed under the frightful yoke of the Inquisition, and the King of Naples received