

LICKING VALLEY REGISTER.

Devoted to General Intelligence, Politics, Morality, Literature, Education, the Arts and Sciences, Agriculture, Commerce, and Advertising.

VOLUME VI.

COVINGTON, KENTUCKY, SATURDAY, AUGUST 13, 1846.

NUMBER 4.

The Mountain Storm.

For several days the wind had been easterly with an intense frost. At last, however, the weather subsided into a calm and dense fog, under which at mid-day it was difficult to find one's way amidst those mountain tracts along which in general my route lay. The grass and heath were absolutely loaded with hoar frost. My cheeks became compassed by a powdered covering; my breath was intensely visible, and floated and lingered about my face with an oppressive and almost suffocating density. No sun, moon, or star had appeared for upwards of forty-eight hours; when, according to my pre-conceived plan, I reached the farm town of Burnfoot. I was now in the centre of Queensberry Hills, the most notable sheep pastures in the south of Scotland. It was about three o'clock of the 15th day of January, when, under a cheerful welcome from the guide-wife, I rested my pack (for be it known, I belong to the class of peripatetic merchants) upon the meal cart, disengaged my arm from the leather straps by which the pack was suspended from my shoulders, and proceeded to light my pipe at the peat-fire. Refreshments, such as the guide-wife brought, were soon and simply supplied, and had the happiness of seeing my old acquaintances (for I visited Burnfoot twice a year, on my going and on my coming from Glasgow to Manchester) drop in from their several avocations, one after another, and all truly rejoiced to behold my face, and still more delighted to inspect the treasure and wonders of "the peat-pack." At last the guide, who had put off his shoes and leggins, assumed his slippers together with his prescriptive seat at the head or upper end of the long-settle. The guide-wife, returning but from hedding the youngest of some half-score of children, welcomed her husband with a look of the most genuine affection. She put a little creasy stool under his feet, felt that his clothes were not wet, scolded the dogs to a respectful distance, and inspired the peats into a double blaze. The eldest daughter, now "woman grown" sat combing the hoar frost from her raven locks, and looking out from beneath her beautifully arched and bushy eyebrows, upon the interesting addition which had been made to the meal cart. Some half a score of healthy lads and lasses occupied the bench about the fire, over-canopied by sheepskins, aprons, stockings, footless hose. The dogs, after various and somewhat unbecomingly different adjustments, fell in order and position around the hearth, enjoying the warmth, and licking, peacefully and carefully, the wet from their sides. The cat, by this time, had made a returning motion from the cupboard ledge, from which she had been watching the arrangements and movements beneath. As this appeared to "help" to be an infringement of the terms of armistice and of the frontier laws, he sprang with eagerness over the hearth, pausing for a moment under this sudden and somewhat unexpected movement, "Dare I go?" instantly drew up her whole body into an attitude, not only of defence, but defiance; curving herself into a bristling crescent, with the head of a dragon attached to it, and, with one horrid hiss and sputter, compelled "help" first to hesitate and then to retreat.

"These peats back the youth retired. And saved himself from harm."

The guide-wife, however, who seemed not unaccustomed to such demonstrations, and who manifestly acted on the humane principle of assisting the weaker by assisting the stronger combatant, gave help such demonstrations of her intentions, as at once rendered matters to the status quo ante bellum. (I have as good a right to scholarship as my brother packman, Plato, who carried oil to Egypt.) This peace and good order being restored, the treasures of my burden became an immediate and universal subject of inquiry. I was compelled, nothing loath, to unstrap my various packages, and disclose to view all the varied treasures of the spindle and loom. Shawls were spread out into enormous display, with central and corner, and border ornaments the most amazing and the most fashionable; waistcoat-pieces of every stripe and figure, from the straight line to the circle, of every hue and coloring which the rainbow exhibits, were unfolded in the presence and under the scrutinizing thumb of many purchasers. The guide-wife herself, half-coaxed and half-scolded a fine remnant of Flanders lace, of most tempting aspect, out of the guide's reluctant pocket. The very dogs seemed anxious to be accommodated, and applied their noses to some unopened bales with a knowing look of inquiry. "Things were proceeding in this manner, when the door opened, and there entered a young man of the most prepossessing appearance in fact, what Burns terms a "strapping youth." I would observe that, at his entrance, the daughter's eye (of whom I have formerly made mention) immediately kindled into an expression of the most universal kindness and benevolence. Hitherto she had taken but a limited interest in what was going on; but now she became the most prominent figure in the group, whilst the mother, who had been seated in the chimney corner, drew a chair for the welcome stranger with her apron, and the guide-man welcomed him with a "Come away, Willie Wilson, an' tak a seat. The night's gay dark an' dreary. I wonder how ye cleared the Whistman Clough and the Side Scaur, man, on sic an eerie night."

"Indeed," responded the stranger, casting a look in the meantime, towards the guide-man's box, and, indeed, lovely daughter—"indeed, it's an unco fu night—sic a mist and sic a cold I has seldom if ever encountered; but I dinna ken hoo it was—I couldna rest at hame till I had tellt ye of the news of the last Loughmorket."

"Ay, ay," interrupted the guide-wife; the last Loughmorket, man, is an auld tale noo. I trow—Na, na, yer mither's son came on here on sic a night, and at sic an hour, on sic an unbecom'g errand—finishing her sentence however, by a whisper into Willie's ear, which brought a deeper red into his cheek, and seemed to operate in a similar manner on the apparently deeply engaged daughter.

"But, Watty," continued my fair purchaser, "you must give me this Bible for less cheep—it's owre dear, man—heard ever onybody o' five white shillings gien for a Bible, and it's a New Testament, after a'—it's baith a sin an' a shame, Watty!"

After some suitable reluctance, I was on the point of reducing the price by a single sixpence, when Willie Wilson advanced towards the pack, and, at once taking up the book and the conversation—

"Owre dear, Jessie, my dear—it's the word o' God, ye ken—his ain precious word; and I'll e'en mak ye a present o' the book, at Watty's ain price. Ye ken he man live, as we a'do, by his trade.

The money was instantly paid down from

a purse pretty well filled; for William Wilson was the son of a wealthy and much respected sheep-farmer in the neighborhood, and had had his name once called in the kirk, along with that of Janet Harkness, of Burnfoot, both of this parish."

"Hoot, noo, bairns," rejoined the mother, "ye're baith wrang—that Bible winna do ava. Ye manna have a big ha' Bible to take the bulk wi, and worship the God o' yer fathers night an' morning, as they has done afore ye; and Watty will bring ye ane fra Glasgow the next time he comes round; and it will, marke, be usefu, ye ken, in another way."

"Tout, mither, wi yer nonsense," interrupted the conscious bride; "I never like to see my name and age marked and pointed out to onybody on oor muckle Bible; sae just haud yer tongue, mither, and tak a present fra Willie and me," added she, blushing deeply; "o' that big, belted Testament. The minister, ye ken, seldom meddles wi' the auld Bible; less it be a bit o' the psalter; and yer on now are no sic gleg as they were when ye were married to my father there."

"The father, overcome by this well-timed and well-directed evidence of goodness, piety, and filial affection, rose from his seat on the long settle, and, with tears in his eyes, pronounced a most fervent benediction over the shoulders of the child.

"There was not, by this time, a dry eye in the family; and, as a painful silence was on the point of succeeding to this outbursting of nature, the venerable parent slowly and deliberately took down the big ha' Bible from its shelf in the wall, and, placing it on the long settle table, he proceeded to family worship with the usual solemn prefatory announcement—"Let us worship God."

Love, filial affection, and piety—what a noble, what a beautiful triumph! By means of these, Scotland has rendered herself comparatively great, independent and happy. These are the graces which, in beautiful union, have protected her liberties, sweetened her enjoyments, and exalted her head among the nations, and which, overall, have cast an expression and a feature irresistibly winning and nationally characteristic. It is over such scenes as the kitchen fireside of Burnfoot now presented that the soul hovers with ever-awakening and ever intenser delight; that, amidst the coldness and concern, and religion of an iron heart, at least at intervals, is redeemed into ecstasy, and feels, in spite of habit, and example, and deadened apprehensions, that there is a beauty in pure and virgin love, a depth in genuine and spontaneous filial regard, and an impulse in communion with Him that is most high, which, even when taken separately, are hallowing, sacred, and elevating; but which, when blended and softened down into one great and leading feature, prove irresistibly that man is, in his origin and unalloyed nature, but a little lower than the angels."

Such was the aspect of matters, in this sequestered and sanctified dwelling, when the house seemed, all at once, to be smitten, like Job's at the four corners. The soot fell in showers into the grate; the rafters creaked; the dust descended; every door in the house rattled on its hinges; and the very dogs at once sprang from their places, as if by magic. There was something so awful in the suddenness and violence of the commotion, that the prayer was abruptly and suddenly brought to a conclusion.

"Ay, fearful sirs!" were John Harkness's first words, when springing to his feet; "that there is an awful night. Open the outer door, Jamie, and let us see what it is like." The outer door was opened; but the drift broke in with such a suffocating swirl, that a strong and who encountered it, reeled and gasped for breath.

"The hoags!" exclaimed the guide-man, and the gimmers' where did ye leave them, Jamie?"

"In Capleslacks," was the answer, "by east the Dod. The wind has set in frae the north-east, and fifty score o' sheep, if this continue, will never see the morning."

"But what was to be done?"

"The wind blew as 'twould blaw his last," and the whole atmosphere was one almost solid wreath of penetrating snow; when you thrust forth your hand into the open air, it was as if you had perforated an iceberg. Burnfoot stands at the convergence of two mountain gorges, adown one of which the tempest came as from a funnel—collected, compressed, irresistible. There was a momentary look of suspense—every one eyeing the rest with an expression of indecision and utter helplessness. The young couple, by some lapse of affinity, stood together in a corner. The shepherd, with Jamie Hogg at their head, were employed in adjusting plaids to their persons. The guide-man had already resumed his leggins, and the dogs were all exceedingly excited—amazed at this unexpected movement; but perfectly resolved to do their duty.

"Jamie," said the guide-man, "you and I will try to mak our way by the Head Scaur; the wind is frae the north, and the dogs will see after the hoags and gimmers away the Dod."

"I, too," exclaimed a voice from the corner, over which, however a fair hand was pressed, and which was therefore but indistinctly heard, "I will not, I shall not be left behind—I will accompany the guide-man, and do what I can to seek and to save."

"Indeed, and indeed, my dear James, ye can do na guid—ye dinna ken the grun like my father; and there's mony a kittle spite, by the head Scaur; and, the Lord be wi' us! on sic a night too?"

So saying, she clasped her betrothed firmly round the neck, and compelled him to relinquish his purpose. Having gained this object, the fair and affectionate bride rushed across the room to her father, and falling down on her knees, grasped him by the legs, and exclaimed:

"O, mither, mither! come and help me—come and help me!—my dear father, let Jamie Hogg gang, and the rest; they are young, ye ken, and as weel acquainted as yer self wi' the glens; but this is no a life for the father o' a family to risk his life to save his substance. O, father, father! I am soon, ye ken, to leave you and bonny Burnfoot—grant me, oh! grant me this one, this last request!"

The mother sat, all this while, wringing her hands, and exclaiming—

"Ay, ay, Jenny, get him to stay, get him to stay!"

The father answered not a word, but making a sign to Hogg, and whistling

on "Help," and at the same time kissing his now all but fainting child, he rushed out of the door, (as Mrs. Harkness said,) "like a fey man," and he and his companion, with a suitable accompaniment of dogs, were almost instantly invisible. The three other lads, suitably armed and accompanied, followed the example set to them; and the guide-wife, the two lovers, five or six younger branches, and the female servants of the family, with myself, remaining at home, in a state of anxiety and suspense, which can be better conceived than expressed.

"The varnished clock that ticked behind the door," with a force and a stroke loud and painful in the extreme, struck first ten, then eleven, then twelve; but there was no return; again and again were voices heard commingling with the tempest's rush; again and again did the outer door seem to move backward on its hinges; but nothing entered, save the shrill pipe of the blast, accompanied by the committed drift, which penetrated through every seam and cranny. This state of uncertainty was awful; even the ascertained reality of death, partial or universal, had perhaps less of soul-benumbing cold in it than this inconceivable suspense. It required Willie Wilson's utmost efforts and mine to keep the frantic women from madly rushing into the drift; and the voice of lamentation was sad and loud amongst the children and the servant lasses—each of the latter class lamenting, indeed, the fate of all, but there was always an under prayer offered up for the safety of George, or Will, or Jamie, in particular. At last the three lads who had encompassed the Dod, arrived—alive, indeed, but almost breathless and frozen to death. They had, however, surmounted incredible difficulties, and had succeeded in placing their horses in a position of comparative security; but where were Jamie Hogg and the guide-man? The violence of the storm had nothing spared, the snow was every where accumulating, and the danger and difficulty increasing ten fold. Spirits, heat, and friction gradually restored the three lads to their senses, and to the kind attentions of their several favorites of the female order, but there sat the mother and the daughter, whilst the father was either, in all probability, dead or dying. The very thought was distracting; and, accordingly, the young bride no turning to her lover with a look of inexpressible anguish.

"O Willie! my ain dear Willie! ye man gang, after a'—ye man gang this instant," (Willie was on his feet and plaided) whilst yet the sentence was unfinished, "and try to rescue my dear, dear father from this awful and untimely end; but tak care, oh, tak care, o' the big scaur, an' keep far west by Capleslacks, and maybe ye'll meet them coming back that way." These last words were lost in the drift, whilst Willie Wilson, with his faithful follower, Rover, were penetrating and fleeing, and endeavoring their way towards the place pointed out.

In about half an hour after this, the howl and scratch of a dog were heard at the door back, and Help immediately rushed in, the welcome forerunner of his master and Hogg. They had, indeed, had a fearful struggle, and fearful wanderings; but, in endeavoring to avoid the dangerous because precipitous Head Scaur, they had wandered from the track, and from the object of their travel, and, after having been inclined, once or twice, to lie down and tak a rest—(the desolating messenger of death)—they had at last got upon the track of Cagle Water; and, by keeping to its windings—which they had often traced, at the risk of being drowned—they had at last weathered the old chamer, the byre, and peat-stack, and were now, thank God! within "biggest wa's."

But where, alas! was Willie Wilson?—Kim, in consequence of their deviations, they had missed him, and over him, they expected, the tempest was still renewing at intervals, its hurricane gusts. There was one scream heard, such as would have penetrated the heart of a tiger, and all was still. There she lay, the beautiful, but now marble bride; her head reposing on her mother's lap—her lips pale as the snow-drap—her eyes fixed and soulless—her cheek without a tint—and her mouth half open and breathless.

Long, long was the withdrawal; a snail and ager was the time lost; and, at last, the guide-man, to catch the first expiration of returning breath; ere the frame began to quiver, the hands to move, the lips and cheeks to color, and the eyes to indicate the approaching return to reason and perception.

"I have killed him, I have killed him!" were the first frantic accents. "I have murdered, murdered my dear Willie! It was me that sent him—forced him—compelled him out—put him in the drift—the cold, cold drift—Away! added the maniac—away! I'll go after him—I'll perish with him—where he lies there will I lie, and there will I be buried. What is there none of ye that will make an effort to save a perishing—a choking—oh, my God! a suffocating man?"

Hereupon she again sank backwards, and was prevented from falling by the arm of a father.

"O my child!" said parental love and affection—"O my dear wench—oh, patient!—God is guid—He has preserved us all—He will not desert him in the hour of his need—He neither slumbers nor sleeps—His hand is not shortened; He cannot save—and what he can, He will—He never deserted any that trusted in him. O my wench! my bairn—my first-born—be patient. There—there—is a scratch at the door-back—it is Rover."

And to be sure Rover it was; but Rover in despair. This faithful companion and friend only entered the house to solicit immediate aid—he ran round and round, looking up into the face of every one with an expression of the most imploring anxiety. The poor frantic girl sprang from her father's embrace, and clung to the neck of the well-known cur—she absolutely kissed him—(oh, to what not love, omnipotent, virtuous love, descend!)—then rising in renewed recollection, she sat herself down on the long settle beside her father, and burst into loud and passionate grief.

It was now manifest to all that something must be attempted, else the young farmer must perish. Hogg, though awfully exhausted, was the first to volunteer a new excursion. The whole band were at once on their feet; but Jessie now clung to her father, as she had formerly done to her lover, and would not let him go—indeed, the guide-man was in no danger of putting his purpose into effect, for he could scarcely stand on his feet. He sat, or rather fell down, consequently, beside his daughter, and continued in constant prayer and supplication at the throne of grace.

The daughter listened, and said she was comforted—the voyagers were again on their way—she tempest had somewhat abated—the moon had once or twice shone out—and there was now a greater chance of success in their undertaking.

How we all contrived to exist during an interval of about two hours, I cannot say;

but, this I know, that the endurance of the second trial was worse than the first, to all but the sweet bride herself. Her mind had now taken a more calm and religious view of the case. She repeated at intervals and pauses, in her father's ejaculatory prayer—

Yes—oh! yes—His will—His holy will be done? The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away—blessed be the name of the Lord forever! We shall meet again—oh! yes—where the weary are at rest.

"A few short years of evil past, We reach the happy shore, Where death divides friends at last Shall meet, to part no more."

O, father, is not that a gracious saying, and worthy of all acceptance?"

At length the door opened, and in walked William Wilson. The reader needs scarcely to be told that the sagacious dog had left his master floundered, and unable to extricate himself in a snow-wreath, that the same faithful guide had taken, in the snow, the spot where they found Willie just in the act of falling into a sleep—from which, indeed, but for the providential sagacity of his dog, he had never awakened; and, that by means of some spirits, which they had taken in a bottle, they completely restored and conducted him home.

"Lives there one with soul so dead?" as now to imagine the happy meeting between bride and bridegroom, and above all, the influence which this trial had upon the happiness and religious character of their future married and prosperous lot?

It is, indeed, long since I have laid aside the pack—to which, after a good education, I had taken from a wandering propensity—and taken up my residence in the flourishing village of Thornhill, Dumfriesshire; living, at first, on the profits of my shop, and now relying on my land, but, to my simple competency; but I still have great pleasure in paying a yearly visit to my friends of Mitchell, slacks, and in recalling with them, over a comfortable meal the interesting incidents of the Snow-storm, 1794.

VETO MESSAGE.

To the House of Representatives.

I have considered the bill entitled

"An act making appropriations for the improvement of certain harbors and rivers, with the care which its importance demands, and now return the same to the House of Representatives in which it originated, with my objections to its becoming a law. The bill proposes to appropriate one million three hundred and seventy-eight thousand four hundred and fifty dollars to be applied to more than forty distinct and separate objects of improvement. On examining its provisions, and the various objects of improvement which it embraces, many of them in a local character, it is difficult to conceive, if it shall be sanctioned and become a law, what practical constitutional restraint can hereafter be imposed upon the most extended system of internal improvements by the federal government in all parts of the Union. The Constitution has not, in my judgement, conferred upon the federal government the power to construct works of internal improvement within the States, or to appropriate money from the treasury for that purpose. That this bill assumes for the federal government the right to exercise this power, cannot, I think, be doubted. The approved course of the government, and the deliberately expressed judgment of the people, have denied the existence of such a power under the constitution. Several of my predecessors have denied its existence in the most solemn forms.

The general proposition that the federal government does not possess this power, is so well settled, and has for a considerable period been so generally acquiesced in, that it is not deemed necessary to reiterate the arguments by which it is sustained. Nor do I deem it necessary, after the full and elaborate discussions which have taken place before the country on this subject, to do more than state the general considerations which have satisfied me of the unconstitutionality and inexpediency of the exercise of such a power.

It is not questioned that the federal government is one of limited powers. Its powers are such and such on as are expressly granted in the constitution, or are properly incident to the expressly granted powers, and necessary to their execution. In determining whether a given power has been granted a sound rule of construction has been laid down by Mr. Madison. That rule is, that "whenever a question arises concerning a particular power, the first question is whether it is properly an incident to an expressed power, and necessary to its execution, if it be not, Congress cannot exercise it." It is not pretended that there is any express grant in the constitution conferring on Congress the power in question. Is it then an incidental power, necessary and proper for the execution of any of the granted powers? All the granted powers it is confidently affirmed, may be effectually executed without the aid of such an incident. "A power to be incidental must not be exercised for ends which make it a principal, or substantive power, independent of the principal power to which it is an incident." It is not enough that it may be regarded by Congress as convenient, or that its exercise would advance the public weal. It must be necessary and proper to the execution of the

principal expressed power to which it is an incident, and without which, such principal power cannot be carried into effect. The whole frame of the federal constitution proves that the government which it creates was intended to be one of limited and special powers. A construction of the constitution so broad as that by which the power in question is defended, tends imperceptibly to a consolidation of power in a government intended by its framers to be thus limited in its authority. "The obvious tendency and inevitable result of a consolidation of the states into one sovereignty would be to transform the Republican system of the United States into a monarchy."

To guard against the assumption of all powers which encroach upon the reserved sovereignty, and which consequently tend to consolidation, is the duty of all the true friends of our political system. That the power in question is not properly an incident to any of the granted powers, I am fully satisfied; but if there were doubts on this subject, experience has demonstrated the wisdom of the rule that all the functionaries of the federal government should abstain from the exercise of all questionable or doubtful powers.

If an enlargement of the powers of the federal government should be deemed proper, it is safer and wiser to appeal to the States and the mode prescribed by the constitution for the grant desired, than to assume its exercise without an amendment of the constitution. If Congress does not possess the general power to construct works of internal improvement within the States, or to appropriate money from the treasury for that purpose, what is there to exempt some, at least, of the objects of appropriated including in this bill from the operation of the general rule? This bill assumes the existence of the power, and in some of its provisions asserts the principle, that Congress may exercise it as fully as though the appropriations which it proposes were applicable to the construction of roads and canals. If there be a distinction of principle, it is not perceived, and should be clearly defined. Some of the objects contained in this bill are local in their character, and lie within the limits of a single State; and though, in the language of the bill, they are called harbors, they are not connected with foreign commerce, nor are they places of refuge or shelter to our navy, or commercial marine on the ocean or lake shores. To call the mouth of a creek or shallow inlet on our coast, a harbor, cannot confer the authority to expend the public money in its improvement. Congress have exercised the power coeval with the Constitution of establishing light houses, beacons, buoys, and piers, on our ocean and lake shores, for the purpose of rendering navigation safe and easy, and of affording protection and shelter for our navy and other shipping. These are safeguards placed in existing channels of navigation. After the long acquiescence of government through all preceding administrations I am not disposed to question or disturb the authority to make appropriations for such purposes.

When we advance a step beyond this point, and in addition to the establishment and support, by appropriations from the treasury, of light-houses, beacons, buoys, piers, and other improvements within the bays, inlets and harbor on our ocean and lake coasts immediately connected with our foreign commerce, and improvements in the interior, at points unconnected with foreign commerce, and where they are not needed for the protection and security of our navy and commercial marine, the difficulty arises in drawing a line beyond which appropriations may not be made by the federal government.

One of my predecessors who saw the evil consequences of the system proposed to be revived by this bill, attempted to define this line by declaring that, "expenditures of this character" should be "confined below the ports of entry or delivery established by law." Acting on this restriction, he withheld his sanction from a bill which had passed Congress, "to improve the navigation of the Wabash river." He was at that time sensible that this restriction was not as satisfactory as could be desired, and that much embarrassment may be caused to the executive department in its execution, by appropriations for remote and not well understood objects. This restriction it was soon found, was subject to be evaded, and rendered comparatively useless in checking the system of improvements which it was designed to arrest, in consequence of the facility with which ports of entry and delivery may be established by law upon the upper waters, and in some instances, almost at the head springs of some of the most unimportant of our rivers, and at points on our coast possessing no commercial importance and not used as places of refuge and safety by our navy; and other shipping. Many of the ports of entry and delivery now authorized by law, so far as foreign commerce is concern-

ed, exist only in the statute books. No entry of foreign goods is ever made, and no duties are ever collected at them. No exports of American products bound for foreign countries, ever clear from them. To assume that their existence in the statute book as ports of entry or delivery warrant expenditures on the waters leading to them, would be to assert the proposition, that the law making power may engrave new provisions on the constitution. If the restriction be a sound one it can only apply to the bays, inlets and rivers connected with or leading to such ports as actually have foreign commerce; ports at which foreign importations arrive in bulk, paying the duties charged by law, and from which exports are made to foreign countries. It will be found by applying the restriction thus understood to the bill under consideration, that it contains appropriations for more than twenty objects of internal improvement, called in the bill harbors, at places which have never been declared by law either ports of entry or delivery, at which as appears from the records of the treasury, there has never been an arrival of foreign merchandise; and from which there has never been a vessel cleared for a foreign country. It will be found that many of these works are new, and at places for the improvement of which appropriations are now for the first time proposed. It will be found, also, that the bill contains appropriations for rivers upon which there has not been established even a paper port of entry, and for the mouths of creeks, denominated harbors, which if improved can benefit only the particular neighborhood in which they are situated.

It will be found, too, to contain appropriations the expenditure of which will only have the effect of improving one place at the expense of the local, natural advantages of another in its vicinity. Should this bill become a law, the same principle which authorizes the appropriations which it proposes to make, would authorize the appropriations for the improvement of all the other bays, inlets, and creeks, which may with equal propriety be called harbors, and of the rivers, important or unimportant in every part of the Union.

To sanction the bill with such provisions, would concede the principle that the federal government possesses the power to expend the public money in a general system of internal improvements, limited in its extent only by the ever varying discretion of successive Congress and successive Executive. It would be to efface and remove the limitations and restrictions of power, which the Constitution has wisely provided to limit the authority and sanction of the federal government to a few well defined and specified objects. Besides these objections the practical evils which must flow from the exercise, on the part of the federal government, of this bill impress my mind with a grave sense of my duty to avert them from the country, as far as my constitutional action may enable me to do so.

It not only leads to a consolidation of power in the federal government, but at the expense of the rightful authority of the States, but its inevitable tendency is, to embrace objects for the expenditure of the public money, which are local in their character, benefiting but few at the expense of the common treasury of the whole. It will engender sectional feelings and prejudices calculated to disturb the harmony of the Union. It will destroy the harmony which should prevail in our legislative councils.

It will produce combinations of local and sectional interests, strong enough, when united, to carry propositions for appropriations of public money which could not of themselves, and standing alone, succeed, and cannot fail to lead to wasteful and extravagant expenditures. It must produce a disreputable scramble for the public money, by the conflict which is inseparable from such a system, between local and individual interests and the general interest of the whole. It is unjust to those States which have with their own means constructed their own internal improvements, to make from the common treasury appropriations for similar improvements in other States. In its operation it will be oppressive and unjust towards those States whose representatives and people either deny or doubt the existence of the power, or think its exercise inexpedient, and who while they equally contribute to the treasury, cannot consistently with their opinions engage in the general competition for a share of the public money. Thus a large portion of the Union in numbers and in geographical extent, contributing its equal proportion of taxes to the support of the government, would, under the operations of such a system, be compelled to see the national treasure—the common stock of all—unequally disbursed, and often improvidently wasted for the advantage of small sections, instead of

being applied to the great national purposes in which all have a common interest, and for which alone the power to collect the revenue was given. Should the system of internal improvements proposed prevail, all these evils will multiply and increase with the increase of the number of the States and the extension of the geographical limits of the settled portions of our country. With the increase of our numbers and the extension of our settlements, the local objects demanding appropriations of the public money for their improvement will be proportionately increased. In each case the expenditure of the public money would confer benefits, direct or indirect, only on a section; while these sections would become daily less in comparison with the whole.

The wisdom of the framers of the constitution in withholding power over such objects from the federal government, and leaving them to the local governments of the States, becomes more and more manifest with every years experience of the operations of our system.

In a country of limited extent, with but few subjects of expenditure, (if the form of government permitted it,) a common treasury might be used for their improvement with much less inequality and injustice than in one of the vast extent which ours now presents in population and territory. The treasure of the world would hardly be equal to the improvement of every bay, inlet, creek, and river in our country, which might be supposed to promote the agricultural, manufacturing, or commercial interests of a neighborhood.

The federal constitution was wisely adapted in its provisions to any expansion of our limits and population; and with the advance of the confederacy of the States in the career of national greatness, it becomes the more apparent that the harmony of the Union and the equal justice to which all its parts are entitled, require that the federal government should confine its action within the limits prescribed by the constitution to its power and authority. Some of the provisions of this bill are not subject to the objections stated, and did they stand alone I should not feel it to be my duty to withhold my approval.

If no constitutional objections existed on the bill, there are others of a serious nature which deserve some consideration. It appropriates between one and two millions of dollars for objects which are of no pressing necessity; and this is proposed at a time when the country is engaged in a foreign war, and when Congress at its present session has authorized a loan or the issue of treasury notes to defray the expenses of the war, to be restored to if the "exigencies of the government shall require it." It would seem to be the dictate of wisdom under such circumstances to husband our means, and not to waste them on comparatively unimportant objects, so that we may reduce the loan or issue of treasury notes which may become necessary to the smallest practicable sum. It would seem to be wise too, to abstain from such expenditures with a view to avoid the accumulation of a large public debt, the existence of which would be opposed to the interests of our people, as well as to the genius of our free institutions.

Should this bill become a law, the principle which it establishes will inevitably lead to a large and annually increasing appropriations and drains upon the treasury, for it is not to be doubted that numerous other localities not embraced in its provisions, but quite as much entitled to the favor of the government as those which are embraced, will demand, through their representatives in Congress, to be placed on an equal footing with them. With such an increase of expenditure necessarily follow either an increased public debt, or increased burdens upon the people by taxation, to supply the treasury with the means of meeting the accumulated demands upon it.

With profound respect for the opinions of Congress, and ever anxious, as far as I can consistently with my responsibility to our common constituents, to co-operate with them in the discharge of our respective duties, it is with unfeigned regret that I find myself constrained, for the reasons which I have assigned, to withhold my approval from this bill.

JAMES K. POLK.
WASHINGTON, Aug. 3d, 1846.

ANOTHER REMEDY.

W. G. S., of Berkshire, Delaware Co., informs us that he once had a horse badly sweened and he cured him by the following recipe—

"Take half a pint of grease, tied from old rusty bacon; half an ounce of gun camphor, shaved fine; four or five red peppers; simmer all together till thoroughly mixed. Apply this every other morning to the affected shoulder, rubbing it briskly with a smooth stone until it becomes quite hot. Pulling up the skin two or three times a day, where the flesh is wasted, will expedite the cure."

(Ohio Cultivator.)

