

The Bank Tories have again taxed their understandings to find another excuse for the shameful conduct, of the Senate, in their neglect to take up in season, the Fortification bill, and the consequent loss of that bill.

It is now said, and this is now the language of all the church and state men of the Bank—Whig—Federal—Tory—Hartford Convention party, in Newport, that the Fortification bill as it passed the House, and was sent to the Senate, did not contain the usual appropriations and therefore the Senate had a right to retain the bill, which they received from the House in order to add to it those items of appropriation which were not inserted by the House.

Some men we do not expect to convince;—and if we found them otherwise than perverse, obstinate and steeled against conviction we should think the world near its end, or that some disruption of the earth might be soon expected. To convince them we shall not labor;—there is however some candor still existing, and there are some men to be found, who will judge dispassionately. For their benefit we publish the Fortification Bills, as reported to the House, and as they passed the House *verbatim* in 1834, & 1835. The original Bills are in our hands, and can be examined by any one, who is disposed to see them:—We should premise that at the end of every year, the officers of the Engineer Corps report to Chief Engineer, General Gratiot, the state of every fortification in their charge; particularly the progress of each work, and the sums required for those works the ensuing year:—this report is trans-

mitted by the Chief Engineer, to the Secretary of War and he makes to the committee of Ways and Means of the House of Representatives, a representation of the amount required:—this is conclusive upon the Committee, and has never been by them departed from. Now we say in reference to the Fortifications commenced and in progress, if the bill, which at the last session passed the House, and was lost by the acts of the Senate, did not contain an appropriation sufficiently large, it was the result of a neglect (what nobody will believe,) of Col. Totten, here, and other officers elsewhere:—For all they asked for, in the way we have named, through the Chief Engineer, and the Secretary of War, was granted. We here insert the Bills. First that of 1834, and then, that which passed the House at the last session.

January 10, 1834.—Mr Polk, from the Committee of Ways and Means, reported the following bill:

A BILL

Making appropriations for certain fortifications of the United States, for the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty-four.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums be, and the same are hereby, appropriated, to be paid out of any unappropriated money in the Treasury, for certain fortifications, viz,

For the preservation of Castle island, and repair of Fort Independence, thirty-four thousand seven hundred and fifty-eight dollars and eighty cents.

For a fort on George's island, one hundred thousand dollars.

For Fort Adams, one hundred thousand dollars.

For repairing Fort Columbus and Castle Williams, fifty thousand dollars.

For a fort on Throg's-neck, East river, New York, one hundred thousand dollars.

For rebuilding Fort Delaware, seventy-nine thousand dollars.

For Fort Monroe, fifteen thousand dollars.

For Fort Calhoun, one hundred and twenty thousand dollars.

For fortifications in Charleston harbor, fifty thousand dollars.

For the fort at Cockspur island, Georgia, eighty-two thousand dollars.

For completing a fort at Pensacola, forty thousand dollars.

For a fort on Foster's bank, Florida, fifty thousand dollars.

For a fort at Grand Terre, Louisiana, fifty thousand dollars.

January 2, 1835.—Mr. Polk, from the Committee of Ways and Means, reported the following bill:

A BILL

Making appropriations for certain fortifications of the United States, heretofore commenced, for the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty-five.
Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums be, and they are hereby appropriated, to be paid out of any unappropriated money in the Treasury, for certain fortifications, viz.

For a fort on George's island in addition to the balance of former appropriation, fifteen thousand dollars.

For the preservation of Castle island, and repairs of Fort Independence, in addition to the balance of former appropriations, eight thousand dollars.

For Fort Adams, one hundred thousand dollars.

For a fort on Throg's Neck, East river, New York, in addition to the balance of former appropriation, thirty thousand dollars,

For repairing Fort Columbus and Castle William, in addition to the balance of former appropriation, thirteen thousand dollars.

For rebuilding Fort Delaware, in addition to the balance of former appropriation, seventy thousand dollars.

For fortifications in Charleston harbor, in addition to the balance of former appropriation, twenty thousand dollars.

For the fort at Cockspur island, Georgia, in addition to the balance of former appropriation, eighty-two thousand dollars.

For completing a fort at Pensacola, twenty-six thousand dollars.

For a fort on Foster's Bank, Florida, in addition to the balance of former appropriation, sixty-five thousand dollars.

For contingencies of fortifications, in addition to the balance of former appropriation, ten thousand dollars.

By these Bills it will be perceived that in each of them is an appropriation of ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS for Fort Adams; the Senate did not retain the bill to increase this item, for it was not amended when they sent this bill back to the House. The appropriation for the Fort here was the usual one, and all that was required. But why did not the Bill of the House of 1835, contain the same, or as large an amount as the Bill of 1834?

By the Bill of 1835, the appropriation for the Fort on George's Island, is Fifteen thousand Dollars in addition, to the balance unexpended of former appropriations:—the last year's appropriation for this very work was one hundred thousand dollars; not one quarter part of which was used, and of course, the remainder was on hand for the ensuing year, and that sum, with the additional appropriation made by the Bill of 1835, was all that the War Department required. By the Bill of 1834, about Thirty-four thousand Dollars were appropriated for the preservation of Castle Island, and repair of Fort Independence in Boston Harbor; by the late Bill, the appropriation for this work, was but Eight thousand Dollars, in addition to the balance of former appropriations; being all, that in the opinion of the Secretary of War, was required, and all that was called for. If this item was not as large at the last session, as at the former, it was because there was an unexpended balance on hand.

In 1834, the appropriation for Trog's-Neck, was one hundred thousand dollars;—in 1835, it was but Thirty thousand Dollars; for an obvious reason, there was a heavy balance on hand, and not half of the appropriation of the former year had been expended.

By the Bill of 1834, Fifty thousand Dollars were appropriated for repairing Fort Columbus and Castle Williams; by the late Bill but Thirteen thousand Dollars were appropriated in addition to the balance of former appropriations. This appropriation was no larger owing to the money on hand. For rebuilding Fort Delaware, by the late Bill, the same sum was appropriated, that was appropriated by the Bill of 1834, Seventy thousand Dollars. For Forts Munroe and Calhoun by the Bill of 1834, heavy sums were appropriated; but by the Bill of the last session, no appropriations were made for those works, and none required, because the former appropriations were sufficient to complete them.

In addition to the Fifty thousand Dollars appropriated in 1834 for fortifications in Charleston harbor, by the bill of the late session, Twenty thousand Dollars were appropriated;—all that was required according to the estimates of the Engineer and War Departments. Eighty-two-Thousand Dollars were

appropriated by the Bills of both years, for the Fort at Cock Spur Island, Georgia; for completing a Fort at Pensacola, by the Bill of the last session, Twenty six thousand Dollars, were appropriated, all that it was supposed would be required to complete it. For a Fort at Foster's Bank, Florida, sixty-five thousand dollars were appropriated, being Fifteen thousand Dollars more than was appropriated for that work, by the Bill of 1834. For Forts in Louisiana and North Carolina, appropriations were made by the Bill of 1834, but none by the Bill of the last session, because those works are finished.

We have now shown why, so much money was not required at the last session, as at the former session,—the state of the works—the money on hand, and to which we may add the late period when the bill of 1834 passed: the Engineer at this place was not apprized of its passage until the 6th of July, at which time, in this climate about half the working season is over.

But it is said because the House did not make the usual appropriations, the Senate was necessarily delayed in their examinations of the provisions of the Bill sent to them by the House;—we here subjoin a sketch of the proceedings taken from the journal of the same.

“In the Senate, Monday, February 23, 1835.

FORTIFICATION BILL.

On motion of Mr. WEBSTER, the Senate took up for consideration, as in Committee of the Whole, the bill from the House making appropriations for the fortifications of the United States, for the year 1835.

The amendments of the Committee on Finance were taken up successively, as follows, and agreed to.

An appropriation of 75,000 dollars for the repair of Castle Island in the harbor of Boston.

100,000 dollars for the defences within the State of Maryland;

A section authorizing the Secretary of War to purchase 6 acres of land adjoining Fort McHenry, near Baltimore.

The bill was then reported to the Senate, and these amendments were concurred in.

Mr. BENTON offered an amendment appropriating 75,000 dollars to the repair of Fort Mifflin and the adjacent pier batteries in the river Delaware.

Mr. KING, of Georgia inquired what repairs there were to be done, which made so large an appropriation necessary.

Mr. BUCHANAN replied that by the destruction of Fort Delaware, Philadelphia was left entirely without protection, and the important question, with the War Department was, where that city could be most readily defended.

The result of the inquiry was, that it could be better done at Fort Mifflin. He hoped it would not be necessary, but if it should, undoubtedly, the repairs ought to be made.

Mr. BENTON read an extract from the report of the Secretary of War on this subject, when the amendment was agreed to.

Mr. BENTON then moved, by the instructions of the Military Committee, to increase the appropriation for the repair of Fort Delaware, (the Pea-Patch,) to 150,000 dollars.

Mr. PRESTON made some general observations upon the system of fortifications, and expressed the opinion that if these expenditures were increased unreasonably, or beyond the amounts contemplated in the system, the Treasury would not be competent to sustain it.

After some remarks from Mr. CALHOUN and Mr. CLAYTON, in defence of the system and the necessity of the increased sum, the amendment was agreed to.

Mr. BENTON moved a further amendment for \$100,000 for the armament of the several fortifications; which was agreed to.

The amendments were then all concurred in, and the bill ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

On motion of Mr. HENDRICKS, the Senate proceeded to the consideration of executive business, and after some time spent therein,

The Senate adjourned.

Now what one of these items of appropriation, were increased by the Senate?—Was that relating to the Fortification in this harbor? There were but two; that relating to Fort Delaware, and that relating to the repairs of Castle Island in the harbor of Boston; all the others with the exception of the one hundred thousand dollars for arming the fortifications, were in reference to new works.

These appropriations for new works, were in reference to a contingent War-State, as to which the House had the same right to offer the Three millions appropriation, as had the Senate of three or four hundred thousand dollars.

Mr. Buchanan's remarks settle the question as to the Senate's object: he says “the question with the

War Department was, where the City of Philadelphia, could be the most readily and cheaply defended; the result of the enquiry was that it could better be done at Fort Mifflin. *He hoped it would not be necessary but if it should undoubtedly, the repairs ought to be made."*

We come back then to the only disputed point; the loss of the Fortification bill; with which branch must we charge the loss of that Bill? They (the Senate) had it about five weeks, during the whole of which time, they were doing every thing except what they ought to have done; and when they sent it back to the House, it was by way of amendments laden with heavy items not to be justified except upon an expectation of War. The House responded to them, and in effect said, that if your action has been in reference to a state of War, we will give you an addition of three millions, not however to be touched unless War shall exist; but this would not do:—the popular branch—the House—the people's men, are the friends of the executive, and whatever they propose the President may have credit for. We will not, say the Senate, agree to any of your propositions, we will sooner lose the Bill:—they did cause the Bill to be lost. It is said, the House ought sooner to have taken up the bill, which the Senate with their amendments, sent back to the House. This could not have been done, and none but a wiseacre will contend that it could be done.

On Monday the Senate took up the bill, as in Committee of the whole, and adopted the several amendments proposed:—On Tuesday the bill was engrossed and finally passed; on Wednesday it was sent to the House, and with the amendments, referred to the Committee of Ways and Means, of the House:—Thursday was the only day that committee, as a committee could consider of it; and if they fully considered it on that day, which they did not, and could not, for the committee of the House had to apply to the War Department for information relative to the Senate's amendments, no action could have been had upon the bill that week; because Friday and Saturday, are days assigned for acting on Private bills; and were set apart for other business.

On Friday morning however, and within the morning hour of that day, from what follows taken from a journal of the proceedings of the House Mr. Polk made the best, and the only disposition, of it, which, at that time, could possibly have been made.