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AN ACT

Making farther provision for military services during the late war, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the U. States of America in Congress assembled, That when any officer or private soldier in the militia, including rangers, sea fencibles, and volunteers, or any non-commissioned officer, musician, or private, enlisted for either of the terms of one year or eighteen months, or any commissioned officer of the regular army, shall have died while in the service of the United States during the late war, or in returning to his place of residence after being mustered out of service, or who shall have died thereafter in consequence of wounds received whilst in the service, and shall have left a widow, or if no widow, a child or children, under sixteen years of age, such widow, or if no widow, such child or children shall be entitled to receive half the monthly pay to which the deceased was entitled at the time of his death, for and during the term of five years; and in case of death or intermarriage of such widow before the expiration of said five years, the half pay for the remainder of the time shall go to the child or children of said decedent. Provided always, that the Secretary of War shall adopt such forms of evidence in applications under this act as the President of the U. States may prescribe. Provided also, that the officers and private soldiers of the militia as aforesaid, who have been disabled by wounds or otherwise, while in the service of the United States in the discharge of their duty, during the late war, shall be placed on the list of pensioners in the same manner as the officers and soldiers of the regular army under such forms of evidence as the President of the United States may prescribe. Provided also, that the provisions of this act shall not extend to any person embraced in the provision of an act entitled, "An act to provide for the widows and orphans of militia slain, and for militia disabled in the service of the U. States," passed the second day of August, one thousand eight hundred and thirteen.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That when any non-commissioned officer, musician, or private soldier of the regular army of the United States shall have been killed in battle, or have died of wounds or disease, while in the service of the United States, during the late war, and have left a child or children under sixteen years of age, it shall be lawful for the guardian of such child or children, within one year from the passing of this act, to relinquish the bounty land, to which such non-commissioned officer, musician, or private soldier, had he survived the war, would have been entitled; and, in lieu thereof, to receive half the monthly pay to which such deceased person was entitled, at the time of his death, for and during the term of five years, to be computed from and after the seventeenth day of February, one thousand eight hundred and fifteen, the payment whereof to be made when and where other military pensions are or shall be paid; and where a warrant for the military bounty land aforesaid shall have been issued to or for the use of the child or children of any such deceased non-commissioned officer, musician, or private soldier, such child or children, or either of them, being under sixteen years of age, it shall be lawful for the guardian of such minor or minors, to surrender and deliver such warrant into the office for the Department of War, within one year from the passing of this act; of which surrender and delivery, the Secretary of that Department shall give notice to the Sec'y, of the Treasury, who shall thereupon give the requisite orders for the payment of the half pay hereby provided for.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That all soldiers who have been enlisted to serve for five years, or during the war, and were above the age of forty, or under the age of eighteen years, who have faithfully served during the

late war and have been regularly discharged, and the representatives of such soldiers as shall have died whilst in the service of the United States, and all soldiers, who have been enlisted, and have faithfully served during the late war, until they have been promoted to the rank of commissioned officers, who, if they had served during the war under their enlistment, and been regularly discharged, would have been entitled to a bounty in land, shall be entitled to one hundred and sixty, or three hundred and twenty acres of land, according to the term of enlistment; the warrant and patent to issue in the same manner as in the case of soldiers enlisted of proper age, and discharged under similar circumstances.

Sec. 4. And be it further enacted, That for the purpose of carrying the provisions of this act into effect, and other acts giving bounty lands to soldiers of the regular army, the President of the United States is hereby authorized to cause to be surveyed and laid off in one or more surveys, two millions of acres, not otherwise appropriated, in addition to the appropriation of lands by the act of May the 6th, one thousand eight hundred and twelve, for designating, surveying and granting military bounty lands, according to the provisions of said act.

Sec. 5. And be it further enacted, That no transfer of land, granted in virtue of this or any other law, giving bounties of land to the non-commissioned officers, musicians and privates, enlisted during the late war, shall be valid, unless the contract or agreement therefor, or letter of attorney, giving power to sell or convey, shall have been executed after the patents shall be issued and delivered to the person entitled thereto.

April 16, 1816—APPROVED.

JAMES MADISON.

AN ACT

To change the mode of compensation to the members of the Senate and House of Representatives, and the Delegates from Territories.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the U. States of America in Congress assembled, That instead of the daily compensation now allowed by law, there shall be paid annually to the Senators, Representatives, and Delegates from Territories, of this and every future Congress of the United States, the following sums respectively: that is to say, to the President of the Senate, pro tempore, where there is no Vice President, and to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, three thousand dollars each; to each Senator, member of the House of Representatives, other than the Speaker, and Delegate, the sum of fifteen hundred dollars. Provided, nevertheless, That in case any Senator, Representative or Delegate, shall not attend in his place at the day on which Congress shall convene, or shall absent himself before the close of the session, a deduction shall be made from the sum which would otherwise be allowed to him, in proportion to the time of his absence, saving to the cases of sickness the same provisions as are established by the existing laws. And the aforesaid allowance shall be certified and paid in the same manner as the daily compensation has heretofore been.

March 19, 1816.—APPROVED.

JAMES MADISON.

PICTURE OF ENGLAND!

Sir Francis Burdett's Address to the Electors of Westminster.

GENTLEMEN—In addressing so enlightened a portion of the community as the electors of the great metropolitan city of Westminster, it would ill become me to adopt the hackneyed style of congratulation and profession usual on occasions like the present.—I cannot congratulate the people on the opportunity afforded them for redressing their manifold grievances; by a due exercise of their constitutional right to appoint their representatives in parliament; well knowing, and that they too know full well who cause this cheating appearance of an election to take place, that no such opportunity is in point of fact, or is intended to be afforded the people. You, gentlemen, are too well informed of the real condition of your country, not to regard such language as deceptions, and to treat it with merited contempt. Neither can I, with truth, profess that I shall be highly, or at all gratified, by being returned a member of an Assembly where corruption is acknowledged to be as "notorious as the sun at noon day," and where "practices which would have made our forefathers startle with indignation, in utter oblivion of every former maxim and feeling of parliament," have been impudently avowed, and shamelessly justified.—

This has brought us into a situation almost impossible, within the limits of an advertisement, to depict—Nine hundred millions of debt; inland fortresses under the name of barracks; an army of German and other foreign mercenaries; an army of spies and informers; of tax and excise agents; an inquisition of private property; a phantom for a king; a degraded aristocracy; an oppressed people; a confiding parliament; irresponsible ministers; a corrupt and intimidated press; pensioned justices; packed juries; vague and sanguinary laws, sometimes shamefully relaxed, at other times violently stretched beyond their tone; which, together with a host of failures of foreign expeditions, and the present crushing burden of taxation, are some of the bitter fruits of corruption in the house of commons; a house of commons, the members of which did, agreeably to a return laid before it in 1808, put into their own pockets 178,994*l.* a year in sinecures, salaries, and pensions, besides their staff-appointments, and their commissions, & besides the money received by their wives and other relations. In fact, the whole of the evil arises here. Those who vote the money are some way or other interested in the expenditure of it. The small number of independent men have no weight at all.

Gentlemen, it is often affirmed, that the savings in our power to be made from sinecures and pensions would afford no relief to the people? Let us take a few out of numerous instances. The house of commons itself, in sheer places and pensions, swallows as much as would give fifty shilling a year to 71,225 families. Would this be nothing? Would it not be felt by the people? Lord Arden, brother to the late minister, with reversion to the late minister himself, receives from his sinecures 38,575*l.* a year. This is the exact sum stated. But it is said, that he has besides an immense sum arising from interest. Here is support all the year round, at twelve shillings a week for more than a thousand families. The same may be said for the family of Greenville. The duke of Grafton's sinecures and pensions would maintain half as many; and, in short, it is in this way the nation is impoverished, and reduced to misery. The lord chief justice Ellenborough, besides his salary, receives in sinecures 8,993*l.* a year, besides having offices to sell, and participating in the emoluments of his own jailer. The sinecures of the chief justice would keep 300 families. Mr. Garmers, the apothecary general, has clear 12,000*l.* a year, according to his own acknowledgement; besides the sums given to the princes out of the droits of admiralty, the king's private property in the funds exempted from the income tax, and Mr. Addington, (the maker and the breaker of the treaty of Amiens,) in 1801, misapplying upwards of 5,000*l.* (voted for the civil list) as a loan to the duke of York, only a small part of which has been repaid, and that without interest. What noble examples they set us, of making sacrifices—and for reconciling the people to their sufferings, from the weight of the taxes and the distresses of the times!

Gentlemen, there was formerly a law for putting a badge of distinction on every pauper receiving alms from his parish; but what badges of infamy do those men deserve who thus extort alms from every poor man in every parish in England—who embezzle, in unmerited pensions, and sinecure places, and divert into private purses, the public resources of their country?

Gentlemen, our usurping oligarchy assumes a power of making our most innocent actions misdemeanors; of determining points of law without appeal, and of imprisoning our persons without trial; of breaking open our houses with the standing army; and murdering the people in streets, by soldiers paid by the people themselves for their defence. Gentlemen, before recent experience, we should hardly have thought that a bare vote of the lower house would have been of sufficient force, in any court of justice, to overpower the solemn enactments of king and parliament.

Gentlemen, the judges in the time of Charles I. decided against Hampden in the great cause of ship money—"ut secundum legem oneratur Joannes Hampden." Gentlemen, in the action brought against me by the present excellent high bailiff of Westminster, which I defended because I tho't it my duty not to give up your rights, lord Ellenborough directed the jury to find a verdict for the high bailiff, reasoning in this curious manner: "The burden and the benefit ought to go together; therefore as I had the benefit," said his lordship, "by taking the seat, the election expenses ought

to fall upon me." As to taking the seat, that was compulsory, in obedience to the king's writ, and what the benefit is, of a seat in the house of commons, I am still to learn. How his lordship could make so many blunders, both in law and logic, in so small a compass, it is impossible to imagine, unless it could for an instant be supposed, that his lordship spoke from experience; and that having found a seat in the house a convenient stepping stone to the bench, he had forgotten the ancient theory in the modern practice of the constitution: with the latter of which his lordship is said to be to the full as well acquainted as with the former. But there is nothing in the conduct of judges, either ancient or modern, to induce us to resign, at the shrine of their authority, all pretensions to common sense, and to the understanding of plain English. How are we the better for the noble struggles of our forefathers against arbitrary power in the king, if we endure it in much worse hands—those of our fellow subjects? What signifies to us the law, declaring that no man shall be imprisoned without lawful judgment of his peers, if the jargon of "Let et consuetudo parliamenti," (a scrap of latin ever introduced to cover a cheat) can render all the laws useless. How is the flock the better from being safe from the wolf, if they are devoured by the very dogs placed to defend them? What avails resisting the lion to fall into the hands of the jackall? to have pinioned the eagle's wings to become the sport or prey of daws and kites? Despicable condition! cheated, sold and arbitrarily ruled by our own servants, who exceed Judas in treachery, and equal him in guilt! The house of commons, instituted to redress our grievances, is become the greatest of all grievances, itself the ready instrument of all our oppressions; a two edged sword to destroy, instead of a shield to protect us.

Gentlemen, the people of England are entitled, by several positive laws, as well as by that which is superior to all law, reason and common sense, and common good, to annual parliaments & free elections. These are the vital principles of the constitution; the only means of insuring justice, peace and security, to the community at large.

Gentlemen, we once had this happiness; our laws were made by representatives of our own choosing; our money was not taken from us but by our own consent, and the laws made by common consent were the measure of the king's rule and the subject's obedience. To use the words of our great dramatic bard,

"Look here upon this picture, and on this,
The counterfeit presentment of two brothers.
See what a grace was seated on his brow!
A combination, and a form indeed,
Where every God did seem to set his seal.
This was your CONSTITUTION. Look now, what follows.
Here is your CONSTITUTION"
We may well conclude by asking with the poet,

"What devil was't
That thus has cozen'd us at hoodman blind!"

Gentlemen, under the present system no change of ministry can be permanently and importantly useful to the country. The present are just as good as any of their predecessors during the present reign, or as any that are likely to succeed them. The fault is not in the individuals, but in the system; a system under which no nation ever did or can prosper; a system of the most infamous and complicated corruption.

To this internal situation of the country, I desire to draw the attention of my countrymen, persuaded that from hence alone proceeds all our internal sufferings and external weakness; by the removal of this system, you may have foreign conquest, if that is desirable; by the non-removal of it even victory & conquest would serve only to enhance, and to confirm the national servitude, depravity and misery. This system must be put a stop to by efforts from without the doors of the house of commons, for, be assured, the gentlemen within will never reform themselves. They will no more part with their rotten boroughs, than a highwayman with his pistols. The SPIRIT OF HAMPDEN must revive in the breasts of our country gentlemen, and the people with united voice, must demand reform in a language not to be misunderstood. Until some such spirit shall manifest itself, I am desirous of withdrawing from acting a part in the low farce carried on at St. Stephen's; of resigning into your hands your delegated trust; of returning to that retirement I had chosen when you so unexpectedly placed me in your service; thinking that in so degraded a state of the country, "the post of honor is a private station,"—

At the same time, gentlemen, be well assured that nothing can efface from my recollection the deep impression of your noble and generous conduct.— On this point all the world are agreed, whatever difference of opinion may exist about the object of our choice.— Gentlemen, your kind and considerate behavior has made a burden, far too heavy for my shoulders, sit easier than I could have expected. Not only have I been free from importunity, but even from the slightest request from a single individual of your numerous body.

Gentlemen, this conduct fills me with esteem and respect, and must ever bind me to the electors of Westminster by indissoluble ties of gratitude and affection. But, gentlemen, I do most earnestly wish to spare myself the mortification, and you the disappointment, of passing a painful life in undignified, because unsupported, and unavailing efforts, to stem a torrent of corruption, as irresistible as infamous; of "dipping buckets into empty wells and growing old in drawing nothing up."

Gentlemen, I remain, with the most profound gratitude and devotion, your humble servant,

FRANCIS BURDETT.

PEEP AT THE STATE OF ENGLAND

Cobbett's Register of Feb. 3, has a 13th letter to the chancellor of the exchequer, in which the writer shews that the distresses of agriculture affect "all trades and professions; and this must be the case as long as corn continues cheap, or until something be done effectually to alter the relative situation of the debtor and the creditor." He gives credit to those who deserve it, for making "a vast diminution in the quantity of paper money," by which the depreciation of bank notes is partially checked. "But in so doing, we have got foul, as sailors call it, of the rock of low prices and consequent falling off of taxes, while the debts and expenses of the government continue the same, and while, instead of an increased external commerce, that commerce is greatly diminished.

"To get us safely off this rock is now, sir, the task which you have to perform; and, if you do perform it, leaving us safe and well, at the end of two years, dating from the first of this month I will say that you are the most able financier and statesman that ever breathed the breath of life. But, give me leave to stipulate a little. If the bank do not pay in specie before the end of two years, or at least, if the guinea get to be worth more than 22s. in paper money, then I shall not allow that you got us safely off this rock, seeing that, in this case, we shall still be in danger of spitting on the other, then again, if you make any deductions from the interest of the debt, or impose a tax on the funds heavier than on landlords rents, I shall be so far from allowing that you have brought us safely off the rock, but I shall insist upon it, you have wrecked us. This same conclusion will, of course, apply, to such a change in the sinking fund as would, in effect, annihilate the capital of the fundholders.

"Well, then, sir, do I not offer you very fair? You will find nobody, or hardly any body, to say that there is a necessity for diminishing the interest on the debt; or, that there is any necessity for issuing paper money so as to raise the value of the guinea compared with the paper money. Not one person out of a hundred thousand, perhaps, thinks either of these measures at all necessary. It is the general and almost universal opinion, that you will be able to carry us through without either of these measures. And yet, if you do carry us through; if you do get us safely off the rock, and keep us safely off, till the end of the two years, I will laud you to the skies; I will have your picture in every room in my house; I will call you *Nicholas the great!* and will never mention your name without pulling off my hat, or making a low bow. I will not be so prophane as to say that you have wrought miracles; but, I will always allow you to be the first of created beings.

"But then on the other hand, if the guinea should mount up again over the paper, after having spread about ruin so profusely by its recent fall; or if the interest of the debt should experience a diminution, I shall claim the right of imputing to you a full share of the work of producing the wreck; for, be it remembered, that you became, at a very early period, a partizan of the system of Pitt; that you defended & eulogized that system; that you did your best, at any rate, to assist in causing that continuation of the war, which finally produced a thousand millions of debt; and that having supported this system with your vote and your pen for about 20 years, you have at last, as I repeat to your zeal and your service