

Resolved, That the sum of eight thousand dollars appropriated by resolution No. 424, passed the first day of April, Anno Domini, one thousand eight hundred and -thirty-six, for the purpose of procuring a steam tow-boat, to ply between Philadelphia and Bristol, and Bristol and Bordentown, be charged to the internal improvement fund, and that the State Treasurer pay the said sum to the commissioners of the internal improvement fund; out of any monies in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

NER MIDDLESWARTH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.
THOMAS S. CUNNINGHAM,
Speaker of the Senate.

APPROVED—The sixteenth day of June; A. D. one thousand eight hundred and thirty-six.

JOS: RITNER.

No. 24.

Resolution

Relative to the distribution of the Surplus Revenue of the United States.

WHEREAS, it is an incumbent duty constantly to guard the liberties of the people, and our free institutions of government, acquired for us by the valour and virtue of our revolutionary fathers, from the encroachment of power, common to all governments; *And whereas*, the immediate representatives of the people are bound to warn them of approaching danger, and endeavour to avert it from them:

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met, That this Assembly will maintain and defend the constitution of the United States, the rights of the states, and the integrity of the Union, and that it solemnly expresses its devotion to that Union, and its conviction that it can be preserved only by opposing every violation of the principles upon which it is based;

That the powers of the federal government are defined by a written constitution, and are specifically enumerated; no power can be rightly claimed for, or be exercised by it, that is not expressly given, "and the powers not delegated to the United States by the constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people;" any attempt by the federal government, or those who administer it, to encroach upon, overawe, interfere

with, or controul the states in the exercise of their reserved rights, or to extend the power of the federal government beyond the limits expressly prescribed by the constitution of the United States, is an usurpation, and infraction of those principles which constitute the only basis of our Union, and must be dangerous and fatal in its consequences;

Dangers of consolidation & Monarchy apprehended

That this general assembly views with profound regret, the spirit manifested to enlarge the powers of the general government, and to wield those which are conferred to obtain an influence over the states, to interfere with the domestic policy of the state governments, to overawe and controul them in the free exercise of their reserved rights, "and so to consolidate the states by degrees, into one sovereignty, the obvious tendency and inevitable result of which would be, to transform the present republican system of the United States into an absolute, or at best, a mixed monarchy;"

Deprecating the investment of the surplus revenue of the U. S. in state stocks.

That this general assembly consider the proposition lately made in the Congress of the United States, to invest the surplus revenue of the nation in stocks, issued by the states, as a measure fraught with danger, calculated to give to the federal government a power which, if wielded by corrupt hands, would be inimical to the liberties of the country in an eminent degree, and under all circumstances injurious; it may be properly characterized as one of those measures "in fiscal systems and arrangements, which keep an host of commercial and wealthy individuals embodied and obedient to the mandates of the treasury," and it would give to the federal government a decided influence in the councils of such states as it might be thought expedient to win to its purposes; it would foster and encourage a system of gambling and speculation in stocks, giving to the agents of the government, the opportunity of employing the public money to promote private interests, to reward corrupt favourites, and acquire an interest among the community, leading to servile devotion to those clothed with the power of the general government:

Evils and dangers of consolidation and monarchy portrayed.

If to this, be added an increase of the standing army and navy beyond the necessities of the country, "which will on one hand, enlist the tendency of man to pay homage to his fellow-creature who can feed and honour him, and on the other, employ the principle of fear by punishing imaginary insurrections, under the pretext of preventive justice;" and if we further, have enormous expenditures of the public treasure in the construction of fortifications, necessary in a country where the government must keep the people in subjection, but here only to be tolerated at points essential to defence from foreign foes, and if in this course of policy, "swarms of officers, civil and military, are required, who can inculcate political tenets tending to consolidation and

monarchy, both by indulgences and severities, and can act as spies over the free exercise of human reason," if all these measures are at once pursued by the general government, we may well fear the tendencies to consolidation, and warn the people of approaching danger; Therefore,

Resolved, That our senators in Congress be instructed, and our representatives requested, to vote against any bill for investing the surplus revenue of the United States in stocks, issued or authorized by the respective states, believing "that the most safe, just, and federal disposition which could be made of the surplus revenue, would be its apportionment among the several states."

Resolved, That copies of the foregoing resolutions be transmitted by the Governor, to each of the senators and representatives from the state of Pennsylvania in Congress, to be laid before the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States.

NER MIDDLESWARTH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

THOMAS S. CUNNINGHAM,
Speaker of the Senate.

APPROVED—The sixteenth day of June, A. D. one thousand eight hundred and thirty-six.

JOS: RITNER.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE, HARRISBURG,
July 28, 1836.

I certify, that in obedience to the directions of an act of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, I have collated with and corrected by the original rolls on file and of record in this office, the proof sheets of the printed copies of the foregoing acts and resolutions, being the whole number of laws passed during the session of the legislature which terminated on the 16th day of June, 1836.

THOS. H. BURROWES,
Secretary of the Commonwealth.