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TWENTY-FOURTH CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, MAY 19.

Several memorials and resolutions were offered and disposed of, by general consent.

Mr. McKENNEY presented, by leave of the House, a memorial of Capt. Thos. Barker, praying a compensation for property taken from the Nation...

On motion of Mr. JUDSON, it was Resolved, That the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads be instructed to inquire into the expediency of establishing a mail route from Batavia, in the county of Genesee, in the State of New York, to Pike, in the county of Alleghany, in said State.

On motion of Mr. JOHNSON, of Va. Resolved, That the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads be instructed to inquire into the expediency of establishing a mail route from Leadville to Western Ford, in the county of Randolph, in the State of Virginia.

On motion of Mr. CUSHING. Resolved, That the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads be instructed to inquire into the expediency of establishing a mail route from Leadville to Western Ford, in the county of Randolph, in the State of Virginia.

On motion of Mr. MILLER, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, made a report on the case of Micajah Ricketts, accompanied by a bill for his relief; which was twice read, and committed.

ABOLITION REPORT. The House resumed, as the unfinished business of yesterday, the consideration of the report and resolutions from the select committee on the subject of the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia.

The question being on the motion by Mr. ROBERTSON to recommitt the report, with instructions to report a resolution declaring that Congress has no constitutional power to interfere with the subject of slavery in the District of Columbia.

Mr. BYNUM said the report had met with precisely the opposition he had expected. He had not supposed that it would meet the views of certain gentlemen. He did not mean to say that he should approve of all the arguments in the report...

Mr. CONNOR said that he had no objection to the report, and he wished it placed before the House. He had no objection to the report, and he wished it placed before the House. He had no objection to the report, and he wished it placed before the House.

Mr. ADAMS objected to this motion, on the ground that he had no objection to the report, and he wished it placed before the House. He had no objection to the report, and he wished it placed before the House.

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Mr. EVERETT moved to add to the 23d section the words "and the contracts in all cases shall be awarded to the lowest bidders."

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Mr. THOMPSON, of South Carolina, said he hoped there was not a man in the House who was not willing to restrict the discretion of this Department. He believed, though he did not assert it on his own knowledge, that, in the disposal of one and all of the benefits of the Department, the habitual question was not, is the applicant "honest, capable, and faithful to the Constitution, but is he an American citizen?"

Mr. HAWES hoped, he said, the amendment would prevail. During the investigation of the Post Office Department it was found that all the misfortunes of that Department originated from the greatest carelessness of the Department was not bound to take the lowest bidder.

Mr. ASHLEY spoke in favor of the amendment, and made some statements of his transactions with the Department, in which the Department had acted merely with regard to party motives.

After a few words in reply from Mr. BOON, the amendment was agreed to.

Mr. LEWIS moved that the House agree to the appointment of a committee of conference on its part.

Mr. ROBERTSON said he had been asked what was his motive in offering the resolution; and he answered, that he offered it because he thought it just and proper; and he should always endeavor, in offering resolutions, to keep that end in view, and should act accordingly, notwithstanding all the denunciations of the gentleman from South Carolina, (Mr. PINCKNEY.) He did not wish to be considered the representative of the South.

He stood on other ground, as the representative of a portion of a State, which had declared, by the almost unanimous expression of the Legislature, that Congress has no right to interfere with slavery in the District of Columbia; and he would endeavor to maintain the correctness of that expression.

Where, he would ask, were the House to be found; where would the South be found, if they should skulk from principles which they acknowledge to be right? The gentleman asked what was to be gained by coming to an expression upon this subject. He would ask, what would be gained by attempting to conceal opinions which they avow to be just? The gentleman from South Carolina had said the House would vote against the South upon the question, if it was pressed. This he (Mr. R.) did not know.

Mr. PINCKNEY explained. He did not know that the votes would be as he had supposed, because it had not been brought to a test. He had wished to avoid the contingency of the vote altogether; and upon the probable result he had his own individual apprehensions.

Mr. ROBERTSON said he had so understood the gentleman. He wished to have the whole truth known, that the country might know what were the opinions of the leading politicians of the South. The gentleman had stated the numbers of the signers to the abolition memorials, and, according to his statement, there were about 19,000 male signers, probably voters, who would go on with their opposition and interference; they will go on. He had said that the report granted all they could rationally have expected, and even more; they could not have expected any thing but the removal of the South, because that with country to the other; but they had obtained a concession of the constitutional question at issue.

The gentleman says that it is in vain to press the vote upon this resolution; but he would ask if it was not idle to take those resolutions, which settle nothing, and leave the whole question still open? It would be gratifying to the people, if it were possible, if they could get from the House an expression that interference upon this subject was unconstitutional, and that their rights were safe; and he felt bound to ask the expression of such an opinion. Of what value would it be (he asked) merely to say it would be a breach of faith to interfere? He did not wish to rely upon faith. There were no pledges for the keeping of that faith.

He wanted the secure provisions of the Constitution, and then the committee say he was not entitled to interfere; and he wished to examine their arguments in favor of that opinion. The Northern States had thought it expedient to abolish slavery. They had done it in New York and in Massachusetts; and now many of those people thought it expedient to abolish it elsewhere. They would go on and endeavor to accomplish it; and he wanted the subject, that an interference upon this subject would be unconstitutional provisions, which they could never pass. He wanted it secured, to-day and to-morrow, now and forever. He did not wish to rest the question on the changing sickly ground of moral expediency, which, as a cause of action, was always uncertain, and could not be relied upon.

Before Mr. R. concluded, the morning hour expired, and Mr. CONNOR called for the same on this day.

At the suggestion of Mr. HAMER, by general consent, the usual number of copies of the report was ordered to be printed.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT. On motion of Mr. CONNOR, the House, in pursuance of a special order to that effect, went into Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union. (Mr. SUTHERLAND in the chair.) The committee on the subject of the Post Office Department, and to provide the more effectually for the settlement of the accounts thereof.

The bill was read by sections, and some amendments were proposed by Mr. CONNOR, and agreed to.

Mr. C. JOHNSON moved to amend the 8th section, which provides for the appointment of an Auditor of the Department of the Treasury, and to provide for the settlement of the accounts growing out of the late war, had now so little to do, that it had been recommended by a committee of this House to abolish the office. He, therefore, proposed to transfer to the First and Second Auditors the duties of the Fifth Auditor, and to assign to him the duties under this bill.

Mr. ADAMS objected to this motion, on the ground that he had no objection to the report, and he wished it placed before the House. He had no objection to the report, and he wished it placed before the House.

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Mr. HAWES hoped, he said, the amendment would prevail. During the investigation of the Post Office Department it was found that all the misfortunes of that Department originated from the greatest carelessness of the Department was not bound to take the lowest bidder.

Mr. ASHLEY spoke in favor of the amendment, and made some statements of his transactions with the Department, in which the Department had acted merely with regard to party motives.

After a few words in reply from Mr. BOON, the amendment was agreed to.

Mr. LEWIS moved that the House agree to the appointment of a committee of conference on its part.

Mr. ROBERTSON said he had been asked what was his motive in offering the resolution; and he answered, that he offered it because he thought it just and proper; and he should always endeavor, in offering resolutions, to keep that end in view, and should act accordingly, notwithstanding all the denunciations of the gentleman from South Carolina, (Mr. PINCKNEY.) He did not wish to be considered the representative of the South.

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Before Mr. R. concluded, the morning hour expired, and Mr. CONNOR called for the same on this day.

At the suggestion of Mr. HAMER, by general consent, the usual number of copies of the report was ordered to be printed.

The motion was agreed to, and it was ordered that the committee, on the part of the House, consist of five members.

Mr. EVERETT moved to strike out the 26th section, which provides that no contract shall be made with any persons known to have been concerned in any combination to prevent any person or persons from making a bid, and also provides that any contractor so offending shall be dismissed from the service of the Department.

After some debate, in which Messrs. WISE, BRIGGS, EVERETT, E. WHITTLESEY, ADAMS, WILLIAMS, of Kentucky, WARDWELL, McCOMAS, GRAVES, BRIGGS, JUDSON, GARLAND, of Virginia, and LANE took part, the question was taken, and decided in the negative.

Mr. CHAMBERS moved to amend the 29th section so as to provide that postmasters, who shall neglect to give notice of the delinquencies of contractors, shall be liable to removal, and to be fined, not exceeding one hundred dollars, in the discretion of the Postmaster General; which motion was rejected.

On motion of Mr. PARKER, the 32d section was amended by adding a clause, so that no person shall be appointed to the office of deputy postmaster, unless he shall be a resident in the town where the office is located.

The 35th section, which provided that the contract year shall commence on the 1st of July, &c. was stricken out.

On motion of Mr. GILLET, the words "and which shall be accepted by the Postmaster General," applied to certain bonds to be given by postmasters to release the duties, were inserted after the 6th line of the 30th section.

Several additional sections, as reported by the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads, were then read, and agreed to.

Mr. SHIELDS moved an amendment, with a view to prevent the circulation of incendiary papers, pamphlets, &c. by the mails, with the intent to excite insurrection among slaves.

Mr. SHIELDS said he wished to discuss the motion at length; and as the hour was late, and it would be impossible to get through the bill that evening, he moved that the committee rise.

The question was taken, and decided in the negative, says Mr. SHIELDS then waived his right to the floor, to allow other amendments to be offered, and considered, upon an understanding that he should be entitled to the floor upon another day.

The House then proceeded to consider other amendments until 7 o'clock, when the committee rose, and the House adjourned.

CORRECTION.—In the report published yesterday, of the debate in the House on Mr. PINCKNEY'S report, the remarks unkindly attributed to Mr. A. H. SHEPPER should have been set down to Mr. ROBERTSON, of Virginia; and the name of Mr. GLASCOCK, of Georgia, in another part of the report, was, by mistake, put in the place of that of Mr. CONNOR, of New York.

WASHINGTON CITY, MAY 19, 1836. Messrs. Gales & Seaton: In the report in this morning's National Intelligencer, of some remarks made by me yesterday, on the bill appropriating five hundred thousand dollars to suppress the hostilities of the slave, I spoke of respect to the House in a parliamentary sense, merely in reference to the forms of business. The report is, in other respects, inaccurate, so as to make it proper for me to write out my remarks.

Very respectfully, yours, &c. SAM'L F. VINTON.

A LETTER FROM GEN. HOUSTON.—The New Orleans Bulletin copies the following letter from the Natchitoches Herald, with the remark that it must have been written a day or more previous to the battle which took place on or about the 20th ult., an account of which has already been published.

FROM THE NATCHITOCHE HERALD. By the kindness of a gentleman who arrived from Texas this morning, we have been put in possession of the following letter:

Camp Safety, San Juan, Lincoln's Crossing, April 20. Mr. BRIGGS said that he had a new section providing that the Assistant Postmasters General shall be appointed by the President, with the advice and consent of the Senate; but a division being demanded upon it, and there being no quorum, Mr. E. withdrew the motion for the present.

Several amendments were offered and rejected.

Mr. CAVE JOHNSON moved to strike out the clause providing for the appointment of an additional Postmaster General.

Mr. EVERETT moved to add to the 23d section the words "and the contracts in all cases shall be awarded to the lowest bidders."

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DEBATE IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. SPEECH OF Mr. McCOMAS, (of Virginia), On the Fortification Bill.

TUESDAY, MAY 10. The question pending being the amendment of Mr. CAMBRELEN, to appropriate \$700,000 for the armament of the fortifications, in addition to the amount appropriated in the bill making appropriations for certain fortifications of the United States for the support of the Army for the year 1836—

Mr. McCOMAS rose and said: Mr. Chairman, it is not my purpose, upon this occasion, to make a speech, that is, if I understand the true definition of a Congressional speech. He said he understood that nothing could be regarded as a speech in this House unless it takes the orator at least three days to deliver it. He said, if he was correct in that view of the subject, he could assure the House that it was not his intention to make a speech; that what few remarks he had to make upon the subject under consideration, he hoped to be able to close upon this day. He said it was not his purpose to enter into a critical examination of the course pursued by the present Administration; that gentleman upon this floor had indulged in a wide range of debate upon all the subjects which the rights of the Administration; that he approved of many of the measures of the present Administration; that in his judgment they would have a happy effect on the prosperity of the country. But he said there were others that he disapproved of; that they could not fail in his judgment to have a bad effect upon the happiness of our People. He said he would speak freely of such measures, and whatever might be said by others, and that he would speak with equal freedom in approval and in censure. He said he was not disposed to measure that he disapproved of. This he said he could do without being suspected of being actuated by party spirit, or of indulging in political hatred for the President, when it would be recollected by the House that he was one of the early and zealous supporters of the President, and that he had voted for him three times to fill the Presidential chair, and once for the removal of the President. He said he never differed with him in point of national policy. And in doing so, he said he knew that he was incurring a fearful responsibility in coming in contact with the almost restless popularity of the President—a popularity (he said) that had withered the hopes of thousands. Yet (he said) a conscientious discharge of his duty forbade him to take any other course, and whatever might be said by others, he should always regard it as one of the proudest acts of his life. That since he had the honor of a seat upon this floor, he had always sustained the Administration when his conscience told him it was right; but he had, with all the boldness of an independent statesman, charged with the legislative functions of a free People, voted against every measure that he considered to be a departure from the policy of the President. He said he never differed with the President on any act of national policy. He never did for a single moment doubt the patriotic motives of the President. He believed him to be a patriot, and at all times listened to the unmeasured abuse of his motives with more pain than pleasure. He never could see any analogy between the character of Julius Cæsar, Cromwell, Napoleon, Richard the Third, and that of Andrew Jackson. He said he never differed with the President on any political matter, than the just deductions from his (the President's) acts.

Mr. McCOMAS said it was not his purpose to enter into a critical examination of the life, the character, and pretensions of any individual for the next Presidency of the United States. He said he had nothing to do with the subject of the surplus revenue, or the distribution of the surplus revenue. He said he had nothing to do with the subject of the surplus revenue, or the distribution of the surplus revenue. He said he had nothing to do with the subject of the surplus revenue, or the distribution of the surplus revenue.

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BALTIMORE, MAY 19, 1836.

MESSRS. GALE & SEATON :

In my letter of the 14th I expressed some regret that I had not seen the answer of the Mexican Minister to Mr. Forsyth's memorandum of their conference on the 20th April. Since that time I have received the Intelligence of the 17th, containing the documents communicated to the House of Representatives by the President. Having given them repeated perusal, I have become satisfied that the whole of the correspondence of the Mexican Minister is not published in your paper, and I will now give you my reasons why I think the most important portions of it is omitted.

Having in my letter stated that no part of the Sabine river south of the 32d degree of north latitude could be crossed to the opposite bank by an armed force belonging to the U. States, against the consent of Mexico, without violating our treaty of limits with that nation, I was particularly desirous to understand upon what grounds the claim of the United States, which has been so obscurely alluded to, rested, so that the character of our forces on that point could lawfully be instructed to advance beyond the Sabine, but not beyond Nacogdoches, which is 50 miles on the Mexican side of the Sabine. I must presume that the gentleman (Mr. EUGENE, of Vermont) who introduced the resolution for the correspondence had the same object in view. I would respectfully ask his attention to this communication; and if, upon a proper consideration of it, he thinks with me that any part of the correspondence has been omitted, I trust he will take measures to have it supplied. On the other hand, if I have formed an erroneous judgment, and the document which I must think has an existence has already been published, then you will please suppress this letter.

The letters of Mr. Gorostiza are manifestly those of an able man, equal to the most delicate and delicate station he occupies, and this consideration strengthens exceedingly my conviction that the most important of his letters is wanting. How is it that, during the whole correspondence, Mr. Forsyth should so adroitly have avoided saying a syllable by way of explanation of the claims set up by the United States south of the Sabine, up to the 10th of May, and then, finding himself unable to support the theory he had advanced in a letter to the Mexican Minister full of pregnant matter, and which would have elicited an answer from the dullest diplomatic personage that ever lived? Yet I find no answer from Mr. Gorostiza to Mr. Forsyth's letter of May 10.

I was sorry to see in this letter the following passage: "General Gaines is not authorized to advance to Nacogdoches, but he is authorized to advance to the point of the river beyond Nacogdoches; there, if any great reverse should happen to him, he can be told he was not authorized to advance there. This is not doing justice to the Army."

In another part of the letter Mr. Forsyth informs Mr. Gorostiza that he is required by the President "to remind Mr. Gorostiza that Mexico is not in possession of the territory bordering on the United States, wherever the true line may be; whether the Government of Mexico will obtain, and can maintain possession of it, are questions now at issue by the most sanguinary arbitrament."

And again, Mr. Forsyth says: "The undersigned is instructed by the President to decline any discussion, at present, of the claims or pretensions of the United States to the territory in question."

It cannot be supposed for an instant that so vigilant a diplomatist as the Mexican Minister has shown himself in the letters which have been published, would not have answered so important a letter as this of Mr. Forsyth, of May 10th. I have not found it in the Globe, where the correspondence is so dislocated as to create much embarrassment; but as the correspondence appears in the Intelligence, the order of the dates is preserved.

A note from Mr. Gorostiza of May 4th; then the letter addressed to Mr. Forsyth, of May 10th, acknowledging the receipt of a letter from Mr. Gorostiza of May 9th, (which I do not find either); and the correspondence closes by a letter from the Mexican Minister of May 10th, complaining of the publication of the memorandum of April 20th. But I repeat I have not found in any paper Mr. Gorostiza's specific answer to Mr. Forsyth's letter of May 10th, and I cannot but believe that an answer must have been put in to it.

Yours, &c.

TO THE EDITORS.

GENTLEMEN: The statement from the Louisiana Advertiser, that Santa Ana has not been taken, may or may not be true. But the evidence from the paragraph in that paper is certainly about as weak proof against the fact as any sensible man could credit. That Santa Ana is not with the advance of the army will not appear probable to those who have watched the progress of the war, as well as of undoubted bravery and furious passion, as well as of atrocious ferocity. He has heretofore usually been found in the advance; and from the tenor of his published despatches to the Mexican Government, we perceive how much he despised his foe—a circumstance likely to lead a man less brave than himself to place himself in the advance. That he was in Mexico, at least, is not improbable. We have been informed that the two parties in Mexico were united in this war of tyranny and the most cruel vengeance against the Texans. There were not, therefore, likely to be any disturbances in Mexico to recall him thither. And if he intended to return for new forces, it is not probable that he would permit those on the ground to push forward in his absence, as they were in adequate with his presence, they would, in all probability, be still more insufficient in his absence. If he could not trust himself to conquer with them alone, it is not in the least probable that he would trust others with them, with orders to advance and carry on the war with activity.

But every statement of the "credible" gentleman in the Louisiana Advertiser admits that the troops had advanced, and that they had a skirmish, in which they were in a "complete rout." A "skirmish" attended with a "complete rout" is a new description of combat. It does not correspond with any definition which I have been accustomed to attach to the word "skirmish." The gentleman also states very decidedly that there was "loss on both sides." Every person of any judgment will be of accord with this gentleman. There was no doubt "loss on both sides." In this respect it was the same case with the battle of New Orleans. There was "loss on both sides" at that occasion. It is easy, under such general terms, to cover up the real state of the case; and to give a representation the effect of which will be to deceive many persons, and yet can, with some plausibility, (after the facts come to light fully,) be defended as a statement of truth. I deem it fair to conclude that, when the "credible" gentleman speaks of important facts, he makes no violation so contradictory and indefinite as that contained in the Louisiana Advertiser, he either knows nothing certain about them, or that he intends to deceive.

I think it is very much such a story as a British soldier, if he could have been interrogated by a stranger, the day after the battle of Orleans, would have given of that disaster to the same effect.

"Well, how did the battle go yesterday?"

"Answer. We had a skirmish and we suffered a complete rout, but there was loss on both sides, though principally on ours."

Yet it may not be true that Santa Ana was in the battle. The strong probability, from these published despatches and the known character of the parties, that he was with the advance, consequently in the battle, it is, nevertheless, a correct proposition to say that what is extremely improbable is sometimes true.

A few days will clear away all fog on this subject, and exhibit it in the sun-light of truth.

I wish most heartily that the first account received may be true. Doctor Johnson said he loved a "good hater."

The terms "good hater" which some have thought a self-contradiction, have very rarely, indeed, been more appropriately applied than they might be to the foes of Santa Ana. I therefore subscribe myself, to the great scandal and horror of his "good lovers" in this country.

A good hater of SANTA ANA.

WASHINGTON, APRIL 19.

NEW ORLEANS, MAY 3. CAPTURE.—The Texian armed schooner *Invincible* was seized on Saturday, and brought to this city on Sunday, by Passed Midshipman D. Ridgely, of the ship of war *Warren*. It was taken from what information we can gather, that some friend of the Mexicans in this city addressed a communication to Commander Dallas, stating that the *Invincible* had been guilty of an act of piracy in capturing the schooner *Pocket*, sailing under American colors.

The crew, and as we are informed, the officers of the Texian schooner *Invincible*, were taken yesterday from the vessel, hand-cuffed and marched, to the number of sixteen, from the levee to the prison.

The Attakapas Advertiser has a new version of Campbell's celebrated couplet:

"Hope for a moment but the world were fell,  
And Freedom shriek'd when Col. Chenevixen fell."

TWENTY-FOURTH CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION.

IN SENATE.

THURSDAY, MAY 19, 1836.

Petitions were presented by Mr. LINN and Mr. KENT. On motion of Mr. ROBBINS, the Committee on Naval Affairs was discharged from the further consideration of the petition of John Mackaron.

On motion of Mr. NAUBAIN, the Committee for the District of Columbia was discharged from the further consideration of the petition of John Mackaron.

Mr. TOMLINSON, from the Committee on Pensions, reported without amendment a bill for the House for the relief of Peter Dimick, and a bill for the relief of Samuel Kincaid.

Mr. SOUTHWARD reported from the Committee on Naval Affairs several House bills without amendment, and among them a bill for the relief of the widows and orphans of the officers and crew of the United States schooner *Wild Cat*.

Mr. WEBSTER offered the following resolution; which lies over one day for consideration:

Resolved, That the President of the United States be requested to communicate to the Senate, so far as in his judgment the public interest may permit, and confidentially or otherwise, information of the present state of the negotiation between the United States and Great Britain respecting the Northeastern boundary of the United States; including all correspondence between the two Governments, not heretofore communicated to the Senate, and those preliminary communications which Great Britain declines to renew the negotiation, as stated in the President's message at the opening of the present session, and which conditions he deems to be incompatible with a satisfactory and rightful adjustment of the controversy.

On motion of Mr. WALKER, a report from the Secretary of the Treasury, made a few days since, on the subject of lands granted for pre-emption claims, was ordered to be printed.

On motion of Mr. KING, of Alabama, the Senate proceeded to consider the decision of the House to the amendments made by the Senate to the "bill authorizing the President to accept the service of volunteers," &c.

The House disagreed to that part of the amendments of the Senate which assigned to the President and Senate the command of the officers of such volunteers as may be accepted.

Mr. KING, of Alabama, moved that the Senate insist on its amendment.

Mr. CALHOUN moved to amend the motion by adding "and that a committee of conference be appointed."

Mr. KING called for a division of the question, so as to have the vote on the motion to insist taken first.

The question being taken on the motion to insist, it was decided in the affirmative by a majority of one.

On motion of Mr. CALHOUN, a committee of conference was ordered to be appointed by the Chair—yeas 20.

The following resolution, submitted on Tuesday by Mr. EWING, of Ohio, came up for consideration:

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Treasury be directed to inform the Senate what amount of transfers of the public money had been made by his direction since the 30th of June last, from the Commercial Bank of Cincinnati, and also from the Clinton Bank of Columbus, to banks east of the Alleghany mountains, giving the date and amount of all such transfers, and the banks from and to which they were made. And also, that he inform the Senate what transfers are ordered from each of the abovesaid banks, and when and to what banks they are to be made; and he also inform the Senate what amount of transfers was made to each one of the said banks in Ohio since the 30th of June last, and what amount, if any, is now ordered to each.

Mr. HUBBARD moved to amend the resolution by inserting "and the Franklin Bank of Ohio," which was also a deposit bank in that State, and which was omitted in the resolution as reported.

Mr. EWING, of Ohio, explained his object in moving the resolution. He said that, about the middle of last month, a resolution had been adopted by the Senate, inquiring of the Secretary of the Treasury whether he had given to the deposit banks power to direct what currency should, and what should not, be received for the public money, since the 30th of June, 1835, transferred, by his directions, from the four Northwestern States and the Michigan Territory to the Eastern cities, and whether further transfers were ordered. This resolution, (said Mr. E.) after long delay, drew forth two answers, in all occupying between twenty and thirty printed pages—a mass of paper, which it is impossible to read, and most of those persons can have the patience to read it, and most of those who do will rise from the perusal without deriving any certain or definite notion of the meaning of the Secretary, and with few facts distinctly impressed upon the mind.

This, however, I presume, rather the misfortune than the fault of the Secretary, is very much in character with all his State papers; and he explains upon the present occasion, in the world, until he has exhausted them. Even his figures, in his financial tables, are repeated and involved until they become nearly unintelligible.

I have examined these reports with great care, and I am still at a loss to say whether the direct inquiries put to him by the Senate have, in one part or another of his report, or in all together, received an answer. If they have, those answers are so long, and so involved, and so mixed with much trash, that it costs more time to read them, than it is as if he had owed an ounce of gold, and should pay it by delivering a wagon load of sand, containing the ounce of gold distributed through it in dust.

But I have gone through the labor (from which God preserve my friends) of reading and examining this report, and I find that its tendency, in one most important particular, is to produce a false impression upon the ordinary reading, was in fact deceived by it. Hence this resolution, which I have offered, to get, if possible, something in plain and direct language, such as sums and dates, which will set the matter right.

It will be recollected that a circular of the Clinton Bank of Columbus, one of the deposit banks in Ohio, gave rise to a former resolution of the Senate. The regular information of the other banks in Ohio, and of those which were to be received in payment for public land, except such as would agree to redeem them by drafts on some of the Atlantic cities, at thirty days' date; and giving as a reason for such a basis regulation, that nearly all the public money which they received had necessarily to be transmitted there.

This reason for the inquiry was fully developed in the regular information of the Secretary, whether this constant drain of our Western funds was in fact going on; whether the public money was, as fast as it was paid in for lands, transmitted by order of the Treasury to the Eastern cities. The resolution further directs him to state to and from what banks such transfers have been made.

In answer to this, the Secretary says, in his second report, pages 1 and 2:

All the transfers of public money, from the 30th June, 1835, to the 23d April, 1836, derived from every source, and made from the Western States specified, to any cities east of the Alleghany mountains, have been as follows: From Ohio, deducting the amount there within the period named, by previous transfers from Indiana and the agency in Missouri, only \$145,000; from Ohio, deducting the amount there within the period named, by previous transfers from the Commercial Bank of Cincinnati and its agency at St. Louis, and thence to Eastern cities, \$80. From Illinois, except the deposits of that State made in St. Louis, Indiana, and Michigan, and including the transfers from the Commercial Bank of Cincinnati, and the agency of that State at St. Louis, \$1,015,000. From Missouri, deducting the amount there within the period named, by previous transfers from the Commercial Bank of Cincinnati, \$80. From Illinois, Missouri, and Indiana, through deposits in the City of the Commercial Bank, and transfers thence directly to the Eastern cities, \$200,000; and circuitously from those three States to Ohio, and thence East, about \$1,015,000. From Ohio, deducting the amount there within the period named, by previous transfers from the Commercial Bank of Cincinnati, \$80,000; and from Illinois about \$845,000.

From Michigan, all deposited there, from all quarters, the sum of \$2,050,000.

The aggregate amounting to \$3,865,000, constitute the aggregate of the transfers from all the Western and Northwestern States and the Territory named in the resolution, to any part of the East, whether consisting of money received there for lands, customs, duties, etc., miscellaneous sources, or money which had, before the 30th June, 1835, been transferred from the West to the West and Northwest, for public expenditure; but was still remaining on hand.

And again, in page 3, he says:

"The probability therefore is, that, from June, 1835, to the 23d of April, 1836, the whole amount of transfers of money collected for sales of land alone, and made from Ohio to the east of the Alleghany mountains, deducting the amount transmitted there by transfers from elsewhere, has been little or nothing; as the amount of transfers thence of money received from all sources, and beyond what has been transferred to Ohio during the same period, was only \$145,000. This equals about 1-25th part of the amount which, during that period, has been received from the

sales of land in Ohio, and still leaves in that State over one million of dollars of public deposits, and in her banks, including the agency, about two and a half millions of dollars of those deposits.

And in page 11 he gives the banks from and to which the transfers have been made, without specifying amounts. Thus:

- From the Commercial Bank at Cincinnati, and its Agency at St. Louis;
- Clinton Bank, at Columbus;
- Bank of Michigan, and the Farmers' & Mechanics' Bank, at Detroit;
- Bank of Ohio, at Cincinnati;
- And to the Union and Franklin Banks, at Baltimore;
- Girard Bank, and Moysamensing Bank, at Philadelphia;
- Bank of America, at New York;
- Bank of the City, at New York;
- Mechanics' Bank, at New York.

Now, sir, I ask you what you would understand from this? Would you understand that nearly the whole amount paid into the Clinton Bank at Columbus, which was the principal subject of inquiry, had been transmitted, or was under orders of transmission, to the favored banks in the Eastern cities? Would any one believe it who for a moment supposed that a fair, full, and true answer was intended to be given to the Secretary of the Treasury, at the call of the Senate? Sir, I believed the answer to be true, not only in the letter, but the spirit. When matters which were only in the Post Office some time since are not fresh in my mind, I am in the habit of thinking that our high public officers are above this very pitiful evasion, and even attempts calculated to deceive. I supposed the report of the Secretary contained the whole truth, as thinking so, I, on its being in, felt bound to do him what I supposed to be justice, and to cast the blame elsewhere, of a part, at least, of the mischiefs which were brought upon the Public. But a day or two ago I received information which led me to believe that I had been deceived by the report of the Secretary. In order to settle that matter I offered this resolution, which the Secretary of the Treasury, in his own office, and in the presence of the Secretary, read to me, and I, on its being in, felt bound to do him what I supposed to be justice, and to cast the blame elsewhere, of a part, at least, of the mischiefs which were brought upon the Public. But a day or two ago I received information which led me to believe that I had been deceived by the report of the Secretary. 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