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## TERMS.

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[BY AUTHORITY.]

ACTS PASSED AT THE SECOND SESSION OF THE FIFTEENTH CONGRESS.

AN ACT to authorize William Prout to institute a Bill in Equity before the Circuit Court for the District of Columbia against the Commissioners of the public buildings and to direct a defence therein.

Be it enacted by the Senate & House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That William Prout, of the District of Columbia, be, and he is hereby, authorized to institute a bill in equity, before the Circuit Court for the District aforesaid, against the commissioner of the public buildings, for the time being, to try his claim to recover one thousand eight hundred and sixteen dollars and sixty-six cents, and the interest thereon, which he alleges is due to him from the United States, for certain lands by them holden in the District of Columbia reserved for a marine hospital; and the attorney for the District aforesaid is hereby directed to appear and defend, in said bill, in equity in behalf of the U. States.

H. CLAY, Speaker of the House of Representatives. JAS. BARBOUR, President of the Senate, pro tempore. March 2, 1819.—Approved, JAMES MONROE.

AN ACT to enforce those provisions of the act entitled "An act to incorporate the subscribers to the Bank of the United States," which relate to the right of voting for directors and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate & House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That in all elections of directors of the Bank of the United States, hereafter to be held, under and by virtue of the "Act to incorporate the subscribers to the Bank of the United States," whenever any person shall offer to the judges of such election more than thirty votes in the whole, including those offered in his own right, and those offered by him as attorney, proxy, or agent, for any others, the said judges of the elections, or any one of them, are hereby authorized and required to administer to the said person, so offering to vote, the following oath or affirmation, viz.

I, —, do solemnly swear, (or affirm, as the case may be,) that I have no interest, directly or indirectly, in the shares upon which I shall vote at this election, as attorney, for others; that those shares are, to the best of my knowledge and belief, truly and in good faith, owned by the persons in whose names they now stand; and that, in voting at this election, I shall not in any manner violate the first fundamental article of the "Act to incorporate the subscribers to the Bank of the United States." And the said judges of elections, or any one of them, shall be authorized and empowered, in their discretion, or at the instance of any stockholder of the bank, to administer the said oath or affirmation to any person offering to vote at any such election.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That no person shall be entitled to vote at any such election, as attorney, proxy, or agent, for any other per-

son, copartnership, or body politic, without a power for that purpose being duly executed, in the presence of a witness, and filed in the bank, and on which power shall be endorsed the oath or affirmation of the person, or one of the copartners, or of the head, or some one of the officers of the body politic granting such power, in the words following: "I, —, do solemnly swear, (or affirm, as the case may be,) that I am (or that the copartner, hip consisting of myself and —, are, or that the corporation known by the name of —, is, (as the case may be) truly and in good faith, the owner (or owners, as the case may be) of the shares in the capital stock of the bank of the United States, specified in the within power of attorney, and of no other shares, that no other person has any interest in the said shares, directly or indirectly, except as stated in the said power; and that no other power has been given to any person, which is now in force, to vote for me (or for the copartnership aforesaid, or for the body politic aforesaid, as the case may be) at any election of directors of the said bank;" which oath or affirmation may be taken before a notary public, judge or justice of the peace, and shall be certified by him.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That if the judges of any election of directors, to be held as aforesaid, shall permit any person to give more than thirty votes in the whole, at any such election, without the said person's having taken the aforesaid oath or affirmation, or shall suffer any person whatever to vote as attorney, agent, or proxy, for any other person, or for any copartnership, or body politic, without a power for that purpose, as prescribed in the foregoing section, with the oath or affirmation and certificate aforesaid; such of the said judges as shall consent thereto shall severally be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and, on due conviction thereof, shall be subject to a fine not exceeding two thousand dollars, or to imprisonment not exceeding one year, at the discretion of the court before which such conviction shall be had. And if any person shall wilfully and absolutely swear or affirm falsely, in taking any oath or affirmation prescribed by this act, such person so offending, shall, upon due conviction thereof, be subject to the pains and penalties which are by law prescribed for the punishment of wilful and corrupt perjury.

Sec. 4. And be it further enacted, That if any person shall, directly or indirectly, give any sum, or sums of money, or any other bribe, present, or reward, or any promise, contract, obligation, or security, for the payment or delivery of any money, present, or reward, or any thing to obtain or procure the opinion, vote, or interest, of the president of the Bank of the United States, or either of the directors thereof, or the president or a director of either of the branches of the said bank, in any election, question, matter, or thing, which shall come before the said president and directors for decision, in relation to the interest and management of the business of the said bank, and shall be thereof convicted; such person or persons, so giving, promising, or securing, to be given, paid, or delivered, any sum or sums of money, present, reward, or other bribe, as aforesaid; and the president or director who shall in any wise, accept or receive the same, on conviction thereof, shall be fined and imprisoned at the discretion of the court, and shall forever be disqualified to hold any office of trust or profit under the said corporation, and shall, also, forever be disqualified to hold any office of honor, trust, or profit, under the United States.

H. CLAY, Speaker of the House of Representatives. JAS. BARBOUR, President of the Senate, pro tempore. March 3, 1819.—Approved, JAMES MONROE.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

Extract from Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine, for Feb. 1819.

Account of an AUTOMATON CHESS-PLAYER, now exhibited at No. 4, Spring Garden, London.

The inventor, or rather, it should be said, the father, of this creature, was WOLFGANG DE KEMPELIN, a Hungarian gentleman, aulic counsellor to the royal chamber of the domains of the Emperor in Hungary. Being at Vienna in the year 1769, he offered to the Empress Maria Theresa, to construct a piece of mechanism more unaccountable than any she had previously witnessed; and accordingly, within six months, the Automaton Chess-Player was presented at Court, where his extraordinary mental powers excited the liveliest astonishment. M. de Kempelen, some years afterwards, publicly exhibited him (for we shall not degrade a man of genius by the application of a vile neuter,) in Germany, and other countries.—In the year 1785, M. de Kempelen visited England, and at his death, in 1803, this worthy Automaton became the property of that gentleman's son, who may be distinguished from his incomprehensible brother by the term "filipus carnalis," and by whom (notwithstanding the apparent violation of the free spirit of our laws, and of nature herself,) he was sold to the present exhibitor, a person, it is said of great ability in the science of mechanics.

The room where it is at present exhibited has an inner apartment, within which appears the figure of a Turk, as large as life, dressed after the Turkish fashion, sitting behind a chest of three feet and a half in length, two feet in breadth, and two feet and a half in height, to which it is attached by the wooden seat on which it sits. The chest is placed on four casters, and, together with the figure, may be easily moved to any part of the room. On the plain surface formed by the top of the chest, in the centre, is a raised immoveable chess-board, of handsome dimensions, upon which the figure has its eyes fixed; its right arm and hand being extended on the chest, and its left arm somewhat raised, as if in the attitude of holding a Turkish pipe, which originally was placed in its hand.

The exhibitor begins by wheeling the chest to the entrance of the apartment, within which it stands, and in face of the spectators. He then opens certain doors contrived in the chest, two in front, and two in the back, at the same time pulling out a long shallow drawer at the bottom of the chest, made to contain the chess men, a cushion for the arm of the figure to rest upon, and some counters. Two lesser doors, and a green cloth screen, contrived in the body of the figure, and in its lower parts, are likewise opened, and the Turkish robe which covers them is raised; so that the construction, both of the figure and chest internally is displayed. In this state, the Automaton is moved round for the examination of the spectators—and, to banish all suspicion from the most sceptical mind that any living subject is concealed within any part of it, the exhibitor introduces a lighted candle into the body of the chest and figure, by which the interior of each is in a great measure rendered transparent, and the most secret corner is shown. Here it may be observed that the same precaution to remove suspicion is used, if requested, at the close as at the commencement of a game of chess with the Automaton.

After a move made by its antagonist, the Automaton remains for a few moments only inactive, as if meditating its next move; upon which the motions of the left arm and hand follow. On giving check to the king, it moves its head as a signal. When a false move is made, by its antagonist, which frequently occurs, through curiosity to observe in what manner the Automaton will act, as for instance, if a knight be

made to move like a castle, the Automaton taps impatiently on the chest, with its right hand, replaces the knight on its former square, and, not permitting its antagonist to recover his move, proceeds immediately to move one of its own pieces; thus appearing to punish him for his inattention. The little advantage in play which is hereby gained, makes the Automaton more a match for its antagonist, and seems to have been contemplated by its inventor as an additional resource towards winning the game.

It is of importance that the person matched against the Automaton should be attentive in moving a piece, to place it precisely in the centre of its square; otherwise the figure, in attempting to lay hold of the piece, may ruin its hold, or even sustain some injury in the delicate mechanism of the fingers. When the person has made a move, no alteration in it can take place; and if a piece be touched, it must be played somewhere. This rule is strictly observed by the Automaton. If its antagonist hesitates to move for a considerable time, it taps smartly on the top of the chest with the right hand, which is constantly extended upon it, as if testifying impatience at his delay.

During the time that the Automaton is in motion, a low sound of clock-work running down, is heard, which ceases soon after the arm returns to the cushion; and then its antagonist may make his move. The works are wound up at intervals, after ten or twelve moves, by the exhibitor, who is usually employed in walking up and down the apartment in which the Automaton is shown, approaching, however, the chest from time to time, especially on its right side.

At the conclusion of the exhibition of the Automaton, on the removal of the chess-men from the board, one of the spectators, indiscriminately, is requested to place a knight upon any square of the board at pleasure. The Automaton immediately takes up the knight, and, beginning from that square, it moves the piece, according to its proper motion, so as to touch each of the sixty-three squares of the chess-board in turn, without missing one, or returning to the same square. The square from which the knight proceeds, is marked by a white counter, and the squares successively touched by red counters, which at length occupy all the other squares of the board.

The chest is divided by a partition into two unequal chambers. That to the right of the figure is the narrowest, and occupies scarcely one third of the body of the chest. It is filled with little wheels, levers, cylinders, and other machinery used in clock work. That to the left contains a few wheels, some small barrels with springs, and two quarters of a circle placed horizontally. The body and lower parts of the figure contain tubes, which seem to be conductors to the machinery. After a sufficient time, during which each spectator may satisfy his scruples and his curiosity, the exhibitor recloses the door of the chest and figure, and the drawer at the bottom; makes some arrangements in the body of the figure, winds up the works with a key inserted into a small opening on the side of the chest, places a cushion under the left arm of the figure, which now rests upon it, and invites any individual present to play a game of a chess.

At one and three o'clock in the afternoon, the Automaton plays only ends of games, with any person who may be present. On these occasions, the pieces are placed on the board, according to a preconcerted arrangement; and the Automaton invariably wins the game. But at eight o'clock every evening, it plays an entire game against any antagonist who may offer himself, and generally is the winner, although the inventor had not this issue in view as a necessary event.

In playing a game, the Automaton makes choice of the white pieces, and always has the first move. These are small advantages towards winning the game, which are cheerfully conceded.—It plays with the left hand, the right arm and hand being constantly extended on the chest, behind which it is seated. His slight incongruity proceeded from absence of mind in the inventor, who did not perceive his mistake till the mechanical Automaton was too far completed to admit of the mistake being rectified. At the commencement of the game, the Automaton moves its head, as if taking a view of the board; the same motion occurs at the close of the game. In making a move, it slowly, raises its left arm from the cushion placed under it, and directs it towards the square of the piece to be moved. Its hand and fingers open on touching the piece, which it takes up and conveys to any proposed square. The arm then returns with natural motion to the cushion upon which it usually rests. In taking a piece, the Automaton makes the same motions of the arm and hand to lay hold of the piece, which it conveys from the board; then returning to its own piece, it takes up and places it on the vacant square. These motions are performed with perfect correctness; and the dexterity with which the arm acts, especially in the delicate operation of casting, seems to be the result of spontaneous feeling, bending at the shoulder, elbow and knuckles, and cautiously avoiding to touch any other piece than that which is to be moved, nor ever making a false move.

## A GIANT.

Mr. William Dowst, who lately died in this town, was man of uncommon size and strength. The following instances will prove his great degree of strength. He was on board of a privateer, last war, which got among the breakers off Cape Breton when it became necessary to cast anchor, but there being none upon deck, as many hands had hold of one which was in the hold as could get at it. Dowst pushed them aside, seized it himself, bro't it upon deck, carried it forward, and held it upon the timber heads while a cable was bent to it, when he threw it over, and saved the vessel and lives of the crew, as they were then upon the point of dashing upon the rocks. The anchor weighed 7 hundred weight. At another time, 8 or 10 hands were sent to Becker's ship yard from the well known privateer Grand Turk, to bring up a fore yard for the ship. Dowst was among them, but, naturally dilatory, he did not at first take hold: the others struggled it, but began to stagger under it, and complained they were not strong enough to carry it; Dowst, laughing at them, told them he could carry it alone; on which they throw it down and he took it up and carried it to the ship without assistance. At another time when he attended the fish flakes at Winmill Point, he was directed by his employer to go for a jackass which was in an adjoining field; when he got him to the partition fence, being in rather a lazy mood, to save himself the trouble of letting down the bars, he took the beast and lifted him over and then got upon his back and rode him to the place where he was to be employed.—He once raised from the ground the anchor of the prize ship Rockhampton, that weighed 1700, and which four men immediately before had endeavoured in vain to lift, upon a bet. Being at Bibba, last war, in a privateer, an English vessel came in, which had in its crew a professed bully, who was challenging every one to combat, and hearing of Dowst, sent a particular challenge to him: they met and the Englishman, who was superior to our Sampson in the art of boxing, knocked him down three times and the last time twisted his fingers into his hair, to gouge him when Dowst gave him a blow upon his