

NORTH CAROLINA SENTINEL.

UNION OUR WATCHWORD... TRUTH OUR GUIDE.

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POLITICAL.

From the Correspondent of the Baltimore Republican. WASHINGTON, July 9th, 1829.

SIR:—I proceed to detail to you other cases relating to the Navy Hospital and Navy Pension Funds, committed during the late Administration. The Commissioners of the Navy Hospital Fund, Messrs. Southard, Barbour, and Bush, on the 7th of November, 1825, appointed Mr. Thomas Fillebrown, Secretary. Mr. Fillebrown was then receiving a salary of \$1,000 as clerk in the Navy Department, and the Commissioners agreed to allow him as their Secretary, another salary of \$250, to be paid out of the Hospital Fund. Mr. Fillebrown had been in office six months, and had become entitled to \$125 as salary, when Mr. Southard wrote to him the following letter:

“NAVY DEPARTMENT, 22d May, 1826. SIR:—In consequence of the duties performed by you as Secretary to the Commissioners of Navy Hospitals, you may consider your appointment as antedated six months, and draw a warrant for your salary for that period. I am, sir, respectfully, &c. SAMUEL L. SOUTHARD.”

Thos. Fillebrown, Secretary, &c. In pursuance of this letter, Mr. Fillebrown did take another \$125 out of this sacred charity fund, and put it into his own pocket, thus drawing a year's salary, when he had been in office only six months!

I would ask the American people to look at the principle involved in this transaction. Mr. Southard had no authority to give Mr. Fillebrown money, even for actual services out of this fund. To do that, requires the concurrence of a majority of the Commissioners.—He could not raise Mr. Fillebrown's salary. That too, must be done by the Commissioners. But he tells him to antedate his appointment, and thus draw a year's salary, when only six months was due! As the money was wholly under the control of Southard and Fillebrown, that they could do. Was not this plundering the fund? What name does it deserve? What would the people think, were President Jackson to say to his four Secretaries, “you may consider your appointments as antedated six months, and draw warrants for your salaries for that period,” thus giving them \$3,000 a piece as salary before they came into office?

Mr. Fillebrown continued to discharge the duties as Secretary to the Commissioners, until after the late change in the Administration, and received therefor his regular salary of \$250 per year. All the writing and all the business done by him on account of the Hospital Fund, a good clerk could have done in one month. For every thing which he did, the salary of \$250 was a most liberal compensation; yet has he pocketed a much larger sum, without color or authority, under the name of “commissions.” Upon every balance of his account, from the time he came into office, he charged one per cent on the amount of his disbursements; but this claim was never admitted by the Commissioners, or even laid before them. The very evidence which Mr. Fillebrown produces to justify his charge, establishes this fact. It is the following letter from Mr. Southard:

“NAVY DEPARTMENT, March 2d, 1829. SIR:—It was my intention before I left the Department, to have submitted to the consideration of the other Commissioners of the Navy Hospital Fund, your claim and account for compensation, for attending to the disbursements of the money of the fund which has passed through your hands, since your appointment as Secretary. I consider the claim as perfectly just, and do not doubt a fit compensation would have been made, could the question have been submitted to the board.—Neither the responsibility nor the labor are embraced in your duties as Secretary; and if any other person had been appointed to perform them, an allowance must necessarily have been made to him. I do not doubt, when the Commissioners shall understand the merits of the claim that no hesitation will be felt on the subject. Nothing but my severe and protracted indisposition, during the whole winter, has heretofore prevented its adjustment. I am, sir, &c. SAMUEL L. SOUTHARD, Esq. Secretary, &c.”

It was not at all surprising, that Mr. Southard, who had enabled Mr. Fillebrown to draw six months antedated salary, “in consideration of duties performed,” should think also that he was entitled to a commission, “in consideration,” at least in part, of the same duties. But it is a little surprising, that Mr. Fillebrown, upon the authority of a letter, which conclusively shews, that his account had not been allowed, should have the presumption to put into his own pocket upwards of \$2000 of this sacred fund!

On the very day that letter was dated, he drew \$910 17, the last cent of that fund, not, as it now appears, for the purpose of providing a shelter and a home for the poor sailor, out of whose hard earnings it had been exacted, but for the purpose of applying it to his own use. No part of this \$910 has been paid out for the benefit of Hospitals to this day.

On that day, also, Mr. Fillebrown seems to have taken a general retrospect of his acts in relation to this Fund. He made out and entered a general account with the Fund, from the time he came into office, which varies in many respects from the particular accounts he had previously entered in other parts of his book. On footing this account, it appeared that he had drawn of monies belonging to this Fund \$209,866 82, and had disbursed, including his own salary, \$207,848 48, leaving a balance in his hands of \$2007 84. With this sum he credits himself in the following words: “Commission, 1 per cent on the amount disbursed, \$2007 84.”

It will be perceived that one per cent. on the amount disbursed, would have been \$2078 48. Mr. Fillebrown's charge is not, therefore, ‘one per cent on the amount disbursed, but \$70 64 less. He gives the item a false name. To have told the truth, his credit should have been in these words: “Be just enough to balance the account, \$2007 84.”

Is not this an easy way to get money? Already largely in debt to the Fund, Mr. Fillebrown draws \$910 17 more in actual Cash, and then with a dash of the pen, pays the debt and squares the account!

Had I done this, I am sure the poor sailors, with their one leg and one arm, their crutches, scars, grey hairs, wrinkles, tears and groans, would haunt me in my sleep, and reproach me with being worse than the plunderer of the dead. The tenant of the grave does not feel the privation, if you rob him of his winding sheet; but Mr. Fillebrown takes from the old crippled soldier the pittance which he has laid up to make the last days of his life comfortable. In one hour, he sweeps away more than the usual stoppage of the sailor's pay, would replace in eighty years! He applies to his own use, more than the whole contributions of four sailors to this fund for twenty years! Was the man in poverty or in want who did this? No; he was receiving from his government a salary of \$1000 per year. Was he rendering important services to the poor sailors? For services rendered them, he was paid \$250 per year, which was more than they were worth. His two salaries yielded him \$1250 per year. Not content with that, he takes \$2007 from this charity fund at one fell swoop, making his average emoluments since he became Secretary of that Fund, including his antedated salary, about \$1800 per year.

It gratifies me to say, that the government have sued Fillebrown for this money, and I trust, if he can feel nothing else, he will feel the gripe of the law. I now turn to the Navy Pension Fund: this fund, I believe, is made up of the money received from the sales of prizes on the part of the government, and the interest of it is devoted to the relief of those who have suffered in the naval service, their widows and children. Its management is vested in the same Commissioners who have charge of the Hospital Fund; but in this business they had another Secretary at \$250 salary. This was Charles Hay, late Chief Clerk of the Navy Department, in which capacity, he received a salary of \$2000 per year.

I have had little opportunity to make myself acquainted with the abuses practised in the management of this Fund, and shall at present confine myself to a single case. The moneys of the Fund are vested in Stocks yielding an interest. A large amount has been vested in United States Stocks, which the government is rapidly paying off. On the 1st July, 1828, the government paid off stocks held by the Commissioners, to the amount of \$281,384 72, and on the 1st January last, \$246,257 27 more. None of this, so far as I can learn, was re-invested in other stocks, until February last, but was suffered to lay dead in the Treasury. About the latter date, Mr. Hay purchased 4 1/2 per cent stocks to the amount of 473,501 15, for which he gave \$468,766 15, and also \$59,472 40 of Washington Corporation, 5 per cent stocks.—It is possible this whole operation may have employed him two or three hours. For this service, he charged and received the moderate sum of one half per cent, amounting to TWO THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED AND FORTY ONE DOLLARS. For that and previous services of like character, his whole commissions received amount to THREE THOUSAND, THREE HUNDRED SEVENTY SIX DOLLARS AND THIRTY TWO CENTS.

The charge for a commission on the late re-investment of stock, was the more outrageous, because \$281,384 had been suffered to lay in the Treasury wholly unemployed, from July 1st, 1828, to Feb. 1829.—Six months interest on that sum was wholly lost, by the inexcusable neglect, which at five per cent, would amount to \$7,034 62. Add this to Mr. Hay's commission, and it will be seen, that this benevolent Fund lost by neglect and speculation, during the last eight months of the late most careful, pure and virtuous administration, little less than ten thousand dollars.

Mr. Hay was doing a good business during the last year. His salary as Chief Clerk was \$2000; as secretary to the Commissioners \$250, to which add \$2641 commission, and you have the sum of \$4891 in one year! But I believe this proscripting administration who reduced Mr. Hay to a beggary, by removing him from office, had the cruelty to sue him for the purpose of recovering back this commission.

Seriously, all honest men, I care not of what party must applaud an administration which dares to hurl such men from office, and attempt to recover from them the sums which they have plundered, not from the people only, but from the poorest of the people, the crippled sailor, the heart-broken widow, and the fatherless child. What are all the glories of our country worth, if we suffer the charity funds which have been raised to relieve the tar who has been disabled in service, or make comfortable the wife and children of him who has fallen in the bloody conflict, to become the prey of avarice and speculation? Honor blishes and humanity weeps at the foul blot which the last few years has cast on our national escutcheon.

Extract of a letter to the U. S. Gazette, dated.

“WASHINGTON, July 17, 1829. “The evidence in the case of Dr. Watkins closed yesterday. Two letters were offered by the counsel for the United States, which gave to the case a very adverse aspect for the accused. One of them was a letter of explanations which Dr. Watkins wrote to Mr. Harris, the Navy Agent at Boston, and in which he attempted to shew that all his drafts upon Harris and Paulding were drawn, with the knowledge and approbation of Mr. Southard, and that the money thus raised was to be applied to some particular items of navy expenditure, for which appropriations had not been granted. As soon as Dr. Watkins was arrested in Philadelphia, it appears that he enclosed a copy of those explanations, in a letter to Mr. Southard, addressed to him at Trenton; but Watkins having met with a friend of Mr. Southard's on board the steam boat, and learning that Mr. S. was then in Philadelphia, sent to him a request that he would take this letter out of the Post Office. Mr. Southard did so, and instantly, (for although Watkins had put no signature to his letter, the hand writing was well known to Mr. Southard) wrote a reply to it.—The letter to Mr. Southard indicates a mind, the clear perceptions of which were injured by the uncontrollable agony under which Dr. Watkins was suffering. Had he been in full possession of himself he would never have applied, as he did in that letter, to Mr. Southard, to confirm the explanations which he had made to Harris, and thus to implicate himself, gratuitously and falsely, in the double crime of a connivance in the fraud, and also in the deeper crime of perjury. The letter indicates an intellect shaken by the first shock occasioned by his arrest, and his whole thoughts seem to be crossed by his wife and children, whose distress fancy painted to him with the pencil of truth. Mr. Southard replied, that it gave him regret that he could not confirm the explanations which Dr. Watkins had made. He expressed his regret that he should have placed himself in such a glaring situation, and ignorant as he was of the precise character of the allegations against him, Mr. Southard said it was out of his power to say more than that, when called upon to give testimony, he should give it with a strict regard to truth, as far as his recollection would permit him.

The whole of Mr. Southard's conduct has been manly and highly honorable. His emotion in reading the letter which he had delivered up, by order of the court, was extreme. He felt that the fate of the accused was in his hands, and that it was a cruel, but unavoidable duty, which compelled him to sacrifice the man he once esteemed. Before he could finish the letter, a gush of tears choked his utterance; Judge Cranch kindly took the letter from him, and finished it, and Mr. Southard sinking into his chair gave way for a few moments to feelings honorable to him, and which gained him honor from all. The case closed here. The following are the letters spoken of above.

BOSTON, 27th April, 1829. Dear Sir:—The effort which is making at Washington by the 4th Auditor to blast my reputation is ingeniously contrived, and will for a time perhaps produce the effect designed; but I have no fear of being ultimately enabled to free myself from every imputation, and to throw back upon Mr. Kendall the infamy which he has endeavored to fix upon me. The transaction to which his malignity has chosen to give so black a coloring, and is susceptible of such proof of innocence as will not fail to strike conviction on the minds of all who are not determined, like Mr. Kendall, to ruin the character of every man whom it has pleased the new President to dismiss from office. Sometime in the year 1827 it was thought expedient and necessary by the Secretary of the Navy to authorize certain expenditures for the service, for which there was no specific appropriation. To promote this object it became necessary to make advances at various times, to the amount of \$4050, which instead of being made in the usual form of Requisition directly from the Department, were made by me in drafts on yourself and the Navy Agent at New York and charged to an Appropriation which it was supposed could best bear the expenditure until a regular transfer could be made. The funds to meet my drafts were remitted to you directly by the Secretary out of arrears. No account was opened against the individual to whom these advances were made, because it was deemed best to wait

until his accounts were finally rendered. This was not done until some time during the last winter, the moment the account came into my hands it was referred to the Secretary of the Navy, as without his approval and sanction, I had no authority to allow the expenditure. During the progress of these advances, as your accounts and those of Mr. Paulding came into the office for quarterly settlement, my drafts, unapproved as they were, by the Secretary of the Navy, could not immediately be passed to your credit, and the examining clerk was directed to suspend these items, and refer the vouchers to the Secretary. This was done in every instance, and the vouchers for the whole amount are now in the hands of the late Secretary of the Navy, who delayed his sanction until it could be affixed to the final account. This last, as I have said, was not presented until January, and was then immediately referred by me to the Secretary. His long illness and inability to attend to business prevented it from being acted upon, and the whole affair, unconscious as I was of impropriety, escaped my recollection until the 19th of March, when I learned I was to be removed from office. It then for the first time occurred to me, that the transaction might be so misrepresented and discolored as to affect my character, unless explained to Mr. Paulding and yourself, the only two agents upon whom my drafts had been made, and I immediately wrote to both of you a full exposition of the reasons for suspending those items in your accounts. You tell me you have not received my letter; the same fate has attended all my letters, which I wrote and left as usual to the care of the Messenger of the office, on the 19th, 20th and 21st March. Not only did none of my letters reach their destination but no letters have been received by me through the office since the first mentioned date. The inference is irresistible, that from the moment it was decided to remove me from office it was also decided to adopt all means that vindictive malice could invent to injure my character, and Mr. Kendall has not scrupled to detain my private correspondence, with the hope no doubt of finding something in that upon which to build his imputations.

That he has found his Clerks ready to pay court to their new master, by aiding him in his work of detraction, is but too apparent from the fact which you state to me of the erasures and mutilations in your accounts. He may triumph in the success of his villainies for a time, but if God spare my life, he shall ere long be made to feel the full force of the recoil of his blow upon himself. As far as relates to yourself in this transaction, your official conduct is unimpeachable, you did nothing but by official authority, which you could not dispute; the evidence of that official authority is probably by this time in the hands of the Fourth Auditor, who can have no plea to withhold from you credit for the sums paid on my order.

Do me the justice to believe that no erasures or mutilations of the accounts were made by me; and with regard to the Reconcilements, these have been ever since I entered that office trusted to the examining clerks themselves, who wrote their own letters, and forwarded them to the different Agents. If none have been received therefore, the failure is in no instance chargeable to me. I am, Dear Sir, most respectfully your obedient servant, (Signed) T. WATKINS. Richard D. Harris, Esq. Navy Agent, Boston.

The following is the letter to Mr. Southard after his arrest.

PHILADELPHIA, May 1, 1829. On you and perhaps on you alone, my worthy and honored Sir, depends the future peace or lasting misery of an innocent, excellent wife and ten children.—Their husband and father appeals to your mercy to save, not himself, but them from shame and contumely. Driven to desperation at times, and the embarrassments in which his long and ardent political warfare involved him, every other source exhausted, he resorted to his official authority to raise funds, which he most firmly believed at the time would result in no loss either to the public or to individuals. Fate has decreed it otherwise. And those against whom he fought and against whom he would willingly have lost every drop of his blood, have triumphed, and now trample upon the enemy whom more than all others, they hated and feared. He is here in the hands of the Marshal of Pennsylvania on a criminal charge—he was on his way to Washington where his family are anxiously, tremblingly expecting him.

The enclosed paper will show how you may save that family from wretchedness and degradation. It is the copy of the explanation forced from him at Boston and addressed to Mr. Harris the Agent. He forthwith sent a copy of it to the 4th Auditor, who will receive it by this day's mail. Contradict it, and the family of the wretched being whom you once honored with the name of friend, will live henceforth in ignominy and disgrace. Confirm it, and they are saved. The papers referred to were mislaid or lost during your long illness & absence from the office. O God—he can write no more—the officer is at his elbow to carry him to Washington. Write to Mrs. W. under cover to her son, W. H. W. at the Branch Bank, Washington—make her nappy, and may the all powerful so bless and prosper you.” Hon. Saml L. Southard, Trenton, N. Jersey.

We copy the following from the Boston Commercial Gazette, one of the most ably conducted journals in the country:—N. Y. Mer. Adv.

The advocates of the present “detestable” tariff, still insist that the existing low prices of dry goods, in the home market, is owing to the redundancy of American manufactures. In some articles in which we are conversant and competent to give an opinion, we have asserted, that the depreciation in the price of carpeting, was experienced in Great Britain, to nearly one half of its value; before a single piece was made in this country. In evidence of the position assumed by us, and to controvert the ground taken by “plain truth” in this enquiry, why kiddyminster carpetings, a few years since were sold at \$1 75 to \$2 per yard; a highly respectable importing house, has furnished us with the following data from which we made our deductions in our first number on this subject:

In August, 1815, superfine carpetings were charged in England at 4s 4d stg; fine at 4s 4d stg. 1816, Feb.—supers at 5s 1d; fines at 4s 1d. 1824, Jan.—supers at 3s 4d; fines at 2s 5d. 1828 Jan.—supers at 3s; fines at 2s.

It thus appears that kiddyminster carpeting, which sold at the period alluded to by plain truth at \$2 per yard, cost 4s 4d stg; while at this moment, the same article could be purchased at 3s or 2s 4d less per yard, than it was held at in 1816. It also appears that in the year '24, carpeting had fallen in Europe from 5s 4d to 3s 4d stg, making a difference of 43 cents per yard, and this, too, before a piece of similar description was manufactured in this country. We acknowledge ourselves much indebted to the gentlemen, who so obligingly furnished us with the detail above; from information of this nature, facts are elicited, that cannot be controverted. The American nation will one day learn, that political economy consists in buying as cheap and selling as dear as we can. To test this point, we offer to bring into the market a superior article in carpeting, at 44 cts. per yard, which the people of these states now pay 95 cents or \$1 for. What prevents our doing so, or supplying the poor in this country, at one half their present value, in the comfortable articles of flannel, carpeting, woollens, worsted stuffs, &c.? How can we answer this question, but by exclaiming, the detestable tariff! This many-headed monster, comes in and demands forty cents per yard on carpeting, which only costs forty-four cents without charges. Thus taxing the people ninety eight per cent. to sustain an aristocracy, compounded from a manufacturing interest. How can modern restrictionists reconcile their present political course to their consciences, when compared with their conduct during the dark days of the embargo, and non intercourse acts? At this period prohibition laws were pronounced unconstitutional, and the muscle and bone of the country were placed in hostile array against its constituted authorities, who would now place manacles and chains upon us, then took the popular side. Their interest led them to do so, and they were among the warmest advocates in our political ranks for free trade and sailor's rights. How sordid, contracted and changed are now their features of patriotism! Embargo laws, non-intercourse, prohibition, a vile tariff and high protecting duties, amounting to a direct tax on the resources of the people, are now advocated by the former sons of freedom! The principles of our forefathers are prostrated, and the declaration in our magna-charta, that all men are born free and equal, is levelled with the dust. The present tariff law protects the interest of one class of citizens, while it impoverishes and prostrates that of another. It grants a monopoly in a republic. It arrays the south against the north—the east against the west; and promotes disunion and discontent among us. Its fallacy is attempted to be converted under the glory of national banners, by calling it an “American system;” thus misleading the people to tax the nation at large, in order to build up the fortunes of a few cunning projectors.

TRUTH.

Rockingham Mineral Springs

THE Subscriber having settled himself at this place, respectfully informs the Public that he is prepared to receive Company the present season. The Establishment has undergone a thorough repair, and additional Rooms have been provided. In point of Health, pure air and the medicinal properties of the waters, this place will yield to none in the State. Every effort will be made to give satisfaction to those who may visit the Springs; and the charges will be moderate. THOMAS SCOTT. Lenox Castle, July 1st, 1829.

FIVE CENTS REWARD.

RAN AWAY from the Subscriber, in Pitt County, some time in November 1828, an Apprentice by the name of JOHN NIGHT, about 15 years of age, spare built, and light hair. I will give the above reward, (but no thanks or charges) to any person that will apprehend said boy and return him to me. JAMES STOKES. July 24, 1829.

LETTER SHEET BILLS OF LADING

For Sale by T. WATSON. July 25.