

THE LETTERS OF THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

We have heard much of a letter said to have been written by this officer, and read to the Bank Convention recently held. The friendly disposition towards the banks, and the aid it proffered to them in resuming specie payments, as the part of the Government, was a principal reason alleged by Mr. Hamer, why he did not persevere further with his resolution.

The following is the letter:

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, 9th April, 1838. Sir—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th inst. In order that you may fully understand the views and wishes entertained by this department on the subject of a resumption of specie payments by the banks, and the course to be pursued by the Treasury towards them, I herewith enclose copies of two private letters, written some weeks since in answer to inquiries similar to yours.

It is only necessary to add that the same views are still cherished, and that the notes of specie paying banks at par when offered, are now received for duties, and will undoubtedly continue to be. They are and will be paid out when acceptable to public creditors, and no accumulation of them beyond the current expenditures is anticipated at any point whatever during the present or ensuing year.

[Signed] LEVI WOODBURY, GEORGE N. BROWN, Esq., President of the Bank of America.

The letter referred to in the preceding we have heretofore published, but insert it again. It is the following:

WASHINGTON, 18th March, 1838.

Dear Sir—In reply to yours of the 14th inst. I hasten to remark, that the Treasury Department has long been anxious, as yourself and many others for the resumption of specie payments by the banks. All has been, and will be done by it which comes within its limited powers to promote, at the earliest day possible, so desirable an event.

I do not hesitate to say fully and frankly, that the impression is altogether erroneous that specie is to be purchased and hoarded by the Government. Only a few thousand dollars of it have yet been raised on Treasury notes, and none is intended to be hereafter except to the extent needed to supply the current demands on the Government. Whatever may be thus obtained or received for public dues of any kind, will be forthwith paid out again to defray the appropriations, and the settled policy of the department has been and will be to keep nothing idle in the Treasury while the power exists to issue Treasury notes to meet contingencies, and deficiencies as they may hereafter occur.

Respectfully yours, [Signed] LEVI WOODBURY, NATHAN APPELTON, Esq., Boston, Mass.

For our part, we can perceive nothing whatever, in either of the preceding letters, that manifests a disposition to abandon the subtreasury scheme, or the policy recommended in the President's message at the extra session of Congress.

In the letter of the 18th of March, the Secretary says, that all will be done by the Treasury Department to promote the resumption of specie payments by the banks "which comes within its limited powers." Now what are those powers, as expounded by the Secretary himself? In his last annual report he said, "The powers of the General Government to hasten such a resumption are circumscribed to the use of some constitutional authority, of a restrictive or penal character, such as taxation, or a bankrupt law," or "the furnishing some incidental aid in the exercise of other rights." He then says, "Beyond such incidental aid to some of the banks with which fiscal connexions may have existed, not generally equaling one-twentieth of the whole number, it is doubtful whether the General Government, however solicitous to see that object accomplished, would be able, constitutionally, to provide any special assistance in effecting it."

In the letter of the 9th of April, the "same views are still cherished," as were expressed in the former, and of course the action of the Department was to be restrained within the same "limited powers." In respect to the receipt and payment of bank notes for public collections and disbursements, the Secretary says, "they are and will be paid where acceptable to public creditors." Did the Secretary mean to say, that the Treasurer of the United States would offer no such notes to public creditors in place of giving checks on the depositors of the public money? We suspect not. That, we apprehend, would exceed his limited constitutional powers. But if an offer of bank notes was not first made to all public creditors, in payment of their dues, the spirit of the Secretary's letter would not be complied with.

In his last report, the Secretary in relation to this matter, said: "It must be manifest to all who examine the subject dispassionately, that either the possession by a few banks of the usual small amount of the public deposits, liable at any time to be recalled, or the receipt of their bills for public dues, when redeemed in specie on demand, and frequently presented for that purpose, must often be a check rather than an aid, and prove of doubtful advantage in promoting a resumption among the whole number." We confess our scepticism as to the recent professions of the Secretary contained in his letters. We repeat, what we have on more than one occasion said, the action of Congress alone can bring about a general resumption of specie payments.

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Commissioners to examine and report on claims against the United States, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading. On the 27th, the bill passed its third reading.

In the House of Representatives, on the 26th, the reports of all the divisions, (three in number,) of the Duel committee having been read, Mr. Wise, this morning, called for the reading of the evidence taken before that committee, the reading of which was ordered, and has occupied the largest portion of the day. It has proved very interesting, on many accounts, and some points have presented themselves for comment, as the reading went on. The reading was not concluded at the adjournment.

On Friday, the 27th, the House resumed the consideration of the report from the Select committee on the Duel—the question being on the motion from the committee to print the report and postpone its consideration till Monday week.

The reading of the testimony in the case, and the journal of the committee, was continued, and occupied the House till two or three o'clock without taking any question.

The House adjourned. The Senate did not sit on Saturday, the 28th of April.

The correspondent of the Baltimore Chronicle gives the following account of the proceedings of the House.

The Duel Debate.—This question (any remarks upon which I adhere to my original resolution of postponing, until the proceedings of the committee, and the action of the House thereon shall be printed,) again occupied the attention of the House, to-day. Several gentlemen addressed the House, with feeling, earnestness, and eloquence.

It does not clash with my purpose of reserving comments upon the testimony and the conduct of the committee, however, to state that, whatever may be the final course of the House upon this subject, it is pretty well demonstrated that the committee transcended their powers, very materially, in making the report they have done. As to the publication of the evidence and journal, that can do no possible harm, as it turns out. The majority's party report of that most imbecile of chairmen, Mr. Toucey of Connecticut, is the only thing that may be dreaded, as a party engine. But even this can do but little harm, if accompanied with the masterly rebuke of Stanley of N. Carolina, to day and of Adams and Sergeant, and Wise and Robertson, in former days.

Wise made a great point to-day of the fact, that this majority report is, in fact, only the report of three of the seven members of the committee—it having been altered in some respects, (as admitted by the chairman,) since Potter saw the report. Wise was extremely eloquent upon this point.

You cannot be in error in coming to the conclusion that this attempt to vote the death of Mr. Cilley as a political engine, will as signally fail in Congress, as the same attempt has failed every where else out of Congress. But more of this hereafter.

At half past three o'clock, a motion was made by Mr. Bell by permission of Mr. Menifee, to adjourn.—Mr. Menifee having the floor, and being in the midst of a speech. Ayes 76, Nays 96.

Mr. Mallory then demanded a call of the house.

Mr. Jenifer asked for the yeas and nays which were ordered. Whereupon Mr. Potts moved an adjournment, carried, 92 to 75; and so ended the attempt to force a question to-night.

In the Senate on Monday, April 30, Mr. Clay submitted the following resolution, which was read and ordered to a second reading:

"Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled, That no discrimination shall be made as to the currency or medium of payment in the several branches of the Public Revenue, or in debts or dues to the Government, and that, unless otherwise ordered by Congress, the notes of sound banks which are payable and paid on demand in legal tender of the United States, under suitable restrictions, to be forthwith prescribed and promulgated by the Secretary of the Treasury, shall be received in payment of the revenue and of debts and dues to the Government, and shall be subsequently disbursed, in a course of public expenditure, to all public creditors who are willing to receive them."

The bill to provide for the security and protection of the emigrant and other Indians West of Missouri and Arkansas, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

DUEL REPORT.

In the House of Representatives, Mr. Menifee made a most able argument against the preposterous proposition to sanction the proceedings of a committee who have presumed to put a man upon his trial without letting him know it, to receive ex parte testimony against him, and to condemn him before the world upon that evidence.

Mr. Menifee also dwelt strongly upon the fact which had come out by the admission of Mr. Toucey, in the course of the debate, namely, that this was a report, not of the majority but of three only of the committee, Mr. Potter having been absent when the report was read in committee and there discussed and amended.

As soon as Mr. Menifee had finished, Mr. Pickens of South Carolina, rose and moved to lay the whole subject on the table.

Messrs. Graves and Adams, who had been called and thrown overboard, were badly scalded, the clerk Mr. Neal slightly ditto. The body of the fireman had not been found in the latest accounts.

A dream related by Sir W. Scott.—A gentleman in Scotland was prosecuted for arrears of tithes. He had a strong conviction that his father had purchased these tithes of the lay proprietors, but after a long and fruitless search, he could discover no record of the purchase, and determined to go to Edinburgh next day and effect the best compromise he could. He went to bed and dreamed that his father appeared to him and told him that he had purchased the tithes in question; and that the papers were in the hands of Mr. A., a writer of Inverness. "Should Mr. A. have forgotten the transaction," continued the paternal shade, "you may remind him that when I came to pay his account, there was difficulty in getting change for a Portugal piece of gold, and that we were forced to drink out the balance in a tavern." Mr. R., on awaking in the morning determined to go Inverness to see Mr. A. The old writer did not at first remember the transaction, but at the mention of the Portugal piece, the whole transaction returned upon his memory—immediate search was made, and the papers found, by which Mr. R. gained his cause. Sir Walter was satisfied of the truth of this relation, but did not think that the laws of nature were suspended to save Mr. R. a sum of money. The most probable solution of the matter was, that he had heard the old gentleman tell the story some day after dinner; that the young gentleman at the time paid a dreamy attention to it, as young men will do to the old reminiscences, and that in his dream the matter had flashed upon his mind. It was evident that Mr. R. had heard something of the matter, for he said he had as strong feeling that the tithes were not due. We ought to be satisfied, then, that there was nothing miraculous in this case.

Remarkable Escape.—During the thunder storm on Saturday night the lightning struck the House of Mr. Levy, on East Bay, two doors below Market Street. The lower floor of the building is used as a Clothing store. On the same floor there were in one room twenty one persons, the family and their friends and relatives, who were burnt out by the fire the night before, and had just assembled for supper. They were all struck down by the electric fluid, and all escaped unhurt, as did five other individuals who were in the house at the time. This is probably wonderful to any person who has examined the track of the fluid, and re-crossing the rooms, and garret downwards, and tearing down, furniture, and every thing in its course. There was a fire prevented fire, and a fire in that of the city would have added much to the calamities of the night before.

Curious Scene.—Among the paragraphs, equally interesting and questionable, with which the English papers teem, we find a late one illustrative of "hope deferred." Not long since, while a marriage ceremony was in progress, a most amusing circumstance occurred, which completely put a stop to the performance at a most interesting part of it, and set the disappointed maiden and her anxious lover to two different ways, any thing but rejoicing. It seems that the young couple had gone separately to a church for the purpose of being made one. The ceremony went on well enough until the minister came to the words "with this ring I thee wed;" when the bride, essaying to take her glove off her maiden hand for the last time, could not effect it. Whether it was agitation or heat, nervousness or perspiration, the leather clung to her hand as a man ought to do, and would not part company. The bride blushed and pulled; the bridegroom (bold man!) laughed outright; so did the father; so did the mother; so did all the spectators, except the clergyman, and he exclaimed, "I did not come here to be laughed at;" and shutting the book left the ceremony half finished, the bride half married, and the glove half off. It is happily added, however, apparently for the information of all who may sympathize with the disappointed fair one, that she tried again the next day with much success. That time she went to church with gloveless hands, and the nuptial knot was tied "tight as a glove."

Phil. Gaz.

We regretted to see that the administration party in the Senate arrayed itself yesterday against the joint resolution proposed by Mr. Clay, designed to encourage the general resumption of specie payments, and to extend some degree of relief to the country. After the movement substantially to the same effect by Mr. Hamer, in the House of Representatives, (though afterwards abandoned on the express ground of coincident intimations from the Treasury Department and by the official paper)—after this movement, and the official declarations of the Secretary of the Treasury and of the Government journal, (though all put forth just before the New York election,) it was to have been supposed that the Executive had yielded to the necessities of the community, and designed so far to inter-

mit its hostility to the institutions of the country as to assist them in returning to specie payments. But, in the face of these assurances, the Administration party evinced yesterday the strongest hostility to Mr. Clay's resolution, and, as the most effectual mode of strangling it, forced its reference to the Committee of Finance, a majority of which is known to be inimical to it. How will the editor of the Richmond Enquirer, and other loyal leaders of the party, who have with so much exultation introduced the resolution—in what light will they view the movement of the Administration party in the Senate in regard to Mr. Clay's resolution? Really, paying the least regard to the Executive, as clearly indicated at the Executive election in all the States, the Administration party seem to utter contentions which are incompatible with which they are now engaged.

Wholesale Prescription.—The New York Correspondent of the National Intelligencer, in his letter of the 2nd instant, says: "The new collector yesterday morning performed a reform operation on the Custom house the like of which is unparalleled. He guillotined four of the officers under him, one slash of the axe. The operation was brought to bear principally upon Conservatives—upon men who agree in opinion with Mr. Senator Rives, Mr. Ritchie, and who, in 1834, agreed with the Globe about the Sub-Treasury. Mr. Van Buren, however, allows in New York no free-thinking. Think, he reasons here, does men mischief. The cry is 'off with their heads!'"

Halibut Fishery.—At our Fishery on Thursday last 840 Rock Fish were caught in the seine at one haul, to the no little delight of the fishermen. This is the greatest haul we have known made here for many years.—Hal Ad

COMMUNICATION.

FOR THE STAR.

AN IMPORTANT PLACE TO NORTH CAROLINA.

Mr. Editor: I cannot describe the pleasure I have realized on visiting the town of Beaufort. The objections I have heretofore maintained to its becoming the mart of this State, have vanished like mist before the rising sun. One which I deemed of a most formidable character, is esteemed by mariners as a real advantage. I allude to the capes. They are regarded as the natural bulwarks of the State, effectually preventing a regular blockade in time of war, are not as dangerous as those of Philadelphia or the coast of Charleston, and can be easily avoided by an experienced navigator. From additional information received, I am inclined fully to concur in opinion with Dr. Caldwell, that this place is destined to rise to considerable importance. In a recent report made by Lieut. Colonel Kearney, he states that it "deserves to be made the principal inlet to the sounds of N. Carolina." An appropriation has accordingly been requested for deepening Core Sound, the channel of communication between Beaufort and Newbern, Washington, Edenton and other towns near the sounds of Pamlico and Albemarle. From the books of the Treasury Department it appears that its revenue in 1833, during the year, was \$105,214 00. To it, is now directed the attention of various persons in the adjoining States, and of many of our enterprising friends of the North. An intelligent gentleman of Tennessee, in his correspondence with one of the citizens of Beaufort thinks that it ought to be made the "outlet of many of the Western States, and that it would then ultimately rival even New York." A few days since, I witnessed the arrival of the ship Napoleon, of nearly 600 tons burthen, formerly of the New York and Liverpool line of packets; she could land at no other place south of Norfolk. The Captain being apprehensive that an entry was impracticable, sounded for the assistance of two men, and obtained not less than twenty-four feet of water—more than sufficient for the largest merchant ship in the United States. I sincerely wish, sir, that the roar of her cannon could be heard in every portion of the State, that she might rescue from the slumbers which have claimed every faculty of her crew, and that she might be engaged in draining the blood from her system. The health of the place is unquestionable; as is evident, from the testimony of its physicians, of transient residents from different parts of the country, the appearance of its inhabitants, the absence of periodical disease, its being a place of resort in the fall season, and from its location, not suffering from the miasma arising from the stagnant ponds and marshes of the low lands, but inhaling the pure and salubrious air of the ocean. It possesses great facilities for transportation. My eye is on a rock where a Rail Road could terminate, and a ship load; from whence she could be ploughing the deep in less than sixty minutes. Its harbor is easy of access. Capt. M. of Newbern, informed me that its bar was so plain that he sailed over it the first time without the direction of a pilot, where he would not do this over that of Ocracoke, where he had been sailing for upwards of twenty years. It is large and commodiously situated by a well constructed fortification, where hundreds, if not thousands, of men may perfectly shelter themselves from the most destructive storm that could sweep along the shores of the Atlantic.

Now, sir, if North Carolina would give in all the majesty of her strength, to agriculture and commerce, and the mercantile enterprise of a well-trained system of internal improvements; let her "shake off the dust that blinds her night," ascend the elevated summit of her capital, take a deliberate survey of her seaboard—then turn a prophetic eye to the Ohio, and behold it pouring its streams of wealth into the bosom of the Delaware and Chesapeake—then construct the Central Rail Road to intersect the contemplated one from Cincinnati, and thus make the town of Beaufort a great Commercial Mart for the Southern and Western States—and then may we expect to see her when she is now "the least among the cities of Judah, like unto Babylon the glory of kingdoms!"

A VISITOR FROM FRANKLIN.

THE STAR. RALEIGH, MAY 9, 1838.

SPEED THE TRAVELLER!

We are happy to learn, from a Petersburg correspondent, that arrangements have been completed, to reduce the time of travelling from Gaston to New York to the wonderfully short space of 46 hours. The passenger leaves Gaston at 2 P. M., arrives in Petersburg at 7, leaving there or in Richmond 4 hours; he leaves Richmond early in the morning—sleeps the next night (if he has a good conscience) in the Steamboat between Baltimore & Philadelphia; at which latter place he arrives early in the morning, and is awakened only by the sound of the bell of the boat for New York, where he is by noon.

By the 14th inst. the Rail Road from Petersburg to Richmond will be in operation. Managers leaving Gaston at 3 o'clock, will arrive in Richmond, on the whole trip to New York, by the close of this month, and Gaston Rail Road will give still greater speed. We add that the Commercial Intelligencer, in his letter of the 2nd instant, says: "The new collector yesterday morning performed a reform operation on the Custom house the like of which is unparalleled. He guillotined four of the officers under him, one slash of the axe. The operation was brought to bear principally upon Conservatives—upon men who agree in opinion with Mr. Senator Rives, Mr. Ritchie, and who, in 1834, agreed with the Globe about the Sub-Treasury. Mr. Van Buren, however, allows in New York no free-thinking. Think, he reasons here, does men mischief. The cry is 'off with their heads!'"

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THE MERCHANT AND THE MATE.

The article under this head, in to-day's Star, possesses sufficient interest to repay a perusal; and, besides, teaches a lesson on the duties men owe to each other, which some have yet to learn—that the crusty superciliousness of weak-minded men, who think the mere possession of wealth makes them better than other people, is not only abhorrent to the principles of Christianity, but often a source of deep shame and mortification to the slave of so detestable a passion; and that the best revenge which the honest and worthy poor can take of the insults that are offered them from this source, is to treat them, in the first place, with silent contempt, and, secondly, when an opportunity presents itself, with kind offices. "If, thus essaying hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink; for in so doing, thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head."

VIRGINIA ELECTIONS.

The result of the elections in this State has astonished all parties. The advocates of Federal power and militia were prepared for loss, and the Whigs were prepared for gain. It was apparent to all that the age of reason was returning, and that the Old Dominion would ultimately throw off the degrading yoke of bondage, and proudly re-assert her political independence and republican principles; but no one dreamed that the glorious day of redemption was so near. The triumph is as complete as it is unexpected. The Administration majority of 40 in the House of Delegates has been swept away at a dash, and a clear majority of at least six given to the Whigs. There were only two Senators elected; they are, although Conservatives, put down to the Administration, giving them a gain of two in the Senate, increasing their majority from 8 to 12 in that body, leaving them only 82 elect ballot. We clear gain 431! Besides, the Baltimore Chronicle says, "an examination of the polls shows that the Whig strength has increased in every county where there was a contest, and we are satisfied from a slight comparison of the returns of this election with those of previous years, that the Whigs have now a large majority of the popular vote of the State on their side."

The Hon. John Tyler is elected from York and Williamsburg, Albemarle. Senator Rives's own county, the Whigs carried the day by upwards of a hundred majority.

Mr. Patton's District.—Various contradictory statements have been published relative to the result in this Congressional district. The Baltimore Chronicle states positively that Mr. Slaughter, whig, is elected by 14 majority over Mr. Linn Banks, adm.; and that the latter has declared himself a candidate in advance for the next election. This district gave a Van Buren majority of 535 at the last Presidential election.

Truly may the Richmond Whig exclaim: "The people have damned the Administration, and no affection of cheerfulness can save it."

"The change is progressive, (says the Lynchburg Virginian,) and will be permanent." The Richmond Enquirer says: "It is idle to respond, but we have lost the State." Mr. Ritchie, however, adds, he is ready to "sink or swim with Martin Van Buren." The Whig thinks, as sinking is inevitable, we shall see him ere long putting on "his preserve."

ANOTHER GREAT TRIUMPH.

The Albany Evening Journal says: "The City of Albany is purified and redeemed! Loco Focoism is prostrate! We have come out of a most desperately contested election with a triumphant majority in every ward. Our aggregate majority in the City is within a fraction of 500. We have only time to tender our thanks to the indomitable whigs who have achieved this triumph, to congratulate our friends throughout the Union on a result so auspicious; and to proclaim aloud the unerring assurance that "as goes the Ark, so goes the State!"

P. S. We stop the press to correct an error. The Whigs have not swept the whole city—the Loco Focos have carried one constable in the fifth ward by a small majority. We make this correction in justice to the Loco Focos, and to the principle of giving "the devil his due!"—and he has got it exactly.

The Harrisburg, Pa. Chronicle states that it is confidently asserted there, and believed, that the Van Buren party are seriously deliberating upon the propriety of running Gen. Harrison for the next Presidency, should the whigs nominate Mr. Clay! They admit that Mr. Van Buren is out of the question. He is Sub-due!

Dreadful Fire at Mobile.—A whole square at Mobile, comprising ten houses, bounded by St. Louis, St. Joakin, St. Anthony and Conception streets, was destroyed by fire early on the morning of April 25th. Messrs. Hallet, Martin, Rossen, Irwin and Collins were principally sufferers. The fire at one time threatened the whole city.

By a reference to the proceedings of the House of Representatives on Thursday, 2nd inst. it will be seen that a message from the President was received, transmitting a note from the Mexican Minister on the subject of the alleged attack by a Mexican armed vessel upon the steam boat Columbia. He contends that it was provoked by the Captain of the Columbia, who he says "should be responsible for the result."

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