

THE WHIG CLARION.

H. W. HUSTED, EDITOR.]

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CHARLOTTE, N. C. June 16, 1843.

To the Editor of the Raleigh Register:

SIR: Will you permit me, through your paper, to give the public a brief history of my connection with the Branch Mint at this place, and to defend my reputation against the malicious assaults of a few prejudiced and designing men, who have suddenly become the peculiar friends of the President and the self-constituted guardians of the public interest?

In July 1841, I received a commission from President Tyler, reciting, "that he reposing special trust and confidence in my integrity and ability, had nominated, and by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, had appointed me Superintendent of the Branch Mint at Charlotte, North Carolina," which appointment I accepted, and entered upon the duties of that office, upon the 18th of August, with the fixed and unalterable determination to correct the abuses and extravagancies that existed in that Institution, and to carry out in practice, the patriotic pledges made by our gallant party in the political contest of 1840.

In assuming the responsibilities of office, I stood pledged, by the principles of the Whig party, to divest myself of the character of the partisan politician, and to observe an honorable neutrality in the political scenes of the day. I was more fully confirmed in the propriety of this position, by the declining condition in which I found the Institution placed under my supervision, and which I believed had originated in a great measure, from the partisan character given it by my predecessor in office. I resolved to remove all cause of complaint of this nature, by extending courtesy to all, and to know no political party in my official connection with the community.

By the act of Congress, establishing the Branch Mints, I had the power to remove every individual here, in the employment of the Government, (except the Assayer and Coiner,) and to have filled their places with persons from my own political party, but in obedience to the principles of that party, I enquired not for their political opinions, but for their ability and integrity: and in justice to them, I must say that I found no cause of removal. They were Democrats, but honest, capable and faithful. I was pressed by some of my political friends to remove Mr. W. F. Strange, the Clerk of my predecessor, and to give the appointment to some Whig, but I was satisfied that he was a gentleman of sterling integrity, possessing all the qualities of a fine officer, and I retained him as my confidential clerk, during my continuance in office. It is true, I found one Whig in the office of Porter or Door-keeper, at the annual salary of two hundred and forty dollars, and believing that there was no law authorizing his appointment and that the public interest did not require his continuance, I dismissed him and abolished the office.

My next effort was to remove the cause of complaint, that was so general and so justly made, against the profuse manner in which the public monies had been squandered by my predecessor, upon objects that did not promote the public interest, and by a rigid economy, to bring down the annual expenditures to the simple and Republican standard of North Carolina economy. How far I have succeeded in this, I refer to the records of the Mint and to the paper A, hereto annexed, which I have caused to be made out by the Clerk of the Mint, and is a comparative statement, taken from the records of the same, of the annual expenditures of the public monies appropriated by Congress for this Mint, from its commencement in 1837, to the end of the year 1842, together with the value of the Gold bullion received for coinage, each year respectively; and which presents in juxtaposition, the administration of a Democratic and Whig Superintendent; and shows how far Whig promises and Whig practices correspond. In drawing this comparison, I will take the year 1840, which you will observe is the last and cheapest year of my predecessor, and the year 1842, (the only whole year that I have been honored with this trust.) In the year 1840, there was received for coinage \$127,585 91 worth of gold bullion, which costs the Government in its coinage \$13,875 17; and in the year 1842, there was received for the same purpose, \$174,407 11 in value of gold bullion, that cost the Government in its coinage, \$11,070 86, showing that in the year 1840, that the Mint did less business by \$46,821 20, than in the year 1842, and spent two thousand eight hundred and four dollars and thirty-one cents more money; and this too in the cheapest year of Democratic superintendence, the most of which you will observe, by reference to this statement, has been saved out of that much abused item, in all appropriation bills, called "Contingent

Fund." The salaries of the Officers and clerk are fixed by law; the pay of laborers by usage of the Mint, at so much per day; but the expenditures of the contingent fund must necessarily in a great measure, be limited by the sound discretion of the Superintendent, who is responsible for all such expenditures of this description in all the departments. In August last, I put in operation, upon my individual responsibility alone, a change in relation to the service of workmen employed, that brings down that item of expenditure, for the present year, seven hundred and two dollars; and from the entire success of the experiment I do not entertain a doubt, but that it may be continued without the slightest inconvenience to the public interest, thus fixing that item of expenditure hereafter at \$2,808 00 instead of \$3,510 00 annually, under the old arrangement.

These are some of my Whig notions of retrenchment and reform; and it is for the public to decide how far President Tyler was justified in the confidence he expressed, in my commission, in my "integrity and ability," but strange to tell, with a full knowledge on the part of Mr. Tyler of these facts, I have lost that confidence, and am considered by him, as no longer worthy of his "special trust."

Upon the 21st March last, I received a communication from Dr. R. M. Patterson, Director of the Mint at Philadelphia, enclosing me a copy of the following letter to himself, from the Hon. John C. Spencer, Secretary of the Treasury, and requesting that I would furnish him with my reply as to the truth of the allegations made, accompanied with certificates of disinterested persons acquainted with the circumstances:

"TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
MARCH 11, 1843.

SIR: In a communication addressed to the President of the U. States, and by him referred to this Department, it is charged against Col. Gaither, the Superintendent of the Branch Mint in North Carolina, that he resides with his family, about 60 miles from Charlotte. I will thank you to cause the necessary enquiries to be made, to ascertain if such be the fact, and if so, whether any inconvenience is caused to those having transactions with the Mint, in consequence of the distance of the Superintendent's residence.

I am, respectfully,
J. C. SPENCER,
Secretary of the Treasury.

To DR. R. M. PATTERSON, Philadelphia."

I responded immediately to this charge, and sent the certificates of thirty-two gentlemen, residents of this place, Lincolnton and Morganton, proving the charge false and confirming the facts, contained in my answer. I appended this same paper A to my answer, showing the condition of the Mint, in comparison with its former operations, and the efforts I had made to restore the Institution to public confidence. The Director of the Mint at Philadelphia, who by law is invested with the general supervision of the Branch Mints, and to whom this charge had been properly referred for investigation, made his report to the Secretary of the Treasury, upon the 5th of April, and accompanied the same, at my request, with all the documents I had forwarded, and placed them on file in the Treasury Department.

In this report, Dr. Patterson confirms the high opinion I had previously entertained for his elevated character as a public officer, and does me full and ample justice. He negatives the charge made, and reports that the certificates forwarded go to show that I have the confidence of the community in which I reside, and of all persons who have business in the Mint: that during my superintendence the amount of deposits and of coinage has increased, while the expenses of the Mint have sensibly diminished, and concludes his report by adding his own direct testimony, in saying that his constant correspondence with me, has led him to the conviction that I am an attentive, vigilant and able officer, and that my duties are faithfully performed, which will more fully appear by reference to paper B, hereto appended. From this report and the accompanying documents, President Tyler discovered that I did not belong to that class of office-holders that were worthy of holding office under his administration, and without further ceremony, issues his commission upon the 9th of May, to Green W. Caldwell, late Democratic member of Congress from this District, appointing him Superintendent, and to whom on yesterday I delivered over all the monies, bullion and public property, and gave him possession. These are the facts which I wish to spread before the public, in order that no imputations may be cast upon my character by a proscriptive dismissal from office, and to show to the world that I have acted in my official sphere on the principles that brought the present Administration into power. What were the motives that

could have induced Mr. Tyler to have removed me, whom he had so recently appointed to office, other than political considerations, I am at a loss to imagine. He is aware, no doubt, that I am one of the admirers of Mr. Clay, and was with him (Tyler) in the Harrisburg Convention and voted with him for Mr. Clay, so long as there was a lingering shadow of a hope for his nomination. We concurred then in political sentiment, and labored with equal zeal (if not with equal ability,) to promote the same common object, by the nomination of Mr. Clay. I have continued to stand where I stood then, the uncompromising advocate of Whig principles; and for the purpose of carrying out the same, shall enlist again in the campaign of 1844, under that same gallant leader. It is true that I have been compelled to sacrifice the emoluments of one of the most desirable offices in the State, rather than my political principles; but I ask no sympathies nor claim no credit for so doing, for if I had done less, I would have been unworthy of office and unworthy of the name of an American citizen.

In conclusion, let me assure my friends that they shall hear from me again as heretofore, grappling with the vanguard of our political foes, and among the last to surrender the principles of the Whig party, which I conceive so intimately connected with the cause of civil liberty.

I have the honor to be, sir,
Your obedient servant,
BURGESS S. GAITHER.

(A.)
UNITED STATES BRANCH MINT,
Charlotte, N. C. March 22, 1843.

SIR:—In conformity to your wish, as expressed in your note to me of yesterday's date, that I would give "an official statement of the various expenditures of the annual appropriations made by Congress for this Mint, each year, from its commencement, to the end of 1842, including the wastage of gold," I respectfully submit the following statement, with the single remark, that the amounts charged in the column under the head of Wastage of Gold, is already included in the amounts, under the head of Contingent Fund, and is merely placed here to show the amounts that have been charged against the Contingent Fund "on account of Wastage of Gold."

I have the honor to be very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
W. F. STRANGE, Clerk.
B. S. GAITHER, Esq., Superintendent.

Date.	Contingent Fund.	Laborers Pay.	Salaries of Officers and Clerks.	Wastage of Gold.
1837	6,766 12	1,572 10	4,491 40	
1838	8,922 11	3,356 30	6,000 00	524 27
1839	6,768 84	3,216 32	6,000 00	
1840	4,674 92	3,200 25	6,000 00	439 76
1841	2,190 74	3,335 25	6,000 00	237 07
1842	1,860 11	3,210 75	6,000 00	408 62
	31,182 84	17,890 97	34,491 40	1,609 72

Date.	Sum total expended each yr.	Amount received.	Amount sold.
1837	12,829 62	(1837 & '38 together.)	
1838	18,278 41	131,698 43	84,335 00
1839	15,985 16	126,836 40	162,762 50
1840	13,875 17	127,585 91	127,235 00
1841	11,525 99	132,587 41	133,297 50
1842	11,070 86	174,407 11	159,005 00
	83,565 21	693,115 28	666,635 00

1843* 98,137 93 94,360 00
To 15 June. \$791,253 21 760,995 00

*The expenditure from 1st Jan. to 15th June 1843 is not included, for the reason that it is difficult to give the precise expenditure until the end of the quarter; but it is less than the corresponding period of last year.

(B.)
MINT OF THE UNITED STATES,
April 5th, 1843.

SIR:—In a letter to me of the 11th ult., you state, that "in a communication addressed to the President of the United States, and by him referred to your Department, it is charged against Col. Gaither, the Superintendent of the Branch Mint, North Carolina, that he resides with his family about sixty miles from Charlotte"; and you ask me "to cause the necessary enquiries to be made to ascertain if such be the fact, and if so, whether any inconvenience is caused to those having transactions with the Mint, in consequence of the distance of the Superintendent's residence."

In compliance with your instructions, I immediately wrote to Mr. Gaither, sending him a copy of your letter, and begging him "to furnish me with his reply as to the truth of the allegations made, accompanied with certificates from disinterested persons acquainted with the circumstances."

This reply I have received, under date of the 24th ult., with certificates from several individuals. These papers are sent enclosed, and you will see that they go to establish the following facts:

1st. Col. Gaither came into office on the 18th of August 1841. He removed his family to Charlotte soon afterwards, and they resided there with him during the following Autumn, Winter, and Spring; but then returned to their former resi-

dence in Morganton, where they have since remained. (A.)

2d. Col. Gaither himself, has continued to be a resident of Charlotte, and is so considered by the Citizens of that place. (B. & D.)

3d. He makes occasional visits to his family in Burke County, which have been of very limited duration, except during the months of August and September, when he was "pretty generally absent in consequence of the unhealthiness of Charlotte." (A.)

4th. During his occasional absences, he has always left his Clerk, Mr. W. F. Strange, in full possession of his Department, and authorized to represent him in every particular, "so that no interruption or delay of business has occurred." (A.)

5th. By Colonel Gaither's visits to Morganton, which is in the midst of a great gold region, he has afforded to the miners and dealers opportunities of sending safely to the Charlotte Mint, for coinage, deposits of gold, which he states to have amounted to more than \$107,000. (A.)—A certificate from the Agent of the Bank of North Carolina shows that he had himself thus received, by the hands of Col. Gaither, and deposited for coinage, upwards of \$53,000, in value of gold bullion. (C.) By this means, it is believed that a large accession of bullion has found its way to the Charlotte Mint, which could not otherwise have reached it. (D.)

6th. The certificates go to show, that Colonel Gaither has the confidence of the community in which he resides, and of all persons who have business at the Mint. (B. & D.)

7th. During his superintendence, the amount of deposits and of coinage has increased, while the expenses of the Mint have sensibly diminished. (E.)

To these statements I will merely add, that my constant correspondence with Col. Gaither has led me to the conviction that he is an attentive, vigilant and able officer, and that his duties are faithfully performed.

Very Respectfully, &c.
(Signed,) R. M. PATTERSON,
To Hon. JOHN C. SPENCER, } Director.
Sec'y. of the Treasury. }

UNNECESSARY TROUBLE.—Every now and then, the Locos—kind-hearted creatures!—become very much troubled at imaginary dissensions in the Whig ranks, in regard to the propriety of Mr. Clay being the candidate of the party for the Presidency.—Through the medium of *Locofoco* papers we are startled, every few days, with fearful accounts of "plots" and "intrigues" in the Whig party to cheat Mr. Clay out of the nomination! Now, it is very strange that we never hear any thing of these intrigues except through the medium of *Locofoco* papers! Strange that they alone should make the discovery that "there is evident alarm in the Whig camp about Mr. Clay's prospects of being the Whig candidate for the Presidency." Strange that *Whigs* should know nothing of this alarm among themselves!—"Alarm in the Whig camp" indeed! The artifice is too shallow, gentlemen, to produce any effect. We have never met, or heard, of a Whig, yet, who doubted for a moment that Mr. Clay would be the candidate—aye, more, we have never met with a Whig who would ever consent to anything else. If the *Locos* cannot start some more probable tale, we would advise them to be honest—tell the truth, and settle their own family difficulties. They may as well submit with as good grace as possible, for Mr. Clay will, as surely as he lives, be the candidate of the Whig party. No other man is thought of for one moment, in connexion with that office—none other will be by any true Whig. Rest assured, the Whigs of the Union are united on this point, and the *Locos* may save themselves any further trouble in regard to it.

THE WAY TO GET OFFICE.—If you wish to get an office under the present most exemplary Administration, you must get up a Tyler meeting and be President, Secretary, or chief Orator, or, what would be still better, all of these together. You must then send a copy of the proceedings to our friend John Jones, and he will publish them in his invaluable paper. Then you must go on to Washington, and present your claims to the gratitude of his Accidency in the acts of the "great Tyler meeting" at which you figure so conspicuously. This is a test of fidelity which cannot be questioned, and as you think that an officer of a Tyler meeting is the fittest man in the world for an office of the Government, he will be sure to give you some snug little office on which you may quarter yourself until he sees fit to remove you.—*Louisville Journal*.