

THE BANK'S PRESS AT WASHINGTON.

The *Globe* of the 21st ult. contains the long promised exposition of the transactions of Messrs. Gales & Seaton, with the United States Bank. It unravels a web of corruption, which we could hardly have believed to exist; and is, in fact, a second "fair business transaction," equalled only by the memorable corruption of Webb and Noah. The facts in the case are such as need no comment—in their undorned state they carry conviction to every mind, and illustrate with great force, the bas and corrupt character of that institution. The moral sense of the community must be shocked by the details we are about to record; but the faithful chronicler of events must not hesitate in laying before the people, the conduct—dishonest though it be—of their pretended friends and servants. The *Globe* has well said in its introduction, that

"In the history of the present period of our Republic, the National Intelligencer of this city, will figure in unavoidable distinction. It came into the hands of one of its present managers at a time when republican principles had the ascendancy in our government, and was long the advocate of those principles and the organ of the administrations through which they maintained their power. But having been the favorite journal of the country, receiving in a continued shower the patronage of the government and the people, it was corrupted by prosperity, gradually departed from the republican faith, and finally, identifying its fortunes and existence with the Bank of the United States, has become one of the most corrupt and reckless of those vehicles of defamation which now bring discredit on our free institutions.

A history of the National Intelligencer would mark the gradations from a high state of virtue and honor to the depths of depravity, as accurately and clearly as the memoirs of any individual whom prosperity has spoilt and adversity made venal. It is not our purpose, however, to trace its progress in its descent from purity to pollution; but only to present some facts which illustrate the scenes now passing before us and inculcate an useful lesson upon those whose duty it is to root out corruption and cut down the tree of which it is the fruit.

It is confidently asserted that Messrs. Gales & Seaton have received a patronage from Congress, and the public offices, of more than a million of dollars; and that their net profit on this immense sum amounts to ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS clear of all expenses, or an annual net income of from fifteen to twenty thousand dollars.

Notwithstanding this immense income, G. & S. have been indebted to the Bank, ever since the year 1820. On the 7th of Jan. 1823, they executed a deed of trust to the Bank by which they conveyed to the Cashier thereof, as security for debts contracted, and to be contracted, "the lot of ground on which now is the office of the National Intelligencer, with the said office, and the whole establishment connected with said National Intelligencer, comprising all the buildings which compose said office, and all the debts and accounts thereof which may be now due to the said Gales & Seaton, or which may hereafter become due or be contracted and with all the appurtenances of said office and establishment of whatsoever nature." The said Cashier to have the power of selling the same at auction, after thirty days notice, in case any of the debts of G. & S. should remain unpaid, sixty days after demand. Thus the nominal proprietors of the Intelligencer became, at once, tenants at will of the Bank, and could only occupy and use the office, by sufferance.

It appears that in process of time G. & S. did fail to pay their Bank debt; for in August 1829, they gave a deed conveying a part of this property directly to the Bank; it having been sold on the eleventh day of June preceding, agreeably to the stipulations, and bought in by the Cashier of the Bank; "he being the highest bidder at said sale," as agent for the Bank Co. "wholly for their use and benefit." Thus the Bank became possessed of the Intelligencer in fee simple, and G. & S. have been, ever since, merely the tenants or agents of the Bank. When in 1827 and 1829, they were deprived of the printing for Congress, it is said they were \$150,000 in debt; which added to the \$250,000 of profits received by them, produces the sum of \$400,000, which it has cost these republican printers to live.

The Bank's printers subsequently obtained some very comfortable jobs from Congress—but in April last, their debt to the Bank amounted to upwards of \$30,000—for the most of which its only security is the endorsement of G. & S's clerk, which was added "as mere matter of form." A part of this \$30,000 was loaned, it is claimed, on the strength of the profits of some reprinting of old documents, which had been ordered by Congress—but the work had not been executed, and what assurance could the Bank have that it ever would be? Besides, the Bank had not a positive pledge of these profits. They were assigned to H. T. Weightman and Leonidas Coyle, Trustees, as will appear from the following draft and acceptance:

WASHINGTON, Nov. 17th, 1833.

W. F. Weightman, Trustees.
Leonidas Coyle,

"Four months after date please pay to Thomas Donohoe or order, three thousand dollars for value received, to be paid out of any moneys which may come into your hands as the proceeds of the compilation of State Papers, which are now executing under the act of Congress of March 2d, and charge

Your obedient servants.

GALES & SEATON."

Accepted to be paid out of any money that may remain in our hands after the payments stipulated to be made by the deed of assignment, and after the payment of all prior acceptances.

Washington, Nov. 17th, 1832.

H. T. WEIGHTMAN, Trustees.

We believe no man conversant with banking business will admit that it is customary to lend money upon nominal security.—Yet the U. S. Bank furnished its tenants with these "facilities."

Now let us enquire whether the Bank realised any thing from the printing in question. At the session of 1831-2, an appropriation of \$55,000 was made towards paying for the printing. Did the Bank get any portion of it? It was drawn from the Treasury, and still the Bank debt went on increasing. At the last session \$50,000 more was appropriated for the same purpose—but NO PART OF IT WAS APPLIED TO THE REDUCTION OF THE BANK DEBT, which still went on increasing.

The first job finished, a second was obtained—but G. & S. had no means to go on with. What

"We quote from the deed of conveyance.

was to be done with this emergency? Mr. Biddle did not dare to let them have any more "facilities," from the Mother Bank without a further show of security—he was afraid of the Government Directors! In this stage of the business, the Washington branch advances the necessary funds—superintends the printing through its Cashier, and G. & S. transfer the job to the Bank, by deed of trust, and power of attorney dated in May, 1833—the amount of which is thus summed up by the Globe:—

Here, then, we have the Bank furnishing the office of the National Intelligencer with a press, type and paper and *even paying off the journeymen weekly!* The lot, building, and fixtures are conveyed in fee to the Bank; the printing establishment with all the old presses, types, furniture, paper, debts due and to become due, were long since forfeited and are now used by the suffrage of the Bank; the new press and type are purchased by the Bank and are its property; and the Bank pays off its journeymen. Is not the Bank the real printer of these State papers? Is it not the Bank that prints and publishes the National Intelligencer? Are the Editors any thing more than *agents with an overseer over them?* What but the National Treasury can pay off this debt which has in four years grown from \$5,610 to over \$30,000, although they have, in the same time, received over \$105,000 from that Treasury? And in what but the battles of the Bank have these four years been employed, and more than \$299,000 expended.

On the 28th of March last, G. & S. were overdrawers for more than \$3,000, and under protest on seven obligations, made payable there, and lodged for collection. Their draft, also on the Trustees of the State papers, had been due, and *unprotested* for eight days.—The subject was brought by the Government Directors before the Board; and on the same day after adjournment, Mr. Biddle, while the subject was under reference to a special committee, discounted over \$3,000 of G. & S. paper—*enough to balance the unpaid, but unprotested draft, and to settle the account!*—Two thousand five hundred dollars of this paper was a draft on the clerk of the House of Representatives, without acceptance or security; and upon which the clerk of the House of Representatives subsequently made the following entry:—

"Messrs. Gales & Seaton.

"Gentlemen,—As the above work has not been subscribed for, but I do not doubt of its being ordered, I cannot put my acceptance on it; but if it be lodged with Mr. Johnson, my paying clerk, he will pay the money when due to the proper person.

Yours, &c.

M. ST. CLAIR CLARKE,

"Clerk of House Reps. 22d March, 1833."

It will be seen that the draft was not even conditionally accepted, for the very good reason that Congress had neither subscribed for the speeches, nor appropriated any money to pay for them. But the account of the Bank's printers was about to be examined—and Mr. Biddle thought it indispensable that it should be balanced in some way, by hook or by crook. Matters being thus prepared, there was an unusually full attendance of the Philadelphia Directors, at the next meeting of the Board, three days after the account of the Bank's printers had been referred to the select committee—nothing had yet been done by that committee—and behold, a motion was made rescinding the resolution referring the account to them, and carried by a vote of twelve to four—three of the latter being Government Directors! The question very naturally occurs, was not that vote the effect of previous drilings?—We think it was.

We ask candid men, to whatsoever party they belong, if they think honest and plain dealing would need such tricks and chicanery to support it? There is not another Bank in America that would have discounted conditional acceptances, and unaccepted drafts, in such profusion—and have advanced thousands and tens of thousands upon the mere nominal security of a patron's clerk!

To crown the whole, these *journeymen* of the Bank have had the hardihood to propose that their friends in Congress shall refuse to grant any appropriations for the support of government, until the President shall consent to sign a bill for the re-chartering of their masters' monopoly! If no appropriations are made, how can they carry on the printing for the House of Representatives? The answer is plain—the Bank, (which is, in fact, printer to the House) WILL FURNISH THE MEANS—it will not see its *journeymen* suffer while they are laboring to effect an extension of its dangerous and extraordinary privileges.

If any thing were wanting to satisfy an intelligent public of the corruptions practiced by the Bank, this exposition will certainly be sufficient. No one can read it impartially, and doubt the truth of the former opinion of one of its now retained editors, that it "brought men and votes as cattle in the market"—"withering as with a subtle poison, the liberty of the press—Defying the power of the constitution, laughing at its restrictions, and scorning its principles, and pointing to its golden vaults as the weapon that will execute its threats, when it shall be necessary to carry them into action!"

From the Baltimore Republican, POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

The vindictive feelings indulged by the opposition towards the administration displays itself in nothing, perhaps, more strikingly than in their attacks upon the present Head of the Post Office Department. A few years since a desperate effort was made by a committee of the Senate, aided by a dismissed Assistant Post Master General, to convict Mr. Barry of malpractices, by the grossest misrepresentations imaginable, in which he was censured for an error committed by the very individual himself who made the complaint; and after their efforts proved utterly unavailing of fixing upon him any charge of having acted improperly, the whole of the presses of the party, during the recess of Congress after this attempt was made, were almost constantly employed in endeavoring to impress upon the public mind the belief that the charges had been established, and that the fact would be fully made apparent by the labors of the committee which had been engaged upon the subject, at the next session. But when the next session commenced, the chairman of that committee was among the missing, talked about resigning on account of ill health, and did not make his appearance until the session was considerably advanced; but, after much solicitation, finally took his seat, but instead of blowing the Post Master General sky high, as had been threatened, the subject was permitted to rest in unbroken slumber.

But notwithstanding the utter failure of the attack there has been a constant display of vindictive feelings towards Mr. Barry ever since; and he could not have been more bitterly assailed by the whole host of the opposition presses, if the whole of their char-

ges against him had been substantiated. He has been almost the constant object of their assaults; and not unfrequently has he been condemned for circumstances which resulted from the bad state of the weather or the roads, and which no human eye could have foreseen, nor human power or intellect have prevented. If a snow storm filled up the roads and stopped the travelling of the mails, Mr. Barry was charged with a neglect of duty; if a flood washed away the bridges, and a mail was missed in consequence of it, Mr. Barry was held accountable for it; if a mail was robbed, the crime was laid at Mr. Barry's door; if a mail was sent in a wrong direction by some blunder of a Post Master, Mr. Barry was charged with the fault; if, from too slight a covering, a paper failed to reach its place of destination, Mr. Barry was charged with great negligence; if a paper was sent too late to press, Mr. Barry was, on account of it, condemned; and if a Post Master failed to deliver a letter when called for, the omission was charged to Mr. Barry's account.

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From the recent language of several of the opposition prints, it would seem that an effort is to be made at the next session for another systematic attack upon him. It is alleged that there is found to be a deficiency in the financial affairs of the Department, and it is broadly insinuated that the Post Master General has misappropriated the public funds. We copy from the *Globe* some remarks upon the subject of the Department, which accounts for the low state of the funds, without supposing that they have been diverted from their proper use. "The extension of the mail routes, and additional facilities which have been given to communication between different parts of the country, have been very great, since Mr. Barry assumed the management of the Department, and it is much more a matter of surprise that the funds should be made to meet the accumulated expense than that there should be no excess. But these circumstances are entirely overlooked or disregarded by the opposition, and they would seem to think that all has been done for the accommodation of the public by the greater extension of the mail routes, without producing a corresponding increase in the amount of the receipts for postage, is not to be noticed; but that they are only to look at the difference in the amount of the expense which was formerly incurred, and that which is now incurred, in the management of the affairs of the Department; and that, as they now exceed the former amount, Mr. Barry is consequently in proportion to the amount of the difference.

Many and great improvements were made in the management of the affairs of the Department while under the charge of Mr. McLean, and he has received the full credit of the improvements made by him. Barry has equalled the amount of those made by his predecessor, and instead of receiving credit for it, he has met from the opposition the treatment we have noticed; and it would seem that they would spare no pains or labour to accomplish, if they could, his destruction. And why is there this difference? Why is this persecuting spirit displayed towards Mr. Barry, by the same persons who have manifested a disposition to do justice to his predecessors? It all results from the simple fact, that in giving credit to the one it is supposed that the credit will redound to the honor of the administration with which he was connected; and by ensuring the other it is thought that it will operate to the injury of the present administration. That is evidently the whole sum and substance of the matter.

Mr. Barry has heretofore passed unscathed thro' the fiery ordeal of his enemies, and we trust that he can bear all the assaults they can make upon him. Let them bring forward their charges, and make all the investigations into the affairs of his Department that they please, and we feel confident that he will come out of the trial unbruised. We trust that, as heretofore, he can defy their rage, and will only shine the brighter by the rubbing they may make upon him.

The National Debt.—It will be seen by the advertisement in this day's paper, that the Secretary of the Treasury is prepared to pay off the whole of the four and a half per cent stock of the United States, amounting at the time to the sum of \$2,041,311.71.

This is the last instalment of that stock, and by the terms of the contract was redeemable at any time after the 31st of December next, at the pleasure of the United States.—But the law by which this stock was created requires, that at least six months notice of the intended reimbursement should be given, and consequently, the United States cannot insist on paying it and refusing to continue liable for the interest until the expiration of the six months after notice of the intention to redeem. But as the Secretary is prepared to pay off the whole amount the second advertisement offers to the holders the option of immediate payment if they will consent to accept it.

The day named in the advertisement is now the earliest that the law permits, for its pre-emptive redemption with the consent of the holders.

This instalment originally amounted to the sum of \$2,227,363.98 cents; some few purchasers have reduced the amount to the sum first above mentioned.

[Globe.]

From the Louisville Public Advertiser.

We learn by the New-York Standard that the average majority of the democratic party at the recent election in the city of New York, was 1,237, which is pronounced, "very satisfactory." The same print says:

"The election throughout the State appears to have gone entirely in one way; there never was such unanimity of opinion before on any public question as upon this of the United States Bank. Wherever the people have had an opportunity of expressing their views, it has been done in the most decided manner against the institution, and in support of the course of the administration. The hopes of its friends are sinking, and the election returns yesterday far more than neutralized the effect on the price of stock produced by the Washington rumour about the restoration of the deposits. Every mail brings tidings of disaster for them."

A NEW NOTION.

The following notice to gunners, and hunters, signed by nineteen individuals, appeared in a late number of the Germantown Telegraph.

"We, the subscribers, of Lower Marion township, Montgomery county, viewing with concern the astonishing increase of insects, and the immense damage done to our crops and fruit for several years past and believing the cause to be principally owing to the killing of birds, do most respectfully admonish all persons to abstain from shooting them or destroying their nests or eggs; and for ourselves we do absolutely forbid any person or persons, trespassing on our places, breaking our fences, hunting or firing a gun on our respective lands, or with dogs of any species; therefore, any persons entering on our premises contrary to this notice, must expect to be dealt with according to law."

Omnium-Gatherum.

Man has two hundred and forty-six bones; the head and face sixty-three, the trunk thirty nine, the arms sixty-four, and the lower extremities sixty.—There are in man two hundred and one muscles, or pairs of muscles.

NEW PROJECT.—It is proposed in the New York papers to make a ship canal of eight miles around the Falls of Niagara.—The project is said to be wholly feasible, and at comparatively little expense. Such a canal would, it is thought, secure to New York the trade of Ontario.

How to raise Gilt Frames.—Beat up three ounces of white of eggs, with one ounce chloride of Pottass or soda, and rub over the frame with a soft brush this mixture. The gilding will immediately become bright and fresh.

The Territory of Florida is about making application to Congress for admission into the union as a state. There were 27,720 inhabitants at the last census. The number required for admission 47,700.

N. Y. Courier & Enq.

Machinery.—Six years ago, it required a day's labor of one man to spin a pound of cotton into a thread 17,000 yards long; now it can be spun into a thread 137 miles in length in an hour, by a child 8 or 9 years old.

The productive power of great Britain and the United States, with the aid of machinery, is equal to that of the whole human race without it.

A person of Boston has obtained a patent for floating matress composed of India Rubber, to be used at sea as a life preserver.

The great Pyramid of Egypt cost the labor of one hundred thousand men for twenty years, exclusive of those who prepared and collected the materials. The steam engines of England, worked by thirty-six thousand men, would raise the same quantity of materials to the same height in eighteen hours.

It is stated that the Hon. Richard Rush has written a letter to President Jackson, approving his conduct in withdrawing the deposits from the U. States Bank. It is added that the friends of the Bank in Pennsylvania are much incensed at the course pursued by the distinguished Anti-mason.

Unified Cut.—The Albany Gazette says, if Mr. Clay is on an electioneering tour, it must be as the candidate of the Jackson party—nobody else has held him up."

Boston Statesman.

The number of passengers who have left our harbor for the West in steamboats alone during the season, up to the 18th of October, taking the average to the close, will be from 65 to 70,000. It is impossible for us to arrive at any correct account of passengers, &c. in the 140 schooners which navigate our lakes.

Buffalo Paper.

A manufactory of Indian Antiquities has been established near Sackets Harbor, N. Y. which turns out old tomahawks, stone axes, and chisels, equal to any dug out of the earth on the soil formerly occupied by the aborigines. The work is performed in part by a grindstone propelled by horse power. The proprietor is said to be driving a fair business in supplying these rare curiosities.

Some sixty years ago the following announcement extraordinary appeared in a Boston paper:—"The Philadelphia Fly Stage, warranted through fourteen days." Quick "flying" this over a distance now travelled in thirty or forty hours.

An extensive manufactory, for the purpose of extracting oil from cotton seed, has recently been erected at Natchez, Miss. The experiment so far, has been attended with complete success. A bushel of cotton seed yields about two quarts of oil, and about two thousand gallons per day are manufactured at the establishment. This oil it is thought, will answer the purpose of fix oil in painting, and when refined will also burn in lamps as well as the best sperm oil. The cake is also considered excellent food for stock. Should the cotton seed oil prove to be a good substitute for the linseed oil which for years past has been selling at high prices, on account of its scarcity, it will convert an article which has heretofore been almost entirely useless, into an immense source of