

POST OFFICE.

The Committee of the Senate on the Post Office and Post Roads, after a long investigation, not only into the condition of the Department, but into private business and circumstances of some of its officers, have at length reported. Their report is, as was to have been expected, full of party prejudice. Besides many assertions destitute of the shadow of truth, it is covered with false coloring, and unwarrantable inferences, showing a determination, with the least regard to justice, to pour censure on those whom they have selected as victims. But the committee, it appears, were divided; three in favor of the report, and two against it. The two who constitute the minority, are Mr. Grundy, the chairman of the committee, and General Robinson, of Illinois. In justice to the Department, to the Administration, and to the country, they have conceived it to be their duty to present a counter report, which they have offered. It is in all its features the very reverse of that which was offered by Messrs. Ewing, Clayton, and Knight, the other members of the committee.

It will be sufficient to convince the public of the determination to condemn, when it is known that they employed the two Bradleys, Abraham Bradley and Doctor Phineas Bradley, the two late Assistant Postmaster Generals, to aid them in the investigation. Yes, the majority of the committee, composed of Messrs. Ewing, Clayton, and Knight, employed these two Bradleys, who had been dismissed from office by the Postmaster General, and who had five years before declared open hostility against him, to assist them in making out their report. They took these two disappointed and highly incensed men into the Department, and opened to them, all the books and documents which they desired to look into, that they might point out some error, or shadow of error, which might, by the powers of sophistry and distortion, be spread before the public as a pretext of complaint. But with all, that the rancor of revenge could excite, and with the advantage of the long experience of these two men in the administration of that Department, all that they could present is demonstrated in the report of the minority, to be incorrect in every material point on which they have rested their accusations.

The counter report of Messrs. Grundy and Robinson, on the condition of the Post Office Department, gives a clear and lucid exhibition of the character and condition of that department, and furnishes a strong testimony of the fidelity with which it has been administered. The long experience of Mr. Grundy as a statesman, and especially as chairman of that Committee—his superiority of talents—his industry and business habits, altogether qualify him for the investigation in which he has been engaged—quite as well, it is believed, as any other gentleman in either House of Congress. His conductor, General Robinson, is also a gentleman of clear, discriminating mind, indefatigable in his application to business, of unblemished honor, and well qualified for the service which has been allotted to him. If there were any thing wrong or improper, it could not have escaped the scrutiny of these gentlemen. Their high character is a pledge for their faithfulness. Whatever may be the momentary influence of party feeling upon the minds of any portion of the public, we confidently venture the assertion, that none will question the ability, the integrity, or the fidelity, of either of those gentlemen. For every position which they have assumed, they refer to the evidence by which it is sustained; and we are satisfied that every unprejudiced person will be convinced, after a careful perusal of this document, that there is nothing deserving the reproaches visited on the department, by the majority report. Such is the clear testimony of this report, and such will be the firm conviction of every dispassionate mind.

This report accounts satisfactorily for the deficit in the finances of the Department. It shows that the yearly income was deficient before the present incumbent came into office—that a diminution of its funds had commenced more than a year before—and that they had declined, at the time of his taking possession of the Department, about \$100,000; and that the falling off continued from its beginning, in 1827, or early in 1828, to the close of the last year. It shows that the debt of the Department, beyond its available means, is about \$300,000, which debt rests on the credit of the Department, and not of the Treasury—that the Postmaster General, by an illusory system which had ever prevailed of accounting for the expenses of the Department, had not known its real condition in time to prevent the embarrassment; but so soon as the cause was disclosed, the corrective was applied. It shows the improvements which the present Postmaster General has made in his system of accountability, and the security of the funds of the Department. It also recommends a more perfect organization of the Department by subofficers holding their appointment from the Executive and Senate, as in the other Departments; and assigns as the reason why this has not been done at an earlier day, that the Department was small in its beginning, and that the rapidity of its growth has gone before the proper action of Congress, but that action should no longer be delayed.

The counter report of Messrs. Grundy and Robinson, shows satisfactorily, that when a contract is made different from what has been stated to Congress, in the annual report of contract, it is occasioned by a change made in service required subsequent to the acceptance of the proposal; and that it is a difference which the ancient practice of the Department was always liable to exhibit, and which was often actually exhibited under the former administration of the Department; but that the present Postmaster General has recently corrected it.

It shows that under the present administration, there is a system introduced into the Department, of keeping books in which all the mail routes are entered in numerical order, with the number of miles in the length of each route, the names of the several post offices on it, the distance from one to another, the manner in which the mail is transported on each route, and the number of trips in a day, a week, or a year. From these books, the exact length of post roads is ascertained to have been, in 1832, 104,467 miles—in 1833, it is ascertained to have been 119,916 miles—showing that the law of 1832, establishing new post routes, added 15,449 miles to the length of post roads, more than one-seventh part of all the post roads, in the United States, prior to that time. From these books it is also ascertained, that the annual transportation of the mail in 1832, was 23,632,330. This is a little more than what the Postmaster General reported at that time; and the incorrectness, and evident falsity of that statement of the majority, taken from the report of the Bradleys, is clearly demonstrated.

It appears that the majority of the committee went into an investigation of the private concerns of the officers of the Department, constituting themselves a secret inquisition, searching into the details of individual transactions and engagements, evidently for the purpose of drawing unfavorable inferences to make a false impression upon the public mind, without even giving the individuals concerned information of their doings or designs. Their first inquiry seems to have been directed against the Postmaster General. There was an insinuation, that he had received pecuniary relief from a person, or persons, who were mail contractors. The counter report shows, that a friend of the Postmaster General had endorsed, or in some way become security for him; that this friend had borrowed money from another friend to meet the claim with promptness; that this other friend happened to be a mail contractor; but that the whole transaction was without even the knowledge of the Postmaster General, but that the money borrowed was repaid, and the claim cancelled, without any reference to official relations, and by a mutual friend, who had no official relations with either of them. It is proved that

Postmaster General was ignorant of the whole transaction. Insinuations were also made against Mr. Brown, the Chief Clerk, formerly the superintendent of mail contracts, and now the Treasurer of the Department. The charge was proved, by all the witnesses who could have known any thing of the transaction, to be false. It appears that Mr. Brown had loaned money which he held as the agent of an estate, on interest, to a person who is a contractor; and that he had made a loan on interest to purchase property for his own personal use, from other persons who were contractors. In these, as indeed, in all his transactions, so far as they have come to the view of the committee, the counter report shows that there is nothing substantiated in relation to Mr. Brown that can justify the imputations inferred against him.

Many insinuations were made of favoritism to contractors, for transporting the mail; all of which were made the subject of close investigation. Among them, the conspicuous standing which James Reeside holds as a mail contractor and stage proprietor, subjected his contracts to special scrutiny. It appears, however, from the counter report that he is transporting the mail much lower at present than he ever did under the former administration; and there is nothing in evidence to show that he enjoys any special favor from the department, or any thing beyond the measure of the strictest justice. But Mr. Reeside's contracts were not alone subjected to the ordeal of the committee. The counter report states, that "the Committee examined carefully into all cases where complaints were made, or where any suspicion was intimated of favoritism having been extended by the Department to any contractor, or any improper exercise of the discretion of the Postmaster General in granting allowances. Every such case became the subject of rigid scrutiny, and not a single instance of alleged abuse has been omitted by the Committee." It gives the disclosures made on each one of these, in detail; and it does not discover an instance which ought to subject the Department to censure. It admits, that the amount of expenses for improvement had better been confined within the current resources of the Department, but it does not discover a single case in which the allowances made were more than a reasonable compensation for the services rendered.

It appears to have been the practice, under the former administration of the Department, to procure the printing of blanks, and other items of incidental expenses of some of the northern post offices, through the Postmasters of the city of New York. The same practice seems to have been continued by the present Postmaster General. The counter report states "that upon a full investigation of this account, every item constituting it was found to be accompanied by its appropriate voucher, and the items themselves appeared chiefly to be such as had been ordinarily, under former administrations, paid for by the Postmaster at New York, and credited to him at the Department, as in this instance."

The expenses for printing, in all cases where that printing is performed by friends of the administration, seem to have been the subject of special inquiry by the committee. The result, however, is, that such accounts are fairly kept, properly adjudicated, and that they appeared to embrace no articles or work which had not been purchased and executed; and that from all the information they were able to collect, the prices paid were reasonable.

The whole report of these two gentlemen, constituting a minority of the committee, appears to be candid, dispassionate, and clear. It shows great ability and laborious investigation. It exhibits the Department in its true light. It carries with it demonstrative marks of correctness, and is alike creditable to its authors, and to the Department.—*Globe.*

From the *Globe*.

F. P. BLAIR.

Sir—I am gratified to observe by the proceedings of the House of Representatives, published in your paper, that the bill reviving the pre-emption law of 1830, for two years, has finally passed the House and wants but the approval of the President (of which there cannot be a doubt,) to become a law. This bill was the most important to the poorer class of the inhabitants of the new country, that has come before Congress at the present session.

It shields the poor from the grasp of speculators, and will give hundreds of our poor men farms for \$1,25, that never could otherwise have owned land. The Government loses nothing, as \$1 25 per acre must be paid; and it gives the poor man two years to raise the money, from the passage of this act. In that time, if industrious he can make the money out of corn and pork raised on the land heretofore improved by them. This bill is of much more importance to the new inhabitants of the new states and Territories, than Benton's graduation bill, or Clay's land bill. The former by reducing the price will bring the land down to a point that it could be bought up by land speculators; and by agreeing to divide the proceeds of the public lands with all the people of all the States, the people of the old States will find it their interest to stop bringing fresh land into market, and compel emigrants to pay a higher price for refuse lands. Give us the pre-emption bill once in two years—the West wants nothing more—for he is a poor dog that cannot, by laboring on our roads or canals, raise 50 dollars to pay for forty acres of land; and when a man owns forty acres of land, and owes no debts he is as independent as a prince.

The pre-emption bill had been so long before Congress, and the attempts made to amend it enraged its passage, and alarmed its best friends. The people of the new States are largely indebted to the talent, energy, and industry, of the Hon. C. C. Clay, of Alabama, for his zealous and efficient support of this important measure. To General Speight, of North Carolina, we also owe much.

A WESTERN MAN.

The important bills, one to raise the value of domestic gold, and the other to raise the value of foreign gold, were received in the Senate yesterday, read twice by unanimous consent, and referred to the committee on Finances.

We take a pleasure in communicating our opinion to the public, founded upon the opinion of members of the Senate, that the bills will pass the Senate as they came from the House. Having reason to confide in this opinion, we communicate it publicly, that all holders of gold, throughout the United States, may hold on to the precious article, till the fate of the bills are actually known. This, of course, will be in a few days.

The effect of these bills will be to raise gold 6 and 2-3 per cent on its legal value; but not that much on its market value, which is now two or three per cent, above the legal value. The foreign bill applies to the gold coins of Great Britain, France, Spain, Portugal, Mexico, Brazil, and Colombia. All these coins pass by weight, at 6 and 2-3 per cent advance upon their former legal value. The acts are to take effect from the 31st day of July, after which time, the coins, both foreign and domestic, will be legal tenders at the advanced rates. This date was fixed to give the community time to prepare for the change; but, in point of fact, the coins will all begin to circulate, by common consent, from the day of the passage of the bills.

We confidently believe they will pass in a few days, and again offer to the country our congratulations on the auspicious event. *Globe*, June 24.

From the *Wabash Mercury*.

THE STATUTES OF 1834.

The recent session of the Legislature of Indiana has been distinguished above all others, by the number as well as importance of its enactments. There seems to have arisen a spirit of rivalry and emulation highly creditable to the citizens of our State, which, if properly cherished, will place us, at no distant day, by the side of New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio. It were useless to speak of those general laws with which every individual is familiar, who takes any interest in public concerns. The establishment of a State Bank with the certain prospect of a favorable and early commencement, the rapid extension of the Wabash and Erie Canal, the completion of which will be equally complete with honor and profit, the liberal appropriations to remove obstructions to the navigation of our neighboring river, and also for the improvement of the Michigan road, are matters of highest concern and affecting the general welfare. Indiana is thus far without a State debt, and the loans to be effected by her Fund Commissioners, for the purpose of maturing the wishes of her legislature, will be discharged almost without being felt. At all events, whether for weal or woe, the session of '33 and '34 will ever be memorable in the legislative history of Indiana.

The writer of this, passing without further notice from acts of more general character and importance, wishes to notice a few others, which he considers highly creditable to the State, from a cursory perusal of the statute recently deposited in the clerk's office; and first, though not least in consequence, is the act giving to each and every county in the State the right to select a student in the Indiana College, whose tuition shall be gratis. The boards doing county business make the selection. The object of this act is evidently to give to each county, qualified instructors of youth. Competent schoolmasters are absolutely necessary in every community, and legislation upon subjects connected with education is required by the constitution of Indiana, in common with that of all the new states.

Another step has been taken to increase the qualification of schoolmasters, by requiring the circuit court of each county to appoint three suitable persons as their examiners, who certify under oath as to the qualification of each applicant.

By an act to regulate the mode of doing county business, it will be seen that in some counties the whole business has been transferred from the board of Commissioners to a Board of Justices. This was formerly the universal mode in our State.

I am much pleased to see the *execution* law so amended, that the execution defendant may claim as exempt from execution, in addition to the present articles allowed him, one other bed and bedding, and six sheep and the wool thereon. This extension of privilege will operate in a very beneficial manner upon the poor, and should be regarded as an act of justice and clemency, because they are the least able to protect themselves from the force of oppressive laws.

There is no enactment with which I am better pleased, than that giving *mechanics a lien upon buildings*; by which any person who performs labor or furnishes materials for the construction or repair of any building, within any incorporated town, or within one half mile of its limits, shall have a lien upon said building, when the amount due exceeds thirty dollars. That the laborer is worthy of his hire is a maxim of sacred origin and should be applied in all business transactions of life. Why the worthy and industrious mechanic, he who adds beauty to the growth of our towns and villages, should have so long been denied a lien upon his own labor, is a matter of surprise when we consider that a similar law has been adopted by all the states without exception.

The Board of County Commissioners have not heretofore been possessed of the power of administering oaths or affirmations, not to issue attachments or punish for contempt. Hence we may readily account for the frequent violations of decorum and the various disorders which have often been witnessed with rigour during the session of the Board as a court, they did not enjoy the power of punishing insults, or even of commanding ordinary respect. This evil has been redressed, as by the recent statute, the board doing county business, is clothed with sufficient authority for the proper management of all its concerns, and for the preservation of perfect order.

The power of issuing writs of *ne exeat* in other cases than allowed under the old statute, more particularly for the benefit of securities; as likewise the act defining the relative powers of the Circuit, Probate, and Justices Courts in cases where executors, administrators or guardians are parties, placing the same beyond civil or doubt, are important measures, and well calculated for the furtherance of justice.

In conclusion, let me add, that the acts of 1834 are a valuable addition to the statute books of the State, and are entitled to the careful perusal of every citizen.

JUSTUS.

MICHIGAN CITY.

This is a town which was laid off during the last year, at the mouth of Trail Creek on Lake Michigan, in LaPorte county, Indiana. The location and situation of this town is the most healthy, beautiful and enviable one in Indiana, and from present prospects, will be the greatest commercial point in the State. It is the only point on the lake, bordering on Indiana, which offers us an advantageous competition for the lake trade with Chicago in Illinois. Trail creek with a moderate appropriation by Congress, could be made one of the best harbors on the lake. And it also possesses an abundance of water power for mills, factories, &c. There are already within a few miles of Michigan city six or seven saw mills in operation, and four or five merchant mills in operation and building. The country, for a few miles round the town, is very heavy timbered with the best building materials. In the interior, the land is very fertile, and interspersed with fine prairie and timber, and is now becoming very valuable, from the number of settlers flowing in, and its proximity to the lake. Next to our canal, and a communication with the Ohio river, we should look to this point as the most important for this section of the Wabash country. At some day, and that not far distant, there will be a rail road from Michigan city to meet the canal at or about this place, and the rail roads which are now in contemplation. We understand there will be between 50 and 100 first rate houses put up there this season, besides a number of small buildings.

Wabash Mercury.

Murder.—A young woman was last week committed to the county prison in this Borough, charged with the murder of her infant illegitimate child, which we understand, was found in a pig sty devoured, and with a piece of tape drawn tightly around its neck. She will probably be tried at the next August Court in this borough.

Nor. Her.

Extraordinary Occurrence.—The following is from a West India paper of the 14th of May, whose editor asserts that the papers alluded to in the narrative are in his possession, and that he has the authority of the officer himself, (Lieut. Bagot,) for their genuineness:

"His Majesty's schooner Pickle, Lieutenant Bagot, during her last cruise off the Isle of Pines, for the purpose of capturing vessels engaged in the Slave Trade, and whilst lying in the sight of Cape Francis, observed a large schooner under sail inside the Julian Keys. As soon as the Pickle came up with her a boat was sent to examine the suspicious stranger, when he proved to be the Spanish schooner 'Carlotta,' carrying two 18 pounders, with a complement of 30 men, from Santa Martha to the Havana. The vessel having an unusual number of water casks on board, and being also fitted with a slave deck, created much suspicion on the part of the commander of the Pickle, who was not altogether satisfied with the account of the Master of the slave-gave of himself, and sent back to bring him on board immediately together with his papers, log book, charts, &c. &c. From these documents nothing could be elicited to warrant the detention of a vessel under Spanish colors, and to all appearance a vessel of war.

About two o'clock in the middle of the watch on the same night, a fishing line which had been unintentionally left rolling overboard, was observed, by the Quartermaster of the watch to be swerving in all directions, and he with assistance hauled it in, when it was found that to the hook was appended a shark about four feet long! On opening it, in the morning, a bundle of papers was discovered in the belly, rolled and tied up, (now in our office, and which were sent to us by the commander of the Pickle through our reporter,) these on examination were found to be the papers of the 'Carlotta,' amongst which are the private signals; they also prove that the Carlotta was a slaver, and had on board a cargo of 293 slaves, which cargo had been landed about four hours, before she was discovered by the Pickle.

We have received from a correspondent, the following sketch of Boyington, the individual who is now in jail in Mobile upon the charge of murder.

Frost: *Boston Statesman.*

As several accounts of "Boyington" are going the rounds, I send you a short account of his career in Boston: he arrived here in the winter of 1833, and put up at the Union Street House; in the course of a few days he obtained work at the Transcript office; he roomed with a trader by the name of Cohen, in New York; one morning Cohen came to the bar and said some one had stolen his pocket book from him, which he locked up in his trunk the night before, containing \$124—suspicion rested on B., who had gone out sooner than usual that morning; search was made for him during the whole forenoon, the landlord not knowing that he worked at the Transcript office, and not finding him, complaint was lodged at the police office. B. came home to dinner, and after dinner he was searched by constable Pierce, and nothing found upon him to fix suspicion, but a key which had been recently filed, and which exactly fitted Cohen's trunk, and likewise B.'s trunk—he was taken to the Police Court, tried, and acquitted. He went to work again at the T. office, and two or three nights afterwards was again apprehended, on complaint of a gentleman from Baltimore, for stealing a cloak, &c. a year previous—examined and committed to be sent to Baltimore for trial; the parties, being then satisfied that he stole the money from Cohen, agreed to let him go if he would discover the money; he agreed to tell where it was if they would give him five dollars to start off with; they then went to the Common, where B. pointed to a sod, under which the money was found, and he "cleared."

Perhaps if he had been brought to trial, the lamented Frost would now be living, and B. suffering for his offences in the Penitentiary.

SHELBYVILLE, Ia., June 28.

We had the pleasure of a ride upon the rail road, on Wednesday last. The car was placed upon the road for a temporary purpose; and all things fully justify the public expectation. The car will be completed this week; when all who wish can be gratified with a ride. On the occasion above referred to, thirty-five persons were upon the car, and one horse travelled off with ease; though the car and road were both in an imperfect state for travelling. When completed, the car will hold about fifty persons.

Transcript.

THE AURORA.

Proposals have been issued by Col. William Duane, for resuscitating the Aurora, which was once, under his auspices, the able advocate of the principles of democracy, and the firm defender of the rights of the people. Col. Duane considers the present crisis as one which calls for the united and vigorous exertions of all who love their country, and prize its liberties, to sustain them against the encroachments of a dangerous and insidious monied aristocracy, and the Bank of the United States will find in the Aurora, (should it be revived,) an uncompromising and vigilant opponent. We have been assured that the administration of Gen. Jackson meets with the cordial approbation of Col. Duane, and that his talents and energies will be exercised to sustain him against the assaults of a reckless and factious opposition.

Penn. Reporter.

Dreadful Accident.—A distressing accident (says the Pennsylvania Reporter of June 20.) happened on the inclined plane of the Columbia Rail Road, on Friday last, in consequence of the breaking of the rope to which several cars were attached. We annex the particulars as we find them in