

MESSRS. BLAIR &amp; RIVES:

I hope it will not be deemed improper in me to allude to the principal errors in the statement made by the Hon. John Ewing, of the unfortunate rencontre between him and myself, and thus induce a suspension of opinion until the facts are officially exhibited.

Having accidentally met with Mr. Ewing, I took occasion, courteously, to request an explanation of a supposed injury. He chose to cut short the conversation; virtually refusing the explanation, he declared himself prepared to meet me *then*, and uttering a threat, thrust his hand into his breast pocket for the purpose, as I supposed, of drawing a pistol. In self-defence, I then made use of a slender walking cane, my only weapon. It was soon broken. I subsequently treated him with the utmost forbearance, simply repelling the attacks which he successively made with his stick and sword.

The injury of which I desired explanation was purely personal, having no relation in any way to politics, and referring to myself and other persons, unable to act for themselves. The facts, that Mr. Ewing is a member of Congress, and I an officer of the Army, are for me unfortunate. Yet the first does not surely confer on Mr. Ewing the privilege of murdering—nor the second, impose on me the duty of being murdered—with impunity.

I had prepared a statement of the affair to be submitted to Messrs. Bon, Carr, Hannegan, Kinard, and McCarty, of our state, (Indiana,) with a request that they would examine and decide upon it. I placed my commission as an officer at their disposal. Should they think it necessary as an example, or expedient to prevent an unfavorable impression against the Army, that I should be deprived of it.

The investigation commenced by a military court at 12 A. M., of the 28th, and a second investigation directed to be made by a committee of Congress have taken the affair out of my own hands.

As Mr. Ewing is a foreigner, and like myself, a single man—as the affair itself is purely personal, and as the affair was brought on by Mr. Ewing's baseness of temper—I respectfully express the hope, that it will be judged by the facts—that politics will not in any way, be permitted to interfere with it, and that the occurrence will be spoken of impartially.

I am, most respectfully, your ob't servt,

J. F. LANE.

From the *Globe* of March 2.

MESSRS. BLAIR AND RIVES:

Presuming that the public may be gratified in learning the prices that were obtained for the two Arabian Horses, sold by me, this day, at auction, by direction of the Secretary of State, under authority of the President, and in pursuance of a resolution of both Houses of Congress, I beg leave to state, they were sold for cash as follows, viz: One to Mr. Flourney, of Virginia, for \$1,205

The other to Messrs. Horton & Tammany, of Pennsylvania, for 570

\$2,065  
Yours respectfully, EDWD. DYER.  
Auctioneer

MILLEDGEVILLE, Geo. Feb. 3.

*Indian Disturbances.* It seems that the Creek Indians have recently been killing the stock of the inhabitants of Randolph, Stewart, and Sumter counties. When remonstrated with by the whites, they replied by threats. On the 11th ultimo, a party, consisting of about twenty whites, went in pursuit of a marauding party of Indians, about twenty in number. They met about fifteen miles from Lumpkin, a fight ensued, in which five Indians were supposed to be killed, and two whites were wounded.

The whites retreated. On the 18th, in Sumter county, the Indians, probably to the number of 15 or 20, stole a negro lad and a pony, and were pursued by 20 or 25 whites, who overtook them about 25 miles from Lumpkin; a slight skirmish ensued, in which it was supposed that two or three Indians were killed. The negro had effected his escape, and the pony was recovered; though from the circumstances of the Indians occupying the swamp, the whites were obliged again to give back.

On the 26th, a small band of Indians, (seven in number) headed by a white man, stole a negro man, who escaping the same day, informed the whites of the circumstance, who, to the number of eleven, went in pursuit, and came upon them in the 18th district of Stewart county, about 15 miles from Lumpkin; another skirmish took place, the Indians retreating, until they reached an ambuscade of their countrymen, of probably fifty men, who fired upon the pursuers, killing a Mr. Powell, formerly of Appling, and mortally wounded Thomas Johnson, formerly of Jefferson county, who died next day, and severely, though not fatally, wounding another.

The whites retreated, bearing with them the wounded men, and although fired on by the Indian party, without receiving further injury. The body of Mr. Powell was recovered the next day by a large party of inhabitants, who went to the scene of action for that purpose.

An express has been sent to the Governor with the above details. What measures he has adopted in regard to it, we are unable to inform our readers. Considerable alarm pervades the section of country where these occurrences have taken place.

The following, appropriate remarks are copied from the "Indiana American" published at Brookville, Ia.

It has been often asked us why we did not publish the marriage of such a couple, or notice the death of such an individual. Our reply is, that we give publicity to all that comes within our knowledge, but it is impossible for printers to know everything. The publication of Marriages and Deaths is of more importance than is generally supposed.

A large class of people read with interest the former, and still larger the latter. And we wish it were the practice, as it ought to be, to publish all the deaths and marriages which occur in the county where a newspaper is printed, and it would form an inducement to people living at a distance, and who are acquainted with the county, to take the paper. It affords the cheapest, surest, and most expeditious means of such information; therefore all Marriages and Deaths that occur within the county, ought to be forwarded to the printer, otherwise they cannot generally be printed or known.

The Illinois Gazette and Jacksonville News, says: "One of the drivers from Peoria to Springfield had one of his eyes frozen out." This was caused by wearing a mask with eyelet holes, by which the action of the wind was concentrated on the eye, and destroyed its power of vision.

## THE POST OFFICE BILL.

A letter to the United States Gazette gives the following synopsis of the bill which has passed the Senate for the re-organization of the Post Office Department.

**Sect. 1.** Appoints a Commissioner of the General Post Office, (by the President and Senate) to superintend the collection of all debts, and pay them into the Treasury, to audit the accounts of the Postmaster General, &c. and fixes the salary at \$3000.

**Sect. 2.** Provides that the solicitor of the Treasury, shall receive from the Commissioner, certified copies of accounts of debtors, and cause suit to be commenced, making quarterly returns.

**Sect. 3.** Allows the Commissioner two clerks at \$1750 each, eight at \$1200 each, ten at \$1000 each, and a messenger at \$800, annually.

**Sect. 4.** Allows the Solicitor of the Treasury, beyond his present establishment, one clerk at \$1750, and two clerks at \$1000 each annually.

**Sect. 5.** Provides that on the 10th of March next the Postmaster General shall deliver over to the Commissioner, a book containing the accounts of the Post Office, and all papers relating thereto, and statements of all sums due, &c. and on the same day, shall deliver to the Solicitor all the delinquent accounts for suits.

**Sect. 6.** Directs every Postmaster, at the end of every three months, to render an account to the Commissioner, and pay over the balance as the Commissioner may direct. Neglect for one month after the quarter, renders the Postmaster liable to forfeiture to double the amount of the postages received in his office for any one quarter. Neglect for two successive quarters, to furnish such accounts to be punished by forthwith dismissal.

**Sect. 7.** Commissioner in such cases of neglect, to place the account of such delinquent within one month, in the hands of the Solicitor for suit.

**Sect. 8.** Postmasters, where the net proceeds of the office are \$1000 a year, or upwards, to be appointed by the President and Senate for four years. All others to be appointed by the Postmaster General.—Bonds to be hereafter made to the United States.

**Sect. 9.** Directs the mode of letting mail contracts, to be advertised in the usual manner. Proposals to be opened and registered in the presence of the Postmaster General, or one of the Assistant Postmasters General and the Commissioner or Solicitor of the Treasury. The bids to be separate for each route, contracts to be separately made. No combination or consolidation bids to be received.

A duplicate of the book in which the bids are registered, to be lodged with the Commissioner, within 30 days after the letting, noting the bids which are accepted; and copies of the contracts within 90 days, together with the original proposals. The register of biddings to be open for public inspection immediately after the lettings. No contractor to have any compensation until he shall have executed his contract, &c.

**Sect. 10.** Whenever a new contract is made, or an existing one changed, notice to be given in the newspapers, and new proposals to be received in the usual form.

**Sect. 11.** Provides restrictions against extra allowances, so that no one shall be allowed unless a previous order shall have been made and issued ordering the service, and specifying the allowance, &c.

**Sect. 12.** Limits the number of clerks in the Post Office. (Blank not filled.)

**Sect. 13.** Sum required for the service of the General Post Office, in each year, to be appropriated by law.

**Sect. 14.** Directs suit to be made in the manner before prescribed, against any person who may have received money for pretended services never performed, or for any extra allowances exceeding what is provided by the act, or by fraud, collusion, or mistake.

**Sect. 15.** Directs the expenditures for the mail transportation, and all other expenses incident thereto, to be kept within the limit of the revenues of the General Post Office.

**Sect. 16.** Provides that the books of the Treasury, containing the Post Office accounts, shall be kept separate and distinct, and every warrant for payments relating to the General Post Office, to be signed by the Postmaster General and Commissioner.

**Sect. 17.** Commissioner to have power to transfer debts due from Postmasters, who do not make deposits in Bank, by drafts in favor of contractors to pay contractors for services previously rendered.

**Sect. 18.** Specifies the several reports which the Postmaster General shall annually make to Congress within the first ten days of each session, viz: 1st. All contracts within the preceding year, in detail, all land and water mails established or ordered other than those let annually. 2d. All allowances to contractors beyond the sums stipulated, and the reasons: all orders creating additional expense beyond the contract price, in the most minute form: and all curtailments of expenses effected by the department. 3d. All the incidental expenses of the department for the year ending the 30th of June preceding, containing every particular, according to a classification prescribed. 4th. The Commissioner on the 1st of November annually to communicate to the Postmaster General the condition of the Finances of the General Post Office for the year ending the 30th of June preceding, showing the debts to, and liabilities of the General Post Office in manner specified.

**Sect. 19.** The Postmaster General to furnish to the Deputy postmaster at the termination of each route, a schedule, specifying the time of arrival and departure at his office of each mail, a copy, to be hung up in the office: and also of every change in the arrivals and departures.

**Sect. 20.** Each Postmaster at the termination of a mail route, or at any other place at which the Postmaster General shall have designed the times at which the mails should arrive, to take the following oath or affirmation before some magistrate—"I (A. B.) do swear, (or affirm, as the case may be) that I will truly and faithfully report to the General Post Office, all and every failure to deliver the mail at my office, at the times prescribed by the Postmaster General." The Postmaster General to report annually to Congress each failure, with the names of the contractors and what proceedings have been taken by him in each case.

**Sect. 21.** Provides that every Postmaster who shall delay with intent to prevent their reaching their destination in proper course, any letters, newspapers, documents, &c. in his office, shall, on conviction of the offences, forfeit and pay a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars, and be imprisoned for a term not exceeding six months.

**Sect. 22.** Repeals all former acts or provisions inconsistent with this act.

**WASHINGT, Feb. 27, 1835.**

Dear sir: The bill appropriating \$50,000 for the improvement of the Officer above the Falls, has just passed by a handsome majority. It secures to us by the present a other future appropriations an uninterrupted navigation during low water—saving thereby at least half a million annually to the commerce and trade of the West.

## CONGRESS.

Mr. CARR, from the committee on Private Land Claims, in pursuance of a resolution of Mr. Kinard, made the following report:

The committee on Private Land Claims, to which was referred a resolution instructing said committee to inquire into the expediency of making provision, by law, for refunding to purchasers of the public lands the overplus of purchase money paid by them in cases where it shall appear to the satisfaction of the Commissioner of the General Land Office that there is a deficiency in the number of acres patented to such purchasers; and to which was referred the petition of John Barnay, on the same subject, have had the same under consideration, and report:

In the investigation of this subject the Committee have confined themselves to the following points.

1st. Has the Government received from any portion of the purchasers of the public lands more than the legal price?

That, in many of the legal subdivisions of sections there is found to be a deficiency, or

not the quantity of acres returned on the official plats, cannot be denied, the causes of which it is not

now perhaps very necessary to examine. Errors in the original surveys have been occasioned, perhaps, by the negligence of chain carriers, by mistakes in

making out the field notes, and from the obstructions

and difficulties attending the survey of wilder-

ness lands.

The purchaser, in good faith, relies upon the

*prima facie* evidence afforded by the official plats in the land offices, that he is to possess at least the

specific quantity of land for which he pays; the de-

ficiency that may be really found to exist, and the dis-

appointment that may happen in consequence there-

of, are not chargeable to any negligence or fault of

his. Does it not follow, that the Government should

execute the contract according to the understanding

of both parties? There can be no reason to justify

the Government in taking from the citizen any of

his property or money, to be applied to public use,

without rendering an equivalent. Congress has

repeatedly refunded dues shown to be unequally and

improperly collected; and it cannot be presumed

that, in his case, there is a material and sufficient

reason to show the inexpediency of doing justice to

the purchasers of the public lands, when we are so

observant of its rules and principles in providing

for rigorous prosecutions in the district courts for

trespasses on the public domain, by which the

rights of the Government are sought to be sustained,

although the damages are nominal compared with

the costs, and must be far below the loss of individual

purchasers, to which the present inquiry is di-

rected.

The committee are, therefore, of the opinion that

it is just and expedient to extend the relief contempla-

ted by the resolution.

2d. It may be urged that, where a deficiency is

found in one legal subdivision, it is balanced by an

overplus in an adjoining tract. This may be said of

lands lying in different sections, but rarely happens to

be the case as to lands in the same sections.

The purchaser of two such tracts would not, in equi-

ty, be entitled to relief. But if one individual has

obtained more land than he expected, it forms no

reason why another should be compelled to pay too

much for less than the quantity which the Govern-

ment profers to sell.

Under the foregoing view, the committee have

no means of estimating the probable number of ap-

lications for relief that might be made.

It would doubtless be very small, comparing it with the whole

number of purchasers of the public lands. If, how-

ever, the number of persons entitled to relief should

be great, the evil calls more loudly for correction

an observation that may apply to the objection that increased labor would be thrown upon the land

officers.

The committee are of opinion that, in cases

where balances might be found due to purchasers of

the public lands, instead of paying them out of the

Treasury, it would be more convenient for the Gov-