

# PUBLIC LEGER.

"FRIENDLY TO THE BEST PURSUITS OF MAN,  
FRIENDLY TO THOUGHT, TO FREEDOM, AND TO PEACE."—*Cowper.*

[Volume IV. No. 9.]

RICHMOND, WAYNE COUNTY, INDIANA, SATURDAY, JULY 28, 1827.

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Walling's, near Evansville.

From the Ohio State Journal.  
NOTES ON OHIO.  
NO. I.

The State of Ohio lies between the  
parallels of 36 degs. and 42 degs. north  
latitude, and between 3 degs. and 39 min.  
and 7 degs. 40 min. west longitude from  
Washington. The first Europeans who  
visited this region, were the French. In  
1669, La Salle, a Frenchman, started on  
an expedition, and passing up Lake Erie  
to Lakes St. Clair and Huron and cruised  
along Lake Michigan, he disembarked  
near where fort Chicago now stands.—  
He crossed the intermediate country be-  
tween that place and the Illinois river.—  
He descended that stream to its mouth,  
navigating the Mississippi, he arrived at  
Lafayette, at its mouth, after passing through  
many dangers and great hardships. Going  
back to France, he returned by sea, to the  
mouth of the Mississippi, and in endeavor-  
ing to pass through the country by land,  
in Canada, he lost his life, being murder-  
ed by one of his own party, some where in  
what is now the state of Illinois, as near as  
we can judge from his narrative. From  
that period, forward, the French Missions  
visited the valley of the Mississippi  
frequently, and their government  
was engaged in sending persons among the  
Indians to conciliate them; and military  
troops were sent to examine the country, and  
select the most eligible sites for fortifica-  
tions. Whoever looks at the map of the  
country traversed, will at once perceive  
with what prudence they executed their  
missions. Quebec, Montreal, Oswego,  
Nagawick, Presque Isle, Detroit, Mack-  
inaw, the Straits of St. Mary, Chicago,  
Pittsburgh, St. Louis, &c. &c. were se-  
lectly selected for military posts, as could  
possibly be done, even at this day, when  
this country is well settled and of course,  
well known.

The first vessel ever launched by Eu-  
ropeans on the upper lakes, was the Griff-  
on, built by La Salle, in 1680 and was  
lost on its return voyage from Chicago to  
Nagawick river. After its departure it was  
never heard of, nor of the fate of any of its  
crew. Two hundred and forty seven  
years since the first vessel sailed across  
Lake Erie. Not a white man dwelt on  
the borders of that lake, nor in the west-  
ern States. Who would have then, im-  
agined that the State of Ohio would now  
have existed, containing nearly one million  
of freemen, and the fourth State in a na-  
tion of twelve millions of inhabitants?  
Sixty years had elapsed since the landing  
of the pilgrims on Plymouth rock. The  
western states were one vast wilderness,  
inhabited only by savages and wild ani-  
mals. The contrast is consoling to all the  
friends of human happiness. Steam boats  
and other vessels are fast multiplying on  
the lakes, and on the Ohio and Mississippi  
rivers are as many of them as are neces-  
sary to carry passengers, and to carry on a  
vast and increasing commerce.

The French intended to keep possession  
of the Canadas and of the whole valley of  
the Mississippi, which they claimed either  
by actual settlement, or by discovery, as  
well as by their treaties with the Indians,  
and confirmed to them, as they said, by  
the treaties of Aix La Chapelle &c. with  
the European governments. That they  
intended to erect a great and powerful  
State in the new world, is evident from  
the vast expenses they were at, in building  
forts at all the proper points of commu-  
nication, from the great extent of their  
church establishments—their large endow-  
ments for colleges and other schools of

learning. Their extreme anxiety, to keep  
possession of this vast territory is seen in  
every thing they did respecting it. Pro-  
fessor Silliman in his "Tour between  
Hartford and Quebec," justly remarks,  
that "he knows nothing that has excited  
his surprise more in Canada, than the  
number, extent and variety of the French  
institutions many of them, intrinsically of  
the highest importance, and all of them ac-  
cording to their views possessing that  
character." They are the more extra-  
ordinary, he remarks, when we consider that  
the most of them are a century old, and at  
the time of their foundation the colony  
was feeble and almost engaged in war. It  
would seem from these facts, as if the  
French contemplated the establishment of  
a permanent and eventually, of a great  
empire in America, and this is the more  
probable, as most of these institutions were  
founded during the ambitious, splendid  
and enterprising reign of Louis XIV.—  
We add, that Louis XV. pursued the  
same policy towards his American empire,  
as his predecessor had done. The Mar-  
quis Gallionere, Governor General of  
New France, (as all this western country  
was called by them) in the year 1749,  
sent out an expedition, command by Nevis  
Celoron, for the purpose of depositing  
medals at all important places, such as the  
mouths of the most considerable streams,  
and at remarkable places, such as the  
largest mounds, and other ancient works.  
Most of these medals, perhaps all, which  
were made of lead, containing "a *protes-  
tation*," drawn up by order of the Govern-  
or General, contained blanks to be filled  
up with the date of the time of depositing  
them, and the names of the places, rivers,  
or objects where they were deposited. I  
had, for a considerable time, in my posses-  
sion, such a medal, which stated it to have  
been left at the mouth of Venango river,  
where that stream puts into the *Belle riv-  
iere* or river "Oyá" as the Ohio was called  
by them. This medal was rudely done.  
It asserted the claims of Louis XV. to all  
the country watered by the "*Bellevue Oyá*"  
and its branches, and was deposited at the  
mouth of "*Venango riviere*," August 16,  
1749.

Such medals as the above were depos-  
ited in many places, all over the western  
country, and many ancient coins, belong-  
ing to the Greeks, Romans, Gauls, &c.,  
were also left at different places. Several  
of these coins have been found at different  
times, in ancient works, at the mouths of  
rivers, and at other remarkable places,  
and many speculations and new theories  
were started by travellers and others, as to  
the authors of our antiquities!!

The events of the "old French war," in  
this western region, are well known, and  
so are those of our revolutionary period,  
continued down to 1796, when General  
Wayne conquered and concluded a peace  
for us, at Greenville.

The first permanent settlement made in  
this state, was at Marietta, at the mouth of  
the Muskingum river, on the 3d of April,  
1787, by Gen. Rufus Putnam and associ-  
ates. Remarks on that settlement and its  
events, are deferred to the next number.

From the Focus.

The Billiard Table.—So far from hav-  
ing given up this most important charge  
against the administration, we find nearly  
a whole page of a large paper occupied  
with matter to prove it. We would re-  
spectfully recommend to the opposition  
prints, to have the furniture report of John  
Adams, jr. stereotyped, to save the trou-  
ble of continually reprinting it. The book  
might be ornamented with a wood cut of  
the table.

The said furniture report of John Ad-  
ams, jr. was merely an inventory of furni-  
ture, handed to the committee on the pub-  
lic buildings, in which the billiard table,  
&c. were improperly inserted, Gen. Van  
Rensselaer, the chairman of the commit-  
tee, bears the following testimony to this  
fact:

"Soon after the report [of the commit-  
tee] and inventory had been printed, and  
some days before the discussion arose in  
the house on the report, I learned from the  
president, that the inventory so far as it  
related to the billiard table, &c. was entire-  
ly erroneous; and that no part of the ap-  
propriation had been or would be applied  
to any such purpose."

To this we add the following certificate  
from the Register:

(COPY.)

I hereby certify, that on the settlement  
of the furniture account of the President  
of United States, there is not any charge  
made by him, nor payment made by the  
United States, for a Billiard Table, Cues,  
Balls, or any other appurtenance whatever,  
in relation thereto; neither has there been  
any charge or payment made for Back-  
gammon Boards, Dice, or any appurten-  
ance in relation thereof; nor for Chess  
Boards or Chess Men, or any appurten-  
ance in relation thereto.

Treasury Department, Register's  
Office, July 2d, 1827.  
(Signed) JOSEPH NOURSE, Register.

(COMMUNICATED.)

To the Editor of the Franklin Repository.  
Sir: It is respectfully asked of you, on  
behalf of those concerned, to insert in your  
paper the act of Congress, "making fur-  
ther provisions for the extinguishment of  
the debt due to the United States, by the  
purchasers of Public Lands," "approv-  
ed, 4th May, 1826." The Act expired  
on the fourth of July—this present month.  
It seems that some who were desirous to  
relinquish a part of their land, and pay up  
the balance, availing themselves of the re-  
mission of all interest due together with  
a deduction of thirty-seven and a half per  
cent, on the amount actually paid in cash,  
understood and believed that the Act  
would expire on the 27th inst.

There is no law at the present which  
remits the interest and grants a discount.  
The class of cases, (with the exception of a  
few) now to be adjusted, are those, which  
the benefit of the acts of Congress, grant-  
ing further relief in the years 1820, '21  
which relief was for eight years, and there-  
fore expires in 1829.

Should Congress revive the act of the  
4th May, 1826, it will produce the happy  
result, to all those concerned in the class  
of cases to be adjusted, that they can  
have the benefit of the remission of all in-  
terest, and a discount of thirty-seven and  
a half per cent, on the amount actually  
paid in cash.

Let those concerned examine for them-  
selves; I shall be ready to aid, until the  
debt is paid, and I feel desirous, that the  
act should be revived, and other measures  
adopted for the prosperity of Indiana.

Respectfully your obedient servant.  
JAMES NOBLE.

Brookville, July 15th, 1827.

\*AN ACT making further Provision for the Ex-  
tinguishment of the debt Due to the United States,  
by the Purchasers of Public Lands.

[SECT. 1.] Be it enacted by the Senate and  
House of Representatives of the United States  
of America in Congress assembled, That the  
provisions of the act, entitled "An Act to  
provide for the extinguishment of the  
debt due to the United States by the pur-  
chasers of public lands," approved May  
the eighteenth, one thousand eight hun-  
dred and twenty four, and the provisions of  
the act, entitled "An Act explanatory of  
an act entitled an act to provide for the  
extinguishment of the debt due to the  
United States by the purchasers of public  
lands," approved May the twenty-sixth,  
one thousand eight hundred and twenty  
four, be, and the same are hereby, severally  
revived and continued in force, in all re-  
spects whatsoever, until the fourth day of  
July, one thousand eight hundred and  
twenty-seven.

SECT. 2. And be it further enacted, That  
the legal holder of any certificate of lands  
purchased from the United States, which  
land has reverted by virtue of the provi-  
sions of the act of the second of March,  
eighteen hundred and twenty-one, or the  
several acts supplementary thereto; or  
which, by virtue of the fifth section of the  
act of tenth of May, one thousand eight  
hundred, is subject to be sold for the bal-  
ance due thereon with interest; or which,  
under the provisions of the said act, has  
become forfeited to the United States,  
since the first day of July, eighteen hun-  
dred and twenty, and which has not been  
sold, shall be permitted to redeem the  
same at any time previous to the first day  
of May, one thousand eight hundred and  
twenty seven, on paying the amount of the  
purchase money due exclusive of interest,  
with a deduction of thirty-seven and a half  
per cent.

SECT. 3. And be it further enacted, That if the  
legal holder of any certificate of further  
credit extended to purchasers of public  
lands by the act of the second of March,  
eighteen hundred and twenty one, entitled

"An Act for the relief of the purchasers of  
public lands, prior to the first day of July,  
eighteen hundred and twenty," shall, pre-  
vious to the fourth day of July eighteen  
hundred and twenty-seven, discharge the  
amount due on such certificate, by relin-  
quishment, or payment, or both, such hold-  
er shall be entitled to a remission of all  
interest due thereon at the day of such  
discharge, together with a deduction of  
thirty-seven and a half per cent, on the  
amount actually paid in cash.

[Approved, 4 May, 1826.]

At a party in Philadelphia, not long ago,  
was a young lady from B———. In the  
course of the evening conversation be-  
came slack and a pause of the few moments  
became unavoidable. A gentleman broke  
silence by observing, "awful pause." The  
poor girl, who thought the observation  
was meant for her, spoke up rather pertly:  
"well, I guess you would have awful paws  
too if you should wash and scrub as much  
as I do."

Why a man is not made out of dust.—A  
black servant not 100 miles from St. An-  
drew's, Holborn, being examined in the  
church catechism by the minister of the  
parish was asked "what are you made of  
Jack?" he said "of mud, massa;" on being  
told he should say, of dust, he replied, "no  
massy, it no do, no stick togedder"

Full Measure. A quaker alighting from  
the Bristol coach, on entering the inn, call-  
ed for some beer, and observing the pint  
deficient in quantity, thus addressed the  
landlord—"Pray friend, how many butts  
of beer dost thou draw in a month? Ten  
sir, replied boniface—"And thou wouldst  
like to draw eleven," rejoined Ebenezer!  
"Certainly," exclaimed the smiling land-  
lord. "Then I will tell the how friend,"  
added the quaker—"Fill thy measures."

Affection.—It was a beautiful turn given  
by a great lady, who being asked where  
her husband was, when he lay concealed,  
for having been deeply concerned in the  
conspiracy, resolutely answered that she  
had bidden him. This confession caused  
her to be brought before the governor,  
who told her that nothing but confessing  
where she had hid him could save her  
from torture—"and will that do?" said  
she. "Yes," replied the governor, "I will  
pass my word for your safety on that con-  
dition." "Then," said she, "I have hid him  
in my heart, where you may find him." This  
surprising answer charmed her ene-  
mies.

In the year 1457, a proclamation was  
issued by Henry the Eighth, "that women  
should not meet together to babble and  
talk, and that all men should keep their  
wives in their houses."

Tale-bearing.—It is the custom in Tur-  
key, by way of reproach, to black the  
front of those houses whose inhabitants are  
notorious for tale-bearing, propagating  
falsehoods, &c.—If that were the case  
with us, what a dismal figure some of our  
houses would make.

An honest Irishman was accosted on the  
quay, at Belfast, by a brother Hibernian,  
with "Arrah, Pat, you are going to be in  
good luck to day, boy—you have got your  
stockings turned wrong side out." Pat  
turned round with great quickness, and  
surveying with the utmost complaisancy  
the sad remnants of what was once hose,  
answered—"Sure, honey, I know that, &  
dont you know why I turned them?" "No,"  
replied the other. "Why," says Pat, and  
he gave a knowing wink with his eye,  
"bekase they are holed on the other side."

A Massachusetts gentleman, in Boston,  
lately wrote that he had intended to send  
a fashionable hat to his daughter, but was  
afraid to venture it on the deck of the  
packet, and could not get it down the  
hatchway!

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