

The Indian Payment.

From the Logansport Telegraph.
Messrs. Editors:

From the various conflicting rumours that are in circulation relative to the late Pottawattamie payment, it seems to be due to the public and to the officers of the government who superintended the payment, that a statement of facts as they occurred should be made. I therefore submit the following, believing it will be found to embrace all material particulars, and to commend itself to the assent of all who had the means of observation.

On the 19th day of Sept. 1836, the Pottawattamies of the Indiana agency, assembled at the place designated, near the Tippecanoe river, to receive their annuity.—There were also on the ground about 300 Northern Indians belonging to the Chicago agency, some of whom had been with the Wabash Indians all summer, and who had been encouraged by that portion of Catholic Indians opposed to emigration, to settle and live upon their reserves. The northern and Catholic Indians, headed and advised as I have great reason to believe, by some white men, insisted that the annuity should be divided amongst the whole number of Indians on the ground; that the proper chiefs of the Wabash Pottawattamies should sell no land, but reserve what they had for the common use of all. The proper chiefs insisted that the annuity should be paid to the Indians of this agency only; that they had a right to sell all the land belonging to the Pottawattamies in Indiana, and to dispose of the proceeds as they think proper. The above conflicting views were subjects of frequent and angry debate among the Indians before any council was called.—I determined that this would be a favorable opportunity to lay before the chiefs the proposition embraced in my instructions from the Department of War. I therefore assembled them in council, had a full and free interchange of opinions with them, urged them in mild but strong terms to accept of the invitation of their Great Father to sell all their reserves and remove to the country West of the Mississippi. They replied that their Great Father had always given them good advice, that they had listened well to his advice for many years, and that they had been convinced that they could not stay much longer in this country. They would therefore accept the good advice of their Great Father, and were now ready to sign a treaty for all their remaining land.—But, they said, there were many dissatisfied men among their own people as well as among the northern Indians, who threatened to kill the chiefs if they sold the land, and that if they did sell, they should look to their Great Father to protect them from the execution of their threats.

They were told that they should be protected; that the man who raised his hand to strike a chief for exercising the duties and powers of his office, should be deemed an enemy to the government, and would be pursued, overtaken and punished, if he ran as far as the west side of the Great River.—With this assurance the chiefs signed the Treaty, and for a short time there appeared to be less excitement and discontent than before.

On the 24th day of September, the Indians were called in council to determine in what manner they would receive their annuity.—When the council assembled, the Wabash Pottawattamies were invited to take their seats together and consult; but one or two of the chiefs seated themselves on the opposite side with the Chicago Indians and seemed determined to confound the councils of the proper tribe. I advised the Chicago Indians to leave the ground, assuring them they could receive no portion of the present annuity. Capt. Simonton told the Indians he would protect them while the payment was being made, if he were compelled to send to Chicago for troops.

The Chicago Indians and some of the disaffected Indians of this agency immediately raised an impudent shout, mounted their horses and left the council. The Wabash Indians then continued the council and informed Capt. Simonton that they had decided that the whole annuity for lands formerly sold and recently ceded should be paid to the chiefs and received for by them. The chiefs informed Capt. Simonton and myself in open council that they intended to apply a part of their money to the payment of their debts, and that they had appointed two persons, viz. Col. George W. Ewing and Cyrus Taber to assist them in counting and distributing their money. On the following day, in conformity to law and the above decision of the Indians, Capt. Simonton paid and delivered the money

to the chiefs and took their receipts.—Capt. Simonton and myself now supposed that we had no other duty to perform than to protect the Indians a sufficient length of time, to enable them to distribute the money according to their wishes; and to afford such protection, Capt. Simonton had selected and employed twenty men who were placed under the command of Major Andrew with instructions to prevent the distribution of whiskey to the Indians, to preserve order, and to protect the house in which the money was deposited.

Soon after the two persons appointed by the Indians as above stated, commenced counting money in the house, the crowd out of doors complained, alleging that as the Commissioners appointed had claims to a very large amount against the Indians, justice would not be done to minor claimants; the tumult increased, and at last a rush was made to the front of the money house by claimants and others who pushed the guard aside and demanded that the Commissioners appointed by the Indians, should be turned out and others appointed in their stead. Another party of white men insisted that the Commissioners should not be interrupted. At the same time the disaffected Indians with some white men at their head, assailed the house in the rear and called aloud to each other, pull down the house, and scatter the money to the Indians. Capt. Simonton and myself had been at dinner, and when the disturbance arose were some 100 yards distant from the scene. I arrived in time to hear the language above stated and immediately attempted to clamber on the top of a cabin adjoining the one in which the money was deposited, and while accomplished this object, one of the logs of the money house was forcibly pulled down. As soon as I reached the top of the house, I called the attention to the crowd, harangued them at some length, advising them to desist from the perpetration of lawless acts, and unite in restoring peace.

The angry excitement in the mean time some what abated and a proposition was made and agreed to by the crowd, that Capt. Simonton and myself should adjust the claims against the Indians and pay out the money; but, not having the sanction of law, nor instructions from the Government to interfere in any manner with the settlement of common debts against the Indians, we declined the charge. A proposition was then made that we should select disinterested persons as Commissioners to perform the duty. This we consented to do provided the Chiefs in whose hands the money had been legally placed, requested it. They were consulted, and did so request, whereupon Capt. Simonton and myself selected William Polke, Ebenezer Ward, Robert B. Stevenson, Edward V. Cicott, L. B. Berthelett and Daniel D. Pratt to assist the chiefs in adjusting the claims against the Indians and to apply part of the annuity to the payment thereof and distribute the balance to the Heads of families. Some delay was unavoidable in selecting and bringing together the above named gentlemen, one of whom was distant 30 miles from the ground.

The disbursing Agent and myself, at the request of the Indians, consented to take charge of the money until the commissioners could be assembled. At this stage of the business the chiefs were apparently much alarmed, (an Indian will not say he is afraid.) They reminded me that protection had been promised—said that a council had been held by the disaffected Indians and that a man had been appointed to kill certain chiefs designated to the council. There was indeed great reason to fear that these threats would be carried into execution, and that the angry excitement that prevailed among the claimants would be renewed, whenever the newly selected commissioners commenced investigating and paying their claims.

These well founded apprehensions forced my mind to the conclusion that justice to the Indians and a proper respect for the laws, demanded the presence of an adequate military force to suppress the lawless spirit that prevailed in the camp, and to preserve peace and good order during the further progress of the business. I consulted Capt. Simonton whose views corresponded with mine, and despatched an express to the settlement with a requisition for three companies of Militia. In consequence of the Requisition and Regimental Order of the Colonel of the Regiment, three companies consisting in all of about one hundred men, were promptly assembled on the ground.—My presence being demanded at the payment of the Miamies, the money was now delivered into the possession

of the last selected commissioners, and at their request the troops were placed at their disposal. The commissioners in the discharge of their duty proceeded to distribute to the heads of families and bands the money retained by them for equal distribution among themselves, after which they adjourned the same evening (27th Sept.) to Judge Polke's about 3 miles distant from the camp, taking the remaining money with them. The appearance of the troops seemed to effect the object intended. The disaffected among the Indians and white men, were awed from further acts of intimidation and lawlessness; and the commissioners after a session of two days at Judge Polke's, uninterrupted by any attempts to interfere with their decision, proceeded to distribute to claimants in the proportion agreed on, the remaining money in their hands.

The exigency that produced the Requisition for an armed force on the ground, could not have been anticipated. The measure, however, it is believed, was not disproportioned to the emergency. It suggested itself to my mind as the only resort to ensure protection to the chiefs, who had signed the Treaty and thrown their protection upon me, and to bring to a peaceful termination, the adjustment and payment of the claims against the Indians by the commissioners.

A. C. PEPPER.

TEXAS.

By the steamboat Alton, Capt. Littleton, arrived yesterday from New Orleans, we have our files to the 6th, inclusive. From the Commercial Bulletin of the 5th, we extract the following:

Col. C. P. Greene, of the Texian army, passenger by the Independence, arrived yesterday from Velasco, Texas, reports to us that, the day before sailing an express arrived, official from Gen. Rusk, at head quarters of the army, stating that Captains Cairnes and Teal, the commissioners, who have been detained and imprisoned at Metamoras, had just arrived in camp, making their escape from close imprisonment. They state the Mexican forces to be at that time, the 5th of last month, 1600; that Gen. Bravo had been appointed to the chief command of the army, and Valencia second; that Bravo was to have taken up his march with large reinforcements for Metamoras, and that the re-invasion of Texas would soon after commence.

Col. Greene left the Texian army in good health and spirits, upon the La Brea river. Gen. Rusk had just recovered from severe illness.

We give a list of the election returns so far as received. General Samuel Houston, so far as we have learned, has received a large majority of the votes for President. Mirabeau B. Lamar is elected Vice President.

For the annexation of Texas to the United States, and the "Constitution as it is," the votes appear to have been, with very few exceptions, unanimous.

St. Louis, Oct. 24.

During the last forty-eight hours, no less than twenty seven steam boats have arrived at this port, bringing nearly eighteen hundred passengers, destined for this, and other parts of the Far West. Of course the accommodations at the Hotels were insufficient for them, and their only resource was the steam boats, which were literally thronged. We do not recollect to have witnessed a scene of more business and bustle than our wharf presented on Saturday. Nearly thirty steam boats discharging and receiving their freights, and the broad Mississippi kept in almost continual agitation, by the numerous steamers which sped o'er her turbid bosom. We would take this occasion to enforce upon our readers the necessity for the erection of a Hotel, adequate to the accommodation of the number of strangers daily arriving in our city. We regret to see so much lethargy manifested on so important an affair, and hope, that a positive knowledge of the facts above stated, may have the effect of causing something like action on the part of the public.

Bulletin.

The Texas Telegraph of August 20th, published at Columbia Texas, says: "An officer of the U. S. Army has passed through here, as a bearer of despatches from Gen. Gaines, and the principal object of his mission, it is said, is to claim deserters from that army."

BUSINESS ON THE LAKES.—Twelve new steam boats have been commenced on the various ports on Lake Erie, designed to commence running on the opening of navigation. It is really surprising what a large amount of shipping is required for the business of the west. It is thought that with all the addition that can be made, there will be a deficiency in the means of transportation for the coming year.

RISEING SUN:

SATURDAY.....NOVEMBER 5, 1836.

Having given place a short time since, to an article from the pen of the editor of the Logansport Telegraph, published in the Indiana Journal, respecting the payment of the Pottawattamie Indians, we now publish an article from the pen of our fellow citizen, Col. A. C. PEPPER, which gives a complete history of the whole proceedings on that occasion.

From the perusal of Col. PEPPER's article, it will be seen that the fair fame of our State, for her good order and devotion to the laws, had well nigh been tarnished by that spirit of mobocracy, which has been so prevalent of late in many sections of the Union; and in our opinion we are solely indebted to the firmness and energy displayed by Col. P. for the prevention of a disgraceful mob on that occasion; and the ringleaders of the mob, instead of attempting to justify their conduct, ought to shut their mouths, and be made to feel the force of the indignation of every lover of good order.

We perceive by the Washington Globe, that the President has appointed JAMES S. WHITCOM, Esq. of Indiana, to be Commissioner of the General Land Office, from and after the 31st ultimo, in the room of ETHAN ALLEN BROWN, who has resigned.

Yesterday, the election for President and Vice President, was held in the States of Ohio and Pennsylvania. On Monday next, the great struggle will be over in our State. The day has come at last; and now we shall hear of "great and glorious triumphs," and "signal defeats," proclaimed by the newspapers of both parties. We shall watch the returns closely, and give them to our readers as fast as they are received.

WM. W. SOUTHGATE, Esq. (Harrison) of Covington, Ky., and DAVID T. DISNEY, Esq. (Van Buren) of Cincinnati, addressed the citizens of this place, and the surrounding country, at the Reformers' meeting house, on Saturday last, on the subject of the Presidential election, and particularly in reference to the claims, qualifications, &c. of Van Buren and Harrison. The speeches commenced at about two o'clock, and lasted until nearly sundown. The house was crowded; both speakers were applauded; and every hearer went away, perfectly satisfied, as far as we know, with the performance of his own man.

It seems that the opinion we expressed last week, that Pork would not bear as high a price this year as last, is knocked in the head already. Six Dollars per hundred has been bid in this place the present week, and some few purchases made at that price. In Cincinnati, it is the same; and there is little likelihood of it being lower.

EDUCATION CONVENTION.

The last Madison Banner contains a call, signed by Gov. Noble, President Wylic, and 17 others, "inviting the friends of public instruction to meet in Convention at Indianapolis, on Tuesday, the 3d day of January next, for the purpose of comparing views, and discussing such questions relating to the subject of Education, as may come before them."

CINCINNATI MARKET.

From the Cincinnati Gazette of the 3d instant, we take the following extracts—

FLOUR.—The market for this article has been in quite an excited state, for several days. Prices have advanced to \$7,12 1-2 a \$7,25, in lots; it is very much sought after.

WHISKEY has again improved; sales at 35 a 35 1-2 cts.; demand brisk.

SUGAR tends downwards; although the stocks are small, holders are disposed to get rid of them, as fast as possible, and generally at considerable loss.

Tobacco.—Kentucky is plenty, and sales tolerably brisk, at 9 a 10 1-2 cts.

PORK.—The market for this article has not yet fairly opened, although considerable sales have been made in the country at about 6 cts.

"The Show."—The company of showmen, with their animals, monkeys, &c. passed through, and stopped at this place on yesterday week. But it is with pleasure we announce to our readers, that the great attraction was but poorly attended. We understand that they took in about 25 dollars, while their expenses were four times that much. This is as it should be. Follow this course, fellow citizens, and showmen will soon learn, that in order to attract the attention of the Hoosiers, they must have something worth seeing and that they must treat us as though we were civilized beings. We have been gulled too often to be duped by these polite swindlers.

We understand that the company of showmen were quite lavish in their abuse of the editor of this paper, for having in a former number, called public attention to the manner in which the unsuspecting part of the community had been duped by their flaming bills, which are generally larger than their shows. Of their abuse we care as little as we do of the idle wind. We have also been informed by some of those who did visit their caravan, that not much more than half that was represented on their bills, was shown. How long will the public continue to suffer these impositions? Can they not be made to feel the severity of the law?

Brookville American, Oct. 23.

We understand that we were pronounced "a **** smart fellow," by one of the said showmen, for copying from the American the article alluded to. Notwithstanding this, however, we are of opinion that the show was the best that has been through the country for some time. The American does tell some truth about shows in general; and we wonder how either of us escaped finding ourselves "sitting on a rail," as this last one went by.

PUBLIC LANDS.

The United States owns, at present, of surveyed lands, as follows:—In Ohio, 4,100,432 acres; in Indiana, 11,469,156 acres; in Illinois, 17,234,01 acres; in Missouri, 17,443,429 acres; in Alabama, 22,586,958 acres; in Mississippi, 12,924,301 acres; in Louisiana, 9,632,526 acres; in Arkansas, 14,223,175 acres; in Michigan, east of the lake, 9,103,697 acres; in Michigan, west of the lake, 4,924,220; and in Florida, 6,792,909 acres; making a total of (in round numbers) about 132 millions of acres, now surveyed, of which 122 millions have been offered at public sale, and are now subjected to entry, and about 10 millions are new lands, lately surveyed, and ready to be proclaimed for sale. Beside this mass of surveyed lands (it is in fact four or five millions more, for the surveyed lands of this year are not included,) the United States own, in the same states and territories, about 100 millions of acres, to which the Indian title has been extinguished, but which has not yet been surveyed, and about 80 millions of acres to which the Indian title has not yet been extinguished; and all this exclusive of the Desmoines purchase, an acquisition of great value and extent, west of the Mississippi and north of the state of Missouri, and which of itself will form a great state, and complete the line of states on the west bank of the Mississippi, from the Gulf of Mexico to the falls of St. Anthony. Here is an aggregate of about 340 millions of acres of public land within the limits of the states and territories, of which 132 millions are now ready for sale, and 100 millions more can be ready as soon as it can be surveyed.—Globe.

EMIGRATION.—The authorities of Hamburg have furnished the captain of a Brazilian ship with a cargo of condemned criminals as settlers in Brazil. This example will probably be followed by other European powers, and in some degree will help Brazil for the loss of the regular supply of labor she receives from the slave trade. We hope England will follow the example of Hamburg, and will disgorge her paupers and rogues upon Brazil. Her honest and industrious emigrants, we are willing to receive.—Wash. Tel.

CELEBRATION.—Our citizens propose having another internal improvement celebration on the occasion of letting the canal contracts for this part of the route.

The arrangements are not yet made in full; governor Noble, lieutenant governor Wallace, and the canal commissioners and engineers will be invited to partake of a public dinner; and we hope to see our governor exhibit as much grace of physical power in commencing the great central canal, as he did of moral strength and wisdom in promoting the adoption of the great system of internal improvement.

Evansville.