

GAZETTE.

VINCENNES.

SATURDAY, JULY 19, 1834.

HEALTH OF VINCENNES.

Many false and ridiculous reports are in circulation in the country, respecting the health of the inhabitants of this place—rumor with her thousand tongues has been busy in spreading it abroad that the Cholera, that scourge of nations, prevails to an alarming extent, and that the citizens are removing from the town. We take pleasure in stating unhesitatingly, that no case of Cholera or other unusual disease exists; on the contrary, a more general state of health prevails than is usual at this season of the year—and from the unusual height of the river, no danger can be apprehended from that source—that Cholera has existed here and proved fatal, during the past week, we shall not deny—but we will give a brief statement of facts connected with the several cases.

On Thursday, the 10th instant, the Honorable Charles Slade, a Representative in Congress, from Illinois, on his way home from Washington was taken suddenly ill, on the other side of White river. He had been complaining of diarrhea for some days previous; as the stage crossed White river, his disease increased to such an extent, he was left at the house of Capt. James Stein, about eleven miles from town, and notwithstanding medical aid was furnished in an hour after, he died the next morning of Cholera.

Capt. James Stein, was attacked on his way to town, on the morning of the 12th. He had become highly excited and greatly alarmed at the illness and death of Mr. Slade, which took place at his house, and perhaps did not act very prudently in the measures he used to prevent the disease. On his arrival in town, he procured the aid of Physicians, who attended him faithfully, but their exertions were useless. He died about 6 o'clock, the same day, of Cholera.

The next victim, was Doctor Mills, a Dentist, who was travelling through this place—he visited Slade, prescribed for him, and remained with him until he died; he had been afflicted with diarrhea for some weeks. On his return to town, he ate a very hearty dinner of crude vegetables, and on the morning of the 13th, was severely attacked—he refused to take medicine, and died on the same day, about 12 o'clock, A. M. of Cholera.

This is a brief and plain statement of facts. It will be seen that neither of the victims, were citizens of Vincennes—neither had any one belonging to the place exhibited the least symptoms of Cholera. Unnecessary alarm has been excited in the vicinity, and we hope it will cease when we repeat what we have advanced before, that Vincennes was never more healthy than it is at the present time.

FRIGATE CONSTITUTION.

Some of our readers are perhaps aware that Capt. Elliot of the Navy, lately caused a full length statue of General Jackson to be placed for a figure head to this ship—as she was a favorite of the Bostonians, this "raised their dander," and some reckless fellow, notwithstanding the Frigate was protected by a Marine guard, in a dark and stormy night severed the head of the image from its body. The Boston Transcript says,

The DECAPITATION OF THE FIGUREHEAD surpasses in audacity and boldness, any act of a similar character within our knowledge. The destruction of the Tea, was nothing in comparison with it. The Constitution lies between, and is protected by the Columbus and Independence, 74 gun ships, on board of which there is the customary guard. By whom, how or when the deed was done, will probably for many years remain a secret. We incline to the opinion that the wood sawer had no accomplice; that he selected last night, during the storm, as the finest occasion, and having accomplished his object, will keep his own council, leaving conjecture to weary itself with guessing; and, from the excitement to-day, we presume it will not soon be exhausted.

We learn that Capt. Elliott sent for Mr. Beecher the Carver to-day, and requested him to carve a new head piece for the trunk of the Image, but Mr. Beecher, much to his credit, positively declined having any thing more to do with "The Figure Head." He had done enough for "Glory" already, and was satisfied with its "sufficiency."

WABASH RIVER.

It will be perceived by reference to another column, that Andrew Jackson has retained the bill passed by both Houses of Congress, making an appropriation of \$20,000 for the Wabash river. The hostile attitude exhibited by the President of the United States against the interests of the people of the Wabash will not soon be forgotten. The bill is virtually vetoed.

From the United States Gazette.

As the arguments which we yesterday used, to show cause why the Senate ought to have rejected—(as it did reject) the nomination of Mr. Stevenson, may not be so satisfactory to the Whigs, we have thought best to bring to the proof, something that will be considered more orthodox with the administration party, than any thing which we can be supposed to adduce from our own store. Therefore take the following:

EXTRACTS.

From General Jackson's Address to the Legislature of Tennessee.

"I would impose a provision rendering any member of Congress ineligible to office, under the General Government, during the time for which he is elected, and for two years thereafter, except in cases of judicial office, and these I would except, for the reason the vacancies in this department are not frequent occurrences, and because no barrier should be interposed in selecting to the bench men of the first talent and integrity." "The effect of such a constitutional provision is obvious. By it Congress, in a considerable degree, would be *free* from that connection with the executive department which at present gives strong ground for apprehension and jealousy on the part of the people. Members instead of being liable to be withdrawn

from legislation on the great interests of the nation, through prospects of executive patronage, would be more liberally confided to by their constituents while their vigilance would be less interrupted by party feelings and party excitements. Calculations from intrigues or management would fail, nor would their deliberations or their investigations of subjects consume so much time." "But if this change in the constitution should not be obtained and important appointments still continue to devolve on the representatives in Congress, it requires no depth of thought to be convinced that CORRUPTION WILL BECOME THE ORDER OF THE DAY; and that under the garb of conscientious sacrifices to establish precedents for the public good evils of serious importance to the freedom and prosperity of the republic may arise. It is through this channel that the people may expect to be attacked in their constitutional sovereignty, and where TYRANNY may well be apprehended to spring up in some favorable emergency. Against such inroads, every guard ought to be interposed, and none better occurs than that of closing the suspected avenue with some necessary constitutional restriction." "It is due to myself to practice upon the maxims recommended to others."

Now what, we would ask, takes the case of Mr. Stevenson from the rule which General Jackson presented as right. We remember at sometime hearing a Jackson man say, that while the Constitution did not disallow the appointment of Congressmen, General Jackson was perfectly correct in naming them to office.

But it must be remembered that the act is not condemned as unconstitutional, but as *unjust* and *dangerous*; and as there is no constitutional requisition for the appointment of Congressmen, it follows, of course, that if General Jackson does appoint them, he does without necessity, according to his own doctrine *make corruption the order of the day*; but still more, General Jackson has expressly cut himself off from any excuse in the matter by the following emphatic assertion—

"It is due to myself to practice upon the maxims recommended to others."

General Jackson is incontestably right; it was due to himself, and the Senate practised towards him only what he recommended to others; they have by his own computation, given him his "due."

Mr. Reeside and the 40 dollar contract.—They who have read the report of the Post Office Committee to the Senate, will recollect one charming little item, in which it appears that Mr. Reeside got a mail contract on bid at 40 dollars a year; and thus, after putting down all competition by the lowness of the terms offered, he was allowed actually to receive, on this contract, upwards of 3000 dollars a year.—He obtained this important *enrichment* in the amount of cash received, by merely stating that his clerk had made a mistake in drawing up his offer. He had intended to demand a larger sum than 40 dollars, and consequently he got a larger sum from the accommodating Major Barry. A late Hagerstown paper has the following paragraph on the subject of this famous contract:

From the *Hagerstown Mail*,—(a Jackson paper.)

At the time when all the contracts were taken, and were read out to the proposers, a gentleman of Hagerstown, who we are informed had thrown in proposals for this very route, was present, anxiously waiting with many others this issue. When the contractor for this route was announced with the sum contracted for, he was completely astonished, and immediately walked up to Mr. Reeside who burst out laughing. To the question how he could afford to carry this mail for so trifling a sum, Mr. Reeside, tapping him on the shoulder, replied, "my object is to carry passengers on the Pennsylvania road.—By this connecting route, I can take them from Stockton and Stokes' line without any fear of delay on their part." *Ball Plat.*

From the *Louisville Journal*, of July 12.

THE FORTY-DOLLAR CONTRACT.

We have perused, a second time, the pamphlet of the Postmaster General. We regret that the voluminousness of his remarks forbids our laying them before the public. He has an evident foreboding of his fate. He feels that the millstone is about his neck, and that to sink is his inevitable destiny. We ask attention to his explanation of Mr. Reeside's famous forty-dollar contract for carrying the mail between Hagerstown and McConnellsburgh:

The majority of the Committee complain of the correction of an evident error in a proposal of James Reeside, which was accepted, for carrying the mail between Hagerstown and McConnellsburgh, 26 miles. The proposal, as accepted, was to run four horse post coaches on that line, three times a week each way, for the transportation of the mail, at a compensation of \$40, a year. Mr. Reeside, before he commenced the service, stated that it was a mistake in the clerk whom he had employed to copy his bid; that it was his intention to have proposed to run daily, for \$1,400, a year. The bid, as it was received, and accepted, carried upon its face the appearance of a mistake, or at least of something that needed explanation. The proposition to perform the service for ten times that sum would have been considered too low to warrant the expectation that the service would be well performed, unless it came from a person most favorably known to the Department. The explanation was given by him—the error corrected—and while he performed the service daily, with an increase of distance, five miles each way, he was allowed fourteen hundred dollars; and since the service is reduced to three times a week, seven hundred dollars a year.

The real circumstances of this transaction ought to be so extensively circulated as to become familiar to every man in the nation. They are sufficient of themselves to damn the Postmaster General, unless he, like his Department, is past damning. The pretence of a mistake in Mr. Reeside's bid is worse than ridiculous; it is contemptible. Messrs. Lindsey and Shaffer, the old contractors, as appears from a publication of theirs in the Chambersburgh Repository, proposed in their bid to carry the mail three times a week for \$300 or daily at \$600. Several other proposals were made by different gentlemen, some of them higher, and some lower. Mr. Reeside's bid for running daily was \$40, and he of course got the contract. All the papers containing proposals were opened together and his was found to be the lowest. Major Barry says in the above extract that Mr. R. before commencing the service, stated that his bid of \$40 was a mistake of his Clerk,

and that his intention was to have proposed running daily not for \$40, but for \$1,400. Major Barry adds, that the Department corrected the mistake agreeably to the explanation, and allowed the contractor \$1,400. Admits this to have been the fact—and a more audacious thing was never perpetrated. When, by the discovery of the pretended mistake, it was found that Mr. Reeside was willing to abide by his actual proposal of \$40, or to carry the mail for less than \$1,400, why was not the contract, instead of being continued to him, given to the old contractor who had proposed running daily for \$600? Or, if not given to them, why was it not given to some one of the numerous other bidders who had proposed to run for still less than \$600? Who will deny that the conduct of Major Barry and Mr. Reeside involved an outrage on the rights of individuals and a reckless violation of law? Look at the state of the case. A large number of highly respectable gentlemen were first precluded from all competition by the singularly low bid of a pet contractor; and, when this bid was afterwards found or alleged to be a blunder, the contract was continued to the blunderer at \$1,400 a year instead of being transferred to those who had entitled themselves to it by bidding less than half that sum. This was blundering to some purpose. One such transaction would be enough to sink the Postmaster General to the very centre of the earth even though he had a thousand times as much character as he has.

In the above extract, the Postmaster General, as a reason for allowing a large compensation to Mr. Reeside upon the Hagerstown and McConnellsburgh route, alleges that after the proposal was accepted the distance was increased five miles each way. A knowledge of the fact to which this statement alludes cannot but startle the public. The editor of the Chambersburgh Repository, who lives on the spot, and who is a moderate supporter of the administration, states that Mr. Reeside runs the extra five miles for the purpose of going by the town of Green Castle, and that he does so, not for the accommodation of the public, but for his own, as he is thereby enabled to get an additional number of passengers. The Editor adds that Mr. Reeside's stage receives no mail at Green Castle, and CARRIES NONE WHICH IS OPENED AT ANY PLACE ON THE WHOLE EXTRA ROUTE. So it seems that the Post Office Department, according to the statement of its Head, pays to a Contractor an immense extra compensation because he turns aside from his regular route for his own personal interest without rendering any more additional service in respect to the conveyance of the mail than if he were to run the five miles in the centre of the African desert. Who can wonder at Mr. Reeside's loaning thousands of dollars to Major Barry without security?

POST-OFFICE PURITY.

The Richmond Compiler publishes a letter written by some travelling turnspit of the Kitchen, sent by that precious department of the "Government" to establish a Jackson newspaper at Wheeling; by which it appears that the new culinary implement was to be used, as usual in dispensing Post Office broth to those who could be made willing to throw up their greasy night-caps and pickup a hurrah for the "Hero of New-Orleans." This new editor took with him, it seems, a commission for the office of Postmaster of that town and the appointment of Public printer for the Western District of Virginia. In order to enable him to enjoy the pleasant office of Postmaster it was necessary to turn out a most worthy man, against whom no word of censure could be whispered, and with whom every one having business to do with the Post Office was perfectly satisfied. This is the Administration that affects to feel so solicitous a regard for the "purity of the press," and so holy a horror for those who tamper with it.

N. Y. Enquirer.

THE YETO AGAIN.

It is with the profoundest regret that we have heard of the President's refusal to approve the Bill appropriating \$20,000 for the improvement of the navigation of the Wabash river. Our regret springs from the deep interest, which, as an American citizen, we feel in the prosperity of Indiana and Illinois. As a mere politician, we might rejoice at the occurrence—for we know that it must inevitably fall with a crushing weight upon the popularity of the administration in those great and rising States. The course of the Executive seems to have been conceived in futility and madness. The tremendous absurdities which it involves are forcibly illustrated by the remarks of the National Intelligencer:

The President approved, we believe, all the bills passed by the Houses at the recent session of Congress, with the exception of the bill making an appropriation of \$20,000 to remove certain obstructions from the channel of the river Wabash. This bill the president holds under advisement, stating in a message to the House, that he has strong doubts whether he can approve the bill consistently with his opinions of the powers of the Government.

If we had not lost the faculty of being surprised at any Executive notion, we confess that we should feel not a little at the scruples expressed in regard to this bill; for the President has not only signed bills appropriating money for the improvement of the Hudson river, and the Cumberland river, in Tennessee; but the United States have heretofore appropriated 700,000 acres of lands, worth perhaps two millions

of dollars, to connect the navigation of this very Wabash river with Lake Michigan, which appropriation will be rendered in a great measure useless for the want of the small sum of \$20,000 necessary to remove an obstruction from the channel of the river. Besides, the Wabash was made a national highway by the act of the cession from Virginia, and when the canal connecting it with the Lake shall be completed, a vast commerce will be carried on not only by Indiana and Illinois, but by remoter parts of the country; indeed already is the river navigable 500 miles by steam-boats. Yet in the face of all these precedents and all these cogent considerations, the President hesitates about the small expenditure which Congress granted to make their own previous grant available, and to perfect so magnificent a chain of communication for our Western fellow citizens.

From the *Louisville Journal*.

THE WABASH VETO.

The Louisville Advertiser of Tuesday contains the following extract of a letter, purporting to be from a Member of Congress:

WASHINGTON CITY, June 30th, 1834.

DEAR SIR:—The bill appropriating twenty thousand dollars for the improvement of the navigation of the Wabash river, has passed Congress. Messrs. Casy and Slade, of Illinois, were very active and indefatigable in their exertions in favor of the bill, and the State from which they come ought to be proud of them, not only for their talents, but on account of their indefatigable industry as representatives.

Yours, &c.

This epistle was evidently written by a first-rate Jackson-man. He felt a deep interest in the fame of the member of the House of Representatives from Illinois, and he deemed it "glory enough" for those gentlemen to have procured the passage of the Bill for the improvement of the Wabash. Like every other man in and out of Congress, he knew that the contemplated improvement was calculated to advance in an eminent degree the interests of the whole West, especially of Indiana and Illinois; and he was anxious that the honor of the measure should fall upon the shoulders of his own partisans. In this, he and his comrades were too precipitate. Little did they foresee that the President, their master and disposer, instead of signing the Bill, would smother it in his pocket; but such proved to be the fact. He withheld it till after the close of the session, upon the plea of constitutional scruples; and it is now so dead that no earthly power can restore it to life.—Of course the party have no other way than to turn suddenly round and glory their Chief for the destruction of the Bill, and this they will do with all their accustomed noise and clamor. They will denounce it as proposing a wasteful and outrageous expenditure of the public funds, and bless the conduct of General Jackson as checking profligate legislation and saving the Treasury from bankruptcy.—These same partisans, four years ago, greeted the passage of the Maysville Road bill as marking a new and bright era in the prosperity and glory of the West; and subsequently they hailed the *veto* upon that bill as working out the salvation of the country. The Wabash bill will of course experience a similar fate with these precious patriots.

The following is the law regulating the value of foreign coins.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That from and after the passage of this act, the following silver coins shall be of the legal value, and shall pass current as money within the United States, by tale, for the payment of all debts and demands, at the rate of one hundred cents per dollar, that is to say, the dollars of Mexico, Peru, Chili, and Central America, of not less weight than four hundred and fifteen grains each, and those re-stamped in Brazil of the like weight, of not less fineness than ten ounces fifteen pennyweights of pure silver, in the troy pound of twelve ounces of standard silver and the five franc pieces of France, when of not less fineness than ten ounces and sixteen pennyweights in twelve ounces troy weight of standard silver, and weighing not less than three hundred and eighty four grains each, at the rate of ninety-three cents each.

SEC. 2. And be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury to cause assays of the above said silver coins, made current by this act, to be had at the Mint of the United States at least once in every year and to make report of the result thereof to Congress.

Approved, June 25th, 1834.

"Fair Business Transaction."—We have heard of one fact, connected with Major Barry's extra allowances, that will amuse the public. About two years and a half ago, a highly respectable citizen of Ohio contracted with the Post Office Department to carry the mail between two important points in that State. Having made the contract, he fulfilled it like an honest man, rendering neither more nor less service than the terms of his agreement required. He subjected himself to no fines, and asked no extra compensation. This gentleman, upon the appearance of the last number of the Blue Book, found to his uttermost surprise, that he was credited with an extra allowance to the amount of \$3,000 annually. He never received the first farthing of this sum, but

he has now made a journey to Washington, wisely concluding that as the money is offered to him he may as well accept it. This is a fair specimen of Post Office management.—*Louisville Journal*.

Experimental Currency.—We have before us a copper coin, about the size of a cent bearing on one side the figure of General Jackson, with the words running round, "Down with the BANK." Near the circumference, "My Substitute." In the centre—

MY
EXPERIMENT.
MY
CURRENCY.
MY
GLORY.

On the reverse the figure of a whale swims on the full run, labeled "My third heat." Above "MY VICTORY," beneath, "Down with the BANK." Near the circumference, in a circular line, "Perish Credit, Perish Commerce—1834."

From *Sylvester's Reporter*, N. Y. June 26.

FROM EUROPE.

There is a rumor of an approaching compromise between O'Connell and the British Ministry, by virtue of which the system is to be abolished in Ireland, the repeal of the Union given up, and O'Connell to be created Master of the Rolls. A letter from O'Connell himself, published in the Dublin Pilot, seems to strengthen this rumor.

From Spain the accounts are contradictory and unimportant: while from Portugal, they are very favorable to the cause of the young Queen.

It is said that the Northern Powers have taken in high dudgeon the entrance of the Spanish troops into Portugal, and the Prussian Minister has been recalled from Madrid.

The infant son of Leopold, King of Belgium, died on the 16th May.

By official returns from the Arsenal at Lyons, the following is the quantity of ammunition consumed during the six days of fighting:—2,204 cannon shot; 360,900 musket cartridges; and about 1,200 pound of powder for mines and petards.

A committee of the English House of Commons, recommends that \$5,000 be voted to Capt. Ross for his services and troubles in the Arctic regions.

Five thousand dollars reward is offered for Jacques Gandonin, who stole from the New Orleans Canal and Banking Company \$41,920 in different bills of that city. He is a Frenchman.

We learn that he has been arrested, and all but \$1,500 recovered.

Cumberland Bank of Allegheny, Md.—This institution has long been classed among our list of broken banks as "un-known." It gives us pleasure, however, to state, on the authority of the cashier, that it has been in operation since January last—that owing to the unsettled condition of the times it has proceeded in its business with extreme caution; and that, consequently, it may be classed among the safest and soundest institutions in the country." Its notes are quoted at two per cent. in Philadelphia. We have not time to notice other matters connected with the interests of this bank, which are of a highly favorable nature.