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WHIG

NOMINATION OF THE NATIONAL CONVENTION

FOR PRESIDENT.

WILLIAM H. HARRISON,

OF OHIO.

FOR VICE PRESIDENT.

JOHN TYLER,

OF VIRGINIA.

NEW-ORLEANS:

WEDNESDAY MORNING, JANY. 22, 1840.

☞ The crowded state of our columns compels us reluctantly to leave out a number of advertisements, for which we beg the indulgence of our patrons.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

The papers, one and all—even the locofoco journals, that are rapidly behind-hand in every thing but perfection in the savings and doings of the government—are at last against the post office and mail departments. The list of grievances is interminable. The editors complain that they are compelled to wait whole hours after the arrival of the mails before they receive their papers—and they murmur justly at being obliged frequently to get the news as they best may, after the distribution of the letters, by which time it has been disseminated throughout the city and has grown stale. This we certainly not the case some years ago. The public journals were wont to receive both their letters and exchange papers longere the distribution of the mails—nor can we imagine why an arrangement so simple and satisfactory should be discontinued, unless, indeed, the sainted Amos, in the plenitude of his benevolence and bounty, should have commanded his underlings to pursue a course calculated to embarrass and annoy the public journalist. If the special agent of the post office department at Washington, who is said to be in our city, on a mission probably of strict investigation into sundry defalcations and deficiencies of recent occurrence, will take the trouble to examine a few of the subjects of complaint, both by the citizens and press, he will find them to be well founded.

We however anticipate very little benefit from the presence of this officer. The abuses that prevail in the post office in New Orleans, have their origin in the same dereliction of duty, the same fury and gross neglect that characterise the administration in almost all its various ramifications. The post office department at Washington is more especially an ill-managed concern because at its head is placed an individual who is notoriously one of the most worthless scoundrels that ever crawled into power by the unscrupulous employment of low cunning and base intrigue. It should cease to be a matter of surprise that the affairs of the post office are wretchedly mismanaged, that the mail has become a perfect nuisance; that peculations are continually discovered among its subordinate officers, that the understrappers and satellites of Amos Kendall laugh to scorn the indignation and rebukes of the community. No reflecting man should wonder at this. The shameless tone of public morality—the example in high places of official turpitude—the utter and barefaced impunity with which knaves are allowed to swindle the people's money, and peculators permitted to pocket it—the supreme indifference and contempt with which the complaints of the public are regarded, and the unbridled license and security from punishment afforded by the indulgent postmaster general to every functionary under his supervision, no matter how frequent and unmitigated the offences, should instruct us that the fault is radical and must be sought far beyond the precincts of New Orleans. The spirit here may be an honest and worthy man, and may report with scrupulous exactitude all the errors and abuses which his scrutiny may enable him to bring to light. But we venture to say, that the banal reforms will not be applied. The mal-administration of the post office department is not confined to our city, it is the topic of censure every where, and its source must be looked for at Washington, in the heartless neglect and carelessness of the head of that department.

If the people are wearied of these things and want reform, they know and should employ the constitutional remedies; for it rests with them alone to suffer and longer endure present evils, or to hurl into disgrace and obscurity the miserable clique to whose apathy and maleversation they can alone be ascribed.

"PROSPECTUS SEND FOR HITHER."—On the 8th inst., there were *twelve* New Orleans and Mobile mails due at New York.

☞ We are indebted to the Hon. E. D. White for a number of public documents.

FROM MEXICO.

We have received our files of Mexican papers, from Mexico, to the close of December, and from Vera Cruz to the 3d January. Little intelligence is to be gleaned from them, and that little so colored and contradictory, that we know not how much credit to attach to it. On the one hand, it is stated that Mexico is preparing a powerful armament to act against Texas; on the other, that the government is entirely crippled in its resources by the want of money, and obliged to levy onerous contributions to support it. In order to meet the current expenditure of the month, the latter of the two statements is probably in the correct, and receives confirmation from the letter of our correspondent, which we subjoin:

[CORRESPONDENCE OF THE BEE.]

VERA CRUZ, Jan. 4th, 1840.

My last letter was dated the 23d ult., and informed you of the deplorable condition of the government, and the law imposing a duty of 15 per cent on all goods carried to the interior. It is justly termed unconstitutional and is a terrible blow at commerce and it will at last determine when and where its effects will cease.

The agents of foreign powers and the merchants have in vain remonstrated and petitioned; the president is inexorable. The law is now enforced throughout the interior as the interval of one month between its adoption and execution has expired.

All this is intended to swell the emoluments of the president, senators and deputies. The government thinks that the revenue accruing from importations will be available to its projected objects for the year. But this resource has in a great measure been withdrawn, and it is considered impossible to push the expedition as far as Matamoras. As *recte*, nothing definite has been concluded, though there is much talking. Ing and Bustamente will head the expedition.

The affair at Matamoras excites public attention almost exclusively. The Texian fleet is expected daily, to which we have not a single vessel to oppose.

The minister plenipotentiary from Spain arrived a few weeks since in the Spanish brig of war Jason. He was well received in the capital.

I send you packages of Mexican paper.

Yours truly, J. ——

A series of resolutions has been introduced into the legislature of Mississippi, by Mr. Farrar of the senate, touching the banks of that state, which declare that the course of those institutions has subjected their charters to legal forfeiture, and that the legislature should enforce such forfeitures, unless, the banks shall abstain from issuing post notes, or any other bill except such as are payable on demand. That they shall resume specie payments on or before the 1st of June next. That they shall not deal in any goods, merchandize, &c., except in so far as may be necessary to secure debts contracted in the legitimate course of banking. That each bank shall keep in its vaults an amount of specie equal to one third of its circulation. That no individual shall receive a loan from a bank of which he is a director or officer, &c.

Those resolutions which prohibit the issuing of post notes and the dealing in merchandize are certainly wise, and will in all probability receive the sanction of the legislature.

It is still doubtful whether Morgan is elected governor of Massachusetts. Boston papers of the 7th, say nothing about it.

The New-York and Philadelphia papers are crammed with the messages of governors Seward and Porter. They are both outrageously long—longer than the president's message. We have glanced at the first—it is thoroughly whig, and written with perspicuity and elegance. Porter's message is characterized as conservative in its tone. We may revert to them again.

The Charleston *Courier*, an administration paper, fully, freely and frankly retracts the charge of abolitionism directed against Gen'l Harrison. Rare honesty this for a locofoco! The *Courier* is perhaps the only Van Buren journal in the Union, that would do so much justice to a political opponent. The admission of its error is magnanimous and unreserved.

The whig members of the Alabama legislature recommend a state convention to be held on the first Monday in June next.

It is said that beet root makes excellent bread.

Mr. Patterson, of Livingston county, has been elected speaker of the House of Representatives in New York—majority 12. On the 11th the election of U. S. Senator was to take place place. The locofocos are trying by intrigue to defeat Talmadge. They won't succeed.

A fire occurred in the Bowery in New York on the 9th, which destroyed a considerable amount of property. The "long locks" and "round runners" carried off much plunder. The papers complain warmly of the inefficiency of the present system of management at fires.

The *Iowa*, at New York from Havre, brings 500,000 francs in specie.

The Richmond *Whig* thinks it an even chance that Harrison will carry Virginia, and bases its opinion on very plausible grounds. We think the chances two to one in favor of old Tip.

Mr. Calhoun has written a letter to the Charleston *Mercury*, in which he says he is "no aspirant to the presidency or ever expects to be." Faugh! a stale fetch to make withings wonder at his apparent magnanimity and disinterestedness. We say of this document as he said of Mr. Van Buren—"your denial is worth nothing in the face of the overwhelming evidence against you."

THE DAGUERROTYPE.—Our citizens will soon have an opportunity of beholding the wonders of this new and beautiful discovery. Mr. Gouraud, a pupil of Daguerre, who has been exhibiting illustrations of the Daguerrotype to admiring thousands in New York, states his intention of visiting New Orleans among other southern cities, in the spring.

Messrs. McCaity, Powell and Horner are the candidates in the Loudoun district to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Mr. Mercer. The two first are whigs—the last a rabid locofoco who will be elected, if the whigs do not erase this suicidal policy of running two candidates.

It is rumored that Senator Bryanoz of North Carolina is to receive the appointment of Attorney General.

[FROM THE WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT.]

Washington, Jany. 20, 1840.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

A number of bills from the senate were taken up, and appropriately referred. Among them was the bill (which produced so much discussion in the senate yesterday) for removing the raft from Red River. Mr. Corrie moved to refer it to the committee on roads and canals. Mr. Vanderpoel suggested the committee on commerce; and on these propositions a loose and desultory discussion arose, after which the whole subject was postponed till to-morrow. Mr. Abbot Lawrence presented a memorial from merchants of Canton in China, in relation to the condition at the present moment, of American merchants resident there.

It was known to the house that there had been great interruption to trade there, and that the lives and property of American citizens were both in great jeopardy. Mr. Lawrence and he wished to present the memorial at once, and he wished to present the memorial at once, and he wished to present the memorial at R. B. Forbes and others, in Canton, China, for a naval force to protect the lives and their property and that of their countrymen: and also, to send an agent who shall be authorised to make a commercial treaty with that empire. The memorial was referred to the committee on foreign affairs, and was ordered to be printed.

NEW JERSEY CONTESTED ELECTION.

This being the first business in order, Mr. Bates, of Virginia, addressed the house at great length on the subject of the contested elections generally. Mr Bates having concluded his speech, Mr. Randolph, of New Jersey, obtained the floor, and went into a detailed history of the entire New Jersey case, quoting documents and calling for the reading of affidavits until past 4 o'clock, when he gave way to a motion to adjourn.

In the senate the bill for the armed occupation and settlement of Florida was the leading subject of discussion. It had passed through the ministry stage and was taken up for its final passage. Mr. Clittenden closed the debate. He is unquestionably one of the ablest speakers in congress. He has a clear, strong voice and expressive gesticulation. He never talks for mere talking's sake. Every sentence is impassioned, giving some new thought, presenting the subject in some new view, or throwing over it some fresh illustration or argument. His opinions are those which make the deepest and familiarly of manners and address, and frequently by a touchiness of image and expression, which makes the hearer feel himself, as it were, in social intercourse with the orator. Mr Crittenden has also a delightful vein of humor, which makes him one of the most agreeable of companions. He can also wield, when he chooses, powers of wit and sarcasm, which I have seldom known surpassed, in all my acquaintance with public speakers, pleaders at the bar, and particularly orators.

Mr. Preston followed, defending the bill and the secretary of war with great zeal and his usual ability. I think Mr. Pierce went on this question decidedly, but it cannot be denied that he exhibited far more ingenuity and tact in selecting his grounds of defence, and fortified them much more successfully in his short speech, than did the two senators of the administration party who preceded him, Mr. Benton, and Mr. Clay, of Alabama.

It was expected that Mr. Davis would have spoken next on the bill, but he had been called out on some urgent business, and Mr. Preston found himself relieved from the necessity of following a member so powerful as Mr. Williams, of Maine City, and Mr. Pierce. But "*omnipotent fell*," as Milton says, "might be his motto, for on the spur of the moment, he made a rejoinder which has seldom been surpassed "in power and eloquence," and would not have been much improved if he had studied it out for a week.

Mr. Strange, of N. C., then intimated his wish to speak on the measure, and at his suggestion the senate adjourned.

The subject of the disputed boundary between Missouri and Iowa promises to receive considerable interest during the day. The president, to-day, communicated all the inducements in relation to the matter which were referred to the committee on judiciary.

The president also transmitted a message in relation to the recent suspension of the banks, communicating the information called for by a resolution of the senate some days ago.

A joint resolution was passed authorising the president to cause certain surveys to be made, and appropriating sixty thousand dollars for the object.

Washington, Jan. 10, 1839.

In the house of representatives, to-day, after an ineffectual attempt to introduce a proposition for electing a chaplain, the consideration of the New Jersey contested election case was resumed. The pending question being on the motion of Mr. Campbell, of N. Carolina, to refer all the testimony in the case to the committee on elections, and on the amendments thereto proposed by Mr. Randolph and Mr. Bell.

Mr. Randolph concluded his remarks in support of the claim of the commissioned members; and read and commented on a number of documents and affidavits, &c. &c. proving most incontestably that fraudulent alien and other illegal votes had been given for the Van Buren candidates, and establishing, beyond all doubt, the right of Messrs. Arcyre, Halsted, Stratton, Maxwell and Yorke to have received as the legitimate representatives of New Jersey.

Mr. Smith, of Maine, followed in reply to Mr. Randolph and Mr. Petts. He made a long winded and loose speech, in the course of which he pronounced Mr. Van Buren's inaugural to be one which made every body laugh. It was one of the most extraordinary panegyrics ever heard in congress.

Mr. Stanwwather, a young Van Buren member from Ohio, next took the floor to make his maiden speech. The whole company left him to himself the house that the hour for going to the special order had arrived. This was the election of a printer, but on motion of Mr. Rives, of Virginia, that special order was postponed, and Mr. Herkweather proceeded and for the first time in his remarks in opposition to the claims of the commissioned members.

He was followed by Mr. Chilcott of Maine, who took the same side of the question. In the course of his speech he introduced the clerk's statement in defence of his course which the house had distinctly rejected at the opening of the session, before he read.

When this was finished the house adjourned.

In the senate, after the presentation of numerous petitions and memorials, a letter was presented by Mr. Clay, of Alabama, from Mr. Chapman, the delegate from Florida, to the house, reflecting on some of the remarks of Dr. Linn, which appeared in the Washington of this morning, in relation to the disputed boundary line between Missouri and Iowa. The letter requests, that as Iowa is necessarily unrepresented in the senate, that Missouri will not be charged as the general government will ill-treatment in the dispute; that the might refer to the liberality of congress, he could point to a recent instance of a district of country being added to Missouri. Nor was that the only instance. Though congress may be possessed of the power, he expressed a hope that it would not be regarded as a duty, to extend their constitutional limits.

Mr. Clay moved its reference to the committee on the judiciary.

Mr. Linn expressed his regret that his young friend had deemed it necessary to write such a letter. He thought his remarks had been entirely unapprehended. He denied having entered into the merits of the question; but had only called the attention of congress to a memorial that since presented, and merely wished to have it before the senate, when the subject of Missouri should be discussed. He thought Iowa no party to the contest. It was between the general government and Missouri and alluded to the contest between Ohio and Michigan, and seem to think that the weight which Ohio and Michigan put in their respective elections have some influence in settling the question.

After some further remarks the letter was referred to the judiciary committee.

The senate then proceeded to the consideration of the bill providing for the armed occupation and settlement of Florida.

Mr. Strange spoke at length in opposition to the measure. Mr. Tappan of Ohio, moved to recommit the bill—for the purpose of amendment; and, pending this motion the subject was postponed till to-morrow, to enable the senate to go into executive session. The senate soon afterwards adjourned.

From the report of the Postmaster General, it appears that the mails, during the past year, were transported over an aggregate extent of 31,186,878 miles, at a cost of $3,385,620, exclusive of transportation by steamboats.

The revenue of the department, for the year ending on the 30th of June, 1838, was, $4,235,077

The expenditures were, ... 4,601,837

Excess of expenditures, ... $366,759

For the year ending the 30th of June, 1839, the revenue amounted to $4,176,638

Expenditures and liabilities for 4,624,117

Excess of liabilities and expenditures, $447,479

The number of post offices was, on the 30th November, 13,068.

STATE LEGISLATURE.

SENATE.

Sitting of Tuesday, January 21st

Present the honorable Felix Garcia, president.

The senate met agreeable to adjournment. Nine members were present at the call.

Mr. Fortall, of Feliciana, agreeably to previous notice, introduced a bill to amend the charter of the Clinton and Port Hudson Railroad Company, which was read for the first time by its title only.

On motion of Mr. Rossier, leave of absence for two days was granted to the senator of Attakapas.

Mr. WINN, after having obtained a dispensation of the rules, presented a bill to amend the charter of the Red River Railroad Company, which after being read for the first time, was adopted on its second reading and passed. Said bill had for its object to amend the provisions of the charter of incorporation, in such a manner that the delay of four years granted to the company to complete their road is changed into "ten years."

The same member, conformably to previous notice introduced a bill to establish several precincts of elections in certain parishes therein named. Read for the first time.

The senate then took up on its second reading, the resolution from the house appointing a joint committee of both houses to investigate into the affairs of the several banks of the state and make a report thereon. The senate had concurred in said resolutions with amendments which were rejected by the lower house.

The first amendment consisted in investing the committee with full powers to inquire into the causes of the late suspension of the banks.

Mr. DUNKIN moved to persist in, notwithstanding the rejection of the house. The honorable member said he saw no reason why any committee should be appointed to report only on the fact of the suspension. He was the mover of the amendment when the resolution came first to the senate, and when he proposed it, he was under the impression that it was one of the importance of such a measure. It was highly necessary that the people should have a full knowledge of the causes that induced the banks to suspend a second time their specie payments, in order that their representatives would lately such provisions as they might deem it expedient to prevent any repetition of similar circumstances in the future. He was afraid that the work to be performed by the committee would be of no usefulness, in case the amendment was thrown aside. For if it is necessary to pass any bill to regulate our banking institutions, he shall vote for it; we are ignorant of the vices that may exist either in the banks charters or in the management of the affairs of those institutions!

The motion to persist in was carried almost by a unanimous vote; only one single member standing on the negative side of the question.

The second amendment authorized the committee to appoint any person or persons to assist them in their duty, provided they shall receive for their services a compensation not exceeding one thousand dollars.—The proviso only was rejected.

Mr. HOA moved to concur with the house in the rejection of the proviso, and said that the reason why he made such motion was because he was convinced that the committee would be competent to their duty without any person employed by them as compensation proportionate to their services. Said motion was adopted.

The following resolutions from the house of representatives were then read for the first time viz:

1st. Two resolutions relative to certain work to be performed by the civil engineer.

2d. A resolution instructing the joint committee appointed to investigate the affairs of the banks, to report on the amount of the state bonds granted to the Citizens bank that remain unsold, and the reasons why said bank has not yet established branches, as provided by its charter.

The other being disposed with, said resolution was read for the second and third times, were adopted and passed.

3d. Resolution appointing a joint committee of both houses to ascertain under what legal authority the steamboats Eagle and Rapide have been employed in the service of the state, and to report whether the same is in accordance with the laws.

The following bill and resolution passed on their third and last reading, viz:

A resolution appointing a joint committee of both houses to examine into the condition of the several orphan asylums; and

An act to create a register of mortgages in and for the city of New Orleans.

The bill on sheriffs, presented by the chairman of the committee on unfinished business was then taken up on its second reading, and adopted with a slight amendment, offered by Mr. Delagin.

The senate then sat with closed doors on executive business, and afterwards adjourned till to-morrow at 11 o'clock, A. M.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Continuation of the Report of the 20th.

The resolutions introduced by Mr. Dunbar, in relation to the veto message of the governor, was under discussion when the house adjourned on Friday last, and are now the question in order.

Mr. WADSWORTH remarked, that it was not his wish to take up the time of the house in comments, but inasmuch as he had an interest in the bills to which the resolutions referred to, he felt bound to inform the house his opinions. He was decidedly in favor of voting on those resolutions. That at the last session of the legislature a similar bill was passed by this body, giving to the parish he has the honor to represent, a sum of money, for objects similar to those for which the school bills had been passed; consequently he felt every feeling of interest to support the bills; but things having changed materially, it was his duty to vote according to the change that it was his servant to vote for. The resolutions which was now under discussion, and those resolutions presented a constitutional question, for the house to decide, whether the governor had or had not had not complied fully with the letter of the constitution. That the house was not organized on the 6th, was decided by a majority of its members. In fact, many of the members were of opinion, that the chair had decided so, and consequently he was, as a member of this house, bound to support the decision. But twice it would make the proceedings of the house on the 6th a nullity, although he still not originally support the chair. That the governor has no official information of the sitting of this house until he received the notice of the committee, and no other legislation he can be appointed by this house for their purpose. That from some unforeseen impediments the governor might not be informed of the organization of the house on the day it assembles, and then whether the house could, the day it assembles, and then whether the house could, the day it assembles, and then whether the house could,