

ARMY CORRESPONDENCE.
OF THE COLUMBIA DEMOCRAT.
LETTER V.

CAMP JACKSON, January 24, 1847.
COL. WEBB.

I am in good health at present, and so are the most of our company, but that we are so is certainly a miracle. You will scarcely believe me when I tell you, that Mr. Hunt, the Quartermaster, instead of placing our Regiment in good and comfortable barracks, such being between this and town, has placed us on ground that has been completely flooded for several days, and for the last twelve hours to such an extent that the water was more than two feet deep in some of the tents. Our provisions washed away and some of our men thoroughly drenched from head to foot. But thank God, there is for the most part a spirit of cheerfulness among the men, and with few exceptions a spirit of patriotism animates the actions of the Volunteers, but while they feel anxious to serve their country, they feel a just indignation at the treatment they have received from the Government Agents, and a determination to expose their conduct to the public.

Instead of Mr. Hunt having the transports and provisions for the 3d Regiment in readiness on its arrival at this place, he has trifled with Government whose agent he is—turned a deaf ear to the entreaties & remonstrances of the Company and Regimental officers, and sported with the lives of the best citizens of the nation.

We have during this day completed our embarkation on board the transports with the exception of our tents which we cannot take down until the rain ceases and the water subsides—but our baggage for the most part is in a miserable condition being thoroughly soaked.

I know not how long we shall remain here, but think it will not be many days.—The Mississippi Regiment which is here has lost from three to four men every day for nearly a week, and some days as high as five have died—so that morning, noon and night we hear the dead march. Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather and the injudiciously selected ground upon which we have been placed has rendered our stay here unpleasant, yet every thing has been full of interest to me, and I have never for once regretted that I am a member of the 3d Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers. But friends while you are comfortably seated by your warm fires, enjoying your warm meals or resting upon your easy beds, think of those who willingly forego all these things to serve their country, and then must endure such ill treatment from such men as Mr. Hunt who owe all his importance to that country which we serve, and which he endeavors to rob by squandering its resources and endangering the lives of its best citizens.

You no doubt wish for particulars and so far as I am made acquainted with them you shall have the facts without fear, favor or affection. My purpose is to speak as a man, and no indignity offered to those who have volunteered to serve their country shall escape my pen. It matters not how high or humble the agent may be that endeavors to impose upon the volunteers. His name and conduct shall be laid open to the public. Thus my friends I have given you a hasty outline of our treatment at this place from the quartermaster Hunt, and will leave it with you to say whether the volunteers have not just cause to let their indignation rise at such treatment and detention, and will also leave it with you to say if such conduct on the part of government agents should not be exposed by every press in the country.

Yours
C. W. FORTNER.

LETTER VI.

CAMP JACKSON, Jan. 26th., 1847.
COL. WEBB.

I resume my task of giving you such information as may appear interesting. The second regiment is all aboard the transports and to day expect to strike our tents.

I shall now go into a detail of affairs touching Government Agents so far as they refer to the volunteers. In the first place, I shall speak of treason. This consists according to the Constitution of the United States, in levying war against the United States, and in siding with an open enemy while engaged in war with the United States, by giving them arms, ammunition or provision, or intelligence, or any other act whereby the forces of the United States may be made to suffer delay or inconvenience, or be exposed unnecessarily.

Takes then the conduct of Mr. Hunt, the Quartermaster, and what does he exhibit but treason of the blackest die, to place men on ground that is subject to inundation, and that, too, at a season of the year when it rains at least five days out of the week. And it is well known that this is the rainy season of the south. But of this no notice has been taken by Mr. Quartermaster, he has a good situation and lives sumptuously at the expense of Uncle Sam, and exposes the deserving to all the hardships imaginable, notwithstanding good and commodious barracks are in the neighborhood, sufficient to accommodate four thousand men, as I am informed by those who are thoroughly acquainted with every part of them. The indignation of the officers & men of the second Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers is thoroughly aroused, as well as that of the citizens and planters generally, and yesterday's papers spoke in very wrong language. I for one consider that Quartermaster Hunt is no less guilty of the murder than if he had administered to each member of the 3d regiment Penn. volunteers, a dose of arsenic sufficient to deprive him of life, and with an intention so to do. Many of our men have been placed upon the sick list since we were driven out of camp by the flood and I believe there are not ten men in the regiment who have not a sore throat and a bad cough. For myself, my throat is very sore but not so much so as it was yesterday. But this is not on account of the climate nor is it the fault of our company or field officers, but the fault all falls at the door of Mr. Hunt, the Quartermaster—at this place, appointed by the war department, & who wears the badge of the United States. By his murderous conduct he has shown to all the world, that he must be in league with the Mexican Government, and no doubt is to receive a large sum of money from the government for murdering off the Northern troops, as fast as they arrive at New Orleans and in this way pretract the war and increase the indebtedness of the United States. Next on the list of Public villains, is the commissary at this place—for when our provisions were all swept off, and the men without anything to eat, he refused to open the storehouse and render any assistance until he pleased, which was yesterday, so that in addition to being flooded out of camp, those who were so unfortunate as to be destitute of the ready, had to go without the comfort of a meal for thirty six hours. These things weighed so powerfully with a few that some have deserted, but I am unable to say at present that it is the fact—but if it is, the names will be published in a few days, together with a full description of their persons. I have made up my mind that no man would desert; and if any one does, he is some craven hearted, low spirited person, that would wish to have ever thing in his own way, and is bent on rule or ruin equally devoid of common honesty and patriotism.

The next subject that claims my attention and the attention of the public generally, is the arrangement in the Post office at this place. All the letters and papers that arrive here for the soldiers are thrown in a pile on a table or on the floor, at the caprice of the clerk, and any person enquiring for papers or letters can get no information from the upstairs, and like the "dog in the manger" they neither look themselves nor suffer the soldiers to look for letters and papers. Hundreds of letters and papers belonging to the first Regiment are cumbering in the office, and nothing done to forward them. The derangement of the Post office in New Orleans, so far as it regards northern volunteers, is complete, and is one of the heaviest impositions to which we are subject. I suppose that the New Orleans Post Masters think that we are so submissive in disposition, that all their impositions will be borne in silence—but they will be sadly disappointed, for more than one has written to Editors, so that the acts of the P. O. officers in this place relating to the volunteers, will be made public in the course of a few weeks. Many of our men have not received any letters or papers since we left home.

The names of the vessels on which the Second Regiment is to sail are as follows:—the Ocean of Providence, the James N. Cooper, of Boston, and the Non-such. The Columbia Guards, Captain Wilson, the Philadelphia Rangers Capt. Naylor, and the Stockton Artillery, Capt Miller, are on board the ship Ocean. Major Brindle will accompany this division of the Regiment. Col. Roberts goes on board the James N. Cooper, and Lieut. Colonel Geary on board the Non-such, New Orleans is a hard place if we take all things into consideration, and those who have anything to sell to the volunteers calculate to have three times the real value of the article. There has been more hospitality shown us in our distress by the slaves, than by the rich planters who were well able to render that assistance which we so much needed. I am now more than ever satisfied that the U. States has many enemies within the borders of her territory than any man would be ready to admit. And I am also satisfied that more men in the United States army have been killed through the folly and wilful neglect of the government agents, than have been killed by the change of climate and the Mexican forces combined. This I admit is a strong assertion—but the conduct of the Government officers, Sullers and Retainers, in this quarter, fully warrant the assertion. How this course of conduct could have been pursued for such a length of time, without arousing the indignation of the volunteers and the Press generally, is something strange. But Government agents or not, where ever such a system of imposition is practiced, as has been practiced at this place, it should be exposed, and then let the accused have a right to vindicate his conduct, and show whether the agent or the Government is to blame. Those who have volunteered in the service of their country are entitled to the best of usage which that country can afford. Volunteers have no undoubted right to seditious upon the conduct of the agents of Government. I have in the letter been touching upon the agents of Government and showing the treatment to which the volunteers have been exposed.—Yet amidst it all, I have a desire to see the actual seat of war. We have just heard that the Mexican army is between the two divisions of General Taylor's army—but know nothing certain, as every hour in the day you will hear a different story, and every man you meet gives a different version of some one of them. Let no man be afraid to go to Mexico, I have conversed with men who have been in the country, and with one accord they say that those who are temperate, have nothing to fear from the climate of Mexico—but the intemperate and irregular, have everything at stake, and even here I see that this is the case.

Yours,
C. W. FORTNER.

The second Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers left New Orleans on the 30th. It. The Mexican Congress has passed an act authorizing a loan of \$15,000,000 and pledging the church property for its payment. This has aroused a deep feeling of opposition on the part of the church, which is likely to create a disturbance. There is a report that Santa Anna has been shot by his soldiers though not credited.

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DEMOCRAT.
"TRUTH WITHOUT FEAR"
BLOOMSBURG:
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1847.

AGENCY.
Y. B. PALMER Esq. is authorized to act as Agent for the 'COLUMBIA DEMOCRAT,' and receive all monies for Subscription and Advertising at his Agencies in
Philadelphia No. 59 Pine-street.
New York " 160 Nassau-street.
Boston " 16 State-street.
Baltimore S. E. cor. Balt. and Calvert-sts.
Merchants-Mechanics and Tradesmen may find it to their advantage to advertise in this paper as it is the only one published in the County Seat and has a greater circulation in the county than any other paper published within its limits.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS.
A member of the Building Committee of this place has requested us to publish the Memorial to the Legislature in relation to the new County buildings, and the bill reported by a select Committee to the Senate, on that subject. We accordingly give them verbatim below, and every one can thus understand the true character of a proceeding that has been most foolishly and carelessly questioned.

It will be seen that this application is made to the Legislature by the Building Committee whose judgment is well informed as to its necessity:—by the Commissioners who have, by law, the general management of the county affairs; and by the Grand Jurors who are, usually, in cases of outlays of this character, the guardians of the County Treasury.

To the Honorable, the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met: The Memorial and Petition of the undersigned citizens of the county of Columbia respectfully sheweth:—

That they were chosen at a public meeting of citizens of Bloomsburg in said county, Nov. 1st, A. D. 1845, to procure Subscriptions and to cause to be erected the new Public Buildings contemplated by the Removal Act, of 24th February 1845, (P. Laws, 1845, p. 58.)

That they have subsequently procured subscriptions of money and materials pursuant to said act amounting to the sum of Eleven Thousand Dollars.—
That they have purchased the lots of ground required by said act, and have procured Deeds of conveyance therefor to the county of Columbia and have had them duly recorded.—

That they have contracted with responsible persons for the building of a Court House, and also for a Jail and Sheriff's House that the former is now roofed and floored and the contractor for the latter is urging his work on to completion.—

That the eleven Thousand dollars subscribed, was a sufficient amount to purchase the lots, and to put up the new Buildings according to the strict requirements of the removal law; but that under the direction of the County Commissioners, and with the concurrence of the citizens they have caused three substantial fire proofs, (two in connection with each other) to be built in the basement story of the Court House, have procured foundation courses & a belting course of cut stone to be laid, and have engaged for the erection of a portico in front, with neat columns and roof, the floor and steps of which should be cut stone, with a view both to their permanence and beauty.—

That the building of fire proofs at this time in connection with the main building, is called for by considerations of economy as well as safety, as the erection of them hereafter in wing or other buildings, would cost five times as much as by the present arrangement; and the portico and cut stone work before alluded to, and other extra work, are called for by considerations looking to the convenience; appearance and durability of the Buildings:—

That there is no authority, as the undersigned can perceive, vested in the Grand Jury by the act of 1834 either before or after the acceptance of these Buildings (as provided in the Removal act) to approve of the outlay by the Commissioners of any sum of money for extra work about the Buildings before such acceptance, however much it may be called for by considerations of economy and utility and demanded by the wishes of the citizens of the county. Authority to the Commissioners for that purpose, it is believed, must be conferred, if at all, by your Honorable Bodies:—

That the price of lots purchased, and the contract price for putting up the Buildings, (including fire-proofs and portico and excluding cut stone work and other extra

work) amount to the sum of \$12,084, and that \$1,500, more will fully complete, finish and furnish the Building, and prepare them and the lots on which they are located for the use of the public, and that the sum of \$2,500, or nearly that over the amount subscribed, will be required for such purposes.

They Therefore, respectfully pray your Honorable Bodies, to pass an act authorizing the Commissioners of Columbia county to appropriate the sum of Twenty-five Hundred Dollars for the payment of extra work upon and about, the New Public Buildings, at Bloomsburg, and for furnishing the same—and they will ever pray, &c.
Wm. McKELVY,
J. RAMSAY,
L. B. RUPERT,
JACOB EYER,
DANIEL SNYDER.

The undersigned, Commissioners of the county of Columbia, certify that the statements in the foregoing Memorial & Petition are correct & they believe that the public interests would be, subserved and the wishes of the people of the county met, by the passage of the act prayed for.
FRED'K McBRIDE,
PETER ENT,
PETER KLINE.

The undersigned, Grand Jurors for Columbia county, at January Sessions, A. D. 1847 do approve of the foregoing application to the Legislature and desire the passage of the act prayed for, and it is understood that the appropriation by the Commissioners is to be paid actually out of the Treasury after the buildings are accepted pursuant to the Removal law, and not otherwise.
THOMAS MENDENHALL, Foreman
N. Seely James Rote
J. Wintersteen Enoch Adams
Charles Conner Daniel Rote
John H. Davis A. B. Cummings
John Richards John Lovrus
William Masteller William Parke
William Mather H. R. Kline
Samuel Beiz Paul Zaner
William Rohrbaugh William Eyer
Peter Hess Charles Workheiser

AN ACT,
To confer certain authority upon the Commissioners of Columbia County.
Whereas—during the construction of the county buildings at Bloomsburg, in the County of Columbia, it was recommended to the building committee by the County Commissioners, and many other disinterested citizens, that fire-proofs and other extra work deemed expedient and advisable, should be constructed while said buildings were being erected—

And whereas—It is but just and proper that the county should contribute for a portion of such extra work, which by the act of twenty-fourth of February, eighteen hundred and forty-five, the citizens of Bloomsburg were not bound to construct:—

Therefore,
SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same—That the Commissioners of Col. co. are hereby authorized to appropriate out of the County funds of said county, a sum of money not exceeding twenty-five hundred dollars to pay for the fire proofs and other extra work in and about the new public buildings at Bloomsburg, and for furnishing the same. Provided—That no part of the said sum so appropriated, shall be paid out of the county treasury before the acceptance of the said buildings for public use.

It will be seen by the foregoing documents, that \$11,000 are raised by subscription and that the full requirements of the removal Bill have been met by individuals. The buildings have been put under way and are pushed toward completion in good faith and without any desire to avoid just responsibility or legal obligation. But the fire proofs, stone work, stepping in front, and the furnishing of the buildings, are not contemplated by the Removal Bill as a charge upon individuals; individuals who have contributed liberally, and provided buildings much larger, more commodious, substantial and beautiful than those ever were that are now used by the county at Danville. Toward these Buildings at Danville the county contributed, as appears by the county records, the sum of about \$5,000 prior to 1818: The appropriation now proposed is not to exceed \$2,500, and is to be applied to extra work about and for furnishing Buildings with and costing twice as much as did those at Danville. The Removal act introduced into the Senate

session of 1844; the act in view of which the election of the fall following was held provided, that the new Buildings should be (we quote the words) 'of not less size and dimensions than the county buildings now at Danville.' The removal act as passed in 1845, contains no requirement as to size. To shew with what public spirit the building Committee have acted we need not mention the fact that the new Court House is one third larger than the old one; and that by means of a fine portico the necessity of large stairways and entries in the interior is avoided; and that a neat gallery has been built in the court room so as to render all the interior space available for public use. In fact, much more than the requirements of the Removal act have been met by individuals, met with spirit and liberality and without grudging.

At the election in 1845 the majority for Removal was 1334 in a poll of 4494, being a vote of nearly two to one in its favor. There is not the slightest doubt but that it would have carried by a handsome majority even if the removal bill had provided direct taxation to put up the buildings. Mr. Snyder a former Representative had supported and voted at two sessions for an act to authorize them to be built mainly by taxation and coming home in each case to his constituents, and putting his election solely upon the Removal question, had been triumphantly re-elected. More than six it was well known in the county that if the removal failed, new buildings would have to be put up at Danville by taxation to replace the present old ones, unfit and unsafe as they are any longer for public use. But, the Legislature passed the act requiring that new Buildings, should be put up by subscription, & that act has been met.—more than met by individuals. The old Buildings and the lots on which they are situated, by the act are virtually given away to the citizens of Mahoning and they pay no part of the \$11,000 subscribed to the new ones. It is not clamor and objection then from them quite ill timed and unbecoming! When a few weeks since, they applied for an appropriation of \$700, out of the county funds for a laudable purpose no objection was made, and all were ready to assume their share of the burden which that rightful appropriation imposed.

A considerable portion of the amount now proposed to be appropriated, will necessarily be laid out by the county, even if the act before the Legislature should not be passed. In part therefore the outlay is a mere question of time, a question whether the buildings shall be furnished, and have stone work in front where exposed to weather, now or hereafter. Shall the Courts, the county officers and the public suffer inconvenience and the exterior work in front be of decaying material, for a time; or shall economy and common sense be consulted by having necessary things done at once!—

In regard to fire proofs, the Removal act did not require them to be built by subscription. That act was accepted and its obligations assumed, in view of facts that were conclusive upon this point. When the bill was pending in the Senate on the 13th Feb. 1845 an amendment was offered requiring (as its main feature) that 'we quote the words' 'good and sufficient fire proofs for the safe keeping and preservation of the public papers and records, should be constructed and provided in the buildings' before acceptance. This amendment was after discussion, rejected. Year 13 Nays 17, the friends of the bill voting against, and its opponents for the amendment. See 1st Vol. Senate Journal, Session of 1845, page 215. Again, in the House, at the same session, on the 18th of Feb. an amendment was offered to insert in the bill the words five hundred as the majority at election, and that the offices in the new buildings should be erected with 'good, convenient and sufficient safety vaults or fire proof closets.' This amendment was also rejected. Year, 24, Nays, 57. See House Journal, session of 1845 Vol. 1, page 365.

Now, it will not answer for the opponents of removal to labor in the Legislature to have such a requirement inserted in the bill—to offer amendments for that purpose,—to argue at length in their favor—to have the yeas and nays taken upon them—and after they are defeated at every point,—their amendments all rejected,—to turn round and say, 'the act means just what we proposed to make it mean, by those rejected amendments.' Moreover, these proceedings in the Legislature were notice to all persons concerned, that fire proofs were not required under the act.

He have now written more perhaps than was necessary in vindication of the proposed appropriation. It is as just as it is sensible and as necessary as it is just. It is in the long run, a measure of true economy for the county, and it violates no pledge and disregards no obligation on the part of those who have subscribed, to the extent of their reasonable ability, toward the erection of the new Buildings.