THE PITTSBURGH GAZETTE.

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PITTSBURGH,

WEDNESDAY MORNING, MAY 22, 1850.

WHIG STATE CONVENTION.—At a meeting of the Whig State Central Committee, held at Harrisburg, March 12, 1850, it was

RESOLVED, That the Whigs of the several counties of this State be requested to select a number of delegates equal to their respective representatives in the Legislature; the said delegates to meet in Convention at the city of Philadelphia, on the 19th day of June, 1850, for the purpose of nominating a candidate for Canal Commissioner, to be voted for at the ensuing General Election.

MORTON McMICHAEL, Chairman.
GEORGE H HAYT, Secretary.

Antimasonic and Whig County Convention.—In pursuance of the call of the Chairman, the Whig and Antimasonic County Committee of Correspondence met at the Court House. The following resolution was adopted, to wit:—

"Resolved, That the Whig and Antimasonic voters of the several Election Districts of Allegheny County, be, and are hereby requested to meet at their usual places for holding elections, on Saturday, the 1st day of June next, then and there to elect two delegates to the County Convention to be held at the Court House, on Wednesday, the 5th day of June, at 11 o'clock, A. M. Said Convention to make the usual and necessary nominations for the ensuing October Elections, and also to appoint five delegates to represent the County in the State Convention, to be held in the city of Philadelphia, on Wednesday, the 19th day of June."

The primary meetings in the Townships to be held between the hours at two and five o'clock, (except Pitt) and those in the Wards and Boroughs between the hour of seven and nine o'clock, P. M.

A HILANDS, Chairman.
JAS. E. PARKE,
ALEX. BRACKENRIDGE,
THOS. STREIT,
Secretaries.

Pittsburgh, April 10, 1850.

☞ SEE NEXT PAGE FOR LOCAL MATTERS TELEGRAPHIC NEWS, &c.

The Galphin Claim.

A great deal of effort having been made by the Locofoco presses, and by a very few dissatisfied Whigs, to bring discredit upon the Administration on account of the payment of the "Galphin Claim," we copy from the *Washington Union*, the report of the Committee of the House of Representatives, upon the subject. Our only apology for taking up so much space with a question of this kind is, that the opposition, failing in finding any thing tangible against the Administration, in matters of pure public concernment, have seized upon this private claim as a weapon with which to assail Gen. Taylor and his cabinet, and hope by distorting the facts, and by the manufacture of sheer falsehoods, to weaken the hold of the present Government upon the confidence of the people. We ask, therefore, from the hands of our readers, a careful and unprejudiced examination of the report of the majority of the Committee, which we give entire, and they will then be prepared to draw their own conclusions from the premises laid down.

They will see, in the first place, that the claim has been repeatedly pronounced, by the Legislature of Georgia, and the Congress of the United States, *a just one*. In the second place, they will learn, that a resolution passed both Houses of Congress to pay the claim, and that the Committee assert that there was nothing improper, irregular, or unusual in the conduct of the members or the clerks, or other officers during its passage, but that the claim passed in the regular and usual way.—They will learn, thirdly, that the Committee, while expressing the opinion that the interest ought not to have been paid, yet acquit the President of all, even the slightest blame in the matter; and that they have not been able to discover any evidence that Governor Crawford ever availed himself of his official position, or of the social relations it established between himself and the other members of the Cabinet, to influence the favorable determination of this claim.

The reader will learn, further, that the claim was never the subject of Cabinet deliberation, and that the Committee state, *emphatically*, that it is due to *candor* and *truth*, that they should express their conviction that nothing has been disclosed by the testimony to induce them to believe that the Secretary of the Treasury, or the Attorney General, was aware, until the claim was adjudicated, that Governor Crawford had any agency or interest in it, and that there was nothing unusual in the circumstances attending the adjustment or payment of the principal or interest of the claim nor any departure from the ordinary courses of business in the Treasury Department.

Let the reader weigh all these facts, and look at the whole subject impartially, and we think he will come to the conclusion,—leaving out the question of the propriety or impropriety of the payment of interest on claims,—that in the whole matter the President and every member of his Cabinet, stand acquitted from all censure whatever. There can nothing dishonorable be attributed to one of the gentlemen concerned, and nothing which any just and fair man can find fault with.

The only question of doubt in the matter, is in regard to the payment of the interest. Here we are inclined to think,—from such lights as we have, that decision of the Attorney General was wrong. In this, however, we may err. We have the highest opinion of the legal knowledge and sound judgment of Mr. Johnson, and the report shows that in making up his decision he was influenced wholly by the law, the facts, and the precedents in the case. He did not know that Mr. Crawford, or any member of the Cabinet had any interest in the claim, and he considered it wholly on its own merits alone. Admitting that the interest ought not, under the usage of the Government, to have been paid—its *justice* is another question, for we do not see why the United States should not pay interest as well as other debtors—still there is nothing in the whole transaction which militates against any member of the Cabinet. If an error has been committed by the Attorney General, it is an error leaning to the side of justice, in a common sense view, and is not a crime, or a fault of such a magnitude as to weaken confidence either in his judgment or honor. There is hardly a case brought before a bench of Judges but that we find a great difference of opinion in regard to the principles of justice and law in the premises. This is common to all human affairs, and an honest difference of opinion can never be considered as affecting an officer's character.

The editor of the *Post*, aping after the Washington Union, makes a great ado about this matter, for want of some real cause of complaint. He makes the most extravagant charges against the Administration concerning it, and seems to think he has found a really formidable weapon. Now we ask him, if he has the least pretensions to honor and decency, to publish the report of the Committee of Congress, and let his readers see the real facts in the case. If he will do this, he may continue to talk and write about it as much as he pleases.—We are perfectly willing to have the facts go to the people as contained in the report, and submit the question to their judgment. They will find a triumphant acquittal of the administration.

The *Post* says that Messrs. Meredith and Johnson *did* know of Governor Crawford's interest in the claim, before they acted upon it, and refers us to Mr. Brooks' speech for proof. The report we give, approved of by Mr. Brooks, says they did not know any such thing.

Rev. Dr. H. B. Bascom, of Kentucky, was elected to the office of Bishop, by the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, which lately met in St. Louis.

For the Pittsburgh Gazette.

MR. WHITE—We are pleased to see that the name of William Jeffrey is mentioned in connection with the Legislature. Mr. J. is an old resident of Pittsburgh, and belongs to one of the oldest families in the county. He is a gentleman in whose integrity his friends and acquaintances have confidence. He is an honest mechanic, a man of plain, practicable, common sense. We have no doubt but he would make a most excellent Representative. MANY MECHANICS.

For the Pittsburgh Gazette.

MR. EDITOR—It was gratifying to me, to see the name of James P. Kerr, Esq., announced in Tuesday's Chronicle, as a candidate for the Legislature. This announcement will meet with approbation from every good Whig. It would be better if the party would select such men as Mr. Kerr.

Well known for his sound discretion and legal acquirements, and great erudition, and is well acquainted with the wants of Allegheny county.—He is truly a man of the people, and would serve the party well, is a true friend of the workingman, and would ever be ready to stand by them and their rights. SNOWDEN TOWNSHIP.

May 21, 1850.

THE CROPS.—We have good news of the peach crop from Delaware, Northern Ohio, Maryland, and elsewhere. The peach growers apprehend only that the price will be too cheap. The same may be said of the Long Island crop. A fruit dealer in Fulton Market, who has an orchard of 11000 trees, on Long Island, states to us that the prospect of an abundant yield was never so fair, and that they would be entirely too cheap this coming season.—*N. Y. Express.*

FROM NEW YORK.

Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Gazette.

NEW YORK, May 18, 1850.

The news from Europe has given a great deal of energy to business in many departments, and large profits are anticipated in some articles of produce. Cotton, Grain, Groceries, and Provisions, are all held more firmly, with a decided advance in some of them. The increase of population from immigration reaches in the past twenty-four hours, no less than four thousand, six hundred and eighty nine souls. A number never before parallel by even the port of New York.—Large as the immigration is, the whole mass is soon disposed of. It is only to put a barge alongside of the packet, and take them off to Albany, and re-ship them by canal to the West, where, in sixty days from leaving the paternal hogs of Ireland, or the forests of Germany, they are transformed into producers, and perhaps voters.

The City of Glasgow steamship went to sea to day, with a fine lot of passengers. The Bremen ship succeeds her on Monday, and the Cunard boat on Wednesday, to be in turn followed by the Pacific, of Collins' line, on Saturday next. You will see that our Atlantic Ferry is well under way now, and thus space has been almost annihilated.

Cuba politics are a good deal discussed here, and the sympathy of merchants is all in favor of the motely expedition that has by this time landed on her shores. American shipmasters who know the temper of the Cuban Government best, say that a small force will readily subdue the island. Still the contest is very doubtful, for no police was ever so strict as that of Cuba, as you shall judge from the mouth of one who knows—"The whole territory of Cuba is divided into what are called circles, each circle is under a commander, with a given number of police and soldiers. Beyond this cordon, no planter can or dare pass, without a permit, which must be renewed monthly." It is easy to fancy the sort of liberty one enjoys there, and the control the government has of its citizens. A successful blow once struck, and the whole power of the United States Government will not be able to repress the movement of volunteers from our shores. The Cuba trouble above put the prices of sugar up, and, in fact, all articles of Cuba production.

Money is (to capitalists) ruinously plenty, and a very low rate of interest has to be taken. On call, four per cent. is obtained, and it is a poor note, indeed, that is shaved at one or two per cent. above the legal rate. Railroad acceptances sell at 9@10 per cent. per annum, a price liberal enough. If orders have been issued for stocks from abroad, no attempt has been made to fill them thus far. Pennsylvania 5's close at 90½; United States 6's of 1867, at 112½; Reading Stocks 48¾; and Erie at 50½.

The promulgation of the report of the Committee upon the Galphin Claim, has created a good deal of turmoil in the Whig ranks, and they begin to feel that the party has a term of life no dependent upon any Cabinet, or even upon a President. The Tribune, the Express, and the other exponents of the party, have coincided with the majority of the Committee against the payment of the claim, and altogether in the ranks of the party, there is shown a spirit of honest independence that is not at all discouraging in view of the future. Mr. Crawford will see very soon that the Whigs of this section are not partisans enough to swallow any sort of bait that is thrown out to them.

The markets have acquired considerable tone under the steamer's news. Ashes are $5,56¼@$5,62½ for both. For Flour, there is a renewed demand, and prices are much higher. Common State trash sells at $5,18@5,37, and $6 for good Michigan. Rye Flour and Corn Meal are dull. Wheat is in good demand, and Oats wanted, at 46½c. Whiskey 22@23½c. There is a speculative demand for Pork, and Mess sells at $10,50@10 62½. Beef is better and firm. Sales of Lard at 6¼@7½. Metals are very slack, and prices, upon the whole, lower. Pig Iron has changed hands at $15,50@19 per ton, cash, and Merchant Bars at $35,50; 6 mos. Lead is dull. Sugar is up full ¼ cent, and in good demand at the rise.—Trade, generally, at the close of the week, is more active than at the opening, but a good many complaints are made of country merchants forgetting to pay up. C.

From the Washington Union.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE GALPHIN CLAIM.

The Select Committee to whom was referred a communication from the Honorable George W. Crawford to the Speaker of the House, of 22d of April, in the following words: "My official connection with the Government authorizes me, in my judgment, to ask, and have accorded to me, by the House over which you preside, a prompt and full investigation, in such manner as it may think proper, of my conduct and relation to the claim of the representatives of George Galphin, which claim has been adjudicated and paid at one of the Departments of the Government, and is now attracting public attention;" and a resolution of the House, of the 12th of the same month, instructing them "to make investigation, and report to this House the origin and nature of said claim, the circumstances attending its prosecution before the Departments of Government, and the passage of the bill authorizing the payment of said claim; the names of agents who have suprosecuted and urged the same; the amount paid on said claim, both of interest and principal, and whether the same has been paid in conformity with law or precedent, the names of the individuals to whom the money has been paid, and the amount received by each; the interest of the person so receiving said money in said claim, and how said interest in said claim has originated to each of said persons; and all matters in any wise pertinent to the inquiry"—have made full and diligent inquiry touching the whole subject, and submit the following

REPORT.

Prior to the year 1773, George Galphin, the original claimant, was a licensed trader amongst the Creek and Cherokee Indians in the province of Georgia. These Indians became indebted to him and other traders in large sums of money. George Galphin held against them demands in his own right and assignees of other traders. The Indians are represented to have been desirous of the means of paying these debts without selling a part of these lands, and, in 1773, they ceded, for this purpose, to George III, King of Great Britain, a tract of healthy and fertile country, containing upwards of two millions five hundred thousand acres.—The trust was accepted, and commissioners were appointed to sell the lands and pay the debts due to the traders. The lands were considered adapted for that purpose, but the King carefully protected that the Government of Great Britain should not be liable for any part of the debts of the traders, in the event of the lands producing an insufficient fund—In that case they agreed to lose in proportion to the amount of their debts. The traders, in consideration of the cession of the lands by the Indians, release the demands against them. Commissioners were appointed to sell the land and apply the proceeds to the payment of the debts. The Governor and his council ascertained the sums due the traders respectively, and found due to George Galphin five thousand seven hundred and ninety one pounds, fifteen shillings, and five pence. For this sum a certificate was issued to him, dated the 3d day of May, 1775. The commissioners disposed of a portion of the lands, but how much does not appear, and applied the proceeds to the payment of expenses which had been incurred in making the cession, and in performing their duties under it—They applied none of the money to the debts of the traders. George Galphin received none from them. Meantime the war of the revolution commenced, and by its successful result the execution of the trust was defeated, and the lands themselves were no longer subject to the control of the King.

The State of Georgia in 1777, and subsequent years, granted to actual settlers, and to soldiers who had been faithful to the cause of independence, considerable portions of her vacant lands, including the lands which had been ceded by the Indians for payment of their debts to George Galphin and others. But no means are accessible of ascertaining the quantity or value of these, or the other vacant lands which Georgia granted as bounties to revolutionary soldiers, although there is evidence that a considerable portion of the lands ceded by the Creeks and Cherokees in 1773 was thus applied.

The fidelity of George Galphin to the cause of independence having been made a question, the committee made full inquiry into the matter, and are quite satisfied that he promptly and firmly refused to take the side of the crown, and was a decided advocate and supporter of the independence of the colonies. His great influence with the Indians caused them to resist the importunities of England, and refrained from taking part in the war. He was especially and peculiarly the means of averting, to a great extent, from Georgia and Carolina, the cruelties and atrocities of Indian warfare. In 1790, Great Britain made an appropriation for the payment of the debts of the traders with the Indians, although the lands which had been conveyed were no longer subject to her jurisdiction. An act of the Legislature of Georgia, passed at Augusta the 23d of January, 1790, asserted the right of that State to the lands which were ceded to the King of England in 1773, and provided that any person having, or pretending to have, any such claim, do lay their claims and accounts before this or some future house of assembly to be examined. Whatever claims shall be found just and proper, and due the friends of America, shall be paid by treasury certificates for the amount, payable within two, three, and four years, and carrying six per cent. interest."—Georgs Galphin died in 1780. Thomas Galphin, his son, and executor of his will, presented his claim to the Legislature of Georgia in 1789, and a favorable report was made upon it by the committee; but the report was not acted upon by that legislature. In 1791, he sent an agent of Indian extraction to England to present it to the government; but it was rejected, because George Galphin had been a friend of America in the revolution. After his mission by the government of Great Britain, it was again presented to the legislature of Georgia, in 1793. The committee to whom it was referred, reported "that the debt and demand of Mr. Galphin's estate ought to be provided for, agreeably to the act of assembly of this State, passed 23d of January, 1790, as being not only but also fully substantial as a debt against the State, who has rec'd and disposed of the lands ceded for the payment thereof to its own use, by which, your committee are of opinion, the State has made itself liable for the same, on every principle of justice and equity;" and they recommended "that audited certificates should be directed to be issued to the memorialist's attorney and agent for the sum of nine thousand seven hundred and ninety one pounds, fifteen shillings, and five pence sterling money of Georgia." This report was agreed to by the senate. A committee of a subsequent legislature reported that the claim of Geo. Galphin was clearly just, and was provided for by the act of 22d of January, 1790, and recommended that especial provision be made for the payment of nine thousand seven hundred and ninety one pounds, fifteen shillings, and five pence. The committee of another legislature reported as follows: "It appears to your committee that this claim is based upon justice and equity; that it is recognised by the act of 1790, and that it is the obligation of the State to discharge it, which the honor and honesty of the State impose;" and resolutions were adopted "that there be paid to the heirs, executors, and legal representatives of George Galphin, deceased, their agent or attorney, the sum of nine thousand seven hundred and ninety one pounds, fifteen shillings, and five pence, with so much interest as may be considered just and equitable from the date of the certificate." A committee of another legislature reported: "Impressed with the justice of claims similar to Mr. Galphin's the legislature of this State, in the year 1790, did pass the act set forth in the memorial, thereby not only having assumed the debt, but guaranteying its payment with interest; that the memorialist, shortly after the establishment of independence, applied to the general assembly of this State to comply with their solemn engagements, but the funds of the country being small, and a report having gained ground that a provision for the discharge of such claims had been made by Britain, the memorialist was in the first instance referred to Great Britain;" and they recommended "the propriety of making such arrangements for the satisfaction of the claim as may at once demonstrate the high estimation in which patriotic services in the revolutionary war are at this day held, and evince the justice of the State of Georgia." A committee of the legislature, in 1827, recommended the payment of the debt, in certificates bearing six per cent. interest, from the 31st of December, 1791, as the State of Georgia had appropriated the lands charged with this debt, by granting them to her citizens. In 1845, a committee of the legislature reported—"Your committee differ in the construction put upon the act of 1799 by the memorialist. It must, in the opinion of your committee, appear that the act of 1799 can only apply to such claims as were unascertained at the time of its passage. This does not appear to be the case of the memorialist. Your committee, from the whole view of the case, are compelled to report, that the claim of the memorialist is not well founded against the State of Georgia;" and they add the claim is just against Great Britain. This report was agreed to by the Senate.

In the treaty of New Echota, concluded with the Cherokee Indians in 1835, provision was made for the payment of this claim by the United States, but without expense to the Indians. This provision was rejected by the Senate, and the treaty ratified without it. In May, 1838, the Senate of the United States instructed its Committee on Indian Affairs to inquire into the propriety of paying this claim. That committee reported a resolution, which was adopted by the Senate, requesting the President of the United States to apply to the Executive of Georgia for all the information which that State could furnish on the subject of this claim. In January, 1837, the President communicated to the Senate the information he had received. In his report, Governor Schley informs the President that the following facts may be taken as true: "That there is justly due to the heirs of George Galphin