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From the Harrisburg Republican.

Borrowing & Exchanging

Many of the papers hostile to the democratic party have for months been charging Mr. Findlay with improperly using and exchanging the public money of the commonwealth. The people are accustomed to such stories against candidates for office, and know what faith and credit to give to them when they come from such sources. Upon this subject we have the satisfaction of publishing a couple of letters that will interest and command the attention of the public.

Harrisburg, Aug. 22, 1817.

William Findlay, Esq.

SIR—It has been stated that you have several times since your residence in Harrisburg, endorsed notes for discount at the branch of the Philadelphia bank at this place; and there have not been wanting persons hostile to the democratic cause, who have insinuated that some of those notes were discounted for the purpose of supplying the place of money improperly taken from the treasury of the commonwealth.

No deficiency in the treasury has to our knowledge ever been ascertained by the officers and representatives of the people in general assembly, whose especial duty it is to examine and scrutinize the expenditure and safe keeping of the funds of the commonwealth; yet considering the confident assertions of some persons on the subject (from motives easily understood) and considering the interest which the people take, and always ought to take, in every thing relating to the management of the public property of the state, explanations more particular and minute than official statements usually are, would not perhaps at this time be improper. And as the greater part of the transactions alluded to in the calumnies before mentioned, cannot be known to any person but yourself, a number of republican citizens of Harrisburg convened last evening, and appointed Jacob Bucher, John Capp, John Zinn, Christian Gleim and John S. Wiestling, a committee to request from you such explanation as you may think proper to give in relation to the above aspersions.

We are,
with much respect,
your obedient servants,

JACOB BUCHER,
JOHN CAPP,
JOHN ZINN,
C. GLEIM,
JNO. S. WIESTLING.

Harrisburg, August 23, 1817.

GENTLEMEN,

I have received your letter of the 22d inst in behalf of a meeting of republican citizens of Harrisburg, containing a request to give an explanation relative to my endorsing notes that have been discounted at the banks in this place, and of my agency in receiving the money. The request shall be freely complied with, altho' to do so will necessarily require the disclosure of the personal concerns of myself and of friends.

I have often endorsed notes for discount, and when the borrower lived at a distance was often the agent for receiving the money and transmitting it to him, and repaying the loan when due. For small sums I more freely become security for others; and in such cases the loans were frequently renewed. Where the loan required was large, I was of course (like all other persons in the same situation) cautious about becoming security unless well satisfied that the debt would be paid when due. Applications to endorse in this way have been very frequent, as well when I resided in Lancaster as since my residence in this place; and although often complied with, very frequent offence has been given by refusals. But I do not remember that I was the drawer of a note in either place that was offered for discount. As endorser I have been on notes in both the banks in this place, and am now on two which have been renewed several times, and in one of them I am the agent for the borrower.

In some cases of my endorsing, the money was not for either the drawer or endorser; and in no case for my own use, except

ing one where I was the drawer in a bank at Philadelphia several years ago. Since the depreciation of country notes, private money transactions and those of the commonwealth have been sometimes in a manner blended; but without the view and without the effect of injuring the interest of the state. The reasons for this will be explained.

The committee must be fully aware of the difficulties that have arisen from the changeable state of the currency within the last two years, in managing a mixed office. The notes of the incorporated banks of the state are the only ones that persons having demands on the treasury can be compelled to take in payment from the state. Very frequently however other notes of different states were remitted to the treasury by mail, which it would have been attended with risk to have returned by the same channel. Many instances also occurred of persons paying for land, having a part of the money in notes of other states, which I had either to receive or disappoint them in transacting their business. By these means (though not a general rule to accept them) such money soon accumulated to a large amount. Having taken these notes at my own risk, I thought it not improper to avail myself of the opportunities afforded me by my private transactions to part with them for such funds as I had a right to offer in payment of equal or greater value. My endorsing notes and receiving money for others, was a good opportunity for the purpose. Since the depreciation of country notes, no other than country notes have been loaned by the branch bank in any case where I was endorser or agent for the borrower. And when the discounted note was paid by me for the borrower, it was paid in such country notes remitted by the borrower as the bank was willing to accept. In one or two cases when I had on hand foreign notes of the kind before mentioned and was the agent for transmitting the borrowed money, I placed the money or credit received on the loan to the use of the commonwealth, and took from the treasury notes less current, which the borrower was willing to receive.

If this be an error, it has been committed when I have not endorsed notes; for I sometimes have placed in the treasury for the use of the commonwealth private money over which I had a control, and used other in lieu of it which by most persons would have been unwillingly received in payment from the state. This facilitated the transaction of public business for the people of the state, freed myself from the responsibility of holding notes which others could not be compelled to take in payment, and improved, or at least could not by any possibility injure, the public funds. To this it may in part be ascribed that, of a balance of upwards of \$276,000 in the treasury on the 30th of November last, only a small portion was in notes inferior to Philadelphia paper.

In some cases money has been procured by my endorsing notes of a friend, for the use of persons whose names did not appear on the notes and which could not be disclosed without a breach of confidence and perhaps injury to them. In the last transaction of this kind my brother of Chambersburg was the interested party, and as the disclosure cannot injure him essentially in his private business, I may state that in November last I endorsed a note of our common friend for his use for \$5000, which was discounted for the purpose (as appears also from his letter to me of the 14th Nov. last) of enabling him to pay an instalment becoming due in January on his United States bank stock, of which he was the sole owner. Having occasion to go to Philadelphia in the latter part of November, I was desired by my brother to convert the money borrowed here into specie and United States stock to pay his second instalment, unless there should be a prospect of specie bearing a less premium towards the end of December; or else to request his agent in Philadelphia to sell the bank stock for him if specie could not be had without too great a sacrifice. I had then in the treasury notes of the state of Delaware, Maryland and other foreign notes to a considerable amount, which I deemed as good as our country notes, but which many persons would not readily receive and could not be compelled to receive for demands against the state. As I had taken them at my personal risk, this was thought a good opportunity of removing the responsibility, and obtaining for the commonwealth in lieu of

them a general credit in the branch of the Philadelphia bank. I therefore had \$4,500 of the discounted note deposited, and obtained for the commonwealth a general credit to that amount in the bank, and took from the treasury the same amount, chiefly in the kind of notes above mentioned and part in country notes of western banks of this state. It was thought that it was necessary to pay the second instalment on the United States bank stock in order to prevent a forfeiture of the first instalment; but on conversing with the gentleman in the city who had subscribed the stock for my brother, I found that there was no forfeiture annexed to the non-payment. And as he intended shortly to sell the stock, and as specie then bore a high premium and country notes were much depreciated, I believed it for his interest not to pay the instalment previous to a sale of the stock. The instalment was not paid, and the stock was sold by my brother's agent in Philadelphia in March last. The money I had taken with me not being wanted for the purpose intended, was returned to the treasury when the discounted note became due, and the bank credit to the commonwealth of \$4,500 balanced by a draft from the treasury in favor of the bank. Thus by this transaction, neither the commonwealth nor the bank nor any individual was either benefited or injured.

This is a full and free statement of an occasional method of transacting the business of the treasury department since the depreciation of country notes originated; and which, imperfectly understood or industriously misrepresented, has I understand given rise to suspicions either real or affected of waste or mismanagement of the public money. The calumnies to which you allude, in their full extent contain the insinuation that there are now or have at times heretofore been deficiencies in the treasury of the state, and that improper exchanges of public money have been made. To this it can only be replied, I can now show (as I could at all times heretofore have shown) the money for the proper balance in the treasury, or that it remains in the banks in which the laws authorize it to be deposited—that no exchange of notes or credits ever was made in the smallest degree to the prejudice of the commonwealth—and that no bank note ever was given or received at the treasury, except at the nominal value expressed on the face of the note. The situation of the treasury and of the public money has at all times been ready for the scrutiny and inspection which the constitution and laws of the state have provided to prevent delinquencies; and last winter particularly such an official examination from the representative of the people was almost daily expected; & as insinuations had gone abroad, I may say such an examination was by me desired. If agreeable to you, the whole situation of the treasury department, with all vouchers and documents for any length of time past, shall now or at any time you may think proper be submitted to your investigation. The principal part of the public funds is in the city banks and but a small part in depreciated paper, although so many and such large payments have been made from the treasury in par money since the last annual settlement.

The last two or three years were times of unusual difficulty in managing an extensive money department. One principal object and duty was, not to subject the people of the state having business to transact at the treasury to unnecessary trouble and expense; and the more important duty was, to preserve the public funds entire and in the best possible currency. And since the correctness of my conduct has been questioned, I may without the imputation of vanity I hope, assert that both objects have been obtained and both duties performed.

I have the honor to be, gentlemen,
very respectfully, your obt. servant,

William Findlay.

To Jacob Bucher, John Capp, John Zinn, C. Gleim, & J. S. Wiestling.

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KLING vs. PEACOCK.

George Kline, editor of the Carlisle Gazette, some time ago brought a suit against the editor of this paper for an alleged libel. The suit was referred, and the arbitrators last week estimated the damages done to his character at five dollars thirty three cents and one third of a cent. The defendant appealed from the award of the arbitrators;

and as the cause is now depending for trial in the court, it would be improper to enter into any public examination of its merits between the parties.—The cause remains for trial by a jury and the court.

To prevent any misunderstanding of the case, it is proper to observe that to this suit Mr. Findlay was not a party as some have erroneously supposed, either directly or indirectly. The propriety of his conduct as well as the conduct of many other persons, was questioned in the trial; but no person's cause was tried but that of Kline and Peacock.

Har. Republican.

From the Democratic Press.

Mr. Binns,

A paragraph stating that I am advocating the election of, and will vote for Joseph Heister to be governor, has been going the rounds in the federal newspapers. I do not know how or with whom it originated, nor do I believe that the opinions, wishes or feelings, of a person of my years can produce any effect on the approaching election. Being however assured that the publisher and some readers think differently, I do therefore, in compliance with the wishes of many friends, whose judgment I respect, authorize you to say that the story is without foundation. Principle (independent of considerations involving filial feeling) will ever I trust as it does in this case effectually guard against inconsistency. Your friend,

JOHN SNYDER.

Union county, Aug. 4, 1817.

How completely they've cudgell'd themselves!

After reading the resignation of the five Germans below, what will the wolf, or sheep if he choose, think of those he attempted to deceive by his address? Can he think them so national as to desert their 'correct principles,' and become the dupes of those who always deceived them? If so, he exposes his own ignorance & not theirs. He has already proved his villainy, in attempting to set the Dutch and Irish by the ears. Such are the men who profess to be the friends of the people.

Carlisle Volunteer.

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TO THE PUBLIC.

We, the subscribers, citizens of Toboyne township, on examining Kline's Gazette of the 7th inst. find that we have been nominated as members of a committee of vigilance by a set of men who met at the house of Frederick Sharrets, in Carlisle, on the 5th inst. We cannot consent to relinquish our former principles to aid, as we suppose, a number of disorganizers and office hunters, who by appearance are seeking nothing but their own preferment; neither can we consent to aid or advocate the election of Joseph Heister in preference to William Findlay. We therefore request Messrs. Underwood, Kline and Gangewehr, to publish this.

VALENTINE BRICKLEY,
DANIEL BLOOM,
JOHN BRYNER.

Toboyne township, August 12.

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To George Kline, esquire.

SIR,
In your paper of the 7th inst. our names are made use of as members of the committee of vigilance to support the election of Joseph Heister, esq. for governor. We never will consent to become the tools of disorganizers; we have always been, and always will be friends to the republican party; and we will vote for, and give our interest to promote the election of, William Findlay. If the Heisterites want a committee of vigilance to support their candidate, they may meet again and appoint others in our stead.

ISAIAH CARL,
DANIEL STAMBAUGH.

Tyrone township, Cumberland county,
August 16, 1817.

The Factor is below. Mr. Sergeant has arrived in Philadelphia.

Dem. Press.