

'certificate,' on the confidential files of one of the Executive Departments, they do not, in any proper sense, become thereby public records. They are never seen or examined by the accounting officers of the Treasury when they settle an account on the "President's certificate." The first Congress of the United States, on the 1st of July, 1790, passed an act "providing the means of intercourse between the United States and foreign nations," by which a similar provision to that which now exists was made for the settlement of such expenditures as, in the judgment of the President, ought not to be made public. This act was limited in its duration. It was continued for a limited term in 1793; and between that time and the date of the act of May 1, 1810, which is now in force, the same provision was revived and continued. Expenditures were made and settled under Presidential certificates, in pursuance of these laws.

If the President may answer the present call, he must answer similar calls for every such expenditure of a confidential character, made under every administration, in war and in peace, from the organization of the Government to the present period. To break the seal of confidence imposed by the law, and heretofore uniformly preserved, would be subversive of the very purpose for which the law was enacted, and might be productive of the most disastrous consequences. The expenditures of this confidential character, it is believed, were never before sought to be made public; and I should greatly apprehend the consequences of establishing a precedent which would render such disclosures hereafter inevitable.

I am fully aware of the strong and correct public feeling which exists throughout the country against secrecy of any kind in the administration of the government, and especially in reference to public expenditures; yet our foreign negotiations are wisely and properly confined to the knowledge of the executive during their pendency. Our laws require the accounts of every particular expenditure to be rendered and publicly settled at the treasury Department. The single exception which exists is, not that the amount embraced under Presidential certificates shall be withheld from the public but merely that the items of which these are composed shall not be divulged. To this extent and no farther, is secrecy observed.

The laudable vigilance of the people in regard to all the expenditures of the Government as well as a sense of duty on the part of the President, and a desire to retain the good opinion of his fellow citizens, will prevent any sum expended from being accounted for by the President's certificate, unless in cases of urgent necessity. Such certificates have therefore been resorted to but seldom throughout our past history.

For my own part, I have not caused any account whatever to be settled on a presidential certificate. I have had no occasion rendering it necessary, in my judgment, to make such a certificate; and it would be an extreme case which would ever induce me to exercise this authority; yet if such a case should arise, it would be my duty to assume the responsibility devolved on me by law.

During my administration, all expenditures for contingent expenses of foreign intercourse in which the accounts have been closed, have been settled upon regular vouchers, as all other public accounts are settled at the Treasury. It may be alleged that the power of impeachment belongs to the House of Representatives, and that with a view to the exercise of this power, the House has the right to investigate the conduct of all public officers under the Government. This is cheerfully admitted. In such a case the safety of the Republic would be the supreme law; and the power of the House in the pursuit of this object would penetrate into the most secret recesses of the Executive departments. It could command the attendance of any and every agent of the Government, and compel them to produce all papers, public or private, official or unofficial, and to testify on oath to all facts within their knowledge. But even in a case of that kind, they would adopt all wise precautions to prevent the exposure of all such matters, the publication of which might injuriously effect the public interest, except so far as this might be necessary to accomplish the great ends of public justice. If the House of Representatives, as the grand inquest of the nation, should at any time have reason to believe that there has been malversation in office, by an improper use or application of the public money by a public officer, and should think proper to institute an inquiry into the matter, all the archives and papers of the Executive Departments, public or private, would be subject to the inspection and control of a committee of their body, and every facility in the power of the Executive be afforded to enable them to prosecute the investigation.

The experience of every nation on earth has demonstrated that emergencies may arise in which it becomes absolutely necessary for the public safety or the public good, to make expenditures, the very object of which would be defeated by publicity. Some Governments have very large amounts at their disposal, and have made vastly greater expenditures than the small amounts which have from time to time been accounted for on Presidents' certificates. In no nation is the application of such sums ever made public. In time of war, or impending danger, the situation of the country may make it necessary to employ individuals for the purpose of obtaining information, or rendering other important services, who could never be prevailed upon to act if they entertained the least apprehension that their names or their agency would in any contingency be divulged. So it may often become necessary to incur an expenditure for an object highly useful to the country; for example, the conclusion of a treaty

with a barbarian power, whose customs require on such occasions the use of presents; but this object might be altogether defeated by the intrigues of other powers, if our purposes were to be made known by the exhibition of the original papers and vouchers to the accounting officers of the Treasury. It would be easy to specify other cases which may occur in the history of a great nation, in its intercourse with other nations, wherein it might become absolutely necessary to incur expenditures for objects which could never be accomplished, if it were suspected, in advance, that the items of expenditure, and the agencies employed, would be made public.

Actuated, undoubtedly, by considerations of this kind, Congress provided such a fund, coeval with the organization of the Government, and subsequently enacted the law of 1810, as the permanent law of the land. While this law exists in full force I feel bound, by a high sense of public policy and duty, to observe its provisions, and the uniform practice of my predecessors under it. With great respect for the House of Representatives, and an anxious desire to conform to their wishes, I am constrained to come to this conclusion.

If Congress disapprove the policy of the law, they may repeal its provisions.

In reply to that portion of the Resolution of the House which calls for "copies of whatever communications were made from the Secretary of State during the last session of the 27th Congress, particularly February, 1843, to Mr. Cushing and Mr. Adams, members of the Committee of the House on Foreign Affairs, of the wish of the President of the United States to institute a special mission to Great Britain," I have to state that no such communications or copies of them, are found in the Department of State.

"Copies of all letters on the books of the Department of State to any officer of the United States or to any person in New York, concerning Alexander McLeod," which are also called for by the resolution, are herewith communicated. JAMES K. POLK. Washington, April 20th, 1846.

**Secret Service Fund and Mr. Webster**  
The following are the closing paragraphs of Mr. Webster's remarks in the Senate, on the resolution offered by Mr. Jarnagin, calling on the President for information relative to the 'Secret Service Fund':

"And I here say, Sir, that all declarations, averments, statements or insinuations made anywhere or by anybody, which impute perversion, misapplication or waste of the funds, committed or made by me while Secretary of State, are utterly groundless and untrue. And I will conclude with one remark, the bearing of which I shall leave to the Senate and the country.

Whoever charges me with having either misapplied or wasted the public funds, while in the Department of State, has either seen the papers, or has in some other way, obtained knowledge on the subject, or he has not. If he has seen no papers, and has no knowledge, then his imputations are purely wanton slanders. If he has seen the papers, or has any knowledge, then he would be sure to state what he knows, if he knows any thing to sustain him in his charge. Silence, under such circumstances, is conclusive that he knows nothing; because he is under no obligation of secrecy, and, in absence of all other proof, he would of course tell all he knew, if he knew any thing which could, in the slightest degree, bear him out. The charge, therefore, was either made in utter ignorance of any facts to support it, or else with the knowledge that the facts which exist would, if made known, entirely disprove it. As to the source of this miserable vituperation, I have nothing to say. I am afraid I shall be thought to have paid too much attention to it already. Sir, I leave the author of these slanders where he is—I leave him in the worst company I know of in the world—I leave him with himself.

#### The Mormons.

We learn from the Nauvoo Eagle that all the Mormon publications have been discontinued. The archives and trappings of the church have been removed, and are now on the way to California. The church (says the Eagle) has ceased to exist, the "Twelve" have gone, and with them the acting spirit of Mormonism. Camp of Israel is the name which the advance company of Mormons has assumed. The latest accounts from them state that they had crossed the head waters of the Chariton. They were travelling very slow, and their stock was much reduced for want of food. The trustees of the temple offer to lease it to any religious society or literary institution. A wealthy gentleman from the South, a bachelor, far advanced in life, has gone to Nauvoo, to purchase the temple, if it can be bought for a reasonable price, and convert it into an Asylum for destitute widows and females, and to purchase lands and town lots, and endow it out of the results of them.

#### The Crops.

The Wheat crops at the South promise abundantly. The prospect for the Cotton crop is not so favorable. In many parts of Georgia the backwardness of the spring and the wetness of the soil have compelled replanting.

The Indian population within the States and territories of the United States, including Oregon, is estimated at 350,000 souls.



## JEFFERSONIAN REPUBLICAN

Thursday, April 30, 1846.

Terms, \$2.00 in advance; \$2.25, half yearly; and \$2.50 if not paid before the end of the year.

V. B. PALMER, Esq. is the Agent for this paper at his office of real estate and Country Newspaper agency in Philadelphia, North-West corner of Third and Chestnut streets; Tribune buildings, Nassau st., N. Y.; South East corner of Baltimore and Calvert sts., Baltimore, and No. 12, State street, Boston. Mr. Palmer will receive and forward subscriptions and advertisements for the *Jeffersonian Republican*.

Messrs. MASON & TUTTLE, at 38 William street, New York, are also our authorized Agents, to receive and forward subscriptions and advertisements for the *Republican*.

### Democratic Whig Candidate. FOR CANAL COMMISSIONER, JAMES M. POWER, OF MERCER COUNTY.

A press of business has prevented us from bestowing that attention to our editorial columns, for this week and last week, which has been our custom. We hope, however, to be able soon to make up the deficiency. In our next we shall endeavor to attend to all back matters, including the unsettled account with our neighbor of the Press.

### LIGHTNING TAMED!

Our citizens will please bear in mind that Dr. Boynton lectures in the Court House, this evening, on the subject of Electricity and Morse's Telegraph. He has one of Morse's Machines, which will be put in complete operation. Will explain and exhibit Colt's Sub-Marine Battery, &c. Doors open at half-past seven. Tickets 12 1-2 cents.

### Restitution.

The following appears in the Harrisburg papers:

STATE TREASURER'S OFFICE,  
April 13, 1846.

I acknowledge the receipt of the following letter with the enclosed amount stated, post-marked New Hope, April 11.

JAS. R. SNOWDEN.

[COPY.]

"Dear Sir,—Enclosed you will find \$40.00, being the sum and interest that I kept back from the State, which does not belong to me. You will therefore place it to the credit of the State. The word of God tells me to restore that which was illegally obtained. Yours truly,  
CONSCIENCE."

### State Central Committee.

At a meeting of the Whig State Central Committee held at Harrisburg, on Saturday last, the committee was permanently organized by the election of J. P. Sanderson, Esq. as Chairman, and James Fox, Esq. as Secretary. After transacting some other business the committee adjourned, to meet again at the call of the Chairman.

The Trenton N. J. Gazette cautions the public against receiving any of the notes of the long since exploded State Bank of Trenton. It says, we do so because a large number of notes of the denomination of 1s, 2s, 3s, to 10s, 20, &c., are in the hands of a great many persons, which might easily be palmed off on the unsuspecting.

C. J. INGERSOLL, A TORY.—In the course of the debate in the House of Representatives, which sprung up on the attempt of Mr. C. J. Ingersoll to extricate himself from the position in which he was placed by Mr. Webster, the following admission was made by Mr. Ingersoll. We give it because it has been denied by his friends.

Mr. Dixon went on to vindicate Mr. Webster from the particular aspersions cast upon him by Mr. Ingersoll and Mr. Yancey. He designed to rejoin, and would ask first the gentleman from Penna, if he had ever said that "had he lived in the days of the Revolution he would have been a Tory."  
Mr. Ingersoll—"I did say so."

### The Potatoe Disease.

The accounts of Irish distress in the papers are heart rending. The Evening Post gives the following extract of a letter from the Rev. W. R. Townsend, rector of Aghadda, diocese of Clyon. The communication is addressed to a medical friend in N. Y. City:—"In this part of Ireland we are in a frightful state, the humbler classes all living on the contaminated potato. The sides of fields and gardens are literally covered with rotten ones, thrown away. The detail of destruction is endless. That employment should be wanted for the people, while one-third of Ireland is as much waste as the woods in Canada, and the rest badly cultivated, not affording half labor, is a strange anomaly."

## FOREIGN NEWS.

### Arrival of the Caledonia. Sixteen Days Later from England.

The steamer Caledonia, Capt. Lott, reached Boston on Monday the 20th inst., at 12 o'clock.—Her intelligence is sixteen days later than that brought by the Unicorn, and will be found highly interesting.

The Caledonia sailed from Liverpool on the 4th inst. She brings Liverpool dates to the time of sailing; and from London to the 3d inst. inclusive, having made the passage in 15 1/2 days.

The victories of the British arms in India and the termination of the bloody war constitute the chief interest of the news. The slaughter was truly awful. The Oregon question stood as it did at the dates brought by the Unicorn. We refer to an article from the London Daily News, as containing all we have on that subject; about which nothing further has been said in Parliament.

The British Tariff and the Irish Coercion divide the attention of Parliament and the press. The former had passed through its second stage in the House of Commons by 88 majority, a diminution of 9 votes. It is said to be uncertain whether the subsequent stages can be so accelerated as to launch the bill into the House of Lords before Parliament adjourns for the Easter holidays. A strong opposition to the measure had been organized by members of the House of Lords. But the Times expresses the opinion, that the Peers will pass the Bill, "if it reach them." Its fate, according to that Journal, in the Commons, is in great jeopardy.

### Two Great Victories over the Sikhs— Termination of the War in India.

The dispatch of our paper by the "Unicorn" our advices from Bombay inform of two more great battles having been fought in India, between the British and Sikh armies, both terminating in decisive victory to the former. The first was under the command of Sir H. Smith, and the latter Sir Hugh Gough, which was, perhaps, one of the most bloody on record. In Sir H. Smith's battle, the whole army of the enemy has been driven headlong over the difficult ford of a broad river; his camp, cannon (56 pieces), baggage, stores of ammunition and of grain—his all, in fact, wrested from him by the repeated charges of cavalry and infantry; and in that of Sir Hugh Gough's, the Sikhs lost 12,000 men and 65 pieces of artillery. The English had 300 men killed, 13 of whom were officers, and 2,500 wounded, of whom 101 were officers. Her Majesty's 53d and 62d regiments suffered enormously. General Dicke and Brigadier Taylor are among the dead.

The action commenced in the morning, and the work of destruction had closed by 11 o'clock in the forenoon. Sir Hugh Gough's account of this battle proves it to have been, while it lasted, one of the most terrific on record. Unlike the able maneuvering of Sir H. Smith, this affair seems to have owed its success to the daring intrepidity of our men, who stormed the enemy's entrenchments, bayonet in hand, defended, as they were, by 30,000 Sikhs and 70 pieces of artillery. The slaughter was immense, for our troops braved the enemy's fire by reserving their shot until they got within his entrenchments. The action terminated in the complete rout of the enemy, the capture of his guns, and the loss of his camp and baggage. An awful sacrifice of life took place on the Sutlej, in attempting to cross which, our troops mowed down thousands of the flying foe, and those who escaped the fire were drowned in the stream.—This victory has put the finishing stroke to the war. It has brought the Sikhs to their knees—and they are now humble supplicants for mercy and forbearance. They have agreed to pay a Million and a Half sterling, in the course of four years, toward the expenses of the war, the payment to be enforced by the occupation of Lahore.

**Warlike Preparations.**—The greatest activity continues in all the dock yards in England, and the recruiting for the army is still going on with great spirit. 6000 soldiers were ordered to India, 3000 of which to proceed by the overland mail route. It is now stated that that order will be rescinded. There is a rumor current that an additional number will proceed to Canada.

### The Navy of the United States.

It appears by the Naval Register of 1846, that the naval force of the United States consists of eleven ships of the line, one razeed, twelve first class frigates, two second class frigates, twenty-three sloops of war, eight brig nine war steamships and four store ships. There are 67 captains, 97 commanders, 326 lieutenants, 134 surgeons and assistant surgeons, 64 pursers, 22 chaplains, 484 midshipmen, besides petty officers. There is one colonel of marines, 1 lieutenant colonel, 4 majors, 12 captains, and 40 lieutenants. There are also 67 engineers and assistant engineers, 6 naval constructors, 8 store keepers and 15 navy agents.

The London Times, under date of the 9th, proclaims that if the United States should discover during the year, any hostile intents—"by votes of money, and warlike preparations, the British Government will not wait to be attacked."

**POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES.**—Estimating the increase at three per cent, per annum on the census of 1840, the population of the United States will amount to 20,140,370, on the 1st of June, 1846.

### Gen. Taylor and his Position.

The New Orleans Delta of the latest dates, contradicts the rumor that a battle had been fought by Gen. Taylor and the Mexicans, and says:—"The whole story has probably originated from the fact that Gen. Taylor appeared before Matamoras, and afterwards moved to the camp between Matamoras and Point Isabel, which he had selected before the movement from Corpus Christi. There is but one road from San Patricio to the Rio Grande. That road leads to a point opposite Matamoras; another road leads thence to Point Isabel or the Brassos St. Iago, the port of Matamoras, to which place all the supplies of the American army had been directed. The position of Gen. Taylor is upon the latter road, near his port of supplies, and in order to reach it he was necessarily obliged to pass Matamoras, and his advance to his point of destination has been represented as a retreat. From this movement, we believe, all these rumors have risen. We have no news of any battle, and we never expect to have any of a defeat. The present position of General Taylor, if he be where he intended to go, is one of the best that could possibly be taken—it commands the upper and lower ferry; it preserves the communication between the army and the Gulf, the only source of supply; and while it enables the General to act on the offensive whenever he thinks proper, he cannot be attacked even by a superior force with any prospect of being beaten. Taylor, Worth and Twiggs have been fighting Indians too long to be caught in a trap."

A letter from Washington to the N. Y. Sun, says:—"Mr. Slidell, our late minister to Mexico, has sent despatches to Washington. Although Gen. Ampudia has been directed not to commence hostilities, yet Gen. Paredes being aware that his position is very insecure, may secretly instruct the commander of the troops, now on their way to Matamoras, to open a fire on the American camp, within a short distance, in hopes that after a blow has been struck the people may with more unanimity rally round his administration. He set out with so much hostility to this country, that he is I think unwillingly compelled to keep up appearances. There will be some 7000 or 8000 troops shortly in the neighborhood of Matamoras, and it is expedient to increase our strength by a few battalions."

### Death of Governor Fenner.

The Hon. James Fenner, for many years Governor of Rhode Island, died on Friday the 17th inst, at his residence in Providence. Gov. Fenner was highly esteemed for the firmness of his character, and his high principled integrity. He was in the 77th year of his age.

### DR. G. BENJ. SMITH'S

**PILLS—SUGAR COATED—ARE THE VERY** best and most pleasant remedy known for the permanent cure of coughs, colds, headache, indigestion, and all derangements of the stomach and liver, impurities of the blood, piles, worms, all bilious complaints, and obstructions of all kinds.—Thousands upon thousands have experienced the truth of the above, and from their recommendations thousands more are making the successful experiment in all parts of the country where these Pills are so deservedly popular. I am so confident of their entire efficacy in all the above cases, that I will bind myself to charge nothing if the pills do not perform a cure. One thing remember, the genuine "Improved Indian Vegetable Sugar Coated Pills," have G. BENJ. SMITH written on the bottom of each box. Office 179 Greenwich street, large brick block. Also sold by Rushton & Co. 110 Broadway and Guion, Bowers, corner Grand st.  
G. BENJ. SMITH.

Agents in Monroe Co.

Schock & Sperring, Stroudsburg.  
R. Huston & Co. do.  
Jno. Marsh & Co. Fenner'sville.  
N. B.—Beware of frauds, an infamous scamp having attempted an imitation.  
February 12, 1846.—tf.

## Notice.

The subscriber wishes to inform the citizens of Stroudsburg and the public generally, that he has removed his

### Flour and Feed Store

to the building formerly occupied by Wm. Rafferty, opposite J. J. Postens' Hotel, where he will sell cheap for Cash. He has also an assortment of refined

### BAR IRON,

consisting of square, scollop, and horse shoe bars; wagon tyre of all sizes; saw slabs, crow bars, sledge and plough moulds, and a general assortment of round iron of different sizes, and American spring and cast steel, constantly on hand and will be sold cheap for cash or approved credit by

Wm. WALLACE.

Grain and Pork taken in exchange for Iron.  
April 16, 1846.