

Difficulty with France.

Considerable excitement was occasioned last week by accounts from Washington, stating that our Government had informed M. Poussin, the Minister from the French Republic, that his passport was ready for him...

From the Washington Republic.

The French Minister and the United States.—In consequence of the rumors and statements that have gone abroad, in reference to an alleged difficulty between the Government of the United States and the Government of the French Republic, it becomes necessary to present a narration of facts that might otherwise have been withheld.

On the 7th of February last, Mr. Poussin, in a note to Mr. Buchanan, then Secretary of State, alleged that he was charged by the French Government with the prosecution of a claim against the Government of the United States, brought by a French steamer, the 'Le Comte de Paris,' established in Mexico, for indemnification for damages sustained by him from the acts of certain agents of the army of the United States.

His application was in the nature of an appeal from the sentence of a military court of inquiry at Puebla, which had made a decision unfavorable to the claim.

No answer was sent by Mr. Buchanan to this communication. When it was brought to the attention of the present Secretary of State, Mr. Clayton promptly directed himself to its investigation, with the view of gratifying Mr. Poussin by a speedy decision.

On the 13th of March, this decision, Mr. Poussin, on the 13th of March, addressed a note to the Secretary of State, in which he reviewed the supposed grounds of the decision, and announced that he was severing his relations with a distinguished officer of the American army in Mexico, who had been a witness before the court at Puebla.

It is obvious that at this point Mr. Clayton might have declined any further correspondence with Mr. Poussin, but he declined to do so, and on the 10th of April, he replied to Mr. Poussin's communication, assigning reasons for his decision, and respectfully controverting the positions of the French Minister.

Mr. Clayton received a reply from Mr. Poussin, in which the Minister intimated that he might have accompanied a disavowal of Commander Carpenter's conduct with a severe censure; but a disavowal of the principle of the Executive's conduct would not necessarily have implied a severe censure.

Mr. Poussin's note of the 12th of May was not understood, nor could it be interpreted, as an actual disavowal of the law under which Commander Carpenter claimed salvage for his crew.

To demand upon the President to disavow a law of the land, and the usage of the Executive, it would have been a sufficient answer to her reply, that it is not the province of the Executive to make or repeal laws; it is his duty to execute them as they are.

It was in reply to this communication, that on the 21st of April Mr. Clayton addressed Mr. Poussin the following note:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, Washington, April 21, 1849. Sir:—On the afternoon of the 18th instant, a communication from you, dated Washington, April 18, 1849, was received at this office, and was forwarded to the Secretary of State.

Under these circumstances, I beg to inform you, that the communication from you, which was laid before me this morning, I do not at present deem it necessary to reply to this communication, as it is not in my power to do so.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant, JOHN M. CLAYTON, Secretary of State.

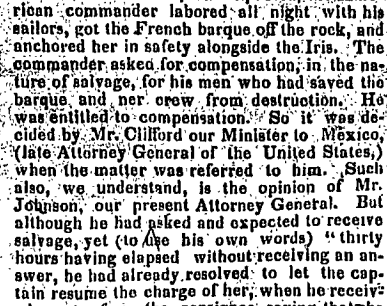
In the interview between Mr. Clayton and Mr. Poussin which followed this note, the gentleman was informed that his letter was highly offensive, and contained language which our Government could not admit, and that he was permitted to withdraw the offensive expressions.

The letter was accordingly withdrawn, and on the following day returned, expurgated of the most offensive matters, so that the relations between the Minister of France and the American Government should not be impaired.

On the 19th day of May, however, Mr. Poussin, in a dispatch addressed to the Secretary of State, stated that "Mr. Clayton had informed the American war steamer 'Le Comte de Paris,' after assisting to the assistance of the French ship 'Eugenie,' of the capture of the French steamer 'Le Comte de Paris,' near the anchorage of Ancon, and advanced claims, wholly inadmissible, on account of the remuneration for his services, and to secure the release of the vessel for two or three days.

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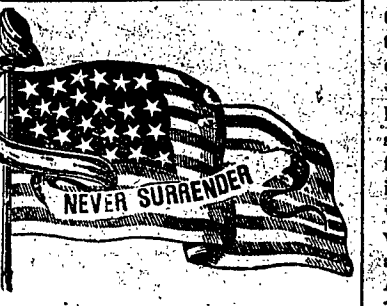
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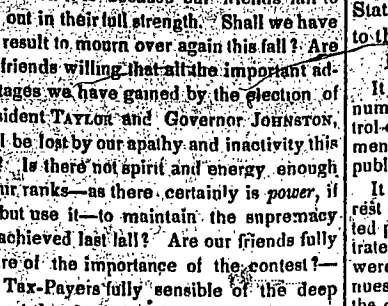
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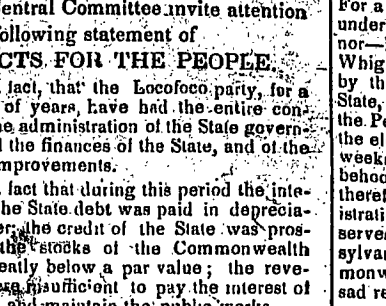
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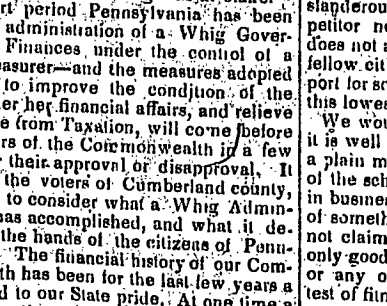
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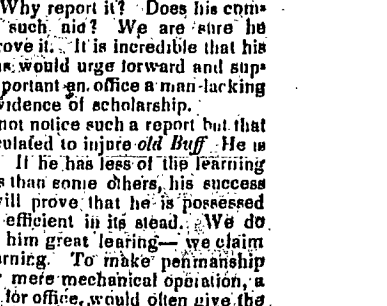
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