

From the United States Gazette.
NEW YORK CUSTOM HOUSE
ROGUERIES.

WASHINGTON, May 6, 1842.

I had only time last night, to give you a Homœopathic dose of the New York Custom House villainies, as disclosed by the report of Mr. Poindecker, one of the Commissioners appointed to investigate that sink of corruption, just printed and sent to members. I will now endeavor to give you, in as small a space as possible the substance of some 40 pages of this precious document.

I stated in my last letter how a certain George A. Wasson, public storekeeper, had, in three years, received \$94,430 92 for cartage and labor, without producing vouchers to authorize the allowance of this sum, or any other, besides a salary of \$1500 per annum, large sums of money for attending trials at Baltimore and Philadelphia, coal taken from that belonging to the Custom House, for his own use, goods abstracted from the Public Stores, and the labor of men employed and paid by the government. I also told you how this man charged government from two to five dollars a load for carting goods, when merchants and others only paid from 31¢ to 50 cents per load, hauled the same distance—each package hauled by his cart being charged as a load. This is one of the frauds practised upon the government. I believe I also stated that this honest George A. Wasson was continued by Mr. Curtis, precisely as he had been placed by Jesse Hoyt, that the same extravagant and fraudulent charges for cartage and labor which had been sanctioned by Hoyt, were continued by Mr. Curtis, with a full knowledge on his part of the outrageous prices charged.

Believing your readers and the public generally, will have been made sufficiently acquainted with the character of this Mr. Wasson, by the slight notice I have taken of his transaction, I shall dismiss him to take up and look at

The amount of money expended for stationary in the various departments of the N. Y. Custom House.

Namely 9 months of 1838	\$8,487 50
1839	17,730 50
1840	16,713 16
3 months of 1841	8,721 69

Total in just 3 years, \$61,703 22
 Average, \$17,234 42 a year.

Comparative prices of stationary under Jesse Hoyt and Ewd. Curtis, as shown by the Testimony of David Felt, an old and respectable stationer.

Articles.	Prices under Hoyt.	Under Curtis.	Marked Value.
Cash Book, 4 Quires,	\$20	—	\$11
Bond Book,	15	12	6
Impost Book,	68	53	19 50
15 Quires,	—	—	—
Masters oath,	12 per ream	12 to 14	9
2 on a sheet,	—	—	—
Several other books same prices	—	—	—
Abstract	100 to 114 none	47 50	—
paper	per ream.	per ream.	—
Abstract do.	70 per ream.	80 per 15 inferior,	per ream.
Abstract do.	40 per ream.	—	\$11 smaller size.
Pencils per gross,	15 to 28,	15 to 12,	9 00
Tape per gross,	12 to 18,	12	6 50
Wafers per lb.	1 75	1 50	60
Wax per lb.	1 75	1 50	75
Sand,	3 to 3 50	2 per 123 cts.	—
	per peck.	per peck.	—

The comparative statements are made from the vouchers furnished to the commissioners by the Auditor of the Custom House. They were made not in consideration of the amount of expenditure, but to exhibit a fair specimen of every other expenditure, great and small, in the Custom House, for a series of years past.

There was expended for books, stationary, and printing, during the last quarter of Mr. Hoyt's collectorship, including 20 days which Mr. Morgan was in office, and a few days before the second quarter, the following sums for the subjoined articles:

For Blank Books,	\$1,577 00
Steel pens, and a few quills,	1,322 50
Lead pencils,	618 00
Foolscap and post paper,	414 75
Report and envelop paper,	503 88
Letter paper,	893 50
Drawing paper,	50 00
Tape,	486 00
Wafers and wax,	449 00
Sand,	32 00
Blanks,	2,435 00
Knives,	161 00
Ink,	155 00
Sundries,	116 57

Total, 8,721 69

"This enormous sum," says Mr. Poindecker, "stands charged on the books of the Custom House in the short space of three months, of which \$5,416 11 were debited to the collector's and storekeepers' offices, in which there were employed seventy-nine clerks, making an average of \$285 77 per annum for stationary for each person attached to these offices. There was during this quarter one hundred and thirty-six reams of foolscap and letter paper ordered and supplied for the use of the Custom House, which forms a part of the aggregate sum as above stated. It is evident that so large an amount of stationary could not have been required for any legitimate purpose connected with the business of the several departments of the Custom House, to be used in the short space of three months, and therefore, the greater portion of the articles purchased must have passed into the hands of Mr. Curtis, who succeeded to the office of Collector about the close of that quarter, or have been fraudulently abstracted from the Custom House, of which no evidence

Mr. Curtis in the second quarter of the same year, being the first quarter after he became collector, there is charged for disbursements in the purchase of stationary ordered and received by him for the collector's office alone, \$1,753 75; for the appraisers \$118 50; for the storekeepers \$203 83; for inspectors \$24 50; for the store in Washington street \$20 56, making in the whole, the grand total of \$10,942 99 for the stationary alone, during one half of the year 1841."

"The single item of steel pens and quills, of the latter of which but few were ordered, and therefore scarcely worth mentioning, amounting, during the three years of Mr. Hoyt's administration of the Custom House to the sum of \$6,255 16! The price of these pens, charged in the bills rendered and paid by Mr. Hoyt, ranged from the minimum of nine dollars per gross, to the maximum of twenty dollars per gross, the larger portion being of the lower class, which are in general use for clerks, both mercantile and official.—The depositions of David Felt, E. J. Eno and Josiah Haden, who are large dealers in the article of steel pens, are referred to, to show the standard price per gross of the description used at the Custom House. In purchasing in boxes, which is the most convenient mode of supplying clerks, (the cards being entirely useless,) it will be seen that the first class of "Gallot's" Magnum Bonum pens, or pens of equal quality, could be supplied in the New York market, at four dollars and fifty cents per gross on the card, or one half that sum in boxes; and what is denominated the "commercial pen," at two dollars per gross on the card, or \$1 20 in boxes. Taking the average of these prices, and considering that nineteen-twentieths of the pens supplied to the Custom House are of the latter class, it will appear that, at these rates the sum appropriated by Mr. Hoyt while he remained in the office would have supplied the enormous quantity of 432,237 pens, making an average of 144,079 per annum, to be distributed among about one hundred clerks who are constantly employed in writing, on an average of about 1500 pens each per annum."

The report states that Mr. Erno offered to supply Mr. Hoyt with such pens as he paid \$9 per gross for, at \$1 50 per gross; but he declined the offer so decidedly, as to prevent a repetition of it.

"It may be asked why particular individuals are allowed and paid at rates ranging from \$9 to \$22 per gross, for pens, for the use of the Custom House, where an offer to supply like articles at the moderate price of \$1 50 per gross, is contemptuously rejected and shunned? The undersigned refers to the volume of evidence taken by the Commissioners to demonstrate the fact, which, in the absence of clear proof, might well be doubted, that this and numerous other cases of favoritism, so gross and palpable that none can mistake it, had their origin in a system of fraud on the public Treasury to promote the interests of selected partisans, who could be relied on for efficient services in popular elections.

"The conclusion is strongly enforced by the mass of evidence taken in relation to the existence of a Custom House Tax, regularly levied and paid, in advance of elections for city officers, for Governor and Representatives in the State Legislature, for members of Congress, and for President and Vice President of the U. States, during the whole period of the two preceding administrations of the Federal Government. This tax was graduated on a scale corresponding with the salary received by each officer and the importance of the pending election, and a refusal to pay it, was immediately followed by removal from office.

"It will also be seen by the report of the surveyor and other evidence, that numerous officers of the Customs were absent from duty, either by the express permission of the Collector, or without censure from that officer, for weeks and months prior to elections, for no other purpose than to influence voters, and lend their aid to the success of candidates favorable to the party in power, while their salaries, as officers of the government, suffered no diminution in consequence of their absence from duty."

Mortifying as it is, to be obliged to expose such conduct in a high and responsible officer of the Government—conduct which reflects so much disgrace upon the country, the Commissioner states that duty leaves him no alternative, and that the facts stated are established by a chain of testimony which to every impartial mind must be conclusive.

"The same system of wasteful extravagance is seen in every article falling under the denomination of stationary. During Mr. Hoyt's three years of official service there was paid the enormous sum of \$26,237 14, on an average of \$8,732 38 per annum, for blank books! As will be seen by the table above given, books which could be supplied at \$19 50, are charged at \$68. Some that are worth only \$11, are charged at \$20—those charged at \$15 are rated at \$6, and so on. In the bills rendered by O'Herr and others, the article of writing sand is charged at the rate of from \$3 to \$3 50 per peck, and in some cases even higher; when it was in proof by the deposition of David Felt, that he supplied the same, if taken by the bushel at 12½ cents per peck, or 50 cents per bushel; and if taken by the single peck, at 25 cents; at these rates he states that his profit would be 200 per cent.

"During Mr. Hoyt's time, three years, for writing sand, the sum

of \$202 38, which, at the customary rates, would have purchased 404½ bushels.

It appears, too, that Mr. Hoyt purchased "abstract paper, or blue laid English imperial" ruled, which is charged in O'Herr's bill at the rate of from \$100 to \$144 (one hundred and forty-four dollars) per ream, its value being in New York, from \$30 to \$47 50 per ream. "Impost-book paper," which is worth \$15 per ream, is charged at from \$70 to \$80 per ream; and demi, worth \$11, at \$40 per ream.

The Commissioner states that all the supplies from the Custom House were furnished at second hand by certain favored individuals who had an opportunity of purchasing the articles at prices even less than those mentioned as their market value, and who of course, made an enormous profit. "The system of favoritism, so inconsistent with the public interest and fair dealing, was uniformly extended to the most violent political partisans, who earned the favor by their devotion to the hand from which they received it."

From Rhode Island.

The Providence Journal of Saturday has the following article:

THE TRIUMPH OF THE LAWS.

The importance of the triumph of law and order over violence and treason, which has been achieved by the firmness and prudence of the government, aided by the many support of the citizens, cannot be over-estimated. It is a triumph, not for Rhode Island alone, but for the Union; for the cause of republican government; and, unless we are greatly mistaken, the State of Rhode Island has earned and will receive the gratitude of the whole country. It was achieved by our own citizens alone; not a soldier of the General Government was here; and, although the authorities had full confidence that the General Government would interpose, still it was not believed by the insurgents, who were fully under the influence of their leaders. It had therefore no moral effect upon them. It must be confessed, also, that some of the friends of law began to think that the interposition of the General Government, although it would be efficient when it came would be late.—The article in the Madisonian, which we copied in Wednesday's paper, strengthened this opinion; and every one said on Tuesday, "now we must take care of ourselves." The insult which was unendurable, "the last drop that made the cup run over," was the seizure of the Artillery guns. The Cadet Army, which adjoins that of the Artillery, was filled with men, entreating permission to defend the guns. The commander of the company, who himself shared to the full in the universal restraining them. An extract was sent to the Governor for permission to attack the detachment employed in seizing the guns; it came fifteen minutes too late, but in time to prevent them from taking the shot. The Governor of the Governor to the companies was issued after sunset of that day, and by sunrise of the next, it was answered by eight hundred bayonets.—The militia turned out nobly; business was suspended as last as the news arrived, and the whole State aroused to arms with an enthusiasm which showed at once that the people were not only for law and order, but were determined to maintain both.

On the arrival of the Newport Artillery at Newport, they were received by 250 men under arms and waiting orders. The whole body immediately proceeded to one of the churches, where divine service was performed, and solemn thanksgiving offered to that Almighty Power whose mercy had given us victory without blood.

The Bristol and Warren companies were also received on their arrival by escorts of their fellow citizens.

A FEARFUL RIDE.

The Ithaca and Oswego railroad as it comes into this valley, descends in less than half a mile nearly 500 feet by means of two inclined planes. The cars on their arrival at the upper engine house are detached from the locomotive, and permitted to descend to the lower engine house under the control of brakemen. From the lower engine house, which is the top of the first inclined plane, the passengers are brought to this village by stage. This is done because of the steepness of the lower inclined plane; it descending 450 feet in the distance of 1750, or nearly at an angle of 45 degrees to the horizon. No person of sane mind would venture his neck by going down this inclined plane, as in case of the car becoming detached in descending, it would inevitably be dashed to atoms.

On Saturday last, the car contained eleven passengers, was detached as usual at the upper engine house, but it was found that the brakemen did not operate, and that the car was hastening with constant accelerated rapidity towards the brink of the lower inclined plane. The forward brakeman leaped from the car for the purpose of throwing it off the track by means of a beam, but he stumbled and failed in his object. The other brakeman sat at his post like a hero, calling to the passengers to jump and save themselves. On went the car with dreadful rapidity, and one by one the passengers jumped out. The Hon. Amasa Dana leaped from the car as it passed through the lower engine house, and there also the brake man sprang for his life. One man alone was unable to escape, before the car, which was already outstripping the wind, made the plunge down the lower plane. The whole length of this was traversed almost in an instant. About 100 feet from the bottom the car

left the track, dashing to pieces the iron wheels on which the engine rope plays, and splintering the beams which bound the tracks together, until it reached the foot of the plane, where it was dashed into a thousand fragments. One of the car wheels was shivered to pieces, the heavy iron axletree broken, and scarcely any one piece of the body left entire. We saw the wreck, and if a bomb shell had burst in the car it could not have more completely demolished it. In the midst of the fragments the man who descended with the car was found, his arm broken above and below the elbow, and his head severely fractured. Medical assistance was at once rendered, and there is some hopes of his recovery. His name is Babcock, and he is a relative of Mr. Eber Babcock, of this village. During the delirium occasioned by the blow, the wounded man kept constantly repeating words as if endeavoring to stop a team of horses.

Judge Dana was but slightly hurt, although several of the passengers who sprang from the car were severely but not dangerously injured.

Mr. B., whose escape with life is little short of a miracle, was at the time our paper went to press, gradually improving, and confident hopes are entertained of his recovery.—Ithaca Journal.

MORE HOARDING OF SPECIE.

We made mention in the last Record, of a large sum of specie found in possession of an old German of this county, at his decease, which occurred lately, and stated that it went to prove that no inconsiderable portion of the specie of the country was locked up. But we have a still more and truly remarkable story to relate, going to illustrate the same point. A deposit of between 1100 and 1200 dollars of gold, all in eagles and half eagles, was made at the bank of Chester county last week, belonging to the estate of Mrs. Marshall, widow of the late John Marshall, of Pennsylvania township we believe, some 8 or 10 miles south of this borough. This gold was found after a long search in an old desk, which had in it several secret chambers, and is supposed to have been secreted by John Marshall sometime prior to his death, twenty-eight years ago! The desk was curiously constructed, of great antiquity, and it appears on raising the lid, presented a series of pigeon-holes. The desk and its contents were bequeathed by the old man to his wife, and at her death she left it to her friend and relative Mrs. Way, as a family relic, and without any idea of its contents as is supposed. A few days since, but many months after the death of Mrs. Marshall, the desk was carefully examined in search of treasure, as it was an old belief in the neighborhood, that the old gentleman, Mr. M., had a "tin-cup full" of gold; but after his death no one knew what had become of it. The desk was ransacked; a small crevice in the bottom attracted attention—on inserting the blade of a knife it flew open, and several hundred dollars in silver were found! This magnificent discovery stimulated curiosity, and further search was made. The pigeon-holes were tried—they drew out—and behind them was a series of secret boxes. On examining these boxes, lot the long-tailed gold was brought to light! The El Dorado, after the lapse of more than a quarter of a century, was discovered, and a great mystery revealed.

In connection with the above, it is worthy of note, that among the effects willed by Mrs. M., were from three to four thousand dollars of personal property, in bank notes. They had been in her possession during the late suspension, and on the appraisalment it was found, that notwithstanding the depreciation of currency and the crashing of banks, they are all on institutions that now redeem their notes in gold and silver.—W. Chester Record.

A Launch.

It is estimated that not less than from forty to fifty thousand persons were present at the launching of the United States Frigate Cumberland, at Charlestown, on Tuesday of last week.

ARNOLD PLUMER has been recommended by several of the Loco Foco papers as a candidate for Governor in 1844.

The citizens of Lexington, Ky. intend giving a public dinner to the Hon. HENRY CLAY on the 9th of June.

The Clinton County Democrat

announces WILLIAM F. PACKER, of Locomo county, the present Auditor General, as a candidate at the next gubernatorial contest. Mr. Packer has many warm friends, and were it not for "them politics" of his, we would say that he is well qualified for the Executive chair of this Commonwealth.

A "Skunk" and a "Goat" in Congress.

The excitement occasioned by Messrs. Stanley and Wise has subsided, and Messrs. Arnold of Tennessee, and Miller of Ohio are now metamorphosing each other into infinite amusement of their co. In a debate in the House of Representatives, a short time ago, as they say in Congress, between them, what was

Mr. A. atmospheric voyage, yet none has been more pleasing and interesting than the last. It would be utterly impossible for me to give an adequate description of such splendid mountain scenery as a traveller who passes through the mountains on the surface of the earth, sails over it a mile at a time, like antipodes in descent, and over Nittawater landed fourteen

habitants near the spot of landing looked at the balloon with astonishment, and were anxious to learn the nature of the machinery inside; but after it was discharged and rolled up in a small compass, their curiosity was changed into suspicion, and I could only, with persuasion, get it accommodated in a barn until it should be sent for.

I have at present in use a black balloon, which creates a congenial atmosphere around it in the cold upper regions of the atmosphere, from the radiating superiority of that color over a lighter one. It is now beyond a doubt, in my mind established, that a current from west to east, in the atmosphere, is constantly prevailing within the height of twelve thousand feet from the level of the Ocean. Both my trips, this season, were strong proofs of this. At Lewistown, I arose with a breeze from the southwest, and finally landed east of that place.

Very respectfully, your obedient friend,
 J. WISE.



THE HUNTINGDON JOURNAL.

"One country, one constitution, one destiny."

Huntingdon, June 1, 1842.

V. B. PALMER, Esq. (No. 104 S. 3rd St. Philadelphia,) is authorized to act as Agent for this paper, to procure subscriptions and advertisements.

Special Election.

On the 20th of May the special election for member of Congress in the place of the Hon. Joseph Lawrence, deceased, was held in Washington county, and resulted in the election of the Hon. R. M. T. McKENNA, by a majority of upwards of three hundred. Mr. McKenna formerly represented Washington county in Congress with distinguished ability. He is a staunch Whig.

Love and Suicide.

On Saturday the 21st ult. a young woman, the daughter of a respectable farmer in Bucks county, Pa., committed suicide by hanging herself to the limb of a tree. She had been married but a few weeks ago, through the influence of her father, to a young man of his choice, while at the same time she was affectionately devoted to another. It is said that her husband was making preparations to take her to his own home, which no doubt hurried on the painful event. This is another warning to parents, that the affections of a tender heart are not to be trifled with. Disappointed love is assigned as the cause that impelled her to the commission of the rash act.

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Congress.

We proceed to give a synopsis of the "sayings and doings" at Washington city for the past week.

On the 18th ult. in the Senate, Mr. Allen's resolutions on the Rhode Island affair were disposed of by laying them on the table on a motion to print. The Navy Appropriation Bill was under discussion, without arriving at any determination.—The President has signed the General Appropriation Bill.

On the 19th, the Bill refunding to Gen. Jackson the fine of \$1000, imposed upon him by Judge Hall, was under consideration, when a substitute was offered to the whole Bill, refunding the \$1000, but providing that it should not be so construed as in any way reflecting upon the Judge who imposed the fine. The substitute was adopted by a vote of 23 to 22. Finding that they could not get the real "Simon Pure" resolutions passed, the Loco Foco now turned round and voted against refunding at all. The Bill was voted down by 24 to 17—every Loco Foco except one voting against refunding.

An Executive session employed the Senate for the greater part of the day on the 20th, and in the House the Navy Appropriation Bill was under consideration all day, without being disposed of.

The Senate was not in session on the 21st.

In the House the Navy Appropriation Bill was under consideration on the 21st and 22nd. Several amendments were offered, discussed and adopted. The Bill passed finally by a vote of 171 to 36, and was sent to the Senate, where it was referred to the Committee on Finance.

In the Senate, on the 24th, Mr. Buchanan called up the Apportionment Bill, which was discussed till the hour of adjournment. In the House the Army Appropriation Bill was taken up. Retrenchment is "always in order" in the House at this session. They have just cut down the Navy, and now they are trying their hands on the Army. This Bill will afford employment, for the House for perhaps a week yet.

Rhode Island.

It seems that the war and rumors of war in this little State have at length been ended. Mr. DORR, the Governor elect of the rebel party, fled from the State to quarters unknown, while the proper authorities were in pursuit of him; and his deluded followers have dispersed and gone to their respective homes. It is to be hoped that this may be the end of violent measures, and that the citizens will now proceed peaceably and legally to correction of such evils as may exist in their Constitution and Government.

We are, and always have been, seduced to circumscribing or restricting elective franchise. The ballot box speak the voice of the whole people, and necessities, and who contribute support and defence of the Government under which they live. Where denied, reform is wanted. But of reform should be done through the provisions of the Constitution, and not through treacherous cause that has its foundation in justice needs no such agency as difficulties in Rhode Island about by political rascals who would w blood and carnage their own political run.

It was painful portion of the of the minority ring up party ing our nation bestowing epith