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THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 1855.



(BY AUTHORITY.)

AN ACT

For ascertaining and adjusting the titles and claims to lands within the territory of Orleans, and the district of Louisiana.

[Concluded from yesterday's American.]

Sec. 5. And be it further enacted, That two persons to be appointed, by the President alone, for the district of Louisiana, and two persons, to be in the same manner appointed for each of the districts directed by this act to be laid off in the territory of Orleans, shall together with the Register or Recorder of the district for which they may be appointed, be commissioners for the purpose of ascertaining within their respective districts, the rights of persons claiming under any French or Spanish grant as aforesaid, or under the two first sections of this act. The said commissioners shall previous to their entering on the duties of their appointments, respectively take and subscribe the following oath or affirmation before some person qualified to administer the same: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will impartially exercise and discharge the duties imposed on me by an act of Congress, entitled, 'An act for ascertaining and adjusting the titles and claims to land within the territory of Orleans and the district of Louisiana' to the best of my skill and judgment;" It shall be the duty of the said commissioners to meet in their respective districts, at such place as the President shall have directed therein, for the residence of the Register or Recorder, on or before the first day of December next, and they shall not adjourn to any other place, nor for a longer time than three days until the first day of March, one thousand eight hundred and six, and until they shall have completed the business of their appointment. Each board, or a majority of each board, shall in their respective districts, have power to hear and decide in a summary manner all matters respecting such claims, also to administer oaths to compel the attendance of, and examine witnesses, and such other testimony as may be adduced, to demand and obtain from the proper officer or officers, all public records in which grants of land, warrants, or orders of survey, or any other evidence of claims to land, derived from either the French or Spanish governments may have been recorded; to take transcripts of such record or records, or of any part thereof, to have access to all other records of a public nature, relative to the granting, sale, transfer, or titles of lands; within their respective districts, and to decide in a summary way, according to justice and equity, on all claims filed with the register or recorder in conformity with the provisions of this act, and on all complete French or Spanish grants, the evidence of which, though not thus filed, may be found of record on the public records of such grants; which decisions shall be laid before Congress, in the manner hereinafter directed, and be subject to their determination thereon; Provided however, that nothing in this act contained, shall be construed so as to recognise any grant or incomplete title bearing date subsequent to the first day of October, one thousand eight hundred, or to authorize the commissioners aforesaid to make any decision thereon. The said boards respectively shall have power to appoint a clerk whose duty it shall be to enter in a book to be kept for that purpose, full and correct minutes of their proceedings and decisions, together with the evidence on which such decisions are made, which book and papers, on the dissolution of the boards, shall be deposited in the respective offices of the registers of the land offices, or of the recorder of land titles of the district; and the said clerk shall prepare two transcripts of all the decisions made by the commissioners in favor of the claimants to land; both of which shall be signed by a majority of the said commissioners and one of which shall be transmitted to the officer exercising in the district the authority of surveyor general; and the other to the secretary of the treasury. It shall likewise be the duty of the said commissioners to make to the secretary of the treasury a full report of

all the claims filed with the register of the proper land office, or recorder of land titles as above directed, which may have been rejected, together with the substance of the evidence adduced in support thereof, and such remarks thereon as they may think proper; which reports together with the transcripts of the decisions of the commissioners in favor of the claimants, shall be laid by the secretary of the treasury before Congress at their next ensuing meeting. When any Spanish or French grant, warrant, or order of survey, as aforesaid, shall be produced to either of the said boards, for lands which were not at the date of such grant, warrant, or order of survey, or within one year thereafter, inhabited, cultivated, or occupied, by or for the use of the grantee; or whenever either of the said boards shall not be satisfied that such grant, warrant, or order of survey, did issue at the time when the same bears date, but that the same is antedated or otherwise fraudulent; the said commissioners shall not be bound to consider such grant, warrant, or order of survey, as conclusive evidence of the title; but may require such other proof of its validity as they may deem proper. Each of the commissioners and clerks aforesaid shall be allowed a compensation of two thousand dollars in full for his services as such; and each of the said clerks shall, previous to his entering on the duties of his office, take and subscribe the following oath or affirmation—to wit: I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will truly and faithfully discharge the duties of a clerk to the board of commissioners, for examining the claims to land, as enjoined by an act of Congress entitled "An act for ascertaining and adjusting the titles and claims to land within the territory of Orleans, and the district of Louisiana." Which oath or affirmation shall be entered on the minutes of the board.

Sec. 6. And be it further enacted That the secretary of the treasury shall be, and he is hereby authorized to employ three agents, one for each board, and whose compensation shall not exceed one thousand five hundred dollars each, for the purpose of appearing before the commissioners, in behalf of the United States, to investigate the claims for lands, and to oppose all such as said agents may deem fraudulent and unfounded. It shall also be the duty of the said agent for the district of Louisiana, to examine into, and investigate the titles and claims, if any there be, to the lead mines within the said district, to collect all the evidence within his power with respect to the claims, and value of the said mines, and to lay the same before the commissioners, who shall make a special report thereof, with their opinions thereon to the secretary of the treasury, to be by him laid before Congress at their next ensuing session. The said board of commissioners shall each be authorized to employ a translator of the Spanish and French languages to assist them in the dispatch of the business which may be brought before them, and for the purpose of recording Spanish and French grants, deeds, or other evidence of claims on the register's books. The said translator shall receive, for the recording done by him, the fees already provided by law, and may be allowed, not exceeding fifty dollars, for every month he shall be employed; provided that the whole compensation other than that arising from fees, shall not exceed six hundred dollars.

Sec. 7. And be it further enacted, That the powers vested by law in the surveyor of the lands of the United States south of the state of Tennessee, shall extend over all the public lands of the United States, to which the Indian title has been, or shall hereafter be extinguished, within the said territory of Orleans; and it shall be the duty of the said surveyor, to cause such of the said lands as the president of the United States shall expressly direct, to be surveyed and divided, as nearly as the nature of the country will admit, in the same manner, and under the same regulations as provided by law, in relation to the lands of the United States north west of the river Ohio, and above the mouth of Kentucky river.

Sec. 8. And be it further enacted, That the location or locations of lands which Major General La Fayette is by law authorized to make on any lands, the property of the United States, in the territory of Orleans, shall be made with the register or registers of the land offices established by this act in the said territory:—the surveys thereof shall be executed under the authority of the surveyor of the lands of the United States, south of Tennessee; and a patent or patents therefor shall issue, on presenting such surveys to the secretary of the treasury, together with a certificate of the proper register or registers, stating that the land is not right fully claimed by any other person: Provided, That no location or survey made by virtue of this section shall contain less than one thousand acres, nor include any improved lands or lots, salt spring or lead mine.

Sec. 9. And be it further enacted, That a sum not exceeding fifty thousand dollars, to be paid out of any unappropriated monies in the treasury, be, and the same is hereby appropriated for the purpose of carrying this act into effect.

NATH. MACON,  
Speaker of the House of Representatives.  
A. BURR,  
Vice President of the United States, and  
President of the Senate.  
March 2, 1855.—APPROVED,  
TH. JEFFERSON.

NEW-YORK, August 5.

By the Friendship, captain Don, arrived yesterday, we have received a New-Orleans paper of the 28th June. We perceive nothing new in it, but the following *posthous* account of the arrival of Col. Burr.

New-Orleans, June 28.—We are happy to announce the arrival in this city, on Wednesday last of Col. Burr (late vice-president of the United States) and suite, all in good health. We understand he will make only a stay of ten or fifteen days amongst us, when he will depart for the Western country, and will spend the latter part of the summer and the fall, in Kentucky.

FROM LONDON.

The ship Otis, captain Phillips, which arrived at this port on Saturday evening, brings London papers to the 17th of June—seven days later than before received.

From these papers it appears, that in the house of commons the 11th of June, the subject of the impeachment of lord Melville commenced; and after an animated discussion the house divided, 195 being for the impeachment, and 272 against it. Majority 77. When this was decided, a motion which had previously been made by Mr. Bond, for a criminal prosecution to be instituted against lord Melville, was taken up. For the criminal prosecution 238—against it 229. Majority 9. On the latter question lord Salmouth (late Mr. Addington) and his friends voted with the opposition against him. Lord Melville will then be obliged to stand a trial at the court of kings bench; where the reports of the secret committee of the house of commons had already been presented.

The following articles are from the papers:—

LONDON, June 12.

Yesterday being the day fixed for the motion for an impeachment against lord Melville, a great crowd assembled, at an early hour, in the avenues of the house of commons. At 12 the doors were opened, and a severe pressure ensued. The gallery, of course, was filled in a few minutes. In the early part of the day an opinion prevailed, that Mr. Whitbread would open the debate; but about three o'clock it was said that lord Viscount Melville would be previously heard in his defence. This excited a great degree of expectation, and a great number of persons crowded into the lower lobby, and also lined the stairs to the gallery of the house, which commands a view of the lobby, through which lord Melville was to pass. About half past 4, his lordship entered the lobby, and passed in the secretary's room, on the left hand. The house was at this time engaged in private business. Shortly after 5, the speaker read a letter from lord Viscount Melville, requesting to be admitted into the body of the house, to be heard in his defence. The honorable Robert Dundas Saunders, his lordship's son, then moved, that his lordship be called in; which being agreed to, the speaker desired Mr. Colman, the serjeant at arms, to take the mace, and conduct lord Viscount Melville into the house. In the mean time, Mr. Bellamy, the principal messenger, brought in a square arm chair, and placed it within the body of the house, within the bar, on the left hand side. The serjeant at arms then took up the mace, and, having waved it three times, went out of the house, and took his station outside, in the lobby, in front of the door of the house, and also opposite to the door of the treasury room. Mr. Heard, one of the messengers, had previously thrown open the folding doors of the latter apartment, and lord Viscount Melville, being informed by him, that the house requested his attendance, his lordship came out, and walked uncovered into the house, attended by the serjeant and mace.—His lordship was dressed in black, and wore a close buckled wig powdered. He bowed three times as he approached, and, on coming within the bar, the speaker, who wore his hat on all the time, addressing him, said, "My lord Melville, there is a chair for your lordship." His lordship then sat down, and put on his hat. There was a loud murmur in the house on his coming in. As soon as it subsided, which was in less than two minutes, his lordship arose, and taking off his hat, he laid it upon the seat of the chair, and upon the hat several papers. His lordship then standing at the back of the chair, commenced his speech, in the course of which he frequently refreshed his memory from the papers before him. His lordship spoke for two hours and a quarter. His manner was firm and impressive; and he did not, even in the part of it where he appealed to the feelings, appear the least shaken. The moment he had concluded, he took up his papers deliberately, one by one, and having put his hat under his arm, made a bow to the speaker and withdrew, attended by the serjeant, who, during the whole of the speech, remained standing on the right hand side of his lordship, but at the distance of a few yards, with the mace resting upon the ground, and his hand upon. The house was uncommonly crowded. Not fewer than 500 members were present.

Lord Viscount Melville's speech will be read with interest. Upon the subject of the 10,000,000 and other sums of the public money received by him, & not applied to naval purposes, his lordship positively declared, that "private honor, and personal convenience," must prevent him from ever giving any account of them.

June 11—Accounts are said to have reached town yesterday from Lisbon, which represent the Portuguese cabinet in a very embarrassed situation, in consequence of some fresh demands having been made upon it, the tendency of which is to exclude all English ships and merchandise from the ports of that country. We give this statement as we received it, without being able to ascertain the degree of credit to which it is entitled.

In a former paper we stated, that the French and Spanish Ambassadors at Lisbon remonstrated against the entrance of the expedition under Gen. Sir James Craig into the port of Lisbon. The following additional particulars have since been related:

"While general Craig was at Lisbon, the French and Spanish Ambassadors remonstrated with much warmth on the shelter which the Portuguese government afforded to the ships and troops under general Craig. The prince Regent answered that the English convoy had been forced into the Tagus by stress of weather (*arribada*.) They demanded that it be ordered to sea immediately. But general Craig resolved not to stir, till he was assured there was no danger of his meeting the combined fleets of the enemy; and, in case of receiving a peremptory order to quit, we are assured that he had resolved to take possession of the forts on the Tagus, and keep his post by force, rather than risk falling into the hands of the enemy, by sailing prematurely. The Portuguese government evidently extended its indulgence to the utmost of its power."

June 13.—Extract of a private letter from an officer on board one of his Majesty's ships in the Downs, dated June 10. "We have thirteen sail of the line here now; the North sea squadron being ordered round; and we expect five sail more from the westward; I believe it is expected, that the combined fleet is coming North about. By every cruiser that comes in I learn, that the French appear in all their ports ready for a push out, and most of the officers are of opinion they certainly will do it shortly, as their preparations with their shipping are different from what they have seen before."

We yesterday received a letter from an officer on board one of the transports in the cove of Cork, in the expedition under sir Eyre Coote. It says, "this morning, June 5th, the troops were brigaded as follows:—The 1st of Highland brigade consisting of the 71st, 72d, 93d, & buffs, under the command of General McFarlane. The 2d, of the 8th, 24th and 83d, with artillery, under General Balfour. The brigade of the 32d, 36th and 62d, under command of General Montresor. The 89th regiment is to form a detached corps under command of Lieutenant Col. Blaney. I have not yet learned who is to command the artillery, or staff corps. Gen Drummond is second in command under Sir Eyre Coote."

"The troops are all in good health, and are landed every other day to keep them so. Our destination is not yet known; but it is supposed we are going upon some remote and desperate expedition, and not to the West Indies; for all the married officers are ordered to send their wives on shore immediately, and the transports are to be furnished with provisions for six months."

June 17.—We received this morning the Paris papers to the 9th, and the Dutch to the 12th. Some of the former hint at a plot to have been executed at Milan, which as usual, is attributed to the English government. It is thus mentioned in the *Bulletin de l'Europe*:

"Persons will be very much astonished in Italy if they hear reported there the absurd stories which indolence or malevolence have been for some days circulating in Paris, upon a pretended conspiracy which is to burst forth at Milan, and whose object would have been to change, into a day of mourning, a day of the liveliest and purest joy."

"If England has sent some spies to Milan, they have produced as little effect in the capital of that kingdom, as in the capital of the French empire. Discredited, dishonoured, they have not been able to succeed in entering into a correspondence with any class of citizens. The moment of their arrival, the nature of their instructions were known before hand; their arrest was as little known and with as little éclat as that of the vilest adventurers."

Of the movements, operations, and destination of the different squadrons at sea, the *Moniteur* affords us no information, it merely says, in a dry brief note on some of the English papers, that "in a month we shall hear where the combined squadrons are gone;" we hope the first intelligence we receive will be from Lord Nelson, after having come up with them.

The mission of M. Novozilow occupies much the attention of the Paris Journalists, and an article from Hamburg in one of them, says, that a Congress for a General Peace is to be held at Brussels—that Novozilow and the Prussian Minister are to mediate for Great Britain, and the port of Ostend is to be opened to carry on the diplomatic correspondence with England.

The Paris papers of the 8th state, that the Arch-Treasurer set off for Milan the day before, preceded by the Finance Minister.—The departure of these two grand functionaries, affords us room to believe, that Paris will be much longer deprived of the presence of its sovereign, than was supposed. It is believed that the affairs of Genoa will keep his Majesty

much longer in Italy; it is proved besides, that he is expected at the Camp of Castiglione, where we will remain a fortnight, and that he is afterwards to reside for some time at Bologna."

The French funds are at 61 1-2. The Falcon sloop arrived yesterday at Portsmouth, from off Havre, having received some damage in an action with some French gun brigs. Sixteen of them came out of Havre, in open day;—The Falcon Chiffone, and Sparkler engaged them for some time;—four of them are said to have been driven ashore; the rest escaped into Fecamp. They came out in consequence of positive orders to collect to the eastward.

Price of Stocks—3 per cent. red. 58 1-8 1-4—3 per cent. cons. for op. 59 1-2—Omnium 3 1-2 prem.

PLYMOUTH, June 15.—Notwithstanding the assertion of the *Moniteur*, the Rochefort squadron returned from the West Indies, were counted in that harbor only last Wednesday, near the same number as returned.

American.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 1855.

The Gazette, of last evening, asks, how Mr. Jefferson ever "entitled himself to the appellation of one of the founders of our constitution?" We answer, in the most brilliant and conspicuous manner.—He was the immortal penman of the declaration of independence, which was the foundation and chief corner stone of the constitution! And again, after the fair temple of national union was established, on that foundation which he was instrumental in giving it; or in other words, after the constitution was adopted, the virtuous & patriotic part of the American people, beheld it tottering to its base, in the hands of those who pretended to be its best friends.—And at this critical period, Mr. Jefferson was ushered, by the confidence and affection of his fellow citizens, into the presidential chair, where he has again rendered himself worthy, to be entitled, a principal founder of that regeneration of measures which restored the shattered constitution of our rights to its pristine health and beauty!—At least, it may in truth be said, that Mr. Jefferson was one of the founders of its present safety; and in his hands it finds a sacred deposit, free from the nefarious approach of its secret foes!

But, what can Mr. Jefferson, or his friends say to the high charges brought against him, by the *Gazette*? Will not his; and their blood run cold at the very mention of them? Mr. Jefferson, Brown says, "was in France, (not on a dignified mission for his country, but) inhaling from the philosophers of the day, Condorcet, Turgot, &c. those philosophical and political axioms which he is introducing with such happy effect in his own country."—Dreadful indeed! Is there any thing on the score of iniquity to compare with this—that Mr. Jefferson should cross the Atlantic to hold communion with such men; and what is still more inexcusably abominable, that he should learn of them philosophical and political axioms!!

Brown imperiously asks, and with insidious intention, who is William Pechin?—and let our readers remember, this question is formed in such a way, as to convey an idea of his superiority!—On that account we notice it. W. P. would just observe, that when he left Philadelphia, the place of his nativity, and entered Baltimore, ten years ago, he came as a FREE-MAN, with the means too, if he had been so disposed, fully adequate, he believes, to have purchased both Brown and the few old types that then constituted his establishment—the cast-off, miserable abandonment of an unfortunate predecessor; and this, those best acquainted with us at that period will not question. But although W. Pechin was a responsible freeholder in Baltimore, before Mr. Brown, still good luck and—g! on Mr. B's part, may have changed the face of things; and, perhaps, at present, he has a better right, than us, to animadvert on city regulations! And what more completely establishes his pre-eminence, is, he has for a long time been the strenuous supporter of the Adam's principle, which would enforce the rights of the well born, over the swinish multitude! The regular order of enquiry would now seem to make it necessary to exclaim! Who is Matthew Brown? But rather than the scrutiny of the interrogatory should produce irritation, we would prefer RUNNING AWAY, upwards of 100 miles from the subject!

What a flat Brown proves himself—it appears by Tuesday's *Gazette*, that he views *deism* and *atheism*, as synonymous