

OCCUPATION OF COLUMBIA RIVER.

Report of the Committee appointed by the House of Representatives of the United States to inquire into the expediency of occupying the Mouth of the Columbia River.

The committee to whom was referred the resolution, of the 29th day of December last, instructing them to inquire into the expediency of occupying the Mouth of the Oregon, or Columbia River, have had the same under consideration, and ask leave further to report: That they have considered the subject referred to them, and are persuaded, that, both in a military and commercial point of view, the occupation of that territory is of great importance to the Republic; but, as much has been submitted to the House on these points, by former committees, they have now deemed it necessary only to present a view of the difficulties which would probably present themselves in accomplishing that object, and the manner in which they can be overcome.

To obtain information, a letter to this end was addressed to an officer of the army, whose integrity in the public service is well known to the House, and whose military knowledge is entitled to the highest respect; that officer, Brigadier General Thomas S. Jesup, answered so satisfactorily to the committee, that they have presented the answer, in its entire form, to the House, and adopt it as a part of this report.

QUARTERMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE, Washington, April 26th, 1824.

Sir,—In reply to your letter, dated the 30th ultimo, requesting me to communicate "any facts, views, or opinions," which may have presented themselves to me, relative to the probable difficulty of making an establishment at the mouth of Columbia river, and the military advantages of that establishment, I have the honour to remark, that, ever since my attention was first directed to the subject, I have considered the possession and military command of the Columbia necessary not only to the protection of the fur trade, but to the security of our Western frontier. That flank of our country, extending from the Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico, is every where in contact with numerous, powerful, and warlike Indian nations; who, although they might be able to bring into the field from twenty to thirty thousand warriors. Most of those nations communicate, either with the British to the North and West, or the Spaniards, to the South. In the event of war, that force, with a few hundred foreign troops, or under the influence of foreign companies, might be made more formidable to us, than any force which Europe combined could oppose to us. On the other hand, if such measures be adopted as to secure a proper influence over them, and, in the event of war, to command their cooperation, they, with the aid of a few small garrisons, would not only afford ample protection for that entire line, but would become the scourge of our enemies.

The dangers to be apprehended, can only be averted by proper military establishments; and whether the post at the mouth of Columbia be intended to secure our territory, protect our traders, or to cut off all communication between the Indians and foreigners, I should consider a line of posts extending from the Council Bluffs entirely across the continent necessary. Those posts should be situated, as well with a view to command the avenues through which the Indians pass from North to South, as to keep open the communication with the establishment at the mouth of the Columbia.

A post should be established at the Mandan villages, because, there, the Missouri approaches within a short distance of the British territory, and it would have the effect of holding in check the Hudson's Bay and North West Companies, and controlling the Rickarees, Mandans, Minnatarees, Assiniboin, and other Indians, who either reside or range on the territory East, North, and West of that point.

A post at, or near, the head of navigation on the Missouri, would controul the Blackfoot Indians, protect our traders, enable us to remove those of the British companies from our territory, and serve as a depot, at which detachments moving towards the Columbia might either be supplied, or leave such stores as they should find it difficult to carry with them through the mountains. It might also be made a depot of trade, and of the Indian Department.

To keep open the communication through the mountains, there should be at least one small post at some convenient point between the Missouri and the Columbia, and on the latter river and its tributaries, there should be at least three posts. They would afford present protection to our traders, and, on the expiration of the privilege granted to British subjects to trade on the waters of the Columbia, would enable us to remove them from our territory, and to secure the whole trade to our own citizens. They would also enable us to preserve peace among the Indians, and, in the event of foreign war, to command their neutrality or their assistance, as we might think most advisable. The posts designated, might be established and maintained, at an

additional annual expense not exceeding forty thousand dollars.

By extending to those posts the system of cultivation, now in operation at the Council Bluffs, the expense of supplying them would, in a few years, be greatly diminished. Mills might be erected at all the posts at a trifling expense, and, the whole country abounding in grass, all the domestic animals necessary, either for labour, or subsistence, might be supported. This would render the establishment more secure, and, consequently, more formidable to the Indian nations in their vicinity.

As to the proposed posts on the Columbia, it is believed they might be supplied immediately at a low rate. Wheat may be obtained at New California, at about twenty-five cents per bushel, and beef cattle at three or four dollars each. Salt, in any quantity required, may be had at an island near the Peninsula of California. Should transportation not be readily obtained for those articles, vessels might be constructed by the troops.

To obtain the desired advantages, it is important, not only that we occupy the posts designated, but, that we commence our operations without delay. The British companies are wealthy and powerful; their establishments extend from Hudson's Bay, and Lake Superior, to the Pacific; many of them within our territory. It is not to be supposed they would surrender those advantages without a struggle, and, though they should not engage in hostilities themselves, they might render all the Indians, in that extensive region, hostile.

The detachment intended to occupy the mouth of Columbia might leave the Council Bluffs in June, and one hundred and fifty men proceed with the boats and stores; and, as the country is open, and abounds with grass, the remaining fifty might proceed by land, with the horses intended for the transportation across the mountains, and might drive 3 or 400 head of the Mandan villages or to the falls of Missouri, at one of those places the parties should unite and spend the winter. The latter would be preferable, because there they might be able to establish a friendly intercourse with the Blackfoot Indians, or, at all events, by impressing them with an idea of the power of the nation restrain their depredations upon the neighbouring tribes, and deter them from acts of outrage upon our traders. They might, also, during the winter, reconnoitre the several passes through the mountains, prepare provisions necessary to support them on the march, and down the Columbia; and, if authorized to do so, remove from our territories all British traders on the waters of the Missouri. They would necessarily remain at, or in the vicinity of their wintering ground, until June, but might be occupied during the months of April and May, in opening a road to the mountains, and constructing bridges over the numerous streams on the route. This work performed, they might, in about twenty days, reach the navigable waters of Clark's river, a branch of the Columbia, and, in ten days more, prepare transportation to descend to their destination, where, after every necessary allowance for accidents and delays, they would certainly arrive by the month of August.

The vessels employed to transport the stores by sea, might leave the United States in the month of November, and would arrive at the mouth of Columbia in April, at least four months before the detachment from the Council Bluffs could reach that point; and, unless the ships should be detained during that time, which could not be expected, the stores would be exposed to damage and depredation, and, perhaps, by the time the troops should arrive, would be entirely destroyed. It would, therefore, seem to me a measure of prudence, that at least one company of artillery be transported with the stores. That description of force would be found necessary at the post, and the ships would afford them ample accommodation.

That the route from the Council Bluffs to the mouth of Columbia is practicable, has been proved by the enterprise of more than one of our citizens. It, no doubt, presents difficulties; but difficulties are not impossibilities. We have only to refer to the pages of our history to learn that many operations, infinitely more arduous, have been accomplished by Americans. The march of Arnold to Quebec, or of General Clark to Vincennes, during the Revolutionary war, exceeded greatly in fatigue, privation, difficulties, and danger, the proposed operation; and I believe I may say, without fear of contradiction, that the detachment might be supplied, during the whole route, with less difficulty than in the war of 1756 was experienced in supplying the forces operating under General Washington, and General Braddock, against the French and Indians, on the Ohio.

A post at the mouth of Columbia is important, not only in relation to the interior trade, and the military defence of the western section of the Union, but, also, in relation to the naval power of the nation. Naval power consists, not in ships, but, in seamen; and, to be efficient, the force must always be available. The northwest coast of America is an admirable nursery for seamen—many of our best sailors are formed there; without a naval station, however,

on the Pacific, the force employed in the whale fishery, as well as in sealing, and the northwest trade, would, in the event of war, with a great maritime power, be, in some measure, lost to the nation. But, that establishment made, it would afford a secure retreat to all our ships, and seamen, in that section of the globe; and the force, thus concentrated, might be used with effect against the trade, if not the fleets, or possessions, of the enemy, in place of being driven to the Atlantic, or perhaps captured on their way.

The establishment might be considered as a great bastion, commanding the whole line of coast to the North and South; and it would have the same influence on that line which the bastions of a work have on its curtains: for the principles of defence are the same, whether applied to a small fortress, or to a line of frontier, or even an entire section of the globe. In the one case, the missiles used are bullets and cannon shot; in the other, ships and fleets. I have the honour to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

TH. S. JESUP,
To the Hon. John Floyd,
House of Representatives.

EXPENSES OF GOVERNMENT.
A few Items of the Expenses of the Government.

The appropriations for the payment of the different Officers of the Treasury of the U. States, their Clerks, Messengers, and other expenses, for the present year, amount to \$248,650. The pay of the Clerks and Messengers in the office of the Secretary of War, is \$23,650.

The number of Clerks employed in the General Post Office at Washington, is 24. Their united salaries amount to upwards of \$4,000 dollars. The amount appropriated for the payment of Revolutionary Pensioners, is \$1,291,716 39.

The appropriation for the payment of the Members of Congress, their Officers and attendants, and contingent expenses, for the present year, is \$14,572 dolls.—A. Centinel.

CHESAPEAKE AND DELAWARE CANAL.

It is stated in the Philadelphia papers that although little more than a week has elapsed since the work was commenced, there are already between 300 and 400 men actively employed in excavating the earth. In a few weeks, more than double that number will probably be employed.

FROM THE CAPE COAST CASTLE.

The Curacao papers, received by the editor of the National Advocate, announce the arrival at Barbadoes, of the brig Elizabeth, from Cape Coast Castle. The Elizabeth brought letters which state that Sir Charles McCarthy, who had marched against the Ashantees into the interior of Africa with the natives of Cape Coast & merchants to the number altogether of 3000, with an intent to proceed direct to Coomassie the Ashantee capital, were met on the 21st January, by a body of 10,000 of the former, and after a bloody engagement from 1 P. M. till sunset, were entirely defeated, which account was brought by the fugitives who had returned to the Cape, and when the brig left on the 4th February, neither Sir Charles or any of the merchants had been heard of, and it was supposed they were either all massacred or taken prisoners; at the same time another force under captain Laing, was mustering to attack the Ashantees. Sir Charles was formerly major of the New Brunswick Fencibles, and an officer of great merit.

EUROPE & SOUTH-AMERICA.

The intelligence from England on this subject, received this morning, is of a very satisfactory character. It gives to South-America an assurance of protection much beyond what had hitherto been considered as certain, and removes nearly, if not in toto, every doubt that may have existed of the sincerity of the British cabinet in reference to this question. Mr. CANNING is understood to have said, in Parliament, that any large armament proceeding from ports of Spain against South-America, so long as a French army occupied the Peninsula, would not be considered a SPANISH armament! So satisfied was Sir James Macintosh that this was the construction to be put on the declaration of the minister, that he withheld his notice of a motion for a recognition of South-American independence; and it will also be observed, that the Right Hon. Secretary did not deny the statement. This is both politically and commercially, an event of importance—it will inspire confidence within and without the new independent states, and give a fresh spring to trade in the South-American market.

Mr. Hurlado, the new Minister from Colombia, arrived in London on the 24th March.

Matthews had appeared in London in his "Trip to America," which is said to have given general satisfaction.

FIRE AT NEW-CASTLE.

A destructive fire occurred at New-Castle, (Del.) on the afternoon of the 26th April. The loss in property is estimated at \$150,000.

MR. ADAMS.

From the New-England Galaxy.
It is said that Mr. Adams is an apostate federalist; but this, in my humble opinion, is no objection. It is true, that he once was a federalist—that he supported all the measures of the federal party—and, as a member of that party, wrote lampoons upon Jefferson. But he had the wisdom and the prudence, when he saw that federalism was growing unpopular, to abandon the sinking ship. This he did most thoroughly; and to convince the people of the entire change of his heart, did he not write a review of the works of Fisher Ames? Did he not, in deliberate cool blood attack the memory of the dead, and tear open the very shroud which enclosed the dust of the greatest man, and one of the purest patriots, that ever sprung up on the soil of New-England, merely to prove to his new republican friends how entire was his conversion? And he did not at the same time prove the purity of his motive? Certainly he did; and, moreover, he most happily illustrated the maxim of another of our New-England sages, (his father) that "when a family which has been high in office and splendour in wealth, falls into decay, from profligacy, vice, folly or misfortune, they generally turn democrats, and court the lowest of the people, with an ardour, an art, a skill, and consequently with a success, which no vulgar democrat can attain."

LAW INTELLIGENCE.

Court of Appeals in Equity—Charleston, April 3.

JOSEPH HORTON, vs. ELIZA TURNER. Lottery Ticket.

The Complainant and Defendant owned each a fourth of a Ticket in the Lottery, and agreed to divide equally between them, the prize or prizes their tickets might draw. One of the tickets, which is in the possession of the defendant, drew a high prize, which she is about to receive, declaring her intention to do so, and to withhold from the complainant his proportion of it. This, with a charge of fraud against the defendant, is the substance of the bill, which was dismissed by the Circuit Court, on the ground that the defendant had denied all the charges in it, and that the complainant's demand is a legal one. Notwithstanding the denial of the defendant, the complainant was entitled to go into proof, to sustain the allegations of his bill, and the case appears to me to be a proper one for the exercise of the jurisdiction of this court. Two persons being equally entitled to a prize in the Lottery, it would be most unreasonable that one of them should receive the whole of it, and drive the other to an action at law to recover his proportion. Assuming the statement in the bill to be true, the complainant contends that the possession of the ticket by defendant, should be considered as the possession, as well of him, as her, and for the benefit of both; and, that from such a possession, she could equitably derive no exclusive advantage to herself; and that she would be enabled to do so, if this Court were not to take cognizance of the case. There is enough in this reasoning to satisfy me, that this Court is more competent than the Court of Law, to do complete justice between the parties.

THEODORE GAILLARD.

We concur—HENRY W. DESAUSSURE, W. THOMPSON, WILLIAM D. JAMES.

It is ordered and decreed, that the decree of the Circuit Court be reversed; that the defendant do deliver to the commissioner, the ticket mentioned in the bill, which drew a prize—and on her doing so, the security ordered to be given by the Circuit Court, to be vacated; and that the Commissioner do hold the ticket until the time when the prizes are to be paid, and then present it for, and receive payment of it—keeping the money in his hands, subject to future order of this Court, or one of the Judges thereof, at Chambers.

It is further ordered, that the commissioners of the lottery, and their agent, be enjoined from paying the prize, drawn as aforesaid, to any other person than the Commissioner; and that notice of this decretal order be served upon the commissioners, or their agent.

It is further ordered, that if the complainant and defendant should come to a compromise, and consent as to the disposal or distribution of the prize drawn; on this appearing to the satisfaction of one of the Judges of the Court, at Chambers, he shall be at liberty, and is authorized, to take off the restriction, as to the payment of the prize, imposed on the Commissioner, and order the money (if the same shall have been received by the Commissioners) to be paid over, forthwith, to complainant and defendant.

Theodore Gaillard, Henry W. Desaussure, W. Thompson, William D. James.

For the Appellant, Mr. Craft—Contra, Mr. White and Mr. Elliott.

A public meeting of those friendly to the election of Gen. Jackson, as President of the United States, was held at Raleigh, (N. C.) on the 2nd ult.

From the London Courier, March 20. DISCHARGE OF CANNON BY STEAM.

Mr. Perkins, whose inventions in the engraving of steel, and improvements in the construction of steam engines, are well known, has brought to perfection a branch of art, on which there may be some difference of opinion;—that of the more speedy destruction of our species! The fact, we believe is as follows:—Mr. Perkins, while experimenting on the expansive force of steam subjected to very elevated temperature, with the view of applying its power to the purposes of the steam-engine, was very naturally led to investigate its applications in many other departments of Art, where great mechanical force was required; among others, to that of discharging ordnance.

We are enabled to give a brief description of the present apparatus; which is constructed with the view of showing the application of steam to this purpose, rather than as a model. A copper pipe of two inches diameter is connected at one extremity with the steam reservoir belonging to Mr. Perkins's improved engine, and at the other end with a chamber formed of metal flanges; into this chamber a strong gun barrel is firmly screwed, so as to be perfectly air tight, (and two others connected with it) and extended in a horizontal direction. From the upper portion of the chamber, two pipes or tubes projected about 15 inches, of sufficient diameter to allow musket bullets to pass freely down, for the purpose of loading or shooting the gun. The steam being laid on the apparatus nothing more is necessary than to lift the short lever of a sliding valve, when the rush of steam into the chamber instantaneously discharges the bullet through the gun barrel, with a force much greater than ordinary gun powder.

The bullets, being received against an iron target are completely flattened. Mr. Perkins threw into the pipe or feeder of the apparatus three or four bullets at a time, which were stopped in the gun barrel more than once, from want of sufficient steam pressure at the moment. But it is obvious this can be avoided by giving any degree of pressure requisite. Mr. Perkins has not yet employed a greater power than about 35 atmospheres, though the strength of his apparatus would admit five times that power, if necessary. The apparatus is capable of discharging 100 balls per minute, or in fact, as fast as they can be put into feeders and the gun barrel made turn in any direction. We believe Messrs. Bolton and Watt made some experiments, many years back, with the view of discharging cannon by steam; but the plan was never carried into execution, from some cause with which we are not acquainted.

Mr. Elliott, a U. S. Senator from Georgia, has declined a re-election.

State of Maryland, sc.

Anne-Arundel County Orphans Court, April 27th, 1824.

On application by petition of Nicholas Snowden, executor of the last will and testament of Polly Sappington, late of Anne-Arundel county, deceased, it is ordered that he give notice required by law, for creditors to exhibit their claims against the said deceased, and that the same be published once in each week for the space of six successive weeks in the Maryland Gazette.

THOS H. HALL, Reg. Wills A. A. County.

Notice is hereby Given,

That the subscriber of Anne-Arundel county, hath obtained from the Orphans Court of Anne-Arundel county, in Maryland, letters testamentary on the personal estate of Polly Sappington, late of Anne-Arundel county, deceased. All persons having claims against the said deceased, are hereby warned to exhibit the same, with the vouchers thereof, to the subscriber, at or before the 5th day of November next, they may otherwise by law be excluded from all benefit of the said estate. Given under my hand this 30th day of April, 1824.

Nicholas Snowden, Executor.

Sheriff's Sale.

By virtue of two writs of fieri facias issued out of the Court of Appeals and to me directed, will be exposed to public sale, on Thursday the 27th instant, at the court-house in the city of Annapolis, at 11 o'clock A. M. for cash, one Negro Man named Jacob, and one do. named Nick, late the property of Stevens Gambrell, seized and taken at the suits of J. White, & Disney & Hall, use of T. & B. Harrison, Wm. O'Hara, Sheriff.

Notice is hereby Given,

That the subscriber has obtained from the orphans court of Anne-Arundel county, letters of administration on the personal estate of Ann Howard, deceased. All persons having claims against the said estate, are requested to produce them, legally authenticated, and those indebted are requested to make immediate payment. Lewis Duvall, Administrator.

Maryland Gazette.

ANNAPOLIS: THURSDAY, MAY 6.

ASSEMBLY CANDIDATE.

We are authorized to state that GEORGE HOWARD, of Brice, is a candidate to represent Anne-del county in the next legislature of Maryland.

THE PRIZE CUP—WON.

Monday last being the day designated for a trial of skill in shooting, among members of the rifle corps of "Frisnapolis Sharp Shooters," commanded by Captain Lewis Neth, the company paired to Primrose Farm accompanied by the Captains of the artillery fantry corps of this city, who acted as judges on the occasion, and whose directions the shooting commenced about 12 o'clock and concluded about 4 P. M.

The judges, upon examining the get, unanimously awarded the prize to sergeant WILLIAM R. THOMPSON, he having not only won by regulation of the company, which subscribed that out of three shots each man was entitled to, two balls, but also under the same regulation, which required every shot should strike the target, that the three shots should average better than any others of the company. Sergeant William R. Thompson, therefore pronounced by the judges, best shot of the corps for 1824, Silver Cup accordingly presented him.

It is gratifying to state, that of the company showed great interest, considering their recent organization, and that several of them had every shot either in, or near the perpendicular, with an accuracy which would have done credit to a term rifleman.

From these specimens we are raged to hope, that our own rifle corps, may also, in time, be made up of men, who, as their marksmen, and benefit by their proficiency, if any future occasion demand it. Maryland, of all the States, is that which is most exposed to incursions and depredations of a neighboring enemy, being indented on shores by a number of rivers and creeks that run into the interior and are accessible to attack; but those rivers present also fine points on and defence for rifle corps, and are admirably adapted in situations for the annoyance of an enemy. We are happy to learn that several companies of this description, are organizing on both sides of the river, and tho' we cherish the hope, will be long before their services called for, yet in accordance with excellent maxim, "in time of peace, prepare for war," we cannot but be gratified to see the spirit that has gone forth among our marksmen are not made in a moment, it is the long experience of man and manhood, that has perfected skill of our western brethren, enabled them so essentially, during late war, to contribute to the glory and their country's reputation.

MR. CLAY.

Reports being in circulation, of various quarters, some purporting emanated from this City, tending to calumniate the belief, that Mr. Clay is or is about to be, withdrawn among the candidates for the Presidency—all such reports, we believe without foundation. So far from Mr. CLAY's friends abandoning him, assured by them that they entertain most lively hopes of his success, we are authorized to say, that his friends never have, for a moment, thought of yielding his pretensions; that he will not be abandoned, or withdrawn from the competition.

BEAUFORT T. WATT.

Late Secretary of State of the Republic of South Carolina, has been appointed by the President of the United States, with the advice and consent of the Senate, to be Secretary of Legation of the Republic of Colombia, Vice-Consul, who declines the appointment.

SLAVE TRADE—TREATY ENGLAND.

Our readers have observed a memorial, made by Mr. Canning, in the British House of Commons, on the 17th of March, of a Treaty having been concluded between the Commissioners of the United States and of Great Britain, to give a mutual right of search for commissioned vessels of each in the case of vessels suspected of being engaged in the Slave Trade. National Intelligencer of Saturday last, signed at London, on the 17th of this government, and Mr. St. Canning and Mr. Huskisson, Commissioners for that purpose, on the part of the British government. The Treaty is said to have arrived here, and it is probable will be laid before the House of Commons, during the present session of Congress.

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