THE UNION.

CITY OF WASHINGTON.

FRIDAY NIGHT, SEPTEMBER 5, 1845.

"THE TREASURY CIRCULAR AGAIN."

The National Intelligencer has signally failed again in misrepresenting the course of the Secretary of the Treasury. It is not true, that he has confined his circulars to political partisans. It is not true, that he has assumed any authority in issuing them. But it is true, that Mr. Walker has only done what he has a right to do. It is true, that he has only sought the same kind of information which was obtained by a former distinguished Secretary, for the purpose of preparing a proper tariff system. And it is true, that he has sought it, by distributing his circulars throughout the country, without regard to the politics of the persons to whom they have been addressed.

The fact is, that the present tariff law (of 1842) was framed under circumstances which did not admit of its perpetuation. The treasury was nearly exhausted. It was obvious that the duties must be raised beyond the point to which they would have been reduced by the compromise act of '32. But how far were they to be raised? The friends of the public credit contended for such a temporary increase as might be sufficient to meet the necessary expenses of the government. The manufacturers and the friends of the protective system seized upon the public necessities to advance their private interests. They would be content with nothing less than a rate of duties which was highly protective to the manufacturers, and the few who thrive upon the rest of the community. They appeared determined to starve the treasury, and sacrifice the public credit, rather than abandon their own demands. The session of Congress was nearly wasted away in the struggle, until towards the close of it—when there was no time to adjust the provisions of the tariff upon the proper principles, even if there had been sufficient votes to carry it—the present "bill of abominations" was passed. Mr. W. C. Rives declared, in his speech to the Senate of the United States, that it was worse than the act of 1828. Some of the republicans who voted for it, (Messrs. Buchanan and Wright, for example,) declared that they were compelled to take this bill, to maintain the public engagements; but that they stood prepared at another time, and under more favorable auspices, to reduce the system to more equal and proper dimensions. Such was the history of this famous and (let us say) odious measure.

What is the effect of it? It has pampered the interests of the manufacturers—increased their profits—swelled their dividends to 20 or 30 per cent.; whilst agriculture scarcely divides more than 3 or 4 per cent. But we apprehend the mischief will not stop here. The profits which the manufacturers are making, are inviting more capital into the business. Factories are rising in various directions. The protection is not needed in many of the manufactures, because they can be made cheaper in the United States than imported from England; and these manufactories, rising like mushrooms over the land, will pour so many manufactures of particular descriptions into the market, as not only to defy competition from abroad, but bring on a competition among our own fabrics. This, at least, is the danger with which many factories are now beginning to be threatened. Such is always the effect of a high protection in all countries. It is particularly the case in our own, where the enterprise of our countrymen is so apt to run into excess. We not only overtrade, but we overdo almost everything in which we are encouraged to embark our labor and our capital. It is, indeed, the last country on the globe where particular species of industry require encouragement; because no people are so enterprising as our own, and none are more inventive in the fabrication of labor-saving machines. Is there no danger, then, that, stimulated as our people are by factitious encouragement—their heads turned by immense profits—not being able to calculate, in this artificial state of things, what are their true interests; whilst almost every man, if left to himself, is a better judge of his own interests than any member of Congress, or the whole body together—more manufactories will be stimulated into existence than are really necessary, and that we shall see a considerable reaction take place? Such is the general effect of the hot-bed system; and then the suffering manufacturers will cry out for more encouragement, greater protection, and a higher tariff. Leave Nature more to herself. Let individuals, with all the keenness of sagacity about their own interests, take care of themselves. Such is the dictate of prudence—such is the first principle of political economy.

The tariff of 1842 is now in the first stage of the excitement. It is productive of great profits, and of vast dividends. Factories are multiplying too frequently upon borrowed capitals. But again we ask, may not the day of reaction come? Is not some sign of it manifest in the heavy failure of the iron business, (of the Bayards,) the other day, in Pennsylvania? Indeed, almost everything assures us that the present tariff, framed under such circumstances, and loaded with minimums and specific duties, and high rates of duty, cannot and ought not to continue; but that, in the language of Mr. Walker, it should "be reduced to the revenue standard." This is one of the serious objections to this artificial, hot-bed system of protection. We cannot calculate with confidence upon anything permanent. If it produces immense profits, it is unjust to the other portions of the community. If these again stimulate competition, *there is a chance* of its bringing on a partial reaction and loss in some parts of the system. Either way, it is improper—oppressive to the consumer in the first stage of the fever, but injurious to the manufacturer in the other. The best and safest course seems to be, to leave things more to themselves, and to reduce the tariff to the true standard. Feeling the value of these truths, and knowing that the present administration has come into power with the pledge, (or, even throwing all pledges aside, upon the principle) of reduction, what is demanded of the Secretary of the Treasury? It becomes his province to report, at the next session, upon the finances of the United States—to collect facts, and report his information, in order to frame a revenue bill. And how is he to obtain the necessary information to discharge his duties like a wise statesman and an honest man? He is expected to meet the next Congress with the best bill which he can prepare. He must, therefore, collect information from the best sources he is able to reach. He must go to the great body of the manufacturers. He must apply to the merchants and farmers. One of his queries is addressed to these last classes in his late circular; but we understand that he is about to address some particular and additional questions to them, to elicit further information.

So far as he has already gone, he has pursued the very same course which was taken by one of the ablest secretaries who has ever graced the Treasury. This present circular is precisely a copy of the one which was issued by Mr. Louis McLane in March, 1832. We have compared them together, and we discover no perceptible variation between them. One would think, therefore, that Mr. Walker would be perfectly safe in following in the footsteps of Mr. Secretary McLane. He was called upon to collect this species of information, and to "accompany it with such a tariff of duties upon imports as, in his opinion, may be best adapted to the advancement of the public interest." At another time, he was directed to "obtain information as to the quantities and kinds of the several articles manufactured in the United States during the year, particularly those of iron, cotton, wool, hemp, and sugar, and the cost thereof; and, also, the quantities and cost of similar articles imported from abroad during the same year; and that he lay the same before this House as early as may be practicable during the present session of Congress, together with such information as he may deem material, and such suggestions as he may think useful, with a *view to the adjustment of the tariff*."

Mr. McLane set immediately to work—prepared his circulars—sent them out to commissioners in different parts of the country—and, upon their answers, framed his bill (the celebrated bill of Mr. Verplanck) in the ensuing session of 1832-'3.

What better course can Mr. Walker pursue? Very true, he has no commissioners to employ, because he is expressly forbidden to appoint and pay them, by the following clause of the act of August 26, 1842:

"SEC. 25. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall not, at any time hereafter, be lawful for any accounting or disbursing officer of the government to allow or pay any account or charge whatever, growing out of, or in any way connected with, any commission or inquiry, except courts martial or courts of inquiry in the military or naval service of the United States, until special appropriations shall have been made by law to pay such accounts and charges: *Provided*, That this shall not extend to the contingent fund connected with the foreign intercourse of the government, placed at the disposal of the President of the United States."

By the way, we take the opportunity of correcting one of the strange averments of the National Intelligencer:

"The *Union* has itself stated that heretofore such inquiries have only been made when authorized; have been conducted by commission, (and of course under oath on all sides;) and that (for a reason gratuitously alleged by the government organ) the power of appointing such commissions has been withdrawn, because it was abused.

"A word here of this last averment. It admits that Mr. McLane, one of Gen. Jackson's earliest secretaries, was by Congress invested with this abused power. It was not intrusted to any secretary in 1842. Of course, if it has been corruptly used, it must have been so used under General Jackson or Mr. Van Buren. The 'Union' should take better care what charges it makes."

Now, we beg the reader to look at the date of the above section, and he will see that it was passed in August, 1842—one year and a half after Mr. Van Buren had ceased to administer the government; and, therefore, that the charge of abuse scarcely falls upon Gen. Jackson or himself. In fact, it was principally produced by the commission which Mr. Secretary Ewing had created to look into the custom-house of New York, and the commission to investigate the expenses of the public buildings in this city. The National Intelligencer, therefore, "should take better care what charges *it* makes!"

But though the Secretary of the Treasury cannot now, nor can any department, institute a paid commission; yet why should he not collect information in another way? Mr. McLane obtained information through a commission—not because he was instructed, but because it was probably the best way; and he had then the power (according to custom, at least) to appoint a commission. But does it follow that Mr. Walker has no power to collect it, by applying to individuals for information? The "National Intelligencer" says, "the Secretary can summon nobody, compel nobody to testify, put nobody upon oath, give authenticity and completeness to no testimony, employ nobody to take it." Now this looks like an indirect way of saying that Mr. McLane had power to do all these things; and yet, he had none of them but the last, for the answers which he received were not taken under oath; and he had as little power to summon, or compel manufacturers to testify, or put anybody upon oath, as Mr. Walker himself. The gentlemen whom he employed as his commissioners, had at last to go to the manufacturers themselves, and *ask* them to give answers to his queries. The queries are precisely the same; and, like him, Mr. Walker can go to the individuals for similar information. If the editor of the Intelligencer denies him this power, it must be because he thinks Mr. Walker has no power to propound questions, with a view to elicit information on the subject of the tariff—upon which it is his official duty, as the superintendent of the finances, to report at the next session. And is it really come to this—that it is unconstitutional for the Secretary to ask a question? Many of his predecessors have touched the great subjects of the protective tariff and manufactures, in their official reports; and why may not Mr. Walker? In fact, how can he faithfully discharge his duties, under present circumstances, without all the light which he can obtain?

The only material point, indeed, is, whether he is asking questions of proper persons—whether he means to deal fairly and impartially by Congress and the country. We have shown that he has done so. Some of his circulars have been addressed to the collectors, some to receivers, some to the postmasters, (all of whom he had officially a right to call upon;) but a great many copies of the circular have been addressed to individuals—to manufacturers, without regard to party. It has been circulated through the "Union," and other newspapers; thus showing that there was no intention to conceal any part of his official proceedings from the eyes of all the world. Any number of copies will be furnished to the editors of the National Intelligencer, or of the New York Tribune, or of any other whig presses. The assertion is, therefore, utterly gratuitous and unfounded, that the Secretary has sent his circular to one party only. We have said, this was the very "reverse of the truth," although the Intelligencer denied that "we had contradicted this allegation."

What object, then, has the "Intelligencer" in objecting to the circular? Does it really design to induce the whig manufacturers to withhold the information, by refusing to answer the questions? Well, let them do so; and Congress and the country will know why they have refused to answer. They will know that they have stood mute, because their answers would be conclusive against the tariff of 1842. Bad must be the bill, which even its friends dare not attempt to uphold by disclosing the facts on the subject.

THE ARMY—PROMPT MOVEMENT.

Observing several commendatory notices in the papers, of the promptness with which the Lexington was made ready for sea, after receiving orders from the Navy Department, it may not be improper to say that equal praise is due to the officers of the army, for promptly executing their orders to assemble and prepare for embarkation the troops sent out in the Lexington to Texas, which sailed on the 2d inst.

Orders were despatched from the War Department on the afternoon of the 23d of August, for the concentration of seven companies of artillery at Fort Columbus, New York harbor, thence to be embarked in the United States ship Lexington, for the army in Texas. Five of the companies were drawn from Frankford arsenal, Pennsylvania; Boston; Portsmouth, New Hampshire; and Portland, Maine. The detachment from the most distant station (*Portland*) reached New York the *morning of the* 30th, when the whole command of 408 officers and men, under Major J. Erving, 2d regiment of artillery, with all their supplies and equipments for service, were in perfect readiness to embark.

The promptitude with which the orders of the War Department were executed, is highly creditable to the service.

Some very inconsiderate criticism has been uttered in the public press, in regard to the small force with which General Taylor entered Texas. That force was the best, in strength and equipment, that government could collect at the moment at that point; and it was quite sufficient to take a position, and to hold it against any Mexican army, even if the accounts we had of the troops she was marching upon Texas had proved correct. The force which General Taylor took into Texas, would have checked the advance of any Mexican army, we firmly believe. In the mean time, orders were promptly despatched to other disposable troops of the United States; and these orders were executed with zeal by the army. The various companies and detachments were rapidly put in motion. We have, on a former occasion, remarked the prompt movement of General Worth and his regiment; and, so far as we have been informed, a like alacrity has attended the execution of all the orders issued from the Department of War. In a service so well organized as ours, the energy and intelligence of the head is always marked in the efficiency of the whole body. The department, however, has, and always must have, one inconvenience to contend with. Our small regular force is, and always must be, disposed in small bodies—generally in single companies—along our extensive line of sea-coast and inland frontier. Their concentration, even in the emergency of war, must necessarily be the work of some time—collected, as they must be, from the remotest points of a great continent; and we have learned, with a due appreciation of the good spirit which animates the service, of that prompt execution of orders which alone can lessen this difficulty to the department. The papers of New York notice the sailing from that port, on the 2d September, of seven companies of the artillery, in the ship Lexington. Those companies (as we learn) were stationed at the various military posts of Portland, Maine; Portsmouth, New Hampshire; Boston; New York harbor; and Frankford, near Philadelphia. The orders for their movement were issued from Washington on the 23d ultimo; and on the 30th, the remotest company was in New York, and all were ready to embark. Such facts are most satisfactory testimony to the good government of the army, and its own excellent condition. The sending these troops into Texas, in the state of our relations with Mexico, and the doubtful character of the information we can obtain from that country, may be regarded rather as a careful and wise precaution, than a measure of urgent and absolute necessity.

One of the great objects of the republican party is the reduction of the tariff. The "Union" will take up the subject in a few days, and discuss the whole system in a regular manner. As Mr. Walker emphatically said, "the tariff must be reduced to the revenue standard." The manufacturers are as yet making enormous profits, at the expense of the rest of the community. But the number of manufacturers is very small, compared with the whole society. An estimate has just been made, by which it appears that from 1830 to 1840 "the manufacturing population has increased 231,343, and the people who are to feed them have increased 1,485,100." Every consideration, indeed, of justice and equality among the different sections of the country and classes of the community, conspires with the soundest principles of political economy, to recommend important reductions of the tariff, and to bring about an equalization of burdens as well as blessings upon the country.

We are indebted to a distinguished friend, who arrived in the Caledonia, and reached Washington this morning, for some London papers, and especially extracts from the latest London "Times" and "Morning Chronicle." We shall use them to-morrow, having neither time nor space to appropriate them to the advantage of the "Union" this evening. It appears, at the first blush of the English and French papers, that the "Times" is violently excited about the annexation of Texas; and that a counter-current of the public sentiment is rising in France, in opposition to the foreign policy of M. Guizot, particularly as to the co-operation which has been effected between France and England in regard to Texas.

RICHARD M. JOHNSON.

We have been politely furnished by the writer with a copy of the following letter addressed to the President of the United States.

Its language is, in many places, strong, but eminently characteristic of the man who occupies a prominent place in the affections of his countrymen—a man whose heart and valiant arm have always been on the side of his country.

WHITE SULPHUR, Scott county, Ky., August 24, 1845.

DEAR SIR: We are informed in every direction, by rumor which seems entitled to credit, that Mexico has declared war against the United States!! And for what? Because of the annexation of Texas!! Future ages will scarcely credit this folly and rank recklessness and injustice, when we recollect and connect with it the late treaty entered into by Mexico and some of the functionaries of Texas, by which Mexico agreed to the independence of Texas, if the latter would refuse to become a part of the United States, from which Texas had been separated, by a mysterious want of sagacity in *sagacious men*, upwards of twenty years ago. Thus Mexico withdrew her less than shadow of a claim to Texas, with a proviso hostile to the United States, for which she deserved our indignation and our execration, if we did not know that she was acted upon by France and Great Britain; and, in her desperate condition, like a drowning man catching at straws, acted the automaton of these great European powers. What was it to Mexico, whether Texas became a part of the United States, or remained independent? The United States had never wronged her, but had connived at injuries received from Mexico, out of our sympathy for a power adjacent, which exhibited some desire for liberty, and to imitate the United States in her glorious and free institutions; and Mexico knows that she has no such kind feeling in the bosoms of the kings of foreign States, except that which arises from a conviction of advantages in commerce, or a similarity of kingly power and institutions. Then it is more than evident that our cause is just—no shadow of doubt, thank God, remains upon the most common mind, as to the right being on our side, and a most wanton violation of friendship and peace on the part of Mexico towards us.

This is another proof (if another is wanted) to satisfy to us that the United States can never enjoy tranquillity, prosperity, happiness, and peace, so long as we are surrounded by other nations *not republics*, and the colonies of foreign States. This is our condition. Let us not grieve or repine, but trust in that God who has given us the victory in two wars with one of the most powerful nations of the earth. *If war is declared against us by Mexico*, in total disregard of right, of justice, of friendship, and the laws of nations, I now tender my services to you, in behalf of my country, whom you represent, to your credit and honor. I do not wish to enter the regular army. I do not wish to engage for and during the war, embarrassed as I am in my private fortunes; nor do I wish to leave my retirement and the management of my private affairs, so long as it may be our policy to defend our soil alone from the foreign invader. These duties can be discharged without my aid, with ease, and without difficulty; but if you should feel it your duty to pursue the policy of carrying the war into the enemy's country, to plant our banner at Santa Fe, Vera Cruz, Mexico, or California, and give liberty and stability to free government, where disorder and anarchy now predominate, where no kindred spirit of freedom can animate those high officers who represent an oppressed people, and who may have precipitated them into a war, to preserve the power which they seem precariously to hold;—when that time shall arrive, and that policy shall be determined on, then I am ready to raise a corps of Kentucky volunteers, of any number from one thousand to five thousand men, to serve twelve months from the commencement of marching orders, after organization, with a promise to re-engage after the expiration of the year, if the honor and situation of the country should require it—men who will make no other promise than this: that they will do their duty as citizen soldiers; and what God has allotted for man to do for his country, they will *try* to do; and if I am again spared to meet the enemies of my country in battle, in a war on our part so just, and forced upon us by ignorance, ambition, foreign influence, and selfishness, I will try to see the duties of the citizen soldier handsomely, bravely, and gallantly performed, to the honor of the corps, and to the benefit of our country.

The crisis has arrived; war, I suppose, is declared. We know not who may be at the bottom of it. Our country will soon be a unit, and the voice of treason will not be heard in our land. The discordant notes of the press—whether it was tweedle-dum or tweedle-dee—will be lost in the general shout and huzza for our country, for victory, for our federal Union, including the additional brilliant star of Texas.

As a citizen, I thank you, and congratulate my country for your prompt action in concentrating the naval and military forces of the United States on the land and on the sea, ready to meet our enemy.

Accept this hasty letter, written in the turmoils and bustle of busy private life, from one who wishes you every blessing and every honor which results from a faithful discharge of your public duty to your country.

Most respectfully,

RH. M. JOHNSON.

Col. JAMES K. POLK,
President of the United States,
City of Washington.

EDITOR'S CORRESPONDENCE.

NEW YORK, Sept. 2, 1845.

Editor of the Union:

I have the pleasure of informing you that I reached this city last night, after an absence of nearly three months. On reckoning up the distance traversed, I find it amounts to about 4,200 miles. I have reason to be thankful that, during this long and arduous journey, I enjoyed comparatively good health, and reached home in safety.

I have been in the city too short a time to get the hang of things. In lieu of local information, I will give you some particulars appertaining to my transit from Louisville to New York.

I reached Cincinnati on the 26th ultimo, where I remained about a day, for a passage on a small boat bound to Wheeling, called the "Financier," which was said to draw less than two feet of water, and would certainly reach Wheeling without detention by grounding, &c. On leaving in this small craft, I found her crowded with passengers to her utmost limits. Every state-room and berth was occupied, and the cabin floor lined with mattresses to accommodate those deprived of them. Such a crowd on a small boat, with excessively hot weather, rendered a passage on her anything but agreeable.

When we set off on the morning of the 27th, I found her to be a very slow boat, making only about six miles per hour. Her slow progress, with the liability to be stopped every night by dense fogs, to say nothing of her liability to get aground, completely disheartened me; so that, on reaching Portsmouth, 120 miles above Cincinnati, knowing the worst part of the river was to be overcome, I left the boat at that place, preferring to stage it through Ohio to Wheeling, as a more certain and expeditious mode of travelling.

I departed from Portsmouth, in the stage, for Chilicothe, about 8 a. m. on the 28th ult., soon after landing from the boat; distance 45 miles.

The Scioto enters the Ohio at Portsmouth. This stream rises in the northern part of the State, having a general course to the southeast; being about 200 miles in length. At high stages of water, it is said to be navigable for 130 miles.

The bottom, or valley of the Scioto, contains very rich land. As we passed up through it, we saw the most splendid fields of Indian corn we had yet met with in the west.

Indeed, as we passed farm after farm, it seemed as though we were winding our way through a wilderness of rank and luxuriant Indian corn.

The abundance of the crops of corn and other grain, the present year, throughout the rich valley of the Mississippi, is without a precedent. The wonder there is, not as to where the people are to get "*bread-stuffs*," but what on earth they are to do with their surplus abundance? Where are they to find consumers—purchasers of those immense crops? Are the manufacturers to consume it for them? Not at all. They can depend upon no other source for fixing a price for it, than in foreign demand. If they are not permitted to exchange it with other nations, through the agency of commerce, for articles they require for consumption, they must submit to very low prices.

Think of farmers in the West toiling the whole year to raise corn at 10 cents per bushel, and wheat at from 40 to 45 cents! "Then raise less," cries the *protected anti-commercial man*. What! check industry, and stop the cultivation of the most fertile soil God has ever bestowed on man as inheritance? Stop the most healthful, virtuous, and independent pursuit that man ever followed—the dignity and usefulness of which are before all others! No, stop it not, crush it not; rather support and sustain it, as the mother of prosperity, wealth, and independence. Rather cut loose the swaddling bands of commercial restriction, which hamper it on every side. Open up new markets for its rich returns, and liberalize and improve those already existing. Let the white canvass of the ocean freely sail to and from distant ports laden with the rich fruits of the farmer's toil, rejoicing as they go in the prosperity of their trade, and in a nation's greatness. Away with the narrow-minded restriction, which would subject all industry to the selfish purposes of exclusive pecuniary profit of a favored few.

The Erie canal, about 300 miles long, joins the Ohio at Portsmouth. It follows the valley of the Scioto for a short distance above Circleville, which is about 63 miles from the Ohio.

Chilicothe, Columbus, and Circleville, with other flourishing villages and towns, are found scattered along the banks of the Scioto. Columbus, as is well known, is the seat of government, through which the national road passes. It also receives a feeder from the canal. Its site, in 1812, was said to be a compact forest. It now contains 7,000 inhabitants. The State-house is a respectable edifice with a cupola 106 feet high, from the top of which there is a fine view of the surrounding country. The State prison is located here. The building for the public offices is 100 feet by 25. In a line with the State buildings is a handsome United States court-house. On the opposite side of the river is the village of Franklinton.

Chilicothe stands on the west bank of the Scioto, and is the seat of justice for Ross county. It was first laid off and settled in 1796, and was for some time the seat of the State government. It contains about 6,000 inhabitants. It stands central to a very rich district of land, immense fields of the finest Indian corn growing around it, almost to the suburbs of the town. It contains several stores, hotels, &c., two or three newspapers, an academy, a flourishing female seminary, four cotton-mills, a rope-walk, an oil-mill, a woollen-mill, a paper-mill, several saw-mills, and a number of large flour-mills, pork slaughtering and packing-houses.

Many tumuli and remains of Indian antiquities exist in the neighborhood, one of which stood on the present town site. In levelling it, large quantities of human bones were found.

A hill rises abruptly on the southwest side of the town. It commands an extensive and very delightful prospect of the surrounding country, interspersed as it is with luxuriant fields, green meadows, farm-houses, and the meanderings of the river.

A Macadamized turnpike leads all the way from Portsmouth to Columbus, 90 miles, via Chilicothe, Circleville, &c.

This road, eleven miles east of Chilicothe, passes up a small gorge in some hills, on the north side of which is seen a low sandstone bluff, or cliff, thickly wooded at top. At its base is a cave, now enclosed in front, leaving one door. This was for a long time the residence of a hermit. On top of the low cliff, and directly above the cave, is a hewn stone pillar, or monument—erected, I presume, by the builders of the road—to his memory, with the following inscription engraven on its front:

"TO THE MEMORY OF WILLIAM HEWITT, A HERMIT, WHO, FOR 14 YEARS, LIVED IN THIS CAVE, WHEN ALL AROUND HIM WAS A WILDERNESS. HE DIED IN 1834, AGED 70 YEARS."

Mr. M., of Circleville—a fellow-passenger in the stage, and who had resided in the country from his boyhood—told me that he had seen Wm. Hewitt, and conversed with him respecting his history, &c. He stated that he was from New York; that, having lost his father, the property left by him fell into dispute between himself and his brothers; that the latter succeeded in cheating him out of his patrimony; whereupon he became disgusted with them, and with mankind in general. He travelled off to the wilderness, and took up his residence in a cave, secluding himself from all intercourse with his species. He supported himself on the game which he killed with his gun. Some have supposed his seclusion from his friends and his race to have arisen from being crossed in love, or from some disappointed, unrequited affair of the heart.

Mr. M.'s story of himself and two brothers illustrates the history of many others, who, in early times, sought a home in the great West. They were poor orphan boys from Pennsylvania, who straggled off to Ohio, when it was a wilderness, to seek their fortunes as best they might. One bound himself to a house-joiner and cabinet-maker, but, from ill treatment, was compelled to leave him, and went to Maysville; where he succeeded in perfecting himself in his trade, and making some money. He then went to Natchez, Mississippi, where he in one year succeeded in making, by his trade, $1,500. He then returned to Maysville, and, with his money, aided by some credit with Mr. Boon, a wealthy miller of that place, he commenced shipping flour on flat-boats to Natchez—which adventures proved quite profitable. He afterwards married the daughter of Mr. Boon, and moved to Miasouri, where he purchased valuable lands and mills, supplied his farm with negro laborers, and is now considered one of the wealthy men of the State. When he landed first in Maysville, he was not master of a dollar.

The two other brothers struggled on at Circleville, and now rank among the most solid and respectable merchants in the country—all the result of honest and persevering industry.

It is curious to observe, that, enter whatever small town you may, of any age or note in the West, (and often at the East also,) the villagers never fail to point you to some dwelling as the residence of the John Jacob Astor of the place, and will tell you they knew him when he was a poor shoemaker, tailor, blacksmith, or carpenter.

These nabobs of country towns, who attract the wonder and admiration of their less fortunate fellow-villagers, are too often found with full purses, it is true, but with empty heads, and not unfrequently with mean and narrow hearts. Deprived of early education and intelligent associations, and not gifted with natural endowments, the wonder with a close observer is, how they managed, without wit, or any great forecast of mind, to get rich at all. The secret of success with many a country-town Astor, lies in this: they have been made wealthy by the progressive increase of the country around them; wealth being often forced upon them by the circumstances of the country. In early life, from parsimonious habits, they lay by small sums of money, which they invest in lots and real estate. The same love of gain enables them to hold it, till the improvement of the country vastly augments its value, when they are regularly transformed into the Whittingtons or Astors of the place. This is all right, fair, and honorable—I merely allude to it as a trait of American life.

I reached Chilicothe early in the evening of a very hot day, and had to remain till midnight for the arrival of the Maysville stage, bound to Zanesville, where it intersected with the Columbus and Wheeling line running on the great national road. I took a room with the intention of snatching a nap before midnight, but the heat of the room was wholly insupportable. Not a breath of air seemed to move from any quarter. The perspiration rolled from me in streams. Without closing my eyes, therefore, I finally rushed from the room and house into the open air, to await the coming of the stage. It finally drew up at the hotel, when I gladly set out alone, being the only passenger on board. I had a better opportunity to sleep; which I however failed in obtaining, as the coach jolted severely.

We had to ride 36 miles to Lancaster to breakfast, where we found a considerable inland town, supplied with a feeder from the Erie canal. It is also quite a manufacturing place. Without stopping to say more of Lancaster, I will merely mention that, after picking up a tolerably good breakfast, and some four or five passengers, we continued on the turnpike road leading from Chilicothe to Zanesville, on the Muskingum river, where we arrived to dinner.

This town is situated at the falls of the river, 60 miles above its mouth at Marietta. This stream, at good stages of water, is navigable by steamboats to Zanesville, and by keel-boats to Coshocton, 100 miles above its mouth.

The Muskingum rises near the sources of Cuyahoga, which empties into Lake Erie at Cleveland, the terminus of the canal. Between the two streams, or navigable waters of each, there is only a portage of a mile.

Zanesville is situated on the east bank of the river, being connected with West Zanesville and the town of Putnam by two bridges—one of which is now nearly rebuilt, after having been recently burnt down, with some houses and mills adjoining.

These towns, which may be considered as portions of Zanesville, contain, with it, about 450 to 500 houses, and from 6,000 to 7,000 inhabitants. It is an excellent situation for manufacturing, the falls affording extensive water-power. Numbers of mills are in successful operation; among which are several flour mills, saw-mills, a woollen mill, a nail factory, a rolling mill, &c. The Ohio and Cleveland canal passes within four miles of the town. Bituminous coal is found in great abundance about the town.

We left Zanesville on the evening of the 30th ult., at 4 p. m., having 70 miles to travel to Wheeling. It rained the greater part of the night. On landing at Wheeling, about 6 next morning, I learned that the steamer "Financier" had not arrived, and that I had got ahead of her. There was only about two feet of water in the river at this place. The following night, while crossing Laurel Hill, we had another hard and steady rain. It is probable, therefore, that ere now this uncertain and fickle river is again up; being liable, however, to a sudden fall.

It seems strange that the people of Louisville, Cincinnati, and Pittsburg, numbering, in the aggregate, near 150,000 inhabitants, in connexion with the populous districts and interior villages that depend upon the Ohio as an outlet to trade, do not put forth greater efforts for the improvement of its navigation. From the nature of the gravel and sand bottom of the river, with banks of the same character, it is utterly impossible to build permanent cofferdams on sand-bars, as the government have in vain attempted to do, at an immense expense, and with little or no advantage to navigation. Indeed, at many points it has been made manifestly worse than it was before.

Some five or six years since, a plan, with drawings, &c., &c., of a machine, was submitted to the United States Senate by the writer, which was ordered to be printed. This plan has received the favorable consideration of the Chief of the Bureau of Topographical Engineers; and may be further noticed by him, should Congress be induced to make another appropriation for the improvement of this important western river. It is unnecessary for me to allude to the subject further than I have done at present.

A fine shower has been falling while I have been writing. Yours, very truly,

MORGAN.

NEW YORK, September 2, 1845.

To the Editor of the Union:

I have been looking over, to-day, some facts in connexion with the business of our canals; and to one unacquainted with its extent, it might, indeed, appear marvellous, and almost beyond belief. A few statistics may not be uninteresting. It appears that the amount of business upon the canals, or rather the amount of revenues derived from tolls, has been greater this year than during any previous year, with the exception of that of 1844. The total receipts into the treasury of the State, from the opening of navigation (20th April) to the 15th of August, amount to the enormous sum of *one million two hundred and twenty-three thousand and eighty dollars*, ($1,223,080.) This, it will be recollected, is for a period of little more than four months. A few of the agricultural and other products transported and arriving from the interior to the Hudson river, at Albany and Troy, were—

	In 1841.	In 1845.
Feet of boards	177,720 349	232,434,700
Barrels of beef	18,113	50,000
Pounds of cheese	14,174,081	26,674,500
Pounds butter and lard	16,167,653	22,596,300
Pounds of wool	3,617,075	7,672,300
Bushels of wheat	781,655	1,262,249
Barrels of flour	1,647,492	2,222,204
Pounds of clover-seed	3,571,334	4,594,800
Tons of merchandise ascending	132,841	135,616

I give you but nine articles out of forty-one enumerated by the commissioners of the canal fund; but you will, from these few facts, obtain some idea of the value of our internal improvements to the State of New York, and of the great and regular annual increase of the business done upon them. The entire original cost of construction of the Grand or Erie canal having, during the present year, been paid off, the tolls next year will be greatly reduced, which, of course, will be duly appreciated by our produce-growers and others.

From the census now being taken, there is every appearance of our retaining the title of "Empire State." The marshals of several of the towns and villages in the interior have closed their labors; and if a proportionate increase holds on throughout the State, we shall number very near or quite three and a half millions of inhabitants. Brooklyn, opposite New York, contained, in 1840, 36,233 inhabitants; in 1845, 59,925. The business at our custom-house, I understand, is not as heavy this month (August) as in the corresponding month of last year, viz:

August, 1844	3,142,226 75
August, 1845	2,759,777 74
Decrease	382,449 01

There are few subjects attracting more attention, or which are more discussed among commercial men, than that of the tariff. The discontent in reference to the operation of the present law is very general, and the hope is equally so, that it will be not only greatly reduced, but equalized in its application, and *made* into such shape and form as to be understood. Scarce two can be found who will put the same construction upon some of its clauses or sections; and this, of course, gives unprincipled men greater opportunities of evading the true intent of the law, and defrauding the government of its just dues. I have been told of a somewhat curious case relative to the different meanings which some sections of the tariff are made to assume, to suit the whim (pecuniary whim!) of importers. One clause reads: "Articles worn by men, women, or children, of *whatever material* composed, made up in whole *or in part* by hand, shall pay a duty of 40 per cent." Under this clause, many articles, which would otherwise pay a duty of 20 per cent., are, by being hemmed or sewed, "or in part made up," made to pay 40 per cent.; and, on the other hand, many articles paying an exorbitant duty, are purposely slightly "made up," which brings them under the more *moderate* duty of 40 per cent. The case referred to, was, as I have been informed, an invoice containing but *two* articles—silk handkerchiefs and India shawls. India shawls made of goat's-hair, pay 20 per cent.; silk handkerchiefs pay at the rate of $2 50 per pound. Now, it seems these particular handkerchiefs were very heavy ones; and the keenness of the importer, or shipper, induced him to cause the article to be "hemmed," by which he made a hand somesaving,—especially as the article, by some singular construction, is admitted in this shape at 30 per cent., instead of 40, which the law evidently intended them to pay. So far, then, all went well. The little trick (for you must know the few threads run into the edge, and called a *hem*, is intended to be, as it certainly must be, taken out and done over properly, before using) is working to a charm. The appraisers, however, in examining the shawls, found they also were "hemmed," or sewed, and "in part made up by hand;" the border being actually sewed on—not *imitation* sewing either, but good, substantial, *bona fide* sewing—which, of course, raised them from the 20 per cent. to the 40 per cent. clause or section. Here, then, was a regular "fix." The owners were likely to lose more by the *real sewing* than they made by the *artificial*. The sewed" shawls would swallow up the "hemmed" handkerchiefs, and more too. Of course, great was their surprise and disappointment. They protested against this construction, and endeavored to shield themselves under the somewhat ridiculous notion, that, because India shawls are invariably sewed in this way, therefore they must be exempted from the 40 per cent. clause. The appraisers, or a majority of them, could not be made to see the force of this argument, worthy of a Dogberry. A re-examination was made, however, without arriving at any other conclusion; and the matter is referred, as I hear, to the collector, for his decision; which, if not in accordance with the liberal views of the importer, will be carried to the Secretary of the Treasury. This is a striking illustration of the different meanings the present law is made to assume. It may be read backwards or forwards, just as the interest of the importer dictates; but the above is, I should suppose, too plain a case to admit even of a doubt. It would seem hard, indeed, to charge 40 per cent. upon a "hemmed" worsted shawl, intended alone for the poorer class; while the hemming or sewing upon an India shawl, intended alone for the most wealthy, is to go unnoticed, and charged at only 20 per cent. More of this anon.

Our State Agricultural Fair commences next week at Utica. It will probably be one of the most grand affairs of the kind ever held in the country. I hope to be present, to give you some facts in reference to it. The anti-rent difficulties are occupying much attention in the interior of the State. About eighty prisoners are now confined in Delaware county. Many whigs are inclined to favor these lawless proceedings; and the leading whig paper in the State, (the New York Tribune,) if not their avowed organ, is the ready apologist of many of their principles.

Only one person murdered in this city yesterday! The war fever is falling, and stocks are rising. The Erie Railroad Company have selected a new president, Benjamin S. Loder, esq.—one of our most wealthy and enterprising merchants; and there is now every prospect of the subscription of $3,000,000 being made up, and the road urged on to completion.

Our theatres are all crowded nightly. The Keans (Miss Tree that was, and Charles Kean, son of Edmund the Great) are drawing fair houses at the Park; but the French Opera Company at Niblo's appear to draw the most fashionable portion of playgoers.

What do you think of a *private* horse-race over the Union course, Long Island?—the blood nags to be rode by none of your vulgar-minded men, but none other than some of our fairest and most fashionable ladies. Such a one is to come off soon. Ye gods! what a sight. And who would not forsake the gay tournaments of the White Sulphur, for the sake of being present at such a jockey-match, if for no other purpose than just to "shoot folly as it flies?"

LEDYARD.

[From our regular correspondent.]

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 4, 1845.

The course of the National Intelligencer, on the question of our difficulties with Mexico, is calculated to arouse the indignation of all parties in this country. There is a difference—and this is a fact which the Intelligencer has evidently yet to learn—between a contest between two domestic parties, here in our own national family, and between two opposing and distinct nations. He who, in the latter case, would seek to gratify his spleen by aiding the cause of a foreign people, is opposed to his own country, and can best be treated with as an enemy. And, surely, the National Intelligencer must know that, in taking such a course, it exposes itself to the certainty of a humiliating defeat. Let that heretofore courteous and excellent paper take warning by the past; and let it not seek to rush headlong into the fate which befell the peace-party during the late war and the tories of the revolution. The whig party of this day may have been opposed to annexation; but, now that Texas is a part of our soil—now that the lone star glitters in our own glorious constellation,—what was before only a question of party, is now the cause of country, of justice, and of right! He will be less than wise who seeks, in his own case, to prove the reverse of this opinion.

We have heard much about the preparations for war, and much in praise of the administration for making these preparations. They are, indeed, as formidable and extensive as they were promptly and vigorously decided upon. Had they *not* been made, the Intelligencer would, no doubt, have urged serious complaints against the weakness and inefficiency of the government. And now that they *have been* made—mark the prophecy, Mr. Ritchie!—that same paper will take the administration warmly to task, in a little while, for plunging the country into "useless" and heavy expenses!

[And thus a certain degree of *expense* prevents much greater expense. The despatching of our troops to the vicinity of