EDITED BY THOMAS RITCHIE.

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VOLUME 1. "LIBERTY, THE UNION, AND THE CONSTITUTION." NUMBER 273.

WASHINGTON CITY, WEDNESDAY NIGHT, MARCH 18, 1846.

THE LIBEL UPON THE SENATE.

Testimony taken before the committee appointed to inquire and report what measures, if any, are proper to vindicate the character and honor of the Senate against the charges of corruption published in a newspaper printed in Washington city, called the "Daily Times," on the 5th, 9th, 10th, and 11th instant, with power to examine witnesses, and to send for persons and papers.

[CONCLUDED.]

Mr. L. Dayton, a senator from New Jersey, referred to as a witness by Mr. Robinson, editor of the Times newspaper, deposed as follows, to wit:

That he has no knowledge of any fact, matter, or thing, which can directly, or indirectly, prove or sustain the charges against senators now under investigation. That so far as he knows, or has heard, or has reason to believe, the entire publication tending to impeach the conduct of senators is untrue. And he further saith that the last whig caucus, or consultation, of which he has knowledge, was, as he thinks, on Tuesday, the 24th of February last. That it was then and there suggested that the most prudent course of proceeding, under all the circumstances, was to postpone, for the present, the further consideration of the Oregon question. That in conformity with that suggestion, he, the witness, was requested to move said postponement for the space of four weeks; and with that understanding the meeting broke up. That he, the said witness, afterwards, upon further advisement, resolved to limit the motion to postpone to two weeks instead of four, under the impression that thereby said motion would command more votes. That neither at said meeting, nor at any other meeting, so far as he knows, was there any understanding or agreement to sustain the resolution of Mr. Colquitt, of Georgia, which was offered after said motion to postpone was withdrawn. That the opposition of Mr. Calhoun satisfied the witness that the motion to postpone would not receive the support necessary to its passage, and it was therefore withdrawn. The witness further says he knows of no such dinner at the British minister's as is referred to. That he knows of no such consultation with the British minister by whigs, as is referred to. That he knows of no caucus at which the British minister attended, or at which anybody did attend but whig senators. That he knows of no caucus on Sunday night last, such as is referred to. That he knows of no caucus or consultation on this subject, the object or intent of which was to embarrass the administration. That so far as he had knowledge, the whigs of the Senate have viewed this question as a national, and not as a party question.

WM. L. DAYTON.

The honorable Spencer Jarnagin, who has been referred to by Mr. Robinson as a witness, after being duly sworn, deposeth as follows, to wit:

I regret Mr. Robinson has thought proper to present me as the witness by whom he expects to prove anything tending to sustain the charges he has made against certain members of the Senate. I have no knowledge of any fact or circumstance which will, in the slightest degree, support the charges against senators published in the Times, nor have I any idea of what is expected to be proved by me, further than what I learn from the statement made by Mr. Robinson. He says he expects to prove by me, that I was present at a caucus of whig members, at which the Oregon discussion was of such a character that I became disgusted and left before the adjournment. If such be his expectation, he has certainly given credit to information upon which no reliance should have been placed. Since I have had the honor of a seat in the Senate, I have attended many consultations of whig senators. Such meetings have been common among the whigs, and I believe with the democrats; and I cannot tell to what meeting Mr. Robinson refers. The last meeting or caucus I attended was held in the Capitol, on the morning of the 24th of February, 1846. This is the only one of which I have any knowledge at which there was any discussion upon the Oregon question. On the morning the Hon. John M. Clayton was to make his Oregon speech there was an informal meeting for the purpose of prevailing on Mr. Clayton not to discuss the respective rights of England and the United States to the Oregon territory; and the request was made of him. The meeting to which I have referred, held on the 24th of February last, was called, as I understood it, for the purpose of comparing opinions upon the subject of the notice to be given to England, so as to present the largest vote possible for the notice, if passed. It was soon discovered this question did not partake of a party character, and that each senator present seemed disposed to act upon his own high responsibility and sense of duty, without regard to party considerations; and the result of the meeting was that Senator Dayton should move that the matter be postponed for thirty days, which was subsequently changed to two weeks, to give time to senators to well mature their own opinions. On the 24th, Mr. Dayton did not get an opportunity to make his motion; but on the next day, the 25th, he made it. It was opposed by Mr. Calhoun, and withdrawn by Mr. Dayton. Mr. Colquitt then offered his resolution, and Mr. Crittenden moved to postpone to the next day, and that the amendment be printed; which was agreed to. I never considered this meeting, or the proceedings thereof, any secret; and often spoke of them, and stated I should attend no more meetings on the subject, believing they would be of no use. This is the last caucus by the whigs of which I have any knowledge. I have not even heard of any caucus by the whigs, or by any number of them, since the one I have referred to, held on the 24th of February last. I will take occasion here to say, I have no knowledge of any meeting by the whigs at any time for the purpose of embarrassing the administration, or defeating the President's recommendations. I know of no conference nor conversation with the British minister, by any senator, at any time, on the subject of Oregon. I know Mr. Pakenham never attended any meeting at which I was present. I never heard of his presence at any caucus, at any time, held by any party.

SPENCER JARNAGIN.

The Hon. D. R. Atchison, who had been referred to by Mr. Robinson as a witness, after being duly sworn, deposed as follows, to wit:

Mr. Jarnagin and myself had a conversation together in relation to the probable action of the Senate upon the various propositions to give the notice to annul and abrogate the treaty of 1827 between the United States and Great Britain in relation to the country west of the Stony mountains. In the course of the conversation I told Mr. Jarnagin that the democratic members of the Senate, or a portion of them, had upon several occasions met in caucus to determine, if possible, what form of resolution should be sustained by them, but that we could come to no agreement. Mr. Jarnagin told me that he had met in caucus with the whig members of the Senate, the object being to ascertain what course it was expedient for them to pursue in relation to the same subject; that it was soon found that they could not agree, and that he withdrew from the caucus. This, I think, was the substance of all that was said upon that subject. I never held, to my knowledge, any conversation with the editor of the "Times," or any person connected with that paper, in relation to the Oregon question. Indeed, I cannot say whether I have had even a passing acquaintance with Mr. Robinson, the editor of the "Times." I cannot say that I would know him, or that I ever had seen him.

D. R. ATCHISON.

The Hon. Daniel Webster, who had been referred to by Mr. Robinson as a witness, after being duly sworn, deposed as follows, to wit:

I know of no meeting of whig members of the Senate at the Capitol on any Sunday, and no meeting at any time at which the British minister was present, or anybody else but whig senators. I know of no meeting of whig senators at the house of the British minister at any time. I know of no conference between the whigs of the Senate and the British minister at any time. I know of no meeting of whig senators at any time holden or called for any purpose of embarrassing the administration. A meeting of whig senators was holden before Mr. Colquitt's proposition was offered, in which it was considered what course the public interest required them to pursue in regard to the question pending in the Senate respecting Oregon. I was called out before the gentlemen separated, but understood the general sentiment was in favor of a postponement for some weeks of the pending measure, if such postponement could be carried. At the time of this meeting, I knew nothing of Mr. Colquitt's intention to present any proposition to the Senate, nor was any conversation had on that subject at the meeting. I know nothing of any letter to the Newark Daily Advertiser, or the contents thereof. I have, of course, conversed with different senators on different sides of the house, at various times, on the proper mode of proceeding in regard to the question of notice. I never had any conference or consultation with the British minister on that subject, either with or without the presence of any other individual.

DANIEL WEBSTER.

The Hon. John McPherson Berrien, who had been referred to by Mr. Robinson as a witness, after being duly sworn, deposed as follows, to wit:

I am ignorant of any meeting of whig senators in relation to the Oregon question, other than those which I will hereafter state, having been held at any time at the Capitol, at the house of the British minister, or anywhere else, or of any such meeting at which Mr. Pakenham, or any other than a whig senator, was present. Being referred to the statement of H. H. Robinson, that he expects to prove by me, among others, "that secret caucuses of the whig senators were at different times held, at which the compromise of the Oregon dispute was debated in several various shapes," that propositions were made to a portion or all of them—the senators enumerated by him—by Messrs. Calhoun, Colquitt, McDuffie, Haywood, Bagby, or by either of them I have to say, that I can give no such testimony; that I know no such facts; and that, so far as my knowledge or belief extends, the statement is entirely and absolutely false. The meetings of whig senators, to which I have referred above, were held at the Capitol, on two several mornings, immediately before the meeting of the Senate; the first, as I believe, on the 12th February last, at which the only question considered was the propriety of Mr. John M. Clayton's entering into the debate at the time, and resulted in an agreement to recommend to him, if he did so, not to discuss the question of title. The second was held on the 24th of February last; and the only question then considered was the propriety of moving in the Senate a postponement of the resolutions in relation to Oregon for four weeks, or thirty days, which Mr. Dayton was instructed to make, and did make on the following day, reducing the time to two weeks. I add that Mr. Colquitt's resolution was never, at any time, considered at any meeting of whig senators within my knowledge, and that I was ignorant of the terms of that resolution until it was presented to the Senate.

JNO. McPHERSON BERRIEN.

The Hon. Willie P. Mangum, who had been referred to by Mr. Robinson as a witness, after being duly sworn, deposed as follows, to wit:

Willie P. Mangum, one of the senators from North Carolina, having been referred to by H. H. Robinson as a witness to prove "that secret caucuses of the whig senators were at different times held, at which the compromise of the Oregon dispute was debated in several various shapes, deposeth and saith, that he has no knowledge of any such meeting or meetings. That he knows of on meeting or caucus in which the merits of the Oregon question, or any resolution relating to it, has been discussed; that no proposition or resolution on the whig side of the Senate touching the merits has been the result of any caucus agreement or suggestion. That nothing in regard to the Oregon question has been considered, within his knowledge, except at two meetings: at the first, on the day the Hon. J. M. Clayton spoke, the whigs met to consult whether he (Mr. C.) should not be requested not to speak on the subject; or, in case he did, that he should be urged not to discuss the title. The result of that consultation was to request Mr. Clayton not to discuss the title to Oregon. The second—I believe the 24th of February, 1846—was to consider of the mode of treating the question as to time, which resulted in instructing Mr. Dayton to move a postponement of action for thirty days. Upon informal consultation afterwards, Mr. Dayton moved the postponement for a fortnight; which motion was withdrawn before a vote was had on it. I know of no meeting or caucus of the whig senators at which Mr. Pakenham, or any other than a whig senator, was present. I know of no meeting, caucus, or consultation among many or few of the whigs which had for its object to embarrass the President in the adjustment of the controversy with Great Britain, or to open directly or indirectly any consultation with Mr. Pakenham, or any other or others in his behalf. I know of no meeting in which Mr. Colquitt's proposed amendment was considered by the whigs. I know of no meeting since Mr. Colquitt introduced his proposition, nor did I know what it was likely to be, further than as he indicated publicly on the floor of the Senate. I know of no agreement of the whigs as a body touching the Oregon question, except as above stated in respect to the instructions to Mr. Dayton; nor do I know of anything occurring in those consultations that I regarded as necessary to keep secret. I know of no meeting at the British minister's residence at which the Oregon question, or anything relating to it, was or was to be discussed; nor do I believe that any such ever occurred.

WILLIE P. MANGUM.

The Hon. Thomas Corwin, after being duly sworn, deposed as follows, to wit:

I have been present at several meetings of whig senators in the Capitol during the present session. I never saw the British minister there or heard of his being there. One object in holding these consultations together was to endeavor if possible to unite in some mode of treating the Oregon question, then and now pending, which should give most efficient aid to the administration in any effort to bring the controversy to a just and amicable settlement. I never heard Mr. Colquitt's resolutions discussed at any of these consultations. Whenever I have been at any of these meetings, the subject of a postponement of the vote on the pending question was, I believe, the only one on which there seemed to be a general concurrence of opinion. I do not believe there has been any such meeting of the whig senators since Mr. Colquitt offered his resolutions to the Senate. I know of no caucus or meeting of any of the whig senators on a Sunday evening, as published in the "Times," nor do I believe any such was held. I have dined with Mr. Pakenham but once during this session; I heard no conversation on the Oregon question, nor do I believe any such was moved by any one. I think Mr. Archer and Mr. J. M. Clayton were the only members of the Senate, except myself, who were there that day. I have had no conference with the British minister on the subject of our relations with Great Britain, nor do I know of any such conference between him and any senator.

THOS. CORWIN.

Robert P. Anderson, (one of the messengers of the Senate,) a witness, being produced, duly sworn and examined, deposeth and saith:

That there was no caucus held in any chamber or part of the Capitol on Friday, the 27th of February last, either by whig senators or any other senators. That Mr. Pakenham, the British minister, was not within the walls of the Capitol that day, or if he was, I did not see him, or hear of his being there. All the time, from nine o'clock in the morning until the close of the day, it is my duty to be in the Capitol, and attending to my business as a messenger of the Senate. I should suppose I should have seen Mr. Pakenham as soon as any one, had he been in the Senate on that day. When the Senate is in session, there is always a place assigned for foreign ministers to sit in, and witness the debates. Foreign ministers very frequently come to the Senate to hear interesting debates, as well as to the other House of Congress, and have always been accustomed to do so. I never saw Mr. Pakenham, the British minister, go into, or attend any caucus or consultation of whig senators, or democratic senators, or any other senators whatever, nor did I ever tell any person that Mr. Pakenham attended a senatorial caucus on Friday, the 27th of February last, or at any other time. I know that Mr. Pakenham was never invited to attend a whig caucus in the Capitol, for I have served all the notices to attend consultations among the whig senators during the whole session; and I know of my own knowledge, that Mr. Pakenham was never during the whole time inside of a room where a whig consultation was held. I have no recollection of having ever said to Lieut. Porter of the navy, that I had a summons for some of the whigs to attend a caucus; and I am certain that I did not say so to him on Friday, the 27th of February last, for on that day there was no caucus or meeting of the whig senators whatever, nor has there been any since that day. There has never been a whig consultation or caucus at which any democrat attended, and I never knew of a democratic consultation or caucus at which any whig attended. Messrs. Calhoun, McDuffie, Colquitt, and Bagby, or either of them never attended any whig caucus in the Capitol, or I should have known it.

R. P. ANDERSON.

Mr. Davis, the writer of the letter in the Missouri Republican, alluded to in the foregoing article from the Washington Times, having been called upon to state who were the members of Congress to whom he had reference in said letter, named Mr. Webster, of the Senate, and Mr. Winthrop, of the House of Representatives, and in relation to both of them declared that he had no personal authority for charging those gentlemen. It subsequently occurred to the committee that they were not to receive testimony in regard to members of the House of Representatives, and the name of Mr. Winthrop was withdrawn from the record. In the mean time, however, the fact that the witness had so testified became generally known, and it was therefore thought due to Mr. Winthrop to receive from him the following statement:

The following communication was received from the Hon. Robert C. Winthrop, and was ordered to be spread upon the record:

"WASHINGTON, March 16, 1846.

"The Hon. SPENCER JARNAGIN, &c.

"DEAR SIR: Having been informed that one of the persons summoned before the committee of which you are chairman, gave my name as that of a member of Congress who, he had reason to believe, had held confidential communications with Mr. Pakenham, the British minister, in regard to the Oregon question, I desire to state, and hereby explicitly do state, that I have never had any confidential communication, consultation, or conference with Mr. Pakenham on that subject in my life.

"I never heard the subject mentioned where he was, except as one of the topics of the day, about which gentlemen speak when they happen to meet.

"I know of no confidential consultation or conference held with him on that subject by any other member of either house of Congress; and, especially, I utterly deny that there is the slightest foundation for imputing to me any consultation, co-operation, agreement, or understanding, with the British minister or any other British agent in regard to any part of this subject, or any proceedings respecting it.

"And to this statement I now tender my oath to the committee. ROB'T C. WINTHROP."

Sworn to before the committee, this 16th March, 1846. S. JARNAGIN, Chairman.

The Hon. George Evans, a senator from Maine, having been duly sworn, deposeth as follows, to wit:

The attention of this deponent being called to certain publications in the aforesaid paper called the Daily Times, he the said deponent on oath declares and says that he hath no knowledge of any of the facts or circumstances stated in the said paper, printed on the 5th, 9th, 10th, and 11th days of March instant, containing the charges against senators under investigation by this committee. That the said charges are, so far as he knows, and as he firmly believes, wholly without foundation; that he has attended all the meetings of whig senators of which he has had any knowledge during the present session of Congress; that Mr. Pakenham—her Britannic Majesty's minister to the United States—has never attended or been present at any of said meetings; that no concert or agreement, or arrangement of any kind, has ever been had or proposed, to his knowledge or belief, between whig senators, or any of them, and Mr. Pakenham, or with democratic senators, or any of them, upon the subject of the resolutions relating to the Oregon question, with a view to embarrass the President in adjusting the controversy with Great Britain, or to induce him or compel him to make any settlement of said controversy inconsistent with the honor, interests, and just rights of the United States; and that all and every of the charges, allegations, and investigations in said several papers contained to that effect are utterly false and groundless, so far as this deponent knows, and as he verily believes. This deponent further says that he has never attended any meeting of the whig members of the Senate, when any propositions as to the terms upon which the Oregon controversy ought to be settled, has been submitted, discussed in, or agreed upon by such meetings; and that at no time has any reference or allusion been made by any senators to any opinion or proposition of the British minister upon that subject to which, or in which, the assent or concurrence of any senator was sought or desired.

This deponent further saith, that he has no knowledge or belief that any meeting of whig senators, or others, has been held since said several publications, and none on the Sunday, 8th instant, and that at no time has any agreement or understanding been had, or resolution formed, not to prosecute an investigation into the truth of the charges referred to; and he further declares on oath, that he does not know nor believe the existence of any part or circumstances whatever tending in the slightest degree to prove the truth of any of the charges in said several publications, now under investigation by the committee.

GEO. EVANS.

H. H. Robinson being called back, further deposed as follows, to wit:

1st interrogatory. Do you exchange with the Missouri Republican?

Answer by witness. We do.

2d interrogatory. Was the article extracted from it, as being taken from the "great whig paper of the West," pointed out to you for publication by any person; and if so, by whom?

Answer by witness. The article was pointed out to me by the publisher of the "Times," Mr. Dow.

3d. interrogatory. Did any other person than Mr. Dow advise, suggest, or recommend the publication of the article; and if so, who was it?

Answer by witness. No.

4th interrogatory. Was the extract as made by you taken from your exchange copy, or some other copy of the Republican?

Answer by witness. It was taken from a copy furnished by Mr. Dow; not from the exchange copy.

H. H. ROBINSON.

Mr. J. E. Dow, being called back, further deposed as follows:

1st interrogatory. From whom did you receive the copy of the Republican alluded to as above?

Answer by witness. I was shown the paper by Dr. Relfe, of the House of Representatives, and begged it to be given to Mr. Robinson.

2d interrogatory. Were there any marks or words written about it before you delivered it to Mr. Robinson, to make the extract for quotation; and if so, by whom were said marks made, and by whom the words written, and what the words, if any?

Answer by witness. There were black lines around it, but by whom made I cannot say.

JESSE E. DOW.

Deposition of Hon. John M. Clayton, taken before the select committee of the Senate to inquire into the charges of the "Daily Times" newspaper against certain senators, and duly sworn to on Monday, the 16th day of March, 1846:

Deponent, (being first duly sworn,) in reply to the interrogatories put to him, deposes and says: that he has no knowledge of any dinner given by the British minister, Mr. Pakenham, at which whig senators, or any other senators, attended for the purpose of discussing, or conversing upon, the Oregon question, or Mr. Colquitt's resolutions, or the compromise question, as it is called, or any other question connected with either of them; nor has he the slightest belief that such a dinner was ever given. This deponent never attended any caucus or meeting at which Mr. Pakenham attended, for the purpose of conversing or consulting about the Oregon question. This deponent has never attended any caucus or consultation of whig senators but once during the present session of Congress, and that was about the beginning of the session, early in December last, when a consultation was held to decide how the whigs should cast their votes for officers and committees of the Senate. He knows nothing, of his own knowledge, of what occurred at meetings which he did not attend. He never attended but one dinner at the British minister's, and that was more than a month ago—he thinks some time early in February last. On that occasion there was no caucus or consultation between any senators and Mr. Pakenham in relation to the Oregon question, or anything connected with it. Indeed, there were but two other senators present besides himself, to wit: Mr. Corwin and Mr. Archer. The rest of this dinner party—several of whom were strangers to him—were not members of the Senate, and most of them appeared to be gentlemen who were not members of Congress. I have no recollection of any conversation then held with Mr. Pakenham by any person in regard to the Oregon question or Mr. Colquitt's resolutions, and I concur with the statement of Mr. Corwin, that there was no such conversation. At that time there could not have been any conversation between any persons about Mr. Colquitt's resolutions of compromise, as they were not offered in the Senate till more than ten days afterwards, and Mr. Colquitt had given no intimation of his intention to offer such resolutions. So far as I can learn, no whig senator, except Mr. Crittenden, ever saw Mr. Colquitt's resolutions until the 25th of February, when they were laid before the Senate for the first time, and ordered to be printed, and then Mr. Crittenden moved to print them, and alleged that he had not examined them. I fully concur in the testimony of Mr. Schnable, Mr. Medary, and Mr. Turner, the only witnesses referred to by Mr. Robinson, the publisher of the "Daily Times," so far as regards his (Mr. Robinson's) statements in committee as to alleged admissions of mine. They all swear positively in direct disproof of his allegation. It is perfectly true that I never had any conversation with either of them on the subjects which they were called upon to prove my admissions. When I first saw Mr. Schnable in the committee room, I had forgotten that I had ever seen him before, so slight had been my acquaintance with him. I had never had any conversation with him about Mr. Pakenham's dinner, or the Oregon question. The same is true of Mr. Medary, and Mr. Turner of Ohio. They were both strangers to me, and they have both sworn truly, that they never had any conversation with me in their lives on any subject. I have no recollection of ever having seen either of them before they appeared in the committee room, summoned, as they then were, to prove the statements of the editor of the "Daily Times." I never told any of these gentlemen, or any other person whatever, that at a dinner given by the British minister attended by me, "noses were counted" on the Oregon question, or any other question, or that there was any conversation about it. If there was ever any enumeration of strength of senators on any question touching Oregon made at the British minister's by any persons whatever, it was entirely without my knowledge. I suppose there were a dozen persons at this only dinner at Mr. Pakenham's which I ever attended, several of whom appeared to be strangers to each other. Mr. Corwin and myself went in the same carriage. We left at a very early hour, and returned home in the same carriage together.

I think it is due to Mr. Pakenham to state, after all that has transpired, that on every occasion upon which I have had the honor to meet him, his conduct has not only been gentlemanly and honorable, but he has been prudent and remarkably guarded and reserved on all subjects connected with the Oregon controversy. Amidst all the difficulties of his position, and while disposing the courtesies which properly become his high station, it has been a common remark about members of Congress with whom I have conversed, that he has never exhibited the slightest indiscretion, or exposed himself to a charge of the slightest impropriety; and I have yet to meet with the first gentleman, either in or out of Congress, who has hesitated when speaking of him to express the highest estimation of him as a gentleman and an honorable man.

I know of no caucus held by whig senators, or other senators, with a view to discuss Mr. Colquitt's, resolutions, or any other propositions of compromise. All those senators who have acted with me on the Oregon question, have steadily considered and treated it as a national question, and not as a party question. Their avowed object always has been to enable the administration to settle it as soon as possible on the best terms for the country. I have no recollection now of having heard of more than two consultations by the whig senators about Oregon. The first of these was on the twelfth of February last, when some of them assembled in a room of the Capitol to consult as to the course which should be taken in the discussion of the question of notice as they afterwards informed me. I was about to make a speech on that day on the question of notice, being the first one of the number who had taken the floor on that subject. They sent one of their number to advise with me, and I told him I had resolved not to discuss the question of title up to 54° 40′ in open session at that time. This he said met with their views. Nothing was said about compromise, or I should have heard it. The other occasion on which a consultation of whig senators was held, was, I think, on Tuesday, the 24th day of February last, when, although I did not attend the meeting, yet I know, from what some of them told me immediately afterwards, the question they discussed was, "Whether it was not most prudent in the present supposed perilous condition of public affairs to postpone the whole subject of Oregon for several weeks?" So far from deciding at *that*, (which was their *last* consultation or meeting,) to push Mr. Colquitt's resolutions to send to England by the steamer which was to leave this country in a few days, they communicated their wish to me that the whole subject should be postponed for at least a fortnight. I found also that Mr. Dayton had been instructed by them to move the postponement, who made the motion accordingly on the 25th of February, but withdrew it only because he found, or believed he had ascertained, that it would be opposed by all the democratic senators, and that we could not carry it. At the time of this *last* consultation of the whig senators which has been held, Mr. Colquitt's resolutions had not been offered in the Senate. I know of no secret caucuses between the whigs and any other senators. I know of no meeting held any where, secret or otherwise, attended to consult about Oregon with whig senators, or any other senators. I know not, nor have I heard of, any caucus or consultation held among the senators on the night of Sunday, the eighth instant, in reference to the Times newspaper, nor have I any belief that such a caucus or consultation was held. I know of no act done, or word spoken, by any American senator in reference to Oregon which could possibly subject him in justice to the gross abuse of the newspaper called the "Daily Times," or any of its charges of corruption.

JOHN M. CLAYTON.

The Hon. John Davis, a senator from the State of Massachusetts, appeared, and having been duly sworn, deposed as follows, to wit:

The subscriber having been summoned to appear before the committee appointed by the Senate of the United States to investigate certain charges of corruption preferred against members of that body, by a newspaper called the "Daily Times;" and having exhibited to him a written paper filed by H. H. Robinson, in which he states that he expects to prove by the subscriber, and several other senators therein named, "that several caucuses of whig senators were, at different times, held, at which the compromise of the Oregon dispute was debated in several various shapes." The subscriber makes answer thereto as follows, to wit:

He knows no reason why Mr. Robinson should entertain the belief that such facts could be proved by the subscriber, as he has no knowledge of any caucus or meeting of whig senators, or others, at which the compromise of the Oregon dispute was debated or considered in any *shape* whatever.

The subscriber finds also a further statement of said Robinson, in which he avers that he expects to prove, by the same senators, "that propositions were made to a portion or all of them, to compromise the question, by Messrs. Calhoun, Colquitt, McDuffie, Haywood, and Bagby, or by either of them;" and he answers thereto, that he has no knowledge of any such propositions made by any of said gentlemen. None was made to the senators; and if any was made to others, he is ignorant of the fact.

He would further add, that he has known of but two caucuses or meetings of whig senators since the commencement of the session of Congress, the last of which was about three weeks past; that he was present during only a part of the time; that they were held in the Capitol at mid-day, just before the assembling of the Senate; that no person was present except whig members; that such meetings continued for a short period only; and that nothing, as far as the knowledge of the subscriber goes, was debated, discussed, or moved therein, which related to Oregon, except the expediency of deferring to a later day the debate in the Senate upon the questions then pending before it, which was not esteemed a matter of much importance; and though afterwards moved in the Senate, was not pressed to a vote. The subscriber will also add, that he knows of no interview between the British minister and any senator or senators, under any circumstances whatever, at which the Oregon matters were discussed, or made a topic of conversation.

The foregoing is, as the subscriber believes, a full answer to the suggestions contained in the written memorandum; but he hold himself in readiness to answer any other inquiries which may be made.

J. DAVIS.

The Hon. Wm. S. Archer made the following statement, to wit:

A statement having been requested of me in relation to any knowledge I may possess, on the subject of the charges against members of the body, which a committee of the Senate have under consideration, I state:

That I have no knowledge of anything, going in any degree to sustain the said charges, or any part of them. That I have attended at two or three consultations or caucuses of the whig party, for the purpose of advisement of the subject of the proper disposal of the Oregon question; that at only one of these was a distinct proposition put to vote, on which it was decided that a motion should be made in the Senate for postponement, which was made subsequently by Mr. Dayton; and this meeting was anterior to the submission of Mr. Colquitt's proposition of amendment. That on the subject of these propositions, I know of no caucus consultation. My own opinion was given to Mr. Crittenden, in favor of his acceptance of the resolutions in place of his own resolutions; which opinion, I recollect, did not appear to meet the immediate concurrence of several senators near to his and my seats in the Senate, contiguously to which our first conversation took place.

Having been asked if I knew of any whig caucus having decided that no notice should be taken of the article in the Times newspaper, I answer, that I heard of none, though I heard various opinions expressed when senators met each other, and chiefly in the Senate chamber. If I have ever heard the Oregon question mentioned at the table of the English minister, it has only been in the manner in which any other topic of the day might be mentioned, and without members of the Senate composing an unusual proportion of the company.

W. S. ARCHER.

Sworn before
S. JARNAGIN, chairman, 16th March, 1846.

The Hon. Reverdy Johnson made the following statement, to wit:

I never have any knowledge of any secret, or other caucus, of the whig senators, or any portion of them, held anywhere, at which the compromise of the Oregon controversy was mentioned or debated in any shape whatever. Nor have I any knowledge, that any proposition of compromise was ever made to the whig senators, or any portion of them, by Messrs. Calhoun, Colquitt, McDuffie, Haywood, Bagby, or by any other senators, or persons.

I have not the honor of much personal acquaintance with the British minister, and have never been at any time at any entertainment given by him, or met him at any dinner given by any one else, nor, except in the articles of "The Times," did I ever hear of any such entertainment at such minister's, when the subject of Oregon was mentioned.

I have been present at two or three meetings of whig senators, held during the present session, but at neither of them was the subject of compromise of the Oregon controversy mentioned or debated.

The objects and results of these meetings, were as stated in the evidence of the Hon. Mr. Berrien.

Of Mr. Colquitt's amendment to the resolutions proposed by Mr. Crittenden, I had no knowledge until it was read by him in his seat in the Senate, except that I had understood that he proposed to offer an amendment; but what it was, or was to be, I had no knowledge until the period referred to.

REVERDY JOHNSON.

Sworn before
S. JARNAGIN, chairman, 16th March, 1846.

From the New York News.

NEW HAMPSHIRE ELECTION.

The latest and most complete intelligence we have, is comprised in the subjoined letter to the *Boston Post*. It will be seen that Mr. Williams, our candidate for governor, probably falls 1,500 votes short of a majority over all his competitors; he has at least 8,000 over his highest opponent. We shall await with great interest the exact result as to the legislature. There seems to be but little doubt that the "allied army," the opponents of the regular democratic ascendency, will have, if they unite thoroughly, a small majority. But will it be a "working majority?" That's the point. The whigs are perfectly willing to send John P. Hale to the United States Senate, and that wordy renegade is ready to accept the "blushing honor;" but can he, in return—for so the bond runs—get *all* of the "independent democrats" he has induced to become members, through confidence in his loud professions of democracy, to vote for a whig governor? We shall see:

"CONCORD, 13th March, 1846.

"The election, it is now fully ascertained, has gone against the democracy, both on the popular vote and in the return of members to the Legislature. As the travelling is very bad, I have not been able to send you the return of votes so fast as had it been otherwise—the northern stages not arriving here until after this time in the afternoon, when they are due about two hours sooner. Below you have an addition which I have just finished of the return of votes from 181 of the 224 towns and voting places in the State—43 remaining to be heard from:

March, 1846.					March, 1843.				
Williams.	Colby.	Berry.	Scat.		Steele.	Colby.	Hoit.	Scat.	
24,154	16,684	9,616	89		21,125	14,676	5,248	944	
26,389					20,868				
2,235 Williams's *minority*.					267 Steele's majority.				
2,502 democratic loss.									
1,100 Steele's majority in whole State last year.									
1,402									

"So you will see that if the remaining towns come in as well as last year, Mr. Williams will lack 1,402 votes of an election. As we have heard from the worst opposition towns, including those in Carroll county, where we shall be likely to lose the most by the Hale defection, I presume that Mr. W. cannot be defeated by more than 1,400. Coos ought to give us 200 or 300 gain, not more than half of which, I should judge, can be neutralized by our remaining losses.

"In the House of Representatives it is probable that the majority of the 'allied army' cannot exceed 8 or 10, if it shall reach half a dozen—hardly enough for the opposition to work with successfully, in the mutual operation of swallowing a federal governor and abolition senators in Congress, which they will find it necessary to perform when they come together next June.

"So far as ascertained, the complexion of the House now stands as follows: Democrats 97, federalists 102, Hale faction 17; opposition majority thus far, 22. I have made a liberal calculation on the remaining towns—democrats 28, opposition 21. This would reduce the opposition majority to 15—more than they will have, I think.

"We have probably elected 3 democratic senators; one in this (No. 4) district by some 20 or 30 majority only. H. Hibbard, esq., is chosen in No. 12 In the remaining 9 districts there is probably no choice, unless the federalists have elected in No. 1. The vacancies will be filled by the legislature.

"Two democratic counsellors probably chosen in Hillsboro' and Coos districts. No choice in the remaining three; will be filled also by the legislature.

"A very bad defeat this. The federalists are in high spirits, and claim it as *their* victory. Their abolition allies must either 'confess the corn,' or rebel. We shall see the result in June. I predict that the democrats will then witness a little fun for their consolation in now being worsted.

"Yours, in haste, H."

THE WHIG REVIEW, FOR MARCH, 1846, THIS DAY RECEIVED BY F. TAYLOR.

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Published monthly, at 5 dollars per annum, payable in advance; and will be regularly forwarded, strongly enveloped, to any post office in the United States, if application be made to

F. TAYLOR, Bookseller,
March 17. Washington city.

By A. GREEN, Auctioneer.

GOOD HOUSE AND LOT AT AUCTION.—On Thursday, the 19th instant, I will sell, on the premises, at 5 o'clock, p. m., a good two-story frame House and Lot, fronting 12th street west, between G and H streets north, in square No. 319. The house is well built and of good material, with a good store-room on the lower floor, and wide passage.

TERMS: One-half cash; balance in six months for a note bearing interest; a deed given and a deed of trust taken.

March 16.—3t A. GREEN, Auctioneer.

EDITOR'S CORRESPONDENCE.

[From our regular correspondent.]

PHILADELPHIA, March 17, 1846.

Since I wrote you in regard to the slaver Pons, captured near the coast of Africa, by the U. S. ship Yorktown, with a cargo of slaves, Lieutenant Cogdell, who had the vessel in charge, and the four Portuguese sailors sent here with her, has brought her to this port, and she may now be seen at the upper pier of the Southwark Marine Railway. I am indebted for the following description of her to the reporter of the Ledger:

"She measures about 230 tons, her keel is 91 feet long, and she has 24 feet beam, with a depth of hold of about 11 feet. Making the usual allowance for the forecastle, it would leave the dimensions of the hold, in which 900 negroes were stowed away, to be about 80 feet by 24. There appears to have been no alterations in the vessel to fit her for the iniquitous traffic in flesh and blood. The lower portion of the hold was at the time of her capture covered with a range of water-casks, beneath which was also stowed the necessary quantity of ballast. The water and ballast occupied about four feet of the whole depth of hold. On top of these casks, and in the interstices between them, were placed bags of farina, in order to make a more level surface, and these were covered over with matting, to complete the accommodations for the cargo. Some idea may be formed of the space allowed to each of the 900 originally placed on board of her, by considering the dimensions of the portion of the hold to which they they were confined, being, as stated above, but about 80 feet long by 24 feet wide.

"When the Pons was captured, the hatches were all battened down, with the exception of one, of about four feet square; this, covered by a grating, afforded the only means of ventillation to the close and confined hold in which the wretched beings forming her cargo were struggling for existence. The farina mentioned as being in the hold, was intended for the sustenance of the negroes; but though they had been out three days when captured, it is said that not a particle of food had been distributed to them in that time. The farina was afterwards used for their food, mixed with oil.

"The caboose is situated on the deck near the foremast, and contains a large brick fire-place, and a rough iron grating on which to place the cooking utensils. Immediately aft of this is the long-boat, with a house over it. The cabin is also upon deck, and on a small quarter-deck at the stern is the wheel and a small cabin for the pilot. The vessel appears to have been substantially built, and of an excellent model for fast sailing, but now looks rusty from her long voyage and the heavy gales encountered."

It appears from the official record, as filed in the custom-house, for this district, that "the Pons" was registered on the 30th December, 1843, by her owners, several well-known merchants here; and that Capt. Thomas Graham was her master. It has, however, since been authoritatively stated, that Capt. Graham was authorized by the owners to dispose of "the Pons," and that he accordingly did so at