to the State, got into the Speaker's Chair, and was then *translated* into the office of Attorney General!!! This is the way lawyers get along. Sir, I am glad to see you in the chair; not that I like your politics; no man is more in the wrong on that subject, than you are, sir. But I am glad to see you in the chair, because you are not a lawyer; because in electing you, the House has broken through the old prejudice of supposing that nothing can be done without a lawyer.

When the proper time for a law reform comes, I shall go heart and hand with its friends. I will not lay the axe at the root of the tree of the Judiciary; I believe that such a course would be destroying the tree of Liberty. But I would use the knife upon its rotten branches—upon the suckers which exhaust and impoverish it. I would do something to make law a *science* and not an *art*.

From the National Intelligencer.

REPORT UPON THE POST OFFICE.

In the Senate, yesterday, Mr. Ewing, from the Committee on the General Post Office, (which, the reader will recollect, sat by order of the Senate during the late recess of Congress) made a Report.

The reading of this Report occupied the Senate until the usual hour of adjournment, and was not concluded when the Senate adjourned.

As it is doubtful whether it will ever be possible for us to publish the whole of this Report, (however desirable it would be to do so,) we have availed ourselves of a casual opportunity to make such an abstract of the Report, in this and the following columns, as time allows without limiting ourselves to that part only which has been *read* in the Senate.

The Report, notwithstanding its large volume, and the evidence which it carries on its face, and in its bulk, of great labor and perseverence, is not definitive, but rather a report of the progress of the committee, so far as they have gone.

The report, after stating the meeting of the committee in this city on the 19th of September last, and the accommodation of a room in the Post Office afforded to them for their sittings, commences with a description of the confused state of the Books of the Post Office, which rendered it impracticable to ascertain with any thing like accuracy the true state of the finances of the Post Office, or of the accounts of individuals with it. In many cases the state of an account, in important particulars was only to be gathered from the pencil marks in the margin of the books. Of the inaccuracy of these accounts several instances are stated, of which, as our analysis of the Report must necessarily be very brief, a single instance quoted from the Report, as follows, must serve as an example:

"Your Committee called for the account of Jas. Reeside, and it was shown to them on the ledger, when there appeared a balance against him, on the 1st April, 1834, of $47,369 07. The accounting officers, however, informed your Committee that the ledger did not present all the credits to which Mr. Reeside was entitled, and they have since exhibited an account containing many additional credits, by which there appears to be a balance in his favor on the 1st of July, 1834, of $7,529 55, making a difference of about $61,000. Some of the credits bear date between the 1st of April and the 1st of July, but a large part of the amount is made up of entries which if entitled at all to a place in the accounts, belonged to a date prior to the 1st of April, 1834. The correctness of those several credits will be considered in another part of this report."

In consequence of the difficulty experienced by the committee from these causes, in arriving at true results, from the books, the committee employed two accountants, unanimously approved to examine and audit the books in which business these persons have been and still are engaged, the result of whose labors the committee will report when arrived at and examined.

Meanwhile, with the materials in their possession, the committee enter into an elaborate comparison of the reports of the present and late Postmaster General, and of the reports of the present Postmaster General with facts disclosed by the books, &c. to which nothing but a literal transcript (which we have now no opportunity of making) of the whole of this part of the report can do justice. There is one paragraph of it, however, which so forcibly attracted our attention, that we have thought it proper, by extracting it, to make it an exception to the rest. It is as follows:

"There is one other item introduced into the statement of the 26th December, 1834, of which your Committee knew nothing until since their former report, and did not even suspect its existence. It is a balance against contractors for payments made them prior to the 1st April, 1834, for the current services of the quarter which ended that day, and for prior services, which had not yet been placed to their credit, $234,897 38. Your Committee did not suppose a fund of this character and amount existed to the credit of the Department, because they knew, by former statements, that there were very large sums *actually due* to contractors, for services fully and faithfully performed, in previous quarters, which the Department was bound, in good faith and in justice, to pay. Those sums actually due were not paid for want of funds.—Large sums were also borrowed from Banks, on interest, and it seemed inconceivable that, under these circumstances, so large a sum of money should have been advanced to a few contractors, before they were entitled to receive it by the terms of their contracts. But the present investigation, has satisfied your Committee that very large sums were, and still are, due from Contractors for illegal payments and advances of money, and that this sum at least, and probably a much larger sum ought to be reclaimed from them, and placed to the credit of the Department."

The next topic embraced in the report is that of the removal of Postmasters without cause, to make way for mere partisans, in many cases wholly unworthy of credit or confidence, &c. In the prosecution of their inquiry into the cause of these removals, the committee were, as the reader already knows, met by a refusal of the Postmaster General to furnish the committee with the information demanded, in a letter which the Post Master General, with a disrespect towards the committee that is merely alluded to in the report, caused to be published in the official journal here within a few days after the date of the transaction. This branch of the report concludes as follows:

"Your committee did not think it incumbent on them to enter into a discussion with the Postmaster General on the subject of their respective rights and duties, nor do they now think it proper in this paper to examine them, or to blend an argument on constitutional law with the facts which they were required to examine and report to the Senate. This refusal of the Postmaster General to permit the inspection of these papers on alleged constitutional grounds, which applied alike to the whole class of cases above referred to, which rest on the same principle, of course put an end to this branch of the investigation. Finding the door closed upon them here, they turned their attention to other subjects of inquiry, touching the condition of the Department and the management of its concerns."

The Report then proceeds to the examination of the practice of the Department in making contracts, in a manner contrary to law and equally unauthorized by a regard to equity & to the public interest. The account of the *Improved Bids*, which have had such an unfortunate agency in the present insolvency of the Post Office, will be new to many of our readers. We therefore copy it:

"A practice has of late prevailed extensively in this Department, of advertising proposals for carrying the mail on the principal mail routes in a different manner from that in which it is in fact to be carried—of receiving bids for carrying it in a different manner from that in which it is advertised, which are called "*improved bids*"—of accepting the bids as made *all together*, and entering their acceptance as applicable to that part of the bid which conforms to the advertisement, and immediately changing them to the *improved bid*, and so executing the contract, thus in effect, letting or making the contract without advertisement. This is a violation of law, and has given rise *to*, and is made the apology *for* other violations of law and official duty."

The Report then goes on to shew that, in regard to all this class of "*Improved bids*," which have been made the ground of Extra allowances, there are important discrepancies between the Reports of the Postmaster General and the Blue Book (the printed list of contracts and allowances) and between the Blue Book and the actual contracts; and that none of them are to be relied upon. The practice of allowing these "improved bids" and making these "extra allowances," the Committee say throws the door wide open to unfairness, favoritism and collusion. And the Report, on the same subject, continues thus:

"The public know nothing of the purposes or the wishes of the Department as to the time and manner of transporting the mails, except through the medium of the public advertisement. And the honest business man, who would wish to seek a contract, through fair competition, would naturally suppose that a bid, pursuant to the advertisement, would be the one, and the only one, by which he could procure such contract. And he would further suppose that he would be bound by such bid. With the public at large, this probably has been the case; it appears to have been so with the small contractors generally. But it has been far otherwise with a class of large contractors, who appear to be on terms of intimacy and confidence with some of the officers of the General Post Office, and whose affairs are intimately blended with the fiscal concerns of that Department. For example: In looking over the bids of the Fall of 1831, it will be found that several individuals who obtained contracts upon the great mail routes, or a great number of the small routes united, included in their bids, not only a proposition to carry the mail according to the advertisement, but with stipulations, that the bidder would bind himself to carry the mail in a *different manner*, at a *different price*. Of the favored contractors, the bids to carry the mail, pursuant to the advertisement, are generally *very low*, so as to enable the Department to award them the contract; while their *improved bid*, in pursuance of which the contract is at last executed, is *very high*, so as to insure to the contractor an enormous profit. The acceptance is marked on the Proposal Book, opposite the sum which was bid for carrying the mail, pursuant to the advertisement, and the rival bidders will see at once, on an inspection of this book, that they are *underbid*. But the contracts are executed according to the *improved bid*, which is often twice or three times the sum at which it is entered on the Proposal Book laid open to the inspection of the public."

Of the general effect of this mode of distributing, at pleasure, the public money to favored contractors, the Report speaks thus:

"It were tedious to enumerate the cases in which this difference exists between the bid made pursuant to advertisement and *accepted* and the contract executed. Your committee have caused to be prepared by their Secretary and they exhibit herewith, a table compiled from books and papers in the Department, from the Blue Book, from the letter of the Postmaster General of the 3d of March, 1834, in reply to a call of the Senate, and from his report of the 18th of April, 1832, which shows, in each individual case in the contracts of 1831, the difference between the *bid*, as entered on the *bid* book, and the contract executed. It shows, also, the cases in which no difference exists. The same paper shows in another column, opposite the name of each contractor, what extra allowances have been made him over and above his contract *as executed*, from which it will be seen:

"1st. That the whole amount of the bids accepted pursuant to the advertisement in October 1831, was $340,626 54

Amount of contracts as executed for same division (by the Blue Book) 488,259 40

Making a difference of $147,632 86

"And it will be seen that this whole difference, amounting to the enormous sum above shown, is made in favor of not more than—— contractors, or companies of contractors, most of whom your committee will find it their duty to notice hereafter in this report, as the recipents of other pecuniary favors from the Department."

A single case out of many is quoted to shew the anomalous character of the contracts, and the unjustifiable waste of the public money in the practice of accepting these *improved* bids:

"Take for example, the route from Philadelphia to Pittsburg, which was first accepted daily at $7,000, and which by the modified contract pursuant to the *improved bid*, is carried, as is alleged, twice daily to Pittsburg, at $25,000, and extended to Wheeling, at $27,000—one of the lines from Philadelphia to Pittsburg running at an increased speed. Now it can hardly be established as a mathematical proposition, that if a daily mail costs $7,000; that a mail twice daily should, by *exact proportion* cost $25,000—nor do we think that any one who understands the nature and value of the service will be prepared to say that the one bears any fair or just proportion to the other. It were vain to urge as an apology for such excessive increased allowance, that there is no means of arriving at the true proportion which the original bid, and the increased allowance, bear to the service rendered under each or to each other. If such proportion cannot be arrived at, the law forbids the increased allowance. But in truth no law applies to this species of contract. It seems to be of a hybrid race—neither an original contract, which the law will recognize, nor a legal extra allowance for increased services. It is about equi-distant between them, and sustained by neither."

In a few words the Report shews how this whole practice, and the allowances growing out of it, have been officially screened from the view of Congress and the People, until the Senate forced a revelation of the whole system:

"Your Committee have shown that the Postmaster General did not report the increased allowances, made in consequence of these *improved bids*, as any part of the original contracts in which they were embodied—neither did he report them as *extra allowances* when called upon by resolution of the Senate to report the amount of those allowances made for extra services since the 6th of April, 1829. They pass wholly without his notice in any of his reports to Congress, and seem in his judgment to be referrible to no class of cases whatever. Indeed, no one could feel but that they were wholly, without legal warrant, and that they could, therefore, fall under no known legal head. Nevertheless, immense sums of money have, through their means, been transferred from the Department to the pockets of individuals; and the American Congress and the American people have, until this investigation commenced, been wholly ignorant of the existence of any such mode of appropriating or disposing of the public funds."

The Report next proceeds to a further examination of the manner of making these contracts and extra allowances, with especial reference to the Report of the Postmaster General of the 18th April, 1832, which the Committee argue, from the facts disclosed by this investigation, to have been wholly delusive and calculated to deceive. They go so far as to say that it is evident, from the facts, that that report must have been drawn up and presented to Congress, deceptive as it is, purposely so and not by accident.—Upon which they make the following severe animadversions.

"In whatever manner this matter may have been considered by the Postmaster-General, and whatever may have been his reasons for the presentation of a report, in its tendency so certain to mislead; whatever opinions or views unknown to your Committee actuated him: this feature in his report, according to their deliberate judgment, cannot be justified. It is, indeed, unnecessary to enter into a disquisition upon the subject. It is a question referrible to the forum of plain common sense and common honesty. It is simply whether the obligations of truth extend or do not extend to the official papers of high public functionaries. If they do not, this paper may be justified; if they do, it is a breach of official duty.

"There is another circumstance touching the above named report which ought not to be entirely overlooked. It was made out and presented to Congress just before the commencement of the Presidential canvas in 1832, and it was a paper, the tendency of which was to bear upon that election. If held out to the American People a delusive view of the prosperity of an important Department of the Government, and naturally induced a belief that it was wisely and economically administered; while, in truth the public moneys were squandered without stint and the Department was rapidly sinking to insolvency."

After contrasting the practice of the present with former Administrations of the Post Office the Committee revert to the Postmaster-General's Address to the People of the United States at the close of the last Session of Congress, and rebuke some of the statements, &c.

The Committee then proceed to re-examine in detail and at very great length some of the cases of extra allowance contracts which were more briefly noticed in the report to Congress at the last session, and especially the cases of J. F. Robinson, J. and [illegible] Bennett, W. Tillow, Reeside's contracts from Hagerstown to McConnelsburg, from Bedford to Washington, from Cumberland to Blair's Gap, from Baltimore to Chambersburg from Philadelphia to Pittsburg, Reeside and Slaymaker's extra $10,000 per year, Reeside's contract from New York to Philadelphia, &c. The allowances to Mr. Reeside are most dwelt on by the Committee, apparently because they are the largest, and he is the most extensive contractor. To this gentleman, in one form or other, of contract or allowance, the Committee say there has been paid, within two years and a half (from 1st January, 1832, to 1st July, 1834) for carrying the Mail between Philadelphia and New York, $84,372; or $33,748 86 per year. The Committee conclude this laborious examination of contracts with the following summary, showing the *aggregate* of payments which they are to have been unlawfully and unjustifiably made to a single contractor:

"Passing over those cases in which a contract on an allowance was made contrary to law, but for which an equivalent service has been rendered, and taking only those in which the law did not warrant the allowance, and in which also no service whatever was rendered, or in which the allowance was much above the fair and just value of the services, and then taking the *excess only* of the allowance over and above that value, your committee find the following sums paid to James Reeside, since the 1st of April, without any warrant of law or justice—to wit:

On the contract to carry the mail from Hagerstown to McConnellsburg	$2,932 00
From Bedford to Washington	7,733 66
From Cumberland to Blair's Gap $12,559 62, less $1,500 a year for two years $3,000,	9,559 52
From Philadelphia to Pitsburg, excess of allowance over service $8,000 for two years and six months	20,000 00
Same route—Carrying newspapers in most rapid line, half	8,750,00
From Baltimore to Chambersburg	3,987 50
From New York to Philadelphia. Allowance for expediting from January 1, 1829, to December 31, 1831, $6,000—service paid for, not performed	12,000 00
Detention, waiting for distribution of foreign mails—an unprecedented allowance, and without sufficient evidence	4,550 00
Carrying mail bags from Philadelphia to New York—a large wholly unprecedented	1,560 00
For transporting the mail from Philadelphia to New York from 1st January, 1832, to 1st July 1834, two years and six months, Reeside has received $84,372 17. His original contract was $6,000 a year for carrying a daily mail, but, in his improved bid, which was afterwards made the contract, he agreed for $19,000 to run two daily mails and a third mail for $1,500, taking $20,500 and furnish guard and carry all expresses. This allowance, though enormous, falls short of the sum actually paid in two years and six months on that route, by	33,122 17
So that the whole sum paid to Reeside, which is found on no law, & on no apparent justice	$110,194 85"

If the name of Mr. Reeside makes a thus prominent figure in this summary, it is because it does so in the report, and not from any preference of ours. The private pecuniary transactions of the same citizen with the postmaster general and with the chief clerk of the general post office are also brought into view in connection with the largeness of his extra allowances. So also are his loan to the chief clerk, (O. B. Brown) and said Brown's alleged partnership in the contract of E. Porter, upon which large extra allowances have been made, &c. In relation to these passages of the report, as it is impracticable for us to give the whole, we forbear making extracts which might only give a partial and imperfect view of them.

Adverting again to the generally confused manner in which the largest and most important accounts of the post office are kept, the report presents the following curious instance.

"In examining the account of Jas. Reeside, your Committee found to his credit the following:

'1833. April 30. Cash deposited in the Western bank of Philadelphia, $20,000.'

Your Committee, while in Philadelphia, examined the books of the Western Bank, & obtained a statement of its transactions with the Post Office department, by which it appears that this sum was raised by Reeside on a draft drawn by himself in favor of R. C. Stockton, and accepted by O. B. Brown Chief Clerk, dated the 29th day of April, 1833, and payable three months after date, which draft was paid by the department at maturity; so that, as the transaction stood at the time the account of Reeside was made out and presented to the Committee, he was entitled to no credit arising from this transaction. If a credit were entered on the books at the time the draft was negotiated; then when the draft was paid by the Department, there should have been a charge of an equal sum against Reside, to balance it. This was not done; and this sum stood as a credit to Reeside, and it helped to reduce a balance of $45,368 07, which, notwithstanding his large extra allowances, stood against him on the books of the Department on the 1st of April, 1834. Your Committee called upon Obadiah B Brown to explain this transaction, and he stated that the draft on which Reeside raised this money had not become due until some time in the month of November, and that since that time there had been no settlement with the Bank, so that the credit could, in the ordinary course of things, be entered. A member of your Committee then, in the hearing of the witness, asked for the statemant of the Cashier of the Western Bank of Philadelphia, and the paper not being in the Committee room it was sent for and the witness was dismissed until it should be brought in. After a short time the witness returned; stated that he had been mistaken; that the charge against Mr. Reeside was omitted by mistake, and was also by mistaken entered against R. C. Stockton, *but that he had promptly corrected* the entry on the books; and that it was now all right.—Your Committee directed the witness to bring in the books in which he had made the correction; he did so, and showed no less than seven *erasures and changes of entry* which he had caused to be made in the books in the short time that your Committee had respited him from examination. The credit which is due to books thus kept and thus altered to suit the exigencies of the occasion, can be readily appreciated by the Senate."

After reciting the testimony of C. K. Gardner, one of the Assistant Postmasters General, in regard to this particular transaction, the Committee sum up the case as follows:—

"Thus, when these acceptances are made, they are credited to the contractor as so much money paid by him to the use of the Department, though he, in fact, pays nothing, but merely lends his name as a drawer or endorser: the same sum is charged to the Bank as so much deposited to the credit of the Department, and the draft is at last taken up by a check, which is certified to be for *transportation* by the *three* officers who, according to the improved system of checks, or disbursement, adopted by Mr. Barry, are required to certify every check which issues from the Department. But, by examining these debits, and credits, and *certificates for transportation*, no accountant, however skilful, could ascertain that such expedients had been resorted to or money raised in that manner. These certificates, upon whatever grounds they may be supported, are contrary to the plain fact of the case."

After adverting farther to the erasures in the books of the office, the conflicting testimony of witnesses, &c all of which we are obliged by want of time to pass by for the present, the Report comes to the following conclusion, to which we give insertion at large, as to less due to the importance of the subject, than to the indefatigable labors of the intelligent Committee by whom it has been prepared:

"So numerous and so great are the abuses which have grown up in this Department, that reform has become absolutely necessary; but the measures by which it is to be effected are by no means free from embarrassment. They are the more difficult, as many of the evils which require a remedy do not arise from defects in the existing law, but from an habitual disregard of plain legal provisions.—They may, however, be principally traced to the absolute and unchecked power which a single individual holds over the resources and disbursements, and all the vast machinery of this Department.

"The checks of various inferior officers upon each other are of no value, when all are guided and controled in their acts by one dominant will.

"Within the comparatively short period of fortyfive years this Department has arisen from a feeble beginning until it has acquired a revenue equal to that of the Union itself at the time of its organization: and its extensive and diversified opperations, its patronage, its resources, and its power must, by the mere force of circumstances, go on increasing indefinitely, with the increase of our country in population, business, and wealth.

"The annual Reports of the Postmaster General are of little value as a restraint upon the Head of the Department, or as a means of calling public attention to his official conduct. These Reports may be true, yet the state of affairs which they indicate can not be understood without that careful examination, which few or none will feel willing to give them amidst the other arduous duties of legislation: or those statements may be false, and yet few will be disposed to bestow on them the labour, bodily and mental, which would be necessary for their correction—and to encounter the bitterness of the party rancor, and the reckless violence of party calumny which those must encounter who venture to explore the secret mysteries of great patronage and high power, and to expose their enormities to the public gaze.

"From reflections on these and other causes, leading to the same result, your Committee incline to the opinion that there will be few instances in the future history of our country of a full and searching investigation into the conduct and management of the Post Office Department. They deem it, therefore, their duty, at this time, to propose such measures of legislation as will, in their opinion, the most effectually prevent the recurrence, in future, of abuses similar to those which this investigation has disclosed. This, they conceive, can be best effected by a change in the organization of the Department, so as to place the collection and disbursement of its funds in different hands, and under the control of officers entirely independent of each other.

"That Department, as at present arranged, is a dangerous anomaly in our system; and by whomsoever its concerns are hereafter to be conducted, its organization ought to be changed, so as to conform more nearly to that of the other great Departments of our Government. The accountability of its officers ought also to be rendered effective, and their discretion limited, as far as is consistent with the efficient performance of the public service."

Excepts from the brief reports which have been made of the various remarks in the Senate on Tuesday 27th ult., respecting the exposure of the Post Office concerns

Mr. *Preston*.—"Now for the first time we have heard the full developement of enormities of which last session we had but a foretaste. Then an exposition of certain facts was made, but that a more perfect enquiry would degulph such rottenous streams, would bring to light such frightful depths of dark and deep corruption, such mal-practices so alarming and humiliating and deplorable, no one was prepared even to imagine.

"Is it already passed from the memories of Senators that, last session, while the proud and imperious declaration was vibrating on the lips of the President that the Executive power belonged to him, and with it the Executive responsibility, then if any attempt was made to contradict his assertion, instantly all the most abominable sewers of gross and filthy vituperation were let loose and poured upon our heads to befoul us? Is this forgotten?—And with such declaration before our eyes, when the Executive took upon itself direct responsibility for the actions of every department, shall we now flinch from our duty, shall we hesitate to put the finger of justice upon the criminal, shall we fear to attach blame where it belongs, and simply and quietly pass over such flagitious enormities, by recommending merely a re-organization of the department."

"The scene opened to view, is most disgraceful, and sir, it is truly melancholy to reflect, that though our government does not yet exceed in its duration the age of a man, yet at so early a period a gulp of corruptions, such as these, which properly characterise the decrepitude of ruined nations, should now be opened before us! It is not consistent with the dignity and honor of the country that we should leave things in their present situation, that we should hesitate, stand still and see around us such acts and such corruptions with placitude and tame submission. If the President will take upon himself responsibility for acts of turpitude and shame—if he is determined to make them his own acts, are we therefore to let them pass unheeded, and admit entrenchments to be thrown up to cover and protect every deed of public robbery and mal-administration?"

"Mr. *Ewing*, on the part of the committee, observed, he did not wish it to be understood that the committee entertained any such opinion as would lead them to attribute the evils which existed in this department, merely to an imperfect organization of the same. Far from it; the corruption was not originally in the department, but existed only in the agents and members of the department. That there was corruption foul, most foul, and not to be described.

"The committee had full evidence to discover that the President ought long ago to have hurled the guilty parties from their office was the decided opinion of the committee; but while such was their opinion, it must not be forgotten that the execution of this just measure of retribution was not in their power. What then could they do? They looked for remedy only, they anxiously hoped to effect a measure of remedy for the future; they looked for this remedy in the legislative power of Congress."

Mr. *Calhoun* "hoped that some Senator sufficiently intimate with the subject, would bring forward a resolution embracing in its tenor the whole character of the report. Mr. C. had listened to the reading of the document with feelings of the profoundest melancholy. He had been for twenty two years connected with the Government, and during the whole of that time, nothing had transpired half so much calculated to impair the public confidence as the facts disclosed by the report. We here see, said Mr. Calhoun, something of the rotten system which is spreading corruption through the whole country, more dangerous and more disgraceful than ever existed in the most corrupt ages of the Roman republic. Mr C. hoped that an expression would be given to the feelings which could not but be roused in the breast of every patriotic individual, and that every Senator would be called in his place to say whether he would sanction such conduct in the Post Office Department. The guilt of those concerned was unquestionable; they had been already tried and condemned, and it remained to be seen whether any Senator would venture to justify such conduct. If the people could bear all this, and if he, on whom the responsibility mainly rested, could, with the public approbation, permit such abuses to go on, there was an end of public liberty. It was time to feel on the subject of these fearful abuses, and such fraud, if possible, ought to be put down. Mr C. hoped some Senator, who had time, would examine the report, and put down a summary of the result in the form of a resolution."

"Mr. *Benton* said, the Senator from S. C was for making a trial of Senators here on this floor, for pursuing a measure which Mr. B. took to be judicial, in their legislative capacity, for the purpose of making trial of members on this floor Mr. B. was willing to be tried in any manner that was constitutional, whether he was in favor of corruption or against it, but he would protest against a trial in the manner proposed."

"Mr. *Cuthbert* said that hon. gentlemen were invited to pursue any course which their party zeal demanded. What he said was, that it was not good policy to mingle the feelings of party with the efficient proceedings of this Committee."

Mr. *Calhoun* said, "that he was surprised at the remarks of the gentlemen who had last spoken. A party question! Who had dreamed of making this a party question? If there were any persons and particularly here, that would identify themselves with such enormities, let them step forth and make themselves known. Mr. C. was for trying no man; but the conduct of the P. O. Department had been presented here to the view of the Senators, and the people would receive an impression from the manner in which the senators should treat the document. What Mr C. would say, was this, and he would boldly say it; that it belonged to the people of the United States to know the sentiments of Senators here, on this subject. And how could they know them, but by means of such a resolution as had been proposed? A trial? Mr. C. believed no Senator here would oppose such a resolution; it would be adopted by a unanimous vote. Make it a party question? Who ever dreamed of such a thing? Did gentlemen wish to identify themselves with the monstrous corruptions which had just been exposed? Would a question like this be made a party question."

ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF THE PRESIDENT.

The National Intelligencer of Saturday contains the following particulars of an extraordinary occurrence which took place at the Capitol on Friday, during the funeral of the Hon W. R. Davis:

The funeral of the late lamented Warren R. Davis, of S. Carolina, took place from the Capitol, according to previous arrangement. The gloom of the day rendered the occasion yet more gloomy. Neither House of Congress transacted business afterwards; the Senate adjourning over to Monday.

An occurrence took place at the close of the ceremony at the Capitol, which produced naturally a great sensation at the time, which can be heard by no one without shuddering, and which, if the consequence had been equal to the apparent purpose, would have signalized the day by a horrible catastrophe.

[We were not witnesses of it, and, in our account of it, speak from information, but from information entirely to be relied on.]

As the President of the United States, who was present at the solemn ceremony of the funeral, came into the portico of the Capitol from the Rotundo, a person stepped forward from the crowd into the space in front of the President, and *snapped a pistol at him*, the percussion cap of which exploded without igniting the charge! This person was struck down by a blow from Lieutenant Gedney, of the Navy, who happened to be near; he also received a blow promptly aimed at him by Mr. Secretary Woodbury; but, before receiving either blow, *snapped a second pistol* at that President. The cap of that lock *also exploded without igniting the charge!* The perpetrator of this daring outrage was of course immediately seized and taken in custody by the Marshal of the District, by whom he was carried to the city Hall, where he underwent an examination before Chief Justice Cranch. His name it appears, is Richard Lawrance, by trade a painter, a resident for two or three years in the first ward of this city, and formerly at Georgetown. The gentlemen whose testimony was taken before the Judge, were Mr. Secretary Woodbury, Mr. Secretary Dickerson, Mr. Burd, Representative from Pennsylvania, Mr. Randolph, Sergeant at Arms of the House, Mr. Kingman, one of the Reporters for the National Intelligencer and Lieutenant Gedney. The pistols, which had been secured by Mr. Burd, were of brass, and on examination in court, were found to be well loaded with powder and ball, which our readers would suppose, until the fact is stated could hardly have been possible—How extraordinary (and O how fortunate!) the failure of the evident design of this miserable maniac, (for so he must be considered, under all the circumstances) against the life of the president! We say he is a maniac, because the act shews him to be insane, and not because any evidence of his insanity was produced on his examination, though we have heard that he has been heretofore confined for acts of violence indicating an unsound mind.

On his examination, the unhappy man declined making any explanation or cross examining the witnesses. We have heard no rational motive even conjectured for his crime.

The offence being a bailable one, & excessive bail being forbidden, bail was demanded to the amount of a thousand dollars, for want of which the prisoner was committed for trial, the Judge intimating that if he had been able to give bail, sufficient securities would have been required. In addition, to insure his good behaviour. He will be tried, of course, at the next term of the court.

Office of National Intelligencer,
January 31, 1835.

Since the publication of our paper of to-day, information, which has reached us from various quarters, leaves us no doubt of the insanity of Lawrence, the unhappy individual who attempted to discharge two pistols at the President of the U. States, in the portico of the Capitol on Friday. The persons who know him are not surprized at the occurrence, and would hardly have been surprized at any thing he had done or attempted. He has it appears, fancied himself to be some other person than himself; to have mistaken his own identity, or at least to have misunderstood his relations with the rest of the world. When being conducted from the Capitol to the Marshal's Office, he answered to the questions as to his motive, that he had intended to kill Gen. Jackson because Gen. Jackson had killed his father? When asked again, *how* General Jackson killed his father he would answer nothing. His father, we hear, died a natural death, in this District, some ten or twelve years ago. The answer was of course the effect of the halucination, under the influence of which he attempted the outrage upon the person of the President.

We have had the curiosity to ask whether he was any thing of a politician, thinking that he perhaps might be politically insane, as persons are sometimes religiously so. We were informed, that he was never known to have talked or thought about politics. His acquaintances seem to think that he thought himself entitled to be King or Governor of this country, or something of that sort, and brooded over the notion that General Jackson stood in his way. It is certain that he inquired, the evening before, of some one, whether the president would be at the funeral and was answered in the affirmative. His being at the Capitol armed, was therefore, almost certainly, the work of premeditation.

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