

THE BEE.

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THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

AND MR. SENATOR JOHNSTON.

One of the writers for the Louisiana Advertiser, has lately devoted a column to headlines and unqualified adulation of the Post Master General, for his management of that department, and to the most liberal and unmerited reproaches of Mr. Johnston for supporting the appointment of a select committee of the Senate, to examine into and report upon the conduct of the same. The manner in which both subjects have been handled by the aforesaid writer, requires a little notice; especially as the article in question was manifestly intended to influence an election which is about to take place. We will pursue his own order.

Commencing with the Post Office Department he says: "A very few years ago the mail from Washington arrived at New-Orleans only once a week, and then with very great irregularity, in twenty-six days. Since the 1st of January of last year, the contracts of the new Post Master General went into operation, the mail from Washington has been expedited three times a week." Now if this be not a gross misrepresentation in the terms of it, it is nevertheless intended to mislead and produce a false impression, viz: that since the contracts of the new P. M. General went into operation the mail has commenced to be received from Washington three times a week, which is a well known fact to every body in New-Orleans, that the Washington mail was received three times a week long previous to his coadjutor with the Department. The arrangement was brought about, and all the great obstacles overcome under the direction of his predecessor; witness the opening of the new road from Mobile to Pascagoula, the introduction of stages upon that road, and a steam boat to convey the mail from Pascagoula to New-Orleans, by the Gulf of Mexico. It is true, Mr. Barry took the contract from those individuals at the moment when they had surmounted the greatest difficulties, without allowing any adequate compensation for their labor; but this being in the nature of modern "reform" is credited to that account. It must be admitted that the mail has been received more regularly since the period referred to, than previously; but all the improvement in this respect would have been accomplished by the former contractor, and at a less expense. The only real and valuable improvements with regard to the conveyance of the mail, and through the State of Louisiana, have been made by the present, which were not in a train to be accomplished by the former Post Master General.

All the improvements of 16 years past are ascribed and ascribed to the present Post Master General; when in truth, he has done infinitely less than his predecessor. To form any correct estimate of the comparative merits of the two officers, the state of the department when each individual came into it, should be considered. The one found it in confusion, embarrassed in its means, and almost a dead charge to the government. He brought order out of confusion, rendered its means available, and presently caused it to yield a handsome revenue, over and above the increased expenditures for new mail routes, and more frequent and speedy trips upon the old ones.

In this improved condition it was found by the present incumbent. We are not yet aware of that he has done; but this we know at least, that the very first day of his administration found the department involved in extraordinary expenses, far beyond its means of payment. It must be admitted that he has directed and increased expenditure obtained, it has been put in requisition or anticipating means which his predecessor had not at his disposal.

Let it be granted that great and important advantages have been derived by the State of Louisiana from recent improvements in the transportation of the mails. We do not regard it as a boon for which we are indebted personally to the Post Master General. The question is, whether we have obtained more, than from the commercial importance of the State, and the portion of revenue contributed by and through it to the Post Office department, we are entitled to. Other reasons, which are apparently much less important in every point of view, have their daily mails. We are not satisfied on this subject; and we should think very poorly of the wisdom of that member of Congress who should either move or support a vote of thanks to the Post Master General, without first ascertaining beyond all doubt, that he had done his duty in every thing relating to his department, with impartiality, and equal justice to all sections of the Union, we have reason to believe that Mr. Barry has done this. Gross partiality and favoritism have been had in his character in respect to the letting of the contracts. These charges were thought to form a proper subject of investigation; and a Senator whose integrity is above reproach, introduced a resolution for that purpose, which was rejected to learn what the friends of Mr. Barry if they are honest, and believe him to be so, should rather court than oppose such an investigation. If he has conducted his department so ably and efficiently as they pretend, he certainly has nothing to fear, but every thing to hope, from the investigation. But his confidential correspondence is to be invaded, and this appears to create a world of apprehension. How sadly times are changed! A few days ago, when Mr. Adams was in office, and retirement became the hobby of these disinterested gentlemen, nothing was thought too sacred to be submitted to their scrutiny. Often they were the representatives of the sovereign people—the executive patriots, from whom nothing, not even the sacredness of the letters of the executive, could be regarded as a barrier during their progress, should be conceded. Now, that an investigation is moved in respect to the transactions of a department, it extensively do justice in its operations, they are shocked—quite horror-stricken, at such an invasion of privilege. They are overwhelmed with regret, that the resolution was not introduced into the other house, where a partisan majority might have smothered the investigating at the threshold.

Mr. Johnston supported the resolution, to investigate the proceedings of the Post Office Department; and this is as good as a reason why he should not be re-elected. He would not deserve the confidence of his constituents had he not supported it.

But he has gone with the members of the northern and western states in support of the tariff—the only means by which the interests of Louisiana in relation to the duty on sugar could be secured. We have no doubt this constitutes a very valid objection in the minds of Mr. J's opponents. They are the enemies of the tariff; and sooner than it should fall to be destroyed, they would freely sacrifice all the interest that Louisiana has in any of its provisions.

Finally, we are challenged to state the grounds upon which Mr. Johnston's claims to re-election are rested; and to cite a single act or speech, by which he has evinced his attachment to the interests of his constituents, and his ability to serve them in the Senate. We answer he has uniformly been an active and efficient member of Committees, a steady and zealous supporter of the tariff, the enemy of nullification, the advocate of the Constitution and the friend of Union. For a speech, which demonstrates in him the possession of all the requisite qualities and qualifications, to represent his State in the Senate of the United States, we refer to the resolutions which he delivered last year upon Foot's resolutions. A speech which has been justly considered as one of the best which that great occasion elicited.

LATEST FROM EUROPE.

New-York, Dec. 30.

After twenty-seven days' total abstinence," we have at last got a European packet, the ship De Rham, Capt. Depyster, from Havre; by which we have papers to Nov. 4th inclusive. Until this arrival, our latest European dates were fifty seven days old.

CHANGE OF MINISTRY.

A decree of King Louis-Philippe, dated Nov. 2d, appoints M. Lafitte to be President of the Council and Minister of Finance, in the place of Baron Louis, resigned. The Marshal Marquis Maison to be Minister of Foreign Affairs, in the place of Count Mole, resigned. Count Montalivet to be Minister of the Interior, in the place of M. Guizot, resigned. M. Merillon, place of Minister of Public Instruction and Ecclesiastical Affairs, in the place of the Duke de Broglie, resigned. The other gentlemen composing the Council of Ministers, are M. Dupont (d' Eure) Minister of Justice; Marshal Gerard, Minister of War; Count Sebastia, Minister of Marine.

AFFAIRS OF BELGIUM

(From the *courrier des Pays Bas*.)

BRUSSELS, Oct. 28.—The Prince of Orange left Antwerp for London the 25th, on board the English Regent. Our volunteers, after having broken the enemy for three days by incessant skirmishes, at length made themselves masters of Berchem and Legerhout at the end of most obstinate and bloody contests. Thus they arrived under the walls of Antwerp, within which the enemy had retired. On the 26th, in the morning, the population of Antwerp rose in a mass, and began by disarming several of the soldiers they fell in with. About 2 o'clock, 50 armed volunteers proceeded to the Grande Place, where they met with the 300 Dutchmen with a detachment of the Communal Guards. They attacked the soldiers, who immediately formed themselves into a square. The Communal Guard remained neuter, and returned to the front of the Hotel de Ville. After a firing of about half an hour, the citizens remained masters of the place, having killed the commanding officer of the post, and taken 6 subaltern officers and 95 men prisoners. The volunteers, seconded by a great number of citizens, met with the 300 Dutchmen and annihilated them, the remainder of the army fled to the different posts of the town, and continued fighting with the utmost determination till a night, but with no other result than the loss of a great many men on both sides in killed and wounded.

On the 27th, before day break, the battle recommenced with increased fury, and about 7 in the morning the citizens were masters of the Porte Regie and the Porte de Bergerhout. The soldiers fled to the Porte St. George. Our volunteers then entered by the gates which had been taken by the Dutch. They hastened to the Grande Place, where they were received with the utmost enthusiasm. During this the citizens proceeded to the Porte St. George, which they obtained possession, after an obstinate resistance from the Dutch troops. A fresh body of volunteers entered by this gate, and among them were the Chasseurs of Chasteler. The whole of the Dutch troops retired into the citadel, which was pursued by the Burgheers, in whose hands the whole town then remained.

We have received the following letter, with further details:

ANTWERP, 27th Oct., 5 in the Evening.

My dear Friends—We have this moment arrived here. The Dutch are bombarding the town. Red hot balls and shells are flying in every direction. Already several houses are in flames. I am writing from the residence of the Ex-Governor, and I must say, by the light of a most horrible conflagration. Gen. Cassin, who is offering us his departing compliments. He wishes to call down our blessings upon the Dutch up to the last moment. Our brave fellows entered the town this morning. The proclamation which I sent you this morning has made you acquainted with the terms of the capitulation. The Dutch troops were to evacuate the town, but it has been agreed that they shall occupy the citadel, and preserve the arsenal and the arsenal. It appears, however, that about two o'clock, the volunteers made an attack upon the latter, and the Dutch retreated to the Citadel, and commenced the cannonade. We have but a few shells left to oppose to their great guns. The situation of Antwerp is horrible. The ships of war in the Scheldt have also opened their fire; Congre rockets are flying about; and every minute a fresh conflagration is breaking out. Our soldiers can only remain inactive spectators of all these disasters, or, at most, by the light of themselves in rendering their assistance to the Dutch in the flames. Nielson has this moment joined us at the house of the ex-Governor, where are also Roger, Cazal, and the new Governor, Count de Robiano. His brave brigade is in despair. Prince of Luxembourg, who had been twice previously wounded, was killed this morning in the street by a musket ball that struck him in the forehead. We are quitting the Government barracks, the fire is reaching us; the whole barracks are inflamed. The most fortunate thing proceeding to a consummation without our being able to return a single shot. 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