

or to build others in their stead on different sites; but as it appeared that the latter could not be effected without incurring a great additional expense, so much greater (as the committee conceived) than would be counterbalanced by any "public interest or convenience," to be derived from "a change of sites," they were of opinion that it would be inexpedient to make such change. Connected with this part of the duty prescribed to the committee, it may not be improper that they should state to the House the representations of sundry individuals who allege, and offer to prove, that the designation of the present site by President Washington, who possessed full power, having been always considered by him as part of the permanent plan of the city, they purchased at very advanced prices, and improved lots, on the faith of those designations, near those sites; the supposed permanency whereof has ever since sustained the value of all adjacent and contiguous property; but that, if those sites were now to be altered or abandoned, without some equivalent public establishment being made thereon, they apprehend that this property would become comparatively valueless, during the lifetimes of the present holders at least. The committee, however, desire it to be understood that other views and considerations, having induced their decision on this member of the resolution under which their inquiries were directed, did not enter into the discussion of, or give any opinion on the force and validity of, those considerations.

From the suggestions of the architects consulted, and also from the observations of the committee, they are of opinion that parts of the walls, arches, and columns of the late buildings are in a state requiring a small expense for workmanship and materials, to preserve them from injury by the weather, and from falling down, thereby endangering the vaulting which supports some of the floors, and which, at present, is very little, if at all, weakened by the burning; but as there is no money applicable to the payment of such expense, inconsiderable as it may be, the committee beg leave to suggest the propriety of an appropriation for that object.

The committee think it not irrelative to the object of their inquiries, though it is not specifically enjoined, to state also that the several banks within the District of Columbia, desirous of facilitating an object so interesting to the district, have made a formal and binding offer in writing, to advance on loan to the Government, upon reasonable terms, the sum of \$500,000, to be applied exclusively to the purpose of rebuilding or repairing the President's house, Capitol, or public offices.

Conformably to the foregoing statement the committee ask leave to report a bill.

13th CONGRESS.]

No. 376.

[3d SESSION.]

## PURCHASE OF THE LIBRARY OF THOMAS JEFFERSON.

COMMUNICATED TO THE SENATE, NOVEMBER 28, 1814.

Mr. GOLDSBOROUGH, from the Joint Library Committee of Congress, reported:

That, in pursuance of the resolution of Congress, passed on the 21st of October last, your committee have received from Mr. Samuel Harrison Smith, agent for Mr. Jefferson, precise terms of sale of his library, in which the number of volumes is stated to be six thousand four hundred and eighty-seven, and the estimated price twenty-three thousand nine hundred and fifty dollars. To these terms your committee have conditionally acceded, and they have contracted with the agent of Mr. Jefferson for the purchase of his library, according to the catalogue and number of volumes stated, at the price before mentioned, subject to the ratification of Congress.

They, therefore, present the following bill to authorize the purchase of the library of Thomas Jefferson, late President of the United States.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the Secretary of the Treasury be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed, to cause to be paid to the Joint Library Committee of Congress, or their order, the sum of twenty-three thousand nine hundred and fifty dollars in Treasury notes of the issue ordered by the law of the 4th of March, 1814, to be by them applied to the purchase of the library of Thomas Jefferson, late President of the United States, for the use of Congress.

13th CONGRESS.]

No. 377.

[3d SESSION.]

## BOOKS AND PAPERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND LIBRARIES OF CONGRESS LOST BY THE CONFLAGRATION IN 1814, AND THE STATE OF THE CONTINGENT FUND.

COMMUNICATED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, DECEMBER 12, 1814.

Mr. PEARSON, from the committee to whom were referred the communication of Patrick Magruder, clerk of the House of Representatives, relative to the destruction of the library of Congress, and records and papers appertaining to the office of the House of Representatives, made the following report:

That they have satisfactory evidence that the library of Congress, consisting of volumes agreeably to the catalogue herewith submitted was destroyed by the enemy on the 24th of August last; and, also, the manuscript records, papers, and secret journal of Congress, mentioned in the communication submitted to this committee. In

addition to the ascertainment of those facts, the committee have considered it their duty to form and express some opinion as to the degree of diligence and precaution exercised by the clerk, and those in his employ, to prevent the loss which has been sustained. In doing this they have taken into consideration the threatening aspect of the enemy in the Chesapeake, the Potomac, and the Patuxent, almost uniformly from the month of June to the period of their incursion on the city of Washington, and the apprehension which prevailed on this subject, as developed by the committee appointed to inquire into the "causes of the success of the enemy in his recent enterprises against this metropolis, &c." They have also referred to the several heads of Departments, and obtained information as to the time and manner of their removing and securing the papers and effects belonging to their offices; which information the committee herewith submit as part of their report, contained in the letters marked No. 1, 2, 3, and 4; from which it appears that measures, preparatory to a removal of the documents belonging to the several Departments, were taken as early as the 20th and 21st of August, and the removals all effected by the 22d; whereas no preparatory measures were taken to secure the library and papers appertaining to the office of the House of Representatives, or any efforts made to procure the means of transportation till the afternoon of the 22d of August; after which time the committee were convinced that the means of transportation were difficult to obtain, if not impracticable.

As to the absence of the clerk on account of *indisposition*, as alleged, the committee have not examined as to the particular nature and extent of that indisposition. They will only say that it was, or ought to have been, serious and alarming to have justified his absence under the circumstances which then existed. The committee are, therefore, constrained to express the opinion that due precaution and diligence were not exercised to prevent the destruction and loss which has been sustained.

In relation to the remaining subject of inquiry submitted to the committee, viz: the amount of money paid on account of the contingent expenses of the House, since the 1st of January last, for which the clerk ought to be credited, (the original vouchers having been destroyed in the conflagration of the Capitol,) the committee have no reason to disbelieve the statement of the clerk and his deputies as to the destruction of the vouchers alluded to. They have, however, experienced much difficulty, delay, and embarrassment, in their endeavors to ascertain and adjust the accounts of the clerk, so as to do justice between the public and the individual. This task was the more arduous and unpleasant from the circumstance of the clerk himself disavowing any knowledge of the pecuniary transactions of his office, and referring the committee to his chief clerk, Colonel George Magruder, who, on application, appeared equally unable or unwilling to enter into such a *specification* of the accounts and expenditures as would enable the committee to form any probable result. He presented a general statement (herewith submitted, marked M,) by which it appeared that the Clerk of the House of Representatives stood charged on the books of the Treasury with the sum of \$50,863 16, and that he claimed credit for \$48,000 for expenditures for contingent expenses of the House from January, 1814, to 23d August of the same year; leaving a balance due the United States, on that day, of \$2,863 16. The committee considering this alleged amount of expenditure as being very great and unprecedented, for the same length of time, and presuming, as the clerk was able to state a particular sum expended, and a small amount remaining in his hands, on the day his vouchers were destroyed, he might, from the same date which produced the results stated, by the aid of his recollection, the assistance of the clerks in his office, and the officers of the House, and especially by reference to the bank or banks in which his public deposits were kept, and individuals to whom the principal payments were made, furnish such specific statements as would have enabled the committee to form a reasonable opinion as to the correctness of the general statement which had been presented, they deemed it their duty to require a statement of the principal *items* of ordinary expenditure, and the names of persons who had furnished them; this information was ultimately obtained by the admission of the chief clerk, the information of other officers of the House, and the knowledge which the committee themselves had of the most considerable objects of expenditure. All of which are stated in the account herewith presented, marked A. The clerk was then requested to ascertain from such sources as seem practicable, the sums paid on account of those several items of expenditure; some of which they know he could ascertain with certainty, and most of which with probable accuracy. In compliance with this request the committee were furnished with the statement marked B. The principal items of which are—

To paying Messrs. Way and Weightman for printing and stationary,	-	-	\$25,600 10
To paying messengers of the House,	-	-	2,584 50

The committee having obtained from the Treasury Department a copy of the last settlement made by the clerk on the 14th January, 1814, on account of the contingent expenses of the House of Representatives, and having examined the books of Messrs. Way & Weightman, as also the cashiers of the Bank of Washington and the Union Bank of Georgetown, are satisfied that the sum of \$3,539 53 ought to be deducted from the \$25,600 10, charged for printing and stationary in the account rendered by the clerks, and marked B as aforesaid. The same having, in the opinion of the committee, been already allowed, and included in the settlement with the Treasury on the 14th of January, 1814; which settlement the committee herewith submit, marked T.

The charge in the account B, for the pay of messengers for the House, is manifestly incorrect, and exceeds their proper allowance by the sum of \$518 55.

The committee having allowed all other charges specified and claimed by the clerk, and having, by every means in their power ascertained the *items* with which the contingent fund is chargeable, and made the most liberal allowance for its expenditure, submit the statement, marked A, as the result of their inquiry.

From which it appears that, on settlement with the Treasury, on the 14th January, 1814, a balance remained in the hands of the clerk of the House of Representatives, due the United States, of	-	-	\$6,574 87
That, from the 14th of January, 1814, to the 18th April, 1814, the clerk drew from the Treasury the sum of	-	-	44,288 29

Making the sum of	-	-	-	\$50,863 16
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with which he now stands charged at the Treasury.

That his expenditures since the above settlement, and such as the committee presume were not included in it, on account of the contingent expenses of the House, to the 19th September, 1814, amount to the sum of	-	-	-	30,933 57½
Leaving a balance unaccounted for by the clerk, and due the United States of	-	-	-	\$19,874 58

The committee recommend the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That Patrick Magruder, clerk of the House of Representatives, be credited at the proper office of the Treasury Department with the sum of \$30,933 57½ for expenditures on account of the contingent expenses of the House of Representatives from the date of his last settlement to the 19th September, 1814.

SIR:

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, *November 5, 1814.*

Upon inquiry, I find that the books and papers, appertaining to the Treasury, were packed up on Sunday, the 21st of August, 1814, and sent off in the afternoon of the following day.

It is also stated to me that much difficulty was not experienced in procuring carriages to transport the books and papers; and that, in fact, two wagons, more than were eventually found necessary, were engaged by the Department.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your most obedient servant,

A. J. DALLAS.

JOSEPH PEARSON, Esq.

SIR:

WAR DEPARTMENT, *November 21, 1814.*

I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 21st instant, inquiring at what time the papers belonging to the Department of State were removed, previous to the destruction of the public buildings in this city, and whether it was practicable for the clerk of the House of Representatives to have obtained the means of removing the library and papers belonging to that House in the Capitol of the United States, within the space of three days previous to that event.

Having left this city on the Thursday preceding the 24th of August for the neighborhood of Benedict, and having entered it afterwards, momentarily only, prior to the 24th, I have no knowledge, from personal observation, of the means which might have been obtained, by the clerk of the House of Representatives, for the removal of the library and documents of that branch of the Legislature.

Apprehending, when I left the city, that the documents belonging to the Department of State would be in danger, I gave orders that they should be packed up and in readiness to be moved on notice of the approach of the enemy. It was under this order, and on the subsequent notice, which was communicated, that they were removed to a place of safety on the 22d of August.

I have understood that the papers of the Department of War were likewise removed on the 22d of August.

I have the honor to be, with great respect, sir, your obedient servant,

JAMES MONROE.

The hon. JOSEPH PEARSON, *House of Representatives.*

SIR:

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *November 5, 1814.*

In compliance with the request, contained in your note of yesterday, requiring "such information as to the time when the papers of this Department were packed up and removed, and, finally, my opinion as to the practicability of obtaining the means of conveyance, for three days, immediately preceding the destruction of the Capitol by the enemy," I have the honor to represent that, having, on Saturday, the 20th August last, directed the chief clerk of this Department to prepare for the removal of the books, papers, and effects of the Navy Department, and to procure the necessary transportation, I now enclose his statement of the facts and circumstances attending the execution of my order, as conveying more correct information, in relation to the subject of your inquiry, than that which comes within my own knowledge.

I am, respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,

A. JONES.

The hon. JOSEPH PEARSON,

*Chairman of the Committee of Enquiry, &c., House of Representatives.*NAVY DEPARTMENT, *November 5, 1814.*

In obedience to the instructions from the Secretary of the Navy, to prepare for the removal and safety of the public documents and archives of the Navy Department, on Saturday the 20th day of August, 1814, and anticipating a difficulty in procuring wagons, he sanctioned the transportation by water, in boats up the Potomac river.

On Sunday three of the clerks were employed packing up in boxes and trunks, all the books of record, papers, library, maps, charts, plans, stationary, trophies, various valuable instruments, paintings, prints, &c., ready for removal on the next day; and in the evening of Sunday, the 21st of August, two river boats, with their crews, were engaged for the purpose at the ordinary pay and wages.

On Monday, the 22d August, two of the city carts were engaged, and all the boxes and articles in the Navy Department (heavy desks and furniture excepted,) were put on board a boat at the nearest wharf to the offices, and at 4 P. M. proceeded up the river, as far as Georgetown.

In the forenoon of Monday, the 22d, two large wagons with drivers presented themselves at the Department for employ, and on account of the previous arrangement, to transport by water, they were transferred to the Accountant of the Navy Department, who loaded them with the effects of his office.

On Tuesday, the 23d August, the chief clerk, with one of the clerks of the Department, proceeded up the river Potomac, and passed through the locks and canal to a place of safety.

There was no difficulty in procuring more boats and men enough to navigate them up the river above the falls.

BENJAMIN HOMANS, *Clerk.*

SIR:

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, GENERAL LAND OFFICE, *November 5, 1814.*

In the absence of the commissioner I have the honor to reply to the questions in your letter of yesterday.

On the Sunday preceding the destruction of the public buildings, the records of this office were prepared for removal.

On Monday, wagons were procured in the country, loaded in the evening, and the records removed the same night.

As to the practicability of obtaining the means of conveyance on other roads than that which I travelled I cannot form an opinion, but on that road I found difficulty in procuring what I wanted for this office on that day.

I am, very respectfully,

JOHN GARDINER, *Chief Clerk.*

HOR. J. PEARSON.

*United States for expenditures on account contingent fund, H. R. for 1814, to Patrick Magruder.* DR.

May 1,	To amount passed by the Committee of Accounts, say about*	-	-	-	\$45,000 00
	To amount of newspaper accounts, as authorized by resolution,*	-	-	-	3,000 00
	By warrant received from the Treasury, on account of contingent fund,	-	-	-	48,000 00
	Balance due the United States, -	-	-	-	50,863 16
					<u>\$2,863 16</u>

NOTE.—The whole claims against the contingent fund of the House of Representatives have been paid, except some few newspaper accounts, which have never been exhibited, and which will not exceed two hundred dollars. And the date, 1st May, ought to be the 23d of August, 1814, when the vouchers were burned.

GEO. MAGRUDER, for  
P. MAGRUDER.

\* Vouchers burnt in the Capitol.

## A.

*Patrick Magruder, Clerk of House of Representatives, the contingent account in account with the United States.*

DR.					
To balance found due from him on settlement at the Treasury, on the 14th January, 1814, (see Auditor's account,)	-	-	-	-	\$6,574 87
Warrant No. 6,838, dated January 15, 1814,	-	-	-	-	10,000 00
Warrant No. 6,962, dated March 12, 1814,	-	-	-	-	9,288 29
Warrant No. 7,005, dated March 29, 1814,	-	-	-	-	10,000 00
Warrant No. 7,177, dated April 18, 1814,	-	-	-	-	15,000 00
Debit of P. Magruder at the Treasury, on the 14th of November, 1814,	-	-	-	-	<u>\$50,863 16</u>
CR.					
By paying the Messrs. Ways the amount of their account from the 14th October, 1813, to the 18th April, 1814,	-	-	-	-	\$9,390 35
By paying the Messrs. Weightman their account in full for printing and stationery, from 6th December, 1813, to 18th April, 1814,	-	-	-	-	12,670 22
By paying St. Clair for 150 cords of wood, per contract, at \$45,	-	-	-	\$1,267 50	
By paying St. Clair for 30 cords of wood, at \$10 per cord,	-	-	-	300 00	
By paying St. Clair for 22 cords of wood, at \$10 per cord, furnished for the library,	-	-	-	220 00	
By paying for newspapers furnished the members, say 186 members at \$11 25 each, being the full allowance,	-	-	-	-	1,787 50
Paying Mr. Monroe for postage, as per account,	-	-	-	-	2,092 50
Paying Mr. Hill for cabinet work,	-	-	-	-	39 78½
Paying Mr. Harbaugh for carpenter's work,	-	-	-	-	126 12
Paying Mrs. Lindsay, per resolution of the House,	-	-	-	-	73 00
Paying Mr. Dawson's funeral expenses estimated,	-	-	-	-	100 00
Paying Mr. Frost extra services in clerk's office,	-	-	-	-	1,200 00
Paying Mr. Sprigg extra services in clerk's office, allowed by the Committee of Accounts, though not justified by resolution of the House,	-	-	-	20 00	
	-	-	-	811 10	
					831 10
Paying Js. Claxton for services in Post Office, and the hire of a horse during the session,	-	-	-	-	446 00
Paying Js. Corcoran his account for 83 yards carpeting,	-	-	-	-	166 00
Paying E. Spalding for his services and two horses, 142 days, at \$4 per day,	-	-	-	568 00	
Paying E. Spalding for services prior to the session,	-	-	-	12 00	
Paying George N. Thomas for his services during the session and 4 days thereafter, at \$2 per day,	-	-	-	-	284 00
Paying George N. Thomas for extra services prior to the session,	-	-	-	-	22 00
Paying Isaac Phillips for his services, 142 days, at \$2,	-	-	-	-	284 00
Paying George Cooper for his services, 142 days, at \$2,	-	-	-	-	284 00
Paying George Cooper extra services prior to the session,	-	-	-	-	44 00
Paying Oswald Dunn for his services, 142 days at \$2,	-	-	-	-	284 00
Paying Richard Stewart for his services, 142 days, at \$2,	-	-	-	-	284 00
					2,066 00
By balance due the United States, 19th September, 1814,	-	-	-	-	30,988 57½
					19,874 58½
					<u>\$50,863 16</u>

## B.

*A statement of the contingent fund account of the House of Representatives, as exhibited by Patrick Magruder, clerk, November 3, 1814.*

DR.					
To paying Messrs. Way and Weightman for printing and stationary,	-	-	-	-	\$25,600 10
To paying messengers of the House,	-	-	-	-	2,584 50
To paying James Claxton,	-	-	-	-	446 00
To paying Thomas Munro,	-	-	-	-	39 78½
To paying George W. Lindsay's funeral charges, (see resolution,)	-	-	-	-	100 00
To sundry accounts, particulars not recollected, embracing from sixty to eighty different accounts,	-	-	-	-	19,229 61½
To balance remaining in my hands, subject to the orders of the Committee of Accounts,	-	-	-	-	2,863 16
					<u>\$50,863 16</u>
CR.					
By sundry sums of money drawn from the Treasury since the 14th January, 1814, including an instalment due from P. Magruder, to the United States, per settlement made that day,	-	-	-	-	\$50,863 16

C.

An explanatory statement showing how the difference arises between the two accounts marked A and B annexed.

PATRICK MAGRUDER, DR.			
To amount of Way's account for printing from 30th July, 1813, to 14th October, 1813, which the committee are satisfied was included in the settlement of January, 1814, and again charged in statement B,		-	\$1,831 03
To amount of Messrs. Weightman's account for printing, from the 2d August to 6th December, in the year 1813, on which last day, P. Magruder gave his note, endorsed by Messrs. Way, payable at thirty days; can be no doubt of its having been included in settlement of January, 1814, and again charged in statement B,		-	1,708 50
To overcharge in E. Spalding's account, in statement B,		\$262 00	
To overcharge in G. N. Thomas's account, in statement B,		64 50	
To overcharge in J. Philips's account, in statement B,		64 00	
To overcharge in G. Cooper's account, in statement B,		64 00	
To overcharge in R. Stewart's account, in statement B,		64 00	
		518 50	
To "sundry accounts, not recollected, embracing from sixty to eighty separate accounts,"		-	19,229 61½
To balance remaining in the hands of P. Magruder, subject to orders of Committee of Accounts, as per account B,		-	2,863 16
		-	\$26,150 80½
No. of Ac- counts.		CR.	
3	By wood accounts, not included in statement B,	-	\$1,787 50
Supp'd 50	By newspapers for members, not included in statement B,	-	2,092 50
3	By Mr. Hill, for cabinet work, not included in statement B,	-	126 12
3	By Mr. Harbaugh, for carpenter's work, not included in statement B,	-	73 00
10	By Mr. Dawson's funeral expenses, not included in statement B,	-	1,200 00
1	By Mr. Frost for extra services, not included in statement B,	-	20 00
1	By Mr. Sprigg, for extra services, not included in statement B,	-	811 10
1	By James Corcoran, for carpeting, not included in statement B,	-	166 00
	To balance due the United States, as per statement A,	-	19,874 58½
Total, 72		-	\$26,150 80½

C.

Patrick Magruder, Clerk to the House of Representatives, in account with the United States.

DR.			
To balance due by him, per report No. 26,428,		-	\$2,410 94
To Treasury warrants for amount of the following issued in his favor, viz:			
No. 5,566, dated February 1, 1813,		-	10,000 00
No. 5,659, dated March 5th, 1813,		-	15,000 00
No. 5,666, dated March 6th, 1813,		-	3,500 00
No. 6,057, dated June 23, 1813,		-	10,000 00
No. 6,251, dated August 3, 1813,		-	6,000 00
		-	\$46,910 94
CR.			
By amount of his expenditures, from the 1st of December, 1812, to the 7th January, 1814, for stationary, printing, newspapers, fuel, candles, and office furniture, &c., including the expenses, incident to the interment of Mr. Smilie, member from Pennsylvania, and erecting monuments for him and General Casey, also for the hire of horses and laborers, and payments made sundry individuals, pursuant to resolutions of March and July, 1813, per account,		-	\$40,336 07
By balance due the United States,		-	6,574 87
		-	\$46,910 94
The balance acknowledged by the clerk, per his account, is		-	\$6,675 92
The balance found due by him, per foregoing statement, is		-	6,574 87
Amount of difference,		-	\$101 05
Which difference arises as follows, viz:			
This sum short added on the 6th page,		\$100 05	
This sum short charged on vol. No. 53,		4 00	
This sum overcredited for balance of his former account,		4 00	
From which deduct the following sums, viz:			\$108 05
This sum overcharged on volume No. 14,		\$2 00	
This sum overcharged on volume No. 135,		5 00	
		-	7 00
As above,		-	\$101 05
AUDITOR'S OFFICE, January 14, 1814.		P. FERRAL.	
COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE, January 19, 1814.		ANDREW ROSS.	
Balance brought down,		-	\$6,574 87
Advanced him since the above settlement:			
Warrant No. 6838, dated January 15, 1814,		-	10,000 00
Warrant No. 6962, dated March 12, 1814,		-	9,288 29
Warrant No. 7005, dated March 29, 1814,		-	10,000 00
Warrant No. 7177, dated April 18, 1814,		-	15,000 00
Debit of Patrick Magruder on the books of the Treasury,		-	\$50,863 16

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, REGISTER'S OFFICE, November 14, 1814.

A true copy from the records.

JOSEPH NOURSE, Register.