

THE BANK INVESTIGATION.

[From the N. Y. Evening Post.]

It was an unfortunate step for the bank, that for the purpose of securing the assistance of the Clay party in congress, it suffered the question of the renewal of the charter to be pressed forward at this time. It has given rise to an investigation resulting in disclosures which cannot but have the effect to create such a change in public opinion as will operate greatly to the disadvantage of the institution, if not to its utter discontinuance. To throw aside all other matters embraced in the report, its bold and wicked attempt to subsidize the press—its barefaced bribery of a widely circulated journal, with the view, no doubt, of revolutionizing public opinion in the state of New-York, through the influence of that most profligate newspaper, must alienate from it the minds of all such as do not consider that the liability to be perverted to corrupt uses is necessarily incident to all monied institutions. There must be something radically wrong (every reader will naturally say) in a charter under which the officers of a government bank could dare to make so shameful a misapplication of its funds. Those who treat the transaction most leniently, will demand, not merely that the unjust stewards should be removed, and others appointed in their places, but that the charter shall not be renewed, without such radical and important regulations and restrictions, as shall make it rather a new charter than a renewal of the old. The

rather a new charter than a renewal of the old. The moral sense of a large part of the community, we apprehend, would not be satisfied with even such a concession. It will require that an institution which has acted so corruptly, shall not be continued for another term of years, but that when its present charter expires, the bank shall wholly cease.

The newspaper press is justly looked upon as one of the chief guides of public opinion; and if there is no way of restraining a national bank, with a capital of 35,000,000, from bribery of the press, direct or indirect, it were better—far better—that we should have no Bank of the U. S., though the ill consequences to the currency were far worse than are really to be apprehended from the total and instant abolition of such an institution.

Of the fact, that the Bank has been guilty of bribery—that it purchased the influence of the Courier and Enquirer, (paying dearly for the whistle, too) no one, we think, can for a moment doubt. Its dealings with Webb and Noah, the two ostensible proprietors of that paper, constitute a piece of the most palpable, barefaced, downright corruption. It is impossible for any one to justify the act on the ground that, however imprudent, it was a fair business transaction. Every step in the whole affair smells of roguery—"the offence is rank." What bank, or individual in this city, or in this country, would, as a matter of business, have lent for fifty years to Webb and Noah, on their mere personal security, thousands of dollars, or hundreds, or even tens? A man of undoubted wealth—of large real estate—could not, from any board of directors in the United States, who wished to act in good faith with their constituents, have obtained, on his mere note for five years, though endorsed by one equally wealthy, such discounts as were granted by the United States Bank to two individuals, neither of whom is rich,

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and one of them an insolvent.

After the full exposure of the utter profligacy of the Courier and Enquirer which has now been made to the nation, it will not be expected that we should condescend to notice the misrepresentations and falsehoods of that abandoned print. The assertion of that paper that Mr. Cambreleng was the writer of the letter, an extract from which we published on Wednesday, may therefore go for what it is worth, since, independent of the worthlessness of the Courier and Enquirer's assertions in all cases, it must be sufficiently apparent that they have no ground but conjecture in this. We do not think it worth our while, either to contradict the statement that Mr. Cambreleng penned the report, though we happen to know that it is almost wholly the work of Mr. Clayton; for whoever wrote it, it was no doubt fully concurred in by our active and intelligent representative, who is in no danger of losing any of the consideration in which he is held, by having exposed to the world that the United States Bank had purchased the editors of the Courier and Enquirer "like cattle in the market."

[From the N. Y. Sentinel.]

THE BANK REPORT.—The great length of this document makes it entirely out of our power to publish it, or any considerable portion of it to day. We shall commence the publication of it in our next, and to day shall give an extract which we think will show the people the necessity of supporting presses which depend upon them, and upon them only, for support. If there is any one thing more clear than another, it must be this: that an institution which has the power of "*buying up men and votes as cattle in the market,*" and of paying \$52,000 for the support of a single press which had used the language just quoted in exposing its corruptions, must possess a power dangerous to the liberties of the country; and that a press so purchased must, if the fact of the purchase had not been made public, have been one of the most powerful means of enabling the Bank to wield its dangerous power. We shall have occasion to speak of this report in some detail: for the present we can only say, in the language of the editor of the Standard, "it has come to sink to irretrievable infamy, *James Watson Webb* and M. M. NOAH of the Courier and Enquirer—it has come to blast the high reputation of Mr. BIDDLE, the president of the Bank—it has come to destroy all hope of a renewal of the charter of the greatest monied corporation of the world."