

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 1836.

R. M. WHITNEY.

The connection of Mr. Whitney with the Treasury Department, and the fact of his having at his disposal the whole of the public revenue, has given him an importance which deserves to be noticed. The country should know who and what he is. The people should know the character of the man who has at his disposal upwards of THIRTY THREE MILLIONS of their money, and judge for themselves whether he is worthy to be trusted. For the purpose of showing them who this Reuben M. Whitney is, we have turned to the Documents of the first session of the 22d Congress, and find on record in the 4th volume, as follows; and to which we beg the particular attention of our readers. On the 116th page we find Mr. Whitney, when called before a Committee of Congress appointed to examine into the condition of the U. S. Bank, testifies as follows:

*Examination of Reuben M. Whitney.*

Question by Mr. Clayton. Did Mr. Thomas Wilson, the former Cashier, ever acquaint you with any circumstance relating to the accounts of Mr. Thomas Biddle in the Bank? if yea, state fully what it was.

Answer. Sometime in 1824, Mr. Wilson and Mr. Andrews mentioned to me that some transactions had taken place in the Bank in which T. & J. G. Biddle were concerned, which they were not willing should exist without some member of the Board being informed of them. I asked what they were. They replied that T. & J. G. Biddle had been in the habit of coming to Bank and getting money, and leaving certificates of stock which represented it, in the First Teller's drawer, without paying interest. They also stated, that the Messrs. Biddle had had notes discounted for them by the President, which were entered on the books of the preceding discount day. I asked them what sums there were of the kind in existence at that time. They went with me to the First Teller's drawer, and we found one sum of \$45,000, dated 25th May, and one for \$24,000, dated 26th May. We then went to the discount clerk's desk, and found one note at fifteen days, dated 13th May, for \$20,000, of T. Biddle's, and one note of Charles Biddle's, dated 21st May, at sixteen days, for \$38,319. The two former sums represented cash, and the two latter new notes, which they stated to me had been discounted by order of the President. Of all these I made a memorandum (now produced) at the time, which corresponds with the entries now in the books now shown to me.

Question by Mr. Thomas. Did you communicate these matters to the President? if yea, state when and where.

Answer. Immediately after examining the books I came into the President's room and communicated to him what had been communicated to me, and what I had learned by examining the books. After stating this, I desired that nothing of a similar nature should occur while I was a Director of the Bank. He told me there should not.

Question by Mr. Clayton. Did you not direct the officers to enter what you discovered, on the books, and was it done?

Answer. I directed the officers to enter on the books the money that had been loaned from the Teller's drawer, and which was represented by stock certificates. It was done.

Question by Mr. M'Duffie. The memorandum you have produced is the one before referred to by you; when was it made?

Answer. I made it at the time the communication was made to me by Mr. Wilson and Mr. Andrews, and this memorandum now produced is the one.

We wish our readers to pay particular attention to the dates of Mr. Whitney's memorandum, which he says he made at the time he called on Mr. Biddle to disclose to him the great abuses he had discovered in the transaction of the business of the Bank. Dates are very important items. Here is the memorandum:

*Copy of Mr. Whitney's Memorandum.*

May 25.	\$45,000
26.	24,000
May 13, 15 days,	\$20,000 collateral.
21. C. Biddle,	38,319 16 days,
	5.6 June.

Let us hear, now, the testimony of other witnesses.

Mr. Andrews testifies as follows:

*Examination of John Andrews.*

Question by Mr. M'Duffie. Did you ever inform Mr. Whitney that Thomas Biddle, or Thomas Biddle & Co., had been in the habit of obtaining money without interest from the Bank on a deposit of stock?

Answer. I do not recollect giving any such information. I recollect that moneys have been advanced to the Messrs. Biddle on a deposit of stock as collateral security, on which they have always regularly paid interest.

Question by Mr. McDuffie. Did Mr. Whitney ever direct you to enter in the books two sums of \$45,000 and \$24,000, which T. Biddle & Co. had drawn from the Bank in May, 1824?

Answer. I have no recollection of it—none whatever.

Question by Mr. McDuffie. Have you any recollection of these transactions as related by Mr. Whitney in the testimony just read to you?

Answer. I have not.

Question by Mr. McDuffie. Did you ever inform Mr. Whitney that the President had been in the habit of discounting notes for T. Biddle & Co. without the sanction of the Board of Directors?

Answer. Not to my knowledge. I have no recollection of it. I have no recollection of the President ever having done so.

Mr. Wilson testifies:

*Second examination of Thomas Wilson.*

The clerk read to the witness Mr. Whitney's evidence.

Question by Mr. McDuffie. Did you inform Mr. Whitney in May, 1824, or at any other time, that Thomas Biddle & Co. were in the habit of drawing money from the Bank without paying interest for it?

Answer. I certainly never gave information that they ever obtained money without interest, and I can speak generally that I never knew a loan or accommodation to any individual or company without interest.

Question by Mr. McDuffie. Would you have made a complaint to Mr. Whitney of the conduct of the President?

Answer. No. I was on those terms with the President that I would have spoken directly to him.

Question by Mr. McDuffie. Were individual Directors in the habit of directing the Cashiers or Clerks of the Bank to make entries on the books?

Answer. Never, to my knowledge. No clerk in the Bank would obey such directions.

Question by Mr. McDuffie. You have heard Mr. Whitney's evidence. If such an occurrence, as Mr. Whitney relates, had taken place, would it not have made a strong impression on your mind, and do you not think you would certainly have recollected it?

Answer. Undoubtedly I should, and I should have been a very unfaithful officer indeed if I had been privy to such a transaction as lending money without interest, and the Director would have been equally culpable who knew it and concealed it. With respect to the note for \$20,000 for T. Biddle, referred to by Mr. Whitney, I am positive it was discounted by the Board. I am equally positive as to the note of C. Biddle. I am as positive about this as about the other.

Mr. Patterson says:

*Examination of Jonathan Patterson, 1st Teller.*

Question by Mr. McDuffie. Has it ever come within your knowledge, that Thomas Biddle & Co. have drawn money out of the Bank, on a pledge of stock, without paying interest?

Answer. Never, without paying interest.

Question by Mr. McDuffie. Would not such a transaction have been known to you, if it had occurred?

Answer. I believe it would.

Question by Mr. McDuffie. Did Mr. Whitney ever give an order to Mr. Andrews, or Mr. Wilson, in your presence, to make an entry in the books of money loaned to Thomas Biddle & Co. on a pledge of stock?

Answer. I have not the slightest recollection of any thing of the kind.

A part of the testimony of Mr. Whitney being read, as follows:

"They (Mr. Andrews and Mr. Wilson) went with me to the First Teller's drawer, and we found one sum of \$45,000, dated 25th of May, and one for \$24,000, dated 26th of May."

Question by Mr. Adams. Do you know any thing of the fact stated by Mr. Whitney in the above extract?

Answer. I have not the slightest recollection of it.

Question by Mr. Adams. Did Mr. Whitney come with Mr. Andrews and Mr. Wilson to your drawer, and examine the contents of the same, at any time in the year 1824?

Answer. I have no recollection of it.

Mr. Biddle stated to the Committee that the whole evidence of Reuben M. Whitney, so far as it related to himself personally, was totally and absolutely false, and says that he was wholly ignorant of the transactions themselves in which this imaginary conversation was founded, and that no such conversation had ever taken place.

Who could disbelieve the evidence of these men? We have here the evidence of four good and credible witnesses, who testify positively that Mr. Whitney's testimony is every word of it false. But this is not all the proof. No! by a fortunate coincidence—one of those interpositions of Providence which is so often unexpectedly interposed to blast and confound the wicked, in this instance steps boldly forward to the relief of the innocent, and in terror to the wicked. We here find from documentary evidence (which cannot be mistaken), that at the very same time that Mr. Whitney was lecturing Mr. Biddle in his parlor in Philadelphia, about the abuses which had crept into the Bank (and which lecture Mr. W. is very cautious to say *was not overheard by any one*), that Mr. Biddle was, in fact, in the city of Washington, some hundred and forty miles from his parlor in Philadelphia. But hear what Mr. Biddle says upon that subject, which is also to be found in the same volume and at page 142:

The other persons whom he named, on the occasion, have since, I understand, contradicted him decidedly on all that relates to them respectively. By a fortunate accident, I am now enabled to prove, in the clearest manner, to the committee, that the occurrence to which R. M. Whitney has sworn with so much hardihood, was not merely improbable, but actually impossible. After the adjournment of the committee yesterday, on examining the minutes of the Bank for another purpose, I casually saw a passage which furnished the means of convicting the witness of being guilty of a deliberate violation of truth.

It will be recollected that R. M. Whitney swore that, on a given day, in the month of May, 1824, the Cashier and Assistant Cashier complained to him of certain loans, without interest, made by me to Thomas and J. G. Biddle; that he went to the First Teller's drawer, and found there two certificates, one for \$24,000 and one for \$45,000, dated, respectively, the 25th and 26th of May, which he immediately directed them to put on the books of the bank; and that they were accordingly so placed upon the books on the 27th of May: and he triumphantly exhibited this entry of the 27th of May, of \$69,000, as being the aggregate of the two sums of \$24,000, and \$45,000, which he had thus withdrawn from their secret place in the First Teller's drawer, and placed on the books. It was immediately after he had given this order to the Cashiers, that he represents himself as coming into my room, relating his discoveries, and expressing his hope that, as long as he was a director, such a thing should never take place again, on which, not denying that it had been done by my order, I promised

such that it should not be done again. Now the  
been dates of this story are its essence. The certi-  
posite cates, according to a memorandum made, he  
they says, at the time, and produced to the commit-  
Whit- of course the loans would not have been made  
two before the 25th of May; and the entries of  
iddle them are on the 27th of May. Of course the  
824? alleged conversation with me could not have  
none been after that day. He is, therefore, accord-  
any ing to his own story, enclosed between these  
d by two dates, beyond which he cannot escape, and  
you? according to his own exhibition of dates, the  
ever conversation with me, if it took place at all,  
had must have been between the 25th and the 27th  
r T. of May; that is, on the 26th of May, the only  
board interval between the date of the last certificate,  
and the 27th, the day of their appearance on  
the books.

Now I am about to prove to the committee,  
that, on the very day when R. M. Whitney  
swears that he conversed with me in this room  
at Philadelphia, where we are now sitting—for  
many days before that day, and for many days  
after that day—I was actually in the City of  
Washington. The first evidence is, the original  
minutes of the Bank, by which it will be seen,  
that, from the 22d day of May, to the 1st of  
June, I was absent from the Bank, and that R.  
M. Whitney himself attended the meetings of  
the Board, when the fact of my absence was  
recorded.

Here follows a list of letters and other docu-  
ments, which prove beyond the possibility of a  
doubt that Mr. Biddle was, for several days  
before and after Mr. Whitney met him in his  
parlor adjoining the banking house in Philadel-  
phia, actually in the city of Washington.

But hear what Mr. Whitney says the next  
day after he finds himself trapped :

The statement presented by Mr. Biddle, the  
President, on the 11th inst., to the Committee,  
points out some partial discrepancies in my tes-  
timony. But the main facts, of which I pro-  
duced a memorandum, taken at the time I learn-  
ed them, still remain as they were, confirmed by  
the books.

Little discrepancies! yes, truly, little discre-  
pances! A good come off. Little discrepan-  
ces! only one hundred and forty miles from  
the truth. But for Mr. Whitney we suppose  
these were facts of minor importance.

Here is an extract from the Report of the  
Minority of the Committee, after hearing all the  
evidence :

Mr. Biddle was present during the examina-  
tion of this witness. On that day, being on  
oath, he said, that he was utterly astonished at  
the testimony of the witness, and could only  
oppose to it his solemn declaration that there  
was not one word of truth in it from the begin-  
ning to the end. He added, that, from the re-  
lation in which the witness stood to him, he  
would have sunk into the earth sooner than he  
would have dared to come to him with such a  
remonstrance as he pretended to have made.—  
The officers of the bank, from whom the wit-  
ness alleged that he derived this information,  
were examined, and all of them positively con-  
tradicted him. They testified, and demonstrated  
from the books, that Thomas Biddle & Co. had  
never obtained money, in any instance, without  
paying interest, and that the two notes which  
Whitney asserted to have been discounted by  
the president alone, had been discounted regu-  
larly by the directors.

In the interval between the adjournment of  
the committee, that day, and its meeting the  
next, a member of the board of directors sug-  
gested to Mr. Biddle, that he was, about the  
time of his alleged transaction, in the city of  
Washington. On examining the journals of  
the board and the letter-book, it was found by  
entries and letters, that, for several days pre-  
vious to the alleged interview between the  
president and Whitney, and for several days  
afterwards, the president was absent on a visit  
to this city on the business of the bank, and  
General Cadwallader was acting as president in  
his place!

Thus was this artfully devised story, which  
was intended to blast the reputation of a high-  
minded and honorable man, through one of  
those extraordinary interpositions by which  
Providence sometimes confounds the contriv-  
ances of the wicked, made to recoil upon the  
head of its inventor, who must forever stand  
forth as a blasted monument of the speedy and  
retributive justice of Heaven.

The minority of the committee will avail  
themselves of this occasion to say, that they had  
the most conclusive evidence, that, in all the  
transactions of the bank with Thomas Biddle &  
Co. and Charles Biddle, the president has been,  
not only free from the slightest imputation of  
partiality or favoritism, but that his conduct has  
been invariably governed by a nice and scrupu-  
lous sense of delicacy and propriety. And this,  
they feel authorized to say, is the opinion of a  
majority of the committee. The following re-  
solution was unanimously adopted by the com-  
mittee:

And here is the resolution passed unanimo-  
usly by the Committee, a majority of whom were  
political friends of Mr. Whitney, and disposed  
to do him more than justice :

Resolved, That the charges brought against  
the president, of lending money to Thomas  
Biddle & Co. without interest, and of discount-  
ing notes for that house, and for Charles Bid-  
dle, without the sanction of the directors, are  
without foundation; and that there does not  
exist any ground for charging the president  
with having shown, or manifested any disposi-  
tion to show, any partiality to these individuals,  
in their transactions with the bank.

But this is not all that is to be found in that  
valuable volume. Hear Mr. Whitney again :

*Re-examination of Rueben M. Whitney.*

Question by Mr. Adams. In what place in  
Canada did you reside during the war?

Answer. In Montreal. I remained, there-  
fore, having the permission of the British Gov-  
ernment to do so.

Question by Mr. Adams. Did you ever ask  
permission of the Government of the United  
States to remain there?

Answer. I never did.

Question by Mr. Adams. On what condi-  
tions did the British Government permit you to  
remain in Canada during the war?

Answer. I took an oath to observe the laws  
of the country while I remained there.

To sum up the whole of this evidence in a  
few words as possible, it amounts to nothing  
more than this: that Mr. Whitney, who has  
now at his disposal more than thirty-three mil-  
lions of the people's money, was during the  
late war a traitor to his country, and should  
have suffered death by our laws; and since that  
he has been proven by the evidence of four cre-  
dible and respectable witnesses, and a host of  
circumstantial and documentary evidence, which  
cannot fail to convince the minds of the most  
incredulous, to have basely sworn to what he  
must have known to be false, for the purpose of  
destroying the reputation of an honorable and  
worthy citizen.

And is it not passing strange that General  
Jackson, with all this proof before his eyes—  
General Jackson, who has fought so bravely in  
his country's battles, and who once so much  
detested and despised the name of traitor, should  
now countenance and foster this man—this Rue-  
ben M. Whitney?