

COLONEL FRANCIS VIGO.

• [To accompany bill H. R. No. 136.]

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DECEMBER 22, 1837.

Adopted by the committee, and ordered to be reprinted.

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FEBRUARY 11, 1836.

MR. KINNARD, from the Committee on Revolutionary Claims, made the following

REPORT:

*The Committee on Revolutionary Claims, to which was referred the memorial of Colonel Francis Vigo, report :*

That this claim was presented at the last Congress, and was investigated by the committee. They refer to their report of the last session, and make it a part of the present report, together with additional evidence and documents. Heretofore it was the opinion of the committee that the justice of this claim had been evinced ; and its non-payment was admitted by the commissioner of Virginia. But the next question presented for the consideration of the committee, was, whether it was ever settled by the United States with Virginia, either in the particular account of the latter rendered in 1788, or in the aggregate amount of disbursements and advances credited to Virginia in her settlement with the United States in 1793. These were the only settlements, between the United States and Virginia, in which the claim of the memorialist could have been embraced as forming part of the account current of Virginia against the Government of the Union. For, if it should appear that the bill of exchange drawn by General Clarke, in favor of the memorialist, on Pollock, the commercial agent of Virginia at New Orleans, and "protested for want of funds," was embraced in either of those settlements, as a charge on the part of Virginia against the United States for "disbursements and advances," or otherwise in the "particular account" of that State, as settled in 1788, or in the aggregate amount of her account for "disbursements and advances" as settled with the United States in 1793, it is clear the United States are exonerated from the payment of the same, and the memorialist must look to Virginia, who has received the money, and who alone would be liable to him. It is to be regretted that the accounts between the State of Virginia and the United States, for "expenses incurred and advances made" by the former in the Illinois campaign of 1778 and '79, are not to be found in the office of the Treasurer of the United States, or in the offices of the Auditor and Treasurer of Virginia, where, if they existed at all, they would probably be found. There is no trace either of Thomas Allen, print.

the settlement of 1788, or that of 1793, between Virginia and the United States, to be found among the public archives, either at Richmond or at Washington. (See documents C, D, H, certificate of Mr. Hagner and of the Auditor and Treasurer of Virginia.) Could they have been produced, all doubt in this case would have been removed.

In the absence of any positive proof, the committee have been obliged to resort to secondary evidence. They believe, from all that has been taken in support of the memorial of the claimant; from the memorial itself, sworn to by Colonel Vigo, sustained by the high character he possesses for honor and integrity, as testified by gentlemen of the first respectability in the West; as well as from the certificate of Mr. Smith, (the commissioner of revolutionary claims on the part of Virginia,) in whose possession and custody the original accounts current of Clarke and Pollock, as settled with Virginia, now are, (see document No. 3;) that the presumption is great, and the inference clear, that in no settlement between the United States and Virginia was the bill of the petitioner for \$8,616 ever made an item in the account of the latter against the former for "expenses incurred or disbursements made," in the Illinois campaign of 1778 and '79. What are the facts, as shown in the memorial, and in the documents and proofs accompanying it?

The bill of exchange, mentioned in the memorial of the claimant, was drawn in his favor by General Clarke on Pollock, the commercial agent of Virginia, at New Orleans, in 1778. It was to be paid in specie. It was for supplies actually furnished by the memorialist to the "Illinois regiment" then in the service of Virginia, and under the command of Clarke. The bill was "protested for the want of funds," as is sworn to by the memorialist, Vigo. In the year 1788, (the year when the first settlement took place between the United States and Virginia, "for expenses incurred in the Illinois campaign,") Vigo was in possession of the bill, and presented the same again to Pollock for settlement, at Carlisle, Pennsylvania, "who advised Vigo to keep it, as it would be paid some time or other." (See deposition of Pierre Menard.) It further appears, that after Pollock's refusal to pay it when presented the second time, Vigo retained it, and kept possession of it until December, 1799, six years after the settlement between the United States and Virginia, as finally made. That it was then (December, 1799) unpaid and unsatisfied in the hands of the payee, (Vigo,) and was by him delivered to Judge Burnett, of Cincinnati, for collection; from which time the bill has been lost. In addition to which, the committee have the certificate of Mr. Smith, the commissioner of Virginia, (in whose possession and custody the original accounts current of Clarke and Pollock, as settled with Virginia, now are,) that in neither of these accounts, as settled with Virginia, in their final settlement with that State, "for expenses incurred and advances made" in the "Illinois campaign" is this bill of exchange charged as an item, although the other bills mentioned by Vigo, in his memorial, as having been sold at a discount, are. (See certificate, doc. 3.)

From these facts, and on this proof, in the absence of positive testimony, the presumption is great, and the inference almost irresistible, that neither in the settlement between the United States and Virginia, in 1788, nor in that of 1793, nor at any other time, was the bill of the memorialist, for \$8,616, ever made an item in the account of Virginia against the United States, and credited by the latter. That it could not be, the reasons are plain.

In the first place, the commissioners of the United States would not, (nor, by law, could not,) in a settlement with Virginia or any other State, pay an account rendered without the proper vouchers accompanying each item, and showing the expenditures and disbursements actually made. Secondly, "the bill of exchange" mentioned in the memorial of Vigo as drawn by General Clarke on Pollock, the commercial agent of Virginia, could not have been produced as a voucher in the settlement between the United States and Virginia, because it was neither included in the account current of Clarke, the drawer, or Pollock, the drawee of the bill, as finally settled between them and Virginia. The committee can imagine no other settlement or document that would be allowed to form the basis of the account of Virginia against the United States for "disbursements and expenditures" in the Illinois campaign. General Clarke, or Mr. Pollock, if this bill had been paid by either, would have taken it up, and charged Virginia with its payment, producing the bill as evidence of such payment. Thirdly, it could not have been an item in the accounts of Virginia, as settled in 1788, or 1793, with the United States; because, six years after the last settlement, the bill was in possession of Vigo, the payee, unpaid, and "protested for want of funds."

Under all these circumstances, with this strong state of facts in favor of the memorialist, and in the absence of positive proof as to the items of the accounts settled between Virginia and the United States in 1788, and 1793, in consequence of the destruction of those accounts, the committee cannot entertain a reasonable doubt that the amount of said bill, and interest, is due to Colonel Vigo, and should long since, in good faith, have been paid him. Why it has not been paid, is apparent from the memorial, and from the certificate of Mr. Smith, the commissioner on the part of Virginia. It was not until 1833 that Virginia took any steps to "adjust and settle" these old but *bona fide* and honest claims. (See resolution A.) It was not until March, 1834, that an act of the Virginia Legislature was passed, authorizing "the investigation and adjustment" of these claims by a commissioner. (See act, doc. B.) It was in vain for the claimant to apply to Congress until this was done. Upon presenting his claim, he was told he must have his account "investigated and adjusted" by Virginia, before the United States could recognise its validity.

It was in vain that he applied to Virginia; until the passage of the act alluded to, there was no relief there. It is more than probable, but for the mass of papers connected with the affairs and accounts of the "Illinois campaign," accidentally discovered in the attic story of the Capitol at Richmond in 1833, (see Mr. Smith's letter,) "and which threw much light on these ancient but meritorious demands against the Commonwealth," that neither Virginia nor the United States would have been disposed to take them into serious consideration. The committee feel no wish to extol the services of the memorialist, the question with them being purely as to the pecuniary obligation of the Government. It appears, however, from the history of the country, and the documents presented, but for the services and advances of Vigo and others, the campaign of 1778-'9 in Illinois might have had a termination less glorious to the American arms than that which secured at that day, to the confederacy, the Mississippi, instead of the Ohio river, for a boundary in the West. From the country thus acquired and thus ceded by Virginia, the national treasury has probably received five millions of dollars the last year. For expenses incurred

in the conquest of it, the United States, by compact, solemn and irrevocable, are bound to Virginia, and, in this case, directly to the claimant himself; because his claim has been "settled and adjusted" by the legal and duly authorized agent of Virginia for this purpose, and because justice to the parties, as well as the proper observance and fulfilment of engagements on the part of the United States, would seem to require a payment to the claimant in the first instance, without forcing him to proceed to judgment against Virginia for an acknowledged debt, for which the United States are ultimately liable.

The committee therefore report a bill.

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No. 2.

FEBRUARY 24, 1835.

*The Committee on Revolutionary Claims, to which was referred the memorial of Colonel Francis Vigo, report:*

That the petitioner presents an account against the State of Virginia, settled, adjusted, and certified by the lawfully authorized commissioner of that State, as will appear by document marked A.

This claim is founded on bills of exchange, alleged to have been drawn by General George R. Clarke, commissioned and acting under the authority of said State; which bills were drawn upon her commercial agent, Oliver Pollock, intended to be in payment for supplies furnished the troops in her service in the year 1778, usually denominated "the Illinois regiment."

The important and hazardous campaign of General Clarke, his successful attacks on the then British posts of Kaskaskia and Vincennes, and the military occupation of those posts by the forces of Virginia under his command, are notorious historical facts.

The American commissioners, in the treaty of peace of 1783, insisted that the boundaries of the United States should be settled and acknowledged to include the country northwest of the river Ohio, and between the river Mississippi and the lakes; on the ground that the British posts were conquered, and the possession of that country maintained by and for the State of Virginia as above mentioned.

By the resolve of the Congress of the 10th October, 1780, the Confederation engaged "that the necessary and reasonable expenses which any particular State shall have incurred, since the commencement of the present war, in subduing any British posts, or in maintaining forts and garrisons within and for the defence, or in acquiring any part of the territory that may be ceded or relinquished to the United States, shall be reimbursed."

The Northwest territory was relinquished by the State of Virginia in 1784. Connected with the cession of this territory, the resolve of Congress, of 10th October, 1780, constituted a subsisting engagement on the part of the United States with Virginia, to reimburse the necessary expenses that State had incurred in subduing the British posts, and in maintaining the jurisdiction and possession of Virginia within and over the ceded territory.

This obligation on the Government of the Union has been expressly recognised by Congress. It was recited in the deed of cession by Virginia as one of the terms and conditions of the cession, which the United States agreed to fulfil in acquiring the territory. The same understanding and condition were expressed in every act, both of Congress and of the State of Virginia, connected with the transfer of the territory to the United States.

The first section of the sixth article of the constitution of the United States provides that "all debts contracted, and engagements entered into, before the adoption of this constitution, shall be as valid against the United States under this constitution as under the confederation."

This claim is for a subsisting debt against Virginia, having been incurred in subduing the British posts, and in maintaining the title of Virginia to the territory ceded to the United States.

Since Virginia acknowledges the debt, and certifies that it has never been paid, the obligation, in good faith, devolves upon the United States to pay it. The privity of contract exists between the State of Virginia and the holder of the bills of exchange. This debt was created by the necessary and lawful act of General George R. Clarke, in drawing at Kaskaskia upon the agent of Virginia, at New Orleans, for supplies and subsistence for the troops of Virginia, under his command, engaged in the conquest and maintenance of the Northwest Territory.

The commissioner of the State of Virginia having settled, adjusted, and acknowledged this debt, the State would be bound to pay it; but then the obligation would rest upon the United States to reimburse Virginia. Ought the United States to insist upon the State to pay the debt first? An observance and fulfilment of the engagement of the United States to pay the debt cannot, in good faith, require circuitry and delay; because the United States have long since received the cession of a territory of immense value, upon which the promise was binding, and which was the consideration for which the Confederation engaged and contracted to pay the necessary and reasonable expenses of its acquisition and defence.

Is this claim a part of the reasonable and necessary expenses of Virginia, in the conquest of the British posts and the occupation of the Northwest territory? In answer to this question affirmatively, it does not appear necessary to go beyond the authority of General Clarke to draw the bills of exchange. That he acted in fidelity to Virginia, and within the powers of his commission, cannot be questioned. With regard to the economy of the campaign, and the reasonableness of its expenses, it must be admitted as worthy of admiration, that, under the very embarrassing circumstances attending it, so much should have been accomplished with so little expense.

Is the claim just? and where is the proper place to examine this question? Where there is the most evidence on the subject—among the archives of Virginia. The campaign originated in her councils. The memorialist made his advances to her. There was no privity of contract subsisting between him and the Congress of the Confederation. Few documents exist here upon the subject of that campaign. Accordingly, Virginia appointed John H. Smith, Esq., on the 11th of March, 1834, a commissioner to investigate claims for supplies furnished in that campaign, with authority to adjust the same. The State of Virginia, through that commissioner, has adjusted the claim of Colonel Vigo, and, to all intents and



purposes, now stands bound for the payment of it, as adjusted. (See doc. A.) What credit ought to be given to this adjustment? If not conclusive, it could hardly be denied but that it would be testimony of the highest order in favor of the claim—the testimony of Virginia against her own interest; for if the United States do not pay the claim, Virginia would be bound for it. The committee have examined the evidence referred to in the report of the commissioner, and think the facts found in his report amply supported by the evidence.

Does justice require that the United States should grant the interest allowed by the commissioner of Virginia, on the debt due from her to the memorialist? Advances made during the Revolution have been considered as so much advanced on loan, to be repaid with interest. The rule that Governments should pay no interest, unless on loans, ought not to be applied to advances made to revolutionary Governments, when the presumption of their being always ready to pay is rebutted by facts. Secretary Hamilton's report of January 14, 1790, recognised in effect, and the law of August 4, 1790, was evidently passed upon, *this principle*; or rather an *exception* to that general rule, that Governments pay no interest.

This act, creating the funding system, allowed interest of six per cent. per annum on all debts of the United States up to 1791, as well to non-subscribers as subscribers to the funding system. The subscribing to the fund was deemed a privilege. Subscribers had the interest that had accrued up to 1791 funded, and drawing interest of three per cent. per annum, payable quarterly, besides receiving interest of six per cent. upon the principal.

But as the contract of the memorialist was made with Virginia, whose rate of interest was five per cent. per annum, it is thought best to let it be regulated by her laws, as the contract must have been entered into with a full knowledge of them. It should not be urged that, because the memorialist was not fortunate enough to become a subscriber to this funding system, (thereby sustaining a loss of some thousands of dollars, accruing to the benefit of the United States by his not receiving his interest quarterly upon the principal of his claim, and the interest that had accrued up to December 31, 1790,) he shall receive *no interest at all*, not even the five per cent. allowed by Virginia, and that, too, in derogation of the law of 1790, allowing interest upon all debts of the Government.

In addition to these general principles, it appears the claim of Francis Vigo was liquidated by a bill of exchange, payable at New Orleans; that he would have been entitled to the interest under the law of that place, to wit, ten per cent., and damages of protest, if the claim had originated against an individual instead of a State. It does not appear, either, that he has slumbered on his rights for this long period of time. His failing to importune the Government more repeatedly than he has done, is attributed to his liberality to the Government at the time its pecuniary affairs were embarrassed, and when his own circumstances were prosperous. Reasonable diligence appears to have been used by him, considering the great distance he lived from the seats of Government of Virginia and the United States, and the difficulty of communication at the time, and long after the origin of his claim; having presented his drafts to the agent of the State, upon whom they were drawn, not many months after their execution, when the said agent protested them, for the want of funds in hand belonging to the State. Again: four or five years after this, it appears he disposed

of some of the bills at a discount of about eighty per cent. About the year 1788-'9, the memorialist met said agent of the State, who regretted that he had been under the necessity of protesting said bills, for the want of proper funds, and advised him to keep this claim on the State; that she would pay him "some time or other." About the year 1802, when the affairs of the memorialist had become embarrassed, he states that he put the claim he now prosecutes in the hands of Jacob Burnett and Arthur St. Clair, esquires, for collection. In addition to the testimony by which these facts appear to be established, his acquaintances of forty years, men of great respectability, say that they always understood that he had a very large claim on the State of Virginia.

His services and aid appear to have been sought, at different periods, by officers and agents of Virginia and of the United States, and to have been highly appreciated and generally acknowledged. He obtained and communicated to General Clarke, at the risk of his life and fortune, the important information by which that officer was enabled to surprise and capture the British forces at Post St. Vincent, far superior in numbers and the munitions of war. In many other respects, his services have been greatly beneficial to the United States, proceeding from honorable and patriotic motives, with little or no regard to pecuniary reward.

Although the justice of this claim has been evinced, and its non-payment admitted by the commissioner of Virginia, still the committee are of opinion that there are not sufficient reasons to authorize them to report a bill for the relief of the claimant. Under the compact between the United States and Virginia, by which the latter was to be reimbursed for the expenses of that campaign, &c., the committee find that a board of commissioners was organized in pursuance of the following resolution :

"IN CONGRESS, April 13, 1785.

"Resolved, That, agreeably to the act of cession from the State of Virginia, a commissioner be appointed, who, jointly with the commissioner on the part of the said State, shall be authorized to appoint a third; and that they, or a major part of them, shall be empowered to adjust and liquidate the accounts of the said State against the United States, for the necessary and reasonable expenses incurred by that State in subduing any British post, or maintaining any forts within and for the defence, or in acquiring any part, of the territory ceded by the said State to the United States, conformably to the resolve of Congress of the 10th of October, 1780."

On the 8th April, 1831, the General Assembly of Virginia required the Governor thereof "to appoint some competent person as commissioner, for and on behalf of this Commonwealth, whose duty it shall be to prepare the testimony and documents touching the claims of Virginia upon the United States, on account of moneys paid, or for which Virginia may be liable, to the officers and soldiers of her State line during the Revolution," &c. In this act no mention is made of the liabilities of Virginia on account of supplies furnished the troops under General Clarke. The commissioner so appointed, in his memorial, admits that the special accounts for the expenses of these troops were, "after much difficulty, at length adjusted, it is believed, about the year 1788, when the United States agreed to allow Virginia the amount of what had been then *disbursed* to the troops employed in the reduction and defence of this territory." (Vide Rep. No. 191, H. R.

1st session, 22d Congress.) Although the half-pay claims of the officers of those troops are insisted upon, so far as Virginia has become legally liable, in consequence of former judgments obtained, or may become so, on the principles of those judgments; yet it is not urged that there is a class of claims against her like the one under consideration. It does not appear, from the documents accompanying said memorial, that there were outstanding obligations against her of this description, after the settlement of her accounts with the United States, under the compact in relation to the territory, in 1788. Whether this settlement comprehended all the actual disbursements, as well as the then known liabilities of Virginia, arising from the conquest and defence of the territory, is the material question at issue. The committee do not feel at liberty to doubt that bills of exchange, to a large amount, were drawn by General Clarke, in favor of various individuals, on the commercial agent of Virginia. It appears equally probable that a full account of the same was rendered to the State of Virginia, anterior to 1788, by General Clarke; otherwise, her actual *disbursements* could not have been known and credited to her by the United States in the settlement with that State in 1788. But as this settlement was embraced in the final settlement between the several States and the United States, which was made on the 29th of June, 1793, under the acts of August 4th and 5th, 1790, the committee consider it pertinent to refer thereto, in order to elucidate the material points in the case, which are important to the Treasury; to the rights of the claimant, and to the interest of Virginia. The act of 4th August, 1790, "makes provision for the debt of the United States." It proposed a loan; and that the "sums which shall be subscribed to the said loan shall be payable in the principal and interest of the certificates or notes which, prior to the 1st of January last, were issued by the respective States as acknowledgments or evidences of debts by them, respectively, owing." "And provided, That no such certificate shall be received, which, from the tenor thereof, or from any public record, act, or document, shall appear, or can be ascertained, to have been issued for any purpose other than compensations and expenditures for services or supplies towards the prosecution of the late war and the defence of the United States, or some part thereof, during the same." The commissioners appointed under the act of August 5, 1790, were required "to receive and examine all claims which shall be exhibited to them before the 1st day of July, 1791, and to determine on all such as shall have accrued for the general or particular defence during the war, and on the evidence thereof, according to the principles of general equity, (although such claims may not be sanctioned by the resolves of Congress, or supported by regular vouchers,) so as to provide for the final settlement of all accounts between the United States and the States individually; but no evidence of a claim, heretofore admitted by a commissioner of the United States, for any State or district, shall be subject to such examination; nor shall the claim of any citizen be admitted as a charge against the United States, in the account of any State, unless the same was allowed by such State before the 24th September, 1788." Said commissioners were to "debit each State with all advances which have been or may be made to it by the United States," "and shall credit each State for its disbursements and advances, on the principles contained in the third section of this act," which is above recited. Now, it does not appear, from any evidence before the committee, whether the bill of exchange drawn in favor of Francis Vigo, by General Clarke, on



the commercial agent of Virginia, and which was protested "for want of funds," was comprehended in the particular account of said State, settled in 1788, or in her aggregate amount of "disbursements and advances," which was credited on the 29th June, 1793.

The committee do not insist that the United States are exonerated by lapse of time from any obligation to admit claims of this character; but they regard it, in the absence of testimony, as inducing a presumption that they were credited to the State of Virginia in 1788 or 1793, inasmuch as the obligation of Virginia to pay them must have been known, as her right to demand payment from the United States was then acknowledged to exist.

The committee, therefore, move to be discharged from the further consideration of the subject.

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A.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF REVOLUTIONARY CLAIMS  
FOR THE STATE OF VIRGINIA,

*Richmond, December 16, 1835.*

I have examined the claim of Francis Vigo, of Vincennes, and State of Indiana, for supplies furnished to the Illinois regiment in the fall of the year 1778, to the amount of eight thousand six hundred and sixteen dollars, evidenced by a set of bills of exchange drawn by George R. Clarke, on Oliver Pollock, at New Orleans, for the said sum of \$8,616, (which said bills have been lost or mislaid,) and which the said Vigo alleges remain unpaid to this day. I have examined, also, every public document within my reach, which I believed would give information respecting the transactions in which the claims of individuals against the State of Virginia for supplies furnished to the Illinois regiment originated, and especially respecting the claim of Colonel Vigo. In this examination and investigation I have ascertained the following facts, to wit:

1st. That Francis Vigo was "the Spanish merchant," as he has been called by way of honorable distinction, who was renowned for his integrity, liberality, and benevolence, as well as for his firm friendship for, and disinterested and efficient support of, Virginia, in the war of the Revolution.

2d. That, being the subject of a foreign Power, he warmly espoused the cause of the colonies against the mother country, and made large sacrifices in supporting the western troops of Virginia.

3d. That bills of exchange were drawn by General Clarke, in the year 1778, upon Oliver Pollock, at New Orleans, in favor of Francis Vigo, for upwards of \$10,000, for supplies furnished by him to the Illinois regiment in that year; that these bills were protested by Mr. Pollock (who was the agent of the State) for the "want of funds;" that some of them were sold by Mr. Vigo, and afterwards paid by Virginia; that one, amounting to \$298, was paid by the said Pollock to the said Vigo; that the bill for \$8,616 was one of them which was not parted with by Mr. Vigo, but remained in his possession (that is to say, the second of the set remained in his possession—the set consisting of Nos. 1 and 2; and the first having

been lost) until he suffered with a long and severe illness, commencing in 1802, and continuing for several years ; that, during this illness, he handed over the said bill for \$8,616, to Judge Jacob Burnett, of Ohio, to obtain something, if possible, from Virginia upon it. (See statements of Francis Vigo, Pierre Menard, and Jacob Burnett, all on oath ; and, also, as proof of the credit which should be given to the statements of the said Vigo, see the affidavits of John Badollet and Nathaniel Ewing, and statement of General Harrison, and letters from Generals Wayne, Clarke, and Knox, &c.)

4th. That the said bill of \$8,616 was drawn for supplies actually furnished to the Illinois regiment, under the command of General G. R. Clarke, by said Francis Vigo. (See the memorial of Francis Vigo, which has been sworn to, and the affidavits of Pierre Menard and J. Badollet.)

5th. That this set of bills of exchange (both first and second) have been lost. (See here, also, Francis Vigo's statement, on oath, and the affidavits of Jacob Burnett and Nathaniel Ewing.)

6th. That the said amount of \$8,616 remains at this day unsatisfied, and due to the said Francis Vigo. (See said Vigo's statement on oath, Pierre Menard's affidavit, and the affidavits of John Badollet and N. Ewing ; also, certificates of the Auditor and Treasurer of Virginia.)

7th. That all General Clarke's bills on Pollock, at New Orleans, were for specie. (See General Clarke's certificate, Journal of the House of Delegates, May session, 1783, page 73.)

8th. That the smaller bills, which were drawn in the latter part of the year 1778, by General Clarke, upon Oliver Pollock, in favor of Francis Vigo, and which he says, in his memorial, were parted with by him, and afterwards paid by Virginia, are proved, by the Illinois documents and papers now in my possession, to have been paid by Virginia. But these documents and papers furnish no proof whatever of the payment of the said larger bill of \$8,616, the amount of which is now claimed by Francis Vigo.

In conformity with the foregoing facts, I have adjusted the claim. It gives me pleasure to be able to make a favorable adjustment, and to ascertain the sum of money due from the State of Virginia to a man who has rendered the most important services to his adopted country, and who (if his neighbors, who are amongst the most distinguished men in the part of the United States in which he resides, are to be believed) is one of the most upright and honorable of men.

## STATEMENT.

*The State of Virginia to Francis Vigo,*

DR.

1778. To advances made to General Clarke, for the use of the Illinois regiment, under the command of the said Clarke	\$8,616 00
To interest on the same, at 5 per cent. per annum, from March 20, 1779, to January 10, 1835	24,038 85
Total	\$32,654 85

After having made a satisfactory examination of the evidences touching

this claim, I have adjusted it according to the above statement, and have found a sum of money due to the said Francis Vigo, of principal and interest, amounting to thirty-two thousand six hundred and fifty-four dollars and eighty-five cents.

JOHN H. SMITH, *Commissioner, &c.*

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B.

*To John H. Smith, Esq., appointed by the State of Virginia to ascertain and liquidate the claims of the individuals who had furnished supplies and made advances to the troops of Colonel George Rogers Clarke, in what was called the "Illinois campaign," in the year 1778 :*

The memorial of the undersigned Francis Vigo, of the town of Vincennes, county of Knox, and State of Indiana, respectfully represents :

That he was, in the year 1778, residing in the town of St. Louis, now State of Missouri, then a Spanish post, doing business as a merchant and Indian trader, and having considerable influence and property ; that, in the summer of that year, Colonel George Rogers Clarke arrived at Kaskaskia, with the troops under his command, on what was called the "Illinois campaign ;" that the undersigned, being well acquainted with the French inhabitants of that section, with whom he had large dealings for the supply of the Spanish troops, and on his own account, and being friendly disposed to the object of Colonel Clarke's visit and expedition to that quarter, and feeling a warm interest in the success of the American arms in the contest in which they were then engaged, although the subject of another Government, waited on Colonel Clarke, soon after his arrival at Cahokia, to which place he had sent Major Bowman to take possession of, organize the militia, and establish a civil government, and voluntarily tendered him such aid as he could furnish, in supplying his troops, then greatly in need of provisions, clothing, and ammunition ; that his offer was gratefully accepted by Colonel Clarke, and his aid and assistance required ; that, in pursuance of the request of Colonel Clarke, and from a sincere disposition to aid him in the cause of his country, he requested the inhabitants, who were well acquainted with this deponent, to furnish Colonel Clarke with whatever he needed, and to look to him for the pay—they being Frenchmen, and unacquainted with Colonel Clarke, and having no knowledge of his means of payment, or his ability to make it, and unwilling to furnish supplies for the troops under Colonel Clarke's command, unless on the guaranty of this deponent.

Your memorialist agreed to become paymaster to many of them for all supplies they furnished said troops, and did pay them for all furnished, besides furnishing himself a large amount out of his own stores, on the order of Colonel Clarke ; that said troops were destitute of all necessaries and materials of war ; and your memorialist believes the expedition must have been abandoned, and the troops dismissed, had he not stepped forward and generously and patriotically (he makes the declaration in no vain boast) supplied Colonel Clarke and his troops with the articles which were needed, amounting, in all, to nearly *twelve thousand dollars*, and which

sum he actually advanced or paid for the benefit of Colonel Clarke and the troops under his command. Your memorialist would further remark, that, in payment of the amount due your memorialist, Colonel Clarke drew, in favor of your memorialist, the following bills of exchange, as nearly as he can recollect; the exact date of which are not recollected by your memorialist, but all drawn at Kaskaskia during the year 1778, by Colonel Clarke, on Oliver Pollock, Esq., agent of the State of Virginia, then at New Orleans, and being solely for advances made and supplies furnished the troops under his command, to wit: One for \$298, paid by Pollock from goods shipped from New Orleans to Colonel Clarke, and received by your memorialist; one for \$921; one for \$1,452—\$2,373; both of which last-mentioned drafts having been presented to said Pollock for payment, and the same having been refused for the "want of funds" on the part of Virginia in his hands, were retained by your memorialist until July, 1780, when, believing nothing could be obtained on them from the State of Virginia, he disposed of them, while sick and unable to attend to business, in consequence of his long confinement, for the sum of \$575, to one Saucier, who informed deponent that, unless that sum was received, he would get nothing; although your memorialist has lately understood the same has been settled by the State of Virginia. But said sum of \$575 was all ever realized by your memorialist for both of said drafts, amounting, as aforesaid, to the sum of \$2,373.

Your memorialist would represent that, in addition to the drafts aforesaid, Colonel Clarke, in payment of what was due him for advances made and supplies furnished some time in the year 1778, according to the best recollection and belief of this deponent, gave your memorialist a draft upon the said Oliver Pollock, as agent of Virginia, for the sum of \$8,616, in specie, or its equivalent, directed to him at New Orleans; that, some time in February, 1779, this deponent went to New Orleans with said draft, drawn on said Oliver Pollock, as agent of the State of Virginia, for the sum last mentioned, but the same was protested by said Pollock for "want of funds;" that there were two sets of said drafts, (first and second,) both for the same sum, drawn by Colonel Clarke on said Pollock; that, on the return of this deponent to St. Louis, then a Spanish post, and where he resided, he was advised by the commandant of the place (his friend) to send one of them to Spain, as, perhaps, the Spanish Government might pay it for the honor of the State of Virginia, or perhaps it could be disposed of there; that he delivered it to the commandant for that purpose, (who was then acting as Governor of Louisiana, and through whose influence he hoped something might be got,) and was informed by him that the same was sent to Spain; but your memorialist never has heard of the same, nor does he believe it ever was paid, but supposes the same to have been lost, never having heard of it. That the second draft, or bill, (of same tenor and date as the first,) given by Colonel Clarke to this deponent for the same sum, to wit, the sum of \$8,616, and drawn on Pollock at New Orleans, was, after the refusal of Pollock to pay it, for "want of funds," kept by this deponent until some time in the year 1788, when deponent, on his way to Philadelphia, met said Pollock in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, and presented the same to him again for payment; but said Pollock again refused payment, but requested deponent "not to part with said draft, as the State of Virginia would, some time or other, pay it, with interest;" saying, further, "that he had no funds of Virginia in his hands with which

to pay it, although it was due, and should long since have been paid ;” that this deponent kept said draft until about the year 1802, when said deponent was sick, and continued so for a number of years, confined to his bed ; that, during that time, his papers became very much deranged, and many were destroyed, lost, or mislaid ; among others, the draft above alluded to, (being the second of the bills drawn by Colonel Clarke on Pollock for the sum of \$8,616, and which had been protested by said Pollock ;) that deponent’s recollection is, that said draft or bill was, during this deponent’s sickness, as aforesaid, in the year last aforesaid, handed over to the honorable Jacob Burnett, of Cincinnati, Ohio, to obtain something, if possible, for your memorialist from the State of Virginia, on his claim aforesaid ; but is informed, by letter from Jacob Burnett, that he has hunted all his papers, and can find no such draft or bill, and, if delivered by this deponent to him, (Burnett,) the same has been either lost or mislaid.

This deponent further states, that for all advances made by him at that period, amounting to nearly \$12,000 in specie, or its equivalent, he has never received but the aforesaid sum of \$575, (the proceeds of the two drafts, one for \$921, the other for \$1,462, and sold at the discount before mentioned, and the said draft of \$298,) either from the United States, the State of Virginia, or any other person ; that he is now in his 88th year ; that his fortune and his life have been perilled in the service of his adopted country ; that your memorialist has not asked nor received any compensation for *his own services*, though he is warranted in saying, and the history of the times will prove it, that but for his own personal services, at great risk and hazard to himself, Colonel Clarke never would have been enabled to have surprised Hamilton and the garrison at Vincennes. It was only through and by the information communicated by the undersigned, that Colonel Clarke succeeded in surprising that fort, and capturing the troops under Colonel Hamilton’s command, with about ten thousand pounds sterling of goods ; the whole of which, by means of the undersigned, became the property of the captors.

The services of the “*Spanish merchant*” have been mentioned in the history of those times ; (vide Marshall’s Life of Washington, vol. 3, page 566 ; Colonel Clarke’s letter to Mr. Jefferson, then Governor of Virginia, Jefferson’s Memoirs, 1st vol., 453 ;) but for these services the undersigned never has asked a compensation from his Government. The acknowledgment that they were rendered to his country, is to him a sufficient reward. For advances made, and for money expended, he believes he has a *legal* and *equitable* claim upon those for whom the first was made, and the last expended : it is all he asks ; and he believes the great, the patriotic, and magnanimous State of Virginia, will not deny his claim. During her minority, while a colony, and before she was advanced in her career of wealth and prosperity, the undersigned delayed pressing his just claims. To call for vouchers after fifty years, and during so many vicissitudes of human affairs as the undersigned has passed in a long and eventful life, is, and would be, a perfect denial of justice. What he has received, pitiful as the allowance has been, he has candidly and fairly acknowledged. What is still due—the draft for \$8,616—he as fairly claims. Not a dollar of it has been paid ; and your memorialist would respectfully submit to your own justice and magnanimity, whether his declining years should not be made comfortable by the repayment of this sum advanced, with the usual interest granted in such cases, when, without your memo-



rialist's aid, the troops of Virginia could not have been supported, or the State hardly obtained a dollar on her own faith and credit.

All which is respectfully submitted.

VIGO.

STATE OF INDIANA, *Knox county, ss.*

Personally appeared before me, Colonel Francis Vigo, a citizen of the county of Knox, well known to me for many years as a gentleman of high character for truth and veracity, and who, being sworn, deposeth and saith the matters and things contained in the foregoing memorial are just and true, to the best of his knowledge and belief; and that said Vigo is in the full possession of the faculties of his mind; and that full faith and credit is due, and would be given, to any statement made by him.

In testimony, I have hereunto set my hand and seal, as a justice of the peace, duly commissioned and qualified, for said State and county, this 7th day of December, 1834.

JOHN COLLINS, *J. P. K. C.* [SEAL.]

STATE OF INDIANA, *Knox county, ss.*

In testimony that the above-written John Collins was a magistrate, authorized to administer oaths, take acknowledgments, &c., in the State of Indiana, and county of Knox, aforesaid, at the above date, and that his name then subscribed appears to me to be his usual signature, I, Alexander Dunlap Scott, clerk of the Knox circuit court of said State of Indiana, have hereto affixed my seal of office, and subscribed my name and quality, at Vincennes, this 11th day of December, A. D. 1834.

[L. S.]

A. D. SCOTT.

*Statement of Colonel Pierre Menard, of Kaskaskia, Illinois, in relation to a claim of Colonel Francis Vigo, on the State of Virginia, for supplies, &c. furnished "the Illinois regiment" during the revolutionary war.*

Colonel Menard states that he has been acquainted with Colonel Francis Vigo ever since the year A. D. 1787, and was intimately acquainted with his business for a considerable time, about the commencement of his acquaintance with him; that he had been informed by Colonel Vigo, and has always understood, that he, Colonel Vigo, had made large advances to the "Illinois regiment," under the command of Colonel George Rogers Clarke, during the revolutionary war, a few years before his acquaintance with him, and for which he had received no pay, or at least but a very small part; that the amount, however, had been liquidated by Colonel George Rogers Clarke, and drafts given by him on Oliver Pollock, agent of the State of Virginia, in Colonel Vigo's favor. The amount of all the drafts, Colonel Menard states, from the recollection of the impression made on his mind about the year 1788, must have exceeded \$10,000.

Colonel Menard further states, that somewhere about the year A. D. 1788, he was present at an interview in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, between Colonel Vigo and said Pollock, when Colonel Vigo presented the said drafts to said Pollock; upon which Mr. Pollock observed he was "very sorry he had been under the necessity of protesting them, for the want of funds;" that he recollects of no objection being made on account of their

genuineness, or on account of the authority of Colonel George Rogers Clarke to draw them ; but, on the contrary, Mr. Pollock advised Colonel Vigo to keep the drafts, as they would be paid some time or other.

PIERRE MENARD.

STATE OF INDIANA, *Knox county, sct :*

Be it remembered, that on this sixth day of November, A. D. 1834, the abovenamed Colonel Pierre Menard, of Kaskaskia, to me personally known, came before me, a justice of the peace in and for the county aforesaid, and made oath, according to the best of his knowledge and belief, to the truth and correctness of the foregoing statement.

Given under my hand and seal, this 6th day of November, A. D. 1834.

[L. s.]

JOHN COLLINS,

*J. P. Knox county.*

STATE OF INDIANA, *Knox county, sct :*

In testimony that the aforewritten John Collins was a magistrate, authorized to administer oaths, take acknowledgments, &c. in the said county of Knox, and State of Indiana, at the date of the preceding attestation, and that his name there subscribed appears to be his usual signature, I, Alexander Dunlap Scott, clerk of the Knox circuit court of said State of Indiana, have hereto affixed my seal of office, and subscribed my name and quality, this 12th day of December, A. D. 1834.

[L. s.]

A. D. SCOTT.

*Statement of John Badollet, Esq., register of the land office of the United States at Vincennes, Indiana, relative to the claim of Colonel Francis Vigo on the State of Virginia, for supplies furnished General George Rogers Clarke, and the troops under his command, in his "Illinois campaign," during the revolutionary war.*

Mr. Badollet states that he has been intimately acquainted with Colonel Francis Vigo for about thirty years. That he has always had the greatest confidence in him in all respects, and particularly as a man of the most scrupulous regard for truth, disinterestedness, and honor.

Further, that he has always understood from Colonel Vigo, and those of his friends that knew him at the time of General George Rogers Clarke's campaign in Illinois, about the year 1779, that he had rendered very great service to General Clarke, and the cause in which he was engaged, by giving him important information, obtained at a great personal and pecuniary risk, as well as in procuring, at his own expense, supplies to support the troops under said Clarke's command, to a large amount, and that he has never received but very little compensation therefor ; and that he believes the State of Virginia and the United States not only owe Colonel Vigo a very great debt of gratitude, but are under great pecuniary obligations to him, that in justice ought speedily to be discharged.

Further, Mr. Badollet states that, from the very intimate knowledge he has of the character of Colonel Vigo, and of his high sense of honor, if the alternative were presented him of either receiving a large pecuniary recompense for the services and pecuniary aid he has rendered the American cause, or simply receiving a public acknowledgment of them by the Government, though very poor, he believes Colonel Vigo would not hesitate a moment in choosing the latter.

JOHN BADOLLET.

STATE OF INDIANA *Knox county, sct :*

Personally appeared before me, a justice of the peace for said county, John Badollet, Esq., to me personally known, and made affirmation to the truth and correctness of the foregoing statement, according to the best of his knowledge and belief.

Given under my hand and seal this 21st day of November, A. D. 1834.

[L. s.]

SAMUEL HILL,  
J. P. Knox county.

STATE OF INDIANA, *Knox county, sct :*

In testimony that the above-written Samuel Hill was a magistrate authorized to administer oaths, take acknowledgments, &c. in the said county of Knox, and State of Indiana, at the above date, and that his name there subscribed appears to be his usual signature, I, Alexander Dunlap Scott, clerk of the Knox circuit court of said State of Indiana, have hereto affixed my seal of office, and subscribed my name and quality, at Vincennes, this 12th day of December, A. D. 1834.

[L. s.]

A. D. SCOTT.

*Affidavit of Judge Burnett, in relation to Col. Vigo's claim on Virginia.*

In the summer of 1798, James Abbott, of Detroit, gave a power of attorney to Arthur St. Clair and myself to collect or secure a debt due from Colonel F. Vigo, of Post Vincennes, to the Miami Company. In December, 1799, we went to Vincennes, and obtained from Colonel Vigo a mortgage on several tracts of land, for the security of the debt. While we were at Col. Vigo's, he handed me a draft in his favor, drawn by General George Rogers Clark on the Commonwealth of Virginia, or her agent, for several thousand dollars—I think about eight thousand. The object for which the draft was shown to us, I do not distinctly recollect; but I believe it was to ascertain whether we could not aid him in collecting the money. There is an impression on my mind that he gave us the draft for that purpose; but I have searched diligently among my papers, without being able to find it, or any memorandum relating to it. I remember, however, that Colonel Vigo had the draft in his possession in the year 1799, and that some conversation was had on the subject of our taking it. If the paper came into my hands, it has been lost or mislaid.

I have known the general character of Colonel Vigo since the year 1796, and believe him to be as honorable and high-minded a man as any other in the Western country.

J. BURNETT.

STATE OF OHIO, *Cincinnati, ss.*

Personally came before me, mayor of said city, J. Burnett, and made oath that the foregoing statement is true.

Given under my hand, and seal of said city, this 23d December, 1834.

[L. s.]

SAM. W. DAVIS, Mayor.

*Affidavit of N. Ewing relative to Colonel Vigo's claim.*

Personally appeared before me, the subscriber, a justice of the peace duly commissioned and qualified, for the county of Knox, and State of Indiana, Nathaniel Ewing, Esq., of said county, aged 62 years, who, being sworn, deposeth and saith : That he came to the town of Vincennes, then "Post Vincennes," in the year 1790 or 1791, from which period he dates his first acquaintance with Colonel Francis Vigo, then a resident of said post, and known as the "Spanish merchant." That this deponent was every year at Vincennes, off and on, until the year 1804 or 1805, when he was appointed, by the Government, commissioner to examine land titles ; and from that period until the present time has been a constant resident of said place ; during all which time he has been well acquainted with said Vigo, and, for the most part, a neighbor, living on an adjoining plantation, and well acquainted with his affairs, business, habits, and dealings. That said Vigo is known to the deponent as a man of the strictest integrity and honor. That he is an uneducated man, but of a remarkably clear mind, and a memory retentive beyond that of any man ever known to the deponent. That Colonel Vigo, during the years 1798, 1799, 1800, 1801, 1802, and until the year 1803, was closely confined by a protracted illness, and most of the time to his bed. That during said period he was unable to do any business ; and deponent believes, from his own knowledge of him and his affairs at that period, that his (Colonel Vigo's) papers became deranged and out of order, as was the case with his personal affairs, not being able to attend to them. That Colonel Vigo, from his general habits, and want of education, rather trusted through life to the integrity and honor of others, than to any written memorandum of the transaction in which he was engaged, or the affairs about which he was dealing.

That the deponent has always understood, ever since he first came to Vincennes, from Col. Vigo and others, that a large sum of money was due him from the State of Virginia, which was unpaid ; being due for advances made by Col. Vigo to the troops under Col. George R. Clarke in the "Illinois campaign" in 1778 ; and that, from all he has understood from Col. Vigo and others, on his first arrival in the country, and since, he has no doubt such was the fact. That Col. Vigo, in consequence of not having been paid these claims, and in consequence of the losses sustained, and partly growing out of the circumstances alluded to, has become greatly embarrassed, though once wealthy.

That this deponent would place the utmost reliance in any statement made by Colonel Vigo ; and the fullest faith and credit is due to his declarations in relation to his own affairs, or those of others in relation to which he might be called on to state his recollection ; and whether under oath or on honor, those who know him, or can have known him, would believe him in every particular.

And further this deponent saith not.

NATH. EWING.

Sworn to and subscribed before me, this 3d December, 1834.

SAM. HILL,

*Justice of the Peace for Knox Co., Indiana.*

STATE OF INDIANA, *Knox county, sci.*

In testimony that the aforewritten Sam. Hill was a magistrate, authorized to administer oaths, take acknowledgments, &c., in the said county of Knox, and State of Indiana, at the date of the preceding affidavit, and that his name there subscribed appears to me to be his usual signature, I, Alexander Dunlap Scott, clerk of the Knox circuit court, have hereto affixed my seal of office, and subscribed my name and quality, at Vincennes, this 12th day of December, A. D. 1834.

[L. s.]

A. D. SCOTT.

*General Wm. H. Harrison's statement in relation to Colonel Vigo's claim.*

I have been acquainted with Colonel Francis Vigo, of Vincennes, for thirty-nine years; and during the thirteen years I was the Governor of Indiana, I lived in the same town with him, and upon terms of the most intimate friendship.

I have often heard him speak of the draft which had been given to him by General Clarke, for supplies furnished for his army, and that it had never been paid. The old gentleman was always of the opinion that he had put it into the hands of Jacob Burnett and Arthur St. Clair, esquires, who had been employed by a mercantile house at Detroit to settle a large debt due by him to them. I applied some time since to Judge Burnett, on behalf of Colonel Vigo, and an accurate search was made among his papers; but the draft was not found. The judge, however, well recollects that Colonel Vigo had such a draft, and it was possible it might have been given to him or to Mr. St. Clair. The latter gentleman has been dead for some years; several successive administrations have been granted on his estate, and his papers much scattered. I have, indeed, been unable to find the person who has the custody of that portion of them amongst which the missing paper would probably be found.

With respect to the credibility of Colonel Vigo's statement, I solemnly declare I believe him utterly incapable of making a misrepresentation of the facts, however great may be his interest in the matter; and I am also confident that there are more respectable persons in Indiana who would become guarantees of his integrity than could be induced to lay under a similar responsibility for any other person. His whole life, as long as his circumstances were prosperous, was spent in acts of kindness and benevolence to individuals; and his public spirit and attachment to the institutions of our country are proverbial.

W. H. HARRISON.

CINCINNATI, December 22, 1834.

*Letter of General George Rogers Clarke.*

LOCUST GROVE, NEAR LOUISVILLE, August 1, 1811.

DEAR SIR: A letter from a man who has always occupied a distinguished place in my affection and esteem must ensure the warmest and most cordial reception; an affection, the result not so much of being associates in the placid stream of tranquillity, and the benign sunshine of peace,



as companions amidst the din of war, and those struggles where the indefatigable exertion of every muscle and nerve was demanded. But it may be enough to remark, that while the one is the effect of your uniformly discreet and irreproachable conduct in the intricate path of civil and domestic life, the other is wrought by a strong sense of that gratitude due from your adopted country; having myself both witnessed and experienced the signal advantages flowing to our common country from your inestimable conduct, and, what is more enhancing to such services, having rendered them at a time when the cloud on which our fate hung assumed the most menacing aspect.

When I contemplate the glowing affection with which your letter is fraught, and only the revival of such you in past times—ah! better times, troublous as they were—were wont to evince for me, I am so filled with correspondent feelings that I am at a loss for words to express them. How happy would I be could those sentiments of entreaty to a trustful Providence, in the conclusive part of your letter, for a serene and happy evening, be realized! But that Providence, submitting as I do with manly patience to his decrees, has long since denied me that boon. He has cut asunder the life's tenderest string.

With sentiments of the warmest regard, I remain,

GEORGE R. CLARKE.

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*Additional memorial of F. Vigo.*

The additional memorial of Francis Vigo further represents, in addition to the facts set forth before, in the memorial to which this is a supplement, (and the statement is made at his request,) that, some time in December, 1778, this memorialist, then being in Kaskaskia, now Illinois, where Col. George R. Clarke then was, the said Clarke received a communication from Captain Helms, then commanding at Vincennes a company of Virginia troops, that he was destitute of provisions and ammunition, and requested deponent to go to Vincennes for the purpose of furnishing said Helms's company with provisions and ammunition, said Vigo being well acquainted with the French inhabitants at said post. That, in pursuance of said request, he left Kaskaskia for Vincennes, on the 18th day of December, 1778, and, when about six miles from Vincennes, on the Embarras river, on the 24th of December, 1778, was taken prisoner by a party of Indians, commanded by an English officer, the garrison at Vincennes having been captured by Hamilton and the English forces a short time before, and Captain Helms being a prisoner; that the Indians took from him a valuable horse, deponent's arms, saddlebags, and clothing, valued at \$500, including some paper money; that when taken prisoner, he was carried to Vincennes, and found Hamilton in possession of the post: that he was released by Hamilton, on condition "that he would do nothing to injure the British cause during his journey home;" that he agreed to this, and departed. During the time of his stay at Vincennes, he ascertained accurately the situation of the garrison, and, "after his return home" to St. Louis, immediately went to Kaskaskia, and gave Clarke the information by which he captured Vincennes. That he was taken prisoner in company with Mr. Renau; that he never received a cent for the losses occasioned by his capture while in the service of Virginia, nor ever asked for any.

VIGO.

Sworn and subscribed to by the deponent, Col. Francis Vigo, at Vincennes, this 21st November, 1834, before the subscriber, a justice of the peace, duly commissioned and qualified, for said county of Knox, and State of Indiana.

SAM. HILL, J. P. [SEAL.]

STATE OF INDIANA, *Knox county, sct.*

In testimony that the above-written Samuel Hill was a magistrate, authorized to administer oaths, take acknowledgments, &c., in said county of Knox, and State of Indiana, at the above date, and that his name there subscribed appears to me to be his usual signature, I, Alexander Dunlap Scott, clerk of the Knox circuit court of said State of Indiana, have hereto affixed my seal of office, and subscribed my name and quality, at Vincennes, this 12th day of December, A. D. 1834.

[L. s.]

A. D. SCOTT.

*Letters from the Secretary of War to Francis Vigo.*

WAR DEPARTMENT, *July 20, 1790.*

SIR: Major Doughty has, in expressive words, given an account of the services which you have rendered him, and of the zeal you have manifested for the United States in the difficult business which had been committed to his care. Your conduct therein, sir, has attracted the attention of the President, and I am directed by him to tender to you his acknowledgments therefor. It is with the greatest pleasure, sir, that I discharge that duty, being well informed that the essential services you have rendered to Major Doughty were the consequence of your zeal for the public welfare. You have also instanced it in your proceedings towards Major Hamtramck, and the troops under his command, as I have been informed by Gen. Harmar.

I have the honor to be

Your most humble and obedient servant,

H. KNOX,

*Secretary of the War Department.*

MR. FRANCIS VIGO.

WAR DEPARTMENT, *December 30, 1790.*

SIR: As you have already received, by the special order of the President of the United States, a commission to trade with the Chickasaws and Choctaws, and as the United States have received complete [satisfaction] of your integrity and devotion to their interests, I intrust to your care two talks for the aforesaid Chickasaws and Choctaws, signed by the President of the United States. You will be pleased to deliver both talks to each of those two nations.

You will seize every convenient opportunity to impress upon the minds of the aforesaid Chickasaws and Choctaws the adherence of the United States to the treaty of Hopewell; that the United States do not want their lands; that if anybody endeavors to inspire them with different sentiments, they must consider such persons in no other light than that of their enemies, and the enemies of the United States. You will please to make a discreet use of this letter, and to communicate it only to Governor St.

Clair, Brigadier General Harmar, and to such other persons in whom you can place a full confidence.

I am, sir, respectfully,

Your most obedient servant,

H. KNOX,

*Secretary of the War Department.*

Mr. FRANCIS VIGO.

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*Letter from General A. Wayne to F. Vigo.*

HEADQUARTERS,

*Greenville, May 27, 1794.*

SIR: From the uniform character you support, of being a gentleman of integrity and influence, and a steady and firm friend of the United States, and perfectly acquainted with all the trading people passing between Post Vincennes and Detroit, as well as from St. Louis and Cahokia to that place, will it be practicable for you to procure one or two trusty people, either Frenchmen or Indians, to go as far as Roche de Bout, in order to discover the number and designs of the enemy, and particularly what number of British troops are there, and whether they have built any fort or fortification at that place?

Whatever sum of money it may cost to obtain this important intelligence shall be paid to your order upon sight, from \$100 to \$300 or \$400. Perhaps some resident at Roche de Bout or at Grand Glaize might be prevailed upon to send the necessary information from time to time.

Would it be practicable to bribe or purchase the Spanish express from St. Louis to Detroit to deliver his despatches to Captain Pasteur? This is a delicate business, and requires address and secrecy.

Pray let me hear from you as soon as convenient, and depend upon the best services I can render you upon all occasions.

Interim, I am your most humble servant,

ANT'Y WAYNE.

Major VIGO.

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*Letter from F. Vigo to General Wayne.*

VINCENNES, June 24, 1794.

SIR: The man who went from this place on the 11th instant, and undertook to perform the first request of your letter of the 27th May last, returned on the 22d instant. He was accompanied by an Indian chief, under the pretence [of being,] and who was actually, hired to go to the Potawatamies for prisoners. They went within seven or eight miles of the Wea town, which is about two hundred miles from this place by water, where they met with some Indians they were acquainted with, who turned them back. The particulars Captain Pasteur will inform your excellency by this opportunity. You may rest assured I will use my best endeavors to get further information by some other route, in conjunction with Captain Pasteur.

The galleys that arrived at New Madrid on the 27th of April last stopped at the Chickasaw bluffs, where they delivered a quantity of goods to that nation of Indians, in payment for that \* \* spot, in order to build a garrison. The Chickasaws received for this place \$500 cash, and fifty pieces of stroud, assorted; the whole amounting to \$8,000. This information comes by an inhabitant of this town, who was at New Madrid when the galleys arrived, and left that place on the 17th of May last. They offered him very high wages to go to the Chickasaw bluffs, as an artificer to assist in building a garrison there. It was at the same time published and read in the fort, where a number of the Chickasaws were daily expected.

I have the honor to be,

With the greatest respect and esteem,

Your excellency's most obliged, humble servant,

VIGO.

Major General WAYNE.

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*Letter from General Wayne to Francis Vigo.*

HEADQUARTERS,

Greenville, July 5, 1794.

SIR: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24th ult., and thank you for the measures you have already taken, and mean to pursue, in order to gain intelligence.

The conduct of the Spaniards, in attempting to establish a post at the Chickasaw bluffs, so far within the acknowledged boundaries of the United States, is a very extraordinary conduct, and an aggression of the highest nature. I therefore wish, if possible, that the express, as mentioned in my letter of the 27th of May, could be obtained, either directly or indirectly, because it might be a means of throwing light upon a subject which is at present rather dark and mysterious.

It would appear from that part of the information from No. 1, which mentions that the British, or Simcoe, told the Indians, "You have fought by yourselves a long time; now I am come to help you—take courage! you go before, surround the garrison, and I will follow you with the cannon; after that, I will show you what I will do with them;" that the credulous savages, to the amount of at least 1,500 warriors, surrounded and attempted to carry Fort Recovery, by a *coup de main*, on the 30th of June; but were repulsed by that gallant garrison, and compelled to retreat with disgrace and slaughter from the very same field where they were proudly victorious on the 4th of November, 1791.

Captain Pasteur will give you the particulars. Mr. Simcoe has actually fortified at St. Roche de Bout. It is more than probable I shall shortly reconnoitre that place.

Interim, I am, with respect and esteem,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

ANT'Y WAYNE.

Major FRANCIS VIGO.

*Letter from General Wayne to F. Vigo.*

HEADQUARTERS, MIAMI VILLAGES,

September 29, 1794.

SIR : I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th ultimo, by Mr. Evans, which met me at Grand Glaize, where I have established a strong post, and have another at great forwardness at this place.

You will, probably, before this reaches you, have heard of the brilliant success of the army under my command, in a general action on the 20th ultimo, on the banks of the Miami, at the foot of the Rapids, against the combined force of the hostile Indians and militia of Detroit.

Captain Pasteur is instructed to communicate the contents of my letter to him of this date, to you, which will give you the particulars.

By the best information, the force of the enemy amounted to 2,000 men, who were beat and totally routed by less than half that number. The front line only of our army was engaged, who charged the Indians with such impetuosity, and drove them with such velocity, as prevented the second line and main body to arrive in time to participate in the action; the savages being driven at the point of the bayonet near three miles in the course of one hour, through a thick bushy wood, when they abandoned themselves to flight, leaving the ground strewed with their dead bodies, intermixed with Canadians and other white men painted and dressed like savages.

I wish your agents may succeed in obtaining the despatches, &c., which may eventually lead to important discoveries.

Interim, I am your most obedient humble servant,

ANT'Y WAYNE.

Major VIGO.

*License from General Wayne to Colonel Vigo to trade with different posts.*

Francis Vigo is hereby permitted intercourse with the posts of Forts Wayne, Knox, and Massac, and any which may be established on the Wabash river; and has liberty to trade with the same, conformably to the rules thereof.

Given under my hand and seal, at headquarters, Greenville, August 13, 1795.

ANT'Y WAYNE.

*William Henry Harrison, Governor of the Indiana Territory, superintendent of Indian affairs, and commissioner plenipotentiary for treating with the Indian tribes—to all who shall see these presents :*

Know ye, that the bearer hereof, Colonel Francis Vigo, has been sent by me on a mission to the Indian tribes, the Pottawatamies, Eel Rivers, and Miamies; and all officers in the service of the United States are hereby required to furnish him with every necessary assistance; and he



is hereby authorized to demand from any military post he may pass, such articles of provisions, either for his own use or that of the Indians, as he may think proper to take.

Given under my hand and seal, at Vincennes, 26th of May, 1805.

[SEAL.]

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RICHMOND, VA., *January 14, 1835.*

SIR: You will confer a favor on the undersigned by causing an examination to be made in your office, to ascertain whether there is any evidence of the payment of a bill of exchange for \$8,616, drawn by Colonel George R. Clarke, in the fall of 1778, in favor of Francis Vigo, on Oliver Pollock, Esq. at New Orleans, and acquaint the undersigned of the result.

Very respectfully, yours, &c.

AB. T. ELLIS,

*Att'y for Col. Francis Vigo.*

To the TREASURER OF VIRGINIA.

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TREASURY OFFICE, *January 15, 1835.*

I have not been able to find any entry on the books of this office, showing the payment of the claim within mentioned to Francis Vigo.

I do not intend to be understood as saying that the said claim has not been paid; because many entries on the books are made to persons presenting the claim, instead of the person who rendered the service; and because of the absence of the vouchers upon which those claims were founded.

L. BURFOOT,

*Treasurer of the Commonwealth.*

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STATEMENT.

Draft drawn on Oliver Pollock, agent of Virginia, by Colonel George R. Clarke, in favor of Francis Vigo, for \$8,616, the latter part of the year 1778.

Bill of exchange on the Treasurer of Virginia, drawn by Lieutenant Colonel John Montgomery, April 8, 1780, in favor of Captain John Williams, and assigned to Mr. Renau, April 12, 1780: amount \$182, in *specie*.

Also, a bill of exchange from the same, in favor of the same, and assigned to the same, for \$12½.

AUDITOR'S OFFICE, *January 12, 1835.*

I have caused a search to be made, to ascertain whether the bills and drafts above mentioned were paid through this office, but can find no direct evidence of such payment. There is evidence of various payments to Oliver Pollock, to wit: £1,000, £2,637 10s., and £307 10s. 10d. entered in a journal, commencing on the 1st of June, 1786; but whether they have any connexion with the bills and drafts above mentioned, I am not enabled to determine.

I do not consider the absence of positive proof in this office as affording any just presumption in favor of these claims against the Commonwealth.

JAMES E. HEATH,  
*Auditor of Virginia.*

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AUDITOR'S OFFICE, *January 15, 1835.*

SIR: In answer to your note of the 14th instant, I beg leave to state that the expression in my certificate respecting Vigo's claim, that there was no *direct* evidence of the claim having been paid, was not intended to convey the idea that I had discovered evidence of any kind, *direct* or *indirect*, of such payment. I intended to be understood, however, as meaning that Vigo's claim might have been paid, and yet this office furnish no evidence of the fact. It is impossible, at this late day, to understand, with precise accuracy, how the financial transactions of the revolutionary period were conducted. As a general proposition, it may, I think, be safely affirmed, that but little system or regularity was observed; but if the fact were otherwise, the objection still remains that the books and records of this office which contain the transactions of the period referred to, are necessarily imperfect. Hence I have certified it as my opinion that the absence of proof of payment here ought not to raise any just presumption in favor of the claim.

I am, very respectfully, yours,  
JAMES E. HEATH, *Auditor.*

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OFFICE OF THE COMM'R OF REV'Y CLAIMS  
OF THE STATE OF VIRGINIA,

*Richmond, Va., January 20, 1835.*

I do hereby certify that the foregoing pages contain true copies of papers which have been filed with me, in support of the claim of Francis Vigo against the State of Virginia, for supplies furnished to the Illinois regiment, under the command of General George R. Clarke, in the year 1778. The originals are now on file in my office.

Given under my hand,  
JOHN H. SMITH, *Commissioner, &c.*

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C.

WASHINGTON CITY, *February 12, 1835.*

DEAR SIR: My father, a trader in the Illinois country at the time General George R. Clarke conquered it in 1778, has frequently told me that General Clarke was unprovided with means or credit to maintain his troops, and that he and others entered warmly into the support of his troops, and made advances to him (General Clarke) upon the credit of Virginia, and prevailed upon all the inhabitants to furnish provisions and other necessaries to the troops under Clarke and his officers. My father and others received bills of exchange drawn by General Clarke and other

officers, on Mr. Pollock, and on the Treasurer of Virginia. After my father had exhausted his fortune and credit, some time between the years 1780 and 1784, he went to New Orleans, and from thence took passage for Havana, and there embarked, in company with Mr. Pollock, and, I believe, Mr. Tardiveaux or Mr. Poiduser, (one of the two,) on board of a ship bound to Europe, which landed them on Baldhead island, on the coast of North Carolina, from whence they proceeded to Richmond. He took that route as the most safe, as all the Western country was then a wilderness, infested by hostile savages. A journey at that day, and for many years thereafter, was attended with imminent risk; indeed, it was rarely, if ever, undertaken from the shores of the Mississippi but in caravans composed of armed men. My father was engaged two or three years in efforts to procure payment of his demands, and, but for the Preston family and Colonel Monroe, who befriended him and advised him to persevere, he would have returned home in despair, a ruined man. At last, through that influence, he procured a tardy settlement of his claims, and received a small part in money, the balance in negroes, tobacco, and lands; the two first at a high price, and the latter was not considered as being of any value, and were consequently not looked after. When he (my father) returned to the Illinois, (the familiar name of all the country now divided into Illinois and Missouri,) and reported the discouragements he had met with, the other creditors lost heart; and when we consider the character, ignorance, and subsequent want of confidence consequent on the difficulties reported to exist, is it to be wondered at that these claimants lost every hope of being eventually paid, and abandoned as hopeless their further prosecution?

It is proper to remark, that I do not make the foregoing statement upon my own knowledge, not being then in existence. I am, however, not the less confident of its accuracy; and I have no doubt that claims to a very large amount would have been asserted in due time, if a belief had not fastened itself on the minds of those people that it was fruitless; and I am also well convinced that, from the same cause, evidence of debts to a very large amount has been lost.

At the time of General Clarke's conquest, the population of the Illinois was small, cultivation very imperfect, and no greater supplies raised than were necessary for the immediate support of the inhabitants; and when an accession of their numbers took place, the price became exceedingly high. In 1780 or 1781, the scarcity of bread became so great, that none but the wealthiest could indulge in its use, and that, too, moderately. To that circumstance St. Louis owes its nickname of *Pain Court*,\* by which it is known by all the old inhabitants to this day.

I believe the foregoing furnishes all the traditionary knowledge I possess of the points you have questioned me about.

I am, with respect, your obedient servant,

C. GRATIOT.

Judge POPE.

\* Short bread.

## No. 3.—A.

RESOLUTION requiring the Governor to employ a competent person to examine certain revolutionary documents. [Agreed to by both Houses, February 21, 1833.]

*Resolved by the General Assembly, That the Governor of this Commonwealth be, and he is hereby, required to employ some competent person to examine the revolutionary documents, &c. in the several offices of this Government, and the papers, &c. recently discovered in the attic story of the Capitol, and to report to the Executive of this State a list of the names of all such persons as may be entitled to unsatisfied claims on Virginia for bounty land, on account of service rendered in the war of the Revolution, and such other information touching revolutionary service as may be deemed important; and that the Governor be, and he is hereby, required to take such steps as in his judgment may be best calculated to communicate the information thus derived to the parties interested, and to preserve their rights effectually from abuse or imposition.*

STATE OF VIRGINIA, }  
City of Richmond, } to wit:

I, George W. Munford, Clerk of the House of Delegates, and keeper of the rolls of Virginia, do hereby certify and make known, that the foregoing is a true copy of a resolution of the General Assembly of Virginia, adopted February 21, 1833. Given under my hand, this sixteenth day of January, 1836.

GEORGE W. MUNFORD,  
*Clerk of the Ho. of Del., and Keeper of the Rolls of Va.*

## B.

AN ACT to provide for the appointment of a commissioner to examine and report upon claims for unsatisfied military land bounties, and for other purposes. [Passed March 11, 1834.]

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly, That John H. Smith be, and he is hereby, appointed and constituted a commissioner, whose duty it shall be to continue the examination directed under a resolution of the General Assembly of the 21st day of February, 1833, touching the revolutionary documents of this Commonwealth; and he shall lay before the Governor any information he may discover, as to any unsatisfied revolutionary claims of this Commonwealth on the Government of the United States. It shall, moreover, be the duty of the said commissioner to examine all claims for military land bounties, not heretofore decided on, which may arise under any existing laws or resolutions of the General Assembly, and report the facts relating to the same, together with any remarks which he may deem pertinent and proper, to the Governor of this Commonwealth, whose decisions thereupon shall be final: *Provided, That warrants for such land bounties shall be issued as heretofore by the register of the land office, on the authority of the Governor. The said commissioner shall have authority to employ an assistant or clerk, whensoever, in the opinion of the Governor, it shall be necessary; which assistant or clerk shall receive such**

compensation as the Governor shall deem proper, not exceeding the sum of fifty dollars per month. And the said commissioner shall receive, as compensation for his services aforesaid, such sum as the Governor shall deem proper, not exceeding twelve hundred dollars per annum, or at that rate for a shorter period.

*Be it further enacted,* That the said commissioner shall investigate and adjust the claims against the State of Virginia, for supplies, in money or otherwise, made to the Illinois regiment, under the command of George Rogers Clarke, whether acknowledged by the said Clarke, or Lieutenant Colonel John Montgomery.

*Be it further enacted,* That the sum of two hundred and twenty-five dollars be, and the same is hereby, appropriated, to refund expenses incurred by John H. Smith, who has acted as commissioner to examine revolutionary claims, under a resolution adopted at the last session of the General Assembly.

This act shall be in force from and after its passage.

STATE OF VIRGINIA, }  
City of Richmond, } to wit :

I, George W. Munford, Clerk of the House of Delegates, and keeper of the rolls of Virginia, do hereby certify and make known, that the foregoing is a true copy of an act of the Legislature of Virginia, passed March 11, 1834. Given under my hand the eighteenth day of January, 1836.

GEORGE W. MUNFORD,

*Clerk of the Ho. of Del., and Keeper of the Rolls of Va.*

RICHMOND, February 7, 1836.

DEAR SIR : In reply to your notes of January 29th and February 4th, I can only say, that having never seen the items embraced in the settlement of the accounts of the Illinois or Northwestern expedition, or any detailed statement of those accounts, it was altogether impossible that I could have known, or intended to state in my memorial to Congress on the subject of the half-pay claims of the State of Virginia, that the claims of Colonel Vigo, or any other specific claims, were included in that settlement : I only know that there was a settlement under the terms of the cession, but I am ignorant of the particular items included in that settlement.

With much respect,

I am your obedient servant,

THOMAS W. GILMER.

JOHN LAW, Esq., *Washington City.*

C.

VIRGINIA TREASURY OFFICE,

June 25, 1835.

SIR : I have not been able, after a tedious examination, to find an entry on the books of this office showing the payment of a "bill of exchange for \$8,616, drawn by General (then Colonel) George Rogers Clarke, on Oli-



ver Pollock, the agent of Virginia, at New Orleans, in favor of Francis Vigo." I do not intend to be understood as saying that this claim has not been paid; because many of the entries on the books are made to persons presenting the claim, instead of the person who rendered the service; and because of the absence of the vouchers upon which those claims were founded.

I can find no statement in this office of a settlement between Virginia and the United States.

L. BURFOOT,  
*Treasurer of the Commonwealth.*

To J. G. MOSBY, Esq.

RICHMOND, January 15, 1836.

DEAR SIR: You will much oblige me by furnishing me, as early as possible, with an official statement from your office, in answer to the following interrogatory, to wit:

Whether, from any documents in your office, it will appear "that a bill of exchange, for the sum of \$8,616, or any similar sum, drawn some time in the year 1778, by Colonel George R. Clarke, on Oliver Pollock, Esq. the agent of Virginia at New Orleans, in favor of Francis Vigo, and which bill was 'protested for want of funds,' was comprehended in the particular account of the State of Virginia against the United States, as settled in 1788, or in the aggregate account of 'disbursements and advances' credited said State in her settlement with the United States on the 29th June, 1793," or in any settlement between the United States and Virginia.

With sentiments of respect,

I have the honor to be, yours, &c.

JOHN LAW.

LAWSON BURFOOT, Esq.  
*Treasurer of the State of Virginia.*

D.

I do hereby certify, that, after due examination made, no evidence has been found in this office of any payment made by the State of Virginia to Francis Vigo, on account of a draft drawn by George Rogers Clarke on Oliver Pollock, in favor of said Vigo, or on any other account. I do not consider, however, that the absence of any such evidence, or the inability to find it, is sufficient to establish, positively, that no such payment was made; inasmuch as the books and records, especially of so ancient a date as 1778, when the draft is supposed to have been drawn, are either imperfect or have not been preserved. I further certify, that although there was undoubtedly a settlement between Virginia and the United States, on account of expenses incurred by the former in the revolutionary war, the evidence of such settlement is not to be found among the books and records of the Auditor's office, and consequently there is no proof that I have been enabled to find of any moneys having been paid over to the State of Virginia by the United States, on account of the draft above referred to.

Given under my hand at the Auditor's office, Richmond, this 30th day of June, 1835.

JAMES E. HEATH,  
*Auditor of Virginia.*

## E.

*Extract from the Journal of the House of Delegates, of Saturday, June 21, 1783.*

Attached to the report of the committee to which was referred the petition of Simon Nathan, and referred to by the committee, is the following certificate :

“I hereby certify, that the above table of depreciation made out by Colonel Todd is just, as far as I can recollect ; and all bills which were drawn by me on New Orleans, were passed at the rate of a hard dollar for every one named in the bill, and all which were drawn on the Governor or Treasurer of Virginia were for paper dollars, and understood to be at such rate of depreciation as prevailed at the time and place of drawing ; the drafts in *livres* were at five livres to a dollar, to be paid in silver if on New Orleans, or in depreciated dollars as above, if drawn on Virginia.

G. R. CLARKE.

A copy : ARCHIBALD BLAIR.”

VIRGINIA, }  
City of Richmond, } to wit:

I, George W. Munford, Clerk of the House of Delegates and keeper of the rolls of Virginia, do hereby certify and make known, that the foregoing is a true copy of a certificate imbodyed in a report of a committee, extracted from the Journal of the House of Delegates, of Saturday, June 21st, seventeen hundred and eighty-three.

Given under my hand this 23d of June, 1835.

GEORGE W. MUNFORD,  
C. H. D. and keeper of the rolls of Virginia.

## F.

*Extract from the Journal of the House of Delegates, Saturday, June 28, 1783.*

“Mr. Nicholas reported, from the committee to which the petition of Francis Besserton was committed, that the committee had, according to order, had the same under their consideration, and had agreed to a report, and come to several resolutions thereupon, which he read in his place, and afterwards delivered in at the Clerk’s table ; where the same was again twice read, and agreed to by the House as followeth :

It appears that there is due to the said Francis Besserton £5,024 10s. 6d. specie.

*Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that the treasurer ought to be directed to pay to the said Francis Besserton the sum of three hundred dollars for his present relief ; and that the auditors ought to issue their warrants for the balance, with an allowance of two years’ interest, at the rate of five per centum per annum, to be paid out of such funds as shall be hereafter established for the payment of debts of a similar kind.

*Resolved*, That it is the opinion [of the committee] that the bill of exchange No. 9, and the certified account No. 5, ought to be returned to the petitioner.

VIRGINIA,  
City of Richmond, } to wit:

I, George W. Munford, Clerk of the House of Delegates and keeper of the rolls of the Commonwealth of Virginia, do hereby certify and make known, that the foregoing is a true copy of a part of the Journal of the House of Delegates of Virginia, of Saturday, June the twenty-eighth, seventeen hundred and eighty-three.

Given under my hand, this 23d June, 1835.

GEORGE W. MUNFORD,  
C. H. D. and keeper of the rolls of Virginia.

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G.

*Extract from the Journal of the House of Delegates of Monday, 22d December, 1783.*

“Resolved, That the two-tenths of the revenue arising from the tax on free male titheables, and all taxable property included in the revenue law, which, by the appropriation act of the last session, was directed to be reserved in the treasury, subject to the future direction of the General Assembly, shall be applied as follows :

“For payments of the claim of Charles Gratiot, amounting to £1,463 14s. 6d., with interest from the first day of January, 1783 ; for the claim of the said Gratiot, attorney for Godfroy Linetot, amounting to £1,076 5s., with interest from the 30th of June, 1783 ; for the claim of the said Gratiot, attorney for Nicholas Janis and Vital Beauvois, amounting to £525 18s., with interest from the said 30th June, 1783 ; for the claim of Francis Bosseron, amounting, on his own account, to £1,039 16s., and on account of Bosseron & Co. for £3,894 16s. 6d., with interest on both sums from the 28th of June, 1781 ; for the claim of Philip Legrass for £582 18s., with interest from the said 28th June, 1781 ; and for the claim of Francis Carbonneau for £861 18s., with interest from the said 28th day of June, 1781, after payments shall be made (out of the said two-tenths) of the sum of two thousand pounds to Thomas Bentley, agreeable to a resolution of the present session of Assembly ; and that where warrants for the same have not already issued, the auditors do issue their warrants for the same accordingly.

“And the said resolution being read a second time, was, on the question put thereupon, agreed to by the House.”

VIRGINIA, CITY OF RICHMOND, to wit :

I, George W. Munford, Clerk of the House of Delegates and keeper of the rolls of the Commonwealth of Virginia, do hereby certify and make known, that the foregoing is a true copy of a part of the Journal of the House of Delegates of Virginia, of Monday, the twenty-second of December, seventeen hundred and eighty-three.

Given under my hand this 23d of June, 1835.

GEORGE W. MUNFORD,  
C. H. D. and Keeper of the Rolls of Va.

H.

## TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

*Third Auditor's Office, June 26, 1835.*

SIR: Your letter of the 19th instant, to the Secretary of the Treasury, has been this day referred to this office, and, in reply to the inquiries therein made, I have to state that there are no existing accounts which will furnish the information you call for. The expenses of the Illinois regiment, defrayed by the State of Virginia, would, it is presumed, appear in the accounts of that State against the United States, which have been destroyed.

Very respectfully,

PETER HAGNER, *Auditor.*

HENRY A. WISE,

*Accomack court-house, Eastern shore, Va.*


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 No. 1.
RICHMOND, *January 21, 1836.*

DEAR SIR: Will you have the goodness to inform me under what circumstances a mass of papers, "throwing much light" on the subject "of claims for supplies" furnished in the "Illinois campaign of 1778-'9," were found in the "attic story" of the Capitol, in 1833, and what has been the subsequent action of the "Virginia Legislature" since that time, and subsequent to Mr. Gilmer's appointment in 1831. Any information you can give me on this subject will confer a great favor.

With sentiments of respect,

Your obedient humble servant,

JOHN LAW.

JOHN H. SMITH, Esq.,

*Commissioner of Revolutionary Claims.*


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 No. 2.
RICHMOND, *January 28, 1836.*

DEAR SIR: In answer to your interrogatory contained in your note dated 21st January, 1836, I have to say: That in the year 1833 there was a large mass of papers connected with the "Illinois campaign" under Colonel Clarke, in the year 1778-'9, found in the attic story of the Capitol, where they had lain unnoticed and unknown for many years. By a resolution of the General Assembly, I was appointed "Commissioner of Revolutionary Claims," and took said papers into my care and custody, where they have been ever since, except when in possession of the auditor of public accounts. The act of the Legislature, a certified copy of which you have, will show the action of the Legislature in relation to those claims. I have every reason to believe that the resolution and act of the Virginia Legislature would not have passed, had not those papers been

discovered. They were found subsequent to Mr. Gilmer's appointment as agent on the part of the State.

Very respectfully, yours, &c.

JOHN H. SMITH.

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No. 3.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF REVOLUTIONARY }  
 CLAIMS FOR THE STATE OF VIRGINIA, } *set.*

I hereby certify that among the papers connected with the "Illinois campaign" of 1778-'9, under the command of Colonel George R. Clark, found in the attic story of the Capitol in 1833, and which papers are now in my possession and custody, and, ever since their discovery as aforesaid, have been in my custody and possession, as "Commissioner of Revolutionary Claims," and in the custody of the auditor of public accounts, &c. I find the account current of Colonel George R. Clarke, as commander of said expedition, as settled with Virginia, for "expenses incurred, and disbursements made," in that campaign; as well also as the "original account current" of Oliver Pollock, the agent of Virginia at New Orleans, as settled by him with the State of Virginia, "for bills drawn, disbursements made, and moneys advanced," by said Pollock, on account of Virginia, in relation to the "Illinois campaign," and on other accounts; and that neither in the account of Colonel Clarke, nor Mr. Pollock, as settled with Virginia, is there any credit allowed, or charge made, either by Colonel Clarke or Mr. Pollock, for a bill of exchange drawn in 1778, by said Clarke, on Pollock, as the agent of Virginia, at New Orleans, for \$8,616, in favor of Francis Vigo; but that the other bills mentioned in the said Vigo's memorial to Congress, to wit: one for \$298, one for \$921, and one for \$1,452, are mentioned in both the accounts of Clarke and Pollock as settled by them with the State of Virginia, and credited said Pollock on the settlement with the State.

JOHN H. SMITH, *Commissioner, &c.*

JANUARY 29, 1836.