CHAP. XC.—An Act to provide for the better Organization of the Treasury, and for the Collection, Safe-Keeping, Transfer, and Disbursement of the public Revenue.

Whereas, by the fourth section of the act entitled "An Act to establish the Treasury Department," approved September two, seventeen hundred and eighty-nine, it was provided that it should be the duty of the treasurer to receive and keep the moneys of the United States, and to disburse the same upon warrants drawn by the Secretary of the Treasury, countersigned by the comptroller, and recorded by the register, and not otherwise: and whereas it is found necessary to make further provisions to enable the treasurer the better to carry into effect the intent of the said section in relation to the receiving and discharging the moneys of the United States:

Therefore—

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the rooms prepared and provided in the new treasury building at the seat of government for the use of the treasurer of the United States, his assistants, and clerks, and occupied by them, and also the fireproof vaults and safes erected in said rooms for the keeping of the public moneys in the possession and under the immediate control of said treasurer, and such other apartments as are provided for in this act as places of deposit of the public money, are hereby constituted and declared to be the treasury of the United States. And all moneys paid into the same shall be subject to the draft of the treasurer, drawn agreeably to appropriations made by law.

SEC. 2. And be it further enacted, That the mint of the United States in the city of Philadelphia, in the State of Pennsylvania, and the branch mint in the city of New Orleans, in the State of Louisiana, and the vaults and safes thereof, respectively, shall be places of deposit and safe-keeping of the public moneys at those points, respectively; and the treasurer of the said mint and branch mint, respectively, for the time being, shall be assistant treasurers under the provisions of this act, and shall have the custody and care of all public moneys deposited within the same, and shall perform all the duties required to be performed by them, in reference to the receipt, safe-keeping, transfer, and disbursements of all such moneys, according to the provisions hereinafter contained.

SEC. 3. And be it further enacted, That the rooms which were directed to be prepared and provided within the custom-houses in the city of New York, in the State of New York, and in the city of Boston, in the State of Massachusetts, for the use of receivers-general of public moneys, under the provisions of the act entitled "An Act to provide for the Collection, Safe-Keeping, Transfer, and Disbursement of the public Revenue," approved July fourth, eighteen hundred and forty, shall be for the use of the assistant treasurers hereinafter directed to be appointed at those places respectively; as shall be also the fireproof vaults and safes prepared and provided within said rooms for the keeping of the public moneys collected and deposited with them respectively; and the assistant treasurers, from time to time appointed at those points, shall have the custody and care of the said rooms, vaults, and safes, respectively, and of all the public moneys deposited within the same, and shall perform all the duties required to be performed by them, in reference to the receipt, safe-keeping, transfer, and disbursement, of all such moneys, according to the provisions of this act.

SEC. 4. And be it further enacted, That the offices, with suitable and convenient rooms, which were directed to be erected, prepared, and provided, for the use of receivers-general of public money, at the
expense of the United States, at the city of Charleston, in the State of South Carolina, and at the city of St. Louis, in the State of Missouri, under the act entitled “An Act to provide for the Collection, Safe-Keeping, Transfer, and Disbursement, of the public Revenue,” approved July fourth, eighteen hundred and forty, shall be for the use of the assistant treasurers hereinafter directed to be appointed at the places above-named; as shall be also the fire-proof vaults and safes erected within the said offices and rooms for the keeping of the public money collected and deposited at those points respectively; and the said assistant treasurers, from time to time appointed at those places, shall have the custody and care of the said offices, vaults, and safes, erected, prepared, and provided, as aforesaid, and of all the public moneys deposited within the same, and shall perform all the duties required to be performed by them, in reference to the receipt, safe-keeping, transfer, and disbursement, of all such moneys, according to the provisions hereinafter contained.

SEC. 5. And be it further enacted, That the President shall nominate, and by and with the advice and consent of the Senate appoint, four officers to be denominated “assistant treasurers of the United States,” which said officers shall hold their respective offices for the term of four years, unless sooner removed therefrom; one of which shall be located at the city of New York, in the State of New York; one other of which shall be located at the city of Boston, in the State of Massachusetts; one other of which shall be located at the city of Charleston, in the State of South Carolina; and one other at St. Louis, in the State of Missouri. And all of which said officers shall give bonds to the United States, with sureties, according to the provisions hereinafter contained, for the faithful discharge of the duties of their respective offices.

SEC. 6. And be it further enacted, That the treasurer of the United States, the treasurer of the mint of the United States, the treasurers, and other officers having treasurers, and those acting as such, of the various branch mints, all collectors of the customs, all surveyors of the customs acting also as collectors, all assistant treasurers, all receivers of public moneys at the several land offices, all postmasters, and all public officers of whatsoever character, be, and they are hereby, required to keep safely, without loaning, using, depositing in banks, or exchanging for other funds than as allowed by this act, all the public money collected by them, or otherwise at any time placed in their possession and custody, till the same is ordered, by the proper department or officer of the government, to be transferred or paid out; and when such orders for transfer or payment are received, faithfully and promptly to make such payments and transfers as are required to be made, &c.

SEC. 7. And be it further enacted, That the treasurer of the United States, the treasurer of the mint of the United States, the treasurer of the branch mint at New Orleans, and all the assistant treasurers hereinafter directed to be appointed, shall respectively give bonds to the United States faithfully to discharge the duties of their respective offices according to law, and for such amounts as shall be directed by the Secretary of the Treasury, with sureties to the satis-
faction of the solicitor of the treasury; and shall, from time to time, renew, strengthen, and increase, their official bonds as the Secretary of the Treasury may direct, any law in reference to any of the official bonds of any of the said officers to the contrary notwithstanding.

Sec. 8. And be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury, at as early a day as possible after the passage of this act, to require from the several depositaries hereby constituted, and whose official bonds are not hereinbefore provided for, to execute bonds, new and suitable in their terms, to meet the new and increased duties imposed upon them respectively by this act, and with sureties and in sums such as shall seem reasonable and safe to the solicitor of the treasury; and from time to time to require such bonds to be renewed and increased in amount, and strengthened by new sureties, to meet any increasing responsibility which may grow out of accumulations of money in the hands of the depositary, or out of any other duty or responsibility arising under this or any other law of Congress.

Sec. 9. And be it further enacted, That all collectors and receivers of public money, of every character and description, within the District of Columbia, shall, as frequently as they may be directed by the Secretary of the Treasury, or the Postmaster-General so to do, pay over to the treasurer of the United States, at the treasury, all public moneys collected by them, or in their hands; that all such collectors and receivers of public moneys within the cities of Philadelphia and New Orleans shall, upon the same direction, pay over to the treasurers of the United States, at the treasury, all public moneys collected by them, or in their hands; and that all such collectors and receivers of public moneys within the cities of New York, Boston, Charleston, and St. Louis, shall, upon the same direction, pay over to the assistant treasurers in their respective cities, at their offices, respectively, all the public moneys collected by them, or in their hands, to be safely kept by the said respective depositaries until otherwise disposed of according to law; and it shall be the duty of the said Secretary and Postmaster-General respectively to direct such payments by the said collectors and receivers at all the said places, at least as often as once in each week, and as much more frequently, in all cases, as they in their discretion may think proper.

Sec. 10. And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for the Secretary of the Treasury to transfer the moneys in the hands of any depositary hereby constituted to the treasury of the United States, to be there safely kept, to the credit of the treasurer of the United States, according to the provisions of this act; and also to transfer moneys in the hands of any one depositary constituted by this act to any other depositary constituted by this act, at his discretion, and as the safety of the public moneys, and the convenience of the public service, shall seem to him to require; which authority to transfer the moneys belonging to the post-office department is also hereby conferred upon the Postmaster-General, so far as his exercise by him may be consistent with the provisions of existing laws; and every depositary constituted by this act shall keep his account of the money paid to or deposited with him, belonging to the post-office department, separate and distinct from the account kept by him of other public moneys so paid or deposited. And for the purpose of payments on the public account, it shall be lawful for the treasurer of the United States to draw upon any of the said depositaries, as he may think most conducive to the public interest, or to the convenience of the public creditors, or both. And each depositary so drawn upon shall make returns to the treasury and post-office departments of all moneys received and paid.
by him, at such times and in such form as shall be directed by the Secretary of the Treasury or the Postmaster-General.

SEC. 11. And be it further enacted, That the Secretary of the Treasury shall be, and he is hereby, authorized to cause examinations to be made of the books, accounts, and money on hand, of the several depositaries constituted by this act; and for that purpose to appoint special agents, as occasion may require, with such compensation, not exceeding six dollars per day and travelling expenses, as he may think reasonable, to be fixed and declared at the time of each appointment. The agents selected to make these examinations shall be instructed to examine as well the books, accounts, and returns, of the officer, as the money on hand, and the manner of its being kept, to the end that uniformity and accuracy in the accounts, as well as safety to the public moneys, may be secured thereby.

SEC. 12. And be it further enacted, That, in addition to the examinations provided for in the last preceding section, and as a further guard over the public moneys, it shall be the duty of each naval officer and surveyor, as a check upon the assistant treasurers, or the collector of the customs, of their respective districts; of each register of a land office, as a check upon the receiver of his land office; and of the director and superintendent of each mint and branch mint, when separate offices, as a check upon the treasurers, respectively, of the said mints, or the persons acting as such, at the close of each quarter of the year, and as much more frequently as they shall be directed by the Secretary of the Treasury to do so, to examine the books, accounts, returns, and money on hand, of the assistant treasurers, collectors, receivers of land offices, treasurers of the mint, and each branch mint, and persons acting as such, and to make a full, accurate, and faithful return to the treasury department of their condition.

SEC. 13. And be it further enacted, That the said officers, respectively, whose duty it is made by this act to receive, keep, and disburse, the public moneys, as the fiscal agents of the government, may be allowed any necessary additional expenses for clerks, fire-proof chests or vaults, or other necessary expenses of safe-keeping, transferring, and disbursing, said moneys; all such expenses of every character to be first expressly authorized by the Secretary of the Treasury, whose directions upon all the above subjects, by way of regulation and other, wise, so far as authorized by law, are to be strictly followed by all the said officers: Provided, That the whole number of clerks to be appointed by virtue of this section of this act shall not exceed ten; and that the aggregate compensations of the whole number shall not exceed eight thousand dollars; nor shall the compensation of any one clerk so appointed exceed eight hundred dollars per annum.

SEC. 14. And be it further enacted, That the Secretary of the Treasury may, at his discretion, transfer the balances remaining with any of the present depositaries to any other of the present depositaries, as he may deem the safety of the public money or the public convenience may require: Provided, That nothing in this act shall be so construed as to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to transfer the balances remaining with any of the present depositaries to the depositaries constituted by this act before the first day of January next: And provided, That, for the purpose of payments on public account, out of balances remaining with the present depositaries, it shall be lawful for the treasurer of the United States to draw upon any of the said depositaries as he may think most conducive to the public interests, or to the convenience of the public creditors, or both.

SEC. 15. And be it further enacted, That all marshals, district attorneys, and others having public money to pay to the United States and all patentees wishing to make payment for patents to be issued,
may pay all such moneys to the treasurer of the United States, to the treasurer of either of the mints in Philadelphia or New Orleans, to either of the other assistant treasurers, or to such other depositary constituted by this act as shall be designated by the Secretary of the Treasury in other parts of the United States to receive such payments, and give receipts or certificates of deposit therefor.

SEC. 16. And be it further enacted, That all officers and other persons, charged by this act, or any other act, with the safe-keeping, transfer, and disbursement, of the public moneys, other than those connected with the post-office department, are hereby required to keep an accurate entry of each sum received, and of each payment or transfer; and that if any one of the said officers, or of those connected with the post-office department, shall convert to his own use, in any way whatever, or shall use, by way of investment in any kind of property or merchandise, or shall loan, with or without interest, or shall deposit in any bank, or shall exchange for other funds, except as allowed by this act, any portion of the public moneys intrusted to him for safe-keeping, disbursement, transfer, or for any other purpose, every such act shall be deemed and adjudged to be an embezzlement of so much of the said moneys as shall be thus taken, converted, invested, used, loaned, deposited, or exchanged, which is hereby declared to be a felony; and any failure to pay over or to produce the public moneys intrusted to such person shall be held and taken to be prima facie evidence of such embezzlement; and if any officer charged with the disbursements of public moneys shall accept, or receive, or transmit to the treasury department to be allowed in his favor, any receipt or voucher from a creditor of the United States, without having paid to such creditor, in such funds as the said officer may have received for disbursement, or such other funds as he may be authorized by this act to take in exchange, the full amount specified in such receipt or voucher, every such act shall be deemed to be a conversion by such officer to his own use of the amount specified in such receipt or voucher; and any officer or agent of the United States, and all persons advising or participating in such act, being convicted thereof before any court of the United States of competent jurisdiction, shall be sentenced to imprisonment for a term of not less than six months nor more than ten years, and to a fine equal to the amount of the money embezzled. And, upon the trial of any indictment against any person for embezzling public money under the provisions of this act, it shall be sufficient evidence, for the purpose of showing a balance against such person, to produce a transcript from the books and proceedings of the treasury, as required in civil cases, under the provisions of the act entitled "An Act to provide more effectually for the Settlement of Accounts between the United States and Receivers of public Money," approved March third, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-seven; and the provisions of this act shall be so construed as to apply to all persons charged with the safe-keeping, transfer, or disbursement, of the public money, whether such persons be indicted as receivers or depositaries of the same; and the refusal of such person, whether in or out of office, to pay any draft, order, or warrant, which may be drawn upon him by the proper officer of the treasury department, for any public money in his hands belonging to the United States, no matter in what capacity the same may have been received or may be held, or to transfer or disburse any such money promptly, upon the legal requirement of any authorized officer of the United States, shall be deemed and taken, upon the trial of any indictment against such person for embezzlement, as prima facie evidence of such embezzlement.

SEC. 17. And be it further enacted, That, until the rooms, offices,
TWENTY-NINTH CONGRESS. Sess. I. Ch. 90. 1846.

Until the vaults, and safes, directed by the first four sections of this act to be constructed and prepared for the use of the treasurer of the United States, the treasurers of the mints at Philadelphia and New Orleans, and the assistant treasurers at New York, Boston, Charleston, and St. Louis, can be constructed and prepared for use, it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury to procure suitable rooms for offices for those officers at their respective locations, and to contract for such use of vaults and safes as may be required for the safe-keeping of the public moneys in the charge and custody of those officers respectively, the expense to be paid by the United States.

And whereas, by the thirtieth section of the act entitled "An Act to regulate the Collection of Duties imposed by Law on the Tonnage of Ships or Vessels, and on Goods, Wares, and Merchandises, imported into the United States," approved July thirty-one, seventeen hundred and eighty-nine, it was provided that all fees and dues collected by virtue of that act should be received in gold and silver coin only; and whereas, also, by the fifth section of the act approved May ten, eighteen hundred, and eighty, entitled "An Act providing for the Sale of the Lands of the United States in the Territory North-west of the Ohio, and above the Mouth of Kentucky River," it was provided that payment for the said lands shall be made by all purchasers in specie, or in evidences of the public debt; and whereas, experience has proved that said provisions ought to be revived and enforced, according to the true and wise intent of the constitution of the United States.

On and after Jan. 1, 1847, all duties, taxes, &c., accruing to the United States shall be paid in gold and silver coin, or in treasury notes. Monthly publication.

On and after April 1, 1847, all payments to be made in gold and silver coin, or in treasury notes, if the creditor agrees to receive them.

Violations of this and the preceding section to be reported to the President, and to Congress.

No exchange of funds to be made except for gold and silver.

How payments shall be made.

SEC. 18. Be it further enacted, That on the first day of January, in the year one thousand eight hundred and forty-seven, and thereafter, all duties, taxes, sales of public lands, debts, and sums of money accruing or becoming due to the United States, and also all sums due for postages or otherwise, to the general post-office department, shall be paid in gold and silver coin only, or in treasury notes issued under the authority of the United States: Provided, That the Secretary of the Treasury shall publish, monthly, in two newspapers at the city of Washington, the amount of specie at the several places of deposit, the amount of treasury notes or drafts issued, and the amount outstanding on the last day of each month.

SEC. 19. And be it further enacted, That on the first day of April, one thousand eight hundred and forty-seven, and thereafter, every officer or agent engaged in making disbursements on account of the United States, or of the general post-office, shall make all payments in gold and silver coin, or in treasury notes, if the creditor agrees to receive said notes in payment; and any receiving or disbursing officer or agent who shall neglect, evade, or violate, the provisions of this and the last preceding section of this act, shall, by the Secretary of the Treasury, be immediately reported to the President of the United States, with the facts of such neglect, evasion, or violation; and also to Congress, if in session; and if not in session, at the commencement of its session next after the violation takes place.

SEC. 20. And be it further enacted, That no exchange of funds shall be made by any disbursing officers or agents of the government, of any grade or denomination whatsoever, or connected with any branch of the public service, other than an exchange for gold and silver; and every such disbursing officer, when the means for his disbursements are furnished to him in gold and silver, shall make his payments in the money so furnished; or when those means are furnished to him in drafts, shall cause those drafts to be presented at their place of payment, and properly paid according to the law, and shall make his payments in the money so received for the drafts furnished, unless, in either case, he can exchange the means in his hands for gold
and silver at par. And it shall be and is hereby made the duty of the
head of the proper department immediately to suspend from duty any
disbursing officer who shall violate the provisions of this section, and
forthwith to report the name of the officer or agent to the President, with
the fact of the violation, and all the circumstances accompanying the
same, and within the knowledge of the said Secretary, to the end that
such officer or agent may be promptly removed from office, or restored
to his trust and the performance of his duties, as to the President may
seem just and proper: Provided, however, That those disbursing offi-
cers having at present credits in the banks shall, until the first day
of January next, be allowed to check on the same, allowing the public
creditors to receive their pay from the banks either in specie or
bank notes.

SEC. 21. And be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of the
Secretary of the Treasury to issue and publish regulations to enforce the
speedy presentation of all government drafts for payment at the
place where payable, and to prescribe the time, according to the dif-
ferent distances of the depositaries from the seat of government,
within which all drafts upon them, respectively, shall be presented for
payment; and, in default of such presentation, to direct any other
mode and place of payment which he may deem proper; but, in all
these regulations and directions, it shall be the duty of the Secretary
of the Treasury to guard, as far as may be, against those drafts being
used or thrown into circulation as a paper currency or medium of
exchange. And no officer of the United States shall, either directly
or indirectly, sell or dispose to any person or persons, or corporations,
whateover, for a premium, any treasury note, draft, warrant, or other
public security, not his private property, or sell or dispose of the
avails or proceeds of such note, draft, warrant, or security, in his
hands for disbursement, without making return of such premium, and
accounting therefor by charging the same in his accounts to the
credit of the United States; and any officer violating this section shall
be forthwith dismissed from office.

SEC. 22. And be it further enacted, That the assistant treasurers
directed by this act to be appointed shall receive, respectively, the
following salaries per annum, to be paid quarter-yearly at the treas-
ury of the United States, to wit: the assistant treasurer at New York
shall be paid a salary of four thousand dollars per annum; the assistant
treasurer at Boston shall be paid a salary of two thousand five
hundred dollars per annum; the assistant treasurer at Charleston
shall be paid a salary of two thousand five hundred dollars per annum;
the assistant treasurer at St. Louis shall be paid a salary of two
thousand five hundred dollars per annum; the treasurer of the mint
at Philadelphia shall, in addition to his present salary, receive five
hundred dollars annually, for the performance of the duties imposed
by this act; the treasurer of the branch mint at New Orleans shall
also receive five hundred dollars annually, for the additional duties
created by this act; and these salaries, respectively, shall be in full
for the services of the respective officers; nor shall either of them be
permitted to charge or receive any commission, pay, or perquisite, for
any official service, of any character or description whatsoever; and
the making of any such charge, or the receipt of any such compen-
sation, is hereby declared to be a misdemeanor, for which the officer
convicted thereof, before any court of the United States of competent
jurisdiction, shall be subject to punishment by fine or imprisonment,
or both, at the discretion of the court before which the offence shall
be tried.

SEC. 23. And be it further enacted, That there shall be and hereby
is appropriated, to be paid out of any money in the treasury not
Act to surrender to the State of Tennessee all Title the United States have to Lands in Tennessee, south and west of the Line commonly called the Congressional Reservation Line, and to release to said State the Proceeds of such of said Lands as may have been sold by the State of Tennessee, as the Agent of the United States.

All unappropriated land of the U.S. in Tennessee, south and west of the Congressional reservation line, released to said State, with the proceeds of such as have been sold.

CHAP. XCI. — An Act to provide for the Confirmation of certain Settlement Claims in the Greensburg Land District, Louisiana.

The 2d proviso of act of 1822, ch. 128, § 3, not to apply to the reports of Cosby and Skipwith on certain settlement claims, which are hereby confirmed.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the second proviso of the third section of the act of eighth May, eighteen hundred and twenty-two, entitled "An Act supplementary to the several Acts for adjusting the Claims to Land and establishing Land Offices in the Districts east of the Island of New Orleans," shall not apply to the reports dated eighteenth November, eighteen hundred and twenty, and twenty-fourth July, eighteen hundred and twenty-one, of Cosby and Skipwith, on settlement claims in that part of Louisiana which lies east of the Mississippi River and west of Pearl River; but such claims which, according to the said reports, were inhabited or cultivated, or where the date of settlement was before the fifteenth April, eighteen hundred and thirteen, are hereby confirmed under the other restrictions of said third section; but this confirmation shall in no manner affect prior rights, and shall only amount to a relinquishment on the part of the United States.

APPROVED, August 6, 1846.

CHAP. XCII. — An Act to surrender to the State of Tennessee all Title the United States have to Lands in Tennessee, south and west of the Line commonly called the Congressional Reservation Line, and to release to said State the Proceeds of such of said Lands as may have been sold by the State of Tennessee, as the Agent of the United States.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the United States hereby release and surrender to the State of Tennessee the right and title of the United States to all lands in the State of Tennessee, lying south and west of the Congressional reservation line in said State, which may yet remain unappropriated, and further release and transfer to said State of Tennessee the proceeds of such of said lands as may have been sold by said State, not heretofore paid over to the United States, nor deposited subject to the order or use of the United States, under the authority of the act of Congress of the eighteenth February, eighteen hundred and forty-one, entitled "An Act to amend an Act entitled 'An Act to authorize the State of Tennessee to issue Grants and perfect Titles to certain Lands therein described, and to settle the Claims to the vacant and unappropriated Lands within the same,' passed the eighteenth Day of April, one thousand eight hundred and six." This surrender and transfer is upon the express condition that the State of Tennessee shall, out of the proceeds of said lands, set apart and apply forty thousand dollars towards the establishment and support of a college at Jackson, in the county of