

Missing Pages from *The American Diaries of Richard Cobden*, (ed.) E. Cawley.

[26 April 1859]

[Here is the hall where the declaration of independence was] signed & where the first Congress of the United States was held prior to the declaration of independence.— Most of the respectable inhabitants in Philadelphia are connected with the old quaker families, & most of the leading companions of Penn are still represented by their descendants who hold property derived from his grants of land.—

Here as elsewhere in America, every body seems to have grown up sons who look old enough to be the brothers of their fathers — This arises from the early marriages in this country.— Called on Mr. C. J. Ingersoll.¹— A long talk with Mr Fisher² on Illinois Central Railway Affairs.— — Mr M.'s³ letter to him ordering the sale of 1000 shares dated the 26th Nov^r.— Mr F. condemned this transaction in strong language said he delayed the actual transfer of the shares for a month until he could write to M, & give him the opportunity of withdrawing the order, that *he* could not have afforded to have done such an act,— that a person in this country who took on himself the office of Chairman of a body of shareholders would not have dared to have so acted, that it was to him (Mr.F.) <one of> the most distasteful transactions he had ever been engaged in &c — He showed me all Mr.M's. letters to him. Said he "hated the transaction like thunder".

April 26 — To the Hall of Independence to see the room in which the "Declaration of Independence" was signed, & where many relics of the revolutionary era are shown, such

¹ Charles Jared Ingersoll (1782-1862), lawyer, author and Democrat representative, see Biographical Directory of the United States Congress, <http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=I000015>

² Probably Joseph Fisher jnr, who had been sent out by the English shareholders to investigate the affairs of the Illinois Central Railroad. Alternatively, Joshua Francis Fisher, a local author and humanitarian, noted by Cawley, 173 n. 97.

³ George Moffatt, a leading English shareholder in the Illinois Central Railroad. See A. Howe (ed.) *The Letters of Richard Cobden Volume One 1815-1847* (Oxford, 2007), 352 n.7. See too Moffatt's letters to Cobden, concerning the Illinois Central Railway, CP12.

as the old bell of independence, a portion of a pew in Christ Church used by Washington, Lafayette, & Franklin, a portion of the old step from which Independence was proclaimed &c⁴ – There are a number of portraits of heroes of the Revolution. – Dined at Mr Randalls⁵ (a leading politician of the democratic party who had given evidence before a Committee of the House on which I sat on the Rules & Proceedings of Parliament),⁶ – & met a large party of the chief men of the City – Mr Trist⁷ who had concluded the Mexican Treaty but who has been since neglected, D^r Jackson,⁸ Governor Coles⁹ &c. – Was told that though Mr Randall was a decided political partisan, there were men of all parties at his table. – Judge Jno M. Read¹⁰ who sat next to me, a very intelligent man who had been elected on the Republican or Whig ticket had been opposed by his host who had actually "stumped" the State in opposition [to him]

⁴ http://www.ushistory.org/tour/tour_indhall.htm

⁵ Josiah Randall, leading lawyer and former member of the state legislature; originally a Whig, later a Democrat; married Ann Worrell, disowned by her leading local Jeffersonian Republican father; parents of Samuel Randall, Speaker of the House of Representatives, <http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=R000039>. See too Randall to Cobden, 29 Apr. 1859, CP5, fo. 132.

⁶ PP 1847-48 XVI (644), Select Committee on Public Business, to which Randall gave evidence on 31 July 1848, answering two questions from Cobden, supporting the American procedures, especially a one-hour rule: http://parlipapers.chadwyck.co.uk/fulltext/fulltext.do?area=hcpp&id=1847-024929&pagenum=1&resultNum=8&entries=18&source=config.cfg&queryId=../session/1247229689_9971&backto=RESULTS. Disraeli also sat on this committee, claiming that Cobden 'proposed an American system of conducting business which we defeated' (*Letters*, 1675 3 Aug. 1848).

⁷ Nicholas Philip Trist (1800-74) had negotiated the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848 but having acted in line with his initial more pacific but subsequently superseded instructions, fell into disfavour with his superiors.

⁸ Possibly Dr Josiah Jackson, medical practitioner and pioneer of the coal industry in Sullivan County and father of George D. Jackson, a member of the Pennsylvanian legislature.

⁹ Edward Coles (1786-1868), private secretary to Madison, diplomat in Russia, and governor of Illinois, 1822-26, whose anti-slavery activities led to his moving to Philadelphia in 1833; author, *History of the Ordinance of 1787* (Philadelphia, 1856).

¹⁰ John M. Read (1797-1874), a founder of the Republican Party and chief justice in the Pennsylvanian Supreme Court.