

1843-44, the Legislature authorized the publication of the Reports of cases in that Court, with the Laws of the session. This required the re-writing of the whole on short notice, but the work was accomplished in due time. But in this, as in many other cases, where political squabbles for the ascendancy interfered with the proper administration of the Government, there were two claimants of the manuscript. The Legislature had given the printing of the Laws and Reports to Mr. George Hyer, while the Secretary of the Territory, who held the "purse strings," wished to give it to Mr. W. W. Wyman. Furthermore the Legislature appointed John Catlin and Ben. C. Eastman, commissioners to superintend the publication of the Laws and Reports, and to compare the Laws in the proof-sheets with the originals in the Secretary's Office, but there were some fears expressed that the Secretary would not grant the privilege of this comparison in his Office, which fears, I believe, were without sufficient foundation to justify them. In this state of the case, Mr. Burnett was called upon by both claimants for his MS. Reports. But the commissioners being first in their call, and Mr. Burnett believing that the will of the people as expressed by their representatives, should be obeyed, in preference to that of a foreign Secretary, who was sent here by the Federal Government merely or chiefly as a fiscal agent, he sent the MS. to the commissioners, who caused the Reports to be printed according to law.

In the year 1844, Mr. Burnett was called upon to appear before the people of his county of Grant, as a candidate for the Assembly. There seems to have been strong efforts made against his election, on account of the independence with which he attended upon his duties at the bar, but he succeeded by a handsome majority, having 1000 out of the 1500 votes cast.

In the winter of 1844-45, and while the Assembly was in session, a rumor that an Indian war had broken out, came, with a thousand fearful forebodings, producing intense excitement in and about the Capitol. At this time, the militia laws had all been