

Late from Africa.

OUTRAGE BY A BRITISH VESSEL OF WAR ON THE AMERICAN FLAG.—We learn from the Baltimore Sun the arrival at that port, on Friday, of the barque Latrope, Capt. Allen, from the West coast of Africa. The British cruisers on the African coast, it seems, are so vigilant against slavers that they mistake every American trader, and even U. S. vessels of war, for such piratical craft. The Sun gives an account of the firing into the brig Francis Lord, Capt. Browne, of New York, by H. B. M. ship Alert. About 7 o'clock on the evening of the 24th of January, Capt. Browne discovered a sail on his starboard bow, within hail. Capt. B. showed a light, and inquired if the vessel was the Atlanta, which he was anxious to meet. The Alert hailed, and whilst hailing fired. Captain B. hailed a second time, and whilst in the act, was answered by a musket ball, which passed through his breast, above him, and over his passengers' heads! Having a light still hoisted, Capt. B. immediately gave alack, and waited some time before the Alert hove about and came under his lee, when an officer announced he would send a boat and come on board, which he did with some difficulty—the mate informing that a rope, at least, should have been cast to him, had he not fired that shot. The Sun's account says:—

"Capt. B.'s firm and gentlemanly inquiry of the reason of such treatment embarrassed the Lieutenant, who offered some explanation, assuring Capt. B. that the commander of the Alert would make any apology necessary. After writing on Capt. Brown's papers:—'Boards by H. B. M. ship Alert,' adding date and signature—and leaving, a voice hailed from the Alert, 'The Captain is very sorry for what has happened—very sorry indeed; it was without his knowledge—he should make an inquiry.' This apology may, perhaps, be satisfactory; and the Alert, it is presumed, may become rather more alert than she was a few weeks previously, when, mistaking a U. S. frigate for a slaver, and showing American colors, a gun from the Macedonia notified her to heave to, and upon her neglecting or refusing so to do, was followed by a shot from the frigate, which, of course, woke up the John Bull of the Alert, who lost no time in hauling down his false stars. We have obtained the above information from the Rev. John Kelly, who, with Lieut. George L. Seldon, U. S. N., came out passengers in the Catroba. Mr. K. was an eye witness of the Alert affair."

The following information respecting affairs on the coast is furnished, also, by the Sun:—

"American commerce, as we learn, has received a progressive impetus from the presence of the squadron in that quarter. Commodore Perry, his officers and men, were enjoying good health. No sickness prevailed on the coast, except the small pox, which appeared among the liberated Africans at Sierra Leone. The crews of the traders, the Elizabeth and the Oriental, suffered from fever, whilst at the Portuguese Bissao, in January. Seven Catholic missionaries, accompanied by three lay brothers, from France, arrived in November last, at Cape Palmas, in the colony of Maryland, in the Liberia. They are of an order called 'Missionaries of the Sacred Heart of Mary for Evangelizing the Negro Nations.' The Rt. Rev. Bishop Barron, formerly of Philadelphia, had returned to devote his life and fortune to the same benevolent enterprise in that part of Africa. Difficulties existed between the colonial agent, his people and the native Africans, at Herper, and also between a town of the natives near Cavalry, and the Rev. M. Paine, a member of the Episcopal Mission. Complaints from the natives, it is understood, are to be carried before the M. State Col. Society. The benevolent interposition of Commodore Perry had restored mutual confidence and tranquility."

The benevolent interposition here spoken of probably refers to his burning down five towns, and shooting a number of the unfortunate natives, as an act of retaliation for depredations committed upon an American vessel. In the slaughter, the innocent as well as the guilty must have perished.

AT A RECENT MEETING OF THE FRENCH ACADEMY, one of the members read an interesting memoir of Baillif, the famous astronomer, and a conspicuous personage in the French revolution. In the course of the memoir the author related the first interview of Baillif and Franklin, as follows:—

"The illustrious delegate from Pennsylvania entertained, on his arrival in France, the opinion that our countrymen love inordinately to hear themselves talk, and would infinitely rather speak than listen. When the philosopher and astronomer met for the first time, the latter kept silence, expecting a question from the illustrious stranger. Franklin, on his side, did not open his mouth. At the end of a half hour, neither having yet uttered anything, Baillif took out his snuff-box and offered a pinch to the other mute. Franklin motioned that he did not use snuff. Another half hour elapsed in the same way, after which, Baillif having risen to depart, Franklin seized his hand, saying, 'Very well, Mr. Baillif—very well, indeed!'"

KIDNAPERS CAUGHT.—The Westchester Pennsylvania Herald records the arrest there, on Tuesday, of two men, supposed to be kidnapers. They had in their custody a colored citizen, and on refusing to give him up a rescue was determined upon and effected. One of them was shot in the shoulder before they were captured. They had two companions, who fled. It is said these kidnapers are citizens of Maryland.

Great Slaughter in India.

An arrival at New York, on Friday night, from Gibraltar, brings papers of that place with recent intelligence from India by the Overland Mail. It will be seen by the following summary from the Bombay Courier, that a dreadful battle has been fought between the British in India, and the Natives, in which 5000 were killed, and many wounded:

BOMBAY, Feb. 1.—The unexpected turn which affairs have taken in Gwalior, has this month almost wholly occupied public attention. Two—we might almost say three—battles have been fought and won, which, in character, are no way inferior to any that have taken place on Indian soil. Our government induced by the stubbornness and apparent preparation for resistance shown by the Gwalior Court, have adopted the only means at hand—that of a recourse to arms. The enemy were the first to commence hostilities, by firing on the baggage party under Col. Sleeman, of the 20th, and then on a reconnoitering party sent out on the 28th. The right wing of our army, under the immediate command of his Exc'y Sir H. Gough, attacked the Maharrats in their position of Maharrat, while our left wing, under Major General Grey, did so at Panniar, and gained a complete victory over them. Our loss, however, on these occasions has been very severe—the list amounting to 141 killed, and 855 wounded; that of the enemy amounts to between 4000 and 5000 in killed and wounded, with the loss of 40 pieces of artillery. The following are the names of the officers who have fallen in these actions, or have since died of their wounds, viz:—General Churchill, Colonel Sanders, Major Crommelin, Captains Stewart, Magrath and Cobban, Lieutenants Newton and Leaths, and Ensign Bray; 40 have been wounded. The fort of Gwalior shortly after surrendered to us, and some of the principal chiefs came in and tendered submission.

Government has declared, that it is not our intention to occupy the country, nor in any shape to intermeddle with its internal affairs, further than to insist on the formation of a subsidiary force, to be officered solely by the Company's officers, and maintained by the Gwalior government. The army is expected to retire within our own territories immediately. The commander in chief has set out on a tour of inspection, while the Gov. General was expected to start for Calcutta on the 23d. Affairs in the Panjab are still maturing, and may probably force themselves upon our attention as unexpectedly as have those of Gwalior. In Scinde, matters are much the same. The troops, however, are recovering from their sickness; at Hyderabad little improvement had been observed; but at Sukkur the condition of our men was much more favorable. India throughout is peaceful.

LADIES TAKE THE ADVICE OF YOUR HUSBANDS.—About 12 o'clock last night, a few minutes before the Brooklyn ferry boat started from the New York side of the river, a young couple, recently married, came on board, and the young lady and her husband walked to the further bow of the boat, and the former took her station so close to the edge of it, that her husband repeatedly warned her of her dangerous position, and the slightest movement of the boat would throw her into the water. The young lady, however, persisted in remaining there, gazing "at the smooth, smooth sea," until at last she lost her balance, and fell head over heels into the river. So gently, however, did she descend into the arms of Father Neptune, that her head remained above water, and from fright or presence of mind, she lay quietly on her back, without uttering the slightest sound, or making the smallest motion with her hands, and floated on as gently, and seemingly as buoyant, as a log of wood or piece of cork. As some time had to elapse before the boat's time for starting, all of the officers were not on board, and several minutes passed before the boat could be unchained, and proceed in search of the floating lady—which it at last did, and with a very gentle movement soon came up with her, and a ladder being let down from the boat, a man descended on it and caught the lady's dress with a boat hook, while another man, who had also descended, caught hold of her by the leg—an inpropriety which the young lady, even under such circumstances, resented, by shrieking so loud, and making such desperate plunges, that her despairing husband had the consolation to know that she was still "alive and kicking." She was immediately lifted on board, in a state of extreme fright and exhaustion, and was carried over to Brooklyn, and went home in a cab.—Journal of Commerce.

WHO CAN BEAT IT!—Apples Two Years Old!—Cornelius Williamson, of Raritan township, in Hunterdon county, brought to our office, on Saturday last, a number of apples, perfectly sound, which, he informed us, were a fair sample of some which he had on hand for two years! Higgins for tall timothy, and Williamson for fine apples—strong team that.

Flemington Gazette.

SHAD.—One thousand eight hundred and ninety-six shad were caught at one haul at one of the fisheries on Thursday last; and at another, on Wednesday, fifteen hundred shad and thirty thousand herring were taken at one haul.

Norfolk Herald.



Saturday, April 13, 1844.

Democratic Nominations.

FOR GOVERNOR.  
HENRY A. MÜHLENBERG.  
FOR CANAL COMMISSIONER.  
JOSHUA HARTSHORNE.

ELECTORS.  
For President and Vice President of the U. States  
WILSON M'CANDESS, } Senatorial.  
ASA DIMOCK, }

REPRESENTATIVE.  
1. GEO. F. LEHMAN, 13. GEORGE SCHMABLE,  
2. CHRISTIAN KNEASS, 14. NATH'L. B. ELDERD,  
3. WILLIAM H. SMITH, 15. M. N. IRVINE,  
4. JOHN HILL, (Phila.) 16. JAMES WOODBURN,  
5. SAMUEL E. LEECH, 17. HUGH MONTGOMERY,  
6. SAMUEL CAMP, 18. ISAAC ANKENY,  
7. JESSE SHARPE, 19. JOHN MATTHEWS,  
8. N. W. SAMFLE, 20. W. PATTERSON,  
9. WM. HEDENRICH, 21. ANDREW PERER,  
10. CONRAD SUMNER, 22. JOHN M'GILL,  
11. STEPHEN BAILEY, 23. CHRISTIAN MYERS,  
12. JOSAH BREWSTER, 24. ROBERT ORR.

V. B. PALMER, Esq., at his Real Estate and Coal office, No. 59 Pine Street, Philadelphia, is authorized to act as Agent, and to receive and receipt for all monies due this office, for subscription or advertising.

BREVIER TYPE.—100 lbs. or more, of second hand brevier type, for sale at this office, at 18 cts. per lb., cash. The type are the same as those used in our advertising columns.

We have again to apologise to our readers for the want of the usual amount of editorial, on account of our engagements at Court.

We are indebted to the Hon. James Buchanan for a copy of his speech on the Oregon question, and also to Messrs. Horton and Bright, of the Legislature, for documents, &c.

ANOTHER BUCKEYE.—A fellow who calls himself the Buckeye Pump Maker, has been in town during the present week. He occasionally, in the evenings, mounted a step or box and harangued a noisy crowd of boys, in favor of Gen. Markle. The Pump-maker gave evidence that he had a strong pair of lungs, at all events, if nothing else. Our whig friends are determined to resort to all kinds of logic to carry their candidate. The Buckeye blacksmith having hammered out flat all the arguments he had, the pump-maker is now resorted to to pump up new ones.

TIDE WATER CANAL COMPANY.—The Legislature has passed a bill, compelling this company to take its notes in payment of tolls, to the amount of one tenth. The company, we understand, have agreed to accept of the terms. The original bill compelled them to take one-fifth, which would have been little enough, but even this is one step towards payment and may serve to inspire some confidence in the company. The bill to sell the main line of the public improvements for 30 millions will probably pass, but some think it cannot be sold for yet sum.

There is not much said for in regard to the Governor's election. The democratic party having a candidate in whom they have every confidence, and knowing that with such a candidate their ranks are invulnerable, they feel perfectly at ease, and are patiently waiting for a triumphant victory on the 2d Tuesday of October. The whigs, however, find it necessary to make some stir in behalf of their candidate, inasmuch as he is not well known, and in point of abilities and experience, much inferior to Mr. Muhlenberg.

Special Election Returns, of Northumberland County.

Table with columns: COUNTY, FOR CONGRESS, SNYDER, POLLOCK. Rows include Sunbury, Augusta, Rush, Shamokin, Coal, Jackson, Little Mahony, Upper do., Lower do., Turbut, Milton, Point, Chillisqueague, Northumberland, Delaware, Lewis, and totals.

THE OFFICIAL RESULT OF THE ELECTION.—Mr. Pollock's majority for Congress, in this district, is 875. Northumberland county has given a majority of 5 for Pollock, Union county 708, Lycoming county 154, Clinton county has given 82 for Mr. Snyder.

THE NEW YORK CITY ELECTION has terminated favorably to the Native American party. Nearly 50,000 votes were polled. More than ever was polled before. The following is the vote for Mayor. Coddington, (Democrat,) 18,158. Franklin, (Whig,) 3,984. Harper, (Native American,) 22,951. Mr. Harper is of the firm of Harper & Brothers, Booksellers, who have constant y in employ about 800 hands in their establishment.

GEN. JACKSON.—The Nashville Union states that Gen. Jackson was too feeble to attend the funeral of his old veteran in arms, Gen. Carroll, which took place at Nashville, on Sunday, 24th ult.

THE SPECIAL ELECTION.—CAUSES OF OUR DEFEAT.—The result of the late special election for a member of Congress, to supply the vacancy occasioned by the death of Gen. Frick, has greatly surprised all parties. The election turned wholly upon the Tariff, and has, we presume, convinced every reflecting and reasonable man, in this district, of a fact for which we have long contended, that the whole country is unanimous in favor of the present tariff and opposed to any measure calculated to disturb it to some of the features of the present bill, when it was before Congress, although he supported it for want of, what he thought, a better one; this fact was seized upon by his opponents, and his views misrepresented, although he emphatically declared himself in favor of the tariff in several letters upon that subject. Many tariff-democrats (and they are all so in this district) remained at home, under these circumstances. Others again thinking a greater impulse would be given in favor of the tariff, by electing Mr. Pollock, were induced to vote for him on that ground. But what is more, and to which may be attributed the frequent defeats we have sustained of late, in our strong holds, is the fact that the whigs turned out to a man. At the late election scarcely a single whig voter was left a home who was able to come to the polls, while hundreds of the democrats remained at home undecided and indifferent. How these causes will operate at the next Presidential election does not require the eye of a prophet to foresee. The people of Pennsylvania are in favor of a tariff, a protective tariff, and no man who is opposed to a tariff, or labors under any suspicion of opposition to such a measure, whether such impression is founded in error or doubt, can expect to obtain their votes. We have men in the democratic party, honest, capable and popular, and who are in favor of a tariff of protection, and if the members of the Tammany Convention should fail to select such a man after proper reflection and due consideration, in connection with recent events, the consequences must rest where they assuredly will, on their own shoulders.

MR. MERRICK'S POST OFFICE BILL, it seems will not be acted on this session. Reason why: It abolishes the franking privilege, in a great degree, allowed to members of Congress, which will prevent them from sending at least a hundred tons political and electioneering documents through the mail, free of postage, between this and the next election.

FRANK JOHNSON.—The Philadelphia Ledger, speaking of the funeral of this great musician, and leader of the band composed of colored men says:—

One of the most touching parts of the whole ceremony was the far-famed brass band, following their deceased leader, with their instruments shrouded in mourning, and playing a parting dirge over his grave.

A NEW COUNTERFEIT.—10's, of the Farmers' Bank of Lancaster, Letter B, number 31. On comparing it with a genuine bill of the same bank, we find the counterfeit well calculated to deceive. The plate we incline to believe is genuine, so exactly do the two correspond. The counterfeit is on flimsy paper, of a much lighter color than the genuine. We see nothing else by which to distinguish it.

Correspondence of the Public Ledger.

WASHINGTON, April 9, 1844.  
What I indicated in my last letter is becoming more and more certain. Put it down then as a fact to be called on, that Mr. Calhoun will not support the nomination of Mr. Van Buren, and determine for yourself what consequences are likely to follow the accession of his friends. Mark, I write you no idle rumors, no *outrés*, and such stuff, but the things that I do know. In a week or so matters will assume shape; for the blow is to be struck before the Virginia election.

The Texas question is making very considerable progress, and the most sanguine hopes are entertained as to the annexation of the Republic of the Lone Star to the United States. If the treaty is not confirmed by the Senate, it will be by the skin of their teeth that the Northern Senators will prevent it.

Mr. Niles, from Connecticut, is here. He is the victim of the strongest hallucinations, to such an extent that he conceives himself already in a future state. The question, whether he is able to hold his seat in the United States Senate, is a perplexing one. The Constitution of the United States gives to either House of Congress respectively the power to determine the admissibility, and pronounce on the qualifications of its members. But the authority of Jefferson is now cited in favor of the Legislature of the State the member comes from, to decide whether he shall hold his seat, and the mode to decide it in the negative is to declare it vacant.

You will remember that several petitions have been presented to Congress from the Dorr party in Rhode Island, praying that the President be impeached for interposing the weight of his authority and power in the Rhode Island question. The President has been applied to for instruction, and John Tyler has prepared a message to Congress, which is not only a triumphant vindication of his own course, but will, in all probability, settle the business for Governor Dorr.

Correspondence of the Philadelphia Ledger.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

HARRISBURG, April 5, 1844.

SENATE.—Mr. Penniman, from the Committee on Banks, reported a bill to extend the charter of the Carlisle Bank.  
Mr. Sullivan, from the Committee on Corporations, reported a bill to incorporate the Schuylkill County Cotton and Woollen Manufacturing Company.  
On motion of Mr. Dimock, the Senate took up the bill relating to taxes on proceedings in Courts of Justice and in the offices of Registers and Recorders. The bill underwent considerable discussion, and was postponed.

Mr. Champneys, from the Committee on Finance, reported, with amendments, House bill making appropriations for the expenses of Government.  
The bill supplementary to the act abolishing Imprisonment for Debt, was called in its order, and on it grew out a lengthy discussion. That part which repeals the portion of the act of 1812, affecting debts contracted before its passage, was stricken out, and other amendments were made. The bill had progressed as far as the sixth section, when it was postponed.

The Dauphin Bank bill was next taken up and discussed till 1 o'clock.  
In the afternoon, the bill for the relief of Col. A. J. Pleasanton, passed with amendments. A supplement to the Charter of Mount Carbon and Port Carbon Railroad, and a supplement to the act incorporating the West Chester Railroad Company, each passed second reading.

HOUSE.—The bill providing for a new judicial district, to be composed of Schuylkill, Carbon and Monroe counties, was taken up, and, after some time spent in discussion, the bill passed second and third readings. The vote on final passage stood 62 to 23.

The bill to extend the jurisdiction of Justices of the Peace in certain cases, passed. Committee of the Whole, and was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

The bill to reduce the capital stock of the Manufacturers' and Mechanics' Bank of the Northern Liberties, passed second and third readings.

The Militia bill was taken up on second reading, and discussed till the hour of adjournment. In the afternoon it was again resumed, and passed second reading after a lengthy discussion. On the vote to transcribe for third reading, the yeas were 58, nays 33.

HARRISBURG, April 6.

SENATE.—The only subject worth mentioning in the Senate was the Appropriation bill, which was taken up, on motion of Mr. Champneys, and discussed in committee nearly the whole of the morning. Mr. Darsie moved to amend by striking out \$275,000 (the amount appropriated for government expenses) and inserting \$245,000, which was agreed to. Mr. Heckman moved to suspend the appropriations to Common Schools and empower the different districts to raise an amount equivalent by taxation. Mr. Steriger moved further to amend by authorizing the School Directors to raise the required amount by tax. The subject was debated by Messrs. Steriger, Champneys, Penniman, Craig, Mullin, Abbott, Sullivan, and others, and the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE.—Mr. Hinchman (Committee on Corporations) reported a bill to incorporate the Northern Liberties Gas Company.  
A number of uninteresting bills were reported from the different standing committees.  
Several bills were read in place not necessary to enumerate.

The bill to compel the Tide Water Canal Company to take their own notes for toll, was then taken up on third reading. Mr. Butler was opposed to the amount of ten per cent. to the passage of the bill as injurious to a class of people using the canal, who did not hold any of the notes of the company.

Mr. Stone thought the passage of the bill would ruin the trade in the article of coal from Pine Grove. He considered this matter as legislating for the benefit of a few note-holders, who had purchased notes at a discount, &c. The bill was passed—yeas 52, nays 34.

The bill to reduce the expenses of the militia system was taken up on third reading, and a motion was made by Mr. Tustin to amend, by providing that all persons paying one dollar per annum to the Commonwealth, or to a volunteer company, should be exempt, which was not agreed to, and the question being thus taken on the passage of the bill, it was passed—yeas 61, nays 30.

On motion, the House agreed to reconsider the vote on the passage of the bill supplementary to the act regulating inns and taverns, passed 7th of April, 1830, and the bill being again under consideration, Mr. Rounfort moved to amend by limiting the number of oyster cellars to be licensed under the law to fifteen.

Mr. Brackenridge offered to amend the amendment, by inserting a provision that the cellars shall be compelled to pay a license of fifty dollars each, and keep their cellars closed on Sundays, and to pay a fine of \$20 for selling liquor in less quantities than a quart, one half to the informer, the other half to the county; and if confined for non payment of fine, not to be liberated unless upon taking the benefit of the insolvent law. The amendments were opposed by Messrs. Whitman Braly, Kugler, Herr and Smith of Clearfield, and urged by Messrs. Rounfort and McManus.

The previous question was called and sustained, and the question being taken on the amendment, the yeas were 31, nays 57. And on the amendment by Mr. Rounfort, yeas 46, nays 41, and the section as amended passed, yeas 43 nays 42. The question was then taken on the amount to be paid for license, which was fixed, on motion of Mr. Dunlap, at one hundred dollars, which was decided in the affirmative.

Mr. Whiteman then moved a provision that the oyster cellars should be subject to the provisions of the act of 1831, regulating inns and taverns and sundry amendments relating to the sale of liquors by less quantity than the quart, being in substance the same as offered by Brackenridge, which was adopted—yeas 61, nays 20.

The question then being on the final passage of the bill as amended, a motion to suspend the rule was made, and afterwards withdrawn.

The bill regulating the speed of locomotive engines through the borough of Reading was considered and passed.

The bill to extend the charter of the Bank of Brownville was considered and postponed.

TWENTY-EIGHTH CONGRESS.

WASHINGTON, April 6, 1844.

Mr. Bayard called up a bill supplementary to the act entitled "An act to regulate the pay of the Navy of the United States."

Mr. Evans, of Me., offered a resolution, which under the rule lies over for one day, calling upon the President of the United States to communicate, if not incompatible with the public interest all correspondence between the British Government and the United States, upon the subject of the annexation of Texas.

[The information called for is probably a despatch of Lord Aberdeen, laid before the President at the time Sir Richard Packenham presented his credentials of office. This despatch will prove officially to the American people that England contemplates no political alliance with Texas, and none whatever but one of trade and commerce.]

Mr. Bayard presented a memorial from Richard A. Gillet, Civil Engineer of Pennsylvania, respecting a new plan for a Dry Dock, which at the same time that it will be permanent will supersede the expense of piers.

The Cumberland Road bill was then taken up and the remainder of the session given to its consideration.

Mr. White, of Ia., addressed the Senate at considerable length in an able speech in defence of the bill. The debate was also participated in by Mr. Hannegan and Mr. Jarnegin. The Senate adjourned till Monday.

EXTRACT FROM THE ADDRESS OF THE

State Central Committee.

TO THE DEMOCRATIC CITIZENS OF PENNSYLVANIA.

FELLOW CITIZENS.—The Democratic candidate for Governor of Pennsylvania is HENRY A. MÜHLENBERG, of Berks county. By this nomination the Democratic party offer for the suffrages of our fellow citizens, a pure patriot, a tried statesman, a man of unblemished private character, a disciple of Jefferson, a friend of Andrew Jackson, the illustrious statesman and honored hero of New Orleans. Henry A. Muhlenberg comes from a revolutionary stock, second to none in services and sacrifices in the great war of Independence. His grandfather, a native of Germany, was one of those noble spirits who in all ages have contended for the blessings of civil and religious freedom, and he found in the wilds of Pennsylvania that liberty which the despots of Europe have always denied to a suffering people. His sons partook of the energy of their father. General Peter Muhlenberg, who was indited for his first commission as a Colonel in the Continental line to the friendship of Washington, was one of the bravest officers of the Revolutionary army. Brandywine, Germantown, Monmouth, Stony Point, Green Spring, and Yorktown, bore testimony to his valor, and Pennsylvania has reason to be proud of that courage and conduct which gave her German son a high rank among the heroes of the Revolution.

Mr. Muhlenberg, an original friend of General Jackson, and always an unwavering Democrat, commenced his political career at the Presidential election of 1828, as a representative in Congress from the Counties of Berks, Schuylkill and Lehigh. He was four times re-elected by his confiding constituents, and in 1838 he was selected by President Van Buren as the first American Minister sent to Austria, to unite by ties of mutual amity and peace the country of his birth with that of his forefathers. Throughout this whole public career, he evinced a calm and steady judgment, and an indomitable firmness of purpose, but so mingled with amenity, and frankness of demeanor, as to win esteem and affection, even from those of different political opinions.

While in Congress, he voted against the Maysville road bill, which was afterwards vetoed by General Jackson. He sustained the bank veto of 1832, and the removal of the public deposits from the Bank of the United States in 1833. He moved the previous question, so as to refer the report of the Secretary of the Treasury, (Mr. Taney) to the Committee of Ways and Means; and on the 4th of April, 1834, solemnly recorded his opinion, on the Journals of Congress, by his vote, that "the Bank of the United States ought not to be re-chartered," and that "the public deposits ought not to be restored." In the same year he was appointed one of that committee of the representatives of the people against whom the bank closed its doors, as was afterwards done against depositors, note holders, creditors, and even stockholders. This startling act of Bank arrogance was but the necessary precursor of that total loss of thirty-five millions of capital, which ended in assignments, insolvency, and the ruin of hundreds of innocent individuals, reposing in fancied security under the promises of the bank politicians who, at the time, vindicated and even gloried in its conduct. Against such conduct and such an institution, whether under a national or State charter, Mr. Muhlenberg was then, and is now, solemnly pledged. During the same session he voted for the "Gold bill," a crowning measure of General Jackson's attempts to curtail the circulation of worthless paper money, and to re-establish the only constitutional currency—GOLD AND SILVER. Throughout a great part of his Congressional term, he was chairman of the Committee on Revolutionary Claims, and a large portion of his time was faithfully given to procure justice for the widows and orphans of those who suffered in the cause of the Revolution.