

MILITIA FINES.

A great many inquiries have recently been made respecting the collections of militia fines, and the right of Collectors to imprison delinquents.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE, Philadelphia, Aug. 23d, 1844.

Wm. F. Packer, Esq., Auditor General.

Dear Sir:—I had the honor to receive yesterday, yours of the 21st instant, inclosing a letter from J. H. McCauley, Esq., Clerk of the Commissioners of Franklin county, containing inquiries in relation to the construction of certain portions of the act of the 25th of April last, in relation to the collection of militia fines, and to answer the same agreeably to your request.

These requests are:—First. Can the Commissioners of the county exonerate a man for poverty, or must the Collector imprison him? Second. Can the Collector arrest minors, or are their parents liable for their fines?

Third. Will the State pay the costs of arresting and imprisoning delinquent men?

This act of Assembly is designed, as is expressly stated in its title, to provide "a more rigid mode for the collection of militia fines," but although intended for this purpose, it may be doubted whether it has been very effectually attained. It is in many particulars so defectively drawn as to render it difficult to execute all its provisions; however, it will be enough to consider its defects when questions arise upon them.

So far as relates to the first question, I can perceive no authority in this act of Assembly vested in the County Commissioners or any other functionary, to exonerate a man from payment of militia fine on account of poverty. The eighth section of the law defines the mode by which delinquents may exonerate themselves.

The ninth section points out the mode by which Collectors may discharge themselves from liability for certain fines; but the Legislature does not seem in any part of this law to contemplate that any man who had incurred a militia fine, might be so poor as to be unable to pay it.

In respect to the second inquiry, I think that minors are not subject to arrest; nor do I perceive in what manner their parents are liable for their fines. It is true that the act of Assembly makes no distinction between minors above the age of eighteen and adults subject to the performance of militia duty, but in the seventh section it provides that the Commissioners shall issue their "warrant to the several Collectors, which shall be similar to that for the collection of taxes; and the said Collectors are required to proceed to collect under the same authority and in all respects as they are authorized to do in case of the collecting of any county rates and levies."

Upon reference to the forty-fifth section of the act of the 15th of April, 1834, entitled "An act relating to county rates and levies," the authority of Collectors is so expressly defined "that nothing herein contained shall authorize the arrest or imprisonment for non-payment of any tax or any female or infant, &c." This provision of the law seems to me fully to warrant the opinion I have expressed.

In answer to the third inquiry, it appears to me that the act of the 15th of April, 1834, to which I have above referred, in the twenty-first section, furnishes our own guide: It is therein provided that the Collector shall be authorized to "take the body of such delinquent and convey him into the jail of the proper county, there to remain until the amount of such tax, together with the costs, shall be paid or secured to be paid, or until he shall be otherwise discharged by due course of law."

This appears to be the only method of obtaining the costs of arresting and imprisoning delinquents. I am not aware of any law which authorizes the responsibility to be cast upon the State. Yours with great respect, &c. &c.

Ovid F. JOHNSON, Attorney General.

Infamous Forgery.

The Harrisburg Intelligencer, of Friday last, perpetrates a foul and wanton forgery, upon one of Mr. Buchanan's late speeches. The Intelligencer is trying to prove that Mr. B. was opposed to the present Tariff Bill, in all its features, and, for this purpose, makes the following quotation from his speech speaking in favor of imposing duties on foreign imports, the Intelligencer makes Mr. Buchanan say:

"In adjusting these duties, however, I shall abandon the principle of discrimination in favor of such branches of home industry as may be necessary to secure a supply of those articles of manufacture essential to the national independence and safety in time of war."

Now make the sequel. The sentence as quoted makes Mr. Buchanan a free trade man, out and out; whereas the extract honestly made, would read as follows:

"In adjusting these duties, however, I shall NEVER abandon the principle of discrimination in favor of such branches of Home Industry as may be necessary to secure a supply of those articles of manufacture essential to the national independence and safety in time of war."

The reader will perceive that the Intelligencer leaves out the word "NEVER" in the extract last copied—thus creating the impression that Mr. B. was opposed to protection. A meaner or more dishonest fraud we have never yet exposed. It is thus that the whigs wish to make capital out of the Tariff in Pennsylvania, by rank and bold-faced forgeries!

Lancaster Intelligencer



THE AMERICAN.

Saturday, August 31, 1844.

Democratic Nominations.

FOR PRESIDENT.

JAMES K. POLK, OF TENNESSEE.

FOR VICE PRESIDENT.

GEO. M. DALLAS, OF PENNSYLVANIA.

FOR GOVERNOR.

Francis R. Shunk.

(Subject to the decision of the Convention.)

FOR CANAL COMMISSIONER.

Joshua Hartshorn.

ELECTORS.

For President and Vice President of the U States WILSON McCANDLESS, Senatorial. ASA DIMOCK.

REPRESENTATIVE.

- 1. GEO. F. LEHMAN, 13. GEORGE SCHUBALE, 2. CHRISTIAN KNIES, 14. NATH'L. B. ELDRIDGE, 3. WILLIAM H. SMITH, 15. M. N. IRVINE, 4. JOHN HILL, (Phila.) 16. JAMES WOODRURY, 5. SAMUEL E. LEACH, 17. HUGH MONTGOMERY, 6. SAMUEL CAMP, 18. ISAAC ANNEVY, 7. JESSE SHARPE, 19. JOHN MATTHEWS, 8. N. W. SAMPLE, 20. WM. PATTERSON, 9. W. HEIDENREICH, 21. ANDREW BURKE, 10. CONRAD SHIMMER, 22. JOHN M. GILL, 11. STEPHEN BALDY, 23. CHRISTIAN MYERS, 12. JONAH 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 receipt for all monies due this office, for subscription or advertising.

Also, at his Office No. 160 Nassau Street, New York.

THE "AMERICAN" FOR THE CAMPAIGN.—As it has become fashionable to furnish newspapers from this to the elections at a low price, we propose to furnish the "American," or our German paper, until the elections, for 25cts. for one copy, or five copies for one dollar.

The meeting at Milton on the 14th, will be, we presume, numerous attended. Hon. James Buchanan, and a number of distinguished speakers will attend.

POTTSVILLE EMPORIUM.—This sterling democratic journal has passed into the hands of Mr. E. O. Jackson, late of Columbia county. Mr. Jackson is a sound democrat and a spirited writer. He deserves, and, no doubt, will be liberally patronized by the democracy of Schuylkill.

CATCHING AT STRAWS.—Some of our neighboring whig prints, anxiously waiting to catch hold of any thing out of which they can make a little political capital, have seized upon the parloining and destruction of the whig banner of this place, as a God-send. These papers implicate the whole party, and attempt to create an impression that they sanctioned and applauded the act. The Miltonian, in an article under the head of "Locofocoism—Another Infamous Outrage," denounces the whole party, whilst the Donville Democrat, not to be behind, heeds an article on the subject, as "Another Diabolical Locofoco Act." To make the matter worse, they endeavor to create an impression that Miss Finney, the young lady who made the banner, had expended not only her own labor, but her own money. This is treating the Clay Club of this place rather scurvily, to think they would ask a young lady to make a banner and find not only herself, but the means also. The whole expense for materials, we understand, did not exceed four dollars, but whether four or forty, it matters not. It was a mean and contemptible act, and we don't know that those who charge the party in this place as participators in the transaction, should be viewed in a much more favorable light than the perpetrators themselves. We have not heard of a single democrat who has not condemned it. We would advise these editors to try something else. Even the story of Polk's grandfather being a tory, would do better.

THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN 1840, was held on the 30th of Oct. The vote in this State was, for Harrison, 143,756. Van Buren 143,492. Majority for Harrison, 264. In this county Van Buren had 2,189, Harrison 1,351. V. B. majority 838. We expect to give Polk and Dallas 1,000.

Election Returns.

MISSOURI ELECTION.—It was generally supposed that the whigs and softs, (anti-Bentonians,) united, would have a majority on joint ballot by late intelligence, we are pleased to learn, that the Hards or Benton democrats, will have a majority of 28, and consequently that well tried democrat, Thomas H. Benton, will be re-elected to the U. S. Senate. Edwards, the democratic candidate for Governor, is elected by about 6000 over all opposition.

Graham's majority in North Carolina is 3,426. About 1000 less than in 1842, and 12,000 less than Harrison, in 1840.

INDIANA.—The House stands 55 whigs, 45 democrats. Senate 25 to 25.

KENTUCKY ELECTIONS.—The following are the official returns for Governor and Lieut. Governor. Owsley, (whig,) 59,316. Butler, (dem.) 54,752. Lieut. Governor: Dixon, (whig,) 58,623. Filcher, (dem.) 48,351. In 1840, the election for Governor stood as follows.—Letcher, (whig,) 54,959. French, (dem.) 39,158.

FIRE.—We regret to state that a destructive fire occurred at Milton, on Saturday night last, about 12 o'clock. The large stable, belonging to the Hotel of Michael Kromer, was completely destroyed, together with two horses and a large quantity of hay, oats, &c. Loss \$100,—partially covered by Insurance.

Also the stable of Samuel Hepburn, Esq., with two valuable carriages, a quantity of hay, &c. Loss \$600.

And a stable belonging to Messrs. Rawn & Chapin, containing a quantity of hay, belonging to Mr. Miller. Whole loss about \$2,000.

The calmness of the night probably prevented an extension of the fire. The Miltonian thinks the fire was the work of an incendiary. As is usual at most of the fires in the country, the ladies worked while some of the men looked on.

MR. BUCHANAN'S MOVEMENTS.—The Lancaster Democrat says: Our distinguished fellow citizen, Mr. Buchanan, will leave this city, for his proposed tour through the northern counties of this State, in a few days. He is expected to be at Danville on the 5th of September, at Towanda on the 9th, at Lock Haven on the 11th, at Jersey Shore on the 12th, at Williamsport on the 13th, and at Milton on the 14th. Great preparations are making throughout the "glorious north," to give the favorite son of Pennsylvania a grand and an enthusiastic welcome. Addresses will be delivered by Mr. Buchanan at all the places named.

The Lewistown Republican states that the Democratic Banner, of that town, was destroyed by some of the whigs just before the late democratic meeting. The Republican thinks no decent person of any party, would be guilty of such an act. That's fair and honorable.

SALE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS.—On Wednesday, the last of the twenty days for the sale of the Delaware division, expired. The sale was held at the Philadelphia Exchange. Out of the 25,000 shares, only 31 shares were sold, and these in the first week of the offering. So, we presume, it will subject but little how the people vote on the matter at the next election.

UNION AND HARMONY.—The whigs of the Schuylkill, Dauphin and Lebanon district have got each other by the ears, on account of the nomination of Mr. Ramsey, of Dauphin, whose friends, it is said, agreed last year to give Schuylkill county the candidate this fall. Dauphin and Lebanon, however, have renominated Mr. Ramsey. Some of the Schuylkill county whigs are out in open rebellion. Hear the Miners' Journal:

"We have been deceived, betrayed, and then taunted with being poor politicians, by these men who even boast of their dishonorable conduct. We may be poor intriguers, but our citizens are honest and honorable in their intentions—they despise office hunters—and if a better man than Mr. Ramsey is offered, who can be supported without a sacrifice of principle, they will teach him and his friends a lesson that he will not soon forget."

The Philadelphia Mercury, The Madisonian, and in fact all the Tyler papers, have hoisted the flag of Polk and Dallas.

Commodore Dallas, brother of George M. Dallas, died at sea.

HARDS AND SOFTS.—These are terms now applied to the Bentonians and anti-Bentonians, in Missouri. The whigs have no candidates this year for Governor and members of Congress, but have joined in with the Softs, and in opposition to the Bentonians, or Hards.

CHANGES.—Numerous changes are to be made in the Custom House and Post Office, at Philadelphia. A Washington correspondent states that Capt. John H. Cowden, formerly of Lycoming, will be appointed Navy agent, in the place of T. Hays, the present incumbent.

"The Spirit of the Times," of Philadelphia, says the whigs are now perfecting a compromise with the Natives. They have yielded to them the Mayor of the city, and in return, it is understood that the Whigs are to have the member in the 1st Congressional district, which is now represented by Mr. Morris. The Times makes the following reply to a whig correspondent, on this subject—

"Is not the Whig party in Philadelphia, at this very moment, perfecting a compromise with the Natives? Has the Whig party in our City nominated a candidate for Mayor? Is it not understood that it will vote en masse for the 'Native' candidate? And, as an equivalent for thus securing a Native triumph, are not arrangements making with the Native Convention to have a certain gentleman nominated by the Nativists for Congress in the First District, who will withdraw at the last moment, in order to guarantee, by the aid of the 'Native' votes the success of the candidate of the Whigs?"

A CURIOSITY.—The volume of Pamphlet Laws, of the last session of Congress, contains 310 pages. 139 of these are taken up with acts and resolutions, 25 with treaties, and 146 with the index. The latter is called "fat" by the profession.

MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH.—Professor Morse has made great improvements in his Telegraph. He has reduced the battery from eighty to ten cups, and has also succeeded in sending the electric fluid across the Susquehanna without the aid of wires.

Hon. Francis Jackson, President of the Boston Anti-Slavery Society, has resigned his commission as a Justice of the Peace, because his conscience troubled him in having sworn to support the Constitution of the United States, which fosters and upholds slavery.

BARON VAN RAUMER, a learned German, is now on a visit to the U. States. We may, ere long, expect to hear his views on this country.

The old adage, that a question is more easily asked than answered, comes home with full effect upon candidates for office. The candidates for the Presidency are constantly receiving letters of inquiry from different parts of the Union. Probably not more than one in a hundred is replied to. Some of Mr. Clay's political, but unthinking friends, recently addressed a letter to him, to ascertain his views on the subject of duelling. Mr. Clay replies in no very good humor, leaving his querists in as much doubt as they were in before they addressed him. The following is an extract of his reply, and is as perfect a piece of non-committalism as ever emanated from the pen of Mr. Van Buren:

"I expressed in strong terms of condemnation, my opinion against duelling in a letter which I addressed to my constituents in March, 1824, which is to be found in the published collection of my speeches. Again, within a few years past, I gave evidence of my strong disapprobation of it, by voting, in the Senate of the United States, for the bill for suppressing duelling in the District of Columbia.

With these proofs of my sentiments, I think, gentlemen, you ought to be satisfied. But you ask me whether, if I were challenged to fight a duel, I would reject the invitation? Considering my age, which is now past 67, I feel that I should expose myself to ridicule if I were to proclaim whether I would or would not fight a duel. It is certainly one of the most unlikely events that can possibly be imagined, and I cannot conceive a case in which I should be provoked or tempted to go to the field of combat. But, as I cannot foresee all the contingencies which may possibly arise, in the short remnant of my life, and for the reason which I have already stated, of avoiding any exposure of myself to ridicule, I cannot reconcile it to my sense of propriety to make a declaration one way or the other.

The Late Elections—The Popular Vote—Increase of the Democratic Vote.

The recent elections in the six States of Indiana, Kentucky, Illinois, Missouri, North Carolina, and Alabama, are exciting considerable controversy among politicians, as to the increase and decrease of their popular vote. We below give the facts, leaving the application to be made by those interested. We first give from the New York Tribune, of 1840, the vote of the August election in 1840, compared with the votes of the August election in 1836.

Table with 4 columns: State, 1840 Whig maj, 1840 Dem maj, 1836 Whig Dem. Rows include Kentucky, Indiana, N. Carolina, Illinois, Missouri, Alabama.

Wig majority in 1840, 18,500; Democratic majority in 1836, 2,500—Whig gain from 1836, 21,000.

The following are the majorities of the August elections in 1840, compared with the returns just in.

Table with 4 columns: State, 1840 Whig maj, 1840 Dem maj, 1844 Whig Dem. Rows include Kentucky, Indiana, N. Carolina, Illinois, Missouri, Alabama.

Whig majority in 1840, 11,500; Democratic majority in 1844, 29,000, making a difference of 47,500 votes.

MISCELLANY.

Editorial, Condensed and Selected. The amount of duties collected at the New York Custom House from the 1st of August to the 20th, was two and a quarter millions of dollars.

ATTACK ON A CHURCH.—The Pottsville Gazette gives an account of a disturbance at Tamaqua, on Sunday of last week, in which the Lutheran Church at that place had its windows demolished. The favorite recreation of rioters seems to be now to deface and destroy houses of public worship.

A DIFFERENCE IN PRICE.—A farm on Cape Island, N. J. containing about 150 acres, was offered, twenty years ago, for \$1200. On last Saturday, the sum of \$18,000 was offered for one eighth of an acre of the same farm, which was refused!

POROSITY OF THE SKIN.—From microscopic observation it has been computed that the skin is perforated with a thousand holes in a square inch. If the whole surface of the human body be estimated at sixteen square feet, it must contain no fewer than 2,304,000 pores.

POLK RAISING HAS GOT TO BE SO MUCH the fashion in the West, that a person in St. Louis advertises that he will raise either "Whig Ash Poles" or "Young Hickories" at the shortest notice, and of any height. It is supposed that he will be kept constantly employed for the next two months.

SINGULAR RESULT.—At the recent election in Kentucky, in Owsley county, Butler had a Majority, and in Butler county, Owsley had a majority of the votes polled for Governor.

In Mr. Clay's district the Whigs have lost one hundred and eleven votes since 1840.

Such is the value of a mahogany tree, that a single one cut up into logs has sold as high as \$15,000. In England it fetches a high price among the manufacturers of piano fortes.

Unmarried men are taxed \$1.75; married men, \$1.25, in New Jersey. What a strong inducement this is for young men to marry—save 50 cents a year by the operation!

At Hartford, Connecticut, the experiment of covering the body with sliced onions, and renewing those often till the fever subsides, has been tried with great effect in cases of scarlet fever.

Arabs melt their butter over a slow fire, which expels all the watery particles; it will then keep without salt; and the Irish have adopted with success a similar mode for the exportation to the East Indies.

SECRET HISTORY—THE PROOF AT LAST.

Attention is requested (says the Pennsylvaniaian) to the subjoined extract from the Madisonian of Wednesday. The political reader will find it very curious and interesting, as throwing light upon several points. It seems to bear out the Madisonian in its assertion that Mr. Webster, while in the Cabinet, was by no means unwilling to lend Mr. Clay an ugly thrust or two under the fifth rib and thereabouts, whenever opportunity offered itself. It appears to prove also, that Mr. Clay did actually give up the principle of protection in 1833, and propose a "horizontal tariff," notwithstanding his declaration while on the floor of the House of Representatives last session, that it was a "lie," to say so, accompanied by certain epithets which it is unnecessary and impolite to quote. The reader will also discover other remarkable statements in this article, which is needless to particularize:

MESSRS. WEBSTER AND CLAY.

We take the following from the last New York Courier and Enquirer:

"The editor of the Madisonian intimated a few days since, that he would do something dreadful if Mr. Webster should venture to advocate the election of Henry Clay on the ground of his friendship to the Tariff, and we were (of course!) exceedingly solicitous to ascertain what sort of a thunderbolt was to fall upon the head of Mr. Webster, if he should dare to say anything in favor of the Whig candidate for the Presidency. But it seems we mistook the meaning of the Madisonian man entirely. He was not going to do anything with Mr. Webster; it is Mr. Clay that he is going to blow into the seven stars, if Mr. Webster dares to open his mouth for him. The Madisonian is going to prove that Mr. Clay has at one time 'proposed to abandon all protection on articles manufactured in the U. States.'"

Suppose we prove it now and by Mr. Webster. About the time, indeed at the time, (1842,) when a bitter controversy was going on between the Hon. Henry Clay and the Hon. Henry A. Wise, in relation to the unfortunate Culey duel, Mr. Wise being prevented from expressing his views on the Tariff, by some rule of the House, announced his purpose to employ them in an address to his constituents, which would be published in the newspapers.

Immediately after the announcement was made Mr. Webster, being then Secretary of State under Mr. Tyler, and taking a most active part in the vindication of the Administration, and in opposition to the assaults of Mr. Clay and his friends on it, sent to the Madisonian office, where it was known the address of Mr. Wise would be published, the following note, desiring it to be inserted in the Address, as a separate and distinct paragraph which was accordingly done:

"I am informed and authorized, by one who saw the manuscript draught of the act of 1833 before it was offered, to state that 'when Mr. Clay drew the act of 1833, and showed it to his friends in his own handwriting, after the clause which provides that only such duties shall be laid as are necessary for an economical administration of the Government, after the 30th of June, 1842, the following words, or other words precisely equivalent, were added to wit: 'And such duties shall be laid without reference to the protection of any domestic articles whatever.' It may fairly, therefore, be claimed that the great author of what is called the American System himself, has, in the most direct manner, acceded to this principle at least, that duties must be laid primarily for REVENUE, and not for PROTECTION alone. This is the leading principle to which the faith of the nation has been solemnly pledged, and one from which it will never be safe for the great protected interests themselves to depart."

On the margin of Mr. Webster's note there was a P. S. in pencil mark, which ran as follows: "The words quoted, beginning at 'And,' and ending at 'whatever,' are a literal copy from the original draft in Mr. Clay's handwriting. D. W."

It may be remembered that the Hon. C. J. Ingersoll stated last spring, in the House, that he had heard that Mr. Clay had once agreed to yield the principles of protection—and that Mr. Clay acceded him, when in Washington, last May, on the subject, and pronounced the statement a 'falsehood,' and the one who had communicated to him the information a 'calumniator.'

Will he pronounce Mr. Webster a 'calumniator'?"

We have more than once demonstrated that some fifty of Mr. Clay's nearest and dearest friends opposed, directly and indirectly, the passage of the existing tariff act; and have asserted, on tenable grounds, that the Clay party in Congress were opposed to its passage. Mr. Webster was, undoubtedly, in favor of the act, and while striving to array the manufacturers against Mr. Clay, lost no opportunity to reconcile them to Mr. Tyler. Some of the seeds he sowed have taken root.

Was it not too much for patient endurance, for Mr. Webster, after 'providing for his family' and his friends, by his labors in behalf of the Administration, to turn round and denounce it, and to become the advocate of Mr. Clay because of his advocacy of the Tariff?

But we have other witnesses, and among them is Mr. Marshall, of Kentucky, with whose testimony we will pause for the present.

We make the following extract from Mr. Marshall's letter published in the National Intelligencer:

"I will appeal from the Press to the people. From the leaders to the troops. I will not be cashiered or drummed disgracefully out of camp for having first indicated the path to victory, (to advocating the tariff,) while others, who watched the course of the battle in prudent silence, or were found actually on the other side denouncing me till unexpectedly the tide of war changed, now rush boldly in to seize the spoils and wear the laurels. It will be remembered that I fought up when I first made the proposition, (the tariff bill,) under a load of obloquy and the weight of

most unworthy suspicions.—That my course was said to be dictated by my hostility to Mr. Clay. That I was feeding an ancient family grudge. It will be remembered that the known partisans, the peculiar personal party of that gentleman, sought by every means to defeat the bill. Whether they or I judged most wisely, let the world decide. I do not, of course, ask to be remembered at any of the jubilees in connexion with this subject, but I do entreat that my district may be allowed to spare me a little longer, and may not furnish the halter for my execution, at least while the duties remain what they are upon hemp."

Our Candidate for Governor.

We copy, with pleasure, says the Pennsylvaniaian, the following extract of a letter written by the Hon. JAMES BUCHANAN, to JNO. M. READ, Esq., of this city, directly after the news of Mr. MULLENBERG'S death reached M'Connellsburg, where Mr. Buchanan was detained on his way from Bedford. It is a coincidence, no less remarkable than gratifying, that the same feeling which actuated Mr. Buchanan in taking the course pointed out in the extract below, has become, spontaneously, the feeling among the Democratic party, in every portion of the State yet heard from:

M'CONNELLSBURG, PA., August, 13, 1844.

My Dear Sir:—The mail stage last night brought us the melancholy news of the death of Mr. Muhlenberg. I have scarcely ever been more shocked by any catastrophe. The whole State will be in mourning, and well it may. Mr. Muhlenberg did not leave behind him within its limits, a purer, wiser or better man. Bound to him by the closest ties of personal and political friendship, my loss is irreparable. It is thus as men advance in life, that one by one, they see their friends falling around them, until at last they are left in the midst of a new generation which can never cordially sympathize with them. It is then that they feel themselves to be the solitary relics of a departed age; and realize the solemn truth that they are but pilgrims and sojourners on the earth as all their fathers were. I have lost so many old and valued friends within a few years, that I feel I am fast advancing to this period.

But whilst we mourn the dead, we ought not to neglect the duty to the living. Mr. Muhlenberg's death leaves us in a critical position. What is to be done? I answer that the Democratic papers ought without a moment's delay, to raise the flag of FRANCIS R. SHUNK. Next to our lamented friend, he was undoubtedly the choice of the Democracy of Pennsylvania. The proceedings of the 4th March Convention abundantly establish this fact. In pursuing this course then, they will be acting in obedience to the public will. We must not hesitate in the face of the enemy, but move into line in support of Shunk without faltering."

The Grand Nashville Convention.

The Democrats held a grand convention at Nashville, Tennessee, on the 15th inst.

The Nashville Union, in speaking of this National Democratic Mass Convention, says there were "fifty thousand American freemen assembled in council on the banks of the Cumberland, in the Valley of the Mississippi, and in the neighborhood of the Hermitage. There never was anything like this in the West before. The table on which the dinner was set was too miles in length." The same paper says—

"On Wednesday, Nashville was from sunrise to sunset as a MILITARY CAMP. On every road to the city was to be seen approaching companies, battalions and regiments, mounted and on foot, with their bands of music, their banners and their mottoes, on their way to this great encampment of the sovereign people.—Their reception by the city escort; the loud, continued and almost deafening hurrahs with which they were greeted by our citizens who surrounded the public square, and literally crammed the balconies of the Nashville Inn, far surpassed anything of the kind we ever witnessed. The ladies, too, were there—their white handkerchiefs waving from almost every house, and their bright smiles beaming from every window, in approval of the magnificent display. All who could not be accommodated at public and private houses within the city, repaired to the 'Encampment of the People.'—There pitched their tents.

"After the lighting of candles for the night the Hon. Thomas F. Marshall, of Kentucky, addressed thousands in front of the Court House, on the annexation of Texas.

"On Thursday morning, at daybreak, a national salute aroused us all from our slumbers. The streets were soon crowded, and the road to Camp Hickory was filled with passengers, who continued to move in that direction until eleven o'clock, when the great grove of the camp, fifty acres in extent, was as full as it could hold.

"Gov. Cass made the first speech, and it was one of unsurpassed eloquence and power. Mr. Melville, of New York, followed with a thrilling edifying and instructive speech—eliciting the most rapturous applause at the turn of every period. Mr. Hise, of Kentucky, addressed the multitude with great ability, and so did Ger McCalla, of the same State. Meantime, Gov. Clay, of Alabama, Judge Rowlin, of Missouri and Messrs. Terry and Thompson, of Alabama, were addressing immense crowds at other points of the Encampment."

A red herring, firmly fastened by a string to any place where rats usually make their run will drive them from the place. It is said to be a fact, that a toad, placed in a house cellar, will have the effect of expelling those noxious intruders.