

TERMS OF THE "AMERICAN."

H. B. MASSER, PUBLISHERS AND PROPRIETORS.

Office in Centre Alley, in the rear of H. B. Masser's Store.

THE "AMERICAN" is published every Saturday at TWO DOLLARS per annum to be paid half yearly in advance.

No subscriptions received for a less period than six months. All communications or letters on business relating to the office, to insure attention, must be POST PAID.

Come and See. NEW GOODS.

Cheap for Cash or Country Produce. H. B. MASSER has just received an assortment of New Goods, which he will sell at the lowest prices, for cash or Country Produce.

Persons are invited to call and judge for themselves. Best Rio Coffee for 12 1/2 cents. Good do. for 10, and other articles in proportion. Sunbury, May 25, 1844.

To Country Merchants.

Boots, Shoes, Bonnets, Leghorn and Palm Leaf Hats. G. W. & L. B. TAYLOR, at the S. E. corner of Market and Fifth Sts., PHILADELPHIA.

OFFER for sale an extensive assortment of the above articles, all of which they sell at unusually low prices, and particularly invite the attention of buyers visiting the city, to an examination of their stock. G. W. & L. B. TAYLOR, Philadelphia, May 25, 1844.—ly

Notice.

THOSE persons having demands against the Commonwealth for Labor performed, or materials furnished for the repairs of the

North Branch Canal, prior to the 9th day of January, 1844, who have not handed to the subscriber an account of the same, are requested to do so at the earliest possible moment, in order that they may be put in form for settlement, as soon as the fund appropriated for the payment of old debts can be obtained.

Those living at a distance are requested to forward by mail or otherwise. W. R. MAFFEE, Wilkes-Barre, May 11, 1844.—tf

REMOVAL.

DOCTOR J. B. MASSER, RESPECTFULLY informs the citizens of Sunbury and its vicinity, that he has removed his office to the white building in Market Square, east of Dr. T. Clement's store, and immediately opposite the post office, where he will be happy to receive calls in the line of his profession. Sunbury, May 4th, 1844.

DAVID EVANS'

Patent Fire and Thief Proof Iron Chests, Slate lined Refrigerators, with Filters attached when required.

EVANS & WATSON, No. 76 South Third St., opposite the Exchange, PHILADELPHIA.

MANUFACTURE and keep for sale DAVID EVANS' celebrated Water and Provision Coffers, and Patent Refrigerators and Thief Proof Iron Chests, for preserving Bales, Papers, Books, Jewels, Gold, Silver, &c., &c., made of Best Iron, (and not over Plank as many have out of every one hundred now in use, and for sale in Philadelphia, for three months in the summer of 1842, when all the Keys were at liberty to be used, and the Chest not opened, although the experiment was tried by at least 1500 persons. One of the same Locks was tried by Robbers, at the Delaware Coal Office, in Walnut street, above Third, but did not succeed.

Holdings, Machines, Iron Doors, superior Locks, and all kinds of Iron Railings, Saws and Cutting Presses, and Sawmills generally, on hand or manufactured at the shortest notice.

CAUTION—Do hereby caution all persons against making, using, selling, or causing to be sold, any Keyhole Covers for Fire Proof Chests, or Doors, of any kind similar in principle to my Patent, of 10th July, 1841, and also against Lining Refrigerators with Slate, for which my Patent is dated 26th March, 1843, as any infringement will be dealt with according to law.

DAVID EVANS, Philadelphia, April 13, 1844.—ly

Boot & Shoe MAKING.

BECK & BROSIUS WOULD inform the friends and the public generally, that they have commenced the shoe business in all its various branches, in the shop lately occupied by Xavier Eggert at a watchmaker shop, east of the Red Lion Hotel, in Market street, Sunbury, where they are prepared to execute all orders in their line, with PROMPTNESS AND DESPATCH.

They hope, by strict attention to business, moderate charges, and the durability of their work, to merit and receive a share of the public patronage. Sunbury, March 30th, 1844.—ly

FORESTVILLE BRASS EIGHT DAY CLOCKS.

THE subscriber has just received, for sale, a few of the above celebrated Eight Day Clocks, which will be sold at very reduced prices, for cash. Also, superior 30 hour Clocks, of the best make and quality, which will be sold for cash, at \$1 50. Also, superior Brass 30 hour Clocks, at \$5 00. Dec. 2, 1843. H. B. MASSER.

WILLIAM J. MARTIN, ATTORNEY AT LAW, SUNBURY, PA.

OFFICE in the second story of the building occupied by Dr. J. B. Masser, on Market street. Oct. 21st, 1843.

A Threshing Machine for Sale.

THE subscriber offers for sale a THRESHING MACHINE, new and in good order. The Machine has been tried, and proves to be an excellent one. It will be sold at a reduced price, and warranted. Apply to H. B. MASSER, July 1st, 1843.

SUNBURY AMERICAN.

AND SHAMOKIN JOURNAL.

Absolute acquiescence in the decisions of the majority, the vital principle of Republics, from which there is no appeal but to force, the vital principle and immediate parent of despotism.—JEFFERSON.

By Masser & Elsely.

Sunbury, Northumberland Co. Pa. Saturday, Sept. 21, 1844.

Vol. 4--No. 52--Whole No. 205.



THE INQUIRY.

BANNER OF THE CROSS.

Tell me, ye winged winds, That round my path do roar, Do ye not know some spot Where mortals weep no more; Some lone and pleasant dell, Some valley in the west, Where, free from toil and pain, The weary soul may rest?

The loud wind dwindled to a whisper low, And sighed for pity, as it answered, "No."

Tell me thou mighty deep, Whose billows round me play, Know'st thou some favored spot, Some island far away, Where weary man may find The bliss for which he sighs, Where sorrow never lives, And friendship never dies?

The loud waves, roaring in perpetual flow, Stopped for a while, and sighed to answer, "No."

And thou sereneest moon, That, with such holy face, Does look upon the world, Asleep to night's embrace; Tell me, in all thy round, Hast thou not seen some spot Where miserable man Might find a happier lot?

Behind a cloud the moon withdrew in woe; And a voice, sweet but sad, responded, "No."

Tell me, my sacred soul, O, tell me, hope and faith, Is there no resting place From sorrow sin and death? Is there no happy spot Where mortals may be blessed, Where grief may find a balm, And weariness rest?

Faith, Hope, and Love, best boons to mortals given, Wav'd their bright wings, and whispered, "Yes, in heaven!"

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

To the Democracy of the Union.

The Democratic Associations, the Hickory and Young Hickory Clubs, and other Democratic Clubs and Associations now organized throughout the United States, are most respectfully and earnestly solicited, if they have not already done so, to report themselves, without delay, by letter, post paid, to the Executive Committee of the Democratic Association in Washington city, D. C. They are requested to give the names of their officers, the number of their members, &c. It is important that this step should be taken to secure a more thorough and efficient organization of the democratic party than now exists, for these reasons.

1st. That each association shall keep the other well informed of the condition of parties.

2d. That authentic and correct information may be disseminated far and wide.

3d. That the returns, whether of State or federal elections, may be circulated in form authentic and official, and which can be relied upon by our friends for any purpose, and especially to counteract the false impressions which may be created by the publication in the whig journals of the results of elections.

It is already ascertained that that party have a well organized system of falsehood, not only in the publication of erroneous returns of elections, but by the publication of tracts and documents. The whig and some of the neutral papers, in every section of the Union, attend to the first branch of the fraud, and the Congressional whig central franking committee at Washington are attending to the latter, by publishing and disseminating one set of opinions by Mr. Clay for the South, and another set for the Manufacturing and abolition districts of the North and West; also documents for the North making Mr. Polk a free trade man, and documents for the South making him a Tariff man. These frauds have been detected in this city, therefore we warn our friends to guard against them. Discredit everything coming from a whig source, until substantiated by information derived from those whose effort will be not to deceive, but enlighten with the truth. We do not hesitate to say that the election returns which have been, and are being published in the Democratic papers of Washington can be relied on by our friends for any purpose. They are as accurate as unofficial returns can possibly be, some of which, from whig papers. The official returns will be published in the Washington papers as soon as they are received.

When the organization proposed by this notice is complete, the facility for getting the correct returns will be such as is desired. We appeal to the democracy of those sections of country where no associations exist to forthwith organ-

ize and report in accordance with the above. We must not despise the enemy however corrupt or weak they may be; but knowing them to be weak and corrupt should make us more vigilant and active to guard against the unfair and unjust means to which they will from necessity resort to cover their weakness. We can assure our friends that we have no doubt Polk and Dallas will be elected. We must, nevertheless do our duty. We make the appeal with another view: that channels may be established through which we can develop to the American people one of the most corrupt and villainous schemes ever concocted by any party which has been set on foot by whiggery to subjugate republican liberty, and bring our institutions down to the foolstool of the tyranny of the Old World. We do not tear the scheme. Its exposure will not only defeat its object, but will overwhelm the men and the party who conceived, and are attempting to mature it, in infamy so deep that the friends of civil and religious liberty throughout the world, to the remotest generations, will execrate their very names. When the organization is complete the exposure will be made, and their plan rendered abortive. Therefore organize—organize forthwith—North, South, East and West.

P. S. This is to give notice to the Democracy, that the whig central committee in this city are publishing documents purporting to show the votes of Mr. Polk, which, in fact, if they do not in all cases actually falsify his votes, suppress some of the facts connected therewith, and thus give a false aspect to them. It will be the duty of the democratic party in every section of the country to discredit these documents, denounce them as vile whig slanders, as they are, ask a suspension of public opinion, and write immediately to Washington to the executive committee of the democratic association to send the real facts in each case, to be derived from the Congressional archives, as authenticated by the Clerk in the charge of them.

The associations throughout the Union will be pleased to pay the postage on all communications sent to the executive committee of the democratic associations at Washington, whose communications will, in all cases, be postage paid.

The democratic papers throughout the U. States will subscribe the cause of the democracy by giving the fullest publicity to the above, until it shall be seen in the remotest parts of the Union. They are earnestly requested to do so. By order of the executive committee, JAMES TOWLES, Chairman, C. P. SENGSTACK, Secretary.

Is a National Bank Necessary?

In 1824 we had a National Bank in full blast.—Did it then exert any beneficial influence upon the country at large? Did it promote the welfare of individuals, or regulate and control the exchanges or the currency, or in fact perform any useful office whatever? Let Henry Clay answer.

In casting our eyes around us, the most prominent circumstances which fix our attention and challenges our deepest regret, is the general distress which pervades the whole country. It is forced upon us by numerous facts of the most incontestable character. It is indicated by the diminished exports of native produce; by the reduced and depressed state of our foreign navigation; by our diminished commerce; by successive untimely crops of grain, perishing in our barn and barn yards for want of market; by the alarming diminution of the circulating medium; by the numerous bankruptcies, not limited to the trading classes, but extended to all orders of society; by an universal complaint of the want of employment and a consequent reduction in the wages of labor, by a ravenous pursuit after public situations, not for the sake of their honors, and the performance of their duties, but as a means of private subsistence; by the reluctant resort to the perilous use of PAPER MONEY; by the intervention of the legislature in the delicate situation of debtor and creditor; and above all, by the low and depressed state of the value of almost every description of the whole mass of property of the nation, which has, on an average, sunk no less than 50 per cent. within a few years.—See Niles' Register, Vol. 23.

DOOMED TO PERPETUAL MAIDENHOOD.—"Whig, or no husband," was the inscription on several of the banners borne by the fair daughters of Kentucky, at the recent Whig Convention at Russellville, in that State. The deluded girls will have to change their notes, or nine of every ten of them will never change their condition. What folly, as well as infatuation, is this voluntarily depriving themselves of a chance for the very best husbands in the world.

Gen. Cass, in a speech delivered in Cincinnati, says: "they are not contending for a democratic victory in Michigan, but for the greatest democratic majority in the whole Union in proportion to her population."

The Prison House of Thomas W. Dorr.

The following from the Concord, (N. H.) Patriot, is a terrible picture of Federal and Judiciary tyranny. Search the world over, and its equal for cold blooded, execrable oppression, will not be found. What! has it come to this! that for the free expression of political opinions, a man is to be immured in a dungeon, the light of heaven almost denied him, the intercourse of friends prohibited, and all the degradation of the felon heaped upon him with infernal industry! Such is the fact. And in free America in the nineteenth century, is this revolting tragedy enacted! Let the press speak out in deep and deeper tones of indignation against this foul wrong!—Argus.

The Oppression of Dorr.

The treatment of the upright Dorr by his oppressors in Rhode Island, is drawing forth from every lover of liberty, deeper and deeper execration. The history of no despotism in Europe is stained by more inhuman cruelty and deliberate malignity.—Dorr is confined in a small room, with damp walls and floor of granite. The only avenue of light and air is from an opening above, through which he may peer and catch a glimpse of the sky, or perchance, in the solitary, weary night, by dint of watching, gladden his sight with the view of a star. He is allowed to hold no intercourse with any person, either verbally or in writing. His keepers suddenly push his fare to him through a hole, just large enough for the purpose. There he is left to wear out the tedious hours, by day, in the frivolous employment of making fans, and by night in the gloomy contemplation of the malice, the barbarity and tyranny of his oppressors. He is doomed to solitary confinement, and this discipline, according to a statement made by the Warden of the Rhode Island dungeon to the Chaplain of our State Prison, a few weeks since in Concord, produces insanity in every fourth prisoner. The Algerine dungeon is so destitute of comfort, so naked of humanity, so terrible in its effects upon the mind, that one out of every four prisoners is punished by the infliction of insanity! What a mode of punishment is that which visits upon the subject the calamity of robbery of reason! The English monarchy dares commit no such outrage. O'Connell has large and airy rooms, and is permitted to see and converse with and correspond with friends. The ministers of Charles X. of France, after the revolution of the three days, having been tried and convicted of high state offences, were confined in a fortress, where they were indulged in spacious apartments and the most humane treatment consistent with confinement. So it is with German and Austrian prisoners of state now in confinement. We have lately seen a statement, that they are allowed to walk upon the battlements of the fortress in which they are confined, and play upon such instruments as they pleased. But in Rhode Island, in this age and generation, we have the only instance of a prisoner, confined for a political offence, and plunged into a dismal dungeon, smothered in the fetid air, and deprived of light and the society of his fellow-men. The cowardice, the meanness, the contempt of the name and principles of liberty, the utter want of feeling, and the brutality and the depravity of the villains who would make Dorr mad with misery, are detestable beyond all forms of expression.

THE LANCASTER MEETING.

Another Letter from Mr. Clay—Two Faces on the Tariff.

We are indebted to the Philadelphia Inquirer for the full proceedings of the great Whig Meeting at Lancaster on the 5th.—There appears, from all we can learn, to have been about four thousand persons in attendance, and that too in a county which gave Gen. HARRISON 4000 of a majority. Numerically speaking, it was a decided failure: notwithstanding the Intelligence, of this place, with singular want of discretion, claims that there were twenty-five or thirty thousand in attendance!

The event of the day, seems to have been the reading of Mr. CLAY'S letter to Mr. CLAYTON. We find it incorporated in the speech of the latter gentleman, and great stress seems to be laid upon it to prove that Mr. C. is a Protective Tariff man. The epistle is evidently intended for Northern consumption, but the blundering manner in which CLAYTON manages the thing, exposes the artifice; and we would ask no better electioneering document against the Dictator, than the speech of JOHN M. CLAYTON with the accompanying documents. The object of the letter and the intention of the speaker are concealed behind such a flimsy screen that he who runs may read.

In the appendix to the speech of the Delaware Senator, we find the following paragraphs, defining Mr. CLAY'S position as antagonist to Mr. POLK. Speaking of their Tariff doctrine, the appendix says:

"Gov. Polk has not changed. If Mr. CLAY has changed, it must have been very lately.—Here then is the true issue:

Gov. Polk is for a Revenue Tariff; Mr. CLAY is in favor of a Protective Tariff."

Agon:

"The true difference is this: Gov. POLK is in favor of a Revenue Tariff; Mr. CLAY is in favor of a Protective Tariff."

The object of the above extracts and they are but few of a great number of the same character, appears to be to prove that while Mr. CLAY advocates peremptorily the doctrine of Protection, his opponent Gov. POLK, is opposed to Protection, for Protection's sake, and in favor of a Revenue Tariff, in which incidental protection shall be afforded. Every effort is made to make this latter doctrine appear as odious as possible. We shall not undertake its defence—we will leave that to Mr. CLAY himself; and he avows the same doctrine, in the very letter, to which the above extracts are given as illustrations. In the letter read to the Lancaster meeting, we find the following passage, which will appear extraordinary to those who have been reading the labored attempts made by the Federal press, and others of Mr. CLAY'S friends, to prove Gov. Polk a Revenue man. But read:

"EVERY WHERE THE CRY IS FOR A TARIFF FOR REVENUE, WITH DISCRIMINATIONS FOR PROTECTION."

Such is Mr. CLAY'S doctrine—and such the inconsistencies apparent on the very face of the Federal Tariff policy.—Harrisburg Argus.

A REPUBLIC.

Has the System Failed.

We are sorry to find a disposition in some quarters, to under-rate the value of a Republican system of government. On the occurrence of any riot or other trouble in this country, we find individuals shaking their heads significantly, holding up their hands in alarm, and expressing apprehension at what they call the evident downward tendency of the Republic. While we deprecate mobs, riots and other acts of disorder; while we go decidedly and unequivocally for good laws, honestly administered; while we believe there is a redeeming spirit of virtue and intelligence in the American people adequate to any emergency; while we have no faith in the firmness and patriotism of the croakers who see a fearful storm in every little cloud that passes over our political sky; we also think it right to remember the maxim of one of the early fathers of the Revolution that "eternal vigilance is the price of liberty." We are, however, not among those who have lost faith in a Republic, or the ability of man for self-government. Why should we be! The Union, broad and vast as it is, is still the Union, and likely to continue firmly knit together as one nation, long after the hand that traces these lines is among the clouds of the valley. The people of this country are now carrying out a mighty experiment, an experiment in which not themselves alone are interested, but all mankind—generations yet unborn. Human nature has its weaknesses and infirmities—men have their passions and prejudices—all things human are fallible—and therefore, we must expect excitement, difficulties, drawbacks and apprehensions. But these will all, we trust, pass away before the influence of reason and patriotism, and the foundation of the Republic will only become the stronger. We have gone through many national trials, and we shall doubtless be called to go through many more—but we believe the American people competent to the fulfillment of

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PRICES OF ADVERTISING.

Table with 2 columns: Description of ad (e.g., 1 square 1 insertion) and Price (e.g., \$0 50).

Advertisements left without directions as to the length of time they are to be published, will be continued until ordered out, and charged accordingly. Sixteen lines make a square.

their great destiny. They will go on, redeeming and civilizing the wilderness, building up villages, towns and cities, and strengthening themselves in all that constitutes the glory, the grandeur and the might of a great nation. This can be done, however, only by the inculcation of the principles of virtue and integrity. Let us treasure up the lessons of our fathers—let us endeavor to emulate their conduct as men, as patriots and as Christians—let us respect the laws and regard the rights of person and property—and let us instill into the minds of our children, truth, liberality, benevolence, goodwill, and all the essentials which constitute purity, honesty, integrity and patriotism. While we cherish our country and her institutions, let us prove ourselves worthy of them, by directing our efforts on all proper occasions, to win for the one, the respect and admiration of all civilized and enlightened mankind, and to purify and perpetuate the other.—Phila. Inquirer

How MUCH IS THERE IN A NAME.—A church is not, or should not be, the place to witness a scene either laughable or ludicrous; yet in church did we once see something to excite the risibilities of those of a more sedate temperament than we are blessed with. It occurred in a maritime town in New England. Immediately after the service, a healthy, comfortably clad young man, having the appearance of an agricultural laborer, led up through the aisle of the church, towards the minister, a girl attired in bridal robes of vestal whiteness. There they were about to enter into—

"A contract of eternal bonds of love, Reformed by mutual jocular of the hands, Attested by the holy close of lips, Strengthened by interengagement of rings, And all the ceremony of the marriage compact"

When a man, old but healthy, dressed as a sailor, hurriedly entered the church, and making up with all his speed to where the parties were assembled, he bawled out, in a voice as shrill as a boatswain's whistle—

"Avast, there!—avast! Mr. Chaplain—this pretty bit of hunting of mine," pointing to the bride, "shall never be spiced to a rope's end like this, that is fit for oskum," alluding to the bridegroom.

"What do you mean, good man?" said the minister, in a calm, quiet tone, to the intruder. "What do you mean by thus irreverently interrupting the ceremonies?" and thinking he had silenced the old man, he went on with the marriage. "Martha Maywood," he asked, "art thou willing to take Peter Skunk for your wedded husband?"

"Oh, hold on to your helm there, Mr. Chaplain," said the son of Neptune, "I say again I'll not stand it. Bill Maywood is not the man to suffer such a disgrace as that. What your reverence permit my daughter here, for whose sake I wedded many a hard gal, to marry a Skunk! Skunk! Peter skunk!!! No—shiver my timbers if ever such a name shall disgrace the figure-head of any craft of mine. Come along, Martha—while your old father lives, at least, you may feel certain of leaving a safe harbor; but even were it not so, I would sooner see you cast on the world's ocean, without a chart or compass to steer by, than have you spliced on to a man of the name of Skunk! Peter Skunk!!!—pho!!!"

The minister remonstrated:—Martha presented a petition through her eyes, to be permitted to marry Peter, and poor Peter looked more foolish than any conceivable object in creation. The old salt, however, was inexorable; and regardless of all that the minister said, that Martha looked, and that Peter thought, he carried his daughter away before the ceremony was consummated.

On making some inquiries we learned that the old man had just landed in port from a voyage to the East Indies; and having heard of Martha's contemplated marriage, and to whom, he at once hurried to forbid the bans, which he succeeded in doing.

Shakspeare was at fault when he said there is nothing in a name; at least, so Peter Skunk has reason to believe.

NO DEAF OR BLIND INDIANS.—Dr. Smith of the Boston Medical Journal, who has recently visited the Forks of the Mississippi, in an article on Medicine in Iowa, and other matters, gives a singular fact, by stating from personal authority, that no person officially associated with the Indians of the Upper Mississippi, ever saw or heard of a deaf Indian, or one whose sight was materially injured, or whose teeth were essentially decayed. No Indian of the Sioux tribe ever required spectacles, or discovered any advantages from trying those of travellers, because their vision was not impaired, even in extreme old age. Mr. Reed and Mr. Fay, the practical farmers employed by government to teach them agriculture, both concur in declaring this to be true, after a residence of six years in the midst. Ophthalmia, however, is a common complaint, from which they suffer very considerably.

Millerite Converts.—Brother Fleming has recently baptized seven persons in Newark, and five more in Vernon, N. J., the Midnight Cry says: The little band of brethren there are steadfast, and holding on to the blessed hope