

GEN. WILLIAM F. PACKER.
Was born in Centre county Pa., on the 24th day of April, 1807. At an early age he was apprenticed to the printing business in the office of the *Belleville Patriot*, published by Hon. Henry Petrikin, Deputy Secretary of State under Gov. Shunk, a distinguished and able Democrat, and in 1827 became the editor and proprietor of the *Lycoming Gazette*, which he published for many years. In 1822 he was appointed Superintendent of the West Branch Division of the Pennsylvania canal, the duties of which he discharged with entire satisfaction to the proprietors and the public. He held this post three years, discharging more than a million of dollars, and promptly accounting for every cent. In 1833 he was unanimously nominated State Senator by the Democracy of his district, but was defeated by a small majority in consequence of the unfortunate division existing in the party at the time in reference to the gubernatorial candidates, Messrs. Wolf and Mulholland. In 1836, the Democratic party being again united, its interests demanded an efficient organ at the seat of government, which would command the entire confidence of the people. Gen. Packer and Messrs. Barrett and Parko conceived the publication of the *Lycoming*, which at once became the leading organ of the party and rendered great service in securing the State Government from the Anti-Masonic dynasty of Miller and Stevens. Immediately after his resignation, Gov. Porter appointed General Packer one of the three Canal Commissioners, which position he continued to hold until 1832, when he was appointed Auditor General, which appointment he held for 3 years. In both these positions he gave great satisfaction, introducing important reforms, and expending the means of the State in the most judicious manner as to that large savings to the Treasury of the Commonwealth. He continued to discharge the duties of the office of Auditor General until May, 1835, when he was elected to the Executive, and thus called to the attention of the people his knowledge of men, of measures, and of the diversified interests of the Commonwealth. Holding jurisdiction over the public accounts, the large expenditures of money for public improvements, and the numerous difficult questions and complicated cases which arose for adjudication, he called for the exercise of the soundest judgment; and so, in his office, he acquired a wide and practical acquaintance with common law and equity principles, as well as with the statistics of the Commonwealth, which would have discharged the duties of this exalted station. The settlement of the claims of the domestic creditors, with the other business of the office arising from the increased expenditures for improvement and other purposes, rendered the duties of the Auditor General far more burdensome than they have been since, or had ever been before at any former period in the history of the government. And the ability displayed by Gen. Packer, his perfect mastery of every question which arose, and his impartiality in the discharge of his high duties, in the settlement of these questions, are acknowledged by all parties.

After the expiration of his term as Auditor General his friends presented his name as a candidate for Governor, he remained in private life. By reference to the proceedings of the 2d of March Convention, it will be seen that, although several able and favorite champions of the Democracy entered the field as competitors for the nomination, Gen. Packer received the highest vote on the first ballot, and maintained that proud position throughout the eventful and energetic struggle, on every ballot, from the first to the twenty-fourth, when the nomination was effected. The demonstration which followed the announcement of the nomination, and the enthusiastic expression of approbation which have reached us from every quarter, sufficiently indicate the heartfelt satisfaction with which the nomination is received, and the deep hold the nomination has upon the affections of his political associates. It is not to be denied that Gen. Packer is an energetic and able man, and that he is indebted to his own industry for the education and knowledge he has acquired, and to his own merits for the distinction to which he has attained. He is thoroughly Democratic in his principles, and is always ready to devote his talents and his means to the success of these principles. He is an empty talker about names and forms, but an earnest agent, following the dictates of his conscience, and not the shadow of the people, he is always ready to do his duty, and to stand up for the rights of the people. Looking to them as the legitimate source of all political authority, he is ready to treat them with every respect, and to be governed by their will. He is aware of the nature of the federal compact, and of the unwillingness of the early statesmen of the Democracy to

trust the central government with any but a limited authority, he is ever ready to stand by the State sovereignty in opposing the general government, and in opposing the powers granted by the federal Constitution. Men of influence in the party to which Gen. Packer belongs, may occasionally differ in the application of principles to particular cases; but all politicians, of the genuine Democratic school, subscribe to the great fundamental doctrine of the party, that the powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people. Upon this doctrine the Democratic party hang all the doctrines of the Democracy. Upon the steady support of this principle the permanency of the Union and the liberties of the people depend. Every extension of territory, and every increase of the great sisterhood of nations of which our glorious confederacy is composed, is but a new demand upon the patriot for a vigilant and energetic support of the ancient, safe, and chief principle of the Democratic party, a strict construction of the federal Constitution. So long as this principle of construction be adhered to by our public authorities, and by those who clothe them with power, the rights of the people and of the States will be protected against the usurping tendencies of a great central government. With this principle as a basis, we shall be able to maintain our manly and able and willing to wait for either in the legislative hall, or in the judicial forum, we can have no fear of justification or condemnation, but our great and glorious Union, standing as an illustrious example of the capacity of the people for self government, shall not only secure its own greatness and perpetuity, but shall light all the nations of the earth in their onward march to freedom.

Gen. Packer is about six feet in height, well proportioned, open, frank, expressive features, cordial and kind in his intercourse with his fellow-citizens, very popular wherever well known, and enjoys an unspotted reputation for morality and integrity among his neighbors and acquaintances. He is an able and experienced statesman, thoroughly versed in all the measures of State policy which have agitated the public mind for the past twenty-five years. He is a fine orator, and as a stump speaker always exhibits great power, and in that capacity has been successful in many of his efforts. Gen. Packer's large experience in State affairs—his thorough knowledge of everything pertaining to the interests and the legislation of the State, and of the duties which devolve upon its chief magistrate, together with his great capacity, his services to the State and his party, and his fitness as a candidate at this juncture, are overpowering reasons for his election.

Of all offices in the Commonwealth, that of Governor is the most important, more so than the Legislature, or all other departments of the government combined, for he controls the whole. His veto gives him power over the Legislature, and in these days of corruption and incompetency, it is about the only sure protection the people have against bad laws and extravagant expenditures. Unless the incumbent of the Executive office thoroughly understands the interests and understands how the interests of the people may be secured by stringent and judiciously devised statutory provisions, such injury will inevitably be done without anything being known about it until it is too late to remedy. Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been squandered from the State Treasury by acts of Assembly which scarcely attracted attention, and which could not have passed, had any considerable portion of the members comprehended them. Hence the grave importance of placing a man in the gubernatorial chair, who is thoroughly versed in legislation, and who has made State legislation his study. No matter what a man's other acquisitions or talents may be, if he has not this knowledge and experience, he will inevitably prove an inefficient Governor, powerless for the most useful and salutary purposes of his office, and a burden to his people.

In a party point of view, we require such a Governor, because a party can only be strong when it governs well. That party which governs best is entitled to public support in preference to all others, and will of course receive it. Hence it should be a leading purpose with every party, even if for no higher purpose than self-preservation, to place no man in positions of responsibility and power who are not peculiarly fitted to discharge all the duties pertaining to them. As far as the foregoing considerations go, Gen. Packer has no superior, all will admit, and that for equal reasons.

A proper candidate is a consideration of the first importance with any party. The nomination of Gen. Packer seems to be the advantage. When nothing can be said against the fitness of the candidate, the party supporting him already have a hold upon the voters which it is always difficult and often impossible to resist. To be a proper candidate for Governor of this Commonwealth, the qualifications noted in the foregoing are essential. In addition, he must be known to the public as possessing them. In the peculiar circumstances of the State, another important qualification is that he be an orator, a public speaker, of undoubted power, combined with good personal appearance, and physical ability to endure any possible amount of continued effort. In all these respects, we believe Gen. Packer has scarcely an equal.

Our candidate, then, has all these positive qualifications. Are there any negative ones? We have heard none suggested—we know of none—and there are none. His long and prominent career has exposed him to every species of attack, yet he stands unshaken and invulnerable.

It will be a pleasant task to Democrats in the State to support such a candidate—every voter of his party, and many others, will rally around him with stern devotion and enthusiasm, with the heart-felt assurance that if elected, he will be credit to the State and a sure protector of her best interests. With such a candidate, success cannot be problematical, and he will bring with it honor, and profit, and public benefit.

It is with unfeigned regret that we withdraw the name of Chief Justice Lewis to the Democratic State Central Committee, declining the nomination so recently given him for a position on the Supreme Bench of the State, which he has long filled with credit to himself and benefit to the community. In expressing our regret, we but speak the sentiment of the whole community. As a gentleman, scholar and jurist, Judge Lewis has few equals, and we sincerely trust that when the Convention re-assembles, he will be induced to withdraw the letter, prompted by the most magnanimous sentiments, declining the nomination.

We hope yet to have the privilege of laboring to see his election with the rest of the gentlemen whose names are found on the Democratic ticket.

WEST PENN SQUARE, PHILADELPHIA, March 25th, 1847. TO CHARLES R. BRIDGEMAN, Chairman of the Democratic State Committee:—As the Democratic State Convention, the local claims of the different sections of the State were generally invited for the purpose of securing your continuance in the high and important office of Supreme Judge. The entry with which those claims are now regarded, shows the extent of the dissatisfaction which may exist after the election shall be decided, and the other side of the pattern, castings, &c., of the "Belleville Foundry," published in another column of our paper.

THE OLYMPIAN.
LARGEST CIRCULATION IN THE COUNTY.
FOR GOVERNOR,
WILLIAM F. PACKER,
OF LYCOMING COUNTY.
CANAL COMMISSIONER,
NIMROD STRICKLAND,
OF CHESTER COUNTY.
SUPREME JUDGE,
ELLIS LEWIS,
OF LANCASTER COUNTY.

FATAL AND DISTRESSING ACCIDENT.—A Miss Hoover, of Gregg township, aged about 18 years, was killed by the falling of a tree during the storm on Wednesday last. She had been to Fisher's store, and on her way home met with her unexpected and untimely end.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—Our friend, T. F. Roalich, desires us to call the attention of the public to his large and excellent stock of boots and shoes. He has just returned from the city, and brought with him a stock not to be equalled in this borough. Give him a call.

A MEETING OF FORGEMEN was held in our borough on Friday last, and was informed that it was well attended by persons from Centre and Clinton counties, who are engaged in the business. Ira C. Mitchell, Esq., delivered an address of nearly an hour in length, which is said by those who heard it to have been an able and eloquent vindication of the rights of the laboring men of our country.

DEATH OF THE PRESIDENT'S NEPHEW.—The President received yesterday, by telegraph, the sad intelligence of the death of his nephew, Col. Elliott Redgrave Lane, of Lancaster, Pa. He died at his residence, in Lancaster, yesterday morning, in the prime of early manhood, about 32 years of age. He was unmarried. Col. Lane was a native of Lancaster, in that State, but had resided in Lancaster for the last ten years, where he has done universal esteem and respect by his amiable disposition and his generous and noble qualities.

THE BLACK REPUBLICAN NOMINATION.
The long looked for "opposition" convention has had its sitting, and the result has proven what we have already avowed that there is no large remnant of Epow. Nothing worthy of consideration by any political body. The candidates placed in nomination are known, but their notoriety is such as renders them most obnoxious. In placing David Wilson in nomination for Governor, we are sure they can not have pleased their own party better than they have pleased the Democracy. We asked them something ago to give us their names, and had no idea they were so insignificant as to gratify us in our request. He is a fit man to represent the idea of Abolitionism, and of opposition to the Constitution, and the first resolution adopted by the convention was to take up and also adopted by a vote of 127 yeas and 16 nays.

WITHDRAWAL OF JUDGE LEWIS.
It is with unfeigned regret that we withdraw the name of Chief Justice Lewis to the Democratic State Central Committee, declining the nomination so recently given him for a position on the Supreme Bench of the State, which he has long filled with credit to himself and benefit to the community. In expressing our regret, we but speak the sentiment of the whole community. As a gentleman, scholar and jurist, Judge Lewis has few equals, and we sincerely trust that when the Convention re-assembles, he will be induced to withdraw the letter, prompted by the most magnanimous sentiments, declining the nomination.

THE PROSPECT IN EUROPE.
The topographical position of the Peninsula of Italy is such as to give it a commanding position over the Mediterranean Sea, from which it derives its strength and its glory. It is a peninsula of volcanic origin, and its volcanic activity is still in progress. The volcanic activity of the Peninsula is still in progress, and its volcanic activity is still in progress. The volcanic activity of the Peninsula is still in progress, and its volcanic activity is still in progress.

FROM THE FILLMORE REPUBLICAN.
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THE AMERICAN BRIGGERS. PIERCE.
THE CAPTAIN AND COOK MURDERED.
The following is a copy of a letter from the crew of the brig *Gen. Pierce*, named John Neil, John Brown, John Smith and John de Gasse, who were on board the ship Centurian, charged with the murder of Capt. Lawson, of the brig *Gen. Pierce*, and of C. L. Groves, cook of that vessel.

AN EXTRAORDINARY MURDER TRIAL IN INDIANA.
An extraordinary murder trial is now going on in Toledo, Ohio. One J. M. Ward has been indicted for the murder of his wife, in Milan, near Toledo, under circumstances of a peculiarly atrocious and horrible character. We recollect of but one case that bears an analogy to it, which was that of Hugh Corrigan in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, who was convicted of murdering his wife, and then burning her body to a cinder. The body was never found, and the evidence of guilt, though strong, was entirely circumstantial.

DEATH OF SAMUEL ZIMMERMAN.
Telegraphic despatches brought accounts of the sad accident which terminated the life of Samuel Zimmerman, a native of the Juniata Valley, on the 15th inst. A full account of the accident will be found in another column. We clip the following from the Appendix to the "History of the early settlement of the Juniata Valley":

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