



Here shall the press the people's rights maintain. Universal Liberty or universal by pain. No favor shall we give to any man's sin. No favor shall we give to any man's sin.

C. T. ALEXANDER, Editor and Publisher. P. O. MEER.

DEMOCRATIC NOMINATIONS.

- FOR SENATOR: WILLIAM H. BLAIR, OF BELLEFONTE. ASSEMBLY: ROBERT F. BARRON, OF FERRISBURG. ASSOCIATE JUDGES: SAMUEL STROHECKER, JOHN S. PROUDFOOT, OF MILES AND MURKIN. TREASURER: JOHN B. MITCHELL, OF BELLEFONTE. COMMISSIONER: AMOS ALEXANDER, OF FERRISBURG. AUDITOR: GEORGE BUCHANAN, OF GREGG.

Presentment of the Grand Jury. We publish to-day the presentment of the Grand Jury to the Court at its sitting against the Democratic Watchman. In doing so, we beg leave to submit a few lines in connection therewith, to the good people of this County. We need scarcely say that the fact of their having been a presentment made, has not only surprised us and all our Democratic patrons, but also all members of the Republican party who have not been prejudiced by conversation with rebel agitators, or through the influence exerted upon them by the opposition press in the County. Those who have been the constant readers of our columns, are at a loss to know how it was done, or what new law has been passed in these remarkable times abridging the liberty of the press. We are happy to be able to tell our readers that no new law upon this subject has been passed either by our Legislature or by the Congress of the United States. The Constitution of our State, and the Constitution of the United States, still remain unchanged upon this subject. We must look elsewhere than to the Constitution for the cause of this presentment for this unexampled proceeding. There is a special law in the Code which first began to operate at the last fall. A spirit of intolerance, as it is called, has had much to do in this matter. It is in the jury room, but outside. We do not wish to be understood to exaggerate that any improper motives were entertained towards us by any Grand Jurymen that signed the presentment. But we do say, that none of them being subscribers to the Watchman, their opportunities of judging of the character of the Watchman were very limited. They were, no doubt, men who wished to do their duty, who, not having any knowledge of the general tone of our paper, came to their conclusion in reference thereto from the outside influence that was brought to bear upon them in this town. We have been credibly informed that many of them were heard to say that they knew nothing about the paper, excepting what they had heard from others. Others had told them that there were sections and sentiments published in the paper, and a certain legal gentleman, who is more noted for his bull dog pertinacity than his legal attainments, had taken the pains of giving the case in a speech of half an hour's length ostensibly with a patriotic motive, but in reality to prepare their minds for what was intended, even at that early period in the week, to be laid before them. But two numbers of our paper were given to the Jury, and they had little paragraphs which were copied from other papers, marked all round with black ink, so as to draw the attention of the jury from a general perusal of the editorials.

We may here briefly allude to the objectionable passages in the papers referred to, and which were before the jury. The first article that was thrust upon their attention, was a letter from J. L. Valandingham, brother to Hon. C. E. Valandingham, denouncing a base charge that some unscrupulous whelp had put in circulation, that his aged mother had become a sharer in the Presbyterian Church in Dayton, Ohio. It was without any reference to the sentiments of that gentleman upon the war question, that we published the letter of his brother, refuting the charge. There was not even a sentence in the letter or the comment, in reference to the war. The legal gentleman alluded to the letter in his speech, and because he found the word "chivalrous Democrat" in the notice preceding the letter, we were "traitors" and our "sympathies" were with the "rebels."

Another article spoke of Breckinridge having been assaulted by a mob in Baltimore, when he attempted to make a speech upon the solicitations of his friends. This clipping does not commend Breckinridge or any body else, but simply denounces the mob violence and the injuries that were offered him.

These were the two principle items that excited so much indignation in the minds of the legal gentleman, who plead our case at the Court meeting before the Grand Jury. It is true, there was some slight objection made to a peace editorial, which was written just after having read President Lincoln's proclamation for a national fast, for the purpose of offering up fervent supplications to Almighty God, for the safety and welfare of these States. His blessings on his arms, and for a speedy restoration of peace. Surely there should be no objection to peace editorials, when the President himself sets apart a day for the christening of a nation to pray to Almighty God for a little more of that much desired blessing.

The Watchman in talking peace, has at all ways meant an honorable peace—not a dishonorable one—and we defy any man living, the legal gentleman included, to show us a single word or sentence in any number of our paper in which we have asked peace upon any terms, save "an honorable settlement of the war upon the broad basis of the Constitution." We have always opposed a recognition of the Southern Confederacy, as a peace that would be dishonorable and which freemen should not accept. "The Union it must and shall be preserved," is our motto.

Is not this the kind of peace we are fighting for? He who says no libels the Administration at Washington, for they have said, "the war should not be waged for conquest or for aggrandisement, nor for the purpose of interfering with the rights or institutions of the States, but to defend and maintain the supremacy of the Constitution and to preserve the Union."

We have supported the military arm of the government by every means in our power, and will continue to support it in all its constitutional powers to maintain the Union and enforce the laws until rebellion is either crushed or compromised.

We opposed the violation of the Constitution in the habeas corpus case by the Administration. 1st. Because we did not believe it essential to the preservation of the government. 2d. Because we were sworn to support the Constitution which vested the power of suspending that writ in the Congress of the United States and not in the President. 3d. Because we believed that the best way to maintain the Constitution was to obey it, and not to violate it. 4th. Because the Supreme Court—a branch of our government—decided that the writ of habeas corpus could not be suspended by the President.

These were our reasons for opposing this act of the Administration, which is the only one we ever did oppose. If we committed treason, in so doing, let us be arraigned and punished accordingly. We have nothing to take back or to apologize for. We conscientiously believed to be our duty.

Mob Law. The following article from the Philadelphia Ledger, is well worthy the perusal of those who feel disposed to appeal to violence either to get rid of a troublesome opponent, or to gratify the brutal passions of a doctored nature.

To those prints whose editors seek to incite the community to riot and violence against their neighbors, because they themselves fail, either from lack of brain or intelligence, to answer the arguments advanced on the side of those who took a more conservative or sensible view of the great questions that agitate the public mind, we would say, that the man who cannot maintain himself in open, manly discussion of any question, only acknowledges his weakness, when he appeals to brute force to vanquish an adversary whose arguments he can neither answer nor successfully refute.

No question, however momentous, has ever lost any of its importance to the interests of mankind from the most rigid and searching discussion; and no Administration can ever stand that shrinks from the light of day or attempts to shield itself behind a mob. It is only those whose deeds are evil, who seek darkness rather than light. Violence and oppression have ever been the policy of the coward, the cut-throat and the villain, whether he be clad in purple and fine linen and sport the baton of office, or assassin like perpetrates his deeds of outrage and blood upon his unsuspecting victims, under cover of the darkness of midnight. It is not the honest man who fears the scrutiny of the public into his public or private affairs—but the rogue, whose actions are leveled at the peace and security of society, who desires to be shielded from exposure. When a man accepts public office of trust and honor he is immediately answerable to the public, whose servant he is, and bound at all times to render a strict account for his stewardship to his masters. No position is so high in this country under our Constitution that elevates an official so much above the people that his official acts cannot be required into at all times. No exigency of public affairs can arise in this that will justify a public functionary, whether high or low, whether he be the Chief Magistrate of the Nation, a Cabinet officer, or the lowest subaltern, in setting at naught the sacred obligations of his official oath, or doing violence to the Constitution.

If Cabinet officers are exposed by a bold, independent and incorruptible press, when they are guilty of perjury and fraud, they must vindicate themselves by other means than by appeals to the brutal passions of an irresponsible mob for redress. A free press is the palladium of a free people, and who would seek to abridge it, as an enemy to his country and to human liberty, and the man who advocates mob law, whether through the columns of a new paper, or elsewhere, is himself a coward.

The Majesty of the Law. We read of several acts of violence by mobs in the Eastern States and see a disposition to justify the acts by a few of the unreasoning portions of the press. Maintenance of the supremacy of the law should with the people of this country, above all other people be a matter of pride, no less than a matter of principle. They have proclaimed the doctrine that man is capable of self government, and have based on it their political system.

But a mob from its very nature is not self governing. It is not governing through the laws, the only superior authority recognized, but through the passions which laws were meant to restrain and direct to good government. The fundamental principle of Republican government is that the majority shall rule, and the expression of the will of that majority is the law, created by the people. Mob law sets aside the established law of the people, to reach a remedy not sanctioned by them. Mob law, therefore, is the attempt of the minority to overpower the majority by force, and it is a revolutionary in its character as the rebel attempt to overthrow the authority of the government. We are entering upon a war to establish the authority of the violated laws, and it is a shameful precedent for citizens of the United States to adopt the same violent and anarchical practices as the rebels, when one case, the only one justifiable than in the other, which loyal citizens admit.

It is not obvious that if we once admit that mob rule may be justifiable in any case, then is an opening made for violence which may expose us all to its mercy. True, civil freedom consists in knowing that no member of society can be deprived of his liberty or property without due process of law. The worst foes of constitutional liberty are those who delight in or justify mob law, when they fancy that the Courts of the State cannot or will not enforce its laws, or will not coincide with those notions of right which may be entertained by an excited mob. It is therefore for the general good of every community to submit, implicitly and unreservedly, to the laws, and their duly appointed ministers, rather than, at any time or under any circumstances, to supercede them by popular violence.

The Difference. Thirteen Republicans who are not subscribers to our paper say: "The Democratic Watchman, edited by C. T. Alexander and P. G. Meek, is in the practice of encouraging the rebels now in arms against the government, by expressing sympathy and agreement with them, and by agreeing to their demands, and the employment of force to overcome them."

Forty-seven Democrats, all subscribers and readers of the Watchman, and representing the Democracy of Centre County say: "We cordially endorse the course that has been pursued by our two Democratic papers—the Democratic Watchman and Centre Reporter, in boldly and fearlessly speaking the truth, and hurling back, with indignity, the charges of treason and disloyalty that have been cast at the Democratic party by the Opposition press."

What are we Coming To? As our readers learned by the telegraphic despatches of yesterday, the United States Marshal in Philadelphia seized all the copies of the New York Daily News which arrived there, as well as those intended to be sold in Philadelphia, as those destined for ulterior points at the South and West. The Marshal also took possession of the office of the Christian Observer, in consequence of a late virulent article on the "unholy war." The Marshal, it is to be presumed, acted under instructions from the government. If so, we must say, we are sorry to see our government in this respect imitating some of the most objectionable proceedings of despotism. Of the four memorable ordinances which cost Charles X. his throne, the first and most important, was that which suspended the liberty of the press, and directed that no print or journal should be published without authorization. Are we coming to this? Is every journal which incurs the displeasure of the Government to be suppressed? Besides that such a course is in contravention of the most elementary principles of civil liberty, it is a mistake in policy. By persecuting a newspaper, you pay it a compliment; you make it a martyr; you give an importance to its views which nothing else could give. Furthermore, it is really a confession of weakness. What is the Government worth that cannot stand a paper cannonade.

We are indignant, and justly indignant, at the tone of a portion of the English press and of the English public towards us just now; are we going to strengthen our cause there, and secure fresh sympathy, by showing how ill we regard we help for those great principles of English liberty out of which the freedom of the press, carefully protected in that country, and the security of the person from unlawful violence, alike spring? We are fighting not merely for the Union, but for the Constitution and the laws; if to keep the first we must sacrifice the last, the question may well arise—of what value will the Union then be to us, if any relic of its real existence will then remain? Boston Courier, Aug 25.

A Gloomy Picture. The Chicago Times very truthfully says: "There is no direction in which we gaze which does not present some positive impending evil, the result of the ignorance and partisan blindness of the republican leaders. Thus it is universally conceded by the plain at Hull Run were murdered by the Wilsons, Lovings, Chandlers, three boys and others of that ilk. To these men, too, we may impute the probability that the European nations will recognize the rebel government, and the confidence which that fact, united with the recent victory, will give to the rebels themselves. We have now another and unexpected source of danger, which may be traced directly to the fanaticism of these men. In Mexico apprehensions are beginning to be felt, that the slaves will be freed through the influence of these political adventurers and that as they cannot stay in the South, and will not be permitted to immigrate to the North, they will take refuge in the Mexican States, and overrun them with the worst population under the sun. So we see that slavery where a slavery, which was proclaimed on every stump in the land last fall would attract to us the sympathy of all the nations, and would isolate the South, is really the greatest weakness which afflicts the Federal cause. Not one single power on the face of the earth will abandon a dollar or endure an inconvenience because the North elected a Republican President, or because revolted States hold men in bondage."

We learn that the report is current in parts of this county that the Democratic Watchman is to be discontinued. We started or circulated it we do not know. No doubt some of the Republican gentlemen (?) in this community, who have been so busily engaged in trying to "smell" out our "traitors" have thought this a good plan to discourage men from subscribing for a Democratic paper, and have sent out the report, thinking the people would believe we were frightened into silence by the action of the Grand Jury last week, or cowed into submission by the threats of a few advocates of mob law that are among us. Our readers may rely upon one thing, that in, as long as the honest people of Centre county support us, and until acts of brutal violence, such as have been perpetrated upon other presses in other States, and in parts of this State, are brought to bear against it, the Watchman will live and continue to be, what it has been, the advocate of right—the opponent of wrong.

Where is it all to End? That's the question the people are asking. They are willing to pay taxes on their land, their buildings, their capital, their cash their income—on everything they eat, drink and wear; and they are willing to send their sons into the army to be maimed for life or slain outright in battle, in order to save the Union; but the question with them is beginning to be—Will the Union be saved thereby?

The people want to know whether this war is to become a struggle between the North and South for supremacy and test the relative military strength of the two sections. If it is, the bulk of the people who pay the taxes and furnish soldiers, want nothing to do with it. They have no stomach for a sectional fight to determine whether the North or the South shall wear the champion's belt.

The people want to know of the Administration men, if, when they talk of "No compromise with rebels," they mean that the Administration will entertain no propositions for a compromise from, or propose none to the Southern people. If so, we shall all understand that the war is to be carried on as a mere trial of strength—for conquest with the sword alone, disdaining to accept or tender the olive branch. The people are in for no such vindictive war. They don't want—they disdain any compromise with rebels or traitors; but they do demand of the Administration at Washington, and of the party that controls that Administration, that the voice of Southern men who love the Union, shall be heard.

The people desire to see the war prosecuted for the purpose of putting down rebellion; but they demand that the Union feeling in the South should not be crushed out along with rebellion. This sentiment affords them the only ground of hope for restoration of the Union. They see that, unless this Union sentiment can be cherished and made efficient in the South, the Union cannot be saved from certain dissolution. Hence, the popular demand is becoming loud and urgent that the sword shall be wreathed with the olive branch.—Statesman

Justice Catron, in his late charge to the Grand Jury in St. Louis showed that whatever might be the character of his political sympathies, he was not prepared to prostitute himself and his office, even to promote the object he has most at heart. He knew that there were certain rights secured to all citizens which could not under any pretext be denied them, and these he unflinchingly admitted and defined. In a long and argumentative address to the Grand Jury, he laid down explicitly the following propositions:

- 1. That to constitute treason, there must be treasonable intent as well as a treasonable overt act and murder to make out treasonable intent and overt act, the party accused must have been engaged in a conspiracy to overthrow the Government.
- 2. That there are certain constitutional guarantees which the person or the property of the hour cannot touch, and among these is the right of expression and discussion and the freedom of the press.
- 3. That no sentiment, however hostile can be held to be treasonable.
- 4. That the right of every citizen to bear arms is an inalienable right that cannot be infringed, and the fact of a citizen bearing arms, without being in league with a hostile force, was not an act for which his liberty could be abridged.
- 5. That it is the duty of the grand jury to protect both the citizen and the Government, and that they should not, on account of any fear, favor or affection, shrink from the discharge of that duty. As an arm of the judiciary, the grand jury should diligently inquire into all offenses brought to their knowledge, and bring to the bar of the United States Court all who have been guilty of unlawfully uniting against the Government and the laws of the land.

The Boston Post says it is a great mistake to suppose that other people's faults can afford us any excuse for neglecting a plain and important obligation. The administration of public affairs may be weak, blundering, or even tainted with despotism and dishonesty, but does that afford any reason why the people should be indifferent to the cause of their country? The worst country is always better than its rulers; and the best has never yet been free from errors and mal-administration. The mistakes and vices of Government ministers are little felt in the "piping times of peace," while in war they are terribly oppressive. But let us always be careful to distinguish between the cause and its servants; and never abandon our glorious Ship of State because there are rats in the hold, barnacles on the bottom and mutineers among the crew.

W. LOYD GARRISON publishes a newspaper, up in Massachusetts, called the Liberator, which has as a motto, "The Constitution of the United States—a covenant with death and an agreement with hell." In his zeal for the emancipation of the negro he favors the trampling of the Constitution under foot, as being "a covenant with death and an agreement with hell." He speaks of the present life struggle of our Government in this way, "hurray for the war, let us make a little infamous history." This paper circulates to some extent in this county. We wonder if they have no Grand Juries up in Massachusetts.

THE GRAIN TRADE OF CHICAGO.—The grain trade of Chicago, which, in 1840, reached what was then called the "epicurean total" of 200,000 bushels per annum, has grown since then in an amazing ratio. The Daily Press of that city reports that the receipts of grain on Tuesday last amounted to 428,494 bushels, and Monday and Tuesday to 905,696 bushels, of which 520,397 bushels were corn.

The Constitutions. It may be well, in these times of lawlessness and outrage upon the rights of the people, to remind the public that there are such provisions as the following in the Constitution of the United States: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and petition the government for a redress of grievances."—U. S. Constitution, 1st amendment.

"The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched and the person or thing to be seized."—U. S. Constitution, 4th amendment.

And in the Constitution of Pennsylvania, may be found the following provisions: "The printing presses shall be free to every person who undertakes to examine the proceedings of the legislature, or any branch of the government, and no law shall ever be made to restrain the right thereof. The free communication of thoughts and opinions is one of the invaluable rights of man; and every citizen may freely speak, write, or print on any subject, being responsible [to the law, not to a mob] for the abuse of that liberty."—Pennsylvania Constitution, Declaration of Rights, Article 9, section 7.

"The people shall be secure in their persons, houses, papers and possessions, from unreasonable searches and seizures."—Same Article, section 8.

"No power of suspending laws shall be exercised, unless by the legislature, or its authority."—Same Article, section 12.

"The citizens have a right, in a peaceable manner, to assemble together for their common good, and to apply to those invested with the powers of government for redress of grievances, for other proper purposes, by petition, address or remonstrance."—Same Article, section 20.

The Mob Spirit. The Mob spirit, which is so much encouraged by the Republicans in some localities and so much talked of everywhere, is one of the most baneful that ever pervaded any country. He who is mobbed to day will to-morrow, or at any future period when he has the power, very likely mob those who mobbed him. It is a system of revenge, which once fairly commenced, will redress every man's property and life insecure. If resorted to now to redress political grievances, when "hard times" come in their ultra form, will the naked and hungry respect the law that was violated with impunity by the wealthy or others owning property? There is no protection for property where there is no respect for law, and the men who organize and most encourage the mob spirit now, would have little to complain of if were practiced upon themselves hereafter.

It grieves us to see the nerves of any man to hear threats made that his property shall be destroyed by mobs, and he who threatens it invites everybody to throw the law aside and introduce anarchy, turbulence and violence of every grade.

We must that it is the duty of all good citizens, of every decent man, to respect law, to enforce it against all offenders, to sustain and protect it in all its vigor and power. There is no safety in any course to either life or property and we call upon every honest man to look this subject squarely in the face. Outlawry is not a pleasant state of society to any one, and what once fully introduced cannot so easily be checked.

FACTS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS.—On the 1st of February, 1840, Senator John P. Hale, of New Hampshire, presented two petitions from Isaac Jeffries and other citizens of Pennsylvania, and J. F. Woodward and others praying that "some plan might be devised for the dissolution of the American Union." Mr. Webster, of Massachusetts, was unopposed in his denunciation of the petitions, and suggested that there should have been a preamble to them in these words:

"Gentlemen, members of Congress:—Whereas, at the commencement of this session you and each of you, took your solemn oaths, in the presence of God and the Holy Evangelists, that you would support the Constitution of the United States; now, therefore, we pray you to take immediate steps to break up the Union, and overthrow the Constitution as soon as you can."

Yet this petition received three votes—John P. Hale, of New Hampshire, William H. Seward, of New York, and Salmon P. Chase, of Ohio. The last two are Cabinet officers.

[See Senate Journal, 1st Session, 31st Congress, page 129.]

WHAT IS A REBEL?—Whoever is against the Constitution of the United States, in whole and in part, in spirit or in letter, is a rebel. "Whoever is against any of the laws of the Government, whether they relate to fugitive slaves or to freemen, is a rebel—Whoever insists that a law of Congress can be violated any more in New York or Massachusetts than in South Carolina or Alabama, is a rebel. Let us make clear clean work of our loyalty, and apply to it the rigid rule that he who offends in one point offends in all."—New York Express.

HICKMAN IS BAD ODER.—At the recent Abolition "Republican" county meeting at the residence of JOHN HICKMAN, West Chester, a proposition for him to speak was defeated by the clamors of the meeting, who would not hear the blatant demagogue. The career of this pestilent agitator is evidently drawing to a close. He has never yet been trusted by any party to betray it. No man in the country has contributed more than he to bring on the fratricidal war in which we are unhappily engaged.