

**VICE PRESIDENTS.**

New Brighton, Pa., Jan. 7, 1873.  
To the Editor of the Radical.

My esteemed friend, Jas. Patterson, tells the public in a late issue of THE RADICAL, that he is "afraid of Vice Presidents;" that one Vice President did a thing once of which he could not approve; ergo the organic law of the Government must be changed, and Vice Presidents utterly and totally abolished—annihilated!

With all due reference to the opinion and wisdom of my venerable friend, I must differ from him and many other good men with regard to the mania which now exists for changes in the fundamental principles of our National and State Governments.

We are all, no doubt, exceedingly wise in our day and generation, and especially in our own estimation; but let us not, without the very best of reasons, and the fullest examination of the principles upon which our institutions are founded, dare to forget or to abrogate the wisdom of those whose patriotism established the liberties we now enjoy, and gave to us that grand framework of free government which so greatly distinguishes ours from all other governments in existence.

I am well aware that some in official position sometimes honestly err—sometimes willfully do wrong; but I can not for a moment think that the natural inclination of the heart of man to do evil is to be improved by changes in the organic laws of the government under which they live. Good laws are frequently violated in all the walks of life; and it can not be wholly prevented so long as humanity is human. It can be prevented most effectually, and as nearly as is possible in human affairs, by a vigorous execution not of statutes merely, but by an execution of the prevailing good moral sentiment of society.

Under a government like ours—one that will of the majority, lawfully ascertained and expressed, is the law of the land—it is scarcely to be hoped that all will be perfectly satisfied with all the actions of officials; or, in every instance, with all the laws. Especially will men differ and express dissatisfaction in relation to leading measures of opposing political parties; and this is exemplified in the case before us. Mr. Patterson seems to be "afraid of Vice Presidents," in part at least, because the vote of one of them in the tariff question was in opposition to his views; yet it is a historical fact that the very vote to which Mr. Patterson takes exceptions was cast, not only in harmony with the measures of the party which elevated Mr. Dallas to the Vice Presidency, but was in exact accord with the then largely predominating sentiment of the nation, as indicated by the large majority given to Polk and Dallas.

I do not claim that the Vice Presidents of the United States, as a class, need any defence from any quarter. Their deeds have become a part of the permanent history of our country. It may, however, prove a subject of interest to give a brief review of all the men who have occupied that honorable and exalted position.

The first Vice President of the United States was John Adams, and so well did he behave himself that the people never became afraid of him; but so well were they pleased with him that they not only kept him in the position eight years, but chose him "to rule over them" as their President. Thos. Jefferson was treated in precisely the same manner—was Vice President two terms, and then chosen President. Aaron Burr succeeded Mr. Jefferson as Vice President, and so far as history speaks, we hear nothing against his official career; although subsequent to that he was tried on a charge of treason.

Geo. Clinton succeeded Burr, and was sufficiently popular to be twice re-elected—served from March 4th, 1805, till his death in April, 1812.

Daniel D. Tompkins, of New York, was the fifth Vice President, and served two terms.

John C. Calhoun was twice chosen, and acquitted himself with satisfaction to the country; and after him came Martin Van Buren, who did so well that he was chosen President, after serving one term as Vice President.

Then came Richard M. Johnson, John Tyler, Geo. M. Dallas, Willard Fillmore, Wm. R. King, John C. Breckenridge, Hannibal Hamlin, Andrew Johnson and Schuyler Colfax, all of whom, as Vice Presidents acquitted themselves with general satisfaction to the people at large, and with especial fidelity to their personal pledges and the parties which elected them to office. Thus we see that the entire line of Vice Presidents from the establishment of the Government to the present day, not only embraces men who stood true to their constituents and the platforms upon which they were nominated and elected, but some of the most distinguished and pure men of our nation.

which choose them as their representatives and exponents.

Mr. Fillmore, on his accession to the Presidency, became an easy prey to the oligarchy which at that period ruled the National Government; but, as a Vice President, I believe he acquitted himself with general acceptance to his party. He, like too many, perhaps, who get into high places, became ambitious to be elected President, and, being somewhat pliant in his nature, fell a willing victim to the wily politicians of the party which at that time controlled the Legislature and judicial departments of the Government, and against whose promises of place and power only the most pure and unselfish patriotism could stand.

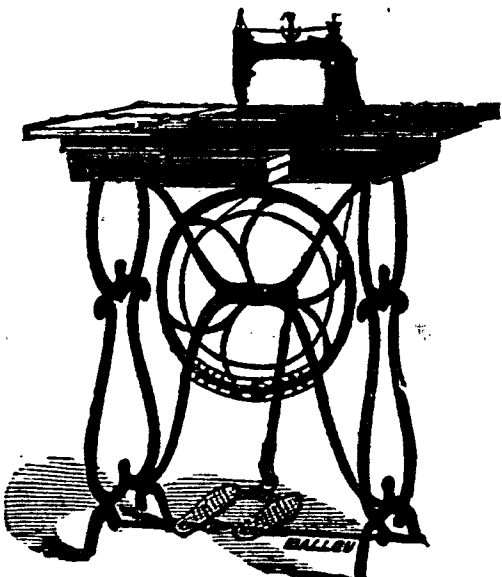
The constitution is perfectly right, so far at least as it relates to the office of Vice President. If bad men have been elected to that office, it is no fault of the constitution, but of the parties which elected these bad men. If Geo. M. Dallas and his party advocated and carried out measures inimical to the industrial interests of Pennsylvania, and in conflict with Mr. Patterson's views of public policy, it was not by any means because the constitution of the United States establishes the office of Vice President, or because there is, or can be, any thing in the office itself at all adverse to Republican institutions, or at variance with the best interests of our whole country.

Let me say, then, in conclusion, that it is better to "bear the ills we have, than fly to others that we know not of." The organic law, as we now have it, is, in all its essential features, a model, and is the work of years of labor and deliberations by men whose exalted characters and profound wisdom, together with their unselfish patriotism, stamps them in the eyes of all civilization as heroes and statesmen who stand without a rival in the annals of the world. Let us be careful, then, to attempt no change, no remodelling of the noble edifice which their wisdom and blood has consecrated to the freedom of mankind, unless beyond all peradventure the most imperative demands of patriotism, and the safety of the whole people fully justify and call for it.

G. L. E.

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**PURVIS, J. H.,** dealer in Fancy Dry Goods, Choice Groceries, and Notions. (Specially Tea and Sugar.) Flour, Feed, and Wooden-ware, corner of Third and Buffalo streets, Beaver, Pa. nov17-71  
**MCINTY, Dr. J. S.,** Physician and Surgeon. Special attention paid to treatment of Female Diseases. Residence and office on Third street, a few doors west of the Court-house. april17-71-ly  
**ALLISON THOS.,** dealer in Dry Goods and Groceries, cor Third and Elk st. jy29-70  
**WYNN A.,** dealer in Dry Goods and Groceries. Also Civil Engineer and Land Surveyor. Third street. jy29-70  
**CLARK J. B.,** dealer in Groceries and Provisions, Third street. jy29-70  
**SNITGERS & CO.,** dealer in Groceries and Provisions, Third street.  
**BRACOM Mrs. E. H.,** dealer in Millinery Goods and Trimmings, cor 3d and Diamond. jy29-70  
**ANDRESEN HUGO,** dealer in Drugs and Medicines, 3d street. See advertisement. jy29-70  
**MOORE J.,** dealer in Drugs and Medicines, Third street. jy29-70  
**TALLOTT ROBERT,** manufacturer and dealer in Boots and Shoes, Third street. jy29-70  
**MERTZ H.,** manufacturer and dealer in Boots and Shoes, Third street. jy29-70  
**WALTER F.,** Baker and Confectioner, northeast corner of the Diamond. jy29-70  
**NESBET O. B.,** dealer in Tin, Copper and Sheet Iron Ware, Third street. jy29-70  
**MCKENNEY D. M. D.,** Physician and Surgeon. Office on Third street, opposite THE RADICAL BUILDING.  
**KUHN E. P.,** Attorney and Counselor at Law. Office on Third street. jy29-70  
**FRANK SWAYNE, H. B. MOORE, H. WILSON & MOORE,** Attorneys at Law. Office: Rear of the Court-house.

**BRIDGEWATER.**  
**BOYD J. M. & CO.,** Millinery, Dressmaking, and Children's Clothing, opposite Hurs' Bridgewater, Pa. april17-73  
**LEWIS JOHN C. M. D.,** Surgeon and Physician. Office during the day, corner Bridge and Water streets; at night at his residence on Water street. aug5-70  
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**HURST A. C.,** dealer in Dry Goods, Hats and Caps, Carpets, Oil Cloths and Trimmings. Bridge street. jy29-70  
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**BLATTNER C.,** manufacturer and dealer in Boots, Shoes, &c. Water st. oct9-70

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**JOHNSON W. W.,** dealer in Carpets, Oil Cloths, Wall Paper, Window Shades, Trunks and Variety Goods. Diamond. oct16-70  
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**STREIT GEORGE,** manufacturer and dealer in Boots, Shoes, Slippers, &c. Water st. [oct16-70]  
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**DUNKEL W. W.,** manufacturer of and dealer in Boots, Shoes, Gaiters, &c. Corner Race and Main st. sept23-70  
**CLARK Mrs. R. B.,** dealer in Millinery, Fancy Goods and Notions. Main st. sept23-70

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**LOCKHART, Dr. J. R.** sept30-70  
**COOPER T. L.,** dealer in Drugs, Medicines, Perfumery, &c. sept30-70

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**German Lutheran**—Rev. Mr. Born, Pastor. Services every other Sunday at 10 a. m., and alternate Sundays at 3 p. m. Sunday School at 9 a. m.

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**Church of God**—Rev. McKee, Pastor. Services every Sunday at 10 a. m., and 7 p. m. Sunday School at 8 1/4 a. m.  
**Baptist**—Rev. Dr. Winters, Pastor. Services every Sunday at 10 a. m. and 7 p. m. Sunday School at 3 1/4 a. m.  
**United Presbyterian**—Rev. A. G. Wallace, Pastor. Services every Sunday at 10 1/4 a. m. and 7 p. m. Sunday School at 8 1/4 a. m.  
**S. S. Presbyterian**—Rev. B. C. Critchlow, Pastor. Services every Sunday at 10 1/4 a. m. and 7 p. m. Sunday School at 8 1/4 a. m.  
**Episcopal**—Rev. F. Taylor, Rector. Services at 10 1/4 a. m. and 8 p. m. Sunday School at 9 1/4 a. m.  
**First Methodist Church**—Rev. F. S. Crowther, Pastor. Services every Sunday at 10 a. m. and 7 p. m. Sunday School at 9 a. m.  
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**Robertson Lodge, A. O. U. W.** No. 450—Henry Lloyd, N. G. N. G. Taylor, Secretary. Meets every Monday evening.  
**Union Lodge, A. Y. M. No. 259**—R. L. MacGowan, W. M. H. Cover, Secretary. Meets 1st and 3d Tuesdays of each month.  
**National Bank Beaver County**—John Miner, President, Edward Hoops, Cashier, Broadway.  
**Banking House**—E. & H. Hoopes, Broadway.  
**Young Men's Library Association**—Joseph Bentley, President; Hiram Platt, Secretary. Meets every Friday evening.

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**Methodist**—Rev. J. F. Dyer, Pastor. Services, every Sunday at 11 a. m., and 7 1/4 p. m. Prayer meeting every Wednesday evening. Sunday-school at 2 1/4 p. m.  
**Presbyterian**—Rev. Albert Dilworth, Pastor. Services every Sunday at 11 a. m., and 7 1/4 p. m. Sunday School every Sunday at 9 1/4 o'clock at same place. T. Noble, Sup't.  
**United Presbyterian**—Rev. J. I. Frazier, pastor. Services on Sabbath at 10 1/4 o'clock, a. m. and 7 1/4 p. m. Sabbath-school at 2 1/4 p. m.  
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**Presbyterian**—Rev. F. C. Critchlow, Chaplain at Pennsylvania Institute for Soldiers' Orphans. Services in Chapel at 2 o'clock, and lectures in the evening at 7 o'clock. Sabbath School at 10 1/2 o'clock.

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