

# Bellefonte Patriot.

BELLEFONTE, CENTRE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, PRINTED BY W. BRINDLE.

Vol. I.

MONDAY MORNING, April 19, 1819.

No. 49.

## CONDITIONS.

The price of this paper is *two dollars and fifty cents* per annum—but if paid half yearly in advance, two dollars only will be charged.

Advertisements, making no more in length than breadth, will be inserted three times for one dollar; and for every subsequent continuance twenty-five cents.—Those of greater length in proportion.—Rule or figure work double those rates.

No subscription will be received for less than one year; nor any paper discontinued until all arrearages are paid.

If the subscriber does not request a discontinuance of his paper, at the end of the year, it will be considered as a new engagement; and the paper forwarded accordingly.

Subscribers who have their papers carried by the mail, must be liable for the postage.

Letters addressed to the editor must be post paid.

## Pennsylvania Legislature.

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Documents accompanying the Report of the committee appointed to investigate the official conduct of THOMAS SERGEANT, Secretary of the Commonwealth.

(Continued.)

[Letter from the Secretary of the Commonwealth, to the Post Master, Philadelphia]—Produced by Richard Bache.

No. IV.

Hg. March 10, 1818.

Dear Richard—I wish you immediately to attend for me to a subject which I have very much at heart, and on which something must be done immediately. Sam Fox (son of uncle) has been appt. for auc. but uncle did not press the commission for him being contented that he shd. by an arrangement with some one apptd. receive \$2000 p. an. and give his services, in return.—An arrangement has been made by uncle with Lisle, which wd. have done very well, if L. had got the commission. But L. has tho' not formerly, yet in fact (between you and me) withdrawn from the field, under a contemplated arrangement with Jennings, and I fear if Jennings gets the commis. the other will fall thro'—Now as if L. got it the parties wd. be the same as if J. got. Why shd. there be any difficulty—I wish you to see if the understanding cannot be made with J. also. If it cannot, I will certainly try to get L. apptd. or some one that will. This is a matter which I have at heart and which I certainly will use all my power to effect—it is not much that is asked. Sam's services will be worth a great deal: and besides his friends give him quite as much title to this as any body's do to a commission. They would be very glad to join him on such terms, if he got a commission. Uncle is sick abed, and has not had the thing arranged as I expected: I have hitherto left it to him; but I now wish you to go about it. You may see and talk to him, but pray do not let any thing prevent your attending to this immediately, and write me word—I will have things delayed in the meanwhile. If you can do nothing with J. I wish you to speak to Steel or Taylor. Steel at any rate ought not to hesitate—nor Jennings indeed—nor Wurts—I am determined to have the thing effected before the comm. are made out—and I wish some of those I have hitherto befriended would agree.

Y.

Richard Bache, esq. Postmaster, Philad.

[Circular from the secretary of the Commonwealth, announcing who were to be appointed auctioneers]—Produced by John Lisle.

No. V.

### CIRCULAR.

Harrisburg, March 23d, 1818.

Sir—I am directed by the governor to inform you that on the first day of April next, the commissions for auctioneers of the city and county will issue, and to request the gentlemen herein designated for that office to adopt measures to apprise those at present in commission of the information received. The gentlemen whom the governor will commission, are Messrs. John Conrad, John Humes, Jeremiah Peirsol, John Steel, Robert Taylor, John Jennings, and John Lisle.

I am with much respect yours,

THO SERGEANT.

Mr. John Lisle, Philadelphia.

[Letter from John Wurts to Maurice Wurts.]—Produced by John Wurts.

No. VI.

March 24, 1818.

Dear Brother,—You will not be appointed, for reasons best known to the man in the moon. Davidson is yet with the governor. I am in too great a state of irritation to write, but shall leave this to-morrow. It is vain to attempt any thing more. Yours, &c.

JOHN WURTS.

Who they will be I don't know. Robinson, no doubt, is one, or else Lisle.—Steel and Jennings, I believe, are safe; as for the rest I care not.—Let the devil drive his own cart.

Maurice Wurts, 171, Market Street, Philadelphia.

[Letter from John Wurts to the Governor of Pennsylvania]—Produced by the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

No. VII.

Philadelphia, March 26, 1818

His Excellency William Findlay, Governor, &c.

Sir,—I have been but two hours in town and find our political friends in a ferment, on account of the causes which have produced my brother's exclusion. I have had a short interview with Mr. Jennings. If Mr. Bache's allegations, contained in a proposition to Mr. Jennings, are to be credited, Mr. Lisle's appointment is the result of a corrupt combination formed between the Secretary of the Commonwealth, Mr. Edward Fox and Mr. Bache. This fact I am prepared to prove. Should this appointment be confirmed. I deem it proper to state, that the transaction alluded to will be made the subject of legislative inquiry at the next session. The knowledge of these facts is confined to a few of the most prominent and intelligent men in the party who know how to appreciate and use them. It has, however, excited a degree of indignation seldom before expressed. I have mentioned the names of the persons implicated, and for the honor, the interest and the harmony of the republican party I therefore hope that the facts will be investigated before any further steps are taken.

I am with respect, your excellency's obedient humble servant,

JOHN WURTS.

(Letter from Maurice Wurts to the Gov-

ernor of Pennsylvania) —Produced by the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

No. VIII.

Philadelphia, March 26, 1818

His Excellency William Findlay, Governor &c.

Sir,—This morning announced to the public the notices for the new auctioneers to prepare for their appointments, among the number I hear the name of Mr. Lisle.

I think it proper for the security of republican principles, to which I have long been attached the triumph of which last October placed your excellency in the executive chair of Pennsylvania, that you should be made acquainted with the fact the truth of which I stand ready to establish whenever called on: that the son of Mr. Edward Fox, and a near relative of the Secretary of the Commonwealth is to receive \$2000 per annum from Mr Lisle, in consideration of his obtaining this commission. The above arrangement was made with Mr. Lisle some time ago, but owing to subsequent arrangements with Mr. Jennings approved by your Excellency, it was presumed to have been abandoned by them. Attempts were then made upon other candidates for commissions; to convert them into the agents for the establishment of a system of sinecures growing out of executive patronage. They however had too much regard for themselves, and for the strength and permanency of our republican institutions, to be made the base means of their destruction. Hence the appointment of Mr. Lisle so totally unexpected, not only by the public but by Mr. L. himself. If this appointment go into effect, and that arrangement be permitted as the fact is well known to most of the prominent characters of our party here who have already warmly expressed themselves on the subject, it may endanger a legislative investigation of a proceeding so repugnant to the principles of our government.

I have therefore thought it a duty to myself and to you to communicate the above information for your government.

I am with great respect your excellency's most obedient servant,

MAURICE WURTS.

(Letter from John Wurts to the Governor of Pennsylvania.)—Produced by the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

No. IX.

Philadelphia March 26, 1818.

His excellency, Wm. Findlay, Governor, &c.

Dear sir—I wrote to you almost immediately on my arrival in town, stating my knowledge of a corrupt and unprincipled transaction, intimately connected with the exclusion of my brother, and which had excited abhorrence and lively indignation in the bosom of every man acquainted with it. Facts multiply every hour; evidence accumulates every moment.—The letter from Mr. Sergeant to Mr. Bache has been seen. When Mr. Bache made the propositions to Mr. Jennings to allow Mr. Fox \$2,000 per annum, he declared that Mr. Sergeant was determined that Mr. Fox should be provided for among some of them; and that he (Mr. Jennings) jeopardized his commission by refusing to close with this proposition. Mr. Bache, admits the whole transaction, but says that he acted hastily and without reflecting upon the conse-

quences. Thus sir, the matter is placed beyond the possibility of contradiction. I have notified Mr. Bache that I shall lay the facts before the legislature at the next session, in case Mr. Lisle's appointment be confirmed; and permit me to reiterate the determination which I expressed in my former letter to pursue this course; my resolution is fixed and unalterable. Nothing but the revocation of Mr. Lisle's appointment shall change it. My regard for the rights of the citizen, our republican institutions, and my brother's reputation all require it at my hands. I have no hesitation sir in declaring that you have been misled and blinded by those in whom you repose confidence. I do not suppose for a moment that you were privy to the facts, which are now laid before you. "But you are now upon the brink of a river; one step more and the Rubicon is passed; you are in Italy, and must march to Rome." One course only can now be pursued with safety and honor. As Mr. Lisle's appointment was obtained by corruption and fraud; no way now remains of evidencing to the world, your excellency's ignorance and abhorrence of the gross depravity which has been practiced, but by a revocation of Mr. Lisle's appointment. Your excellency has uniformly declared that you are not bound until the commission issues, and has passed your hands—Hence the die is not yet cast. Let the fault rest where it should, upon Mr. Sergeant. Let him stand forth and justify his conduct. Has it indeed come to this? That the secretary of the commonwealth can set up an office to sale, tax it, or tack a pensioner to it! But there is a remedy yet in your excellency's power. Let Mr. Lisle's appointment or nomination be revoked and the Secretary dismissed—Legislative interference will then be unnecessary—otherwise it must take place. I am not acting rashly nor unadvisedly. I now perceive, as your excellency stated to me, that "Mr. Lisle had friends of whom I was not aware." I now perceive why Mr. Jennings and Mr. Lisle were separated, in opposition to the wishes of the former, and the will of the latter. Their arrangement was communicated to, and approved by, your excellency; and to those unacquainted with the facts above detailed, it appears unaccountable that your excellency should have always been so anxious to connect the applicants, and yet have separated those who were willing to join and take a commission between them. I now perceive why my brother was excluded, notwithstanding the warm support which he received from Messrs. Davidson, Hays, Dearth, Hurst Hill, Whitehill, Ellmaker, and other prominent, influential gentlemen in the country not to speak of the decided, universal support which he received from the republican party in this place.

Immediately before and ever since the reception of his notification, Mr. Lisle had frequently declared that he did not expect a commission. For the correctness of this statement I could refer your excellency to a variety of witnesses, whom perhaps you would not know, I therefore mention but one; that is Mr. John Thoburn. Mr. Lisle's arrangements were made, for a partnership with Jennings. Mr. Jennings's arrangements were made with the same view. Hence it is abundantly evident that a commission, which Mr. Lisle did not expect