

was thrust upon him by the Secretary of the Commonwealth, and a few others, for the purpose of putting \$2000 per annum into the pocket of Mr. Fox, who is a near relative of the secretary's. All those who are acquainted with the fact concur in the opinion, that it was this corrupt proceeding, which excluded my brother. His appointment was universally expected, and disappointment to himself was not greater than it is to the public. Those who are not acquainted with the corrupt abuses which prevented the appointment so universally expected and for which your excellency was in effect pledged, may perhaps attribute it to reasons affecting my brother's reputation. Self-defence therefore impels us to the course which we are taking, and from which no consideration can deter us. I have written to Mr. Ellmaker apprising him of all the circumstances, and shall write to all who took an interest in my brother's application.

I remain your excellency's obedient humble servant.
JOHN WURTS.

Letter from *Jas. Harper jr.* to the Governor of Pennsylvania.—Produced by the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

To his Excellency
Wm. Findlay, Esq.

Philadelphia, 28th March 1818.

Sir—In the course of the conversation I had with you in Harrisburg, you informed me that you had got rid of one unpleasant task by Messrs. Jennings and Lisle agreeing to go into partnership in the auction business, and I was happy to find your expectations confirmed after my return to this place by both the gentlemen themselves.

I further observed an anxiety on your part to couple the applicants together as much as possible. Judge then my surprise when the public papers announced the appointment of both the above named gentlemen. This to me was a mystery.—But a day or two has unravelled it; and for the honor of the party and of human nature I could wish the subject buried in eternal oblivion.

But this cannot be, it has already become almost a town talk, and I have no doubt will extend throughout the state, if something is not done to prevent it.

To be plain sir, it is ascertained here beyond a doubt, that Mr. Lisle has been appointed on condition that a Mr. Fox, (a near relation of Mr. Sergeant) shall receive a pension of 2000 Dollars per annum from him under the fiction of being a clerk or something else about the store.

And has our government indeed reached that stage of corruption at which places that should be the honorable reward of merit have become objects of traffic of bargain and sale, and are the claims of a family like the Messrs. Wurt's, to be sacrificed to such base cupidity? I trust not every sentiment of justice and honour cries aloud against it.

I cannot admit the idea, for one moment sir, that you have knowingly encouraged measures like these. You must have been imposed upon and the persons whoever they may be who have thus abused your confidence, deserve to be consigned to lasting oblivion. Some decisive measure on your part is necessary to redeem your character from unmerited obloquy, now heaped upon it: whatever is done must be done promptly as the Messrs. Wurt's are only waiting to see what you will pursue when undeceived, before they address a circular to those members of the Legislature who from the knowledge of the high standing of the family have interested themselves in their favor and through them to such others as may feel an interest in the pure administration of the laws of the state. They are men of integrity, talents, firmness, and indefatigable industry in whatever they undertake, and have declared that if the foregoing transactions are carried into effect they will spare no pains or trouble to bring the subject before the next legislature.

Amongst those who have interested themselves in their favor they reckon the sneaker Davidson, Dearth, Stewart, Hill, Hurst, Hays and Houston; should these gentlemen be induced to take up the subject (and when known to them I do not see how they can avoid it) I dread the consequences not only to yourself but to the party throughout the state. Already some of our friends are alarmed at the effect this affair will produce on the public mind when held forth under the calumny of our enemies.

I consider you sir, standing on the brink of a precipice, and that one wrong step may ruin you for ever; and put the government of the state into the hands of our enemies. Your kind attention to my remarks when at Harrisburg, has induced me to take the liberty of writing to you. I have not an object to accomplish other than to serve you and the party.

With Mr. Fox I am not acquainted, nor is it an object to be desired, as far as I can learn. Mr. Lisle I am acquainted with,

and from his worth as a man and citizen, was rejoiced to find that his wishes would be in a great measure realized by Mr. Jennings' appointment. Not a suggestion have I heard to his discredit, till he became a party in the late disgraceful bargain, which I think he is now ashamed of.

My business only prevents my seeing you in Harrisburg, so much interest do I feel on the present occasion, it is big with fate to yourself, your posterity and the party. May divine Providence, who never forsakes the pure in heart, direct and guide you, is the fervent wish of your most obedient servant.

JAMES HARPER, Junior.
(To be Continued.)

Interesting Anecdote.

The public will probably have noticed the advertisement of Mr. SMALL, announcing the publication of the first volume of "Transactions of the historical and literary committee of the American Philosophical Society." The greater part of this volume is an account of the history, manners and customs of the Indian nations, who once inhabited the Pennsylvania and the neighboring States, by the Rev. John Heckewelder, of Bethlehem. From this interesting volume, we extract the following anecdote, which we think cannot but gratify our readers—it occurs at page 313 of the volume.

—*Am. D. Ad.*
"Seating myself once upon a log, by the side of an Indian, who was resting himself there, being at that time actively employed in fencing in his cornfield, I observed to him that he must be very fond of working as I never seen him idling away his time, as is so common with the Indians. The answer which he returned, made considerable impression on my mind: I have remembered it ever since, and I shall try to relate it as nearly in his own words as possible.

"My friend!" said he, "the fishes in the water and the birds in the air and on the earth have taught me to work; by their examples I have been convinced of the necessity of labor and industry. When I was a young man I loitered a great deal about doing nothing, just like the other Indians, who say that working is only for the whites and the negroes, and that the Indians have been ordained for other purposes, to hunt the deer, and catch the beaver, otter, raccoon, and such other animals. But it once so happened, that while a hunting, I came to the bank of the Susquehanna where I sat down near the water's edge to rest a little, and casting my eye on the water, I was forcibly struck, when I observed with what industry the *Meechigatingus** heaped small stones together, to make secure places for their spawn, and all this labor they did with their mouth and bodies without hands!

"Astounded as well as diverted, I lighted my pipe, sat a while smoking and looking on when presently a little bird not far from me raised a song which enticed me to look that way; while I was trying to distinguish who the songster was and catch it with my eyes, its mate, with as much grass as its bill could hold, passed close by me and flew into a bush, where I perceived them together busy building their nest and singing as they went along. I entirely forgot that I was a hunting, and in order to contemplate the objects I had before me. I saw the birds of the air and the fishes in the water working diligently and cheerfully and all this without hands! I thought it was strange and became lost in contemplation: I looked at my elf, I saw two long arms, provided with hands and fingers besides, with joints that might be opened and shut at pleasure. I could, when I pleased, take up any thing with these hands, hold it fast or let it loose, and carry it along with me as I walked. I observed moreover that I had a strong body capable of bearing fatigue and supported by two stout legs, with which I could climb to the top of the high mountains and descend at pleasure into the valleys.

"And is it possible, said I, that a being so formed as I am, was created to live in idleness, while the birds, who have no hands, and nothing but their little bills to help them, work with cheerfulness and without being told to do so. Has then the Great Creator of man, and of all living creatures, given me all these limbs for no purpose? It cannot be; I will try to go to work. I did so, and went away from the village to a spot of good land, built a cabin, enclosed ground, planted corn, and raised cattle. Ever since that time, I have enjoyed a good appetite and sound sleep? while the others spend their nights in dancing, and are suffering with hunger, I live in plenty; I keep Horses, Cows, Hogs and Fowls; I am happy. See! my friend; the birds and fishes have brought me to reflection, and taught me to work."

*Sun Fish.

Highest Point of Wisdom.

Moderation of passions, judgment of counsel, and dexterity in affairs, are the most prominent parts of wisdom.

The Patriot.

To speak his thoughts, is every freeman's right.

MONDAY, APRIL 19.

For the Patriot.

Mr. Brindle,

The story of the resuscitation, or if you please the resurrection, of *James Munks*, is of too serious a nature to be passed over, by a bare denial of the fact, in a newspaper paragraph. A person from Bellefonte, it seems, declared to the editor of some kind of a publication near the state of New York that he was seen alive after his execution. Now sir, this is proof positive; and your assertion that he is not alive is only of the negative kind; and from the nature of things, as well as the provisions of the common law, one positive evidence counterbalances an hundred negatives.

You assert that thousands of persons from this and the neighboring counties, who attended at the execution, saw him hung until he was dead; but this is no proof that he is not now alive. We have it from good authority, that no longer ago than last November, a man in England who was killed dead enough, was reanimated by the powers of Galvanism, applied to his body by a Doctor. So completely was his members restored to motion that he kicked over one of the attendants; who was aiding in the operation: and the only thing that prevented his complete resuscitation was, that he had been severely wounded, and thereby had lost his blood. Now, sir, who can tell that some student of this art, has not tried his skill upon the body of Munks, and succeeded; It is well known, we have several men of science in this place, and what should hinder them to do here; what has been done in England or France? James Munks received no wounds, and lost no blood, therefore this could be no impediment to his restoration to life. But you will perhaps say that a number of credible witnesses saw him not only dead, but also saw him put into the coffin, nailed up and buried in the ground, and well covered over with earth and stones. But what of all this? Still this will not bear you out against the positive testimony of the person who saw him alive afterwards, "Seeing is believing." You know very well that Baron Hostenin who died in Bavaria this year, was nailed up in a splendid coffin, which was deposited in a magnificent tomb or mausoleum, well secured. He, however, some how or other, was restored to life, and though there was not a single hole in his coffin, he burst it open; but not being able to force the walls of his sepulchre, he knocked out his brains against them in endeavoring to escape. Now we all know that James Munks was a strong athletic fellow, and might as certainly burst open his coffin, and his grave as a German Baron; and as there were no walls to interpose he might very readily, make his escape through the woods, for he was a very dexterous woodsman.

Be these things as they may, the public mind is very much agitated about this matter, and public justice demands that it should be enquired into. If a criminal of this kind may be restored to life, and set at large through the world, no man is safe even in his grave. There have been enquiries of late into matters of far less consequence, and why not into this? The Congress spent a considerable portion of their last session, enquiring into the way and manner by which the two Indian chiefs, who had employed themselves in murdering our people for a number of years, and two British renegades, who had been aiding, abetting and assisting them, came by their death, within the dominions of his most Catholic majesty. The result of which enquiry, was, that they found they were killed by the orders of General Jackson; as many more British and Indian warriors and incendiaries, had been before; and all this was as well known before as after the enquiry. Now, it is surely of more importance to enquire how one of our citizens, (for James Munks was a natural born citizen) came by his death, within our own dominions, or whether he be really dead or not. It would be a curious anomaly for a person to be dead in law and alive in fact. Or, as civilians would say, to be dead *de jure* and alive *de facto*. We have many *de jure* and *de facto* contradictions, but none to equal this.

The Legislature of our own state, spent a considerable part of the winter, enquiring how the vendue criers in Philadelphia, and their clerks, were appointed; and what were the nature and emoluments of the trade. The result was, that, with great depth of research, they discovered the amount of the wages of all the servants of the establishment, from the stage clerk, down through all the grades and orders to the porter. They also discovered, how the arrangements of the vendue shops are made; and what great claims the several candidates had upon public patronage; and how well each of them were entitled to prefer-

ment, and how artfully each of them managed in trying to out-wit the other in canvassing for the appointments; and that there were only about 40 or 50 applicants for 7 places: each of whose merits transcended all the others. They particularly discovered that a certain very patriotic young man was shuffled out, some how or other, who had served his country faithfully in England during the late war: to which place he transported himself, by the advice of his friends, for his own benefit and advantage, and to be out of harms way; and from which he returned home when the war was over, to enjoy the salubrious air of his native land; and to share in its gifts and blessings. He finding that the English atmosphere, now that peace was restored, was of no more use to brace his nervous system. To this young patriot it seems, the governor preferred an elderly man, who had a wife and family, and who had remained moping in the country, and served it there, during the war, without any view to personal advantage; and had nothing to recommend him but that he was an honest man and a uniform republican; notwithstanding he had lived many years, perhaps all his life in the city of Philadelphia. The appointment of such a person in preference to the young, sprightly, adventurous youth, who braved the dangers of the ocean to serve his country, by serving himself, was considered by him, and all his friends, as an act of great ingratitude; and the inference was that it could only have been procured by corruption. This matter was thought well worthy of a legislative enquiry. And perhaps it was so. More especially as the parties concerned were citizens and inhabitants of the metropolis, which alludes so much with staunch, stern, democratic republicans; who "one of their own party" and legislators saith, are all men of principle according to their interest." Had the thing happened in the country, it would not have been worth noticing, for there the people are not much concerned about who are their vendue criers; or who they employ for their clerks; or how they are appointed. But undoubtedly, if an affair of this kind, happening in the city, has been thought deserving of an enquiry, so serious, so solemn and so costly: an affair in the country, where the life and death of a human being is concerned, will be considered equally deserving an enquiry; and infinitely more so, in as much as a man is more valuable than a bail of dry goods, or a pouchon of rum, or a hoghead of tobacco. The Philadelphians claimed an enquiry, because they were such true steady democrats and contributed so much to the success of the party. But be their claims, on the score of party merit what they may, we conceive Centre County, has equal claims. We not only maintain our own ground, but we have made up the deficit in the city, created by their selfish animosities and personal hatreds. We therefore think, on every view of the subject, we are entitled to an enquiry as well as they were. Let us then have an enquiry, so that the public mind may be satisfied and set at rest on this most important and interesting subject. The character of the sheriff, his officers, our court, and of our whole county is implicated. The administration of public justice and individual safety is concerned in this all important question. Let us therefore have an enquiry, and let the evidence be fully taken and fairly published; so that the world may know what the man can be really dead or not, and that it may be worth while to hang any more manufacturers hereafter: for if Munks be alive, there can be no dependence placed on any other attempt to kill a man by hanging. But it will not do to wait for an enquiry until the Assembly meet next winter. It must be done sooner, or it will be useless; for the matter might be forgotten before next December. Let an application, then be made to the governor instantly, requesting him to convoke a special meeting of the legislature, at as early a day as possible, and when met, let them appoint a special committee, whose duty it shall be to repair to the spot where James Munks was buried: Let them, then and there, search for the body; and if found it will certainly be *prima facie* evidence that he is not alive. If not found, then it will be presumptive evidence that he is alive: although not positive evidence, for his body might have been stolen away by night, by doctors, or some of his friends. The committee will be the legal and constitutional Judges of these matters; but they ought to have the best evidence, that the nature of the case will admit of, which is that of their own senses, namely, hearing, seeing, smelling, touching and tasting, when this can be obtained; which it can be in the present case. It is to be hoped the editors who published the story of his resurrection will attend and satisfy themselves as to how the fact is, particularly the Towanda editor who started the story. To empower the committee to send for persons and papers is a matter of course; and I hope they will send for the professional gentleman hangman of Cumberland County, who was so obliging as to travel