

From the National Register.

PENNSYLVANIA POLITICS.

We alluded a few days ago, to the state of parties in Pennsylvania; more particularly to the parties of Philadelphia.—They were four; but an union having taken place between the Democrats of the Old and the New School parties there, are, whilst we are writing, reduced to three.

As there is nothing more important to occupy public attention at present, it may not be uninteresting to dwell for a moment on the history of the political parties of that respectable commonwealth.

The first modern triumph of republicanism in Pennsylvania was effected by the election of Thomas M'Kean to the office of Governor. That Gentleman ruled the state for nine years. The last three years of his sway, however, were marked by the inveterate hostility of the party of which the Aurora is the organ. The Aurora had indeed, opposed the final election of Governor M'Kean, but without success.

Simon Snyder succeeded Thomas M'Kean. The party of the Aurora had, previously, evinced a degree of friendliness to Mr. Snyder; but soon fell into opposition; which continued throughout Governor Snyder's period of nine years.

When Governor Snyder was first proposed for the office, it would appear that his friends suspected the fidelity of the Auroraists; and as a check, or bridle, they planted Mr. Binns, with the Democratic Press, alongside Mr. Duane. For a short time these two agreed very well—that is, while the shout was "long live the Aurora and the Democratic Press." But when the cry put the Press first and the Aurora last, Mr. Duane became restless; an open and seemingly a deadly, quarrel took place between himself and Mr. Binns. This feud continued down to the union spoken of in the commencement of this article.

Governor Snyder having run his course, William Findlay became the Governor of Pennsylvania. Contemporaneously with his elevation to the Governor's chair, a newspaper called the Franklin Gazette was established at Philadelphia. It would seem from this, that the Democratic Press was doomed to experience the same fate as the Aurora. Mr. Binns, the editor of the Press, had been an advocate for Governor Findlay's election; but the Franklin Gazette interposing, and being more in favor with the governor's friends, the Press has taken new ground, abandoned Gov. Findlay, and threatened to bring forward Mr. Snyder in opposition to him.

We now approach the elements of the Union mentioned above.

The Aurora is the enemy of Gov. Findlay. The Democratic Press is also his enemy.—But the editors of these two newspapers are likewise the enemies of each other. Mark, now, the chemical properties of the passions under these circumstances.

Left to themselves, Messrs. Duane and Binns would repulse each other!

Add to their own peculiar hatreds, however, their dislike of Governor Findlay, and the repulsion is changed to attraction.—They unite in repulsion of Governor Findlay and his friends. Hence the union.

This union, however, is not positive, but conditional. The conditions, as far as they appear, are evidently such as indicate a mixture of suspicion with the other ingredients of the Union. On the tickets of candidates which is to be supported by the coalition, appear the names of the Messrs. Duane—father and son. Mr. Binns has the names of his particular friends on the same ticket without doubt. We think we recognise at least one of them in Mr. Josiah Randall. Mr. Binns himself keeps in the back ground; having, it must be understood, committed himself to adhere to the ticket. The Aurora, nevertheless, appears to have required still further security. The Democratic Press is decidedly friendly to Governor Snyder. The Aurora dislikes him. A meeting of the United Parties took place in the State House at Philadelphia on the 5th instant. At the very beginning of business in this meeting, the younger Mr. Duane brought forward a string of resolutions, with some introductory observations, which were adopted. One of these resolutions declared that Simon Snyder ought not again to be elected Governor of Pennsylvania. This, we should think, could not have been pleasing to Mr. Binns. Yet he was silent. Perhaps, like the family of Ravenswood, in the "Bride of Lammermoor," he bides his time.

It is not our purpose here to speak of the motives of this Union. They must be sufficiently obvious to every reader. We feel assured that the coalition cannot last long. Either triumph or defeat will dissolve it. In the event of a triumph, a repulsive squabble for precedence will arise, productive of an open rupture. In case of a defeat, the parties will not be necessary to each other. They could experience nothing worse than defeat if they stood alone. They will, therefore, undoubtedly separate.

It is for the good people of Pennsylvania

to decide in this affair. For ourselves we shall close these observations with one question. The Aurora has a thousand times denounced alledged intrigues and corruptions as prevailing at the city of Washington. Can it find, in all the political proceedings which have taken place at the metropolis of the Union, a solitary incident to match the recent union at Philadelphia?

The "Report of the Select committee" of the Unionists, contains some sound political remarks; which are nothing the worse from their having been borrowed at large from the thoughts of the celebrated Thomas Paine, in the first number of his "Crisis."

The Republicans attached to Gov. Findlay's administration; and the Federalists, stand opposed to the union, on different grounds. Without any open agreement the probability is that they will likewise coalesce. They dislike each other, it is true; but they dislike the unionists more. Like causes produce like effects.

* The following is the Resolution alluded to. It, among others, was offered by W. J. Duane, and unanimously adopted. Binns, was present.

Resolved, That we highly approve of that provision of the constitution, which limit the term for which the same individual may fill the office of governor; that although a person, who served nine years may, after having passed three years out of office, be again elected, and such re-election would be repugnant to the spirit of the constitution, inconsistent with the soundest political maxims, and pernicious in example and tendency; because, whilst the influence of the governor shall continue to be so enormous as to cause a perpetual tendency to abuse it, the term for which that officer may serve, ought to be abridged rather than extended: because, the enjoyment of the honors and emoluments of such a station for nine or even six years is as ample a token of public regard as can with propriety be given by a republic, or, with consistency accepted by a citizen anxious for its duration: because, experience has proved, that an individual elected for three years, however obnoxious he may within that time have become, can so entrench himself with power and patronage, as to render his expulsion difficult if not impracticable: and although such an evil may not be apprehended, it is a duty to guard against its existence at a more unhappy period, should such arrive: because, some of the most distinguished patriots of our country have voluntarily given to their successors in office a glorious example of moderation in the use of power; an example that has secured the gratitude of their country to the one, and deserves an hallowed observance from the other: and, because, there cannot be any reasonable excuse for the re-election of a person, who has already served, nine or even six, years; unless, indeed Pennsylvania should have but one citizen capable and deserving of the station of governor—an anticipation, it is believed, that can never be realized; and an inference so degrading that the slightest pretext for it ought to be shunned like dishonor.

Missouri Expedition.

Extract of a letter from an officer of the 6th regiment to a gentleman in Plattsburg dated

Bellefontaine, August 11.

"Dear Sir—I think I informed you in my last of the departure of the regiment in 4 keel boats, and three steam boats on the 4th and 5th of July.

"July 25th.—By an arrival from above we heard that Major Ketchum had been very nigh losing his boat by running on a sawyer: she filled with water and spoiled his provisions; no lives were lost. Mrs. Ketchum and her children made their escape in the skiff.

"July 30th.—Learned by a letter from Col Atkinson, that the keel boats passed Franklin (about 2000 miles up) on the 23d inst. The steam boat Expedition arrived there on the same day, but had burst her boiler and could not proceed; the Jefferson and Johnson were far in the rear.—Capt. Boardman being dangerously ill of a fever, was landed with his lady & daughter at Franklin. His boat proceeded under Captain Livingston. About this time corporal M'Daniel and two soldiers of the late Clarke's company were drowned; and since, four more have shared the same fate.

"August 7.—By a letter from Col. Atkinson dated at Franklin—learned that the Expedition was still there on the 2d inst repairing damages; the other two still below, and the Col. expressed strong doubts whether they will ever reach there.

"August 8th.—By an express from above we were informed of the total loss of capt. Boardman's boat, with all her loading, consisting of public stores, arms accoutrements provisions and officers baggage, near the mouth of Grand River, on Friday the 30th ult. Capt. Boardman's son was saved by the intrepidity of a soldier who swam ashore

with him on his back. One woman and a child were drowned; I am not certain, but believe her to be a Mrs. James, a Plattsburg girl, who has a mother living in your neighborhood. This accident is peculiarly unfortunate for Capt B. who had a year's groceries and stores on board, and I understand most of the clothing of his family; as he expected to join soon, when he landed at Franklin he took a change of clothes with him. These are the last accounts from the troops. For my own part I have little to relate: my health is indifferent, as is that of my family! yet in that we are comparatively favored, for almost every individual who has arrived from the eastward this season is ill of the fever of the country—in some instances whole families.

"I would have made an essay to give you my opinions relative to the comparative advantages of this and your country, but at present I do not feel myself capable of doing justice to the subject; let it suffice that my opinion is decidedly in favor of yours: a rich man there can better enjoy his riches, a poor man can easier better his condition; the superior advantages of this country exist only in the dreams of discontented visionaries, or in the misrepresentations of interested land speculators. The principal points which have been urged in its favor, are, its fine climate, the fertility of its soil, and the cheapness of land. It is true the winters are not so long and tedious as with you; but on the other hand, the summer has no beauties; never have I seen, or do I expect to see one such heavy evening as I have often enjoyed sitting in my porch by the bank of the Saranac. The rising sun has no charms—the evening closes upon a debilitated frame, overcome with weariness and lassitude from the long continuance of oppressive heat; the atmosphere is pale and sickly. Since my arrival here the weather has been uniformly hot; for a while I bore up under it, but at last I have yielded to the influence of the climate and become as lazy as a native.

"As to the superiority of the soil it may possibly in the aggregate be better than that of New-York, but the difference is by no means so great as is represented; it is possible there may be a few acres of land which yield 80 bushels of corn to the acre, and these few have given a character to the whole country; but from the best information I can obtain, the very best land does not average 60 bushels to the acre, and there is a good deal that does not produce forty. It must also be observed that the grain of this country of every description is of loose texture and does not weigh so much, or produce so much flour by one fourth as that of more northern climates, and I have no hesitation in affirming that it is not so sweet.

The advantages of procuring land cheap no longer exists, except in some remote district, where the produce of two acres will not buy a coat."

SHOCKING CALAMITY.

On the evening of the 13th instant, the wife and six children of Jacob Zartman, of Upper Mahanoy, and his niece about 20 years of age, of the name of Neighart, were burnt to death in the flames of his house! This destruction of life and property was attended with the strangest circumstances of which we have ever heard any example. The family were nearly all awake; Mr Zartman himself lay asleep in the kitchen with one of the children. A girl topped a light, and using no snuffers, threw the top among some tow with which they were working in the adjoining room; the tow blazed up and instead of running out to the kitchen or through the windows, they ran up stairs and staid there until the flames surrounded them. Even there they might have escaped by the windows, or by merely running down the kitchen stairs, but so far from attempting this, two of them hung fast to a girl, to prevent her escape, so that it was with extreme difficulty she disengaged herself jumped out of a window and saved her life. Zartman stood at a cherry tree immovable, and when his neighbor attempted to extinguish the first spark which caught his large barn, full of grain, Zartman like a maniac, seized and held him fast in his arms, until the flames had there also become unconquerable. The bones were all found together in a corner, and some of the internal parts, including a heart unconsumed.

Such is the dreadful detail we have received; we have no reason to doubt its substantial correctness. Was ever such a lamentable and unaccountable transaction exhibited? Sunbury Times.

Bedford (Pa.) Oct 7.

Yesterday morning, Mr. Patrick M' Murphy Innkeeper, of this borough, put a period to his existence, by shooting himself through the body with a pistol. He had been subject to fits of insanity, for some time past, occasioned it is supposed, by pecuniary embarrassment. The deceased was ever esteemed as an affectionate husband, an indulgent father, and a kind hearted and obliging neighbor. He was in the 39th year of his age, and has left a wife and six children to lament his untimely death.

The Patriot.

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

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6.

SINGULAR.

A gentleman in the neighborhood of his town, having three snakes viz. a Rattlesnake, a Black Viper, and a Spotted Viper, confined in a cage, with the intent to take them with him to a foreign shore, caught a mouse and put it alive into the cage, to serve the snakes for food, before entering into a torpid state. The mouse gave evident symptoms of fear, when first put in: but judge of the astonishment of the gentleman, on finding, a short time afterwards, that the mouse, instead of being eaten, had actually devoured the spotted Viper—having decapitated it as adroitly, and as completely as if it had undergone the operation of a French gullotine!! This is the more singular, from the circumstance of there having been wheat, meat, &c. in the cage, to keep the mouse in existence, until some one of the snakes chose to make a meal of it: but it appears that the viper has been bitten, and the charmer charmed.

The noted DAVID LEWIS, with his accomplices in the late robbery of Mr. McClelland, escaped from Bedford jail, by the aid of two negroes, confined in the same prison. We are happy to learn, however, they have all been retaken, after a close and active pursuit, and we understand, are now confined in Chambersburgh, Franklin county, jail; whither they have been removed for safe keeping.

The following communication having been mislaid, rendered its appearance sooner impracticable.

For the Patriot.

Among the various means of improvement which are now common, Sabbath schools hold a pre-eminent station. Youth is the proper season for cultivating the mind. Impressions then made become lasting. This is the period of life which is most free from the perplexing cares of the world; over which the contaminating influence of evil practice has not far extended. The season of youth being past, the trials and difficulties of manhood commence. An increase of years bring an increase of cares, and too often an increase of crimes, until old age overpowered by the load, sinks into the grave. It is best that children be early instructed in those things which are of the greatest importance to them. Their minds should be inclined to virtue and piety, as affording the surest ground of human felicity. Sabbath schools, when well conducted, are admirably adapted to this purpose. It is the duty of all who are engaged in them, to instruct, with great care, the children committed to their charge, in the essential truths of the Bible. It is not sufficient that they teach their scholars to read well. This is good so far as it goes. But as the soul is more valuable than the body; and eternal happiness than that of life; so more attention should be devoted to instruct them in the way of salvation.

The following is a statement of the improvement made, by a class of boys, in the last year, at the Bellefonte Sunday school. The class consisted of about twelve scholars. The greatest number was sixteen, and the least eight. Five thousand, one hundred and ninety verses of scripture, were committed in that time. Many of the class know the Assembly's shorter catechism tolerably well, and the rest are well advanced. One of the boys committed to memory more than 1800 verses; another 1097; and the rest in the following order:—648, 554, 365, 319, 214, 196, 182, 167, 127, 121, 81, 65, 48, 40—Many attended who were late in joining the class, and some who had not much time. In the other classes, I cannot say certainly what improvement has been made. One boy who has made considerable advancement in the study of the Greek and Latin languages, committed 663 verses since the commencement of the school. A black man, who has attended pretty regular, has learned to read, and appears anxious to improve. One of the girls has committed 24 chapters, 10 hymns, and the whole of Emerson's doctrinal and historical catechism. Two or three others have made nearly the same improvement. Many have made good advances, of whom it is impossible to give a particular account. We hope that they will continue to do so.—The present number of scholars is between 60 and 90. About seventy-five attend constantly. The support of any sabbath school requires the steady co-operation of parents, and the greatest fidelity of teachers.

R. BAIRD.

The second Monday in January next is fixed by the President, for the public sale of the lands belonging to the United States, to be held at Chahawba.