

# Lewistown Convention

## The Patriot.

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 11.

**MARRIED**—On Thursday the 2d. inst. by the Rev. Mr. Stewart, Mr. James Grier, of Chester county, to Miss Sarah Patton, daughter of Mr. William Patton, of Ferguson township, Centre county.

In this week's paper we have concluded the report of the committee, appointed to investigate the official conduct of the governor. The editor of the Dauphin Oracle, speaking of this report says:—It will be considered an important document, and will be read with deep interest by our fellow citizens of this state. It is from the pen we understand, of *William Wilkins Esq.* one of the committee and a member from Alleghany county. It will be conceded, we presume, on all sides, that Mr. John Binns had no hand in drafting this report.

### LEWISTOWN CONVENTION.

The delegates elected by the democratic citizens of this state, assembled in convention, on Tuesday the 7th day of March 1820, at the borough of Lewistown, for the purpose of putting in nomination a candidate to be supported at the next general election, for governor of this commonwealth; and for the purpose of nominating electors of president and vice president of the United States.

**SAMUEL BOND**, of the county of Columbia, was unanimously chosen president, and **THOMAS LEIPER**, of the city of Philadelphia, and **FRANCIS M'CLURE**, of the city of Pittsburgh, vice presidents.

On motion, **WILLIAM M. WHITE**, of the county of Montgomery, and **THOMAS BURNSIDE**, of the county of Centre, were appointed secretaries.

*Resolved, unanimously*, That having full and entire confidence in the inflexible integrity, tried firmness, talents and undeviating democratic principles of **WILLIAM FINDLAY**, Esquire, and approving of his enlightened policy, and upright conduct, in the administration of the state government, since he has been governor thereof, and believing, that if re-elected, he will continue to maintain the rights of the people, and the ascendancy of democratic principles and measures; we recommend him as the democratic candidate for governor at the ensuing election.

*Resolved, unanimously*, That we highly approve of the conduct of the administration of the general government, and that we recommend to the electors of this commonwealth, who may be chosen, to give their undivided support to **JAMES MONROE**, for president, and **DANIEL D. TOMPKINS**, for vice president.

*Resolved*, That in case Daniel D. Tompkins should decline a re-election, to the office of vice president of the United States, then, and in that event, this convention earnestly recommend **RICHARD RUSH**, to be supported for vice president of the United States.

*Resolved*, That the following citizens be recommended as Electors of president and vice president of the United States, viz:—

- |                      |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Thomas Leiper,       | Philadelphia city |
| Paul Cox,            | do                |
| Daniel Groves,       | do county         |
| Chandler Price,      | do county         |
| Pierce Crosby,       | Delaware          |
| John M. Padane,      | Montgomery        |
| John Hamilton,       | Lancaster         |
| James Kerr,          | Washington        |
| William Mitchell,    | Bucks             |
| Daniel W. Dingnam,   | Pike              |
| Gabriel Heister, sr. | Berks             |
| John Todd,           | Bedford           |
| Philip Benner,       | Centre            |
| James P. Sanderson,  | Northumberland    |
| William Clinghan,    | Chester           |
| Meichior Rahm,       | Dauphin           |
| George Barnius,      | York              |
| James Giffen,        | Cumberland        |
| John Miley,          | Adams             |
| George Plumer,       | Westmoreland      |
| George Webb,         | Lycoming          |
| Andrew Sutton,       | Washington        |
| Joseph Huston,       | Fayette           |
| Hugh Davis,          | Allegheny         |
| Patrick Farrelly,    | Crawford          |

*Resolved, unanimously*, That the proceedings of this convention, together with the address and names of the delegates present attached thereto, be published in the democratic papers throughout the state.

**SAMUEL BOND**, President.  
**THOMAS LEIPER**, } V. Pres'ts  
**FRANCIS M'CLURE**, }

**W. M. WHITE**, } Secretaries.  
**TH. BURNSIDE**, }

**ADDRESS.**

**FELLOW CITIZENS,**

In conformity with your wishes and instructions, your delegates repaired to Lewistown, and assembled in Convention unanimously nominated a candidate for the chief magis-

should go to the world in a form distinct, forcible and attractive? It does not appear that his object was to seduce, to compel, or to mislead the committee; nor to aim or wish to influence their ultimate decision. The extent to which his conduct upon the occasion can be tortured, is to prove that he requested an experienced penman to mould into form a determination, which an approving bosom told him must be favorable. Your committee refrain from advertising to what is a notorious and often salutary practice. The drafting of reports for a legislature, is a task of some difficulty, and of public interest. To do it consistently with the state, is always desirable; nor does it, in the smallest degree, detract from the intelligence and usefulness of a committee, to suppose them ungifted with the almost mechanical faculty of composition. A report in which the official integrity of the first executive officer of the state was to be canvassed, might easily, and ought to have been, drafted without the aid of John Binns; and, it fortunately happened, that although the more decorative preamble issued from his pen, the more material parts were entrusted to the care and ability of the second officer of the commonwealth.

Having thus travelled through all the changes exhibited by the petitioners against the governor, your committee would cheerfully leave the consequence to the legislature and the people. They deem it, however, due to the dignity of the chief magistrate of this commonwealth, to the character of the state and to themselves, to add a few remarks suggested by a retrospect of the whole proceeding.

Political parties do, perhaps, in some degree contribute to the security of free laws, and a pure administration of them. They beget a watchfulness, which in its turn, prevents official misconduct, by impressing a despair of concealment. When founded upon the opposition of enlarged and liberal views, a generous collision is excited propitious to every species of improvement, and a safeguard against thoughtless or wanton inroads upon the constitution.

But mercenary parties, whose sole object is the emolument or facinorous consequence of office, are the real bane of republican institutions, and the greatest sources of political demoralization. Against these every lover of liberty and law should be stern and steadfast in contending. Unfortunately for the honor, as well as the peace of Pennsylvania, such parties have too often forced themselves into notoriety, and disfigured the otherwise captivating picture of her domestic prosperity. It is true that the extent of her executive patronage spreads forth its temptations, it should also animate her virtuous and patriotic citizens to keep the more zealous watch, and to remedy by their practice this theoretic danger of their admirable government. Your committee fondly hope that the degrading development of cabal and intrigue made in the progress of the present inquiry, may inspire a just and salutary disgust. They rejoice that the testimony has been ordered for publication; that the people of this commonwealth may behold in naked deformity, the canker of sordid ambition; and that public opinion, the chief and safest corrective for our political evils, may prevent our ever looking upon the like again.

Your committee hold in sincerest veneration, that provision of the bill of rights, which guarantees to the citizens of this state, the right to petition, or remonstrate, against grievances, or for other proper purposes. It constitutes a distinguishing and invaluable feature of our free code, and cannot be too jealously protected from violation. Equally delicate as noble, it would be injured, if not destroyed by the least modification or obstruction. But, who does not perceive how shamefully this inestimable jewel has been perverted? Has it not been torn from its legitimate object, to decorate the harlotry of factions, instead of standing on the ægis of chaste liberty? Has it not been made the subterfuge of political designs, rather than the medium of patriotic resistance? Has it not been misapplied to produce a waste of public treasure, a prostration of legislative duties, and a stain upon the character of the state?

The evidence before your committee too clearly established the position, that the inquiry into the conduct of the chief magistrate originated in feelings of personal disappointments, were systematized by a few, and was finally presented to the consideration of the house of representatives for the mere purposes of party warfare.

Our country is just now exhibiting an unprecedented harmony of political sentiments. The wisdom and moderation of the national councils, have greatly softened the asperities of opposing parties, and nearly deprived ambition of any hope of success except from the practice of honest patriotism. Nor can it escape remark, that the same forbearance in the administration of state affairs, has eradicated much bitterness of feeling, and left but a few theoretical principles as sources of contention.

Such a state of things is in the highest degree grateful and auspicious to the hopes of every lover of freedom. Our republican institutions have withstood the shocks, be-

neath the severity of which European statesmen fondly predicted their downfall. Little now need be apprehended from a recurrence of similar conflicts, if any should recur. The materials of our government are solid, and calculated to be permanent. Let the people of Pennsylvania be wary, stern and active in suppressing the demoralizing practices of mere mercenary and turbulent politicians, and no apprehension can be entertained for the durability of their liberty and happiness.

Therefore,  
*Resolved*, That the committee to whom were referred the petitions from sundry citizens of this commonwealth, praying for the inquiry into the conduct of the governor, be discharged from any further consideration of the subject.

The shocking outrage upon Humanity, which has lately been perpetrated in South Carolina, in murdering negro Sam, by fire, for being accessory to the death of his master, demands the most decisive indignation. The people of America are imperiously called upon, not only to protest against the act, but to adopt measures to bring the judge jury, and executioners to condign punishment. What shall every feeling of tenderness, every sentiment of virtue, every trace of civilization be thus outraged—thus insulted, and rendered nugatory by the conduct of a few unmerciful and relentless men? and this too in direct and avowed violation of the provision of the constitution, which expressly declares, that "no cruel or unusual punishment shall be inflicted within the jurisdiction of the United States"—and yet the good people view it, with as much coldness and indifference as if it were an exhibition for public amusement. We look in vain for a parallel in this case, in the annals of the civil history of America, save in that portion of the country, where the frigid influence of slavery, has torrid the feelings of humanity to flow towards the sons of Africa, and reduced them below the grade of the beasts which perish. In the dark era of the 16th century, when bigotry and superstition usurped the sacred seat of Justice, the tortures of the stake were resorted to, as an antidote to fanaticism—but till now we had hoped that the influences of that pure religion which breathes "good will to men," and the progress of intellectual improvement had so far corrected the judgment and softened the heart, as to forever banish the Demon from the haunts of civilized life. But alas! how widely different is the fact. The very men who profess to hold liberty and equality as the unalienable rights of all rational intelligent beings and who consequently claim an elevated rank in the scale of refinement, have been the first to violate every feeling and sentiment of humanity, in this grossly barbarous manner. There are no palliative accompaniments—no shadow of excuse—the facts are plain—palpable and glaring—they demand the immediate interposition of the guardian of our rights. The President of the United States, by his oath of office, stands bound to maintain the constitution in all its provisions, and we cannot conceive that he can be exonerated from the solemn obligation, without demanding the immediate and effectual interposition of Congress.—Not to repeal the sentence—Alas! that is now too late—but to prevent the repetition of such abominable executions.

*Poulson's paper.*

### JOSEPH BONAPARTE.

We have not met with an article for a long time, the perusal of which gave us more real pleasure, than the letter of Joseph Bonaparte, occasioned by the recent destruction of his elegant mansion by fire. Viewing this letter as the spontaneous effusion of a mind, calmly philosophic, generously grateful and nobly benevolent, we have every reason to be proud of it as a tribute to our national character. Joseph Bonaparte, a man born and educated under a different system, who has been a ruler of nations, bears voluntary testimony to the genial character and high excellence of our political institutions. He declares the Americans "the most happy people he has known"—nor is this sentiment less valuable, less worthy of being cherished by us, because of its coming from the lips of an exiled King.

Of the family of Bonaparte, Joseph perhaps was the Prince, whose overthrow was most sincerely lamented by the people, whom the superior fortune of his imperial brother placed under his regal sceptre.—Since his arrival in this country, so entirely unexceptionable has been his conduct, such his kind conciliatory deportment, so numerous, delicate and unostentatious his charities, that he has become endeared to the inhabitants of his immediate neighborhood, and respected every where. This we have from common report.

America will freely open her bosom to all such citizens, no matter what have been their stations or misfortunes.—*Pet. Lut.*

The question has been taken in the Senate of the U. S. on agreeing to the amendment to the Maine Bill, to connect Missouri with Main.—Yeas, 23—Nays, 21.

tracy of Pennsylvania to be supported by your votes at the election in October next. We have experienced great gratification in finding so much union and cordiality existing throughout the democratic family, and our duties have in consequence, been discharged with more than ordinary facility and dispatch. Conscious of having obeyed your wish, as well as of having consulted our own inclination, we shall confidently submit for your approval the result of our united deliberations.

The fundamental principle of free government around which the republican party has so long and so steadily rallied, can never cease to deserve and demand your attachment and support. You should watch over them with a jealous eye; protect them from the least infringement, and laboriously strive to ensure their perpetual practice. Experience has proved that our prosperity and happiness are commensurate with, and dependent upon their general operation. Nor have we as citizens anything to fear for the formation and administration of our laws, while with a wise precaution, we secure their recognition and ascendancy.

The political scenes of Pennsylvania have heretofore exhibited a succession of triumphs for the people. Amidst every effort to distract, to mislead, and to divide, there has been a calm unwavering, and determined pursuit of right, resulting in success at home, and honorable distinction among our sister states. The national character and the national policy have felt the influence and in a measure adopted the tone of the stern consistency of our democracy. It has been emphatically and justly denominated "the key stone of the federal arch," giving permanent solidity to a system which might otherwise be liable to injurious changes or to abrupt and fatal overthrow. Fraught with domestic blessings to ourselves, we owe it also to our country not to swerve from a line of political march, the salutary effects of which are so universally felt and recognized. It conveys a practicable and irresistible demonstration of the strictly American doctrine, that the people are their own best and wisest rulers.

With opinions and sentiments such as these, uninfluenced by the local and transitory discords which it has been the effort of a turbulent few to excite, we have unanimously selected **WILLIAM FINDLAY**, as the citizen most entitled to your suffrages at the approaching gubernatorial election.

It is scarcely necessary to recapitulate the claims of this candidate to your honor, confidence, and regard. Many of us have known him through a long and laborious course of public service: persevering, upright, and able, in early scenes of political embarrassment and conflict; faithful and indefatigable during a long career of official duties; and as chief magistrate of the state, preserving with inflexible firmness, the independence and purity of his station. From the outset of his public life he has manifested a perfect acquaintance with, and a sincere attachment to, the genuine principles of free government. While in the executive chair his policy has been liberal, wise and beneficent; anxious for the progressive improvement of our territorial advantages, and watchful for the general welfare of his constituents.

A brief retrospect of the features of his administration must confirm what we have said, and enforce his claims to the confidence of the people. If to have acted as the chief magistrate of a great commonwealth, and not as the mere leader of a party;—if to have manifested in the exercise of his official patronage, an adherence to the principles and friends of our revolution;—if to have exhibited at once a patriotic forbearance and a political decision of character;—if to have repelled the menaces, and scorned the blandishments of a *corrupt faction*;—if to have promoted with earnest and honest zeal the prosperity and comforts of the people by giving his official aid and sanction to the encouragement of domestic industry, diffused education, and public improvement;—if in fine to have guided the barque of state with honor and general advantage during his constitutional term, entitled an executive magistrate to the continuance of our attachment and respect, it must be freely and fully accorded to William Findlay.

The time has not yet arrived, and we trust in Providence it never may arrive in Pennsylvania, when bad men combined in unprincipled leagues will be able to put down the public servant; whom they hate only because he is faithful to his duties, and will be independent in discharging them. Nay, fellow-citizens, we confidently believe that one of the surest recommendations to your enlightened and energetic support, is the hostility of those whom experience has taught you to know, as equally enemies to your morals, your reputation and your peace.

We have also fulfilled the duty you have assigned us of recommending a ticket for the electors of president and vice-president of the United States.

The distinguished virtue, patriotism and public services of the present chief magistrate and the vice president of the union, demand the entire esteem and approbation