

THE PATRIOT.

BELLEFONTE, JUNE, 1823.

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Lewistown Federal Convention.

The Delegates chosen, having assembled on the day appointed, in the Court house, in said town, chose Col. James M'Farlane, of Mifflin county, President, John Watson, of Washington county, and Christian Ley Esq of Lebanon county, Vice Presidents, and James Monaghan and Thomas B. M'Elwee, Secretaries.

After the organization of the meeting, the Convention proceeded to the nomination of candidates, when Nathaniel B. Boileau and Andrew Gregg were nominated.

Mr. Getz from Berks County, read by permission, a letter from Joseph Hiester, governor of the commonwealth, declining a re-election

The Convention then adjourned until two o'clock, P. M.

The Convention met agreeably to adjournment, when Jonathan Roberts, of Montgomery county, was nominated for the office of Governor.

The nomination being closed, it was Resolved, That the members of this Convention, do pledge themselves to support unanimously, by their votes and influence, the candidate who shall receive the majority of votes of the delegates present.

The yeas and nays upon the above resolution being called, it was determined in the affirmative—Yeas sixty—Nays nine.

It was then Resolved, That this Convention now proceed to the election of a candidate for Governor, by viva voce.

The names of the delegates were then called over, when it appeared that ADREW GREGG had sixty one votes, Nathaniel B. Boileau nine votes, and Jonathan Roberts two votes.

The President then declared that ANDREW GREGG was duly nominated a candidate to be supported by the meeting, for the office of Governor for this commonwealth, at the ensuing election.

It was then proposed to appoint a committee to draft an address declaratory of the objects of the meeting, which being adopted, the following gentlemen were chosen, viz:—Thomas Maitland, Adam Shutz, Josiah Y. Shaw, Thomas B. M'Elwee and John Heckman.—And the Convention adjourned to meet again at five o'clock, P. M.

The Convention met agreeably to adjournment, when the committee appointed for that purpose, reported the following

ADDRESS.

FELLOW-CITIZENS—

As the constitutional period for the election of a Governor approaches, it is customary and right, for the freemen of the state to adopt measures in order that public opinion may be concentrated with regard to a candidate for that important office. The members of the legislature, at their last session, undertook the exercise of this unquestionably popular right, and conformably to their direction a convention of part delegates, and part members, assembled at the seat of government, during the session of the legislature, and recommended John Andrew Shulze, a member of the legislature, for the suffrages of the people. It would be superfluous to detail the intrigues that were essayed to effect this nomination: suffice it to say, Mr. Shulze was scarcely known beyond the county of his birth and residence, he was not the person designated for nomination by the people at large; he possesses none of the qualifications, nor has he performed any of the services, that entitle him to it: and it was only through the predominance of legislative influence that he obtained the nomination. Indeed, from the first meeting of the legislature, until the 5th of March when the nomina-

government was outraged with an audacity that hardly deigned to preserve a respect for its forms, and we witnessed the singular spectacle of representatives unremittingly engaged in circumventing their constituents, and frustrating their wishes. Indignant at these proceedings, the citizens of most of the counties of the state have protested against them; and have appointed delegates to represent their opinions and wishes in the present convention.

The people of this commonwealth cannot evince too much solicitude for the preservation of their republican institutions, in their original purity. When one branch of the government manifests a disposition to absorb the powers of any other branch, it is the duty of every good citizen to raise his voice against it; but when any branch shall directly invade the rights of the people, in whom alone sovereign power exists, conduct so dangerous ought to be promptly met, and the agents in it consigned to public reprobation.

We cannot fully discharge the duties imposed in us as delegates of a free and enlightened people without calling their attention to the violent infringements attempted to be exercised over chartered rights, and the sacred law of contracts by the members of the last legislature, and in which the candidate John Andrew Shulze, brought forward to receive the highest confidence of his fellow citizens, was conspicuously engaged.—One particular instance of this outrage of law and justice was even carried so far as to infringe, if not annihilate the rights of conscience, in the attempt to deprive a religious society of the privileges secured to it, and guaranteed by the highest authority of our laws—and was only arrested in the last stage of its baleful progress by the firm and enlightened wisdom of the present Chief Magistrate; who, in the faithful and upright discharge of his executive duty, averted this most disgraceful proceeding: And we ask, fellow citizens, what would be the probable consequences of your acquiescence in the nomination of such a person for the chief magistracy, through the direct influence of the members of such a legislature?

Party names have been invoked for the support of the candidate nominated at Harrisburg on the 5th of March. Happily, however, for the people of Pennsylvania, party names can no longer excite that asperity of feeling which warps the judgment, and impels men to rush upon their own destruction; and unfortunately for those who invoked them in the present instance, that act sets in stronger relief the feebleness of the pretensions of their candidate. Solid claims are essential to the success of an aspirant to the exalted station of Governor of Pennsylvania. It is a libel upon the public intelligence, to say, that in a state containing upwards of a million of inhabitants, there is no citizen so distinguished as to warrant his friends in placing him before the people as a candidate for governor on his private merits. Is a man more competent to discern, or better able to point out, the public interest by having belonged to this party or that at particular periods of his life? No one will pretend to say he is. But taking the members of the Harrisburg convention at their words, the candidate we recommend possesses stronger claims on the democracy of the state than the gentleman proposed by the Harrisburg convention.

For a period of twenty years Andrew Gregg was elected by a democratic district, or by a democratic legislature, to represent the interests of the people in the state and national legislature, and when he sought repose in private life retained their undiminished confidence.—He was the intimate friend of Jefferson in the most trying political times, both before and after the elevation of that distinguished statesman. And shall it be said that such a man is not worthy of the support of his fellow citizens?

To the gentleman, however, who participated in, and have been arrayed under the banners of the Harrisburg convention, we cheerfully resign all the benefits that are to be derived from party strife and contention. We feel too great a confidence in the justice of the cause in sup-

porting such aid. For what substantial good, fellow citizens of Pennsylvania have you ever derived from party excitement? Has it not been the frequent bane of your social comfort without affording any political equivalent? Is it not employed on every occasion to misrepresent and thwart the praiseworthy designs and the happiest plans of government? Has the present administration not been charged with waste and extravagance, when it is as notorious as the statue book can make it, that the salaries of public officers have been reduced one fourth, and still greater reduction has been made in the fee bill? It has been accused of entailing upon the people a state debt, when the same statue book demonstrates that a great portion of the million loan was necessary to discharge appropriations made and debts contracted during the preceding administrations. To these unfounded charges have been added, the personal application of the most unbecoming epithets to a chief magistrate who is entitled to our gratitude for his services in "the times that tried men's souls," and whose irreproachable character, through a long life, no less than the honors that have been conferred upon him by the votes of his fellow citizens, entitle him to the utmost respect. He has been assailed by every weapon in the power of fruitful malignity to invent; but they have fallen harmless at his feet, intent only upon the interest of the state and the elevation of his character, he has riveted the affections of his former friends and attracted new ones, and will retire from the tumult of public life with the applause of his countrymen, and the satisfaction of having merited it.

Andrew Gregg, who is recommended by this convention for your support is too extensively known to require a further introduction to his fellow citizens at our hand. The achievements of the nation and the state bear testimony to his talents, republican principles, and public services, as his neighbours and his personal friends do to his social virtues and general benevolence of character. He has passed through public life without being shaken by its storms or seduced by its blandishments: and with principles thus pure, added to a mind eminently gifted, and chastened by long experience, we have the assurance that in his administration the honor of the state, and the prosperity and happiness of the citizens will be consulted and cherished.

The address having been read and adopted, the following resolutions were then offered & passed:—

Resolved, That this convention do recommend to their fellow citizens throughout the state to call meetings and appoint committees of correspondence in each county for the promotion of the election of ANDREW GREGG, Esq. for the office of Governor of this state.

Resolved, That the thanks of this convention be tendered to the commissioners of Mifflin county, and to the citizens of Lewistown, generally, for their politeness and hospitality.

Resolved, That the proceedings of this convention be signed by the President, Vice Presidents and Secretaries, and published throughout the state.

JAMES M'FARLANE, President.
CHRISTIAN LEY, }
JOHN WATSON } Vice Presidents
James Monaghan, }
Thos. B. M'Elwee, } Secretaries.

From the Franklin Gazette. THE FEDERAL CANDIDATE.

No measure of public policy has occurred in our history, affording a surer test as to the principles of a public agent, than the declaration of war against Britain in June 1812. It was emphatically and entirely a democratic measure. Sought for early by the people, it became an almost exclusive object with the people's party. Every sound republican in the union hailed the message of President Madison, recommending it to congress, as the dawn of a system by which the honor of the nation was to be vindicated, her rights enforced, and her wrongs avenged.

In maturing a measure of such vast importance and responsibility, opposed with all the power of Federalism, by whom Great Britain was idolized as the "bulwark of our holy religion," it can scarcely be conceived that any one claiming to be of the republican party should strive to distract its councils, embarrass its progress, and defeat its ultimate aim. In accordance, however, with various manifestations of political defection, ANDREW GREGG, when in the Senate of the United States, took an early and an active part in resisting the sentiments of the people upon this subject, in countenancing the pretexis and in aiding the opposition of the federalists.

We have the journals of the senate of the United States for the year 1812 now before us. They speak a language that cannot be mistaken, as to the principles of Andrew Gregg. When ruled by Federalists as a consistent republican, it is proper that the apparent absurdity should be explained, and that the real causes of his being selected by the enemies of democracy, as their gubernatorial candidate, should be amply developed. We undertake to pronounce one of those causes to be, that ANDREW GREGG joined the federalists in opposing the declaration of war against Great Britain; that he resorted to expedients at once contemptible and disingenuous to assist our adversaries, and that he was at one moment, on the very point of gaining for federalism a party triumph, which would have disgraced the country forever. The journals above mentioned are not the only documents in our power. We have other legitimate sources from which to establish the political trimming of Andrew Gregg. We intend laying them all before the republicans of Pennsylvania, that they may know how to estimate his former republicanism and

FROM THE BOSTON RECORDER. AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY.

The Seventh Anniversary was held on the 8th inst. In the absence of the President, the Hon. John Jay, the chair was taken by Matthew Clarkson, Esq. Vice President, supported by the Hon. De Witt Clinton and Richard Varick, Esq.—The meeting was opened by reading the 62d chapter of Isaiah. An address was then read by Dr. Milnor, from the venerable President, whose age and infirmities prevented his attendance; and letters of apology for unavoidable absence from sundry Hon. members of the Society. The Annual Report of the Managers was read by Rev. Mr. Woodhull, Dom. Secretary; from this document it appeared that the Society had printed 54,000 Bibles and Testaments during the year; beside purchasing 1,100 German Bibles, and receiving 500 Spanish Bibles from the British and Foreign Bible Society for distribution—making the total of Bibles and Testaments printed and procured by the Society for 7 years, 328,777. There have been issued from the Depository the past year, 54,805 Bibles and Testaments. The receipts of the year, including the subscriptions to the Depository, amount to \$45,131.25. 59 new Auxiliaries have been recognized; present total of Auxiliaries, 360.

Many of the facts detailed in the Report, have been mentioned in past numbers of the Recorder. The building of the Society's house; the resolution to procure a set of stereotype plates for the Spanish Scriptures; the grants to the Serampore and Ceylon Missionaries, have been known to our readers.—Several resolutions were moved and seconded by Gentlemen present, who addressed the meeting in a style of unusual eloquence.

1. On motion of the Rev. Dr. John Woodhull, of New-Jersey, seconded by the Rev. William Ross, of the Methodist Church, N. Y. Resolved, That the Report of the Managers now read be approved and adopted, and that it be printed under their direction.

2. On motion of the Rev. Dr. Milledoler of the Dutch Church, N. Y. seconded by Chauncy Langdon, Esq. of Vermont. Resolved, That the thanks of the Society be given to the Board of Managers for their services during the past year.

3. On motion of the Hon. De Witt Clinton, seconded by Thomas Eddy, of the Society of Friends. Resolved, That the thanks of the Society be given to the President for the address with which he has favored the Society on the present occasion and for the lively interest which he manifests in its prosperity and success.

To this resolution, Peter A. Jay, Esq. replied, acknowledging, on behalf of his father, the tribute of respect from the Society.

4. On motion of Wm. W. Woolsey, Esq. Treasurer of the Society, seconded by Samuel Boyd, Esq. Resolved, That the thanks of the Society be given to Matthew Clarkson, Esq. acting Vice President, for his constant, ungrudging, and zealous attention to the concerns and business of the Society, ever since its organization.

5. On motion of the Rev. John P. K. Henshaw, of the Episcopal Church, Baltimore, seconded by J. C. Hornblower, Esq. of New-Jersey. Resolved, That the thanks of the Society be given to the Secretaries and Treasurer for their important services gratuitously rendered to the Society.

To this resolution the Rev. Dr. Milnor replied on behalf of himself and his associates.

6. On motion of the Rev. Joshua Finley, of the Baptist Church, Baltimore, seconded by John Griscom, of the Society of Friends. Resolved, That the thanks of the Society be given to the Auxiliary Societies, for their contributions to its Treasury, and for their exertions in distributing the Scriptures in their several districts.

7. On motion of the Rev. Benjamin Mortimer, of the Moravian Church, New York, seconded by the Rev. Dr. M'Leod. Resolved, That the thanks of the Society be given to the several individuals who by their liberal contributions, have assisted in erecting a convenient building for the accommodation of the Society, thus enabling it to extend its operations, and to perform in a more acceptable manner the important duties for which it was founded.

8. On motion of Theodore Dwight, Esq. seconded by the Rev. Dr. Milnor.— Resolved, That the Society learn with lively satisfaction, that the prospect of introducing the Scriptures into various parts of South America, becomes more and more flattering; and that the Society will do every thing in their power to supply the wants and gratify the wishes of the inhabitants of that portion of our continent on this interesting subject.

Upon seconding this resolution, Dr. Milnor introduced to the Society, Sen Vicente Rocafuerte, a Spanish gentleman, and a native of the province of Peru, who made a short but very interesting address on the subject of the resolution.

Among the persons convened on the occasion, were the Judges of the Supreme Court of the state, a large number of Clergymen of different denominations, and other gentlemen of distinction from different parts of the Union. The exercises lasted for nearly five hours, but no symptoms of fatigue or uneasiness were mani-