

THE PATRIOT

Not for himself, but for his country. WEDNESDAY, July 16.

A communication signed "No Terrorist," has been received, and shall appear in our next.

We publish in this day's paper, the proceedings of a meeting held at James Watson's on the 4th of July. The persons composing that meeting, have styled themselves "Democratic Republicans."

JAMES HARRIS, esq. Deputy Surveyor of Centre county, appointed by the present administration, and who abandoned the Democratic party as soon as he accomplished the end he had in view for professing Democracy—and that was to have the seat of Justice fixed at Bellefonte, he being proprietor of the land.

J. G. LOWREY, Prothonotary, &c. of Centre county, appointed by Hiestler. F. B. SMITH, Recorder, &c. do. C. CURTIN, son-in-law of Mr. Gregg. R. CURTIN, do. do. do. J. IRVINE, do. do. do. A. GREGG, Jr. son of Mr. Gregg. M. GREGG, do. do. do.

AUSTIN CURTIN, son of R. Curtin. AND. CURTIN, a relative, and an alien. W. W. POTTER, a nephew of Gregg's and Deputy Attorney General for Huntingdon county.

J. POTTER, a nephew of Gregg's. W. H. PATTERSON, a nephew of Gregg's by marriage, and a nephew of Mr. Harris. This forms the connecting link. W. C. WELCH, making some pretensions of relationship with Mr. Gregg. P. H. TIERNEY, a relation of Curtin's. JNO. WILLIAMS, a tenant of Curtin's. E. WILLIAMS, do. do. J. MILES, a justice of the peace, commissioned by Hiestler.

H. HUMES, a relative by marriage, of Potter's, and a delegate of the Carlisle convention of 1817, that took up Hiestler. J. THOMPSON, esq. a uniform supporter of Hiestler, and a delegate to the convention that met at Lewistown to Register the name of Andrew Gregg.

We could mention the names of at least three others, relations of Mr. Gregg, that attended this meeting; and three others, not relatives, but bound to them by a tie equally as strong; which gives the whole number present.

Such are the men that style themselves Democrats!! "We have always been of the Democratic party," say they, "but the time has arrived [just arrived] when the great POLITICAL FAMILY of our country may consider themselves all Federalists all Republicans." What great POLITICAL FAMILY is taken into view in the resolution from which this is extracted, we are at a loss to determine, but presume that it means the FAMILY that held the meeting, for look at their names, and we find that they are all FAMILY CONNEXIONS!! But when did the time arrive that this FAMILY agreed to consider themselves "all federalists, all republicans?" This is an enquiry well worth investigating.

We have already shown that the meeting was composed, exclusively, of Mr. Gregg's relations, and of those whose only hope of retaining their offices, depends upon his success. An host of relatives were present, whose wants are all to be supplied. Hence it is that these men assert, "that the time has arrived that they MAY AGREE TO CALL THEMSELVES ALL FEDERALISTS, ALL REPUBLICANS." To retain their offices, we have no doubt they would willingly agree to call themselves any thing.

They further say: "And we do hereby invite all the citizens of Centre county to unite with us in support of Andrew Gregg for Governor, &c." A very modest and disinterested invitation, to be sure!! As much as if they had said—"Do good people, take pity on our desperate situation, for if we cannot get the democrats of Centre county to vote for our father, father-in-law, uncle, &c. it will grieve us very much, and as we have agreed, this 4th day of July 1823, to call ourselves democrats to please you, knowing that a great majority of you are democrats, we hope, and pray, and beg, that you will not vote for Shulze; for if he is elected, all our fond anticipations of absolute power, of unlimited authority, of family distinction, will be dissipated forever—be sides all, some of us will loose our offices, and some of us will be disappointed in our expectations of office. Our candidate without the aid of the Democrats, cannot succeed, for pity's sake, then, Democrats, lend us your aid, and save us this time!"

What a contemptible whining, cringing, and coaxing, is displayed in the whole of their proceedings. Shame, if nothing else, ought to have prevented the publication of such a political BRIEF, emanating from the persons composing that meeting—men in every point of view so deeply interested, to say nothing of their politics. They have in fact, condescended to BEG for votes, and that too of men whom at other times, they most cordially contemn, hate and despise. Mr. Gregg's only hope, it appears, is predicated on the charity and commiseration of the Democrats, and his immediate friends and relatives, as well as well as the officers of the present federal administration, have assembled and issued a BRIEF, soliciting the aid of those with whom for years, they have been at political variance. To effect their purposes, they have very disingenuously styled them-

meeting, Democrats, at any other time than during an electioneering campaign, they would have considered themselves as very grossly insulted. From such democrats the friends of Mr. Shulze, abroad, have nothing to apprehend, and at home it is enough to find these men ranged on the side they are, to insure Mr. Shulze an overwhelming majority. Their offices are at stake; their power about to be wrested from them, and their ambition about to have proper bounds set to it—hence their anxiety to cloak themselves with democracy—it is in order to perpetuate the present abominable aristocracy, under whose bakful influence Pennsylvania has for the last three years been laboring. Their willingness to call themselves either federalists or republicans, which ever answers best, is a strong attestation of their unbounded thirst for power, and anxiety to retain their offices.

But, gentlemen, rest easy; your democracy is but too well known in Centre county, as also Mr. Gregg's—and your invitation will be laughed at. You may talk of striplings, and all this—it is but the effervescence of men in despair, and of minds inflated with envy, hatred, malice and ill-will. We totally disregard all that you have said, or can say, about us. We know how to estimate it—and the party to which we belong, can and will, no doubt, duly appreciate all that you have said.—You may beg, and whine, and coax, and call yourselves Democrats, yet all will not answer, "You have gone to the goal's house to seek wool." You can neither hide your own federalism, nor that of Mr. Gregg's—much less can you cast the shade the interest you have in his election. Not only will you be defeated, but you must endure the mortification of having denied your names—of having agreed to call yourselves any thing and every thing for office—and without receiving a reward equivalent to the disgrace attached to such a manifest aberration from the path of moral and political rectitude, as to call yourselves Democrats.

FOR THE PATRIOT.

If it were necessary that "A FRIEND TO TRUTH" should publish in the Harrisburg Chronicle, an account of the attack that was made on myself and brothers, on the evening of the 19th of June, by the Curtin's and their immediate friends, sons-in-law, and pretended relations of Mr. Gregg, the federal candidate for governor—it is necessary that I make a statement of the facts that came with in my knowledge, more particularly as I am the person principally implicated in that publication.

On the 19th of June I was absent from town, on business relating to the dispute between the Turnpike Company and the People, as to vacating what is called the Pennsvalley road. I did not return until about sun-set. I had passed the Philadelphia mail stage as I came into town, and after alighting from my horse, I started for the Post office. As, however, it requires some time to open the mail, I determined in the meantime to go & see 'squire Williams, with whom I had some business. He was not in his office. I then started for the Printing office, and when there I observed the 'squire in Tierney's tavern door, and heard an unusual uproar in the house. I went thither and conversed a few moments with him—

It was not my intention, nor did I stay longer than to drink a glass of wine, to which I was invited by Mr. Miles. There were none present favorable, or friendly to the election of Mr. Shulze, but myself; and all those who I was frequently warned to avoid, for that they had threatened me with personal violence, alleging that I was the author of some communications that had appeared in the Patriot. I do not include Mr. Miles, esquire Williams, or M'Carty, in this number, altho' I have reason to believe that one of them might have known about their designs. My suspicions were awakened at once, and I "took myself off" as quick as I could, and started for the Post office. I passed from thence to Mr. Rankin's, and then towards home, but stopped a moment at Mr. Miles's, and entered into conversation with Mr. Boone and a young gentleman, a stranger, in town. Whilst sitting there I observed that Curtin and his friends were coming from Tierney's in a very disorderly and tumultuous manner. When they came to Curtin's house, directly opposite Mr. Miles's, they stopped—whether or not any of them went into the house I cannot tell. Welch came across, & while I was talking in a very low tone to Mr. Boone, about the story that the federalists were circulating, that T. Lieper was advocating Gregg's election, Welch very abruptly interrupted, and contradicted me. It occurred to me at once, that he was the Advance Guard of the federal forces that lay across the street, and I felt disposed to avoid a dispute, particularly with such a brat, believing as it turned out, that it was his intention to provoke a quarrel, in order that they might fall on and beat me. I nevertheless became irritated at his impudence, and could not refrain from telling him, quietly and calmly, that he was a meddling, hollow-headed fool, and that he would make more by saying less about politics, in which I am not singular. I believe I added, that I never would prostitute my Republicanism so much

He caught me by the collar, and on my asking him what he meant? he struck me. It will be observed that at this time I was sitting on the bench, I rose, and found little difficulty in prostrating the hero, and would have rewarded him for his temerity, but was prevented by Mr. Boone. I exerted myself, and overhauled the gentleman, when he was endeavoring to make his escape. In a short time he was again upon his back, and in endeavoring to protect his face with his hands he came across my fingers, which he snapped at, and very adroitly caught in his mouth. I was endeavoring to make him loose his hold, and would have been quite successful, but for Wm M'Carty, who laid last hold of me. During this time Dr. Curtin and his minions had arrived and "lent me an occasional kick," to use their own expressions. Mr. Rankin and my brother Thomas had arrived, and were the only friends I had then present. While Mr Rankin was disengaging M'Carty from the hold he had of me, Dr. Curtin struck me in the face. Soon after this the contest took place between Curtin and my brother Thomas, in which the valiant and magnanimous son of Esculapius was defeated. I cannot tell what happened to Thomas or Henry after this time—all that I can say is that the enemy's advance was with drawn, and a new line, consisting of P. Tierney, Andrew Curtin, and others, interposed; the first of whom struck me with the shin bone of a cow which he held in his hand, and only shillelah he could procure, and the latter with his fist, and both of them repeatedly.

This is a statement of the facts that I know of my own knowledge—every thing like hearsay I have omitted. If room would permit, I might go on to state the threats used by Gregg's son in law, and other of his relations, previous to this, and our reasons for believing that this attack had been pre-concerted, but I believe it unnecessary, for no one acquainted with the time, place and circumstances, can come to any other conclusion; and it is altogether ideal for them to attempt to induce the impartial citizens of our town to believe any thing else. That it was their intention to attack myself and brothers, as we came to the assistance of each other, is proved by their conduct, and might be shown by their own declarations.

I will now content myself with noticing the principal falsehoods contained in the Handbill, and Chronicle publication. It is said I was talking about the Presidential question. So far from this being true, that I really have not thought so much about it as to come to any conclusion, and have talked still less. In truth I care nothing about it. If we were talking about it, I should like to know whose claims I was advocating. One would suppose, from Curtin's statement, that I was for one man, & the man Welch for another. But it is false—there was nothing said about it. I have frequently heard this Welch and Curtin blather a good deal about it, but always let it pass, as the froth of men who were fond of disturbing the public peace. It is also false that Curtin held "nothing in his hand but his fist." I believe that the wound I received in the face, was from a stone; and no one that has seen and examined the wound received by Henry, can believe any thing else. One thing I know, is, that a Chap that Curtin is training up in the way he should go! I struck me a very severe blow in the back with a stone.

It is also absolutely and unqualifiedly false, that I struck Curtin or Tierney at all. However well I might have been disposed that way, it was impossible that I could, for they "fired by platoons." One could not attack or resist them easily.

It is also false that Mr Cambridge was present and rebuked me, or if he was, I certainly did not see or hear him. It may do well enough for them to say so, but I believe that if he had been near, or they had seen him, special care would have been taken not to commence the attack. It is also false that Welch said, "that the time had arrived when the people would think for themselves." The man is incapable of producing such a liberal idea.

It is not to be wondered at, that the Sons-IN-LAW of Mr. Gregg feel apprehensive least the people should be displeased with their assassin-like conduct. They ought to know that the good citizens of Pennsylvania abhor every thing like political or religious persecution; and that none less of the rights of an AMERICAN would attempt either. For my own part, I would just observe, that my youth prevents me from taking an active part in politics, if I were disposed; but I would, nevertheless, beg the privilege of voting as I please, without the interference of the foreign relations of any candidate. That I will never vote for Mr. Gregg, the

federal candidate, I frankly confess I have the same reasons that every democrat ought to have. I have frequently said that I would not vote for Gregg, but have rarely assigned any reason for it. I have never attempted to persuade any man to vote as I intend. Indeed I have too much respect for the opinions of the people, and their information. Every one that is acquainted with the people of our county, knows, that there are none more independent. It is this independence that vexes the aristocrats. I will conclude with observing, that I would not intrude myself upon the public at this time, but for the pains that are taking by Gregg's Sons-IN-LAW, to distribute the false and malicious statement in the Chronicle with which they have been furnished by Mr. Gregg, from Harrisburg. Dr. Curtin has lately carried saddle-bags, and rides out more frequently than he has had professional occasion for some time. He is always laden with these Hand Bills and "Dennis Brady's Address to the Germans," at least more with these than with Physic. His anxiety for the success of his FATHER IN LAW is natural. In such a case he might exultingly again write home to Ireland, that "he is the SON IN LAW to the KING of Pennsylvania!!"—which would certainly be a very great "aner." Nor am I surprised at the concern of Tierney for Mr. Gregg's elevation. The situation on the north side of the court house, to which he aspires "with warm desires," is more lucrative & honorable than the one he occupies at present. But in all this Office hunting and Office holding, I wish sincerely that they would let me alone. I am certain I shall not stand in the way of their aggrandizement. Coaches, stars, garters, and offices, they are welcome to. Nor, indeed, do I care if they were raised so high that their feet "could not touch the ground," so that they would let me alone.

JAMES M. PETRIKIN. TO THE PUBLIC.

I was sitting on the porch at Mr. Rankin's house about twilight on the evening of the 19th of June, I heard an unusual noise at Mr. Miles's, and having observed that some persons were fighting, in company with Mr. Rankin I repaired to the spot. I found that it was my brother James and William C. Welch. A certain moment of my arrival had thrown himself on James, and was holding him, while Dr. Curtin and others were engaged striking at him. Mr. Rankin seized M'Carty and dashing him away, separated the combatants. Immediately after, Dr. Curtin stepped up to Mr. M'Carty, clapped him on the shoulder and "huzzaed for M'Carty," telling him that he had behaved well. I was standing near and making enquiry what person it was that held James during the first encounter between Welch and him. Curtin heard me, and turning round said in an audible voice, "You damn puppy, what business have you here?" I replied "that I had quite as much business there as he had." "You are jammed liar," said he, and on my reporting he instantly struck me. That part marked with inverted commas can be fully substantiated by the testimony of Mr. Henry Vandyke and Mr. Jeremiah Menin, two gentlemen of the strictest veracity, of this Borough. It is false that M'Carty and I had any altercation at the time Curtin attacked me. I had no opportunity afterwards, to have any conversation with him. And it is false that John Rankin approached M'Carty at that time, and "violently laying hold of him threw him down." It was during the contest between James & Welch, as I have before stated, that Mr. Rankin caught M'Carty. It is absolutely false that Curtin was struck by two of the 'Petrikin's' at one time during the affray; in every instance he was the aggressor. One hand was giving a blow, or catching another, and holding myself and brothers until some of the others could do so. Even their brats of boys were engaged throwing stones, which flew as thick as hail. When Curtin and I were engaged, and at the time he was about getting a sound drubbing, this same M'Carty, the worthy scoundrel of whom Curtin in his hand bill speaks in such high terms, seized me by the neck, and held me firm and laying about him quite lustily. For proof of this I appeal to Mr. Menin and others present. I was repeatedly struck by Curtin & others during the contest. Soon after Curtin and I were separated, my brother Henry came up, and requested me to leave the place, stating that there was no chance to have fair play there,

and that at all events the good of society required that peace should be restored. I felt conscious that I had not broke the peace, but was compelled to act on the defensive, yet I replied, that I was averse to keeping up the disturbance and was retiring; but I had scarcely left him, when I observed Curtin striking him, and that in a most base and cowardly manner. He came up unobserved by Henry, and without uttering a word raised his hand and struck him. No doubt exists in the minds of those not prejudiced by their political creed, but that the wound was inflicted with a stone. I have troubled the public with this statement, in answer to one made by Curtin, signed, "A Friend to Truth" which the federalists are busily circulating in handbills, procured by Mr. Gregg at Harrisburg, in order to justify, what cannot be justified, the unwarrantable conduct of his son-in-law, Curtin, and his relations and dependants. Every line & syllable of that statement is FALSE, and is only coined to answer their ends for the time being.

THOMAS J. PETRIKIN.

N. B. From the statement of Curtin, it would appear that he is quite a BULLY, and very much of a HERO. I would like to be informed what his motive could be for striking me. Curtin says "that seeing M'Carty fall, and supposing that he was knocked down, he observed, it was a shame to use a stranger in that way," and that this produced the contest between him and I. He also abuses Mr. Rankin, and says that it was him that knocked M'Carty down. Pray, why did not this modern GOLIATH attack Mr. Rankin? The reason is manifest—HE WAS AFRAID; and imagined he could manage me best; and having a peculiar hatred to the family, his malice prompted him to commit the outrage of which he stands charged. T. J. P.

FOR THE PATRIOT. TO THE PUBLIC.

It appears that some of our federal gentry are very busily engaged in circulating handbills contradicting a piece that appeared in the Bellefonte Patriot, relative to the affray which took place in this town on the evening of the 19th of June. The "Contradiction" is signed "A friend to truth;" and the very commencement of it begins with an untruth. It states that Thomas J. Petrikin and M'Carty were wrangling, and that John Rankin shoved the latter so violently that he fell to the ground; and that this imposition on a stranger was the reason why Dr. Curtin was induced to take part in the affray. This is not the fact. I will give as near as I can, a statement of what took place under my immediate observation. I was sitting on my porch, with Thomas J. Petrikin, and heard some loud words, at Mr. Miles's door, which drew my attention; and soon after I saw strokes. I then went up, and by this time, the persons engaged, that is, James M. Petrikin and Wm. C. Welch, were struggling on the ground. Mr. M'Carty threw himself on James M. Petrikin, and was holding him fast, around both arms. I remarked, that it was not fair to hold one, and let the other at liberty, and immediately pulled M'Carty off, and did push him back, and being a little primed with the "juice of the grape," he fell. When M'Carty was pulled off, the parties were separated, and the affray would have rested here, had not Dr. Curtin made the attack on Thomas J. Petrikin. They were also separated; but Dr. Curtin meeting with Henry Petrikin, who all acknowledge, was endeavoring to make peace, struck him. Several strokes were instantly exchanged between them, and they were also separated. I then busied myself to get Henry, Thomas & James off the ground; and was doing all I could to preserve the peace, when I observed Roland Curtin following, with Dr. Curtin and several others at his heels. I then turned to Mr. Roland Curtin, and told him if he wished to preserve the peace, to use his influence with his brother; or, if he wanted to make it a party question, to go on. He then remarked, "I'm for peace, I'm for peace;" and did turn and I believe succeeded in getting the Doctor away. As for the assertion of "A friend to truth," that I bantered them out man for man, there is not a word of truth in it. I appeal to many gentlemen of candor, present, for their testimony respecting this matter. As for the scurrilous remarks, respecting my religious principles, and my forgetting myself so far, as to asseverate in that statement, I care very little about it; knowing that I am liable to error; but as I have before said, I leave it to a majority of persons present, having pretensions to character and uninfluenced by party considerations, to judge of my conduct. This much I know and believe, that