

To the Democratic Republicans of Centre and Clearfield counties.

It becomes my duty to address you on a subject relating principally to myself. Some few federalists in Bellefonte, friends and relations of Andrew Gregg, their candidate for Governor, have made frequent declarations, that "they would blacken the character of the PETRIKIN FAMILY, BY HOOK OR BY CROOK, so that they would be compelled to leave the County." In order to attain this, they have commenced issuing Hand Bills, and making newspaper publications in other Counties, charging members of the family with every species of enormity; even that Henry Petrikin, Editor of the Bellefonte Patriot, had been guilty of playing Cards in the Church. When in very fact it was none other than MATHEW GREGG, son of ANDREW GREGG their candidate who had done so, which Henry Petrikin stands prepared to prove. For all this persecuting zeal the only excuse is that the "PETRIKIN FAMILY" as they say, are favorable to the election of the democratic candidate for Governor. None other they can have, unless it is that I myself have taken an active part for the people, in their dispute with the Turnpike Company. With some whose names appear to these Hand bills, we have been intimate for sometime, and never gave them the least offence. They have nevertheless, engaged in this base, and persecuting attempt to ruin our characters. So far as they have gone, thank Providence, we have had it in our power to show our innocence.

A Hand bill, to which is attached the names of Hamilton Humes, James Watson, John Thompson, Wm. H. Patterson, John Holte and Wm. Patton, has been procured and is in circulation in these counties, charging James M. Petrikin with setting up, or causing to be made and set up an effigy called the "Federal Candidate," on the night of the 3d. of July inst. in the Borough of Bellefonte. It is pre-acted and concluded, with the basest vituperation, the most abandoned profligacy, and the most contemptible billingsgate. We are confident, that John Holte and Wm. Patton, never saw this Hand bill, either in manuscript or otherwise. They are not capable of such consummate wickedness and meanness, and I have reason to believe that Mr. Thompson did not sign it either. With these Gentlemen I have been particularly intimate, and I do not believe that they hold any such opinion, or would say what is stated in the Hand bill. It is altogether the work of James Harris, Esq. a fellow who has assumed the name of Dr. Curdin, and a few others, equally base and malignant, relations of Gregg's, living in Bellefonte. We doubt not, but H. Humes, James Watson and Wm. H. Patterson, agreed to sign it, for they are all mere noses of wax, fit subjects for ARCH VILLAINS to work upon. They are so illiterate and naturally stupid, that nothing short of supernatural agency, could ever enable them to produce even such ribaldry. I really believe, that they do not understand the terms used in the production of Mr. Harris, and that they signed it more for the purpose of inducing people at a distance to believe that they could put such high-sounding words together, than any thing else. I have never given them the least cause for the attack upon me, and it argues on their part, a more than ordinary degree of moral turpitude and black-hearted malice, and it must be that the men did not understand what was read to them. In order to cut the matter short, I will venture my life, that neither Humes, Watson or Patterson, can put two sentences of English together in six weeks.

In order to establish this groundless and infamous charge, James Harris & Curdin have procured the deposition of Thomas Singleton and James Smith a nephew of Harris's. If room would permit they should accompany this. In answer thereto I have procured the depositions of the only persons who could exculpate me, and who came forward promptly to do so. I am not disposed to comment upon the testimony of Singleton and Smith. It requires none. The declarations of Singleton to Thurston, shows at once what induced him to swear as he did. What James Smith is made to swear, is equally untrue, and he knows it. What makes it still worse on this poor creature's part, is, that he acknowledged to me yesterday in the presence of Thomas Lambert, "that he had not read his deposition." The fact is, he was deeply implicated himself, and he was prepared for any thing that would shew to the world otherwise. Both these men are federalists, and the notorious advocates of Gregg's election. Gregg was the guardian of J.

Smith until the simpleton arrived at age. The facts that took place with these men, I have stated in an affidavit subjoined hereto.

But that which is to afflict the offence upon me, is that I gave Thurston a pair of shoes. Now I grant that I did give him a pair of old shoes, but that I had any other motive than to render a poor man a trifling favor is false. He was a man whom I knew when I saw, and nothing more. He relates in his deposition precisely what took place, and he was not in any of five longer than I could take the shoes off my boots, and draw on the boots. If little trifling favors of this kind are to make those who grant them accessories to crime, it would be very strange indeed, but none but such despicable noses of wax as Humes, Watson and Patterson would say so. One thing is clear, they will never be hanged for acts of charity, nor their candidate either. I would like to have them shew us some of Mr. Gregg's CHARITABLE DEEDS. Perhaps they may call upon WILLIAM ADAMS! This is the unfortunate man who had his barn burnt with all its CONTENTS whereby he was deprived of the means of present subsistence, and his only son killed by lightning, to whom the cold-hearted, pitiless disposition of Andrew Gregg could refuse a cent, because he was a democrat. Altho' Gregg had been thirty years in office, and was then secretary of state, and had amassed thousands, yet he could refuse a poor man, upon whom the hand of God had been heavily laid, a solitary farthing, or any to relieve his wants.

I am agreed that they shall hunt up witnesses to prove that I had given poor men shoes, &c. If they had only enquired at me, I could have directed them to more than they imagine, who would swear that I have given them hats, shoes, shirts, and even money in their distresses. It is with reluctance I state this, but necessity compels me. I am in very humble circumstances myself, and perhaps the avowed persecution of Gregg's relatives may make me still poorer, but my prayers are, that I may ever be able to give a man that is barefooted a pair of shoes, one that is bareheaded a hat, and one that is naked, something wherewith to cover his nakedness, and an exemplary citizen a dollar when he has his barn burned by the act of providence and his only son killed. If these are offences I humbly trust I never shall become so poor by my own conduct as not to be guilty of them.

I will endeavor to withstand the persecution of these men. I am not commencing the world, and must rest altogether for support upon my success in my profession, and as I have done nothing heretofore to forfeit the confidence of my fellow citizens, so I hope I may not hereafter. I grant that I have, when employed, taken an active part in the dispute between the Turnpike and people, and this together with an open and avowed determination to support the democratic candidate, J. A. Shulze, for governor, is the rock of offence. For these things, James Harris, Esq. Deputy Surveyor &c. Hamilton Humes, James Watson and others in conjunction with the relatives of Andrew Gregg are to light down upon a young man, just commencing the world, and hurl him to destruction. For these offences he is to be driven from the County. For this exercise of a constitutional right, he is to be charged with an offence of which he never was guilty, and his character blackened and destroyed. My situation is that of every young man in the community, and every one is equally liable to be assailed, and in the same way too. It is an easy matter for rich men to procure affidavits, for wealth can accomplish any thing.

It may be that some of my fellow citizens are unacquainted with HAMILTON HUMES. He is a common tatter, a wretched buffoon, and contemptible tool. The common source of old-wife tale bearing—the laugh of every company into which he intrudes himself—and a willing nose of wax. As to JAMES WATSON, I would just observe that I have never given him any reason to assail my character in the base and wicked manner he and Humes have done.

yet he is now among the first to step forward to ruin the characters of his neighbors who have never done him any injury whatever. James Watson is a tenant of Mr. Irvine whose son is married to Gregg's daughter.

If it be asked why I did not immediately, on it coming to my knowledge who made the effigy, publish it to the world? I answer that it was told to me in confidence by James Smith, and I would not betray it. My reason for making any enquiry at

all about it was to exculpate Thomas J. Petrikin, whom the federalists charged with it publicly. On enquiry I found that the federalists had more to do with it than the democrats.

With these remarks I leave my character and my prospects in life in the hands of my republican brethren, either to sink or swim, as they may determine. As for the federalists, they will believe the worst that can be said, however groundless or false it may be.

JAMES M. PETRIKIN.

CENTRE COUNTY, ss.

Before me the subscriber one of the Justices of the Peace for the county aforesaid, personally came GEORGE W. THURSTON of the state of New York, now of the township of Spring in the said county, who on his solemn oath duly administered according to law, saith, that he hath a certain knowledge of all the circumstances attending the making and setting up of an Effigy in the Borough of Bellefonte called the "FEDERAL CANDIDATE," on the night of the third of July instant, and WHO IT WAS THAT MADE AND SET UP THE SAME, that JAMES M. PETRIKIN, THOMAS J. PETRIKIN and WM. PACKER were in no way CONCERNED THEREIN, nor had they or EITHER of them any KNOWLEDGE THERE OF OR CONNECTION THEREWITH, IN ANY WAY OR MANNER WHATSOEVER.

The deponent further saith, on his solemn oath, that some considerable time afterwards he was in Bellefonte, and in passing near the office of JAMES M. PETRIKIN, was asked by him if the deponent WOULD ASSIST HIM IN REAPING the next day; that it was raining at the time and they both went into the office, when JAMES M. PETRIKIN commenced taking off a pair of OVER SHOES from his Boots which he was about drawing on. The deponent asked him what he would take for the shoes to which he replied that as he had no use whatever for them further, the deponent might have them without pay. And the deponent further saith, there was not a word passed about the Effigy, nor did the deponent know, or does he believe that it had come to the knowledge of the said JAMES, at that time who made and set it up. The deponent further saith on his solemn oath, that WILLIAM POTTER Esq. HAMILTON HUMES, and JOHN HALL, Jr. knew as much about the making and setting up of this effigy as James M. Petrikin or any of his Brothers, and more; for when they enquired at the deponent, considering them friends, he told them all about it, but they seemed to wish him to implicate others, who had nothing to do with it; which he refused.

And deponent also saith, that altho' it may be that he is not entitled to a vote, yet he is friendly to Mr. Gregg, having no enmity for any one; and has frequently taken his part.

And he further saith, that on the day on which THOMAS SINGLETON took his affidavit mentioned in Humes' Hand Bill, he told me in the presence of Thomas Caldwell, Mrs. Simpson and others that JAMES M. PETRIKIN WAS A DAMNED RASCAL; that he, the said JAMES, had accused him (Singleton) at Mr. Watson's, in Bellefonte, with taking a FALSE OATH once, & he the said JAMES should have said that his (Singleton's) sister was a whore at Harrisburg or Baltimore and the said Singleton further said that the day following the arbitration at Watson's, the said Thomas Singleton and his Brother John, had come to town to flog JAMES, but that Petrikin left it when he heard that they were coming; and he further said THAT HE NEVER OVED PETRIKIN ANY GOOD WILL SINCE.

And the deponent further saith, that when THOMAS SINGLETON and him first formed the plan to make this effigy, not one of the Lam-berts were present in the Brick yard, as he asserts. And the deponent further saith, that when he went up for Singleton, the only objection he made was that he was tired; but wished that it were done—and it was done.

GEO. W. THURSTON.

Sworn & Subscribed the 29th July A. D. 1823, before me

JOSEPH MILES.

* This was in an argument to the arbitrators who were trying a suit in which this Singleton was a witness. No such expression was ever made about the fellows Sister.

CENTRE COUNTY, ss.

Before the subscriber one of the Justices of the Peace for Centre County, came SAMUEL LAMBERT, who saith on his solemn oath that JAMES M. PETRIKIN COULD NOT HAVE, NOR HAD HE ANY KNOWLEDGE WHAT-EVER, NOR WAS HE IN ANY WAY CONCERNED, with the setting up an Effigy in the Borough of

Bellefonte called the "Federal Candidate" on the night of the 3d of July inst. The deponent does not believe it possible that he, or any of his brothers, could have known any thing about it. He further saith, that it was George Thurston first that told the deponent that he was going to set it up; but Thomas Singleton was not present, nor was the deponent present at the conversation mentioned by Thomas Singleton, in the Brick Yard.

SAMUEL LAMBERT.

Sworn and subscribed the 29th July, 1823, before me

JOSEPH MILES.

CENTRE COUNTY, ss.

Before the subscriber one of the Justices of the Peace for Centre County, came JAMES M. PETRIKIN, who saith on his solemn oath, that he had no knowledge whatever that George Thurston or any other person or persons, had it in contemplation to set up an effigy of the "Federal Candidate," on the night of the 3d of July instant, nor did he assist, or was he in any manner connected with him, or them, that did so. And he further saith, that when he heard in the morning of the 4th of July that such an effigy was made and set up, it occurred to him in the first instance, that it was the federalists themselves that had made it; and again that possibly Mrs. Simpson, Mother of James Smith, might have known something about it, as she was in the habit of making effigies; and in order to ascertain it, as the federalists had accused Thomas J. Petrikin of it, the deponent asked James Smith, whom he accidentally met before his office door, if he knew any thing about it, upon which James Smith smiled, and replied, that if the deponent "WOULDN'T SAY ANY THING, HE WOULD TELL HIM WHO MADE IT." He then said it was GEORGE THURSTON and THOMAS SINGLETON who made it, for that they had been talking about doing so. The deponent did tell James Smith that he at first believed that it was some of the federalists who lived in Town that made it; but he did not say to James Smith that he would endeavour to put it upon them. The deponent further saith, that he did not meet Thomas Singleton in going to Singleton's house, on the 5th of July, that he does not know where Singleton lives, and never went knowingly in that direction. That sometime after the return of the deponent from Clearfield Court, he met Singleton in Bellefonte and told him, without any further conversation with him, that he ought not to have done it, and Singleton did not deny it; but rather appeared pleased that the deponent thought he had been concerned in it. The deponent never told Singleton he would put it on the Gregg men; nor did he ever tell James Smith so.

JAMES M. PETRIKIN.

Sworn and subscribed July 29, 1823 before

BENJ. WILLIAMS.

When the communication charging the federalists with having set up the effigy, was published in the Patriot, James M. Petrikin was absent at Clearfield court, and Henry Petrikin was in Lycoming county. The paper was altogether under my direction. The latter left home on the 2nd of July, and did not return until the 12th. The paper issued on the 9th. James did not know any thing about the communication, alluded to in Humes's handbill. Any person desirous of seeing the original manuscript, can be gratified by calling at the Patriot office.

T. J. PETRIKIN.

The federalists, Humes and others, have asserted in their HANDBILL that the "PETRIKIN's want to hold the offices" in this county, in case Mr. Shulze succeeds. I state for myself, and pledge myself for all others of the family, that no wish of the kind was ever expressed or entertained by any of us. I do not intend, and never did contemplate asking Mr. Shulze for an appointment of that or any other kind; nor will I, or one of us, ask or receive at his hands any appointment whatever. I am now in my 27th year, yet I consider myself quite too young to aspire to any station in public life, other than that of an humble editor of a country newspaper. I am a democrat from principle, and I have no interest in the election other than that which every democrat would feel in the triumph of republican principles. Gregg's sons-in-law have declared that they will persecute and drive out of the county, before two years, every Petrikin in it. DEMOCRATS! It remains to be seen, whether you will suffer us to be sacrificed on the altar of federal persecution. We do not ask you to determine on this matter without evidence. We have presented to you, and can present, testimony to prove all that we have asserted. The means resorted to, in order to

take away our reputation is villainous beyond all parallel. They want you, democrats, to sanction by your votes their base calumnies. They have and are making every endeavor, by practising on the vilest wretches, to support their vile, wicked and infamous slanders. It was determined in secret conclave, to destroy our character, in order that the credit of the paper of which I am editor, might be also destroyed. Men have been found willing to lend their names to further the views of this villainous combination. They are wealthy, and from the specimen we have had, a just idea may be formed of the powerful agency of wealth in accomplishing any end.

To you, democrats, we appeal for protection, and I know that we do not appeal in vain.

Henry Petrikin.

July 31st 1823.

To the Democratic Republicans of Centre and Clearfield Counties.

FELLOW CITIZENS,

A Handbill signed by the committee of correspondence friendly to the election of Andrew Gregg is in circulation, charging James M. Petrikin, a member of the Democratic Party, with setting up an effigy styled the "Federal Candidate," on the morning of the 4th of July last, in Bellefonte, with a view to injure his character individually, and the character of the whole Democratic Party, and thereby affect the election of John A. Shulze, its candidate for Governor. We ask you now, fellow Citizens, to examine the evidence impartially and you cannot but conclude that James M. Petrikin is altogether innocent, knew nothing about it, nor took any part therein. It would seem from the testimony that it was made at, or near the house of Mrs. E. Simpson, by persons avowedly the friends of Mr. Gregg; this is even the testimony of their own witnesses, yet they have endeavored to implicate James M. Petrikin.

There is something in this matter to which we would call the attention of our Republican Brethren. This effigy was called "the FEDERAL CANDIDATE," but Mr. Gregg's friends say that he is not the Federal Candidate, that Mr. Shulze is the federal candidate; now who for a moment can believe any thing else than that this effigy, being made by persons friendly to Mr. Gregg, was not made in derision of Mr. Shulze? They perhaps wished to have the people believe, as they do, that Mr. Gregg is not the federal candidate, but they find otherwise, and now they endeavour to shew that this effigy was made to ridicule Mr. Gregg, altho' it was styled "the Federal Candidate," and they openly deny that such is the fact.

As to Mr. Shulze having deputy Governors in this, or in any other county, in case he succeeds, it is all fallacious. He is as well, if not better qualified to fill the executive chair as the man they so much adore. If he does succeed, we have the hopes that there will be no more million loans from city Banks. He will endeavour to pay the immense public debt into which the state has gotten, without increasing it. He will endeavor to study the interest of the people in his policy. If such had been done by Mr. Gregg, the farmers, and most of us profess to be of that class, would not have the fear of State Tax hanging over their heads in time of peace. It is to the farmers who will have this burthen to bear that we appeal.

The federal party have been in the habit of crying out that "the Petrikin's" are the leaders of, and wish to rule the democratic party; this they do thinking that perhaps it will turn us from the support of our candidate. This has been their song in these counties heretofore, and is so this year. Examine for yourselves fellow citizens, and you will see this matter in its true light, you can see that if the shoe does not fit, neither of the candidates need put it on.

As an attempt is making in this way to injure the reputation of James M. Petrikin, Thomas J. Petrikin and Henry Petrikin, the latter of whom is the Editor of the Bellefonte Patriot, we deem it our duty as members of the party to which we belong to state, that their moral characters are unexceptionable, and suffers no disparagement in comparison with that of any other sober, industrious young men. The worst that can be said of them is that they have to exert themselves for a living.

JACOB KRYDER,
MATTHEW ALLISON,
JOHN RANKIN,
JOHN MCALMONT,
JOHN PATTON

Democratic Committee of Correspondence for Centre County.