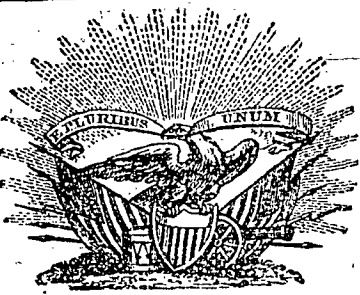


AMERICAN VOLUNTEER. BY SANDERSON & CORNMAN.



CARLISLE: THURSDAY, MAY 30, 1839.

We invite attention to an article on our first page on the subject of the expenses of the National Government. It fully exposes the empty slang of the opposition about the extravagant expenditures of the late and present administrations, and gives the lie direct to all their assertions.

A tale of thrilling interest, entitled the "Sabbath Wrecks" will be found on the first page.

ROBERT Lusk, Esq. of Millin township, has received the appointment of Deputy Surveyor for Cumberland county.

A correspondent wishes us to publish a call for a town meeting to take into consideration the propriety of devising ways and means to prevent any farther imposition by speculators in flour, &c. &c. We decline publishing the call this week for the simple reason, that, we believe, PROVIDENCE is about doing more to remove the evil complained of, than could be accomplished by the resolutions of a meeting, or any other plan that could be devised. If our correspondent, for whose judgment we have the highest respect, is not satisfied with this slow but certain remedy for the disease, it will only be necessary for him to give us the necessary information, and his notice shall appear in our next.

We are indebted to our highly attentive representatives at Harrisburg, for letters containing the latest and most important news at the seat of government.

The Ritner Board of Canal Commissioners.—The Legislative Committee of Investigation, engaged in probing the mass of corruption which accumulated during the lifetime of this notorious trio, is now sitting at Harrisburg. We are told that the disclosures will be astounding, and that clear frauds to an immense amount have already been discovered. The public may prepare itself for such a Report as will more than verify the unnumbered charges of the Democratic Press against this body, pending the canvass for Governor. So conscious are the Federalists of the expose that awaits their sins in this case, that there is an innate dread and horror at the mention of the expected Report. Deficits of thousands and thousands of dollars are daily brought to light. So says the Lancaster Intelligencer.

The great antimasonic Harrison state convention, which was to be, came off last week at Harrisburg, and proved, as it was anticipated, a most decided failure. We understand that only 23 counties were represented, and they but partially—and but about fifty delegates, all told, were in attendance. The Great high priest of antimasonry, however, was there, (we mean T. STEVENS,) and officiated as president of the convention! An electoral ticket was formed, which, we learn, contains the names of the celebrated knight of the back window, alias C. B. Penrose. Alas, poor Charles! The Fates are against him, and his splendid feat of agility in making his exit from the senate chamber will not save him from the ignominy of another defeat. The "Biddle blood" will run a great way behind this time. Mark our prediction.

RITNER'S REFORM!—The conspirators of the late administration were justly balked in their attempt to foist upon the people of this commonwealth, their bell weather, the notorious Thaddeus Stevens, as a member of the legislature, which he said was composed of "rebels," ruffians," &c., &c. Had the legislature that was attempted to be so stigmatized, permitted that libeller to take a seat in its body, the members would there by have acknowledged themselves to be as bad as he represented them; and they, like Ritner's reform administration, would have robbed the commonwealth of some hundreds of dollars, to put into the pocket of Thaddeus Stevens, for services never rendered, and for his attempt to revolutionize the state. Such a bold attempt to rule or ruin was never made in the state of Pennsylvania.

Stevens issues his proclamations from Harrisburg! Are there no furo banks in Adams county? is a question which he of the Star can, perhaps, satisfactorily answer.

Gen. Miller has very properly refused to attend upon the inquisitorial committee of the Senate, which was gotten up for the purpose ostensibly of investigating his speech—but REALLY in order to assail the right of free discussion in the Senate, and also by the democratic press. These modern conspirators, it would appear, are not yet done with their unhallowed attempts against the rights and liberties of the people—and, as this is the last session they will have a majority in that body for many years to come, they are determined to make the most of their "little brief authority," and show that they have at least the will to carry out their infamous plans. Chagrined and mortified at the frustration of their schemes in December, they are now ready for any deed of rascality. Like Milton's devil, they would rather rule in hell than serve in Heaven; and if they do not get cast out, like the fallen angels, it will not be because they are worthy of the high places of trust they at present enjoy. But a day of reckoning will soon come, and the voice of an insulted people will hurl the miscreants into the vortex of infamy and disgrace.

To Messrs. EWING, KINGSBURY, STEVENSON, STERRET, and MACLAY, Com. of Enquiry, &c. Gentlemen: I most respectfully decline participation in the matter of enquiry embraced in the Resolution appended to the notice handed me by your Chairman. I will briefly assign my reasons for this course: If I understand the resolutions, the committee has been constituted because of the "disorderly words," or supposed disorderly words, of the speech published in the newspapers. If I used disorderly words, there are parliamentary rules—recognized by the Senate which prescribe the time and manner, when and how they should have been uttered.—Not having been thus uttered, there is, I humbly conceive, no power in the Senate in any way, directly or indirectly, by committee or otherwise, to question me upon the subject, or to make me a party to any proceedings that have been or may be commenced in relation thereto. Hence I decline accepting the privilege "of being heard before the committee." Besides, in my place in the Senate, I distinctly stated, that I held myself accountable only for what I actually did say: That I would neither avow nor disavow any newspaper publication of my speech, for the reason that two or three different versions, in as many different newspapers, had been given to the public, all of these embracing much that I did say, and some of them omitting and some most unquestionably adding thereto. This happens, as every Senator must acknowledge, in the report of almost every speech made in either branch of the Legislature; and I am not aware that heretofore any member has ever been held accountable, if perchance his language in debate has been misconstrued, misapprehended or misstated. For my own language I hold myself personally accountable, nor will I cast around me a constitutional shield to avoid an honorable and just responsibility, if in any thing I have wronged any man, be he member or citizen. Now I most unhesitatingly avow, that I did say, amongst other things, in my remarks, that no high minded honorable man would be guilty of making a charge so foul and base as the Senator from Allegheny had made against the character and reputation of those who had composed the committee of public safety, of which I had been a member.—Now, why I should be arraigned for other men's understanding or misunderstanding, construction or misconstruction of words spoken or language used, is to me a problem, and one I prefer leaving to the public at large to solve. This much I say, the Senator from Allegheny most grossly, as I then thought, insulted me on the floor of the Senate, in the attack made by him on the committee of public safety. I replied to that attack in language becoming the occasion and the body of which I was a member. To him I owe no apology, and offer none. To the Senate I was not offensive, or the chairman would have reminded me of the impropriety. I most emphatically deny that I used any language not justified by parliamentary rules and usages, and therefore conceive that to the Senate, no apology need be offered. If, however, others think differently, it will give me great pleasure at any time to tender my regret.

I repeat, gentlemen, that meaning no disrespect, I decline personal participation in the matter at issue. With sentiments of respect, Yours, &c. T. C. MILLER.

The House has sustained the report of the committee, which went to declare the seat of Thaddeus Stevens vacant, and authorising the Speaker to issue a writ for a new election. The vote stood—Yeas 54—Nays 34. The Speaker has therefore issued a warrant for a new election to supply the vacancy, to be held on the 14th of June.

Florida election.—The vote for "Constitution," the test vote of the strength of parties in that territory, prevailed by a large majority. The federal Bankites, (whose interests will be effected by it, as it prevents any bank director from holding any office under the state, and for one year thereafter,) went "No constitution"—the democrats "constitution." The vote for delegate was very close, but it is thought, that Mr. Baltzell is elected over Mr. Downing. Neither, however, were run on strict party grounds.

The adoption of the constitution is preparatory to making application to congress for admission into the Union as a sovereign and independent state.

Some of the federal prints appear to evince a holy horror at the proceedings of the House of Representatives in reference to Thaddeus Stevens, and denounce, in unmeasured terms, the conduct of the majority of that body, without being able to advance a single argument, possessing any weight, to give color to their unwarrantable abuse.—They do not pretend to argue that the House was not competent to declare his seat vacant on account of non user during the period of the regular session, when he pertinaciously refused to enter upon the discharge of the duties he was delegated to perform by his constituents, and for five months, rambled about, like a strolling vagabond, abusing and vilifying not only the democratic members, but even those of his own party who had more honesty and respect for the constitution and laws than himself. We say they do not pretend to deny this; but yet they raise a hue and cry because now, at the extra session, when he comes sneaking back and asks for admission into a body which he did then and still does denounce as "rebels" and "usurpers," the "offspring of a mob," &c. &c., he is stopped at the threshold and prevented from entering! Why, every man of common sense in the community will perceive at once, that if the House had a right [which is not denied] to declare his seat vacant at any time from December to March, on account of his refusal to come in and be sworn in a constitutional manner, the same right still exists, but in a much stronger manner in consequence of the lapse of time. Nor does it necessarily follow that because the House neglected to do so then it has no right to do so now. The fact is, the House acted with great prudence and forbearance in the matter, still hoping that this vile demagogue, who has been the pest of our legislative halls for several years, would be influenced, if not by his own sense of right, at least by his constituents [whose interests it is now pretended are in imminent danger,] to yield obedience to the laws—and therefore refrained during the whole period of the regular session from exercising its acknowledged prerogative by authorising the Speaker to issue his writ for a new election. But forbearance has ceased to be a virtue, and now, when the case is brought fairly before them, it is a bounden duty which they owe not only to themselves but to the people at large, to stamp the seal of condemnation upon the conduct of this vile transgressor against the constitution and laws of the commonwealth. The whole case will now be brought fairly before his constituents, for their adjudication, and if they are content with his lawless and unprincipled conduct they will return him again as their representative, when his right to a seat will not be disputed—if they are not satisfied with his course, they will elect one in his stead who is more worthy to be the representative of an honest, upright and moral community.

It is passing strange, however, that the leaders of the federal party who, last December, attempted to cheat the democracy of the county of Philadelphia out of eight Representatives and two Senators, in order that they might thereby continue the government of the State in the unworthy hands which then held the reins, should now act so glaringly inconsistent [even admitting for the sake of argument that Stevens should have been permitted to take his seat,] as to denounce the majority of the House for an act, which, to view it in the most unfavorable light imaginable, bears but a feeble comparison to that high-handed act of villainy and crime. The same party, too, who, in defiance of all law and justice, and in utter disregard of the will and wish of the people of New Jersey, as expressed through the ballot boxes, have committed the daring and infamous crime of returning five members of Congress who were notoriously in the minority at the election. We might go on to enumerate other examples of federal usurpation and tyranny; but the above will suffice. This, then, is the immaculate party whose organs are abusing and vilifying a democratic legislature, composed of honorable and respectable men, because they manifest a disposition to purge the legislative hall of a vile and infamous demagogue, who, by his gross moral delinquencies and open and utter disregard of all law, has rendered himself not only an unfit associate for respectable men, but has justly forfeited his right to a seat in that house, unless again returned by the people of Adams County.

Should the people of Adams county again elect Thaddeus Stevens to the legislature, their conduct will show, that they approve of seduction, fornication, and bastardy, and a general violation of every principle of morality. It is therefore hoped that they will not disgrace themselves or the legislative Hall of the State by sending a notorious law-breaker to be a law-maker—if they do, "God save the commonwealth."

The "Iron Gray" states that PEG BEATTY and her yellow boy JOHN, got so fuddled on their way to Harrisburg, they did not arrive in time to take part in the Harrison convention, to which, the same paper states, they had been deputed.

Virginia Elections.—The returns of the election from this State are still imperfect and incomplete. Sufficient, however, is known to warrant the belief that the democrats have gained one and probably two members of Congress and four or five members of the Legislature. The following returns may be relied on: First District—HOLLEMAN (Dem.) is elected to Congress by a majority of about 140 votes over MALLORY, (late Federal member.) Second District—RIVES (Dem.) is re-elected by a majority of about 500. Third District—JONES (Dem.) is re-elected without regular opposition. Eleventh District—BORTS (Federal) is elected in place of ROBERTSON, (Federal.) Twelfth District—GARLAND (Federal) is re-elected. Thirteenth District—BANKS (Dem.) is re-elected. Fourteenth District—MERCER (Federal) is re-elected.

The Richmond Compiler of Saturday, gives the following as a summary of the result so far as ascertained: Federal loss: Delegates—Southampton 1, Greensville 1, Fairfax 1, Brunswick 1, Powhatan 1, Frederick 1, Hampshire 1, and Rappahannock 1—8. Gain: Senator in Caroline 1, do. in Albemarle 1, Delegate from Dinwiddie 1, from Nelson 1—4. In Congress, the Federalists have lost Mallory and probably Hunter, and have probably gained the Representative from the Cumberland district.

From the above returns, insofar as they are, as also the absence of boasting on the part of the opposition press, we are strongly inclined to the belief that victory has perched upon the democratic banner, and that the administration will have a decided majority in the Congressional delegation and also upon joint ballot in the Legislature.

COL. WILLIAM R. KING, OF ALABAMA. From the tone of the Democratic journals throughout this State and in various parts of the Union, we are induced to believe that public opinion is inclining strongly towards this distinguished Statesman; as the future candidate of the party for the Vice Presidency. In this we cordially concur, and will unite heart and hand in sustaining one so eminently qualified from his long experience in the routine of Parliamentary details to discharge the duties of the station.

Col. King has always been an unwavering democrat, and has for a great number of years occupied a seat in the Senate of the United States from the sterling Republican Commonwealth of Alabama. Firm and uncompromising in his principles, he stood by the patriot Jackson bold and undaunted in the darkest hour of Bank persecution, and has ever been foremost in the conflict in defence of liberal principles. His nomination and election, we are confident, would be hailed with delight by the democracy of the Union.

The late veto message of Governor Porter appears to be almost universally popular, if we may judge from the tone of the papers throughout the state. Even some of the more decent of the opposition journals admit that it was an act of wisdom on his part. It has effectually prostrated the infamous log-rolling system, which was commenced and carried out to such enormous lengths under the administration of Joseph Ritner, and which was designed to fritter away the public funds for electioneering purposes, and not for the benefit of the commonwealth at large.

Where lies the blame? We received two letters on Saturday last, one from the Postmaster at Hoguestown, and the other from the Postmaster at Shepherdstown—informing us that the packages of the "Volunteer" of last week, for those offices, did not come to hand. For the satisfaction of those gentlemen, who so kindly and promptly notified us of the fact, as well as our subscribers in their neighborhoods, we state that the packets were made up and deposited in the Post office here, as usual, on Wednesday evening—consequently the fault is not with us. One of two things appears to be inevitable, either that the packages have been detained somewhere on the route, or they have accidentally been made to take a wrong direction.

Our edition of last week having been entirely exhausted, prevented us from supplying our subscribers at those places with an extra number of papers.

True to the letter.—An English paper (Liverpool Standard) gives the following description of modern whiggery in the U. States: "They [the whigs] are heartily sick of REPUBLICAN SCHEMES—they entertain a hearty distaste to the DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS OF THE COUNTRY—and the populace are at once the object of their hatred and their fears!"

If proof were necessary to establish the above, it may be found in the bold exclamation of a federal editor in Providence, (R. I.) recently in his paper, that "Free suffrage is a curse to any people!"

The bill for the payment of the troops called out in December last by Governor Ritner, has passed both houses of the legislature and is now a law. The bill fixes no time for which the troops shall be paid, but leaves that matter discretionary with the proper accounting officers, who are to be the exponents of the law on the subject.

The "Iron Gray" is again on the political course, the first number having appeared on Saturday last. From the spirit manifested in this number, we have no doubt the editor will prove a sore thorn in the sides of the Peg Beatty leaders. As friend Cox starts on the "go ahead" principle, we have only to wish him abundant success in the undertaking.

SEDUCTION.—A petition was presented to the legislature of New York, at its recent session, signed by seventy-four ladies of Niagara county, for the passage of a law punishing seduction by imprisonment. The "Iron Gray" has the following significant query appended to the above: "What say the ladies of Adams county to such a law? Won't they petition now, or will they wait until THADDEUS STEVENS gets into the legislature?"

Increase of Banking Capital.—It appears by official documents, laid before Congress near the close of its last session, that the amount of banking capital in the U. States and Territories has increased from 1811 to 1838, from \$52,601,601 to \$317,636,778—and for the four years preceding the 1st of January, 1838, it had increased \$117,630,874!

Silk Bounties.—From the proceedings of the silk convention held at Harrisburg, in February last, it appears that \$548 54 have been paid, as premiums on silk in this State, under the act of April 1838. The largest premium awarded to any one individual was \$863 50, which was received by Gertrude Rapp of Beaver county.

The Harrisburg Keystone has the following severe retort upon that portion of the public press that has opened the floodgates of calumny upon Col. McElwee, the honest, independent, and determined member from Bedford county:

COL. McELWEE. Like all firm and active democrats who place themselves in opposition to federal plots and corruptions, this gentleman is assailed with unmeasured bitterness by the hardened libellers of the federal press. His high-minded honesty, his patriotic devotion to the interests of the people, and his unmovable firmness and industry in searching out and exposing the base practices and designs of the leaders of federalism have drawn upon him the same black stream of calumny which was directed against Jefferson, Snyder, Porter, and all other distinguished defenders of freedom.

Among the chief of his calumniators is THADDEUS STEVENS, who has made an attack upon Col. McElwee's moral character, in a letter to the committee appointed to inquire whether he [Stevens] has not forfeited his right to a seat in the house. Col. McElwee can turn towards his calumniators the bold open countenance of honesty, and say "I am not a LIBERTINE, who insinuates himself into a family, watches the growth of the innocent daughter, practises upon her the wiles of the serpent upon the dove, and makes her the BROKEN HEARTED VICTIM OF SEDUCTION. I have no suits against me for SEDUCTION, in which the damages are laid at \$40,000. I am not a wandering adventurer, who have sought to overturn the government of my adopted state. I am not an infidel hypocrite who is all things to all men. I never corruptly purchased the funds of the commonwealth to bribe men from their duty, to give political letters from ex-governors, to buy exorbitant prices on contracts to political friends, and generally to degrade and destroy public morals. I never capriciously refused to take my seat when elected to the legislature, then drummed up dough-faces to request my attendance, and then slandered an independent house of representatives because they refused to receive an unprincipled and depraved SCOUNDREL into fellowship. I have never written FALSE AFFIDAVITS attacking the character of worthy citizens, and hired drunken vagabonds and HARLOTS to SWEAR TO THEM." Much more could he say, which some of his calumniators could not, and be believed, and yet they have the effrontery to attack his character!

Coming events cast their shadows before.—The Albany Argus of the 16th inst. contains a statement of the results of the town elections in all the counties of the state of New York, for the present year compared with those of last year. This table exhibits a democratic gain since last year of seventy-four towns. The federalists have gained in only eight counties, and have lost in twenty-four counties. This is ominous of the result next fall. The Empire state will then be herself again. Mark the prediction.

O Don't!—Thaddeus says, in his proclamation to the people of Adams county, that he "had hoped" never again to be a candidate! Perhaps he meant, that he hoped never again to be defeated in his disorganizing and revolutionary schemes.

Another Writ of Quo Warranto.—On Thursday last, Mr. Attorney General Johnson filed in the Supreme Court an information in the case of Judge COLLINS, of Lancaster, and the Court granted a writ of Quo Warranto, returnable at Harrisburg on the 10th of June. Judge C. was another of Gov. Ritner's eleventh hour appointments, and the same point is involved in this case, as was in that of Judge DARLINGTON, whose sudden decease prevented the Court from giving a decision. The result will be looked for with considerable anxiety.

Afflicting.—The Baltimore Chronicle, contains an advertisement announcing the arrival in that city of 15 BUSHELS OF PILLS!

PENNA. LEGISLATURE. Correspondence of the Pennsylvaniaian.

HARRISBURG, May, 24, 1839. House of Representatives.—Mr. Snowden offered a resolution, that the subject in reference to the representation from each county in the house of Representatives as provided for in the Amended constitution, upon which there appeared to be a difference of opinion, shall be referred to the Supreme court, with a request to report to this house the opinion of the court upon the matter. The house did not consider it on second reading; possibly on to-morrow this subject may be brought up, and the opinion of the members of the house given in relation to the proper and just construction of it. Mr. Smith of Franklin, from the Judiciary committee, made a report against the prayer of the petitioners, and in favor of having the moral instructor continued in the Eastern Penitentiary. From the report, it would seem, that much good has been done to the inmates, and they expressed a desire to the committee that the system of moral instruction shall be continued. Five hundred copies were ordered to be printed.

Mr. Butler's resolution was again under consideration, and the first division of it, together with the resolution attached to the report of the majority of the committee was carried, yeas, 54, nays 54; so that the house has re-affirmed its right to inquire into the case; and have directed the Speaker to call a new election in Adams county, which no doubt will be done forthwith.

Mr. Kettwell announced his intention to withdraw from the house, and await the decision of the people of Adams county upon the course of the proceedings in the house. The Speaker promptly decided, unless the gentleman from Adams intended to resign his seat as a member, the proposition to withdraw could not be entertained. There was nothing more done when the house adjourned.

Senate.—There was no business of any importance done in this body. Mr. Stevenson reported a bill in relation to widening Broad street. Mr. Strohm from the committee, which visited the public works during the recess, made a report.

HARRISBURG, May, 25, 1839. House.—There was a few local bills passed yesterday afternoon, one to incorporate the Jefferson Library and Literary Institute, of Philadelphia.

A joint resolution was offered by Mr. Wilcox, and laid upon the table, providing, that if the Lumberman's bank, at Warren, should resume the payment of specie on or before the 1st day of February, 1840, its charter should be forfeited.

The bill from the Senate, for the troops was taken up. The preamble attached to it by the committee on the Militia system, of the house, which asserted that the governor had no authority for calling out the troops, was discussed at some length. Messrs. Hopkins, Cole, Hegins, and Hill, of Westmoreland, expressed their opinions that this preamble should not be adopted, as the Senate would not possibly concur—the bill would not carry, and the payment of the troops would be postponed. Messrs. McElwee, Brodhead and Snowden advocated it. A substitute of the same import, offered by Mr. Snowden, as an amendment to the first section, was agreed to, yeas, 48, nays 54.

Two other amendments for paying a company in Cumberland, and one in York county, were offered, and disagreed to. On the question to agree to the first section, as amended by the preamble, but Mr. Butler intimated, that people would believe this amendment had been adopted with the view of killing the bill; indeed, this is a very natural inference, and for the purpose of getting out of the difficulty which gentlemen seemed to be in, and to secure the passage of the bill and the accomplishment of its object, he would suggest that the House go into committee of the whole, and pass the bill as sent in from the Senate.

Mr. Hopkins said he had voted for the amendments because he saw the friends of the bill, those most interested in its passage were anxious to have it adopted. He agreed entirely with the sentiments therein expressed, but thought they were calculated to destroy the bill, if connected with it, and would defeat the payment of the troops at this time.

Mr. Hegins concurred with the Speaker in his views of the subject, and had voted for the amendment because the members from the county, with whom he agreed upon the matter, had seen fit to abandon their constituents, and to subservient party views and carry out party opinions, voted for the adoption of an amendment which they knew must kill the bill. He moved a reconsideration of the question, but before any thing was done the House adjourned.

Senate.—This body was engaged all day in the consideration of the bill regulating elections throughout the commonwealth. It was amended—providing that United States, state, nor corporation officers, should officiate at any elections of the people.