

THE VOLUNTEER.

John B. Bratton, Editor and Proprietor. CARLISLE, THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 1850.

AGENCY. V. B. PALMER, Esq. authorized agent for procuring advertisements, receiving subscriptions and making collections for the American Volunteer, at his office, N. W. corner of Third and Chestnut streets, Philadelphia.

Democratic State Central Committee. The members of the Democratic State Central Committee are requested to meet at Buzza's Hotel, in Harrisburg, on Tuesday the 29th January, 1850, at 3 o'clock.

On our first page will be found the proceedings of the Editorial Convention which assembled at Harrisburg on the 1st inst. Also, an abstract of the Report of the Board of Canal Commissioners, together with other interesting reading matter.

Messrs. Church and Scouler, of the House, and Mr. Martin, Transcribing Clerk in the Senate, will accept our thanks for sending us copies of the Report of the Board of Canal Commissioners.

The State Legislature.—But little business of any importance has as yet been transacted by our State Legislature. A great number of bills, however, have been reported, which are long to be acted upon.

Fourth Lecture.—The fourth lecture of the course will be delivered by our townsman, the Rev. J. V. E. Thorne, at Education Hall, this (Thursday) evening. Subject—"The Eye and the Ear.—The Tongue and the Thumb." Mr. Thorne, as our citizens are aware, is a gentleman well qualified to do justice to almost any subject, and we hope to see a full audience this evening.

LIBERTY.—The prisoners confined in our County Jail, in a letter to us, request that we return their sincere thanks to the Rev. J. V. E. Thorne, for the sumptuous dinner furnished them on Christmas day, and also for his liberality in presenting the prisoners with copies of the New Testament. Also to J. B. Parker, Esq., for furnishing them a New Year dinner. They also request us to state that they are kindly treated by our gentlemanly Sheriff and his amiable lady, to whom, they say, they are indebted for many comforts.

FINE SLEIGHING.—For the last few days we have had delightful sleighing, and our friends appear to be enjoying themselves finely. The snow is about eight or ten inches in depth, and if the weather continues cold—and we hope it will—the sleighing will continue for some time.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE AT WASHINGTON.—The long contest for Clerk of the House of Representatives terminated on Friday. On the last ballot (being the 20th) Mr. Campbell, the Federal candidate, was elected over John W. Forney, the Democratic nominee.

WE hope something will be done by our State Legislature to banish the deprecated small note currency of other States which the people of Pennsylvania are now annoyed. It is estimated that some three or four millions of dollars of these notes are in circulation in this State—a great portion of which are counterfeit, and but few if any of them at par value.

NEW PAPERS.—We have received several numbers of a new Democratic paper bearing the above title. It is published in Bedford, by Messrs. Sandom and Carpenter, and, if we may judge from its editorials and general appearance, it promises to be an able auxiliary in the glorious cause of democracy. Success to it.

THE MINGO RIVER.—The title of a new Democratic paper published at Potsville, the first number of which is before us. It is a large, able and beautiful paper, and is edited by C. M. Hall and G. L. Viles, Esqs. We wish its able editors a good reward for their labors.

ST. MARY'S REPUBLICAN.—We have received the first number of a well conducted Democratic paper bearing the above title. It is published at St. Mary's, Elk county, by C. Book Potter, Esq. We wish it abundant success.

TOLL HOUSE BURNED.—The Harrisburg Union yesterday says—About six o'clock on Saturday morning last the toll house at the West end of the Harrisburg Bridge, was discovered to be on fire in the attic, and before the engines from town could reach it the greater part of the wood work was destroyed. The house belonged to the Harrisburg Bridge company. Mr. Lambie the collector, lost considerable furniture, bedding, clothing, &c.

REDUCING THE EXPENSES OF COLLECTING THE CUSTOMS.—The Secretary of the Treasury has issued a circular, containing instructions to the collectors and other officers of the customs, and for the purpose of reducing the expenses of collecting the revenue. "The crews of the revenue cutters are to be discharged, and the vessels laid up. The expense of attending the appraisement of merchandise, such as labor, cartage, storage, &c., must be paid by the importers, and will be charged on the goods, and collected before delivery.

A NORTHEAST PASSAGE.—The British frigate Amphitrite, sloop of war Hecla, and the Royal Thames yacht, club sloop, Nancy Dawson, at guns, at Mazatlan, arrived on the 19th inst. from the Northern Ocean. They have discovered a N. W. passage in lat. 73, and about 30°; and gone one degree and a half further North than any vessel has previously been. Have discovered a new Continent, but on account of ice, could not approach nearer than fifteen miles to land. Did not find Sir John Franklin, and on account of ice was forced to leave.

POLITICAL CAMP FOLLOWERS.

The Wilkesbarre Farmer and Journal—one of the most reliable Democratic papers in the State—takes the right view concerning the treachery of Mr. Valentine Best, the Judge Iscariot, who transferred himself by aid of his own vote and that of the Federalists, to the Speaker's chair of the Senate. This paper says:—"The fault of Mr. Best, is the fault of the school to which he belongs, and of the people in upholding the delinquencies of that school."

There is much truth in the above remark. It is well known fact that in nearly every county of our State there exists a band of political traders, who hang to the skirts of the Democratic party for the purpose of accomplishing their own selfish purposes. Many of the leaders of this infernal faction, are men of wealth and power, who are constantly at work in pushing forward, to places of power and trust, the satellites of their own faith. They profess great reverence for the principles of Democracy, when begging for office, but no sooner are they in a position by which to try their fidelity, than the cloven foot of Federalism is plainly made visible. As members of Assembly, they are always in market, ready and willing to aid those who pay best. They are willing instruments in the hands of corrupt men, to aid in any political villainy, provided by so doing, they can secure power, place, and money for themselves.

These men may be termed camp followers in the ranks of the Democracy of Pennsylvania—men who fight for pay, and who have no principle beyond that which regulates the receipts of their pockets, and who, like Hessian troops, are always in market, open to the highest bidder. We are not surprised at the treachery of Valentine Best—he has done nothing more than any one of the faction to which he belongs would do under similar circumstances—he is but obeying the commands of those who are identified with him. It is amusing to notice the apparent indignation expressed against Mr. Best by men who belong to the same school of politicians with themselves. They pursue this course for the purpose of blinding the people but give these same men power and opportunity—give them but a chance to accept a bribe—and they will forget their former professions, and like Valentine Best, they will sacrifice Democratic principles upon the altar of mammon. They join in the cry against Best, because they will know that to defend him openly they could not so well heretofore impose upon the Democratic party. But, it is a fact that many of the men who now denounce the treacherous Speaker, have themselves been guilty, on former occasions, of political treachery equally culpable. We might name certain editors in this State, who are now denouncing Best—but who secretly chuckle because of his apostasy—and who on more than one occasion heretofore, have not only countenanced organization and treachery in the Democratic party, but rejected at the same, and defended the ring-leaders engaged in it. These editors belong to the same school of politicians to which Mr. Best belongs. They affect to denounce Best, but they themselves are equally guilty of political offences, for they have assisted to defend and sustain every act of treachery than that committed by their friend, Valentine Best.

But, we have extended this article to a greater length than we intended. We will only say in conclusion to our Democratic friends in this State, that if they wish to put down political traitors and discontinue disorganization, they must not place reliance on the honored words and interested promises of men who gamble in politics for their own aggrandizement. The Democratic party must get rid of the camp followers who cling like leeches to its skirts. Treachery is a member of Assembly, or in any other office, should never damn him with his party. Let those who wish to dig their own political graves, by acts of treachery to their party, do so, but never give them an opportunity of repeating the offense.

THE LATE GOVERNOR SHUNK.—The Editor of the Norristown Watchman, recently visited the place of burial of the lamented Shunk, in the old grave yard at the Trappe, in Montgomery county; and there, he says, beneath an humble mound, unadorned, without obelisk, tomb, or slab, with nothing to mark the spot, save a lonely flower that friendship's faithful hand had planted, sleeps in death the remains of Pennsylvania's late Executive.

In the same article, he urges the completion of the proposed monument to the late Governor, making use of the following forcible appeal:—"Surely it cannot be, that, with the Democracy of Pennsylvania, all regard for the services of its late chief, has been buried with his ashes—that the thousands who were the admirers of his political consistency, his unswerving integrity, and exalted patriotism, and who ever hailed his presence with sincere delight, and who decise that counterfeited joy—surely I cannot be with these, now when the day has arrived to testify their regard, not with the eloquence of the lips, but the pure offering of the heart, that they hide their heads in absence, or, else, with bold officiousness, irreverently answer—'it is too late!'"

Tragically, the deceased deserves a better fate—among the glittering titles of names that sparkle on the page of Pennsylvania's history, none shines with a purer radiance than that of Francis R. Shunk. His life was the type of his country's history—nurtured in the cold breast of poverty—with an education of an inferior order—with no bright hope to lure him on—he was yet gifted with those weapons that battle down all opposition, and win their way to victory—indomitable energy and indefatigable industry.

"Committee that select the climber to the top, and bid to keep him there!" He arose steadily and surely, not like some of this day, who rise to power and patronage over heads of better intellects than their own; but by the force of his unassuming and substantial merit, widening his influence, and increasing his friends, until the voice of the people lifted him to the Executive Chair of the State. And seated in the gubernatorial chair, he wielded the power delegated to him in such a manner as has shed a halo of brightness around his administration.

A PRISONER ELECTED MAYOR OF PITTSBURG.—It appears that the Whigs of Pittsburg, have elected a man for Mayor who is distinguished for anything less than respectability or prudence. He was in prison at the time, for some violation of the common decencies of life, was pardoned by Governor Johnston the day before the election, and then elected Mayor. The Post says:—"The vote polled in the city, was very large for a municipal election. It will be seen that Mr. Guthrie received 1884 votes in the nine wards, which is about the usual Democratic strength. Barker's friends rallied in the morning, and made extraordinary efforts throughout the whole day for the 'martyr.' Towards noon, the Whigs, finding that there was no prospect of electing McCutcheon, generally abandoned their man, and turned in for Barker. The election of the latter was a result which gives a license to rowdyism, violence and indecency, yet we hope such will not be the case. There is a moral feeling dwelling in the hearts of a majority of our citizens, who will prevent anything like violence or anarchy from taking place. But if our worst fears are realized, the responsibility must rest with the Whigs who abandoned their own candidate and voted for Barker."

"The portrait of Barker by Gen. Johnston on Monday, the day before the election, and the eager thirst with which the fact was communicated by telegraph would seem to favor the conclusion that there was some secret understanding between the Whigs and the Barker men."

We present below the vote in each ward, which we presume will nearly correspond with the official returns:

Table with 5 columns: Ward, Guthrie, McCutcheon, Barker, Total. Rows for 1st through 9th wards and a total row.

The Commercial Journal, a respectable Whig paper, thus writes of the new Mayor:—"If there is any relief of salvation in the fellow, he has now a chance to triumph over us by proving himself entirely adequate to the duties of the office, and disclosing traits of character, which heretofore have not marked him—and prudence. We are entirely disposed to give Joe a chance, although we cannot but deplore his election."

THE MAIL.—The Mail.—Never before in the memory of man says the Baltimore Argus, was there such confusion and neglect in the mail department. We had a dozen of letters lost, mislaid, or detained for days, within the last week or two, between here and Washington, and so it is in every direction.—Our exchanges reach us at uncertain intervals, and we cannot count on anything with certainty, except that this administration will continue to blunder, so long as it continues to exist. Mr. Collamer's new assistants may possess 'integrity,' but many of them are woefully deficient in 'capacity' to discharge the duties assigned them. Who study it is to apply to the executive? Let them go to work, for it is surely needed."

THE PUBLIC LANDS.—From the Report of the Commissioner of the General Land Office, it appears that during the past year upwards of six million acres of land were advertised for sale, and more than six and a half millions are prepared for market, a great part of which will be proclaimed during the ensuing year. The report shows that the quantity disposed of in 1847, by warrants equivalent to cash, amounted to \$2,591,826 06, and in 1848, to \$5,499,815 26. In the first three months of 1849 it amounted to \$3,937,160 30, and in the first three months of 1849 it amounted to \$1,297,737 95; showing that the increase in the amount of land disposed of keeps pace with the increase of population, and the consequent wants of the community.

REY. DR. McGUIRE has declined the Presidency of Washington (Pa.) College, recently tendered him.

KOSSETT'S FAMILY.—Advice from Vienna by the Kossett's, informs us that the liberation of Kossett's relations from prison is extended to his children, who were provided with a Protestant tutor. His mother and sisters, who have just been dismissed from their prison at Pesth, are expected in Vienna, where it is believed they will apply for passports for Turkey.

USURY LAWS.—On Friday, in the Senate, Mr. Matthias introduced an act to repeal the Usury laws in this State, and making it lawful for persons to receive such interest as the parties may agree upon.

THE SENATE OF THE U. STATES went into the election of a Chaplain on Wednesday last. Four ballots were had without a choice; and on the fifth, there was a tie between the Rev. Mr. Slicer, of the Methodist Church, and the Rev. Dr. Butler, of the Episcopal Church—each receiving thirty votes.—The Vice President voted in favor of the latter gentleman, and he was elected.

An externally written message to the Legislature of Massachusetts, Gov. Briggs finds place for the following anecdote:—"The report of the warden states that the number of foreigners has greatly increased during the year, and that several of those returned from the war in Mexico have found their way into the pri-

Mr. Brown at Home.

Hon. W. J. Brown, of Indiana, we remark, is out with a card in the Indiana State Sentinel, in the design of justifying to his constituents the part he saw fit to act in regard to the Speakership in Congress, for which the reader will remember he was a very prominent candidate. Mr. Brown says:—"I declared to the Free-Soil men, that if elected I would appoint committees on the Judiciary, the District of Columbia, and on Territories, composed of able and impartial members from both the North and the South; who would set fairly and not sully the public voice, by refusing to report upon the important question of slavery that might be presented. This declaration, made in good faith and all candid, has been denounced by Southern men as treachery of the blackest character. From this charge I appeal to my constituents, and to the friends of the Northern States. Ought I to have acted otherwise? I had rather been defeated with the vote I received, than to have been elected under a pledge to pack the committee for the benefit of the slave-holding interest of the South. But the time has come when the North will no longer bow the neck to the slaveocracy of the South. I am down. She cannot set fairly and not sully the public voice, by refusing to report upon the important question of slavery that might be presented. This declaration, made in good faith and all candid, has been denounced by Southern men as treachery of the blackest character. From this charge I appeal to my constituents, and to the friends of the Northern States. Ought I to have acted otherwise? I had rather been defeated with the vote I received, than to have been elected under a pledge to pack the committee for the benefit of the slave-holding interest of the South. But the time has come when the North will no longer bow the neck to the slaveocracy of the South. I am down. 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