

AMERICAN VOLUNTEER.

JOHN B. BRATTON, Editor & Proprietor.

CARLSLE, PA., APRIL 5, 1860.

DEMOCRATIC STATE NOMINATIONS.

For Governor, HENRY D. FOSTER, OF WESTMORELAND COUNTY.

FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS, ELECTORS AT LARGE.

Geo. M. Kelm, of Berks county. RICHARD Vaux, of Philadelphia.

DISTRICT ELECTORS.

- 1. Fred'k. A. Server. 14. J. Reckhow. 2. Wm. C. Patterson. 15. Geo. D. Jackson. 3. Jos. Crockett, Jr. 16. J. A. Ahl. 4. J. G. Bronner. 17. J. B. Danner. 5. J. W. Jacoby. 18. J. R. Crawford. 6. Charles Kelly. 19. H. N. Lee. 7. O. P. James. 20. J. B. Howell. 8. David Sohll. 21. N. P. Peterman. 9. J. L. Lightner. 22. Samuel Marshall. 10. S. S. Barber. 23. Wm. Book. 11. T. H. Walker. 24. B. D. Hamlin. 12. S. Winchester. 25. Gaylord Church. 13. Joseph Laubach.

CHILD BURNED TO DEATH.

We learn from the last Shipping News, that on Wednesday of last week, a child of Mr. Jacob Gross, of that place, was burned to death under most distressing circumstances.

FALSE ALARMS OF FIRE.

For the last year or more, we have had a set of juvenile rascals in our town who amuse themselves after dark by starting false alarms of fire.

DOINGS OF OUR MEMBERS.

The bill incorporating the Mount Joy Deposit Bank, and the Lovietown Bank, having been voted by the Governor, the question was again taken on the bills, and both passed over the veto.

THE BILL FOR THE RELIEF OF THE SUNBURY AND ERIC RAILROAD COMPANY.

which bill releases the Company from the payment of its indebtedness to the State, having passed the House, and the Senate a few days since.

PROF. PORTER'S LECTURE.

The last lecture of the course for the benefit of the Young Men's Christian Association of our town, was delivered in the German Reform Church, on Friday evening last, by Prof. THOMAS C. PORTER, of Lancaster.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Legislature of Pennsylvania is about closing. It is well so; and it would have been better for the people if it had never met, although to certain parties it has been the most accommodating of any previous session.

AN INFAMOUS MEASURE KILLED.

In the State Senate, on Monday, the bill from the House, relative to the Police of Philadelphia, which had been vetoed by the Governor, was called up and negatived—yeas 20, nays 11, two-thirds not voting in the affirmative.

GOV. FOSTER HAS VETOED THE PHILADELPHIA POLICE BILL.

It was passed by the Opposition majority in the Legislature, for the purpose of perpetuating their power in Philadelphia through the police.

OLY.

The search for Oil in Venango county continues with all the activity the weather will permit, and every day we hear of the growing prospects of those interested.

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THE DEMOCRATS OF KENNES HAVE SENT DELEGATES TO CHARLESTON INSTRUCTED FOR DOUGLASS.

The proceedings were attended with much excitement.

A CONSTITUTIONAL UNION PARTY WAS ORGANIZED AT BOSTON ON THE 27TH ULT.

TOWN MATTERS.

OUR NEW BOROUGH OFFICERS.—THE DUTY THEY OWE TO OUR CITIZENS.—Now that our new Borough Officers have entered upon their duties, we deem the present a proper time to refer to some of the grievances which our citizens complain.

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THE MASK THROWN OFF!

We have, says the Reading Gazette, all along charged that the so-called Republican party was Abolitionism in disguise—that its immediate design—the constant agitation of the slavery question—and ultimate object—the complete extinction of the institution of slavery in the United States—were the same; and that it differed only from the open advocates of Abolition, in that it was less candid and honest in the avowal of its sentiments.

THE BOMBARDMENT OF MEXICO.

The news from Mexico is of an exciting character. General Miramon completed his battery on the Medano del Perro, on the morning of the 13th ult. It consisted of some twenty guns of small calibre, and was about two and a half miles from the city.

THE BOMBARDMENT OF MEXICO.

Before the bombardment commenced the detachment of troops sent by Miramon to Alvarado were recalled, to take part in the assault in case a breach was made.

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It appears that the clergy forces had moved out from the city to attack Ortega. They had not been gone but a few hours, when the populace rose against the small garrison, and in a few hours more the soldiers were actually summoned to desert.

THE BOMBARDMENT OF MEXICO.

Another assault was attempted on the night of the 18th, but was quickly repulsed. Gen. Carvajal's force had captured, near Jalapa, a convoy of fifteen wagons, loaded with munitions and provisions, and containing \$24,000 in specie, destined for Miramon's army.

THE BOMBARDMENT OF MEXICO.

Miramon raised the siege on the 21st, and withdrew towards the Capital. After the capture of Miramon's steamers, Miramon sent a decree to the Capital, confiscating all American property, and ordering that all Americans should be sent out of the country.

PHILADELPHIA NOMINATIONS.

The Democratic City Convention of Philadelphia, has placed in nomination, for the May election, John O. Keller, of the Fifteenth Ward, for Receiver of Taxes; John R. Downing, of the Ninth Ward, for City Controller; Henry M. Dechert, of the Twenty-fourth Ward, for City Solicitor; and Hon. John Robbins, Jr., of the Eighteenth Ward, for Mayor.

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THE ALABAMA LEGISLATURE HAS PASSED A LAW COMPPELLING NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANIES TO PAY \$500 TO EACH TOWN IN THE STATE WHICH THEY EFFECT INSURANCE.

It amounts to a prohibition—an effect of the anti-slavery war upon the South.

CUTTINGS FOR GRAPING GRAPES SHOULD BE CUT NOW, AND GRAFTED WHEN THE VINES ARE IN BUD.

Cherries should also be cut this month.

THE APPROPRIATION BILL.

Table listing various departments and their appropriations, including State Department, Auditor General's Department, and others, with a total of \$2,808,817.

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PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL MESSAGE.

We publish below the President's Message to the House of Representatives upon the subject of the Covode Investigating Committee.

It will be remembered that Mr. John Covode, as also Mr. John Hickman, of Pennsylvania, Mr. John B. Haskins, of New York, and Mr. Adrian, of New Jersey, one and all, feeling that their course upon the election of Speaker of the House was looked upon by the whole country as treacherous and unfaithful, for the purpose of attracting attention to themselves, made vague and indefinite charges against Mr. Buchanan, upon the plea of "stop your rags that raised the cry of 'stop thief'!"

Every member of the House knew, from the political life of Mr. Buchanan, in which he had filled, in the course of a long series of years, every position in the Government, from the lowest to the highest, with distinguished honor to himself and to the advantage and credit of his Government, that he was the last man in God's creation to be approached or to approach another corruptly, and, consequently, they repelled these charges with the indignation and contempt which they properly merited.

Finding themselves in this unpleasant position, and aware that they were looked upon by the whole country as base and unprincipled calumniators, it became necessary for these men to put on a bold front, and to present to the country a seeming belief in their base falsehoods. For this purpose, after the organization of the House, Mr. John Covode, who was one of the leading authors of the charges, moved for the Black Republic, which was carried, and the Black Republic Speaker, Mr. Pennington, appointing a committee to suit, placed Mr. Covode, the accuser, as the Chairman, or Judge, upon the truth or falsehood of his own charges.

This committee, with all the zeal and with all the determination to sustain, in some possible shape, at least, by implication, the charges made, which would reflect credit upon a "Holy Inquisition" of past ages, have been for some time "in the full tide of successful experiment."

The President, not in behalf of himself, (for he courts investigation in the fullest and broadest manner, when properly made), but with the view of arresting at once this highly outrageous insult upon the Chief Magistracy, and preventing this mode of action from becoming a precedent by which future Presidents may be annoyed, insulted, slandered, and degraded, before the eyes of the citizens of these United States and the world, has sent this message to the House.

The defence of the rights and dignity of the office of the Chief Magistrate was eminently proper at this time, and will tend to nip in the bud this evil system of legislative slander, which gives consequence to vague and unsubstantial charges by appointing committees of investigation.

The argument itself, like everything that emanates from the pen of that distinguished man, is marked with unsurpassed ability.

It has become almost one of the "institutions" of this country, to abuse, slander, and, if possible, to discredit the Chief Magistrate.

Every President, since the days of Washington, has been vilified and attacked, and, as is to be expected, the very best men have been those who were most abused. Jefferson, Jackson, and now Buchanan, have each in turn been the subjects of the most unprovoked malice; but, in this last instance, as in all the others, "the shafts of malice will fall hurtless at his feet."

TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

After a delay which has afforded me ample time for reflection, and after much and careful deliberation, I find myself constrained by an imperious sense of duty as a co-ordinate branch of the Federal Government, to protest against the first two clauses of the first resolution adopted by the House of Representatives, on the 5th instant, and published in the Congressional Globe on the succeeding day.

These clauses are in the following words: "Resolved, that a committee of five members be appointed by the Speaker, for the purpose (first) of investigating whether the President of the United States, or any other officer of the Government, has, by money, patronage, or other improper means, sought to influence the action of Congress, or any committee thereof, or for or against the passage of any law pertaining to the rights of any State or Territory; (and 2d), also, to inquire into and investigate whether any officer or officers of the Government have, by combination or otherwise, prevented or defeated, or attempted to prevent or defeat, the execution of any law or laws now upon the statute book, and whether the President has failed or refused to compel the execution of any law thereof?"

I confine myself exclusively to these two branches of the resolution; because the portions of it which follow relate to alleged abuses in post-offices, navy-yards, public buildings, and other public works of the United States. In such cases inquiries are highly proper in themselves, and belong exclusively to the Senate and the House, as incident to their legislative duties, and being necessary to enable them to discover and to provide the appropriate legislative remedies for any abuses which may be ascertained.

It is solely in reference to the first or investigating portion of the resolution, and to the observations. Except in this single case, the Constitution has invested the House of Representatives with no power, no jurisdiction, no supremacy whatever over the President. In other respects he is quite as independent of them as they are of him.

As a co-ordinate branch of the Government, he is their equal; indeed, he is only the direct representative on earth of the people of all and each of the sovereign States. To them, and to them alone, is he responsible whilst acting within the sphere of his constitutional duty; and not in any manner to the House of Representatives. The people have thought proper to invest him with the most honorable, responsible and dignified office in the world; and the individual, however unworthy, now holding this exalted position, is their equal, so far as in him lies, that he is not to be controlled by the House of Representatives in his person; but shall pass to his successors unimpeded by the adoption of a dangerous precedent. He will defend them to the last extremity against any unconstitutional attempt to curtail what quarter it may, to abridge the constitutional rights of the Executive, and render him subservient to any human power except themselves.

The exercise of executive duties. They have also conferred upon him a large measure of legislative discretion. No bill can become a law without his approval as representing the people of the United States, unless it shall pass after his veto by a majority of two-thirds of both Houses. In his legislative capacity, he might, in common with the Senate and House, institute an inquiry to ascertain any facts which ought to influence his judgment in approving or vetoing any bill.

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This participation in the performance of legislative duties between the co-ordinate branches of the Government, ought to inspire the chief of all of them, in their relations to each other, with mutual forbearance and respect. At least each has a right to demand justice from the other. The cause of complaint is that the constitutional rights and immunities of the Executive have been violated in the person of the President by the President before the Senate on charges preferred and prosecuted against him by the House of Representatives would be an imposing spectacle for the world. In the result not only his removal from the presidential office would be involved, but what is of infinitely greater importance to himself, and of future generations, might possibly be tarnished. The disgrace cast upon him would in some degree be reflected upon the character of the American people who elected him. Hence the precautions adopted by the Constitution to secure a fair trial. On such a trial it declares that "the Chief Justice shall preside." This was doubtless because the framers of the Constitution believed it to be possible that the Vice President might be biased by the fact that, "in the event of the removal of the President from office," "the same shall devolve upon the Vice President."

The preliminary proceedings in the House in the case of charges which may involve impeachment have been well and wisely settled by long practice upon principles of equal justice both to the accused and to the people. The precedent established in the case of Judge Peck, of Missouri, in 1831, after a careful review of all former precedents, will I venture to predict, stand the test of time. In that case Luke Edward Lawless, the accuser, presented a petition to the House, in which he set forth minutely and specifically his charges of being a traitor, and of having conspired with the President to overthrow the Government. The House, in its proceedings in this behalf of said Judge Peck may be required into by your honorable body, and such decision made thereon as to your wisdom and justice shall seem proper."

This petition was referred to the Judiciary Committee. Such has ever been deemed the appropriate committee to make similar investigations. It is a standing committee appointed to be appointed without reference to any special case, and at all times is presumed to be composed of the most eminent lawyers in the House from different portions of the Union, and whose habits of investigation qualify them peculiarly for the task. No tribunal, from their position and character, could, in the nature of things, be more impartial. In the case of Judge Peck the witnesses were selected by the committee itself, with a view to ascertain the truth of the charge. They were cross-examined by him, and everything was conducted in such a manner as to afford him no reasonable cause of complaint.

In view of this precedent, and what is of far greater importance, in view of the Constitution and the principles of eternal justice, it would manifestly be the duty of the House of Representatives, if they were to exercise their functions, to be treated by the House of Representatives? Mr. John Covode, a representative from Pennsylvania, is the accuser of the President. Instead of following the precedent of former times, and especially that in the case of Judge Peck, and referring the accusation to the Committee on the Judiciary, the House have made my accuser one of my judges.

I can appreciate the judge is a violation of the principles of universal justice, and is condemned by the practice of all civilized nations. Every freeman must revolt at such a spectacle. I can appreciate the judge is a violation of the principles of universal justice, and is condemned by the practice of all civilized nations. Every freeman must revolt at such a spectacle. I can appreciate the judge is a violation of the principles of universal justice, and is condemned by the practice of all civilized nations.

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political storms through which I have passed, the present is the first attempt which has ever been made, to my knowledge, to assail my personal or official integrity, and this as the time is approaching when I shall voluntarily retire from the services of my country. I feel proudly conscious that there is no public act of my life which will not bear the strictest scrutiny. I defy all investigation. Nothing but the basest, paltry, and sully my good name. I do not fear even this because I cherish a humble confidence that the gracious Being who has hitherto defended and protected me against the shafts of falsehood and malice will not desert me now, when I have become "old and gray-headed." I can declare before God and my country that no human being (with an exception scarcely worthy of notice) has at any period of my life dared to approach me with a corrupt or dishonorable proffer; and, until recent developments, it had never entered into my imagination that any person, even in the storm of exasperated political passions, would charge me with such a proposition to any human being. I may now, however, exclaim, in the language of complaint employed by my first and greatest predecessor, that I have been abused "in such exaggerated and indecent terms as could scarcely be applied to a Nero, to a Nero, a Nero, a Nero, or even to a common pickpocket."