

Lancaster, January 23, 1849.

Democratic Meetings.

The Democratic Citizens of the South-East Ward of the City will meet at the public house of Adam HANCOCK, East King Street-South-West Ward, at the public house of HUGH FRENCH, South Queen Street-North-East Ward, at the public house of OWEN HOFFER, North Queen Street-North-West Ward, at the public house of GEORGE HICKLE, West King Street, on Saturday Evening, January 27th, at 6 o'clock P. M., for the purpose of electing five Delegates to represent the Ward in a City Convention, to be held at Mrs. Messinger's, on Wednesday, the 31st, at 7 o'clock P. M., for the purpose of settling a City Ticket. By order of the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The Democratic Citizens of the City of Lancaster, are requested to meet at the Court House, on Thursday Evening, February 1st, at 6 o'clock P. M., for the purpose of nominating a candidate for the office of Mayor, Assessor, and High Constable, to be voted for at the City Election, on Tuesday, the 6th of February. By order of the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. January 23.

City Election.

Last year, the Democratic candidates for Mayor, City Council, Constables, &c. were elected without opposition, but it would seem as if it were not the case the present year. Notice appears in the opposition papers, signed by N. ELKMAN and Geo. W. HANSEN, Esqrs., chairman of the executive committee of the East and West Wards, convening the friends of Taylor, Ellinger and City Reform, on to-morrow evening, to elect eight delegates to represent each ward in a general convention to be held on the following Saturday, to settle a ticket to be supported at the ensuing election. It is apparent from these movements that the supremacy of parties in the city is to be earnestly contested, and it behooves the Democrats, therefore, at their primary meeting, to make popular and unexpected selections. Let every voter, in the exercise of his undoubted right, battle for his favorite candidates as warmly as may be, prior to the nominations; but, when the ticket has once been fixed, let us all go vigorously and unitedly to work and elect it. This is the duty of all true Democrats, who have the ascendancy of their party and principles sincerely at heart.

Trial for Murder.

Among the important business transacted in the Mayor and Terminus, held last week, Judge Lewis presiding, was the trial of a colored man, named HENRY NEWMAN, alias HENRY PLEASANT, charged with the murder of a colored companion, named EDWARD STOUTS. The murder was committed at Columbia, on the 19th of October, 1847, and the indictment found by the Grand Jury was for the murder in the first degree. The affair transpired in a pugilistic encounter between the parties, and ended in the shooting of Stouts by the accused, under circumstances betraying the most palpable intent and deliberation. After a full hearing of the case, it was submitted to the Jury on Wednesday evening, without argument of counsel, who returned a verdict, next morning, of Murder in the Second Degree—and the offender was sentenced to 11 years and 9 months of penal confinement at hard labor in the Eastern Penitentiary.

The result of this trial affords strong demonstration of the growing unpopularity of the Death Penalty. Fifty-one names were called before a Jury could be selected—a large majority being excused from service on account of their conscientious repugnance to the taking of human life. It is the prevailing impression, also, that the accused technically belongs in the category of capital offenders, and mainly owes his life to the increasing odiousness of the Gallows. It is evident that such legislation on this subject is inadvisable. As it is impossible to fix a standard of culpability in the case of a murder in the first degree, however aggravated the circumstances, the penalty of a conviction for murder in the second degree should not be restricted, as at present, to twelve years, but it should, we think, be made discretionary with the Court to inflict imprisonment for life. Such, we doubt not, would have been the sentence in this case, had it been in the power of the Court.

The New State Treasurer.

We announced in our last the election of GRAYSON J. BALL, Esq. of Erie county to the office of State Treasurer—but we were not aware of the peculiar circumstances attending his election. Mr. B. is a worthy member of the House of Representatives from Erie county, and has been made the State Treasurer by voting for himself! In other words, Gideon J. Ball, the representative, voted for Gideon J. Ball as State Treasurer, and Gideon J. Ball was thereby duly elected! "Solitary and alone set this ball in motion." We will do Mr. Ball the justice to say, that all accounts agree in representing that he was exceedingly loth to take this step, and that it required the earnest and persevering efforts of the "spoiling" whigs to overcome his repugnance. Conscious of the impropriety of his conduct, the whigs are now engaged in hunting up precedents in the Democratic ranks—and they pretend to have discovered one in the fact that under a similar state of parties, Col. WILLIAM BROWN had voted for himself as speaker of the State Senate. In our opinion, the cases are widely different. The Speakership of the legislative body is a post belonging peculiarly to itself, and cannot be filled except by one of its own members. If the parties are equally divided, they cannot go beyond the body, and draw upon the services of an outsider. Not with the office of State Treasurer. The worth, talent, and integrity of the whole Commonwealth lie upon as a field of selection. We have, indeed, never before known, that a member of the Legislature has been taken out of his seat and placed at the head of the Treasury, much less by his own vote! The State Treasurership, besides, of all such peculiar nature, such immense responsibility and disproportionate compensation, that it is little to be sought or coveted. Viewed in all its aspects, therefore, we give it as our opinion, that Mr. Ball, who otherwise is a correct and gentlemanly man, has on this occasion been betrayed into an improper step by unwise counsel.

A New State Librarian.

JOSEPH GLEIM, Esq., former editor and publisher of the Lancaster Courier, has been appointed as State Librarian. His successor is JAMES JOHNSON, of Westmoreland county, brother to the Governor. Mr. Gleim is an old and true whig, having served his party in sunshine and storm, whilst the new incumbent, it is said, has been very active and decided Democrat up to last fall when he deposited the first whig ballot in favor of his brother. This change has caused considerable sensation in the political circles of Harrisburg, especially as Mr. Gleim has discharged his duties with admitted correctness and punctuality.

Gen. Taylor's Movements.

Gen. TAYLOR expects to leave Baton Rouge on the 1st of February, on the steamer Tennessee, for Nashville, where he expects to spend one day; thence to Franklin, where he will stay two days; thence to Chattanooga, where he will remain one day; and thence direct to Washington, by the Ohio river.

Illness of Hon. John C. Calhoun.

SENATOR CALHOUN fainted at the Capitol this afternoon, and was conveyed to his lodgings in a carriage. Mr. Calhoun was similarly attacked yesterday. He is not considered in any danger.

Gen. TAYLOR and Mr. FLETCHER have both taken rooms at Coleman's Hotel, in Washington. Large preparations are in progress for a grand inauguration ball. An immense ball is to be held in Judiciary Square, for the occasion, capable of holding 10,000 persons.

FORNEX MISSIONS.—The receipt of the American Board of Missions (which now sustains five hundred and seventy missionary laborers), for the last five months, \$92,246.

Sub-Dividing the City.

We notice that Mr. FISHER, one of the few members of this county, has introduced a bill into the House of Representatives, creating four election districts in the City, instead of two, &c. at present—changing the place of holding the elections from the Court-house to the several school-houses—and closing the polls seven o'clock, instead of keeping them open until nine. We assure representatives that the proposed bill does not at all meet with the public favor. The Court-house is central and accessible to all, whilst the school-houses are remote and devoted to purposes exclusively their own. On election-days the schools would necessarily have to be suspended, and the hundreds of scholars indiscriminately allowed to roam the streets. The proposed change of the hour for closing the polls is equally objectionable. Many of our laboring men do not come to the polls until after night-fall, when they have concluded their day's work, and to close the polls thus early would deprive them of their suffrages. We trust the Democratic members of the House of Representatives will keep a watch on this bill, and spare no honorable effort to defeat its passage, as it is wholly unnecessary and unjust. Its provisions are in the last degree objectionable.

The One Man Power.

The whigs are constantly declining against what they term the "One Man Power"—but let us see how their practice corresponds with their professions. The recent election of State Treasurer was decided in favor of the caucus nominee of the whigs, by the casting vote of a single representative, who held off until the last—and then modestly concluded the conflict by voting for himself! Was not this a glaring example of the power of one man, exerted under yet more doubtful circumstances, because in his own favor? A veto is merely a negative action, leaving things to remain as before—but here was a positive act, performed by one man, and determining the action of one hundred and thirty-one others!

Hon. Morris Longstreth.

As much anxiety is now the Democrats in this quarter to know the condition of their excellent friend, Judge LONGSTRETH, we are gratified to state, on the authority of the Pennsylvaniaist of yesterday, that he has improved rapidly, and up to Saturday had the same paper—shortly to announce his thorough recovery.

Life of Gen. Peter Muhlenberg.

We have on our table a handsomely executed volume, containing THE LIFE OF MAJOR GENERAL PETER MUHLENBERG, OF THE REVOLUTIONARY ARMY—BY HENRY A. MUHLENBERG, OF READING. The Philadelphia North American, in noticing the same Memoir, well and truly observes: "The name of Muhlenberg is an honored one, not only in Pennsylvania, but in all parts of the United States. The illustrious leader of the brave—the really revered Henry Muhlenberg—lives in the memory of all who cherish a due regard for eminent piety, zeal, and industry; and earnest Christian zeal, and the simple and sincere community at the Trappe, the scene of his early labors and his honored grave, yet receive with affectionate exultation the triumphs of his missionary labors, and dwell on the fruits of his blessed spirit." "Father Muhlenberg," though several generations have passed away since he built the church in whose shadow he now reposes, is still on the lips of those who gather within its precincts, and the influence of his example is seen and felt in all the neighborhood which surrounds it. Gen. Muhlenberg was the eldest son of the venerated pastor, and for a time labored in the same sacred calling as his father. But when the war of liberty broke out, first animating his flock by earnest appeals to their patriotism, and then leading such as chose to follow him, into the thickest of the fight, he speedily acquired military renown, and along with the sword he had secured in a high degree the confidence of Washington, and the esteem of those whom he commanded. It is not our purpose to narrate Mr. Muhlenberg's through the interesting march he has given of his great uncle, but we may say generally, that he has executed his task with diligence and fidelity; and furnished a book that will suggest and supply valuable additions to our revolutionary history."

Special Election.

A special election for member of the State Senate, in place of Governor WILLIAM F. JOHNSON, is to be held on Friday, February 2d. The candidates are: JOHN B. JONES, Esq., of Indiana is the Democratic and ROBERT JOHNSON, Esq. of Cambria the Whig candidate. The district is composed of the following counties: Clearfield, Indiana, Armstrong, and Cambria. They voted at the last Presidential election as follows:

Table with 3 columns: County, Democratic, Whig. Total 6224 6184 395.

Secretary of the Treasury.

The whig members from Pennsylvania held a meeting in the Capitol at Washington, on Saturday last, and adopted resolutions, asking from Gen. Taylor the appointment of ANDREW STEWART, Esq. of this State as Secretary of the Treasury. It remains to be seen how the President will relish this extraordinary interference of Congress in cabinet matters.

Mechanics Society.

The following gentlemen have been elected officers of the Mechanics Society for the ensuing year: President—Christian Kieffer. Vice President—Henry Gillette. Treasurer—Henry Pinkerton. Secretary—Peter McCannony. Librarian—John Bear, J. F. Kramph, R. Middleton, A. Armstrong, Peter McCannony. Librarian—Peter G. Eberman.

Fourth of July Convention.

The following delegates to the 4th Anniversary Convention, to be held on the 4th of July at Pittsburgh, have recently been chosen: Armstrong—George R. Barrett (sen.) and A. J. Faulk (rep.). W. S. Campbell. Philadelphia County—Charles Murphy, James E. Hall, William F. Hagan, Alexander Brown, William F. Ireland, William S. Halliwell, Andrew Lowrey, Hugh Clark, Thomas D. Dougherty, Geo. Shelkine, George Edler.

Electing the Judges.

We are pleased to perceive a movement in the Senate and House of Representatives, to submit an amendment of the Constitution to the Electors, resting the election of the Judges of our courts in the people, instead of continuing their appointment in the hands of the State Executive. On the 17th instant, Mr. SWANWICKER, (whig) offered a resolution, instructing the Committee on the Judiciary to report a bill providing for the election of the Judges of the Supreme Court, District Courts, and Courts of Common Pleas, by the people. Mr. PEARCE (Democrat) moved to postpone the resolution indefinitely, which was negatived, 60 to 32. Mr. EVANS (whig) moved to postpone for the present, which was also lost. Mr. MCGILVER (Democrat) moved so to amend as merely to request the Committee on the Judiciary to inquire into the expediency of reporting a bill, as proposed—which was agreed to, yeas 50, nays 46. As proposed by the amendment of the House. In the Senate, on motion of Mr. STROTTS (whig) a similar resolution has been adopted, including also a provision to elect the Prosecuting Attorneys and Deputy Surveyors. These preliminary steps argue favorably for the success of the proposition, and inspire its advocates with fresh courage to prosecute it to final and triumphant consummation.

A year ago—when that pure-minded Patriot and Statesman, FRANCIS R. STROTTS, was yet living, and when the probability was that he would serve out his full Executive term, we strongly advocated the proposed amendment of the Constitution. We were willing then to surrender this branch of official patronage, although wielded by a Democrat, in whose integrity the whole Commonwealth reposed unlimited reliance. We are still warmly wedded to the measure, and our action then will shield us from the imputation of improper motives now. The Executive has passed into different hands. As a member of the State Senate, W. F. JOHNSON sustained the measure by his vote, and speeches, which would preclude him from opposing it, now, even if he were loth to part with the patronage dispensed under the present system. On the occasion referred to, we had the services of a correspondent, "Rarokom," who discussed the subject in all its bearings with such marked ability, that we cannot refrain from a present draft upon his productions, omitting such portions of his argument as were applicable to the existing circumstances, but which would be out of place now.

"Let us," says "Rarokom," "follow the example of New York, and make the whole Judiciary directly elective by the people. The men who think, work, and suffer—the hone and sinew, as they are properly called—the universal constituency, who, having their own and therefore the general welfare at heart, are necessarily honest. Their unbiassed judgment, and all most securely beyond the reach of the influence of one, or a part, with a separate interest. To doubt this conclusion is anti-republican. It must come from one, who doubts our ability for self government; and who ought to go live in a monarchy. It is the sentiment of that class of men, who reared to believe themselves possessed of all, or nearly all the talent and virtue in the country, that honestly think it just to vest the rest into the hands of a few, who are incapable of exercising it, or to discover their own true interest. We do not think it is they are ignorant of human nature! And not that the combined opinion of the mass is so likely to be wrong, as the judgment of a clique, who may be, and probably are, influenced by motives adverse to the interests of the whole. "But," says some, "What can the people, who are not lawyers, know about who is fit to be a Judge?" It is this very notion of incapacity, so strongly pressed against the measure, that times, that has so long prevented a change to a more popular form of selecting the Judges, or even much public inquiry on the subject. We are all more or less the slaves of habit, guided by accustomed modes of thinking, which we mistake for reason. The doctrine, that lawyers alone are fit to recommend or select Judges, is not the sentiment of the Democracy in our country. The question in government is not who knows best, but who will decide or select with integrity and honesty combined! In one, who is most likely to do right!

All our other notions of freedom end in trusting no man, or set of men, to do that which will, without too much inconvenience, have a hand in doing. Why do we select a Governor by vote? Do we know his fitness for that high trust any better before his election, than we would the fitness of the Chief Justice before his election? We may find out the fitness of one, by inquiry, as well as of another. Nay, from his profession and practice as a lawyer, and the necessary exposure of his legal and moral character; to public view and scrutiny, his fitness for a Judge is much better known, than that of any man can be beforehand for the multitudinous and responsible duties of Governor. In theory, then, if it were the better way, it is of much more importance to elect a nominator and a Senate, to nominate and confirm the Governor himself, than it is to elect a Governor and Senate to appoint a Judge!

Besides, the taunt "what do the people know about the qualifications of a lawyer fitting him for a judgeship?" It proves any thing, proves too much! All selections of agents labor under the same difficulty. For even a lawyer, as such, would not be competent as a physician, or perhaps as a clergyman, or a merchant, or a blacksmith, or a carpenter, or any other trade or calling that he may wish to exercise. He would be called upon him every day to decide quite importantly sometimes, whom he will select to serve him in the various avocations of life, or offices of government. We must decide often for ourselves, almost continually; and we are habituated to look around very carefully for an agent when from necessity we are compelled to have one. We ought not, as an independent man does, another, to trust an important act to be done for him by another, which he may without inconvenience, do for himself. Every man should do his own thinking, particularly in a republican government, and not have it done by deputation! The more important the result to his welfare, the greater reason that he should determine and act for himself. And what in government or in life is more important than the selection of a man, not to make the laws, but to administer them—to decide how they shall be applied, and to whom—perhaps first to the very man who by the present system has been excluded from any immediate agency in the selection? The rule of appointment, when election may be had, militates against the great principle of self government, that we are expected to obey the laws cheerfully, because we have equal right with every other one, in making and executing them.

We are as well fitted to elect Judges, as any other set of our officers, will not bear argument for the moment. And that we have not done so, under our constitution, has arisen from the pride of ancient and transmitted habits and feelings. The policy and laws of England came to us as colonists subservient to that government. It cost us a bloody revolution to overturn its power and establish on the ruins of tyranny our free and happy form of government. Ever since we became a free people, we are but slowly and painfully getting rid of the trammels of monarchic habits of thought, and indefinite fears of change, the propriety of which is staring us in the face. Nothing of a monarchic kind has lingered longer than this, that somebody else was to appoint the Judges.

In ancient times the King or Queen of England, then as yet the supposed founder and dispenser of justice, administered the laws, or perhaps his or her subjects in person. As the monarch grew older, or became busy in war, the chancery, or some other kingly agent, or the business of dispensing justice fell to the servants of his household—the butler, chamberlain, or some other upper servant of the King's kitchen, larger, cellar, or bed chamber. The Saxon revolution placed it in the Wittenagemote or Grand Council of the Nation. At the conquest the Norman ruler took the decision of cause and trial of his subjects, back again to his household, styling his mighty Court the Aula Regis or King's Court, held in his hall or palace. In process of time, and by the wings of justice became moribund, and convalescence or when divided it into the King's Bench, Common Pleas, &c., in which the power in the Crown of presiding was delegated to certain Judges learned in the law. But always, down to the present time, the monarch, who is in theory the pure source of justice, and one who can do no wrong, holds on with a firm grasp, to the power of appointing these his servants, the Judges. At first they were appointed during his pleasure; afterwards it was modified so that their commissions lasted during the reign, and expired with his decease; and then further modified to the good behavior tenure. And so the power of appointment is at this day in England.

We have followed strictly this eminent example, except that by the new Constitution—our mimic monarch, the Governor, has not now quite the sole power of appointment; but the most mischievous share, that of nomination or selection and choice for confirmation by the Senate. England finds it requisite to the stability of the Crown to keep up the fiction that the monarch is the pure source of justice, and therefore of course, and of right ought to appoint all the Judges, dispensers of justice. We, through our kingly Governor, without any necessity in theory or in fact for a falsehood or the legal fiction; or plausible reason that the Governor should retain the power to appoint one who may injure us, if he please, and the probability is so, to the detriment of the State. We have copied the power of appointment to the most important office from a kingly government, and still retain it as a remnant of our former vassalage, in the face of the light of history showing us the error, and to the manifest detriment of our true interests!

This sliver of habit and thought to the practice of our ancestors is the reason why we have not elected Judges, but continue to name them. There is no good cause why the Governor should select a Judge for each county, district, or the whole State, any more than he should the Magistrates, the Canal Commissioners, and the lost of other officers which experience proves to be so much better selected by the people themselves, through that best Governor, the ballot box. If he hasten, then, to put this thing right. The legislature will be urged by the newspapers, to petition and by every other legitimate method, to model and adopt the requisite amendments. It will be adopted again by the next Legislature, and the people, having adopted the amendments by a vote, the election of Judges may take place in October, 1850.

Such were the views, logically and clearly enforced, by our correspondent, "Rarokom," at the commencement of the last session. Although unheeded, he has not abandoned his original truth and force, and has written more. We commend them to the calm and considerate attention of representatives of all parties in the Legislature.

Ex-Governor Shunk.

In the State Senate, Mr. MASON, from the Select Committee, to whom was referred that portion of the Governor's message which related to the late Executive, made a report, in which they respond to the sentiments expressed in the Governor's message in regard to the distinguished virtues and services of the illustrious deceased. They recommended the adoption of the following resolutions:

Resolved, That as a testimony of high regard for the memory and virtues of the deceased, the chairs of the Speakers of the Senate and House of Representatives, be shrouded in black during the residue of the session. Resolved, That the Governor be requested to transmit a copy of these resolutions to Mrs. Shunk, and that she be invited to receive them at her residence, in the House of Representatives, on the 14th of January, 1849. Resolved, That a bill be introduced authorizing the payment to Mrs. Shunk of the balance of the annual salary of the late Executive, computed to the 10th of January instant. The report was adopted and the resolutions unanimously agreed to by the Senate, sent to the House, and there immediately concurred in.

The District Court.

We learn that the Grand Jury of the county, at their session, held last week, declared in favor of the abolition of the District Court.

Governor of Ohio.

The Joint Committee have reported that SENATOR FORD has 300 majority. A majority of the Committee express their decided opinion that Ford has fairly elected Governor, but the minority differ in opinion to certain facts.

Lancaster Co. Medical Society.

At a recent meeting of the Lancaster County Medical Society, the following gentlemen were elected officers for the present year: President—Dr. F. A. Muhlenberg. Vice President—Dr. R. L. Burrows and Dr. Isaac Winters. Reading Secretary—Dr. Henry Carpenter. Corresponding Secretary—Dr. Charles L. Baker. Treasurer and Librarian—Dr. Eli Parry.

Appointment by the President.

By and with the advice and consent of the Senate, JOHN B. WELLES, of Ohio, to be Commissioner of the Land Office, under and subject to the United States and the Republic of Mexico, in pursuance of an article of the treaty with that republic, concluded on the 4th of February, 1848.

Michigan U. S. Senator.

A letter from Lansing, the seat of government of Michigan, to the Detroit Free Press, dated Jan. 9, gives us the vote for U. S. Senator in the House on that day, but does not bring the action of the Senate. In the former body the vote stood:

Table with 2 columns: Name, Votes. Lewis Cass, 11; Epaphroditus Ramsom, 11; Edwin Lawrence, 10; Joseph R. Williams, 9.

A committee was appointed to inform the Senate of the result. The body has fixed the 11th for the day of its action. Jan. 11—8 P. M.—The Senate, after a long fight to-day, refused to nominate a U. S. Senator. The House, after an equal fight, passed the free soil resolutions. Yeas 46, nays 17—Nothing else done.

Hon. Joseph A. Wright has been nominated as the Democratic candidate for Governor of Indiana, and Col. James H. Lane for Lieut. Governor. Col. L. commanded the 3d Regiment of Indiana volunteers at the battle Buena Vista.

At a Democratic meeting recently held in Northumberland county, EDWARD Y. BAIRD, Esq. was recommended as their first and Col. HENRY C. EVER their second choice for Canal Commissioner.

INAUGURATION BALL.—The Washington Whig states that the most extensive preparations are on foot to make the Taylor inauguration ball worthy of the occasion.

The Indian Appropriations this year amount to \$774,317, which is larger than the sum of last year's appropriations.

(For The Lancaster Intelligencer.)

THE LIFE OF MAJOR GENERAL PETER MUHLENBERG, OF THE REVOLUTIONARY ARMY, BY HENRY A. MUHLENBERG—496 pages. DUBLIN: 1848.

We have just finished a perusal of this life of one of our gallant and exalted spirits of the American Revolution, to whom our Country, under Providence, owes her existence, and rational liberty throughout the world much of its advancement and hopes of progress.

This is, without a doubt, the most important of the production of a near relative of the hero, whose career it delineates with a modesty and an impartiality, in unison with the character of the subject. General Muhlenberg, was the model of a republican hero. Calm, considerate, just, vigilant, undisturbed, always ready to sacrifice his personal interests to the public good, high-minded, frank, generous, and brave, he won the confidence and affection of his countrymen, wherever he appeared, and was ever found equal to the calls of duty in the most responsible and difficult situations.

His range in the field was "composed and kept" in the most important of the American Revolution. In the battle of Brandywine—of Germantown, and the capture of Cornwallis, his gallantry was most effective and conspicuous. But his disinterestedness was equal to his valor; and, if his country won the victory, he was careless about the appropriation of the honor. The only honor he has done well in gathering up and exhibiting to the world, the proof of Major General Muhlenberg's distinguished services in the most trying times of our revolution, thus performing at once a duty to his illustrious relative and to the truth of history. And the proof, which has been accomplished, is worthy of particular commendation. With rare judgment, he has abstained from all imputation of the comparisons of Gen. Muhlenberg and his great merit in certain instances, was not presented to the world in the form of a biography, which he deserved, the biographer has furnished a probable excuse for the apparent wrong, instead of attempting to fix upon others the charge of partiality and injustice.

In the brilliant assault of the enemy's work, at York Town, which was actually made by General Muhlenberg, the fame of the achievement has hitherto been awarded to one of the officers under his command. His biographer shows that it belonged in point of truth and in historical justice to the general, but in proving this, he concedes to the inferior officer his superior in all that respects the capture of Burgess and Stagnos. There was a general, he was much distinguished, namely the capacity of drawing forth the resources of the country for its protection and defence. On this account he was assigned to the most critical period of the revolution to the military command of Virginia, in the efficient aid of the British army. There were two plans of operation attempted by the British, either of which, if successful, would have been fatal to our hopes of independence. The object of both was the same—to divide the South from the North, and then conquer the separate provinces in detail. The first project was to be effected by the capture of Burgess and Stagnos. The second was to take possession of Virginia, (as they had endeavored to do of New York) and then, having the whole South under their control, proceed step by step to subjugate the North. So soon as their plan was executed by the Commander-in-chief, he departed Gen. Muhlenberg to Virginia for the purpose of preparing her for the struggle which she foresaw must ensue. The extraordinary activity, vigilance, and skill which he exhibited at this crisis, attested the sagacity of Washington in selecting him for a service so important. The result was that Lord Cornwallis with the flower of his British army was cooped up at Yorktown, where he was compelled to surrender—thereby, in effect, terminating the great contest for our Liberties.

It is not possible to go through these pages without a conviction, founded upon the enlarged views of the past, and disinterested patriotism, military talent, and unflinching courage of Gen. Muhlenberg, that he was one of those great men who were peculiarly qualified to lead our people on to the consummation of their independence. The biographer adheres closely throughout to his primary object of furnishing a sketch of the life and public services of his hero, going no further into the general history of the revolutionary struggle of the country, after our independence was achieved, than was necessary to elucidate those topics. He has accomplished his purpose, with a manly candour and liberality of spirit and with a perspicuity of narrative and precision of style, that do equal honour to his head and heart.

Next Canal Commissioner.

Mr. Editor: As it seems to be generally conceded, that the next term of the Canal Board shall be taken from either the Central or Northern section of the state, allow me the use of your columns to bring to the consideration of delegates to the Democratic State Convention, to be held on the 4th of July, the name of JOHN J. JORDAN, Esq. of Sunbury, as a gentleman combining every requisite qualification for that office. Mr. Jordan is an Attorney of high standing in his section of the state, a sound and consistent Democrat, and a Citizen of pure and unblemished integrity. As there is no professional gentleman in the present Board, the presence of one possessing such eminent legal attainments would seem to me highly desirable. This communication is written without consultation with Mr. Jordan, and the contents of it should not be divulged, without the consent of the author. But if settled by the 1st of July Convention, he would far outrun his party in Northumberland, Union, Lycoming, and other counties, which would make him one of the most available candidates that could be named. SHAMOKIN.

Hon. Richard Brodhead's Letter.

The following admirable letter, from the pen of the Hon. Richard Brodhead, to Capt. Wm. F. Small, thanking the Democratic members of the Legislature for the firm and unwavering support given him in the late contest for the responsible post of United States Senator:

WASHINGTON CITY, Jan. 12, 1849. DEAR SIR: I duly received, and thank you for your kind letter of the 9th inst., informing me of the result of the election for United States Senator in our State, and that I had received the unanimous vote of the Democratic members of the Legislature. So distinguished an honor was alike unexpected and flattering. To have been the recipient of the unanimous vote of the Democratic members of the Legislature, is a high honor, and one which I prize as such. My sole regret is that I did not deserve and can so poorly repay their kindness. The unanimity, discretion and firmness with which the Democratic members of our Legislature acted during the organization, the good feeling and conscientious rectitude which pervade our party generally, furnish sufficient evidence of the questions of the triumph of our political opponents, that the recent elections, will be temporary; and that our good old Commonwealth, which has heretofore occupied so important a position in that respect, by the dividing interests of the North and South, will shortly resume her place in the ranks of that great national party of principle, having the Constitution for its text book, upon whose success, I firmly believe, depends the stability, prosperity and true glory of our country.

The reputation of my thanks, and the hope that your season may be a pleasant one, I subscribe myself, as ever, truly your friend and fellow-citizen. RICHARD BRODHEAD.

A writer in the Pittsburgh Post urges the nomination of ALVARO J. WILCOX, Esq., present member of the House of Representatives, for Canal Commissioner, at the next Democratic State Convention.

Governor's Inauguration.

GOVERNOR WILLIAM F. JOHNSON was duly inaugurated at Harrisburg, in the Hall of the House of Representatives, on Tuesday last. The ceremonies, though interesting, have not differed materially from others that preceded it. There was a large crowd of people in the street, the gallery was a mass of human heads, and the floor was covered with the members and officials of various kinds. The lobby was reserved especially for the ladies, and they were filled with a bright and beautiful array.

Between 10 and 11 o'clock, the joint committee of the two branches of the Legislature, viz: Messrs. King, Small and Board of the Senate, and Messrs. Ball, Seibert and McCartney, of the House, proceeded to the Governor's lodgings, at Covert's Hotel, for the purpose of accompanying him to the Capitol. After the usual preliminary confusion and excitement, the cortege for the Capitol was formed as follows, and started at 11 1/2 o'clock:

Col. E. C. Williams, Marshal of the day; The Dauphin Band; The Military; The Joint Committee of the two Houses; Governor Johnson, supported on each side by two of his Aids, Col. John H. Berryhill and Col. G. W. Kinzer; Aids of the Governor generally; Heads of Department; Officers and Soldiers of the war of 1812 and of Mexico; Members of the Bench and Bar; Citizens generally; Military.

The procession having reached the Capitol, the Governor left and conducted to the Speaker's platform, whereon also, were the two Speakers of the Senate and House—Mr. Darrie, Speaker of the Senate, and pro tem. Governor Johnson, on his right. The certificate of the Governor's election, signed by the Clerks of the two Houses, having been read, the oath of office was most impressively administered by Speaker Darrie.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

Extends and Fellow Citizens: The kindness and confidence of the people having cast upon me the Executive functions of the Government, and the prescribed oath to support the Constitution having been administered, I should be unworthy on my right to support the people, and unworthy the confidence manifested, if I did not deeply feel the responsibility of my position, and firmly resolve to merit your support.

Profoundly sensible however, of my own weakness, and fully conscious that without the encouragement and assistance of the people, the Chief Magistrate is unable properly to discharge the high duties of his station, I would earnestly invoke at the hands of the citizens, the efficient aid of the Government, which called into existence the free institutions of our country, to assist me in supporting and defending them.

At the commencement of an Administration, it has been a custom with the Executive, to indicate the principles which will govern his counsels, and the measures he may desire for the benefit of the State. The inaugural message delivered at the opening of the present Session of the Legislature has superseded the necessity of a strict compliance with this usage, and on this occasion I will refer to a few general views of the public policy which shall receive at my hands the fullest and steadiest support and consideration. At all times and under all circumstances, the highest obligation of the public service is to natural capital, and defence of our republican institutions. That these shall receive in the exercise of the Executive power a sound interpretation, that no interpretive shall be given to prevent the salutary influence of their principles; that the popular mind, when understood shall be obeyed, are indices which no public officer will disregard.

The founders of the Republic, inspired with profound wisdom, declared that all men are born equally free and independent; that the right of defending life and liberty, of acquiring, possessing and protecting property, in the most secure manner, are inalienable rights, and that all free governments are founded on their authority; that no person shall be deprived of life, liberty or property, unless by the judgment of his peers, or the law of the land; that no man's property shall be taken or applied to public use without the consent of his representatives; that education should be promoted, and the blessings of intellectual culture placed within the reach of every citizen. History and experience have demonstrated the justice of these principles, and private feeling as well as public duty demand from them a cordial support.

It is a venerable maxim that the object of all just government is the greatest good of the greatest number. In reducing this theory to practice, it shall be a constant endeavor to procure such legislation as shall promote religion and morality, and encourage science and literature. It will also be deemed a duty to elevate by proper means the condition of the laboring classes of society to advance the active industry of the citizen, and foster commerce, agriculture and manufactures. Measures for the reduction of the public debt, and the consequent relief of the tax-paying and laboring people, shall at all times receive a most cordial support.

An indebted nation cannot command the full measure of its independence, nor feel the entire blessings of its institutions. What result will be its desire to promote active objects of general benevolence, its resources refuse a compliance with its will, and national justice and the public interest demand a deep conviction of the importance of this subject, and a settled confidence that you will sustain any safe measure, having in view the payment of the debt of the State, it shall be a constant aim, to place our financial condition to discharge every public obligation; to maintain unimpaired the honor of the Commonwealth; and to preserve unshaken the motto of "VIRTUE, LIBERTY, AND HAPPINESS."

The intentions of the people are pure, and are uniformly directed to advance the general welfare. When, therefore, they believe that the public interest requires, that they unite with their own, for the public welfare, they will willingly pardon errors of judgment, and sustain him in his public course. It is hoped the same generous and manly sentiment—the same construction of motives—the same appreciation of public conduct, which have been extended to others in similar positions, will attend the administration of this gentleman in the late contest for the responsible post of United States Senator.