

Bradford Reporter

WEDNESDAY,

Regardless of Denunciation from any Quarter.—Gov. PORTER.

BY E. S. GOODRICH & SON.

Vol. IV.

TOWANDA, BRADFORD COUNTY, PA., MAY 6, 1844.

No. 48.

ADDRESS to the State Central Committee.

of the Democratic Citizens of Pennsylvania.

By HENRY A. MUHLENBURG.

Delivered at the National Convention at Harrisburg on the 4th of March, according to establishment.

for the purpose of selecting Democratic candidates for the office of Governor, Canal Commissioner, and Electors of President of the United States; and, at the same time, of naming those republican citizens who are chosen of Pennsylvania for those high offices, and appointing delegates to make that choice known, and to operate in the final decision of the Democratic party at the National Convention to be held at Baltimore in May next.

Having performed the duties confided to them, in that spirit of harmonious co-operation which consists with republican practice, having selected as candidates, men without disparagement to others, and in an eminent degree the confidence and respect of their fellow-citizens, they appointed us, previous to our adjournment, a "State Central Committee," with instructions to prepare the usual address, communicating the result of their common action and deliberation.

The Democratic candidate for Governor of Pennsylvania is HENRY A. MUHLENBURG, of Berks county.—In the nomination the Democratic party for the suffrages of our fellow-citizens, a pure patriot, a tried statesman, a man of unblemished private character, a disciple of Jefferson, the illustrious statesman and honored hero of Orleans. Henry A. Muhlenburg is from a revolutionary stock, second in services and sacrifices in the great war of Independence. His father, a native of Germany, was of those noble spirits who in all these contended for the blessings of religious freedom, and he in the wilds of Pennsylvania that which the despots of Europe always denied to a suffering people. His sons partook of the energy of their father. General Peter Muhlenburg, who was indebted for his first commission as a Colonel in the Continental line to the friendship of Washington, was one of the bravest officers of the Revolutionary army. Brandywine, Germantown, Monmouth, Stony Creek, Green Spring, and Yorktown, testimony to his valor, and Pennsylvania has reason to be proud of that name and conduct, which gave her a son a high rank among the heroes of the Revolution.

Mr. Muhlenburg, an original friend of General Jackson, and always an unflinching Democrat, commenced his political career at the Presidential election of 1828, as a representative in Congress from the counties of Berks, Schuylkill and Lehigh. He was four times re-elected by his confiding constituents, and in 1838 he was selected by President Van Buren as the first American minister sent to Austria, to unite by mutual amity and peace the people of his birth with that of his neighbors. Throughout his whole career, he evinced a calm and unflinching judgment, and an indomitable sense of purpose, but so mingled with humanity, and frankness of demeanour, to win esteem and affection from those of different political opinions.

In Congress, he voted against the Erie and Allegheny canal bill, which was afterwards vetoed by General Jackson. He remained the bank veto of 1832, and the removal of the public deposits from the Bank of the United States in 1833. He moved the previous question to refer the report of the Secretary of the Treasury, (Mr. Taney's) to the Committee of Ways and Means; and on the 4th of April, 1834, solemnly declared his opinion, on the Journal of Congress, by his vote, that "the Bank of the United States ought not to be re-chartered," and that "the public deposits ought not to be restored." In 1835, he was appointed one of the representatives of the Democratic party against whom the bank closure was afterwards done, and even stock holders.—This act of bank arrogance was but the precursor of that total loss of millions of capital, which was the result of the insolvency, and the depositing in fancied security of the promises of the bank politicians at the time, vindicated and

even gloried in its conduct. Against such conduct and such an institution, whether under a national or State character, Mr. Muhlenburg was then, and is now, solemnly pledged. During the same session he voted for the "Gold bill," a crowning measure of General Jackson's attempts to curtail the circulation of worthless paper money, and to re-establish the only constitutional currency—GOLD AND SILVER. Throughout a great part of his Congressional term he was chairman of the Committee on Revolutionary Claims, and a large portion of his time was faithfully given to procure justice for the widows and orphans of those who suffered in the cause of the Revolution.

On the 27th of December, 1834, Mr. Muhlenburg took an active and prominent part in a meeting of members of Congress, over which Col. Richard M. Johnson presided, held to take measures for celebrating on the anniversary of General Jackson's victory at New Orleans, a civil triumph of his administration, equally glorious—the payment and extinguishment of the National Debt.

Uniting the blood of the German with the birthright of the American—speaking and uniting both languages with equal facility and purity—learned in the best literature of both—feeling an ardent sympathy in emigrants from all countries, from recollections of the past and hopes of the future—Henry A. Muhlenburg is a genuine representative of the wise and philanthropic policy of William Penn, who made Pennsylvania an asylum for the oppressed of every nation. Nor is any of her citizens more deeply impressed than he is with the duty of preserving untarnished her public faith. No one, in a station of her political trust, will devote himself more zealously to that great end. At the same time, he is not ignorant that the people, who are (in this country at least) the government, have a right to require, and must have laid before them a candid, minute and faithful account of their debt; and resources, with such propositions for a wise economy, as will convince them that whatever sacrifices they may be called upon to make, will produce a result beneficial to them and their posterity.

Such is the man who is presented as the Democratic candidate for Governor of Pennsylvania. In every way he is worthy of this high evidence of his country's trust—in his past actions, his known principles, his certain course of future conduct. While we know full well that unflinching reliance could be confidently placed in the patriotism and talents, and integrity of FRANCIS R. SHUNK, and the other eminent citizens who, in the first instance, divided with him the preference of the assembled delegates, yet we cannot deceive ourselves in the full assurance that the cordial, patriotic and unanimous voice of the whole Convention, in favor of him who was the choice of its majority, gives to his nomination even more than usual influence, makes it but the harbinger of fresh success to the Democracy of the Keystone State and leaves no ground for reasonable doubt, that HENRY A. MUHLENBURG, will, by the votes of his fellow-citizens, be triumphantly hailed as the NEXT GOVERNOR OF PENNSYLVANIA.

In selecting JOSHUA HARTS HORNE, of Chester county, as a candidate for the office of CANAL COMMISSIONER, the Convention have had reference alike to the character and acquirements of the man which peculiarly fit him for that station of trust and activity, and to his firm adherence in trying times and in positions of important popular responsibility, to the principles and measures of the Democratic party. A member of the Legislature during that period when every effort was adopted to sway and mislead the representatives of the people, he was found invariably firm and faithful. In the place to which the Democratic party now call him, he will be found equally fearless in the discharge of duty, equally unmoved by artful or sinister applications, equally resolute to direct for the public good alone, the power and patronage appertenant to his office.

The ticket for Electors of President and Vice President is composed of tried Democrats, pledged to support the candidates who shall be nominated by the Democratic National Convention to be held at Baltimore. Delegates also to that Convention have been nominated, whose well known fidelity to the republican cause justly entitles them to represent the sentiments and wishes of Pennsylvania. By a unani-

mous resolution, these delegates were instructed to vote for and use all their influence to effect the nomination of MARTIN VAN BUREN of New York, for President, and R. M. JOHNSON of Kentucky, for Vice President. In giving these instructions, the Convention, responding to the known sentiments of their constituents, took the occasion to express their undiminished confidence and regard for the patriotism, ability and distinguished services of JAMES BUCHANAN, and the gratification it would have afforded them to present his name, as the Pennsylvania candidate for the highest office of the republic, had not his patriotic sense of duty and his characteristic determination to sustain the integrity and harmony of the Democratic party, induced him at the present time, to decline a nomination.

The Convention, while acting on the nomination of Martin Van Buren, with a similar patriotic desire to maintain the integrity and harmony of the Democratic party, and to unite their own preference with that already so generally evinced in its scarcely divided sentiment, present to the suffrages of the republicans of Pennsylvania a candidate who has always deserved, as he has heretofore received, the strongest evidences of her trust. When elected by her aid in 1836 to the Presidential chair she gave him nearly one hundred thousand of her democratic votes; and when in 1840, he was defeated, as we believe, by fraud, that large vote was increased to more than one hundred and forty thousand—a suffrage larger than any other ever given by the democracy of Pennsylvania to a candidate for any popular office. He is presented again, therefore, to the same approving democracy as Jefferson and Jackson were, in former days, when unfairly defeated by the arts of Federalism—with this favoring and unthought testimony already accorded to him by a democratic community, that, from the days of Washington, has never erred in a wise and just bestowal of its preference on a candidate for the Presidential office.

To retrace the grounds of this past and present preference of the Democracy of Pennsylvania for Martin Van Buren, would be to repeat facts deeply planted in their recollection—to recapitulate the whole series of his actions as a public man. He is the candidate of the American democracy, because, springing from their ranks, working in their cause and faithful to their principles, he has served them from boyhood with ability, devotion, honesty, and fidelity that surely secure for a public servant among a free, virginal, and well judging people unchanging confidence and trust. The son of a farmer, who had been actively devoted to his country's cause through the Revolution, which had just closed when Martin Van Buren was born, he came into life, not in a large city, but in a retired country valley—not aided by powerful friends, but relying on his own abilities, and looking to his honest fellow citizens for friendship and confidence. Before he was of age, he was actively enlisted with the friends of Jefferson who overthrew the dynasty of the elder Adams. When he was first elected to the State Legislature, the conflict with Great Britain was just begun. Throughout the whole of it he was indefatigable in his exertions to aid its success with all the power, influence and means that New York could furnish. He was the most active champion of the war in her legislature. For his conduct in thus supporting at the outset of his political career, the war and the administration of Madison, he excited against himself that malignant hatred of the Federalists which has ever since pursued him.—His subsequent legislative labors were equally true to the Democratic cause. To resist the creation of banks, to extend popular suffrage, to curb the aristocracy, to protect the imprisoned debtor, were among the objects of his unceasing labors. Elected to the Senate of the United States he took the lead in opposing the administration of John Quincy Adams. He vindicated and supported Andrew Jackson with patriotic ardor. When the voice of American democracy raised that hero to the Presidential chair, Martin Van Buren was placed by him in the highest office of his confidence, and well did he repay the choice. He filled the post of Secretary of State, which Jefferson had filled before him, with a republican spirit worthy of a disciple of the Apostle of Democracy. When a Federal majority of the Senate sought to brand him with a new mark of their malignity, by rejecting his appointment as Minister to England, the people vindicated

him by triumphantly electing him Vice President on the same ticket with Andrew Jackson. On the opposing ticket was Henry Clay. The majority of Martin Van Buren over that favorite of Federalism exceeded two hundred and seventy thousand votes. Chosen to succeed Andrew Jackson in the Presidential office, he completed the wise policy of that patriot. The expenditures of the government were regularly diminished—taxes were lessened—the honor and rights of America were upheld at home and abroad—the war with the odious money power, begun by General Jackson, was triumphantly terminated—an Independent constitutional Treasury took the place of a National Bank—the public moneys were rescued from the hands of speculating corporations—gold and silver were substituted as a currency instead of the paper promises of suspending banks.—Buffoonery, bacchanalian orgies, misrepresentations and frauds—pipelaying in New York—manufactured registers in Pennsylvania—false township returns in New Jersey—steamboat loads of voters carried to Maine—votes polled in districts of Ohio more numerous than the legal voters—these and other such means of political warfare, were suddenly brought to bear against a people unprepared to encounter such acts, and heretofore relying on the vote by ballot as the evidence and safeguard of the will of the majority. The result of unwarrantable practices such as these drove Martin Van Buren from the place where the people placed him. But they were a false and fraudulent echo of the people's will; and they now but await that opportunity to make known that will, in tones of indignant truth.—Pennsylvania desires among the first to do so. She presents Martin Van Buren as her candidate not more from her sacred confidence in the man, than to redeem the sacred cause of political honesty and national virtue, from the disgrace that Federalism sought to attach to them, by the means resorted to in the canvass of 1840.

Nor does the Democracy, in thus selecting him look only to the past. It looks to the future. It foresees in the approaching contest a desperate struggle to elevate the man and the measures against which it has been contending, from the day when Martin Van Buren stood side by side with Andrew Jackson, in opposing the principles, policy and plans of Henry Clay and John Quincy Adams. After a lapse of twenty years, during which HENRY CLAY has been repeatedly rejected by the people, or by his own doubting friends, he is once more, we suppose for the last time, presented by his party as their candidate. He asks Pennsylvania to bestow upon him her electoral vote, while she has fresh in recollection his conduct in 1825, when he defeated the patriot Jackson—her choice and that of the Democracy of the Union—by a coalition with John Quincy Adams, made in direct opposition to the instructions of his own State, and closed by his accepting from him whom he thus served, an office by which he placed himself in "the line of safe precedents," as an aspirant to the Presidency.

The history of Mr. Clay, since that coalition, has been one of uncompromising hostility to the Democratic party, and of bitter enmity to its venerable chieftain Andrew Jackson. Actuated by such sentiments, he who had even before denounced the just punishment of the British incendiaries, Arbutnot and Ambrister, as an "example of inhumanity, cruelty, and ambition"—viewed the evident preference of his country for that gallant chief as a misfortune to be classed with "war, pestilence and famine," the three great scourges of the human race—a sentiment not shared by the American people, who recollected with heartfelt gratitude the victory of New Orleans, which saved its "beauty and booty" from the grasp of a licentious and hireling soldiery.

In 1832, Mr. Clay, the old opponent of a Bank of the United States, now becomes its legal adviser and its legislative ally, brought its powerful and scrupulous aid to bear upon the Presidential campaign. The veto of General Jackson frustrated the effort to re-charter it, and its money was poured out like water to effect his overthrow and to elevate his rival. Its seductions and oppressions were alike fruitless.—The hero of the second war of independence was triumphantly re-elected; the candidate of the Bank was left prostrate in the dust.

In 1833, when the public deposits were removed from that unfaithful agent, Mr. Clay made it the signal to organize his "panic session." Threats, denun-

ciations, traveling committees, deputations, petitions, monster meetings, jubilees, the march of sprigs of aristocracy to the capitol, were all brought to bear on the old hero—but he regarded them as coolly as the bullets of a foreign foe. The public deposits were not restored—the Bank of the United States was not re-chartered—the elections of 1834 proved that the American people sustained the wise and patriotic foresight of their President. Mr. Clay did indeed in the heat of his resentment, and regardless of the judicial character of the body in which he sat, succeed, by a partizan vote, in condemning by a series of resolutions, his illustrious foe without a trial or hearing, but the indignant voice of the American people was not slow to expunge his resolutions from the Journal of the Senate, and thus again to pronounce between the two the same verdict which they had repeatedly given before.

In 1838, still harping on his favorite scheme of a National Bank—at the very time when the Bank of the United States had suspended specie payments and was in a state of actual insolvency—Mr. Clay once more pressed upon Congress, with all the force of his party tactics and personal zeal, the creation of a fifty million Bank. "I believe the establishment of a Bank of the United States is required by the common good of the whole country," was his language while standing amid the wrecks of happiness and fortune strewn around by the institution he had advocated, praised and clung to.

Although in 1839 Mr. Clay was set aside by the convention of his political friends at Harrisburg, as unavailable before the people, and the campaign of 1840 was fought under another chief with the cries of "change" and "two dollars a day and roast beef," and with the accompaniments of coons and coon skins, songs, hard cider, riot, and intemperance, yet he was found ready to take the lead in the successes thus attained. During the well known extra session of 1841, the proceedings of the triumphant foes of Democracy were marked out and carried by the unbridled zeal of the self-constituted Dictator.—The acts of that memorable session, emanating from himself and his councils, have been mostly repealed and condemned at the polls by the people. They stand as a monument of the unfitness of Mr. Clay for the practical duties of an American Statesman. He repealed the Constitutional Treasury—that repeal gave the public moneys to his favorite discredited banks. He passed a Bankrupt law—it was so intolerable that his own friends rescinded it. He laid the corner stone of a National Debt—it has grown already to twenty-six millions; and requires an additional tax upon the people of more than a million of dollars per annum. The proposed assumption of the State Debts would rapidly swell it to two hundred and fifty millions of debt; to paid out of the pockets of the American people, generally to foreign holders, often to foreign stock-jobbers—necessarily requiring a direct tax to be levied on the farmer and mechanic for the payment of interest. He twice passed a bill to charter a National Bank—and twice it was averted only by the veto of President Tyler, though he forced, in his violent struggles to carry that disastrous project, the resignation of the cabinet council of that officer. He has bent all his energies to overthrow that conservative power of the constitution which enables the executive on behalf of the people, to arrest the legislation of Congress, when a bare majority act against their interests or will, for purposes of faction, or at the instigation of violent and ambitious men.

Such were the "changes" produced in 1841, by the promises and proceedings of 1840—reduced wages, reduced prices, insolvent banks, worthless paper money, increased debt, increased taxes, and violent assaults upon the Constitution. Such were the payments by the whigs of the draughts they drew on the credulity of their partizans.—Such too was the political conduct and character of the man by whose counsels and influence—to serve whose objects—these things were done. Such is the man who is now presented as the Whig candidate for the Presidency—the advocate of a policy that will impose on the people of the United States a fifty million Bank—an enormous National Debt—a direct tax—paper money—and a currency from which gold and silver can scarcely fail to be again excluded—the man whose influence gave the Presidency of the minority candidate, John Quincy Adams—who was proud to signalize himself as the unrelenting foe of Andrew Jackson

through his whole administration—who opposed with most intemperate zeal the Democratic measures of Martin Van Buren—and who seized with eager haste the very first moments of power, fraudulently obtained by his party, to press with a violence that time had not abated, over and over again, with the disapprobation of the people.

In expressing their preference for a candidate for the Vice Presidency, the Convention spoke by acclamation, the wishes of their constituents in favor of RICHARD M. JOHNSON. Twice before had Pennsylvania named him for that high office. "Twice before had her Democracy given him their vote. His long life of devotion to the public service is distinguished by repeated acts securing for him the confidence of his republican fellow citizens. The gallantry with which he left the halls of Congress to breast the dangers of savage warfare—the bravery which bore him foremost into the conflict; the heroism that inspired his comrades, while life seemed to be passing away with his own blood—the memory of all this is deeply planted in the hearts of his countrymen. Nor are they insensible to his steady support of Democratic measures, through his long legislative service. His zeal in the cause of civil and religious freedom, his untiring efforts to secure justice to the survivors in our revolutionary struggle, his patient and at last successful perseverance to effect the abolition of imprisonment for debt, are but a few among many actions which display the wisdom of the statesman and the philanthropy of the man. Deprived as he apparently was, in 1840, of the approving testimony of his country, the Democracy of Pennsylvania gladly unite with their republican brethren of other States, to present him again as their candidate in the full assurance of his triumphant success.

These, fellow-citizens, are the men whom the Convention has presented for your suffrages in the approaching contest. They are every way worthy of your choice. The occasion is one which demands from you every honorable effort to secure their success. The Democracy of the whole Union are alive to its importance, for the maintenance of their principles; but upon Pennsylvania, the Keystone of the arch, rests more than upon any other State, the solemn duty of upholding that cause which never in reality wanted her and never appeared to do so except when the ballot boxes gave a return of the suffrages of her votes which we believe to have been untrue.

- JOHN C. BUCHER,
LUTHER REILY,
HENRY BUEHLER,
M. B. LOWRY,
WILLIAM BIGLER,
JAMES R. SNOWDEN,
HENRY HORN,
HENRY D. GILPIN,
JOHN H. DOHNERT,
SAMUEL D. PATTERSON,
CHARLES BROWN,
A. L. ROUMFORT,
THOMAS M'CALLY,
GEORGE SMITH,
CHAMBERS M'KIBBEN,
RHODY PATTERSON,
GEORGE R. RIDDLE,
CHARLES KUGLER,
JOHN K. FINDLAY,
ROBERT J. FISHER.
HARRISBURG, April 4, 1844.

NEGROIANA.—A planter in Virginia once owned a slave in connexion with one of his neighbors. He was a pious man and would sometimes wind up his prayers by saying: "Oh, Lord, in addition to all the blessings, I, a sinner, have asked at your hands, will you, in your infinite mercy and goodness, condescend to bless my half of Pomp?"

A LEGAL TENDER.—A Florida soldier who had lost a leg in the service of his country, entered a cabaret, or drinking-house, in New Orleans, treated himself and sundry others, and when called upon to pay, said his wooden leg was a legal tender. He was taken before a magistrate to see if such currency would go well.

A NEW FEATURE.—The New Orleans Picayune says: "Every day brings something new. In 'popping the question' now, the stricken individual, instead of saying, 'Miss, will you marry me?' exclaims, 'Miss, are you in favor of annexation?'"

REPARTEE.—A clergyman was censuring a young lady for tight lacing. "Why," replied the young lady, "you could not surely recommend loose habits to your parishioners." The clergyman smiled.