

Bradford Reporter

WEDNESDAY,

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

[BY E. S. GOODRICH & SON.]

TOWANDA, BRADFORD COUNTY, PA., JULY 31, 1844.

NO. 7.

NATIVE AMERICANS.

Bradford Argus, in its two last issues, has made and reiterated an outpouring of public decency by most foul violation of the fair fame of David Esq., and by entire perversion of the recent resolutions of the Democratic Association. The first is a covert attack (for assassins are "only brave in the dark,") but covert merely against the responsibility, (for they too "dare not be named,") while an adjutant in a corner "guides the dagger to the heart-thrust." We had supposed that all stereotype slanders of "bloated" &c. were worn out; but as they have revived, to save the cost of a plate, we would now suggest that the same slang be set to music, to give it charms, and turned over to the Club choristers of whose grace the Argus-man has such a supercilious fancy, since "no club is complete without one." This would instantly shift the responsibility. Better these songs might help to fill up the blank caused by the omission of "Van Van" ditties in a new edition of the book with the yaller kiver," so suddenly out of date.

In the absence of Mr. Wilnot we speak his due. He fulfils the relation of a neighbor and citizen to the nation of all thus connected with him. We know him in none other, but to just remark; we can dream of, subjecting him to public reprobation. He is a candidate for no office; he is before the public in no way but to give his views to his fellow-citizens when called for; and these he is a poor democrat not to hold to fair criticism, which can only be made a pretext for foul-mouthed abuse by the basely-depraved. In the "lower deep" has been brewed; for the falsification of his resolutions seems to have been a mere step-down to the atrocious calumny of the character. We shall proceed to indicate the spirit of the resolutions, the bare observation that the riots in Philadelphia were in no wise the subject of either, and without any reference to meet, specifically, the world's aggressions from truth as to both; we have no patience with such low manners, and perhaps could not moderate to speak of aspersions; yet as disgusting in the execution, as calumnious in their intention. If we sought for an epithet to describe the infamous calumniator we but ask the writer of the Argus to echo of his own voice as he speaks that name, and to note how weak the thunders of conscience it awakens, syllabing ever the same, "FAMOUS CALUMNIATOR!"

The evening was far-spent in the address of Mr. Allen, who was the prominent man of the meeting," as Argus terms it. Mr. Wilnot presented the resolutions we published last week (with a misprint, by the way of "Native American") with brief remarks chiefly to this point; that, as therein, the Native American Association is hostile to the principles of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution &c.; that it is contrary to the equality of our laws; calculated to create ill-blood between native and naturalized citizens who have by law equal rights; that riot and bloodshed, Philadelphia, are the legitimate fruits of such invidious resolutions, especially when introduced by partisan politicians; that this combination had assumed a political organization and that all its political importance is to the countenance given it and the achievements with it by the whigs in New York; and that all efforts to change this question into the politics of the day ought to be frowned down at; for where is the security—if you are the victim to-day of the accident of your birth-place and the consciousness of your religion, that I shall fall to-morrow for my native land which I can not help and my religion dearer a thousand-fold than this? This, dwelling upon scenes of Philadelphia as the certain cause of the unholy union of such a party with partisan politics, was the spirit and extent of Mr. W.'s speech, without imputing at all, the deplorable riots of the city to the party, which we know he repeatedly, to do; as publicly he did, the Argus-man to the countenance.

all the principal towns, with a head in Washington, is capable of immense injury to the Republic. As samples of its principles we quote now merely a resolution of the N. Y. Association; viz:—"We do solemnly resolve to oppose the election or appointment of any but American citizens to office, and henceforward to use our united efforts and unsparing zeal to procure such an alteration in the naturalization laws as shall exclude from the right of suffrage all foreigners who come into this country after such law has passed"—and an extract from an address of the Louisiana Association published with much solemnity of form, saying—"It is indeed by their labor, and by that only, that foreigners render any service to the United States; and it is the first prerogative of the American people to confine them to this, their only proper vocation in our country." Such are the proclaimed principles of an Association with which "the whig party openly and manifestly identified themselves in the recent charter election of New York" when the Democrats gave their candidate for Mayor some 20,000 votes, near the party strength; the whigs, theirs, some 5,000—those who scorned a coalition—while the whigs and "Native Americans" together gained the day over both. If this be not identification, for "all useful purposes," we mistake the term;—and this was the first movement which gave them importance as a political party, and was speedily imitated in Philadelphia, or its Liberties, but with an ill-success which engendered feelings for a very different contest.

But we wish to show fully the hospitality breathed throughout our institutions for the stranger within our gates; premising that it ill becomes us who at most are but few removes from a foreign stock, the migration of whose fathers hither was to find for themselves and found for others an asylum from the religious and political despotisms of the old world, now to close our hearts and our ports upon the miseries of the unblest of the earth, while the boundless fields of the West offer the rich deposits of ages to the uses of labor. Nor is such inhospitality less opposed to the spirit in which our Government was founded and the form of all the fundamental laws of our country. The Continental Congress, fourteen months before the Declaration of Independence, published an address to the people of Ireland, in which, after expressing the regret of the colonies that their commercial non-intercourse with Great Britain must affect Ireland which "had done them no wrong," they say: "It gave us, however, some consolation to reflect that should it occasion you much distress, the fertile regions of America would afford you a safe asylum from poverty and, in time, [noble prophecy!] from oppression also; as an asylum in which thousands of your countrymen have found hospitality, peace and affluence, and become united to us by all the ties of consanguinity, mutual interest and affection." The Declaration of Independence itself (be it immortal!) assigns as the 6th "act which may define a tyrant" in the King of Great Britain that "he has endeavored to prevent the population of these states; for that purpose obstructing the laws of naturalization of foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migration hither, and raising the conditions of new appropriations of lands;" and to carry out the declared inalienable right of man to the "pursuit of happiness," wherever it may lead him in his honest vocations, the constitution enumerates 4th among the powers of Congress this, "to establish a uniform rule of naturalization" &c. Congress has accordingly passed various laws whose tendency to ameliorate the condition of aliens is known in the reduction of the term of naturalization from fourteen to five years. Naturalized citizens become eligible in time to any station in the general government except the two first offices. By the constitutions of several states no restriction whatever is placed on naturalized citizens as electors, unless in Rhode Island—nor is their qualification for legislative functions distinguished in any way from that of native Americans except in Maine and Georgia; the former requiring Assemblymen and Senators to have been five years citizens of the U.S., and the latter limiting seven years for the H. R. and nine for the Senate. We should add that in three states, of which ours is one, Assemblymen are required to have been "citizens and inhabitants of the state" three years, and Senators a year or two more; though in our plain view this could not operate any discrimination; but we leave that to professional

opinions or adjudications. We will notice here the State-constitutional provisions which appear more lenient than the national naturalization laws, omitting qualifications not pertinent to this inquiry. Massachusetts, by her constitution of 1779-80, made "every male inhabitant of one year's residence an elector & eligible to the H. R." and to remove all doubts concerning the word "inhabitant" in this constitution every person shall be considered as an inhabitant (for the purpose of electing or being elected into any office or place within this state) in that town, district, or plantation where he dwelleth, or hath his home." In 1821 an amendment was made, as to electors only, substituting the word citizen for inhabitant. The constitution of New Hampshire of '92 gives "every male inhabitant—excepting paupers and persons excommunicated from paying taxes at their own request," the right of voting, and qualifies inhabitants of two years residence for the H. R., with the same clause defining the word "inhabitant" above quoted from the constitution of Massachusetts; and this constitution remains unamended. The constitution of North Carolina, which is contemporary with our independence, makes "all freemen" of one year's residence electors and eligible to either branch of the Legislature. It has this remarkable provision, the only one containing the word citizen:

"Every foreigner who comes to settle in this State, having first taken an oath of allegiance to the same, may purchase, or by other just means acquire, hold and transfer land, or other real estate; and after one year's residence be deemed a free citizen."

The constitution of Vermont provides that "every man" with the qualifications of age, one year's residence, good character, and the oath of allegiance "shall be entitled to all the privileges of a freeman" and borrows from North Carolina the liberal article above cited, with this alteration, that every person after one year's residence in the state, "shall be deemed a free denizen thereof, and entitled to all the rights of a natural born subject of this state, except that he shall not be capable of being elected governor, lieutenant-governor, treasurer, councillor, or representative in assembly, until after two years' residence." The charter of Rhode Island, granted by Charles II., under which its government was administered until lately, made the governor and members of the "general assembly" eligible by "the major part of the freemen." We learn from the Public Ledger that under the constitution of the Algerines, "free negroes are allowed to vote—naturalized citizens are not, unless they own freeholds." In New Jersey, an attempt made in the convention now sitting, to prohibit naturalized citizens of the U. S., resident there, from voting until a certain period after their naturalization, was recently voted down. Their constitution, two days older than our Declaration, entitles "all inhabitants" worth fifty pounds proclamation money to vote, according to which ladies formerly exercised the right, until the men in the Legislature, (for luckily the constitution, tho' it admitted "any inhabitant" to the council or assembly, provided that he should possess a certain amount of property) put an end to female rights and family jars, *quoad hoc*, by a declaratory resolution informing the world that "all inhabitants" of New Jersey were not women. Maryland had the same provision (making "all freemen" of one year's residence electors and eligible to the H. R.) as North Carolina, which appears to have copied from the former; but an amendment of 1802 substituted the words "free white male citizen." Tennessee, like these states, declares "every freeman" after six months' residence entitled to vote, and after three years eligible to either house of Assembly.—Ohio and Illinois entitle "all white male inhabitants" to vote; the former state after one year's residence, the latter, six months; and this provision is copied in Michigan.

As to the highest degree in the gift of the people of the states, that of Governor, three only require unqualifiedly, by the fundamental law, native-born citizens, viz: Maine, New York and Virginia; and two, Missouri and Alabama, admit only native citizens, or citizens at the formation of their separate governments, with the broad provision in Alabama, that "any white male person" resident therein at the adoption of the constitution, 1819, shall be eligible to any office of trust or profit, any provision to the contrary notwithstanding. Illinois requires 30 years citizenship; Mississippi 20; Delaware, Georgia and Ohio 12; South Carolina and Indiana 10; and the rest

of the states from no years, as Connecticut, up to 7, in Pennsylvania alone. Massachusetts and New Hampshire require an "inhabitant" (with the constitutional explanation before given) of 7 years; Maryland and North Carolina a 5 years' resident; Vermont one of 4; and the clauses as to freeholds before cited, show that in the two last named states, for all constitutional prohibitions, aliens are eligible to their first offices.

An act of the Virginia Legislature of 1770, contains this emphatic declaration:—"All men have a natural right to relinquish the country in which birth or other accidents may have thrown them, and to seek subsistence and happiness wherever they may be able, or may hope to find them."

Such is the welcome of our land to the family of man—a land proclaimed by our National Convention of 1840, as always by Democrats, the "asylum of the oppressed of every nation."—Thus do we cherish, (in the words of Jefferson, consecrated by their incorporation into one of the text-books of our political faith, the Kentucky Resolutions of '98,) "the friendly strangers to whom the mild spirit of our country and its law had pledged hospitality and protection." And shall the small-souled "Native American" (Heaven save the mark!) stretch out one finger of the clenched hand, which should be as open as our hearts towards the oppressed, to point to this land and say—

"Not there will weary stranger halt,
To bless 'the sacred bread and salt.'"

Obedience and protection are reciprocal duties between people and government. The failure in protection is set forth by most of the preambles of the first constitutions as the reason why the colonists renounced their former allegiance. Citizen and alien may alike claim the shelter of our government, who yield it their support and comply with its laws. The shield we put on in the last war with Britain, was the ægis of protection to naturalized citizens and adopted aliens; for who but they could suffer by impressment?

No right was asserted over native citizens, however they were involved by the abuse. We waged war in defence of our commerce and our adopted seamen—"free trade and sailors' rights"—and scorned the base proposal to cupidly of peace to our ships and no peace to our seamen, "commuting our sailors' rights for the safety of our merchants' goods." Nobly then did native and adopted sons unite to make glorious this vindication of national hospitality.

We delight to trace, in his official acts, the course of the great Apostle of Democracy in this connection. He was the author of the resolutions by the Congress of the Declaration inviting foreigners to this "asylum of oppressed man," with the promise of lands &c. He introduced into the Virginia Legislature the famous act avowing the right of expatriation, in terms quoted in our last, which should stand through all time a noble aphorism against the odious pretension to perpetual allegiance. "The right," says Professor Tucker of this law, "has since expressly received the general sanction of the American people, and has found a virtual recognition in the practice of all civilized nations." He wrote the Kentucky Resolutions whose prophecy of "revolution and blood" is almost literally fulfilled in a sad history of blood and riot. He has indeed been selected as the safest subject of a first experiment; but the citizen will soon follow, or rather has already followed, for already has a seditious act marked him as its prey; that these and successive acts of the same character, unless arrested on the threshold, may tend to drive these states into revolution and blood;" and asks indignantly what is our government but a tyranny which the President has accepted (with the Alien act) "over the friendly strangers to whom the mild spirit of our country and its law had pledged hospitality and protection." The repeal of these laws followed, immediately, his elevation to the presidency, as well as the restoration of the term of naturalization to five years where it remains, from fourteen, where the distrustful counsels that preceded him had fixed it. In his first message he says,

"A denial of citizenship under a residence of fourteen years is a denial to a great proportion of those who ask it;—and controls a policy pursued, from their first settlement, by many of these states, and still believed of consequence to their prosperity. And shall we refuse the unhappy fugitives from distress that hospitality which the savages of the wilderness extended to our fathers arriving in this land? Shall oppressed humanity find no asylum on this globe? &c." It

is thus seen how Jefferson cherished the Constitution, as Washington exhorted in one of his addresses to Congress, "for the sake of those who, from every clime, are daily seeking a dwelling in our land." And this has remained a cardinal principle of Democracy, practised and proclaimed, down to its last convention in Baltimore, to whose resolutions we refer the reader.

Where then but among the federal-whigs are the signers of such petitions to Congress as one now before us? stating that "the farther admission of foreigners to a participation in the political rights of native Americans would be hurtful to the interests of our country," and asking for "a repeal of the naturalization laws"—which by the way, could only send aliens back to the unequal legislation of the states; for the power of Congress is concurrent one; and the object sought, to exclude foreigners by national legislation, is unconstitutional, as well as hostile to the whole tenor of our laws, state and federal. Who opposed the last war waged in protection of adopted aliens? Who but a federal-whig committee in congress in 1838 reported at length it, accordance with petitions of the tenor above cited? And as if whig printers must not want a hyphen to connect their name with that of the federal authors of the alien and sedition laws—who but federal-whigs in congress avoided *en masse*, the vote on refunding in 1840, Matthew Lyon's fine imposed under the sedition act of '98? Matthew Lyon was a naturalized Irishman, a member of Congress from Vermont, who was fined \$1000 and imprisoned four months in their reign of terror, for a temperate rebuke of the Executive.—A successful effort was made at last to restore the fine unconstitutionally exorted. The House contained 242 members. A vote to lay the bill on the table, a *quæstus*, resulted yeas 171 nays 129. On final passage there were 125 yeas—15 nays!—all the democrats in their places, while the whigs, though unable to prevent a quorum, dodged!—all but 15, who by open opposition took the bolder way, of closing the link which bound them to the fathers of their party. Even as we write, the news arrives of a petition presented by John Q. Adams in the H. R. on the 31st ult. extending the probation of aliens for naturalization to twenty years. Mr. Hammett, a democrat, moved that it be laid on the table—carried, yeas 128; nays 26. Among the yeas we recognize some half dozen Whigs; among the nays one Democrat alone. Where were the rest of the Whigs? The House now consists of 223 members; 69 therefore did not vote. Who fear to meet this question? and why?

The federal-whig candidate for the presidency in 1840 used this language in his Cleveland stump-speech, an authentic report of which is before us,—"I rely upon the good opinion of my countrymen; I care nothing for the opinion of those who have come hither, 3000 miles across the water." During the same campaign the central Association at Washington co-operated with the whig Executive committee, enjoying the prostitution of congressional franks in the interim of adjournment, both adding dictation to fraud by radiating delusion from that centre of corruption, at the expense of the deluded, upon the public sentiment which democracy endeavors to concentrate from the broad circumference of popular primary assemblies. In every attempt (and they have not been few,) to disorder elections by questions of nativity or religion—fatal to liberty which would smile here blessingly on all—democrats have frowned upon the desecration; they scent "Alien and Sedition," "Church and State" in the breeze.—We hold the earth man's heritage and maintain his right to locate where he pleases. But the principles of the Association are skunkishly odorous of the Alien act; and, with the *coonish* addition of Crittenden's gag-bill, are redolent enough of the Alien and Sedition laws to keep any but "Native" and Whig noses at a respectful distance.—Under all the varied names Federalists, National Republicans, Antimasons, Democratic Whigs, Native Americans, down to American Republicans, the last cognomen, (we read the *dailies*), assumed in Philadelphia, not a democrat can be found—whom we would take back.

As Pennsylvanians we should never forget that a federal Senate, ejected our Gallatin by a strict party vote, on an alien question. Gallatin who was the Atlas of Democracy in the Congress of '09—1801 while Jefferson and Madison were organizing victory through the State legislatures. Prejudice only, of the same character, could have ostracized him from the equality of honors due peculiarly to these three, who have impressed their gigantic minds upon the Con-

stitution in its operation, we trust, for all time.

At a stated meeting of the Democratic Association of Towanda held at the Court House on Tuesday evening 21st June, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

"Resolved, That the resolutions passed by the Wilkesbarre Association, the 11th inst., be adopted by this Association, and published in the Bradford Reporter.

"Resolved, That this Association consider the Declaration of Independence as the great confession of the public faith of the friends of Liberty in the United States, as embodying the principles of human freedom.

"Resolved, That like those who adopted that immortal charter, "we hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created free and equal;" no matter what country gave them birth; "that they are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights—that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

"Resolved, That those who achieved our Independence proclaimed this country the "asylum of oppressed man."

"Resolved, That we consider the society denominated the "Native American Association," a libel upon the character of our Country—a libel upon the Declaration of Independence, and upon the characters of those who subscribed that memorable charter; that its spirit is anti-Republican, anti-American, anti-Christian, and a most foul and treasonable plot against Liberty.

"Resolved, That the Association of "Native Americans" had its origin with the Federal Whig party, the supporters of Henry Clay; that it is a renewal of the spirit of the odious *Alien and Sedition Laws*; that the federal Whig party have openly and manifestly identified themselves with it in a recent charter election in the city of New York; and is no less than a declaration of hostilities against all foreigners who come to our shores in pursuit of freedom."

A TALL POLK STALK.—The Democracy of Columbus, Ga., and vicinity, erected on Friday the 31st ult., a Hickory pole which out-does any thing we have heard of. In construction it resembles a ship's mast, being rigged with cross-ribs 90 feet from the earth, where 20 men may sit and drink long life and health to Polk and Dallas, and success to their glorious cause. On this is mounted a piece of ordnance, high enough to send its brazen echoes for many miles around the city. When every thing was completed, this gun was fired, while the American Flag with the "Lone Star of Texas" were then run up to the truck, in token of the hearty response of the gallant Democracy of Muscogee to the Baltimore nominations.

PASS IT ROUND, that the whigs are opposed to the "One Day Election Law" because it would do away with the iniquitous system of PIPE LAYING, by which they are in hopes of succeeding. Pass it round, also that a Democratic House of Representatives passed the bill, but that a Whig Senate rejected it.

SLADE, the Abolitionist, and one of the most bitter, canting, hypocritical, drawing knives we have ever known, without virtue or talents, having straddled the abolition hobby to give himself notoriety, has been dominated by the Whigs of Vermont, as their candidate for Governor.

PUT THAT AND THAT TOGETHER.—Remember, also, that Daniel Webster says—"What we did in 1840, we must do in 1844!"

Put these together, and then look out for "pipe layers."

JAMES K. POLK is the son of poor parents—inch by inch and step by step has he won his way from poverty and obscurity, by the sole strength of his indomitable energy and his brilliant talents.

A POWER.—Senator Jarnagan, in addressing the Whigs at Trenton, in New Jersey, asked what the Democrats expected to gain by electing Mr. Polk.—"Two dollars a day and roast beef!" replied a voice in the crowd.

WHERE'S CLAY?—An anti-gambling society, numbering 500 members, has been formed at Baltimore lately.