

REPORTER

Wednesday, December 18, 1844

Disastrous Fire—Loss of Life.

About 2 o'clock on Wednesday afternoon, 4th inst., the Cumberland Valley Railroad Bridge over the Susquehanna at Harrisburg, was discovered to be on fire, and so rapidly did the flames spread there being a high wind at the time, that before their progress could be arrested, the bridge was almost entirely consumed. The fire started about midway between the Island in the middle of the river and the shore, causing much damage to several buildings in the immediate vicinity; meantime the flames continued to spread in the opposite direction, until twenty of the twenty-four arches composing the bridge, were entirely consumed. An effort to blow up the bridge where it crosses the island and thus arrest the progress of the fire, proving unsuccessful, the roof and the greater portion of the timbers were cut in two, about the middle of the fifth arch from the Harrisburg side of the river. The means was successful in stopping the flames, but unfortunately cost the lives of a number of citizens; for when the fire reached the fifth pier the whole span fell into the river, carrying with it 50 or 60 persons who were engaged with the fire apparatus between the fourth pier and the point cut, catching a number between the timbers, mangle their bodies in a horrible manner, and severely injuring several others.

LATER.—The Democratic Union, of Thursday, says:—As if by a Providential interference, the loss of life was not so great as apprehended by those on shore, a large number having clung to the timbers, and others being relieved from their perilous situation by means of boats. The principal sufferers are—John Yousting, instantly killed; Thomas De Moss, a lad about 14 years of age, not expected to survive; John Brown, a Mr. Rhoads, and Mr. Van Camp, dangerously injured; a number of others more or less hurt.

This bridge was one of the most splendid pieces of architecture in the country. The track of the railroad was laid upon the top, and beneath was a double carriage way and foot path.—It was over a mile in length, and the cost of construction was upwards of \$130,000. The fire originated doubtless from a spark from a locomotive.—There is little probability that it will soon be re-constructed.

Electoral Colleges.

THE PENNSYLVANIA ELECTORS, met in the Chamber of the State Senate at Harrisburg, on Wednesday, and elected Wilson McCandless, Esq., President, and John J. McCahen, Secretary. Horn R. Kneass and Isaac Hugie were unanimously elected to fill the places of Christian Kneass and Isaac Ankeny, absent, the first from sickness.

The College then proceeded to ballot, and cast 26 electoral votes for JAMES K. POLK and GEORGE M. DALLAS, as President and Vice President of the United States.

Dr. Geo. F. Lehman was appointed to deliver one of the certificates of the vote to the President of the Senate at Washington; and Conrad Shimer, to deliver a duplicate to Archibald Randall, Judge of the District Court of the U. S. at Philadelphia.

The New York Electors met at Albany on Tuesday, and organized by unanimously electing Chief Justice Savage as Chairman. After completing their organization, they adjourned to Wednesday when they again assembled every Elector being in his place, and cast the thirty-six votes of New York for JAMES K. POLK, and GEORGE M. DALLAS, as President and Vice President of the United States.

Thirty-six guns were fired without, by order of the Democratic General Committee of Albany, tallying the votes as they were cast, by arranged signals.

RELIGIOUS NOTICE.—Divine service, will be performed at the Episcopal Church, on this (Wednesday) evening, at early candlelight, by Rev. Mr. Colton.

THE POPULAR VOTE.—The vote at the late election shows an increase over that of 1840, of about 245,000. We shall publish a list of the official as soon as it can be obtained.

News from all Nations.

A scoundrel by the name of Aaron Rosencrantz was arrested in Buffalo a few days ago. He was pursued from Allegheny county, where he had passed off counterfeit \$5's on the Bank of Troy.

The public debt of Mexico, besides what she owes to the United States, is said to be eighty-two millions of dollars upon which the annual interest is nearly five millions of dollars.

Capt. Dumas, of the brig Cyrus, captured by a British vessel on the coast of Africa, has deposited his flag in the Secretary of State's office, because he alleges it is no protection! It is said that the Cyrus had a cargo of slaves.

A small steamer named the Actimon, employed in carrying the mails between Jamaica and the Spanish Main, was lost on the 20th October, about 8 miles from Cartagena, having struck a sunken rock. The loss to the Company would not be less than £20,000.

The capital of the banks in the United States has been reduced one hundred and eight millions of dollars, however, larger than it was in 1830.

The foot race over the Beacon Course is announced to take place on Monday, the 16th inst. The race will be for \$1,000—the distance 12 miles.

The saving of fuel used by the Locomotives on the Liverpool and Manchester Railway, is 75 per cent., as compared with the amounts used in 1838.

The cooper shop of Joseph Fuller, on Lancaster street, Rochester, N. Y., was destroyed by fire on Sunday evening. There was no insurance on the building.

When a spot scratched upon white paper for the purpose of erasing ink marks, is rubbed over with india-rubber, ink, re-applied, will not spread.

The editor of an Albany paper, speaking of the weather says: "The air was as bracing as a pair of corsets." Happy simile.

The New Hampshire Legislature has passed a resolution abolishing regimental musters.

Green corn from the gardens still continues to be served up on the tables at Charleston, S. C.

A new paper called the American Eagle, devoted to the American Republican party, has been commenced at Boston.

Candles made of cocoa nut oil are in vogue at Boston.

Good ale may be made from the roots of the mangel wurtsel.

The Legislature of South Carolina (Senate and House) consists of 166 members—they are all Democrats this year. The popular majority is about 47,000 Democratic.

A letter from Trinidad de Cuba, in the Boston Transcript, states the Arab, a Philadelphia vessel, was lost in the late gale, and only one man saved out of eight on board.

The Hon. Ratliff Boone, formerly a member of Congress of Indiana, died at his residence in Louisiana, on the 20th ultimo, in the 64th year of his age.

There are ten Catholic colleges in the United States, at which are educated 1200 young men.

A cotton gin has been established in the Cherokee nation, capable of picking 4 or 5000 pounds daily.

There were 11 foreign arrivals at Boston during the month of November, and 166 foreign clearances.

In Crawford county, Pa., on the 24th ult. snow was lying to the depth of a foot.

Gov. Bigger, of Indiana will probably be the new Senator in Congress.

The Susquehanna River was frozen over at Columbia on Tuesday.

John Stark, Esq., third son of the late General (and we suppose "Molly") Stark, died at Manchester, N. H., on the 26th ult., in the ancient house built by his father eighty years ago.

A daughter of Mr. Joseph Bimm, residing in the vicinity of Dayton, Ohio, six years of age, was burned so badly by her clothes accidentally taking fire, on the 28th ult., that she died in a few hours.

The Governor of Maryland, it is said, cannot benefit Torrey by pardoning him, even if disposed to such an act, inasmuch as the Governor of Virginia has made a requisition for the prisoner.

The canal tolls taken at Buffalo the past season, exceed half a million of dollars.

Bradford County Court.

MONDAY, Dec. 2d 1844.

COM. vs. GEORGE W. GRACE.—This was an indictment for an assault and battery on John L. Merrick, in which the following were the principal facts disclosed.

It appeared that some time in the course of the last summer, the wife of the defendant left him on the alleged ground of ill treatment, and Grace having pursued and found her, committed this offence. The defence set up was, that the defendant was insane at the time. The purport of the testimony to prove insanity was, that at times, Grace appeared very much agitated and excited, especially whenever his wife was spoken of. The Court charged the Jury, that unless they were satisfied, that the defendant at the time he committed the offence was in such a condition that he did not know right from wrong, the plea of insanity ought not to avail him. That it had become somewhat fashionable in other parts of the country to set up this defence; but this had been seldom done, except in cases of murder. That, however, if insanity could be proved in an assault and battery, the defendant would be entitled to the benefit of it.—That from the testimony, it appeared that Grace was some what addicted to drinking, and would some times act in a strange and unaccountable manner.—That if his conduct was the result merely of intoxication, and under its influence, he yielded to the evil suggestions of his mind, it would afford no palliation of his offence, but on the contrary, would tend to render it more aggravating. That to hold a man to be insane, when under the temporary excitement of passion caused by inebriation, would be to furnish inducements to men to indulge in drinking.

Judson Hale was to-day duly admitted as an attorney of the several Courts of this county.

TUESDAY, Dec. 3d, 1844.

In the case of the Com. vs. Grace, the jury rendered a verdict of guilty.—The Court sentenced him to pay a fine of ten dollars to the Commonwealth and the costs of prosecution.

COM. vs. WM. S. SPENCER.—Prosecutor, O. P. Ballard.

This was an indictment for setting fire to and burning on the 14th day of April last, the barn of the prosecutor in Troy, containing a large quantity of hay and grain.

The indictment was found against Lemuel and William Spencer; but as the former left the country soon after his arrest, the latter only was placed upon his trial.

The evidence was entirely circumstantial, and the principal circumstances relied on to procure a conviction were, that some time previous to the burning of the barn, Mr. Ballard had collected a debt of Mrs. Farnsworth, the mother-in-law of the defendant, which so excited Spencer, that repeated threats were made by him, that Mr. Ballard would lose ten times as much property as he had thus unjustly acquired.

The prosecution also gave in evidence, that some time previous, Thaddeus Spencer died in debt to Ballard, leaving property sufficient to pay all claims against him. That his father and brother took possession of the property, and refusing to pay the debt due by Thaddeus, were sued by Mr. Ballard, and judgment recovered against them. That after this occurrence, threats were thrown out, that this would do Ballard no good, that they would burn his barn, &c.

There was also some testimony to show, that after the barn was burnt, the defendant said he was not sorry, but that he wished his house had shared the same fate with him in it; and that, at different times, he gave variant accounts of his whereabouts on the night of the fire. The prosecution, after having attempted to establish a concert between the two individuals indicted, offered to prove the declarations made by Lemuel in relation to this matter, to operate as evidence against William. The Court did not deem the concert sufficiently made out, and the evidence was accordingly rejected.

On the part of the defendant, several witnesses were called to prove an alibi. The purport of this was, that Spencer at the house of Mrs. Farnsworth, about six miles from Troy at the time the barn was burnt. That he was in bed with his wife, in a room in which two other women slept—and that it would have been highly improbable, that he could

have left the house and returned, without one or the other hearing him; and that there was no horse about the premises, with other circumstances of the like nature.

Thomas Smead was to-day duly admitted an Attorney of the courts of this county.

THURSDAY, Dec. 5th, 1844.

The case of the Com. vs. Spencer, resulted in the Jury to-day rendering a verdict of not guilty.

COM. vs. CHAR. FURMAN.—Mr. Furman was arraigned and pleaded guilty yesterday; but his sentence was not given till to-day.

He was indicted for stealing a turkey of the value fifty cents. In palliation of his offence, the taking of turkeys was represented to be a very common practice, followed by some of the most respectable inhabitants of Troy and its vicinity.

That it was considered a mere matter of sport for a man to steal a turkey, and invite his friends to help him eat it, and that the invariable custom was, to send an invitation to the owner.

The defendant stated, that he was in company with several other young men, that they asked him where they could find some turkeys, that they went to a place where some were procured, that he took one, put it in John Morgan's shed, and that some person carried it off.

The Court remarked, that the young man had been very unfortunate in following a practice so dangerous and reprehensible, and one that was calculated to be so vexatious, at any rate, to the owners of these birds.

He was sentenced to restore the stolen property, if not already restored, or pay the value thereof to the owner, to pay a like amount to the Commonwealth, to undergo imprisonment in the county goal for ten days, and to pay the costs of prosecution.

COM. vs. ALBERT FERRIS.—Prosecutor, Joseph H. Dewitt.—This was an indictment for cutting timber, trees in the township of Columbia, on lands belonging to the trustees of the estate of the late William Bingham, deceased.

The prosecution gave in evidence title of the Bingham trustees to the warrant upon which the trees were cut, and also proof that the defendant cut the timber. The defendant, by his counsel, contended that he honestly believed he had a right to go on to this land, and cut timber.

The Court charged the Jury, that the Bingham title exhibited, was perfect and indisputable, and left it to them to say, under the evidence, whether the defendant honestly believed he had any right under the trustees to go on to the tract and cut timber.

FRIDAY, Dec. 6, 1844.

In the case of the Com. vs. Ferris, the Jury this morning returned a verdict of guilty.

The Court sentenced him to pay a fine of thirty dollars to the Commonwealth and the costs of prosecution.

COM. vs. PATRICK CROLY.—Prosecutor, Henry Siber.—This was an indictment for arson, in setting fire to, and burning the house of John Croly in the township of Rome.

It appeared, that Patrick agreed with John, that he might put up a house and live on his (Patrick's) land, for ten years, if they could so long agree, &c.

In pursuance of this agreement, John built a house and resided there until last spring, when some difficulty having arisen between the two, Patrick gave John notice to quit the premises. This request was not complied with, and on the 27th day of July 1844, the house was consumed by fire.

The prosecution proved that Patrick had said that if he could find the family out of the house, he would do with it as he pleased; and some of the witnesses testified, that he said he would burn it up if he could find it empty &c.

On the part of the defendant, testimony was produced to impeach the credibility of some of the witnesses for the prosecution.

It was likewise strenuously contended on the part of the defence, that the agreement for the use of the land, not having been reduced to writing, it would have the effect of a lease or estate at will only, according to the statute of frauds; and, that consequently, the owner had a right to terminate the lease whenever in his pleasure, he might deem proper.

The counsel for the prosecution replied to this, that it had been repeatedly

decided that where a person in pursuance of a contract went on to land and made valuable improvements, it took the case out of the statute.

SATURDAY, Dec 7th, 1844.

William S. Spencer, who was tried for arson and acquitted, was brought up to-day, and sentenced by the Court to enter into a recognizance, himself in the sum of four hundred dollars, with one good surety in the like amount, conditioned to keep the peace, and to be of good behavior towards all our good citizens, and especially toward Orrin P. Ballard, for the space of one year.

WM. SILVUS vs. ISAAC H. ROSS.—Action on a promissory note, drawn by Edward L. Paine, payable to the order of Isaac H. Ross, and by Ross indorsed and made payable to William Silvis.—Verdict for the defendant.

In the case of the Com. vs. Croly, the defendant was acquitted.

Large Democratic Meeting in Bradford Co.

At a great Democratic gathering of the citizens of Bradford county, on Tuesday Dec. 3d, in which the several townships were largely represented for the expression of their opinions on the general usurpations and abuses of authority by the present Executive of Pennsylvania, on his pretensions of the political eminence of position for selfish and family considerations, and particularly on his latest effort of vindictive ingratitude to the people of this county in the appointment of D. M. Bull as an Associate Judge; not only without their solicitation but after their emphatic repudiation of him under all his harlequin disguises.

On motion of Col. G. F. Mason, Rev. S. E. SHEPARD was called to the Chair, and J. D. Wilson, D. F. Barstow, Samuel Huston, J. D. Montanye, Daniel Bartlett, Chauncey Guthrie, Lockwood Smith, John Elliott, John L. Webb, N. N. Betts, Chester Thomas, H. S. Salabury, A. P. Biles, E. S. Goodrich were appointed Vice Presidents.

Stephen Pierce, F. C. Ward and Theodore Wilder were appointed Secretaries.

On motion of Col. V. E. FOLLER the following gentlemen were appointed to draft resolutions expressive of the sense of this meeting.

V. E. FOLLER, John F. Means, Ira H. Stephens, Daniel Vandercook, T. B. Overton, Jero Kelso, O. R. Tyler, O. D. Bartlett, W. F. Kellog, John Salabury, G. F. Mason, E. W. Morgan, F. Smith, Wm. Baker, F. Orwan, S. Squire, E. O. Goodrich, David Hill, H. M. Peck, Edward Crandall and John J. Merrill.

The committee reported, through the chairman, the following preamble and resolutions which were unanimously adopted:

Whereas; it is as well the duty as the right of a free people to assemble and fearlessly express their views of the highest functionaries of the government for a guide and warning; in this performance of duty and right, the Democracy of Bradford, in county meeting assembled, most respectfully and dispassionately express their sentiments in relation to the extraordinary conduct of the present chief magistrate of Pennsylvania, David R. Porter, for as happily, near the close of political life.

Therefore be it emphatically Resolved, that we have lost all confidence in the integrity, democracy and patriotism of DAVID R. PORTER. In managing the vessel of state he has looked one way and rowed another. While his messages and outward bearing in the early part of his administration inculcated, officially, principles, sound in the main, he bargained with the late U. S. Bank and the money power generally, basely degrading his position and suitably bringing his intrigue of character to a dollar-and-cent valuation for private and clique interests. An insatiable thirst for wealth and power has seduced him from the high purposes of the constitution; he has called down the retribution of corruption; and the now lies before the world, a prostrate exhibition of "Vaulting ambition, which o'er-leaps itself, and falls on the other side."

In his folly and profligacy he has dragged Pennsylvania from her ancient honorable position with her sister states down to the dust.—Corruption has been the passport to favor; and the great republican party of the Commonwealth have now the mortification to see the popular will defiled and their own flattered hopes of its usefulness annihilated.

Resolved, That we feel called upon, solemnly and in the face of the country, to disapprove of his administration of the government of Pa., his total disregard of the public will and the public interest; his appointments to office in the highest departments of government in a way to shock the moral sense of the community; his attempt to render the Judiciary from highest to lowest, subservient to his own will and uses, and especially for the purpose of defeating a law regularly enacted and subsequently passed on by a solemn vote of the people; his improper interference in the politics of the State and even of the counties; his selfish alliance with the national administration for the patronage and plunder of a department of the government; and his attempt now to interfere with the election of a United States Senator in the highest councils of the nation. All these things, grave, mortifying and deeply degrading as they are, imperiously call upon the Democracy to unite in a voice of reprobation which shall not be misunderstood by himself or the country.

Resolved, That the office of Senator requires the highest qualifications, political, moral and intellectual; that in the deliberate opinion of the Democracy of Bradford county David R. Porter has none of these; that we disclaim all, or any respect for him as a democrat or patriot or an honest man—and as we love our republican institutions, the grave and paramount interest and character of Pennsylvania in the election of a U. S. Senator, as we regard our standing with the rest of the Union, we firmly and unflinchingly repel and denounce every attempt to seduce any republican member of the legislature from the established usages of the Democratic party.

Resolved, That to ensure the carrying out of the popular will by every member acting in the face of his constituents, we earnestly recommend that caucuses by the republican members of the legislature for nominating a U. S. Senator and State Treasurer be held openly and that each member vote by voice for his preference. In this way the people may know the fidelity of their agents. It is a right which the Democracy should demand at the hands of their representatives. Democracy has nothing to conceal. We therefore instruct our Representatives and Senator, in whose integrity and patriotism we have entire confidence to use

their influence to promote an object so conducive to the public welfare and the integrity of the Democratic party of the State.

Resolved by acclamation, That David Porter in the recent appointment of D. M. Bull to the office of Associate Judge of Bradford in the absence of any expression of the Democratic party—forcing a vacancy to the public gratuitous spleen—in this regard to the character of the county, has elicited a deliberate and studied insult upon the Democratic party of the county.—That for the discharge of the duties of the office which he has been foisted by the Executive As a party man he has ever been a traitor and has recently distinguished his character as a renegade from the Democratic party by signing his own name to his nomination and defeated by almost double the party who we can have no confidence in him.

We call on the Senate and particularly the Hon. Bull to come up for approval as Associate Judge of Bradford county to oppose his conduct and relieve our bench from the stigma of a divisive executive would fasten upon it.

Resolved, That in the great state and national struggle through which we have just passed and from which democracy has emerged so much gracefulness and honor, the Democratic Union has not sustained its claim for sound principles and elevated aims that as a republican state paper it is entitled to the confidence and support of the Democratic party of Pennsylvania.

The meeting was ably addressed by Chairman and Messrs. Wilson, Smith & V. and Mr. Knox, of Tioga.

On motion of Col. S. Salabury resolved the proceedings of this meeting be signed by the officers and published in the Bradford Democrat, Democratic Union and other papers of the state and copies transmitted to our Senator, to be laid, if necessary, before the Senate, and to David R. Porter.

(Signed by the officers.)

REV. CHARLES TORREY.—The trial of this person commenced, before the Superior Court, on the 29th ult. He was charged with the abduction of slaves, and has been found guilty of each of the three indictments on which he was arraigned. The offence is punishable by confinement in the State Penitentiary. On the rendition of verdict by the jury, the counsel for the accused gave notice that they would move the Court for an arrest of judgment and a new trial. The proceedings of the abducted slaves had also been a suit against TORREY for their release.

N. Y. U. S. SENATORS.—L. G. D. S. DICKINSON, and the Hon. H. FOSTER, have been appointed by the Governor of New York, United States Senators to supply the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Hon. S. Wright and Hon. N. P. Tallmadge, and on Monday, Dec. 6th presented their credentials, and took their oaths. Some doubts appear to be entertained of their selection by the Legislature.

MR. POLK AT NASHVILLE.—The President elect was met at Nashville, Tenn., on the 28th ult., on his return from a visit from Gen. Jackson, by vast concourse, and welcomed with much ceremony.

A HEAVY BET.—A man in Tennessee agreed for twenty dollars to see one dollar for the first electoral college Gov. Polk received over Mr. Clay, to double it in geometrical progression for the majority of the electoral college.—He loses the pretty sum of \$368,457,467,420,103,231!

BISHOP ONDERDONK.—The inauguration into the conduct of Bishop Onderdonk was commenced on Tuesday in New York, in the room in the rear of John's Chapel. The doors were closed to the public. Bishop Chase is presiding officer.

MISSOURI.—Col. Benton and Jos. Atchison have been elected U. S. Senators for Missouri. The former received 84 votes, being just more than enough to elect him.

KENTUCKY.—The official majority for Clay in Kentucky is 9283.

SICKNESS.—It is useless to wrap body in flannels to shield it from pernicious effects of the east wind, if the blood is in a corrupt and diseased state. Active medicines should be taken at this season to drive corruption in every shape, from the body, then, and not till then, can health be looked for. To effect this desirable object, no article is so fit as the justly famous Wright's Indian Vegetable. It is a medicine yet discovered so completely eradicates from the system all injurious particles that have a tendency to prevent the healthful operation of the machinery of life. They cleanse the stomach, liver and other organs, and thus speedily restore the sufferer to health and happiness.

For sale at the store of J. D. & D. Montanye, in Townsland, and agents published in another column of this paper.

Caution.—As counterfeits are abroad, avoid all stores of doubtful character, and be particular, in all cases, to ask for Wright's Indian Vegetable Pills.