

# Bradford Reporter.

Towanda, Wednesday, March 11, 1846.

FOR CANAL COMMISSIONER,  
WILLIAM B. FOSTER, JR.

CANAL COMMISSIONER.—We place the name of Mr. Foster, at the head of our paper as the Democratic candidate for Canal Commissioner. The proceedings of the Convention may be found in our Harrisburg letter.

THE "CONSPIRACY" HENCKES.—We have authority for saying that the report that McCook has brought an action against Mr. Piollet and others, is false in every particular, and told by those only who would encourage guilt, by favoring the guilty.

## Speaker of the Senate.

The Hon. DANIEL L. SHERWOOD, Senator from this district, and who now occupies the Speaker's chair, is every way worthy of the honor conferred upon him by the Senate of Pennsylvania, in his elevation to that important, dignified and responsible station. His elevation to preside over the deliberations of that body, may justly be esteemed a high compliment to his moral qualities, his integrity, and his ability to discharge the various and manifold duties imposed upon him, as well as an honor to the district he represents. Mr. Sherwood is a citizen of Tioga county, and, although representing Bradford in the Senate, his personal intercourse with our citizens has been comparatively limited. For ourselves, we can scarcely claim a personal acquaintance with him, yet we have felt as much interest in his legislative career as any citizen of his own county could, and rejoice as heartily at his preferment as if he resided in our midst. He is our representative in one branch of the State Legislature, and we feel a pride in claiming him as such.

All who have visited Harrisburg during the present session, agree in the opinion that the office of Speaker of the Senate, has never been administered in a more dignified, efficient and impartial manner, than by the present Speaker. Familiar with all the rules which govern legislative bodies, he is prompt, fearless and correct in his decisions; and in the few instances in which appeals have been taken, he has been most triumphantly sustained by the body of the Senate. In all his intercourse with his fellow senators, he is courteous and obliging, and of consequence, commands their respect and esteem. As a presiding officer, few of his predecessors have had the good fortune to have elicited such general commendation. As a representative, Mr. S. is attentive to the wants and wishes of his constituents, and by his high moral bearing commands an unusual degree of influence. As a citizen, Mr. Sherwood equally enjoys the confidence of his fellow-citizens, his neighbors and his constituents.

## The Bribery Case.

We are surprised at the tone of the whig press, relative to the attempt recently made to bribe Col. Piollet, into the support of the Lehigh Bank. The unjust reflections, and mean insinuations thrown out, with a design either to ridicule or reproach, must have its effect, which will be to contumacious and encourage the practice of the frequent, and often too, successful, attempts to subvert legislation, and make it the instrument of individual pecuniary advancement. There should be but one sentiment on this subject; that of unqualified execration of the conduct of those who visit Harrisburg with the design of bribing members of the Legislature into the support of their favorite measures. The whig press, however, wink at the matter, and seem to think there is nothing in such practices to make a noise about. Either their nostrils have become so familiar with corruption, that it has no longer an unpleasant odor, or else they are doing violence to their clear convictions of duty.

No people have been more grossly abused by legislation, secured by corrupt influences, than the people of this state. A single instance, brought about by the same influences which were attempted on Col. Piollet, involved the tax-paying people of Pa. into a debt which has been the chief cause of their threatened bankruptcy. Hal the Legislature promptly rejected every overture of the United States Bank, the credit of our state would not have been hazarded, nor would the people be, as they now are, burdened with oppressive taxation. The success which this base enterprise met with, although it reflected disgrace on the state, in the estimation of every other state, yet it gave such encouragement to this species of legislation, that from that time, Harrisburg has been the rendezvous of a mercenary and unprincipled set of agents of private corporations, seeking for legislation in some shape. Although such was the admitted fact, no man dared raise his warning voice, without being charged with demagoguism, or something else, equally contemptible. The whig press has at all times, and on all occasions, participated largely in checking every attempt to frown down and expose these base interferences. The evil has, consequently, become one of great enormity. The successful attempts of those, whose interest it is, to sustain a class of *boreas* at Harrisburg, has become truly alarming. It is to demonstrate clearly, that nothing short of ferreting them out, and holding them up to public odium, would deter others, or check the open influence of the whig press to sustain them. Col. Piollet, by his firmness, has carried this matter through, to the consideration of the whole phalanx of hired boreas.

Col. Piollet, however, is not the only one deserving gratitude, for their course in this matter. Those who conferred with, and advised him, assisted materially to sustain him, and to expose to public scrutiny the machinery by which the people have been flagrantly imposed upon. The whig press, however, in some instances, believing they can do the state administration more harm by attacking its members, than by proscribing Col. Piollet, assert that he was badly advised and led on by Messrs. Miller and Laporte. Col. Piollet could not have been more fortunate in the selection of his advisers. They are men seldom guilty of an error in judgment, and never of heart. In this instance, they advised the best—the only proper course. It would have been well for the state, if some of the predecessors of the present excellent Executive, had had in their councils men of like honesty and firmness. The consequences of corrupt legislation, would not weigh, as it now does, like an incubus on the people. We mention the names of Messrs. Miller and Laporte in connection with this affair, with pride, and as a terror to evil doers.

We should like to know what better advice could have been given Col. Piollet than was given. Suppose the Col. had at once repulsed Mr. McCook, on the first intimation of his design; or suppose Messrs. Miller and Laporte had advised him to do so, should Mr. C. make another approach: the whole whig press would then have opened their batteries on him, for concealing the matter and winking at an enormity of this kind. If they had disclosed it, their fate would not have been different. In that case, it would have been said of them, that it was a farce; a bugbear; a silly matter; or something of the kind.

That it is the duty of every one, having an opportunity, to expose iniquity of this kind, no honest man will dispute. What more than this, have these gentlemen done? Had they done less, they might justly have deserved reproach. Col. Piollet has made the greatest services in this matter, and deserves the greatest gratitude. That he ought, and will be sustained, we have no doubt. No other course could have so effectively discomfited the head of corruption hirelings. Do the whig press

hope to attain any good end by screening Mr. McCook? Ought they not, in a matter so dear to the interest of a people already literally robbed, openly and strenuously to denounce this species of corruption? Or must honesty, decency and right be hoisted, because by it the interests of a party may be subverted? The honor is due the whig press, of raising the issue whether honesty is to be sustained or not; the maxim says honesty is the best policy. That Col. Piollet will be sustained, is evident from the tone of the Democratic press. We select a few from the hundred encomiums of merit won by the Colonel for his honesty and firmness in this affair:

[From the Pennsylvaniaian.]

THE BUREAU CASE AT HARRISBURG.—It is reported that Mr. McCook has brought an action against John Miller, the Secretary of the Commonwealth, and Laporte, Surveyor General, and Messrs. Burrell and Piollet, of the House of Representatives, for conspiracy—that is, for detecting and exposing his attempt to procure legislation by means of bribery. We perceive, also, that some of the Whig papers, true to their vocation, are attempting to screen or palliate the offence of McCook, by endeavoring to cast odium on these gentlemen. We do not believe there is a right minded man in the State, who will not approve the course pursued by Col. Piollet and his advisers. They did what every honest member ought to do whenever he believes there are such men as McCook about—that is, catch, expose and punish them. If members of the Legislature are to be sneered at, or censured, or condemned by innuendo, when they perform the unpleasant duty of exposing such crimes, no one will ever take the trouble to detect them. None but those who approve of such acts, and who would be disposed to give or receive a bribe, will do other than sustain those who in the present case have been instrumental in their exposure. Col. Piollet has acted well throughout, and deserves the approbation of all honest men. A few such exposures will effectually keep away from Harrisburg all bribing boreas—nothing so soon drives away "rascals," as the fear of traps!

[From the Intelligencer and Journal.]

There has been considerable excitement produced at Harrisburg recently, in consequence of an attempt on the part of an individual, by the name of McCook, of Ohio, to bribe Col. Piollet, a member of the House of Representatives, from Bradford county. McCook it appears was interested in the matter of the Lehigh County Bank which came up for investigation this session; and in order to obtain the personal influence of Col. Piollet, proffered him the sum of five hundred dollars, as a bribe for that purpose. The subject was brought before the House by Mr. Piollet, and the Sergeant-at-Arms ordered to arrest McCook, and bring him forward for contempt, which was done. Col. Piollet is a gentleman of a pure and upright mind, and has been influenced in the course he took in regard to the matter, with the purest intentions of bringing the offender to justice. What disposition will be made of McCook we do not know.—We have been informed that the only law which will reach his case fairly, is the one relating to contempt, for the violation of which, we will beyond doubt be subjected to fine and imprisonment.

[From the Lancaster Democrat.]

Col. Piollet, deserves the lasting gratitude of every friend of pure legislation. For years and years—and with mingled feelings of pain and mortification we proclaim it—a pestilential corrupt atmosphere has hung over the halls of our State Capitol. Organized bands of "boreas" have been stationed on the floors and in the lobbies. They have even invaded the committee room itself; and there have stood, and there, possibly, many of them still stand, as a purchasable barrier between the people and their representatives. Applicants for righteous and unrighteous measures, for a series of years, have each in turn been compelled to secure the overestimated influence of these mercenary men by pecuniary offerings; pretty much in the same way as the tribute, of old, was paid by Christian princes to the pirates of Northern Africa.

Hon. D. WILMOT'S SPEECH on the Oregon question, may be found on our outside. It has received the most flattering notice from the press generally, and been extensively copied.

We extract from the "Wilkes-Barre Farmer," the following notice of Mr. Wilmot and his speech: "On our outside is the speech of the Hon. David Wilmot, on the Oregon question—a gentleman whose name and person is favorably known to most of our citizens—but yesterday was to be familiarly mingling as a law student in the society of our borough, and to-day a Representative of one of the most intelligent constituencies of which our Commonwealth can boast in the Congress of the Nation.

This rapid promotion of so young a man has not been the result in Mr. Wilmot's case of accident, for he is personally known to a large majority of his constituency. It has not been the result of intrigue, for he is known to be above and beyond the practices of the low expedients of the demagogues and political tricksters. Nor has his rise been the offspring of family influence and family combinations; pushing, as is too often the case, mediocrity into places, for within our knowledge, Mr. Wilmot has not a relative within the district that he represents.—Of all the causes which produced his selection, there is not one upon which the most sensitive mind might not look back with pride and exultation. Alas! of how few can this be said! whether of those who early or late successful, find in the "pride of place" a refuge against the prickings and torments of conscience, or of that other class who, to sooth the anguish of defeat, can find no consolation in their own bosoms of having deserved success by their own upright practices and honorable dealings. To abilities the most brilliant and solid, there is added in Mr. Wilmot's character a thorough strain forward fixedness of principle that never swerves or falters—that abides the issue whether for good or ill—whether in prosperity or defeat. It is these qualities, the loftiest that can stimulate human action that has endeared Mr. W. to his constituents, and recommended him, while comparatively so young to their affection and confidence. And when time shall have ripened a reputation already so excellent, we predict that Mr. Wilmot will be regarded with equal confidence, and by the Democracy of the entire Commonwealth."

AGENTS.—Geo. Pratt, at his Agency Office, New York is our duly authorized Agent for the transaction of all business connected with the Reporter office.

V. B. PALMER, No. 30 Ann street, (adjoining Tribune Office) New York, Real Estate and Coal Office, 69 Pine street, Philadelphia is authorized to receive subscriptions and advertisements for the Reporter.

In selecting a medium for the purpose of advertising we would respectfully call attention to the Reporter.—We have no desire to boast when we say that it affords a most desirable opportunity for communicating to the public information wished to be conveyed in advertisements, having nearly double the circulation of any paper in the County; and much larger than any paper in Northern Pennsylvania (with perhaps but one exception), and located in a thriving and prosperous county, containing enterprising and intelligent citizens, who understand too the benefit of purchasing from those who are desirous of selling.

ECLIPSE.—There will be a partial eclipse of the sun on the 25th of April. It will be the last total eclipse until 1851.

CONTRACT.—The Whig Press with one breath, are defending McCook, and the next is a declaration that all concerned in the transaction are "Loofoops." We suppose they wish to intimate that if Whigs had been approached, the offered money would have been quickly pocketed and rascally went unpunished. Transactions, not yet forgotten, bear their sufficient testimony that such would have been the case.

NATIVE AMERICAN CONVENTION.—The Natives had a Convention at Harrisburg on the 23d ult. for the purpose of nominating a candidate for Canal Commissioner. FRANCIS KARRS of Allegheny, president; and Capt. Richard H. Morton was unanimously nominated for the Native American candidate for Canal Commissioner.

A LARGE EDITION.—The "Public Ledger" at Philadelphia, has a daily circulation averaging from twenty-four to twenty-five thousand and fifty six per month. The Ledger is decidedly the best conducted paper in the U. States and has received for its enterprise and spirit, a remunerating reward.

JUDICIOUS WOODWARD has written an able letter to the editors of the Pennsylvaniaian, which, couched in the most gentlemanly language, is a complete refutation of many of the charges urged against his nomination.—As an act of justice to him, we shall give it an insertion at the earliest possible moment.

DEATH OF DR. HARRIS.—This celebrated mail robber died in his cell at the Western Penitentiary on Friday night, Feb. 20th. He was sentenced to ten years imprisonment, in 1841.

TEXAS SENATOR.—We see by the Corpus Christi Gazette that Col. H. L. KIRKNEY, formerly of this borough has been placed in nomination for U. S. Senator from the State of Texas.

JAMES MCCARTHY, is to be hung on Friday May 8th, convicted in Huntingdon county, of the murder of David Hazell.

## Proceedings of the Penn'a. Legislature.

[Correspondence of the Bradford Reporter.]

HARRISBURG, March 6, 1846.

GENTLEMEN—I think I stated in my last, that Mr. Webb opposed the amendment offered by Mr. Knox to the appropriation bill providing that the judges of the courts shall be paid according to the salaries heretofore fixed by law, and in obedience to the decision of the Supreme Court in case of Judge Hepburn. If I did make this statement, I committed an error, for Mr. Webb made a very able speech in support of the amendment. The amendment was subsequently voted down, and the section as reported by the committee adopted by a large majority.

A large amount of business of a local character has been transacted during the week; but little, however of interest to your readers.

IN THE HOUSE.—The following bills were passed: A bill changing the name of the general convention of the Baptist denomination for foreign missions to that of the American Baptist Missionary Union, and for amending the charter of the same.

A bill to encourage more effectually the destruction of wolves in the county of McKean, and of foxes in the counties of Butler and Wyoming.

A bill supplementary to the act incorporating the Athens and Ithaca rail road company, and for other purposes passed the 10 day of March, 1838.

Mr. Webb introduced a bill to make the village of Troy in Bradford county a separate election district.

Mr. Piollet introduced bills to provide for the payment of debts by the township of Canton in the county of Bradford; and to authorize the Canal Commissioners to repair a certain road in Standing Stone, Bradford County. Mr. P. also presented petitions to extend the jurisdiction of justices of the peace in Bradford County.

The Committee on the Judiciary reported against the petitions from Erie county for jury trials before justices of the peace; and against the petitions of colored persons of Allegheny county for an amendment of the constitution permitting blacks the right of voting; which was adopted, yeas 73, nays 13.

Mr. Eldred introduced a bill to incorporate the Luzerne and Wayne rail road company.

IN THE SENATE.—The supplement to the act incorporating the Sunbury and Erie and the Pittsburg and Susquehanna Rail Road Company was passed.

A message was received from the Governor vetoing the supplement to the act incorporating the Beaver Meadow Rail Road Company.

Mr. Ross introduced a bill to incorporate the Schuylkill, Carbon and Luzerne Rail Road Company.

A number of local bills were likewise passed.

CANAL COMMISSIONERS CONVENTION.—The Democratic State Convention for the nomination of a candidate for Canal Commissioner assembled in the Court House in this borough on Wednesday last. There was a full attendance of delegates, and a deep interest was manifested in the business which called them together. General Wm. J. Rogers, of Bucks, was appointed chairman, he having received 82 votes, and R. C. Hale of Mifflin 22. Much time was consumed in settling claims for disputed seats. A committee was appointed to report officers for the permanent organization of the convention, who on Thursday morning reported the names of the following gentlemen, which report was adopted, viz:

President, BENJAMIN CHAMPNEYS, of Lancaster.

Vice Presidents, Reuben C. Hale, Mifflin; Alexander Black, Allegheny; J. B. Sterienger, Montgomery; Jacob Brinker, Butler; Sam'l Carr, Bedford; John Snodgrass, Westmoreland; Francis Trienah, Philadelphia city; M. D. Wartman, Philadelphia city; J. L. Gillis, Elk; William Fry, Lehigh; Dr. R. M. Cleland, Beaver; Alex. M'Keever, Delaware; Dr. Alex. Small, York; A. H. Reeder, Northampton; J. P. Hoover, Venango; T. B. Overton, Bradford; E. B. Hubley, Schuylkill; Allison White, Clinton; John Manderfield, Berks; J. L. Smith, Philadelphia city; Abby Keller, Indiana; Isaac S. Munroe, Columbia; J. Magee Philadelphia city.

Secretaries.—G. R. Riddle, Allegheny; J. Cresswell, Huntingdon; G. W. Ten Broeck, Mercer; Wm. A. Galbraith, Erie; Joel B. Danner, Adams; Adam Slemmer, Montgomery; John Stallman, Phila. co.; Jacob Redecker, Lancaster.

Several resolutions in favor of the one term principle, and for the nomination of a "new man" were offered and rejected, when the following gentlemen were placed in nomination: R. H. Kerr nominated A. A. Douglass, T. C. M'Dowell " W. B. Foster Jr., G. H. Hickok " Thomas J. Power, Wm. Fry " W. K. Huffnagle, J. L. Gillis " L. G. Clover.

Gen. Wilson " Samuel Dunn.  
J. Y. James " E. Y. Bright.  
Alexander Power " Ed. A. Reynolds.  
E. G. Crechast " Wm. Patterson.  
W. J. Torrell " Wm. Hartley.

The convention then proceeded to ballot for a candidate which resulted as follows:

Wm. B. Foster Jr. had 84 votes  
A. A. Douglass, " 10 "  
Thos. J. Power, " 9 "  
Levi G. Clover, " 9 "  
Wm. Patterson, " 3 "  
W. K. Huffnagle, " 4 "  
Samuel Dunn, " 5 "  
E. E. Reynolds, " 2 "  
E. Y. Bright, " 2 "

So Wm. B. Foster Jr., our present worthy and efficient President of the Board of Canal Commissioners was nominated for re-election. Although much excitement prevailed at times during the sitting of the convention, yet the nomination appears to give general satisfaction. The committee on resolutions reported the following which were unanimously adopted:

Whereas in accordance with the well established usages of the Democratic party it is becoming and appropriate that the Delegates selected by the people to concentrate the public will and make the necessary preparation for another contest to maintain the supremacy of our party, should reiterate and make known the measures we advocate and the principles we cherish—in that spirit of frankness and disdaining dissimulation which has always induced us "to hang our banner on the outer wall."—Therefore

Resolved, That Democracy aiming at the greatest good of the greatest number; having for its single object the perfection of human government—the attainment and the security of the political rights of man, and being in itself the only means of attaining the great and glorious end at which it aims in its vital essence one and unchangeable; and although in the mutability of human affairs and the fallibility of human judgment means of forwarding the good work, may at times be honestly chosen which mature experience or progressive knowledge may again discard, yet in the beauty and simplicity of its truths, and the glorious purpose to which it tends, it is and must be always the same, and like the Mosaic pillar of fire and cloud, will be the steady, unfailing and brilliant beacon that shall lead and light the sons of men through the nights of adversity and the days of prosperity to the promised land of equal rights and civil liberty, where tyranny and superstition are known but to be mocked and despised.

Resolved, That in view of the progressive enlightenment of the age—the spread of knowledge and civilization, and the inevitable effect of the example of this great and happy and powerful republic successfully and gloriously illustrating the principle of self-government before the eyes of an admiring and wondering world, we look with confidence for the time when the ridiculous and profane superstition of the divine right of kings, worthy only of the dark days when power was but another name for tyranny shall become a mockery and a by word among all the nations of the earth—when the sceptre of the monarch shall only be found deposited along with the obsolete helmet and shield of the crusader—and when men enlightened by christianity and republicanism shall look back with wonder at their insensibility to their own power their own rights and their own dignity.

Resolved, That we should endeavor as the first step in this great work to preserve free and uncontaminated from the polluting foot of tyranny, the soil of this great continent, and that our duty to ourselves and to mankind as well as gratitude to Providence for the political blessings we enjoy, required us by all justifiable means, to cherish and encourage the progress of free institutions upon this continent, until the Western world shall be a galaxy of Republics.

Resolved, That we rejoice in the undeniable evidence that the people of this country are united as one man in their determination to maintain even to the last resort of all nations our clear and incontestable right to OREGON—a right so demonstrable and impregnable that naught but rapacity and injustice would ask us to surrender it: and that in our opinion the notice to terminate the joint occupancy should be given with all convenient despatch.

Resolved, That the able and masterly exposition in demonstration of our title by Mr. BUCHANAN and the decided advantage obtained by him in the discussion, entitle him to our thanks and our increased respect and esteem, and prove still more conclusively his talents his research and his patriotism, and we approve of the course of the members of the Senate and House, and Heads of the departments for the advocacy of American rights and principles in reference to our National domain.

Resolved, That we have the fullest confidence in the integrity, the talents, and the democracy of JAMES K. POLK, whose administration must elevate the character and promote the prosperity of our Country, whilst it will earn for himself the gratitude of the people and the eulogy of the historian.

Resolved, That the Independent Treasury, as recommended and sustained by Martin Van Buren throughout the sunshine and the storm of his administration, and as industriously denounced and derided by our opponents, is a cardinal and favorite measure of the Democratic party, in the propriety, necessity and efficient utility of which we have the fullest confidence.

Resolved, That in our opinion a Democratic administration should always surround itself with its political friends, and as the official stations of the country are to be regarded not as "spoils" but as grave trusts of influence and power for which the holders are responsible to the people, they should invariably be placed in the hands of the party who are responsible for their exercise; and for that and other obvious reasons, the patronage of Democratic administrations should be distributed to Democrats alone.

Resolved, That we would respectfully call the attention of President Polk and the heads of departments to this subject, and assure them of our opinion that high considerations of policy require that his Executive patronage should not be bestowed upon our political opponents, believing as we do that to bestow it upon them or suffer them to retain it, will prejudice the interests of the party and paralyze the efforts of its members.

has shewn to the public what wonders may be achieved in elevating the character and credit of the State—in reforming and retrenching its expenditures—in tranquilizing and uniting the party—healing its dissensions and correcting its errors—by the magic effect of honesty and integrity, and by the careful selection of honest men as depositories of influence and power: a course of conduct which the people have learned to appreciate and the benefits of which they are anxious to retain.

Resolved, That we sincerely rejoice in the restoration of the credit of the State, and duly appreciate the industry, fidelity and ability of our State Treasurer, Col. James K. Snowden, in bringing about this happy result.

Resolved, That we present, with pride and self-gratulation to the people of the State, Wm. B. Foster, Jr., the nominee of this Convention—a gentleman worthy, in every respect of their cordial and united support—whose talents and scientific acquirements are of a high order—whose experience is matured, and whose integrity is not denied, even by his most decided opponents.

Resolved, That we recognize as an essential doctrine of Democracy, and as one of the many and important benefits conferred by the liberal spirit of our institutions, that the radiant light of Freedom from our soil shall continue to cast its gleam of joy upon the oppressed of all nations; that our country will be as heretofore, a common vantage ground where the emigrant from a foreign soil shall be welcomed, protected and cherished with that heart-felt hospitality, which should ever characterize the spirit of republicanism and christian charity.—And we therefore cordially respond to the sentiment unanimously adopted by the Democratic National Convention, that every attempt to abridge the privileges of becoming citizens and the owners of soil among us, ought to be resisted with the same spirit which swept the alien and sedition laws from our statute book.

Resolved, That the conduct of our Canal Board has shewn an economical, careful and efficient spirit, and they are entitled to our highest consideration and confidence.

## Lehigh County Bank Investigation.

### THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE.

That immediately after their appointment, they entered upon the discharge of the duties assigned them, and commenced the examination of witnesses in the presence of the said Daniel M'Cook who was attended by his counsel, James McCormick and Thaddeus Stevens, Esqrs., and continued the examination from day to day until they had taken the evidence of all those persons supposed to be acquainted with the facts connected with the transaction, favorable or otherwise to the person implicated in the charge of bribery.

The Committee have appended to their report a copy of the evidence, and will state briefly the facts proved and the conclusion to which they have arrived from their investigation:

It appears from the evidence introduced, that the said Daniel M'Cook resides in the County of Carroll, in the State of Ohio, and at the present time holds the office of clerk of the several courts of said county; and that he is in the capacity of agent for the Lehigh County Bank, at Allentown, in this State, his particular object being to obtain from the Committee on Banks in this House, a report against the proposed repeal of the charter of the said bank, and that in the attempt to procure the vote of Victor E. Piollet, a member of said committee, for a favorable report to said bank the offence charged was committed.

In the first place, the said Daniel M'Cook attempted to procure the vote of Mr. Piollet through the influence of his personal and political friends; for that purpose proposing to the Hon. John Laporte, to whom he had been casually introduced, that he would deposit with him five hundred dollars, for the use of said Laporte's son, to whom he said he had written to come to Harrisburg, and to whom he proposed the money should be paid as soon as the committee made a favorable report.

Being repulsed by Judge Laporte, and an attempt made at this instance to induce Elshar S. Goodrich, Esq., Clerk of the Senate, and a citizen of the same county with Piollet, for the consideration of one hundred dollars, which was offered to influence the said vote, having failed, it seems that he determined to approach Mr. Piollet in person; and on Saturday last, having sought and obtained an interview with him he stated his wishes, urging upon him as reasons, why his vote should be favorable to the bank, that the opposition to the bank was without cause; and that the same persons interested were members of the same political party, to which he (Piollet) belonged; and that men of high standing and influence in the democratic party, were anxious that the bank should be sustained.

At this interview, no intimations were given that money would be paid for the desired vote; but on Monday morning he again called on Mr. Piollet, and stated to him that he had written to his father to come to Harrisburg, to attend to the business of the bank before the Committee, and that he had offered him three hundred dollars as a compensation.

Your Committee view this as an offer made to Mr. Piollet that sum of money, to induce him to vote as desired, as it appeared that the intention of the said M'Cook was not to procure the service of a father of a member of the Committee merely to assist in explaining the matter, but the evident intention was to propose to Mr. Piollet in that indirect manner, that he would give him the sum mentioned, for his vote. This view is strengthened by what subsequently occurred, as we learn, in the same conversation. He (M'Cook) stated, three of the committee agreed to report favorably, and that he would deposit with him or any other person he would name five hundred dollars, if he (Piollet) would vote for a report favorable to the bank.

It is unnecessary to give a detailed statement of all that occurred at the different interviews. Suffice it to say that, on Tuesday morning, four hundred dollars was paid by said M'Cook, to the said Victor E. Piollet, and an additional one hundred dollars promised, upon condition of a favorable report being made, thus proving the commission of the offence charged by our reasonable doubt.

And in the opinion of the committee, the evidence offered and received on behalf of the said Daniel M'Cook, does not impair or in any degree weaken the evidence before them. There are no material discrepancies between the testimony of Mr. Piollet before the transaction testified to by Messrs. Edie, Pomeroy and others; and in regard to the evidence of good character, the effect that it has made upon the minds of your committee, is to increase their surprise and regret, that any man possessed of character and reputation (and Mr. M'Cook appears from the evidence to have been) could so far forget what was due to himself and to his fellow-men, to voluntarily attempt and actually consummate, an offence second only in its blighting consequences against the well being of government to Treason itself.

It is proper for your Committee to say, in their opinion, there is nothing in the conduct of Mr. Piollet, connected with this transaction, calculated to throw the least suspicion upon him as a man or as a member of this body. He was throughout under the advice of the Hon. John Laporte, Surveyor General, the Hon. James Miller, Secretary of the Commonwealth, and James M. Burrell, Esq., a highly respected member of this Legislature, who all urged upon him the beneficial effects that would result from such an exposure as could only be made by permitting the offence to be consummated by actual payment of the money. And your Committee concur in the opinion, that the exposure and proper punishment of this highlanded offence, will tend to preserve unimpaired the confidence of the people in the purity of legislative action.

The Committee deem it due to Messrs. B. lands, Steel and Barber, the three "members" of the Committee on Banks, who are mentioned in the testimony, as being understood to be favorable to the Lehigh county Bank, that there is the slightest evidence for a supposition, that they had been tampered with in relation to this affair. Their characters for honor and integrity, forbid this idea, and it was clearly proved that they never exchanged a word with Mr. M'Cook, and did not even know him, until after his arrest in the Ser geant's arms.

In view of the circumstances, your Committee is constrained to say, that a most gross contempt of the dignity of the House, and a flagrant attempt to corrupt one of its members, has been perpetrated by Daniel M'Cook. The evidence is clear, to the point, and leaves us room for doubt. If any doubts could possibly exist, the face of the parole testimony in the case, must all at once be dispelled, by the production of the identical money with which the corrupt attempt was made. Upon this conclusive fact, rests a consideration of much importance in this and in all similar cases.

It may be alleged, that it was the duty of a gentleman who was approached, to repel the attempt at the first blush. It might be remembered that a previous attempt was made on Mr. Laporte, for the purpose of reaching Mr. Piollet by M'Cook, and that intimation and a warning was given to Mr. Piollet, that he would probably be corruptly approached, and that it was for the purpose of making a complete exposure, that he concluded to let the matter take such a course, and go just as far as the author of it intended, and would punish it. It is sufficient to say, that it is not sustained by the evidence, that M'Cook was drawn in and induced to act as he did.—His previous deliberate intention, is clearly proved; and that he carried it out, is no more wrong but his own. No man of honest purpose, could by any possibility be induced to commit a crime, by the mere fact that no man stays his hand.

The offence being then clearly proved, the question that presents itself, is this, what action shall the House take to insure the punishment of the offender? This case being without precedent in this Commonwealth, it is important that the action of this House upon it, should be dictated by prudence and care, and it will, doubtless hereafter, in some degree, be looked upon as a precedent in this Commonwealth, although it is to be hoped, that as the first, so it may be last case that it may ever be acted upon by a Pennsylvania Legislature.

Your committee can scarcely find language sufficiently strong to express their abhorrence and detestation of the perpetrators of such offences as the one they were charged to investigate. They strike a deadly blow at our institutions, poison the head springs of legislation, thwart the high and pure purposes of the people, and laugh at law and morality. If they be permitted to go unpunished of justice, they be thus encouraged to prosecute their inhuman vocation, honest legislation will be impossible, and our whole frame of representative government in the end become but a wretched repulchre.

It is due from the House, to its own honor and dignity, to public justice and good morals, that such an example shall be made, as will deter men from similar offences, and clear the atmosphere around our legislative halls from all clouds and taints of corruption.

This House can only punish the contempt against its privileges, by reprimand from the Honorable Speaker, and by directing the Sergeant at Arms to retain in his custody the offender during its session. But the offence committed to the investigation of your Committee is punishable at common law by our courts of justice. And in view of the facts, and the ends of justice would be the more certain of fulfillment by placing the offender within the power and under the control of the judicial tribunals of the Commonwealth, your Committee would respectfully offer for the consideration of the House, the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the Attorney General, or his Deputy, in the county of Dauphin, be requested to take the necessary steps to arrest and bring trial, in said county, the person of Daniel M'Cook, upon the charge of having attempted, by the payment of money, corruptly to procure the vote of V. E. Piollet, Esq., a member of the Pennsylvania Legislature, in favor of the Lehigh County Bank, and that upon that upon the issuing of warrant of arrest, the Sergeant-at-Arms be directed to deliver to the proper officer the person of the said Daniel M'Cook.

Resolved, That the Committee be discharged from the further consideration of the subject.

JOHN C. KNOX,  
ALEXANDER GWIN,  
R. T. GALLOWAY.

Mr. Trego, from the same committee submitted the following, which was read:

## REPORT OF THE MINORITY.

The undersigned members of the Committee, appointed to investigate the circumstances connected with the alleged attempt by Daniel M'Cook, corruptly to influence Victor E. Piollet, a member of the Committee on Banks, in the House of Representatives, in relation to his vote on the pending investigation of the concerns of the Lehigh County Bank—beg leave to express their dissent from the report of the majority, so far as relates to the concluding paragraph and first resolution contained in that report.

Though the undersigned entertain equal feelings of abhorrence with the majority, in regard to this bold attempt of corruption, yet they believe that inasmuch as this Committee was appointed simply to "investigate this affair," their duty is confined to a full inquiry into facts and circumstances, by obtaining all the evidence in their power. They do not think it within the province of the Committee, to prescribe what course shall be taken by the House in relation to this matter; but believe that the