



Towanda, Wednesday, March 24, 1847.

DEMOCRATIC NOMINATIONS.  
FOR GOVERNOR,  
FRANCIS R. SHUNK.  
FOR CASAL COMMISSIONER,  
MORRIS LONGSTRETH,  
OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY.

No Mistake.  
[Text about the election and the candidates]

On our outside will be found the address adopted by the Democratic 4th of March Convention; and Mr. Jagersoll's report in the National House of Representatives, upon the Mexican war. It is a masterly and unanswerable report, and will be read with satisfaction by every friend to our government.

Mon. David Wilcox's Speech.

Mr. WILCOX'S speech is very generally copied into the Democratic papers of the State, and even from those who are afraid to "speak out" in favor of its principles, receive warm commendations for its eloquence. The Elmira Gazette copies it, with the following just and sensible remarks:  
"We give in this day's paper the admirable speech of the Representative from the Bradford district, delivered in Congress, on the 'proviso to the three million bill,' proposed by him and which bears his name. It is replete with unanswerable arguments and cogent reasonings. His constituents should and do feel proud of such a representative. Though a young man and a new member, very few in that body occupy a higher position than he does. His speech alluded to, will be found worthy of perusal. The people will find there sentiments portrayed in a plain argumentative manner. Not only are they the sentiments of nearly the whole north, but also of many in the south. The southern members not being able to refute his arguments, tried to defeat the proviso, by asserting that its mover was an abolitionist. Mr. W. undoubtedly is, but not to the extent his opponents charge him with. He is opposed to slavery, and where we would ask is the man in the north that is not as well as many in the south. He opposes the extension of slavery for the very good reason that he has seen its blighting curse wherever it exists, therefore, is unwilling to remain passive, and permit territory that is now free, to become slave, and thus increase the odium that is now attached to our country for the existence of slavery in it. It undoubtedly has been a great detriment to the states where it exists, why then should it be permitted to extend over free territory and forever curse that? Mr. W. is a democrat—loves his country, and therefore would exert every faculty to advance its prosperity and greatness, and the best way to do that was to prevent the extension of slavery.  
We feel gratified that Mr. W.'s efforts were seconded by every member from this state, except Stephen Strong, of Oswego, and he voted for it last winter. What induced him to change his vote is not known. His constituents will want to know that when he asks for office again."

Acceptance of Mr. Longstreth.

The following is the answer of Morris Longstreth, to the committee appointed to inform him of his nomination by the Democratic Convention. Mr. L., it will be seen, accepts the nomination thus unexpectedly conferred upon him:  
VALLEY GREEN, MON. CO.,  
March 9, 1847.

GENTLEMEN:—I have received your favor of the 6th inst., in which you inform me that the Democratic State Convention recently assembled at Harrisburg, has done me the honor to place me in the nomination, as the Democratic candidate for casual Commissioner. You state that the honor thus conferred, was unsolicited on my part. I was conscious that a number of names would be submitted to the Convention, all of them good men, and upon any one of whom the Democracy of Pennsylvania could rally, and hence, I was anxious not to disturb the deliberations of that body by pressing any claims of my own. You do me nothing more than justice, however, when you state that such an expression of Democracy as that manifested in my nomination, could not but be, disregarded. I should think myself recalcitrant to my principles, long professed, if, under all the circumstances, I should decline to accept a nomination conferred as this has been. Allow me to assure you that I appreciate, with great sensibility, the honor thus conferred on me by the Democratic State Convention, and should this nomination be sanctioned by the vote of the people, I pledge myself to perform the duties of the office to the best of my ability, and with fidelity to the interests of this great Commonwealth.

MORRIS LONGSTRETH.

To Messrs J. Glancy Jones, Samuel Stone, and others, Committee of the Democratic State Convention.

LICENSE QUESTION DECIDED.—The Supreme Court of the United States has decided that the States have a right to regulate the trade of, and licensing of, the sale of ardent spirits. Thus the law of New Hampshire, which controls the power over licenses generally, and the law of Massachusetts, which forbids the sale of any smaller quantity of liquor than twenty-eight gallons, the law of Rhode Island, limiting the sale to ten gallons, and the law of New York, authorizing the people of the several counties or towns to decide upon the granting of licenses, are all pronounced legal by the highest tribunal of the Union.

DEATH IN JAIL.—Charles C. Burleigh, the Abolition lecturer, was arrested by a Police Officer, in the neighborhood of Oxford, Chester county, Pa., on Sunday week, for lecturing and exposing books for sale on that day. Refusing to pay the fine which was demanded of him for a violation of the Sabbath, and the laws of his country, he was taken to the West Chester Jail, where after remaining a day or two, he was released by the charity of his friends.

A RICH YORK.—The Federal Convention adopted a resolution declaring themselves in favor of the "one term principle." We are not surprised at this mark of wisdom on the part of our opponents. They have never retained power under the Nation or State governments, for the longer period than "one term," and that we always found too long for the people.

State Central Committee.

The following named gentlemen comprise the State Central Committee appointed by the Democratic 4th of March Convention:

- March Convention:  
Luther Kelly, Harrisburg, do.  
J. M. G. Leasure, do.  
Jacob Bask, do.  
Henry Buehler, do.  
John C. Buehler, do.  
Philip Dougherty, do.  
Christian Miller, do.  
Edward A. Leary, do.  
J. Ross Snowden, do.  
Isaac G. McKinley, do.  
R. A. Lamberton, do.  
John W. Forney, Philadelphia and county, do.  
Horn R. Kneass, do.  
William J. Leiper, do.  
Andrew Miller, do.  
William Bradford, do.  
Samuel D. Patterson, do.  
James Mager, do.  
Samuel Jones, Allegheny county, do.  
William M. Jones, do.  
Israel Painter, Westmoreland county, do.  
Albert G. Marchand, do.  
H. A. Muhlenberg, Berks county, do.  
George M. Krim, do.  
M. C. Trout, Mercer county, do.  
Mamuel B. Lowry, Crawford county, do.  
Victor E. Hollet, Bradford county, do.  
Wm. A. Pettiken, Lycoming county, do.  
Adam Stenmer, Montgomery county, do.  
Reah Frazer, Lancaster county, do.  
John Hickman, Chester county, do.  
John Rankin, York county, do.  
James Hill, Franklin county, do.  
James Reaser, Bedford county, do.  
James Giltland, Centre county, do.  
William Bigler, Clearfield county, do.  
Carson Graham, Erie county, do.  
Andrew H. Reeder, Northampton county, do.  
B. S. Schenck, Monroe county, do.  
Joseph M. Donald, Cambria county, do.  
Alexander (Gwin), Huntingdon county, do.  
A. Porter Wilson, do.  
J. Ellis Bonham, Cumberland county, do.  
Evan O. Jackson, Schuylkill county, do.  
Reuben C. Hale, Mifflin county, do.

Important from the Army.

Alarming Rumors.—Gen. Taylor retreating to Monterey—Santa Anna in pursuit—Despatches from Gen. Taylor ordering provisions to be sent to the army—March of troops from Vera Cruz—Attacks upon Matamoros, Brazos, and Point Isabel anticipated.

WASHINGTON, March 18, 1847.  
By the schooner John Howell, Warren, arrived at New Orleans, on the 11th inst., from the Brazos, dated to the evening of the 28th ult. have been received.  
Considerable excitement has been occasioned at New Orleans by rumors brought by the passengers on board of this vessel, that General Taylor had fallen back on Monterey, being closely pursued by Santa Anna, at the head of twenty-five thousand men. This rumor is probably false; and was so regarded by some of the passengers who brought it from the Brazos.  
Capt. Hughes, of the Illinois volunteers, who was one of the passengers, left General Taylor's camp, at Agua Nueva, on the 13th, and all was then quiet. The American force there did not exceed five thousand. Gen. Taylor then intended to hold the position he occupied until the first of April, when he would move forward.  
Mr. Kendall writes that an express had arrived at Matamoros on the 26th from Col. Curtis at Camargo. That officer stated in his despatch that an express had left Vera Cruz on the evening of the 23d from Col. Morgan, with instructions to stop all the trains between Camargo and Monterey. Morgan's regiment was to leave at daylight on the morning of the 24th, but the destination was unknown.  
It was reported that the enemy was advancing in great force, but from what point is not stated. Morgan received his orders direct from Gen. Taylor.  
Another rumor is that Gen. Mejia has thrown a large force into Linares, and it was thought intended attacking Matamoros, and perhaps the depots at the Brazos and Point Isabel. This, however, is mere surmise, but the defenceless positions of these posts would favor such a movement on the part of the enemy, but it was doubted whether they would have the courage to attempt it.  
All these reports go to confirm the impression that Santa Anna has a large body of troops in Gen. Taylor's neighborhood; but whether with the intention of attacking him, or of passing round and falling upon the American posts on the Rio Grande, no one knows.  
Some think that Santa Anna intended making a feint with considerable force in the vicinity where General Taylor is posted, for the purpose of diverting his attention, and when that is effected, pass him with a large body of light troops, and make an attack upon Camargo, Matamoros, and some other depots in the vicinity of the Brazos. Others think that Santa Anna is sending off a large portion of his force to the succor of the garrison of Vera Cruz.  
Havana dates to the 5th have been received, they contain no news of importance.

THE FEDERAL MEXICAN CANDIDATE FOR GOVERNOR.

The Federal State Convention which assembled at Harrisburg on Tuesday last, after much angry debate, placed in nomination for Governor, (to be defeated in October next), JAMES IRVIN of Centre county. Mr. Irvin is a rich iron-master—a man of very limited attainments, but yet an arrogant, proud, and overbearing aristocrat—a man who looks down upon the working portion of the community with contempt. He is very wealthy, and his friends say that he must "bleed freely"—that he must shell out his gold to be used in the purchase of poor voters, who are, in the opinion of Irvin and his friends, a "PURCHASABLE ARTICLE." The nomination of Irvin over the Hon. James Cooper, is hailed as a great triumph by the nabobs of the Federal party, and should Irvin unfortunately be elected, (of which there is no danger whatever,) the wealthy portion of the party would do pretty much as they please in the way of getting office. The contest between the friends of Irvin and Cooper for the nomination was fairly made up. Irvin was the candidate of the nabobs of the party—Cooper was the candidate of the rank and file. We ask the friends of Mr. Cooper in this country, whether this is not the fact? Who were the friends of Irvin in Cumberland county, and who the friends of Cooper? But the Irvin men—the aristocrats of the party—have succeeded, and we will now see whether the Cooper men, or the working portion of the party, can be forced to gulph down the pill prepared for them.—Carlisle Volunteer.

STOCK OF OLD WINES.

Occasionally we see a stock of old wines selling out, but it creates no particular interest. The masses of the community have managed of late years to get on without wine, and although it maintains its position on a few dinner tables, it is far from making more than a desire to drink. A gentleman of means in Washington, no doubt an ardent friend of temperance, offers a reward of Ten Dollars a gallon to the vendors of wine who will prove by chemical tests that wine is free from the following poisons, viz:—  
Sugar of lead, logwood, green vitriol, capsicum, opium, tobacco, arsenic, alum, essential oils, bitter oranges, oil of bitter orange, oil of bitter almonds, Indian berry, pomegranates, elder berries, Guinea pepper, Brazil wood, gum benzoin, burnt sugar, brandy, laurel water, lamb's blood, dragon's blood, red Sanders, salt of tartar, crocus indigo, poison hemlock, nux vomica, oil of vitriol, Prussic acid, henbane, &c., or any other foreign admixture.  
If one half of the poisons above are to be found in wine, we may readily account for gouts and all the train of diseases which are found among wine drinkers.

DAMAGES FOR INJURIES.

Mr. Walter Urquhart and wife recently instituted in one of the Courts at New Haven a suit against the Connecticut River Steamboat Company for injuries sustained by the latter on board of one of the Company's boats, in 1845. Mrs. U. had her arm broken and received other injuries whilst being landed at night in a small boat. The evidence showed negligence on the part of the steamboat officers, and the Jury gave a verdict for the plaintiffs for \$1575.

THE LICENSE LAW.

Chief Justice Wells stated yesterday in the Municipal Court, that in sentencing for violations of the license law the Court would hereafter require the convicted party to give bonds for his future good behavior during one year, and that in case of a violation of the license law within that time, the laws would be rigidly enforced, both upon the guilty party and upon the bail.—Boston Journal.

THE IOWA LEGISLATURE HAS ADJOURNED.

After electing Judges of the Supreme Court and United States Senators.

Proceedings of the Penn'a. Legislature.

HARRISBURG, March 18th, 1847.

SENATE.—In the Senate, Mr. Gibbons, resigned his place as Speaker, and of course his place has been filled by an election for that purpose.  
On the fourth ballot, the members voted thus: Messrs. Carson, Corman, 'Crabb, Darragh, Darsie, Harris, Johnson, Jordan, Lewis, Overfield, Morrison, Rich, Ross, Smith, Snyder and Gibbons—16—voted for William Williamson.  
Messrs. Anderson, Bigler, Hoover, Boas and Richards—5—voted for John P. Sanderson.  
Mr. Dimmick voted for A. Herr Smith.  
Mr. Gillis voted for Henry L. Benner.  
Mr. Pottenger voted for James L. Gillis.  
Mr. Williamson having received a majority of all the votes given on the 4th ballot, was duly elected Speaker of the Senate, to serve during the recess, and until the meeting of the next Legislature. For the honor conferred he returned his thanks.

VERO.—A message from the Governor was read, returning with his objections, the bill to incorporate the Farmers' and Manufacturers' Bank of Erie.

The bill was taken up and passed by the constitutional majority.

EXECUTIVE SESSION.—The Senate then resolved itself into executive session, and acted on the following judicial nominations:

James B. Morrison, to be an Associate Judge for Juniata county—confirmed.

The nomination of Jeremiah M. Burrell as President Judge of the 10th Judicial district, was read and his confirmation urged by Mr. Hill.

Mr. Gibbons was opposed to his confirmation of Jeremiah M. Burrell, and would vote for no man as Judge of that district, except Thomas White, whose nomination had been urged by sixteen thousand citizens of both political parties.

Mr. Darsie opposed the confirmation of J. M. Burrell on the ground that he was totally unqualified for that responsible station.

Mr. Hill said that as no charges had been made against Mr. Burrell, or could be made, he hoped the Senate would proceed to confirm him.

Mr. Bigler was in favor of the confirmation of Mr. Burrell. He thought Mr. B. well qualified and would make an excellent and popular Judge.

The yeas and nays were called and the vote stood as follows:

Yeas—Messrs. Anderson, Benner, Bigler, Cressa, Crabb, Dimmick, Gillis, Hill, Hoover, Mason and Pottenger—11.

Nays—Messrs. Boas, Carson, Darragh, Darsie, Gibbons, Harris, Johnson, Jordan, Lewis, Rich, Overfield, Richards, Sanderson, Smith, Snyder and Williamson, Speaker—16.

So the nomination was rejected.

The nomination of J. Pringle Jones, as President Judge of the 2d Judicial district, was taken up, and a large number of letters and petitions were presented by Mr. Pottenger in favor of Mr. Jones.

Mr. Gibbons opposed the confirmation.

The question was then taken and the nomination confirmed by a vote of yeas 18, nays 8.

In the House, the amendments to the bill allowing certain counties, townships, boroughs, &c., to decide by ballot on the question of granting tavern licenses then came up.

Mr. Fox moved that the bill be referred to a select committee of three. On the question to refer the vote stood yeas 35, nays 44.

On second reading, Mr. Knox proposed to amend the bill in the first section, so as to increase the price to be paid for the public works, from 20 to 25 millions, and to increase the number of shares from 100,000 to 200,000; defeated, yeas 36, nays 45.

Mr. Evans then demanded the previous question, and it was seconded, and on the question; shall the main question now be put? it was decided in the negative, yeas 45, nays 3—no quorum voting. The Democrats refusing to vote.

HARRISBURG, March 15, 1847.

SENATE.—The report of the Committee of Conference on the General Appropriation bill was adopted.

The bill to incorporate the borough of Reading, Berks county, into a city, passed.

The Senate rejected the nomination of John M. Foster, as President Judge of the Chester and Delaware district—yeas 12, nays 12.

The Governor nominated Samuel A. Gilmore, as President Judge of Westmoreland district, and he was immediately rejected—yeas 13, nays 14.

The House of Refuge supplement passed.

HOUSE.—Mr. Trego from this Committee of Conference on the subject of the differences between the two Houses on the General Appropriation Bill, made a report which was adopted. It reduces the appropriations for the repair of the canal farm Bridges from \$15,000 to \$10,000, and strikes out the appropriation for the relief of the families of volunteers who have gone to the war.

Mr. Knox offered a resolution of thanks to the Hon. James Cooper, for the manner in which he had discharged the duties of the station, which was adopted unanimously—yeas 90, nays none.

Bills passed.—A supplement to and act to incorporate the city of Lancaster; a bill to require corporations to give absolute bail, and relating to the commencement of action; against foreign corporations, and for various other purposes.

Resolutions relating to Richard E. Cochran, a lieutenant in U. S. Army, who was killed in the battle of Resaca de la Palina, and a native of Pennsylvania.

A bill to provide for the erection of a Court-house and jail in the county of Bradford.

March, 16, 1847.

SENATE.—The following bills voted by the Governor, were taken up and passed by the constitutional majority:—The act to annul the marriage contract of Walter Galbraith. The act to annul the marriage contract of Samuel K. Austin and Susan his wife. The act to incorporate the Merchants and People's Transportation Company. The act to incorporate the Cumberland County Bank was re-considered and lost. The act to extend the time of commencing the West Philadelphia Railroad, voted by the Governor at the beginning of the session, was re-considered and lost.

The Senate made the following judicial confirmations.

Benjamin Champneys, to be the President of the 15th Judicial district.

Moses Coulbach, to be an Associate Judge for Monroe county.

Benjamin Champneys having resigned, the Governor nominated James Hill to be President Judge of the 15th Judicial district.

Wilson M'Candless was also nominated to be President Judge of the 10th Judicial District.

Mr. M'Candless, rejected by a vote of yeas 18, nays 12.

A committee was appointed to inform the House that the Senate was now ready to adjourn, and a similar committee being introduced, informed the Senate that the House was now ready to adjourn. The Senate adjourned sine die.

In the House, Mr. Mathias moved to take up Senate amendments to the bill, a supplement to the Pennsylvania Railroad act. The orders of the day were called.

Mr. Mathias moved to postpone the rule which prohibits bills from being considered and presented to the Governor for his signature on the day of the final adjournment of the Legislature, on this motion the yeas and nays were called, and stood—yeas 46, nays 41.

The bill divorcing Thomas Parker and his wife; the bill divorcing Peter Corvine and Justen his wife; the bill divorcing Samuel K. Austin and his wife; and the bill divorcing Elizabeth Gardner and John Gardner, had all been voted by Governor. The House took them up this morning, and considered and passed them respectively by a constitutional majority.

Mr. Fox, from the Committee on conference on the difference between the two Houses on the bill allowing the citizens of certain counties to decide by ballot on the question of granting tavern licenses, made a report. It was not considered. The bill therefore falls.

The proceedings to-day were conducted with propriety and good feelings. Mr. Cooper's valedictory was beautiful, and very affecting. The members separated with the kindest feelings toward each other, and the eyes of some of the more tender-hearted were moistened as they bade adieu with their associates.

Late from New Mexico.

Mexican Insurrection at Taos—Horrible Massacre—Governor of New Mexico Murdered—Assassination of Americans—Probable Capture of Santa Fe—Trap set to lure Col. Doniphan—His imminent danger.

St. Louis papers four days in advance of the mail, with dates from Santa Fe, covering important news, have been received at Pittsburgh. There has been an extensive Mexican insurrection at Taos. All the Spaniards who evinced any sympathy with the American cause had been compelled to escape.

Gov. Bent, Stephen Lee, acting sheriff, Gen. Elliott Lee, Henry Seal, and twenty Americans, were killed, and their families despoiled. The chief alcalde was also killed. This all occurred on the 17th January.

The insurrection had made formidable head, and the disaffection was rapidly spreading.

The insurrectionists were sending expresses out all over the country to raise assistance. The number engaged in the outbreak at Taos was about 600. They were using every argument to incite the Indians to hostilities, and were making preparations to take possession of Santa Fe.

The Americans at Santa Fe, had only about 500 effective men there, the rest were on the sick list or had left to join Col. Doniphan. Such being their situation they cannot send succor out, as they are hardly able to defend themselves. It is thought Santa Fe must be captured, as neither the fort nor the block houses are completed.

It is announced as the intention of the insurrectionists who captured Taos, to take possession of the government wagon trains, which are carrying forward our supplies, and thus cut off all communication.

The representations made to Col. Doniphan, that Chihuahua would be an easy conquest, were evidently intended as a lure to entrap him, begat a spirit of security, and lead him far off into the interior, where he might be easily cut off.

It is the universal opinion in Santa Fe that if Gen. Wool had gone direct to Chihuahua, there would have been no trouble in New Mexico. Col. Doniphan had possession of El Paso del Norte, on the 28th December. Letters had been received from the Governor of Chihuahua, stating that Gen. Wool was within three days march of the capital.

This, too, was doubtless another ruse to lure Col. Doniphan on in confidence, and cut him off from all chance of escape, or of falling back upon Santa Fe, to relieve it in its emergency.

The Mexicans are bold in their tone, and confident of capturing Col. Doniphan and his command, which consists of about 600 men, 500 of them being of his own troops, the first regiment of mounted Missouri volunteers, and a detachment of 100 men from Santa Fe, under command of Lieut. Col. Mitchell, of the 2d regiment—consisting of 30 men from Clark's battalion of light artillery, under command of Capt. Hudson, and Lieut. Kribben and 70 from Col. Pierce's regiment, and Col. Willock's battalion. They then assert that they will massacre every American in New Mexico and confiscate all their goods.

A letter from Lieut. Albert U. S. Topographical Engineer, of later date, confirms all the above intelligence. The details of the battle of Bracito are also confirmed. The massacre beyond doubt has been a horrible one, of which we have as yet heard but the beginning; and the insurrection has been kept so quiet until all was ready for the outbreak, that our handful of troops there must be demolished before any effort can be made to relieve them from the most advanced of our western military posts.

Lieut. Albert's men suffered very severely coming to Missouri. The calls upon government for prompt assistance and large reinforcements, are strenuous; and the situation of our gallant men, far away from succor, in the enemy's country, shows the rashness which has characterized the whole advance into New Mexico.

Eight of the leading men engaged in the conspiracy have arrived. (our despatch does not say where) who have made a confession of the whole plot.

Letters received also state that Col. Cook and the Mormon Battalion were 300 miles beyond Santa Fe. They were generally in good health, and progressing slowly.

THE CANALS.—We learn by letter that the first boats for Philadelphia left Lewistown on the 12th inst. The ground, however, was covered with snow, and navigation on the Canal might, it was feared, again be retarded. There are 8 or 10,000 barrels flour and from 12 to 15,000 bushels of different kinds of grain, (principally wheat,) with any quantity of pig iron, &c., now loaded in boats or in store ready for shipment.

Mrs. ALLEN, wife of Senator Allen, died in Washington City a few days ago.

Resignation of Major General Benton.

WASHINGTON CITY, March 10, 1847.

Sir: Please to receive, as a mark of my respect, a copy of the following letters, which explain the circumstances under which I decline to accept the appointment of major general in the army.

THOMAS H. BENTON.  
of the U. S. Senate.

To the Hon. Mr. [Name]

WASHINGTON, March 6, 1847.

Sir: Without waiting for the formality of being presented with the commission of Major general in the army of the United States, I think it right to inform you at once that my acceptance, or refusal, of that high appointment will depend entirely upon public and national considerations of which you yourself will be the judge. Personally, I can have no wish for this office; but if you believe that I can be of service to the country, I am willing to forego all private consideration—separate myself from my family, under painful circumstances; resign my place in the Senate, which is so dear to me—and proceed immediately to the theatre of war. My only stipulation would be for the powers which I deem necessary to success, and these would be both military and diplomatic—the command of the army, and authority to sign preliminary peace, based upon terms previously approved by you.

I beg you to believe, sir, that nothing selfish, or personal, dictates this proposed stipulation. There is no such thing in it. It proceeds from a thorough conviction, that with a subordinate command, I could do no good in the army; on the contrary, that my presence there would be improper and mischievous; for I am known, from my public speeches, to disapprove the plans, both of the late, and of the present commander—the defensive policy of one, and the Santa Fe Ulla attack of the other—and this being known, my presence would operate as an implied censure on the two generals, and might make me, in spite of myself, the nucleus of discontent and insubordination. The command of the army, therefore, is the only military position which I could hold in it.

Authority to conclude a peace, or at least to sign the preliminaries of peace, I deem highly essential to success, as it would enable the commander in chief to take instant advantage of all passing events, military or political, to close the war.

Furnished with these powers, I am willing to make the sacrifices and to endure the responsibilities of this high command; but I leave it to you, sir, for your free and frank decision; considering it as a national question, and a new one, on which there is no precedent, as either side, in any thing that has passed.

Whatever may be the decision, my thanks and gratitude will not be the less to you for your unsolicited nomination of me to this high appointment, nor to the Senate for its instant and unanimous confirmation of it, nor the House of Representatives for its three times virtual election of me to be the commander in chief of the army of Mexico.

Respectfully, sir, your friend and fellow citizen.

THOMAS H. BENTON.

To the President.

WASHINGTON, March 6, 1847.

Sir: I have given to your letter of 6th inst., the consideration which its importance demands. In tendering to you the appointment of major general in the army, I earnestly desired that the country should have the advantage of your excellent ability and military knowledge, your intimate acquaintance with the Mexican character, and your familiarity with their language and political condition.

Immediately after your nomination as major general (had been unanimously confirmed by the Senate, I carefully examined the question, whether I possessed the power to designate you—a junior major general—to the chief command of the army in the field. The result of the examination is, I am constrained to say, a sad conviction on my mind, that such power has not been conferred upon me by the existing laws.

I am fully sensible of the exalted position which could have induced you to make the personal sacrifices to which you would be subjected, in assuming even the chief command of the army in Mexico; and I do appreciate the reasons you have assigned, and which may I trust prevent you from accepting your appointment as Major General. If, on further reflection, such should be your decision, I shall learn it with deep regret.

I am, sir, with high consideration, very respectfully, your obedient servant.

JAMES K. POLK.

To Major Gen. Thomas H. Benton, Washington City.

WASHINGTON, Tuesday Evening, March 6, 1847.

Sir:—Your letter of this day's date is just received; and seeing no reason for further reflection, and wishing to avoid all delay, in offering the army, I have written a note to the adjutant general, to be delivered at the office this morning, declining to accept the appointment of Major General in the army, as kindly offered to me by you, and so honorably confirmed by the Senate.

I have the honor to be, sir, with great respect, your friend and fellow citizen.

THOMAS H. BENTON.

To the President.

WASHINGTON, Tuesday Evening, March 6, 1847.

Sir:—I had the honor to receive your note of the 6th inst., with the commission of Major General in the army, and delayed the answer until I received an answer from the President to a note which I addressed to him in the morning of that day. That answer is now received, and enables me to answer your note, and to say, that the commission is not accepted.

Please to accept, sir, my thanks for the kind terms of your note, and for the thousand courtesies which you have extended to me in the course of our long and friendly acquaintance.

Most truly and respectfully yours.

THOMAS H. BENTON.

To Adjutant General Jones.

MODESTY.—In a young female, is the flower of a tender shrub, which is the promise of excellent fruits. To destroy it, is to destroy the germ of a thousand virtues, to destroy the hope of society, to commit an outrage against nature, the air of the world is a burning breath, that every day blasts this precious flower.

THE ESTATE OF JOSEPH BONAPARTE, at New York, is advertised for sale next June, at public auction. The park attached to it contains 284 acres.

LETTERS FOR THE ARMY.—The Postmaster General announces that letters written to those employed in the Army, and endorsed "belonging to the Army," will be sent free of postage.