

THE DEMOCRAT.

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S. B. & E. B. CHASE, Editors.
PHILADELPHIA, PA.
THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 1859.

For President. James Buchanan.

Subject to the decision of the National Convention.

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The next State Convention will number one hundred and thirty-three Delegates, of which about one hundred and ten will be instructed for Mr. Buchanan. Of the remaining, some are for Cass and some for other gentlemen.
The Democracy of Susquehanna, then, stand shoulder to shoulder, at the outset of the campaign, with the Democracy of the State.
Recognizing no faction, devoted to no sinister interest, loving their principles more and regarding the common interests of their party not less, they hail the giant intellect of their own proud Commonwealth—her claims in the person of her noble son—and rally round the common banner of Republicanism.
A rapid survey—such as the limits of this article will admit—of the public career of Mr. Buchanan may be of interest and profit to our readers.
He is now some sixty-three years of age, the last thirty years of his life having been spent, mostly in the most arduous and responsible public positions. His history for that time is most intimately connected with that of the Nation. In bold relief, on those brilliant pages, it will ever remain, a monument of pride to Pennsylvania, that furnished one of the brightest stars in the constellation of world-renowned men, who have adorned the world's list of Statesmen in the first half of the nineteenth century.
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Inauguration of Gov. Bigler.

Harrisburg, Jan. 20.

The Senate convened this morning at a quarter before 12 o'clock, and being waited upon by a Committee from the House of Representatives, immediately proceeded to the Hall of the House, for the purpose of taking part in the ceremonies of the inauguration of the Hon. Wm. Bigler, as Governor of the Commonwealth. The Hall was already crowded almost to suffocation, large numbers of ladies occupying the seats of members, while the floor was held by members of the House and Senate, and citizens indiscriminately. The town during the morning and preceding night had been crowded with strangers, and several military companies from the immediate adjacent counties were present, to take part in the ceremonies. The Governor elect was waited on at his quarters shortly before 12 o'clock, by the Committee of the two Houses, consisting of Messrs. Packer, Gaerney, and Crab, of the Senate, and Messrs. Brits, Mohr, and Kelso, of the House; and accompanied by the military and a very respectable procession of citizens conducted to the Hall of the House. A Joint Committee of the two Houses, also waited on Gov. Johnston, and the Head of the Departments, and escorted them to the Hall.

Upon the arrival of the procession at the Capital, the retiring Governor and the Governor elect were introduced to the assembling, and took their seats upon the Speaker's platform, the Speaker of the Senate on the extreme right, the Governor elect seated next to him, and the retiring Governor and the Speaker of the House on his left. The certificate of the election of William Bigler, as Governor of the Commonwealth, was then read by the Clerk, and the usual orations having been administered to him by the Speaker of the Senate, he was declared invested with the office of Governor, and proceeded to deliver his inaugural address; as follows:

FELLOW CITIZENS—The providence of God has prospered our great Commonwealth. The will of the people has called a humble citizen to the performance of the duties of her chief executive office. In accordance with the requisition thus made on me, and in obedience to the provisions of the constitution, I appear before you today, for the purpose of subscribing to the oath of office and assuming the duties. I embrace this opportunity to express the profound gratitude I feel towards the people for this distinguished mark of their confidence.

In contemplating the high and delicate nature of the duties pertaining to this station—their complex and difficult character—the magnitude of the interests involved in their faithful performance—I am most solemnly impressed with the responsibility they necessarily impose. The juncture of all my predecessors in the high station, I enter upon the discharge of my duties with the utmost distrust of my own qualifications for the task. I have, however, resolved to devote my best energies, my hopes and prayers to a faithful discharge of the obligation I have just taken, and look to the people for that generous indulgence which has ever characterized their action towards public servants who have honestly endeavored to perform their whole duty. The efforts of man at best are but feeble. All the aid that his wisdom can bring to the accomplishment of any great purpose must fall, unless accompanied and controlled by the guardian care of Him who gives direction to all human affairs.—On His power and good pleasure all results must depend. On Him we should rely in a spirit of humility and Christian confidence.

Our republican institutions are based upon the axiom that the people are the only rightful source of power. Under these institutions that founded the will of the people, reflected through the ballot box, gives direction to public affairs. Through this medium the humblest, not less than the most distinguished, can stamp the impress of his will upon the public policy of the country. This feature of our republican system is its great distinguishing characteristic, and guided by the general intelligence and patriotism of the people, the cause of our success as a nation—the Right of Suffrage—should therefore be held inviolate and its independent exercise enjoyed by every citizen. To prepare the minds of the people by general education—the inculcation of moral precepts and religious truth, should be accounted the noblest purpose of the government. All that we are and all that we can hope to be, as a nation, is dependent on the source of power. The right of the citizen over property, his personal liberty and security, the freedom of speech and liberty of the press, the free toleration of religious sentiment are alike subservient to this great source of human law. How important is it, then, that this great head should remain pure and independent. When the fountain is pure the stream emanating therefrom will also be pure. Then by promoting the moral and intellectual culture of the people, the source of vitality of our government, our laws will be made wise, our institutions be preserved pure, and our country remain free, prosperous and happy.

The experience of the world seems to demonstrate that general intelligence and republicanism must go together. The successful government of the people is the government of intellect directed by virtue. A thorough education of the youth of our country, will therefore tend far more to the security of our institutions, and the maintenance of our national honor, than all other means. Besides common school education, high literary attainments, the knowledge of the arts and sciences, the comprehension of individual rights, and the principles of the Christian religion, constitute a necessary bulwark of our republican government. The schemes and machinations of the damagee, will fall harmless before a people thus thoroughly educated.

The dangerous tendency of monopoly and the corrupting influence of money are met and counteracted by the power and virtue of this knowledge. Liberal expenditures by our government for the purpose of education, may well be regarded as judicious, and the means for the people for the support of this cause, as pure donations to republicanism. It should be the first care of the parent and the govern-

ment, and its fruits accounted the richest legacy we can leave to posterity.
In the discharge of the various duties of his office I have assumed, it will be my anxious desire to do equal and exact justice to all men of whatever persuasion, religious or political, and especially to advance the interests of this great Commonwealth, to increase the resources of her treasury, to husband her means, to diminish her debt, and to elevate the standard of her credit, to favor such measures as may be calculated to develop her vast resources and stimulate alike her agricultural, mining, manufacturing, mechanical and commercial interests, and to cooperate most cheerfully with the legislative branch of the government in the adoption of such policy as may tend to lessen the present onerous burdens of the people.
Our vast debt should be reduced as rapidly as practicable. Its injurious effects upon the growth of our population and the migration of capital to the State, is much more potent than the casual observer would suppose. This may not be most readily accomplished by the too parsimonious use of the means already secured to the treasury. It may be wise to apply a portion of these to complete public improvements now far advanced in construction, but yet unproductive. The abandonment of such improvements would involve a large amount of capital already expended, and sacrifice entirely the chances of future returns to the treasury of these sources. Indeed, the speedy completion of the North Branch Canal, is, in my opinion, consistent with the truest principles of economy.
Pennsylvania is, perhaps unrivalled by any of her sister States in natural elements of greatness and wealth. She is no less the garden spot of our common country than she is the Key-stone of the Federal Arch. Abounding in inexhaustible varied mineral resources, an abundance of well located water power admirably adapted to manufacturing and mechanical operations, together with a vast extent of the best agricultural soil, she can doubtless employ, sustain, and prosper a greater number of human beings than any other State in the Union. Her mountains, her rugged hills and lovely valleys, are rich with natural advantages to man. Her people are intelligent, industrious and enterprising, and if not restrained by unwise legislation, will soon occupy and improve these advantages to the fullest extent, and thereby render her a beloved State, prosperous and wealthy in an eminent degree.
A thorough knowledge of the sciences of Agriculture by our people, will have a most beneficial effect, if not quite essential to their prosperity. I am therefore much gratified with the effort now being made to accomplish this great object, and our own experience and the history of other countries, fully demonstrate the importance of such scientific education. The study of this science, combined with the practical labor of tilling the soil, is no less calculated to elevate and dignify the farmer than to reward him for his toil. This great, first, most dignified pursuit of man, so peculiarly adapted to our State and the inclinations of our people, should command the fostering care of our government.

Pennsylvania is blessed with a rich abundance and variety of minerals adapted to the practical uses and necessities of man—Her mineral interests constitute a great and growing source of wealth, contributing largely to enhance the receipts of our treasury. The appreciation thus given to the value of property, the population thereby sustained, the improvements made for their development and advancement, as well as the direct trade they furnish to the public works belonging to the State, generally promote this end.
The rich and extensive deposits of coal and iron ore within the boundary of our State make her particularly blessed. Her anthracite coal beds, furnishing a choice and cheap fuel for domestic purposes, for generating steam for the stationary and locomotive engine, as well as for the propulsion of our steamships, give to her a trade almost exclusively her own. For the supply of this article she is without any considerable rival. Although this trade is comparatively in its infancy it has already grown to one of great magnitude.
The value of the products of the mine is made up, mainly by the healthy, invigorating labor of the hardy miner; while the interest in this trade constitutes an important and valuable constituency with whose interests the prosperity and greatness of our State is identified.

It will afford me the utmost pleasure to favor all proper measures calculated to advance our great agricultural mineral and other interests.
Intimately connected with the great interests of the country is the subject of a Currency. The proper disposition of this question is not only a high, but one of the most difficult and dangerous duties of the government. The errors of our system are of the most seductive and dangerous character, consisting mainly in the creation of too much paper for the amount of specie basis provided for its redemption.—The utmost care should be taken to guard against this tendency, and to secure the people in the use of this medium. This security may be measurably afforded by imposing on the corporations, individual liability to the fullest extent.
The injurious effects of an excessive issue of paper money have been so frequently demonstrated in this country by such experience that it is quite unnecessary to discuss the question on this occasion. The laborer, the farmer, the mechanic, the manufacturer, and the merchant, are all deeply interested in having a sound currency. No pretext can justify the creation of a super-abundant amount of paper money, and it is with painful alarm that I have witnessed a growing disposition in the entire country to increase the use of this medium, on a small specie basis, regardless of the inevitable effects of the large accessions of coin which California is furnishing to this country and to the world. Every people must have a circulation medium as a matter of convenience, and should have whatever amount the transaction of wholesome business affairs may demand; but, unfortunately, we are too unwilling to stop at the proper period in the creation of this medium, as coin becomes abundant, that it should supply and render unnecessary the use of paper, is to my mind the plainest teaching of common sense. Such practical effect is demanded by the true inter-

ests of the people. Superabundant amount of money of any kind cannot fail to enhance nominal values above a proper standard and thereby engender a spirit of dangerous speculation and in the end prostrate the great commercial and manufacturing interests in this as any other question of governmental policy. Without a sound currency, the incidental aid resulting to the great interest from the revenue laws of the general government, can never have force or stability. I would not be understood by anything I have said, as holding the opinion that mere legislation, however wise, will give prosperity to a country, while bad legislation may restrain its energies, no matter what the labor, industry, virtue and patriotism of the people may be. Wise legislation can only afford opportunity for the legitimate rewards of labor. Perhaps no more dangerous political heresy is taught in our land than that the prosperity of the country is to be created by its legislation. A just policy can only guard and protect the legitimate means of production from special privileges—the devices of the cunning and the wicked. The people should rely on their own individual efforts rather than the mere measures of government for success.
Legislation should give to all citizens an equal opportunity of enjoying the natural advantages which surround them. Corporate power and special privileges too often prove the reverse result, and should therefore only be granted to facilitate the accomplishment of great public purposes, not within the reach of individual means.—Capital and labor co-operating in a proper relative proportion have made, and will continue to make, our country prosperous and happy. The rights of the latter should never be sacrificed to the interests of the former. Special legislation too, frequently has this tendency. Capital can always command employment and profit. Labor less able to command either, should receive the watchful care of government.
I am most happy, my fellow citizens, to meet you in my present capacity, at a time when our common country is at peace with all the world, and prosperous in an eminent degree. The dangerous conflict touching the subject of slavery, which for a time seemed to menace the stability of the national government has been most fortunately, and I trust permanently, adjusted through the medium of what are generally known as the "Compromise Measures." The general acquiescence of the several States in this adjustment, gives assurance of continued peace to the country and permanence to the Union—permanence to that Union; the formation of which gave our nation early influence and dignity of position with the other powers of the earth. Her rights have consequently been respected by all, and her wishes heard with profound regard. In war she has gained a high character for military power and in peace secured the confidence of all mankind. The justice and liberality of her institutions have constrained the oppressed of every land to seek an asylum within her limits, and enjoy under the ample folds of her national flag, political and religious freedom.

The continuance of these unequalled blessings is dependent entirely upon the perpetuity of this great national compact, and this can only be secured by a faithful observance of the terms of the Constitution under which it was formed. The Union and the Constitution are one and indivisible. The former cannot exist without the latter, and the latter had no purpose but to perfect and sustain the former. He therefore, who is not for the Constitution, is against the Union; and he who would strike at either, would commit political sacrilege against the great fabric sanctioned by Washington and Franklin. The Federal Constitution must be maintained and executed in all its parts. It is the paramount law of each State, and it is the imperative duty of their respective governments to assist in its just and full administration of its own provisions.
To Congress undoubtedly belongs, in the first instance, the duty of making provisions to carry into execution the intent of this instrument, but it is the right and duty of the States, moving within the limits of their reserved rights, to co-operate with the general government, in this legitimate work. They should certainly never attempt, by means of their legislation, to embarrass the administration of the Constitution. Such interference cannot fail to engender hostile feelings between the different sections of the Union, and, if persisted in, lead to a separation of the States. So far as legislation of this kind, can be found on the statute book of this State, it should be speedily repealed. Of this character I regard the greater portion of the law of 1847, prohibiting the use of our state prisons for the detention of fugitives from labor, while awaiting trial. In that work I shall most cheerfully participate as I shall also add, as far as I may properly do so, to suppress all attempts to resist the execution of the laws of Congress, whether providing for the rendition of fugitives from labor, or for any other constitutional purpose. The necessity for such action is fully demonstrated by the fatal consequences resulting from such an attempt recently occurring within our own borders.
The loyalty of Pennsylvania to the National Union cannot be doubted. She is now, as she has ever been, for the execution, in letter and in spirit, the several adjustment measures as passed by the late Congress, on the subject of slavery. She regards these measures as a permanent settlement of this dangerous geographical conflict, and will discountenance, to the full extent of her influence, all attempts at future agitation of the questions settled by them. She has planted herself on the Constitution, and guided by its wise provisions, will seek to do justice to all sections of the country, and endeavor to strengthen the bonds of the Union by cherishing relations of amity and fraternal affection between all its members.
I need say no more, my fellow citizens, of the importance of the Union. You are I am confident, abundantly impressed with its magnitude; without Union our liberties never could have been achieved. Without it they cannot be maintained. With the dissolution of this national compact would fall the hopes of the world for republicanism, the cause of political and religious liberty, the peace and prosperity of our people. To the end, then, that its great blessing may be preserved and its advantages

avail to posterity, it becomes the duty of all to yield patriotic submission to the laws constitutionally adopted, and cherish feelings of affectionate intercourse between the several members of our glorious Union. Admitted so to do by the immortal Washington, let the injunction be regarded by all of us with a Christian fidelity. Let our habits of acting, thinking and speaking of our political safety and prosperity, watching for its preservation with jealous anxiety, discountenancing whatever may suggest even a suspicion that it can in any event be abandoned, and indignantly frowning at the first dawn of any attempt to alienate any portion of our country from the rest, or to enfeeble the sacred ties which now link together the various parts.—Then shall we have performed our whole duty—duty to ourselves, our sister States, and to the cause of republicanism throughout the world.

There having been no precautionary measures taken for the preservation of order, much confusion prevailed. When, however, order was obtained, the address of Gov. Bigler was listened to with the utmost attention, and some portions of it much applauded by the auditory. Its delivery occupied about three quarters of an hour.
The crowd in and about the Hall during the ceremonies was most dense and compact, and had railroad communication from the east been open, it would have been much greater. The military companies in the interior made a very handsome appearance, and were treated with much courtesy and attention by the National Guards of Harrisburg.
Upon the conclusion of the inaugural address, Governor Bigler and Johnston shook hands most cordially in presence of the multitude, and the band of the National Guards then struck up the national air, "Hail Columbia."
The military companies immediately retired, and the Convention then adjourned.

THE FATE OF A MURDERER.

Strong efforts have been made by the citizens of Buffalo to procure the commutation of the sentence of young Knickerbocker, to be executed for murder, but without effect. Gov. Hunt refuses to interfere. The *Buffalo Queen City* says:
One cannot read the letter of Gov. Hunt without emotion. It recalls to mind the main facts of the case. A respectable hard working German watchmaker, named Harner, earning a bare support from the work he was enabled to do at his shop on Genessee street, had, on an evening in January, 1851, his attention called to the fact that a watch had been stolen from his window. He pursued, and in attempting to recover his own, was cruelly murdered.—After the coroner had been secured, and the utmost exertions of our police called into requisition, two young men—Knickerbocker and Hall—or Hall and Knickerbocker—for we subjoin what human being knows which was most to blame? (because the pistol was fired in the dark) were arrested, charged with committing the deed. A chain of circumstantial evidence, too strong to be disregarded, proved beyond a reasonable doubt that they were the guilty parties. But, [and we say it with great respect to the jurists.] Knickerbocker was tried first, convicted of murder, and sentenced to be hung, while Hall, on the same testimony, [for we took notes of both trials] was convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to States Prison ten years!

Knickerbocker's fate is indeed a melancholy one. In the very flower of his youth—in full possession of all his physical and mental faculties, he is about to end his days upon the scaffold. If we are correctly informed, he never acquired a knowledge of any trade, and never followed any industrial occupation for any length of time. Idleness has led him to a stronger minded man into evil practices, and his lamentable faults may be seen in our state prisons. Two hundred and thirty he spent in great and full-livelihood, Knickerbocker and Hall conceived together and executed a robbery, for which Knickerbocker is about to die upon the gallows and Hall is condemned to languish ten years in the State Prison. Such, alas! is the penalty of crime.

Distressing Accidents.

On the 12th inst., Thomas Richards, who was employed to attend at the foot of the new slope of Fallbrook mines was run over by some cars descending the plane, and instantly killed. Some distance up the plane, which is very steep, several cars became disconnected by some means from the train, and being precipitated suddenly upon young Richards passed over his body, almost cutting it in two. He was the only son of a widowed mother—his father and stepfather having been killed some years since by accidents in the mines. His character was spotless—a most dutiful son, contributing all his little earnings to aid his mother in the support of her four dependent daughters. He was but seventeen years old.

A Thrilling Scene.

The *N. Y. Evening Express*, of yesterday, says: "We learn from our marine reporter that the ice in the East River began to move, while many pedestrians were making their way from Brooklyn to New York. Their situation as the ice parted was terrible in the extreme. Many were carried down the river to the bay, three of whom were rescued from their perilous situation by C. Thomas, Custom house boatman, and James Murphy, one of our news boatmen, who returned in a small boat to their assistance at risk of their lives.
Several others (boys) were rescued by the Whitehall boatmen. We understand that some were injured, but we can ascertain no particulars.

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THE DEMOCRAT.

The Largest Circulation in Northern Pennsylvania—1033 Copies Weekly.
S. B. & E. B. CHASE, Editors.
PHILADELPHIA, PA.
THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 1859.

For President. James Buchanan.

Subject to the decision of the National Convention.

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