

A Sign of the Times.
Letter from Gen. M. Dallas on Constitutional Clubs.

Dear Sir.—You have done me the honor to ask a full expression of my opinion as to the propriety and expediency of forming, and inviting others to form, a series of "Constitutional Clubs," whose design and character may be gathered from the name, and I shall be happy to answer you on this question, due from one well-meaning citizen to another.—Having no desire or motive to conceal political sentiments, I cannot withhold, as you request it, my assent to your using the letter exactly as you please.

If the glaring events of the times, and the lowering aspect of the future demand (do they not?) for the safety of a system of government, approved by reason and vindicated by experience, new developments of energy and combination among the masses—some distinctive and resolute concentration of honest and loyal action throughout the country—a beginning must somewhere be made—and perhaps it can nowhere be made more suitably and acceptably than in the central State of Pennsylvania. At any rate, affecting to possess no peculiar power, nor influence, nor weight, in any sort of trust, to the sincere and firmness of your own convictions, I can see no reason why you and your associates may not appeal to your countrymen for co-operative organization, with the boldness inspired by a great emergency and natural to a noble object.

Our prosperity as a nation is a source of just pride. It is alike material, intellectual and political. In every range of human improvement, our progress has transcended the most sanguine hope, and struck the rest of the world with amazement. Whence this rapidity and subsoil grandeur of growth? Certainly its causes are various; but of all its causes, no one is clear, indisputable, all pervading, and fundamental, as the existence of the Union. With that cause, the social miracle is explained. It is a cause imperfectly appreciated abroad, but we Americans see, hear and feel it in every instant of our lives. Our inland, as well as our external trials, our administration of justice, our freedom and celebrity of intercourse, our quick almost instantaneous sympathies in joy and sorrow, with the most distant fellow citizens, our perfect sense of security against civil commotion—all bring up this cause perpetually to our consciousness. The Union. Nothing equal to it has ever, anywhere, been devised by statesmen, churchmen or philanthropists, as a means of promoting the general welfare, and securing the liberties of a people... It is the *one* thing to which we owe almost everything—the cause which unceasingly operates unsupposed and by itself produces nothing but good. No well-advised mind, uncorrupted by ambitious or impure hopes, can, in my judgment, contemplate unmoved the dangers which have suddenly, like clouds from a volcano, risen and enveloped that Union.

Now, I take it that your projected "Clubs," resting on the broad and benevolent platform of Democracy, are meant to have a single eye to the preservation of the Union—are meant to foster every measure having that tendency—*are* meant to detect, expose and resist whatever threatens to weaken or disintegrate—it is meant, in a word, to organize a power of simultaneous action, through correspondence, the press, and the ballot-box, which will rouse a rampart at every and every crisis, against any and every flood, however formidable, of sectional or fanatical disunion. It is in this belief that I not only approve the propriety and expediency of your plan, but bid you cordially God-speed with it.

I will not, though strongly tempted, advert to the best practical courses for upholding the Union. They will necessarily engage the deliberations of the "Clubs," when formed. But there is one comprehensive injunction which you will pardon me for thinking important enough, however trite, to be repeated here—*Look steadily to the Constitution, and set that its provisions be strictly executed.* That instrument involves the being of the Union. The Constitution violated, the Union lingers only upon sufferance—the Constitution enforced, the Union flourishes with perennial vigor. I do not question that a Union existed before the Constitution was framed; but it was a halting, half-way, wavering Union—an Union dragging its slow length along through the Revolution, and scarcely kept alive by the necessities and enthusiasm of those iron times. Such a Union could not encounter the emergencies of eradicating and severing peace, and its continuance would have kept down, if not fatally crushed out, the elastic spring, onwards and upwards, with which we have moved. The Union of the Articles of Confederation was not the Union of the Constitution; in contrast, the former was a rope of dry and bare sand, the latter a girdle of iron native grape vine, swelling with sap and bound with clustering fruit. Yet! kept to the terms of this, the wisest and safest of organic structures of government; kept rigidly to its equality of sovereignties, its guarantees, its pledges, its reservation of State rights; its generous measures of naturalization, its impressive prohibition of religious legislation, etc.

It is possible that you may have noticed how partially I have mingled in political controversies since leaving the Vice Presidency, in March 1849. With the exception, first, of an anxious effort to sustain what is known as the Compromise of 1850, and, second, of a like effort on behalf of the Democratic candidate in 1852, I have been led by considerations not worth mentioning, to indulge in at least comparative retirement. I refer to this, not only as an excuse to you for not replying in more ample detail, but also in order to give to the few sentiments I have expressed, their right force as offspring of cool and unimpassioned reflection.

I am, dear sir, your fellow-citizen and friend,
G. M. DALLAS.
Dr. Alfred E. Wright,
Boston October 1854.

UNITED STATES SENATORS.—The Harrisburg *Herald* gives the following as a correct list of the gentlemen named in connection with the United States Senatorship, by the opponents of the Administration, named alphabetically:—Hon. Alexander E. Brown; Hon. James Cooper; Pittsfield; Col. Andrew Curtin, Bellefonte; Gen. Wm. H. Irvin; Lewistown, Gov. Wm. F. Johnston, Pittsburgh; Hon. John C. Konkel, Harrisburg; Gen. Wm. Larimer, Jr., Pittsburg; Hon. Daniel Snyder, Norristown; Hon. Thaddeus Stevens, Lancaster; Prof. O. H. Tiffany, and Hon. Frederick Watts, Carlisle; Hon. David Wilson, Townsend.

Mr. S. P. Collings, late editor of the "Wilkes-Barre Farmer," has received the appointment of Consul to Morocco.—We hope the journey may prove beneficial to his health, which has been delicate for a number of years. Mr. Collings is a gentleman of eminent talents and did credit to his position while an editor.

Montrose Democrat.

LARGEST CIRCULATION IN NORTHERN PENNA.

WEB CHASE & ALVIN DAY Editors.

Montrose, Thursday, Nov. 10, 1854.

Our political editorials are pretty much minus this week. Cause—the fire, &c.

New Post Office.

A new Post office has been established at Summersville, this county, called Summers, and J. L. Sulphur appointed P. M.

Wood : Wood :

Those of our subscribers who contemplate paying us in wood, will greatly oblige by bringing some now. Recollect, good wood makes warm fingers, and a good paper, because it makes the Devil good-natured.

To our patrons.

We hope hosts of our patrons will improve next Court to settle up for the past year—There are very many who intend to avail themselves of the advantage of advance terms, who are in arrears since January last. They should not let Court week slip by. We want money. At the present high prices of paper, when very many journals are obliged to reduce their size, our patrons must pay promptly if they would have theirs hold up. Call and see ns.

GREAT FIRE IN MONTROSE ! \$65,000 of Property Destroyed !

The starting cry of "Fire! Fire!" broke upon the slumbers of our citizens last Friday morning about five o'clock. Hurrying to the spot which the flames indicated, it was found that the building occupied by A. Baldwin's building before it broke out, and not permit it to be violated under penalty of loss of situation, never allowing a workman to enter it after it is closed by the proprietors. We rejoice upon ours, and do not permit it to be violated under penalty of loss of situation, never allowing a workman to enter it after it is closed by the proprietors. There is no safety where young apprentices and others are allowed to assemble after business hours for fun and frolic. We do not believe that this fire originated in this way, but very many fires have originated so, and we speak of it now in order to arrest the attention of our citizens when it may be headed.

Bentley & Read lost pretty much the whole of their large stock of Goods, together with their store building—loss \$10,000.—Insurance, \$3,000.

The household furniture of Mrs. Seymour, in the second story was all lost.—A. Sayre Jeweler, lost his whole stock of watches and tools. No insurance.

A. Avery, Esq., 2nd story, saved his Books and papers principally.

Lathrop & Riley saved but few Goods.—Their insurance is \$3,800—nearly covering their loss. The building was owned by Mr. Meyler, who had a large insurance, upon it, we learn.

I. Post had a small insurance either on his house or furniture. His loss must reach several thousand dollars. Judge Post had no insurance on his buildings. His loss six or eight thousand, perhaps more. D. Post had no insurance. His loss will reach six or seven thousand.

The Messrs. Singleton lost most of their watches and other property in their shop.—We believe they have no insurance.

Thayer & Warren have an insurance of \$1,000 which will nearly cover their loss.—Mr. Harrington received a policy that morning which will nearly cover the loss of his goods.

Lathrop & Woodruff, lost nearly their whole stock of staves and tin ware. They have a small insurance.

Messrs. Turrell lost some \$2,500 or more with no insurance. Mr. Hawley loses his house, and considerable furniture. We have not learned how large his insurance is.

Mr. Cushman loses almost everything. Mr. Webster about \$300 above insurance.

I. N. Bullard's loss is very heavy. He saved but little from his building, and his insurance is small.

Keefer & Stoddard lose about \$500 above insurance.—Mr. Mooney, occupying the same building, loses his tools, and some clocks, etc. We have no estimate of his loss.

The office and medicines of Patrick & Dineen, together with the house, were principally lost. Their library was saved. On the house and furniture of Mr. Locke, we have not learned that there was any insurance.

The pole in front of Searle's burned and fell upon the roof. The fire, which was prompt and with the supply of water was inadequate, and the engine did not work with its usual force. The buildings were dry, and in a few minutes those adjoining the shop were enveloped in a sheet of flame. Extending east, the large building belonging to the west, towards Searle's Hotel across Public Avenue. The fire company was prompt on hand, but the supply of water was inadequate, and the engine did not work with its usual force. The buildings were dry, and in a few minutes those adjoining the shop were enveloped in a sheet of flame. Extending east, the large building belonging to the west, towards Searle's Hotel across Public Avenue. The fire company was prompt on hand, but the supply of water was inadequate, and the engine did not work with its usual force. The buildings were dry, and in a few minutes those adjoining the shop were enveloped in a sheet of flame. 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