# Morning Post.

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L. HARPER, EDITOR.

PITTSBURGH:

WEDNESDAY MORNING::AUGUST 27, 1851.


## DEMOCRATIC STATE TICKET.

FOR GOVERNOR,

**WILLIAM BIGLER,**

OF CLEARFIELD COUNTY.

FOR CANAL COMMISSIONER,

**SETH CLOVER,**

OF CLARION COUNTY.

## DEMOCRATIC STATE NOMINATIONS

**For Justices of the Supreme Bench.**

HON. JEREMIAH S. BLACK, *of Somerset.*
" JAMES CAMPBELL, *of Philadelphia.*
" ELLIS LEWIS, *of Lancaster.*
" JOHN B. GIBSON, *of Cumberland.*
" WALTER H. LOWRIE, *of Allegheny.*

## DEMOCRATIC COUNTY TICKET.

PRESIDENT JUDGE OF DISTRICT COURT,
HOPEWELL HEPBURN, *of Pittsburgh.*

ASSISTANT JUDGE OF DISTRICT COURT,
CHARLES SHALER, *of Pittsburgh.*

PRESIDENT JUDGE OF COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
AND QUARTER SESSIONS,
JAMES McCRAFT, *of Fitt Township.*

ASSOCIATE JUDGES OF COURT OF QR. SESSIONS.
WILLIAM KERR, *of Chartiers Township.*
JAMES WATSON, *of West Elizabeth Township.*

ASSEMBLY,
ALEXANDER M'CAMMON, *of Pittsburgh.*
JAMES WATSON, *of Pittsburgh.*
A. HAYS, *of Allegheny City.*
D. R. WILLIAMS, *of Shaler Township*
L. B. PATTERSON, *of Mifflin Township.*

RECORDER,
ROBERT MORROW, *of Pittsburgh.*

REGISTER,
ANDREW BARCLAY, *of Allegheny City.*

CLERK OF COURTS,
ELIJAH TROVILLO, *of Pittsburgh.*

TREASURER,
THOMAS BLACKMORE, *of South Pittsburgh.*

COMMISSIONER.
J. D. W. WHITE, *Borough of Manchester.*

SURVEYOR,
E. H. HEASTINGS, *of Pittsburgh.*

AUDITOR,
B. DILWORTH, *of Ross Township.*

☞ The correspondence between the Committee of Councils and Gen. BOWMSON, in regard to the termination of the Ohio and Pennsylvania Railroad, will be published to-morrow.

## THE STATE FINANCES.

We invite the particular attention of our readers to the very able letter of JAMES R. SNOWDEN, Esq., in relation to our State debt, which will be found in this day's paper. It is a letter that will command great attention throughout the State, not only from the fact that he has been intimately connected with our State finances, in years past; but because of the clear and explicit manner in which he has presented the true state of the Public Debt before the public. The Whig press and Whig politicians of the State have combined to try and impress the People with the belief that no addition was made to the State Debt during Mr. RITNER's administration; and the impression has become by far too general. We gave some facts to prove the contrary, a few days ago; but in this letter Mr. SNOWDEN shows clearly how the increase was effected, and the full amount added to our State indebtedness during Mr. RITNER's administration.

There is another matter which is clearly exposed in this letter; and that is, the utter falsacy of the claim set up by Gov. JOHNSTON, to the whole credit arising from the payment of the interest on the public debt, and the establishment of a sinking fund for its eventual redemption. From the facts and figures given by Mr. SNOWDEN, it is very evident that a larger portion of the State debt was paid during the administration of Gov. SHUNK than has been paid since; and it is indeed doubtful whether the actual indebtedness of the State is any less than it was two years ago. The practice that has been resorted to of taking from one pocket to put into another, however it may change the appearance, cannot change the actual state of affairs.

In view of the statements of Mr. SNOWDEN, Gov. JOHNSTON occupies a position anything but worthy and honorable. He stands before the State convicted of most contemptible meanness, in seeking to detract from the merits of his predecessor, by appropriating to himself the merits of the best acts of his administration; and more especially in casting upon the preceding administration the odium of acts never committed, in order that he may have a light reflected upon his own public life, that no act of his own can ever produce.

Again we ask for this letter a careful and attentive perusal. Every person in the State is more or less interested in its contents; and there is an air of sincerity and truthfulness about it, which, if it will not disarm the reckless and unprincipled of Gov. JOHNSTON's friends, will at any rate, show to all, that they have been striving to deceive the People, in a point where their interests are deeply at stake, and on a subject upon which their opponents cannot so readily obtain the means of disproving their statements. But we rely upon the power and influence of truth, feeling convinced that all which is correct will be eventually established; while the false and the corrupt will be hurled down to their native gloom and darkness.

## THE NEWS FROM CUBA.

We give, in another column, some of the most interesting details that have been received from Cuba; and they are certainly calculated, when taken in connection with news previously received, to awaken intense interest in the minds of the American People. The cold-blooded butchery of so many men, even without the show of a trial, is exciting our countrymen, at every point, to an extent, the end of which may not be readily seen, but can be easily imagined. Our people are at best excitable; but when such occurrences as this are brought to their notice, they are not likely to overcome the feelings of horror engendered by them, until full retribution has been had for the injury inflicted.

We find, from our exchanges, that meetings have been called in all our principal cities, to take into consideration the deep disgrace that has been inflicted upon the name of Civilization by the horrid acts of the Cuban Spanish authorities; and from the mildest tones of those meetings there is nothing but encouragement offered to those who may engage in the revolutionary cause; and, such being the almost universal sentiment of the People, we think it may not be most advisable for our government officers to interfere with the People in a very strenuous manner. Whether it is right or not to engage in such a struggle as that going on in Cuba, it is not in the nature of our people to be thwarted in their designs, without manifesting opposition, or even open resistance; and, therefore, as we all profess to regard liberty, it might seem in no way improper to look as complacently as possible upon all movements whatever, made among the People, and designed to ameliorate the condition of any of our race, who are suffering and oppressed.

As one of the results of this Spanish massacre, we find that acts of retaliation have been practiced in New Orleans upon probably the whole Spanish population; and, however wrong such acts of retaliation may be, they clearly indicate the disposition and determination of the mass of the People; and are apt to prove an index to the acts which are to follow upon a more extended scale. Indeed, it would in no way surprise us, to find that the acts of the Cuban Spanish government were already taken as the basis upon which to revolutionize the Island; and if such a feeling shall extensively prevail, there is no doubt that another week will not pass, before the Patriot population of the Island will be enabled to feel their power, and exert

## IMPORTANT CORRESPONDENCE.

DEMOCRATIC UNION OFFICE,
Harrisburgh, August 12, 1851.

*Col. James R. Snowden:*

DEAR SIR: Gov. Johnson and his friends are endeavoring to make political capital out of the improved condition of the Finances of the State. You were one of those bold spirits in our Legislature who urged and carried through the great measures that saved us from the disgrace of repudiation; and afterwards, as State Treasurer, you commenced the payment of the interest on our state debt, after years of suspension, and consequent accumulation, at the rate of about a million and a half a year. This all occurred years before Gov. Johnson came into power, and as you must be familiar with the efforts of the patriots of that dark and gloomy period of our history as a State, I would be pleased to have your recollections of them in a letter for publication.

Hoping to hear from you at an early day, I remain your friend and obedient servant,

ISAAC G. McKINLEY.

PITTSBURGH, August 23, 1850.

To I. G. M'KINLEY, Esq.—

*Dear Sir:*—I have received your letter of a late date, which I will proceed to answer as briefly as I can, consistently with the importance of your inquiry and request.

The Finances of the Commonwealth attracted my careful attention as early as 1838, during my first session as a member of the Legislature. The State was then suffering from the bad measures of Gov. Ritner's administration. The act of the 25th of March, 1831, which imposed a State tax of one mill on the dollar upon the valuation of certain property, had been beneficial, not only as a source of revenue, but as a check to extravagant appropriations. A legislature is not so likely to make large appropriations when the people are taxed to pay the interest, as when the same is paid by new loans. The election of Mr. Ritner in 1835 was in consequence of the division of the democratic party, which extending also to the legislative offices, a large majority of his friends were elected to the House of Representatives. By fraud and corruption a majority in the Senate was also obtained—whereupon the act of the 18th of February, 1836, was passed, entitled "An act to repeal the State tax on real and personal property, and to continue and extend the improvements of the State by railroads and canals, and to charter a State Bank, to be called the United States Bank." This act may be justly regarded as the true cause of all our subsequent financial difficulties. The people were told that no taxation was necessary—that the U. S. Bank would make canals and railroads wherever they were wanted, furnish the means to educate the children of the Commonwealth, and supply all deficiencies in the revenue!

Not satisfied with having destroyed the true sources of revenue, Mr. Ritner, in his last annual message dated 27th December, 1838, seemed even to desire to throw difficulties in the way of a return to just measures—Speaking of the changes which had occurred since the commencement of his administration, he says—"The tax on the United Stock, when in existence, without hope of termination, has ceased to be collected, and nothing but the utmost profusion can make it again necessary." And yet in the same message then pompous words—"Thus has it come to pass that notwithstanding a succession of circumstances the most fortunate, and o' receipts the most ample and most unexpected, the Commonwealth is left without means to continue her cherished internal improvement policy. The contractors—her citizens—and the public generally, are, I fear, about to possess good causes of complaint that she has entered upon undertakings that she cannot accomplish; or as the only alternative, the means to complete and render productive the projects of private speculation, which have proved so burdensome to the Treasury, and so insatiable in their demands, must continue to be preferred without regard to consequences." Wonderful words to come from a person who had recommended the Gettysburgh Railroad to benefit the owners of turnpikes; and the Wilkesbarre feeder to enrich coal speculators! Strange inconsistency to say there should be no taxation now or hereafter, when in the same message he declares that "the Commonwealth is left without means to redeem her own faith!!"

During the three years of Mr. Ritner's administration, there was not a single year which bounded surplus revenue, which he denominates with great propriety, "fortuitous circumstances." In my statement of the following sums, viz:

| | |
|---|---|
| Bank bonuses, | $3,239 977 67 |
| U. S Surplus Revenue, | 2,667 514 75 |
| Total, | $5,114,492 43 |

And yet notwithstanding this immense sum, thus "fortunately" and "unexpectedly" received, he increased the indebtedness of the Commonwealth to the amount of $6,000,000. The amount by which the State was indebted, when he left the executive chair, was $34,146,062 89; Gov. Porter, in his first message, says—"This aggregate State debt (with the exception of $150,000 appropriated at the last session of the Legislature to the aid of a railway from Harrisburg to Pittsburgh—to stock in the Franklin Railroad, and to aid in the Penna. and Ohio canal) was contracted *prior* to the 15th January, 1839, the day of my inauguration. It is true that the sum of $6,584,300 was authorized to be borrowed since that period, but the whole of this large amount (with the above exception) was appropriated to the payment of debts and liabilities due and falling due in the year 1839, for the payment of which no provision had been made when I entered upon the duties of my office."

Thus I think I have shown that the measures adopted during Mr Ritner's administration, were in the highest degree injurious to the public credit; and that his allegation which is made by the whig press and whig orators, that the indebtedness of the Commonwealth was not increased during his official tenure, is entirely unfounded. I add it the fact that no *permanent loan* was made during that period.

But I pass on to notice the claim set up by Mr. Johnston and his friends, that he has redeemed and re-established the credit of the Commonwealth! And in order to see exactly what he does claim, I will insert here an extract from his speech, delivered in the City of Allegheny, on the 20th inst., as reported in a whig paper:

"The system of internal improvement left a debt hanging over us of about $40,000,000. When Gov. Ritner closed his administration, the public debt was risingto $36,000,000. When I came into office it had accumulated to forty millions and a half, though the instrumentality of our opponents while in power, who had misapplied the public funds. The time was approaching when you would be called upon to reconcile your public debt, or bear a burden which would be intolerable, unless some remedy was applied. The debt was increasing, and would have swelled to such an amount as would have rendered its liquidation an utterly hopeless task. I looked upon it as important it at something should be devised to relieve the people from the increasing burden which not only afflicted the wealthier class, but another class of the community—citizens who had children to educate, and who were interested in a system of public schools More than half a million of the public debt has been paid since he who now addresses you has been in public office."

Let us see how the facts will warrant these bold and reckless declarations

From the commencement of our improvement system up to August, 1842, it was the practice to equalize the receipts with the expenditures by means of a Loan. But our financial difficulties were such that, although a Loan was authorized, to pay the interest in August, 1842, there were no bidders for the loan, and the interest in consequence was not paid. The Legislature of 1842 met, but nothing was accomplished—no taxation authorized, or any sources of revenue created I know not what difficulties that Legislature had to encounter, not being a member during that session. The Legislature of 1843 met under circumstances of depression and gloom The eyes of the world were upon us, for where had not traveled the story of our sad dishonor? Hon. William Bigler was Speaker of the Senate—I was Speaker of the House of Representatives. In conjunction with a few other democratic members, we determined that something should be done, that we could accomplish—or as the only alternative, the means to complete and render productive the projects of private speculation, which have proved so burdensome to the Treasury, and so insatiable in their demands, must continue to be preferred without regard to consequences." Wonderful words to come from a person who had recommended the Gettysburgh Railroad to benefit the owners of turnpikes; and the Wilkesbarre feeder to enrich coal speculators! Strange inconsistency to say there should be no taxation now or hereafter, when in the same message he declares that "the Commonwealth is left without means to redeem her own faith!!"

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