



POTTSVILLE. Saturday Morning, Jan. 13, 1844.

Our acknowledgements are due to the Hon. Alexander Ramsey, and Jacob Hammer, and C. M. Straub, Esq., for public documents.

PATENT OFF THE STATE DEBT.—As this question appears to be attracting attention in all quarters, we submit to our readers a plan for the accomplishment of this all-important subject, from one of our correspondents, which will be found on the first page.

A great deal of other matter intended for this paper has been crowded out by the report of the Schuylkill Navigation Company, which, as it contains information of considerable importance to the greater portion of the community around us, we thought advisable to publish.

VAN BUREN AND THE SOUTH.—In calmly surveying the political signs of the times, as they are daily brought out in the movements and declarations of our National Congress, we cannot help remarking the singularly unfavourable position that Van Buren occupies before the people. Judging from actual facts manifested continually, it is evident that wherever he has trucked and fawned for the purpose of originating himself into the popular bosom, he has failed in his egotism. It has been his peculiar fate to have all his sly and disreputable manoeuvres detected. His double dealing course in relation to the tariff, blowing hot to the south and cold to the north, has through the incensiveness of some of his adherents, been published to the world; and, counting as the "Little Fox" generally is, he has nevertheless been so unfortunate in this canvass, as to leave his track around every political rook he has attempted to rob.

His position towards the South has within the last few days assumed a most humiliating aspect in regard to the 21st Rule, and has placed him in an unenviable light before the tribunal of popular estimation. It is well known that he and the friends of his administration have always supported that rule, voting for it and sustaining it, not from any sterling conviction of right, but for the purpose of enlisting the partialities of the south in their favour. What must be the feelings of that party now, when, after having given the country such indubitable evidence of their trucking egotism, they see the very men they have courted, college with the old champion, Adams, and advocate the rescinding of that rule? Will not the check of every sensitive and honourable man in the party blush for the result of such mean trickery, and can the community, with these evidences of double dealing before their eyes, countenance the election of the original plotter? In the voice of an awakened people, which is already ringing over our land, we hear the protest that "the Magician has lost his spell."

THE STATE DEBT.—In another column will be received a call upon citizens of all parties friendly to the good credit of the State, to meet and devise some means of rescuing her from the present degraded position she occupies among the States of the Nation. For our part, we can only reiterate what we have formerly expressed, viz: that the only way to release the State from her present liabilities is, in the first place to sell the public improvements, and with the proceeds reduce the debt; then levy a tax for the payment of the annual interest, and devote the proceeds arising from the sale of Pennsylvania's share of the Public Lands to the creation of a sinking fund. This is the most certain and, we think, existing circumstances, the only method of reducing the State debt. We hope to see a full attendance, and to hear a frank interchange of opinion, at the meeting which will be held at the Pennsylvania Hall, on the 20th inst.

SOMERSET NEW.—We are gratified to notice a new enterprise which has been commenced in our borough within the last month. A young Welshman, named James Franklin Harris, has started a loom for the manufacture of flannel and other woollen goods, upon which he can weave cloths of almost any pattern or quality. We called upon him in company with a friend a few days since, at his room in Norwegian street, and was extremely pleased with the evidences which we witnessed of his skill. Among other things, Mr. Harris exhibited to us a medal which had been presented to him in 1833, by the celebrated Lord Gess, for the best piece of woven flannel produced at the annual exhibition in Wales. He is in hopes of succeeding in a new undertaking, and intends, if he finds the proper encouragement, to increase his business so as to include the manufacture of various other woollen articles.

CLAY MISCELL.—This is a small volume of upwards of 300 pages, published by Thomas Cowperthwaite & Co., New York, and edited by J.S. Little of Philadelphia. It embraces a large collection of popular Clay sermons, original and selected, prefaced by a written biography, of 147 pages, of Henry Clay. It is a most excellent book, and at the present crisis, ought to be in the hands of every good Whig. We recommend it to the attention of the various Clay Clubs, in the county. A number of copies, have been sent us, and can be procured at this office.

MILITARY BALL.—The Jackson Hibernia Guards gave a Military and Civic Ball on the night of the 8th inst., which was quite a creditable and brilliant affair. The room was sufficiently lighted, beautifully decorated, and numerously filled. The enjoyment was maintained until a late hour in the morning, when the party broke up all well pleased with the arrangements.

PARADES.—The National Light Infantry paraded in our borough on the morning of the 6th of January. They numbered upwards of thirty battalions, and we never saw them march so look better. This old corps still continues to maintain its high reputation among the military here, which taken as a mass, are inferior to no other battalions in the State.

The Young Men's Clay Club have rented room now occupied by the Mechanic's Association, for their next meetings. The Club will be held on Tuesday evening, and we hope to see a full attendance.

NOTICE.—Gen. Hambrick, Colonel in the 1st Regt. of Light Infantry, is said to be a defaulter in the amount of \$10 to \$20,000.

John Strohm of Lancaster county has publicly declared being a candidate for Governor.

Mr. ELLET'S RAIL ROADS.—The last Journal of the Franklin Institute, contains a long article, by Charles Ellet, Engineer, purporting to show the cost of transportation on Rail Roads, along with a mathematical formula; to show the permanency of an iron rail. Among other instances adduced by the writer in proof of his position, we find the following:

"Mine Hill and Schuylkill Haven Rail Road was originally constructed with a flat bar, and six miles in length of the road had been renewed with a heavy duty rail, before 400,000 tons had passed along it. Assuming the value of the flat bar at \$60.00 per ton, or \$1200 per mile, which is below its present value, and that the iron was worn out by 400,000 tons, the result will be three mills per ton per mile. But this road is provided with a double track, and the track which was destroyed was not used by the ascending cars."

Now the ingenious author has been most unfortunate in his quotation, for it is a well known fact in this district, that the Mine Hill & Schuylkill Haven road was laid with 4 inch bar iron in 1830, and from that period until the completion of the present road, at least one million of tons were carried over it. We learn in addition to this, that the iron was taken off of the road, after having been used for that length of time, and in many instances for \$75 per ton, and we are also informed by the Superintendent, that with the exception of a few bars of faulty iron, very little wear could be perceived upon the bars. It is difficult and almost impossible for the uninitiated reader to understand the reasoning of Mr. Ellet's formula, the aim of which is, we believe, to prove that the Reading Rail Road will not bear the carriage of 800,000 tons on its rail, without being rendered unfit for use. The position is, to say the least of it, a bold one; and were we to judge, assisted only by observation and common sense, we should affirm it wholly untenable.

LAMENTABLE AND FATAL ACCIDENT.—It devolves upon us as a painful duty to record the accidental death of a most worthy citizen of Minersville, named John Dietrich, who was killed upon the branch Railroad leading to Winkup and Betty's collieries at Meckesburgh, on Wednesday afternoon last, at 4 o'clock. Mr. Dietrich had charge of nine or ten loaded cars, and was taking them down the plane, he standing upon one of the front cars, when a bough of a tree which overhung the road, caught him and threw him so that he fell with his head and arms under the train. When taken up immediately after, he was found to be most horribly crushed and to such a degree that he lived but four hours after the accident. Mr. D. was a good citizen, generous hearted, frank and manly in his disposition, and his death will be seriously regretted by all who know him. The First Troop Schuylkill county Cavalry, the Minersville Artillery and the Minersville Blues attended his funeral which was large and respectable.

SCHUYLKILL COAL TRADE.—The following is the official quantity of coal shipped from the Schuylkill Region:

Table with 2 columns: By Canal, By Rail Road, Total. Values range from 447,058 to 770,095.

Making 700,000 tons of coal shipped from the Schuylkill County Coal Regions in 1843—and notwithstanding this immense trade, all those engaged in it appear to be growing poorer every year. There is something radically wrong in the business, which ought to be remedied as speedily as possible.

We will next week furnish our readers with our annual coal statistics.

REDEMPTION OF STOCK.—The Managers of the Mine Hill and Schuylkill Haven Rail Road have reduced the toll from 2 1/2 cents to 2 cents per ton per mile on the Rail Road, taking effect from the 9th of December last. The reduction will average about five cents per ton—and it is currently reported that Coal has already been offered on the strength of the reduction at ten cents per ton less. Such has always been the case in this region—and if we were certain of a corresponding effect—that is, if the price of coal would increase with an increased price of transportation, we would unhesitatingly advocate the latter course, under existing circumstances.

Messrs. Hughes and Straub, representatives from this county in the Senate and Assembly, have introduced jointly a resolution approving of the present tariff and recommending, in case of any alteration, an increased duty upon coal and iron. We cannot imagine why the above named gentlemen have seen proper to bring in such a proposition as we know that the coal operators of this district have never desired or authorized any such movement. They are perfectly satisfied with the present duty as being sufficiently high for the interest of the region, and are willing to allow it to remain at its present rate, being convinced that a change either way would not benefit them in the least.

HARRIS'S ILLUSTRATED FAMILY BIBLE.—We have received the first number of this beautiful publication, which, exceeds in style and magnificence any publication of the kind, which has ever yet been produced. It will be completed in about 50 numbers, at the low price of 25 cents each. Persons who wish to subscribe for six months, would do well to leave their names with us, at as early a date as possible, as it is well known that the first impressions from the engravings are always the most perfect.

SNOW.—On Thursday afternoon and evening snow fell in our borough to the depth of two or three inches, and early the next morning the jingle of sleigh bells was heard in our streets. A great many complaints have been launched against the little chap that tends the flood gates aloft, for shutting off the supply so soon, as many of our pleasure loving folks had anticipated a fine frolic upon runners.

ANOTHER REFORM.—The Legislature of Pennsylvania can transact all the business before them in six weeks. Let the press therefore of all parties unite in opposing every member for reelection who will not vote for limiting the session to six weeks. This reform, so important to the taxpayer, can be effected on the part of the people and the Press, if followed up.

Rumsor, with his thousand tongued ministers, asserts that some very queer proceedings are about to take place in this neighborhood shortly; and yet, as is the case with all such insinuations, further the deponents say not. Will not some good kind friends who boast enlightenment in the matter, remove the obfuscation.

Henry Clay was born on the 23rd of April, 1777, and will consequently be 67 years old on the 23rd of April next.

Legislative Proceedings.—Nothing of very great importance has yet been transacted within the walls of the State Capitol. For Clerk, Col. Andrews was elected in the House, and Col. J. McCahan in the Senate. On Friday of last week, the Secretary of the Commonwealth returned several bills with accompanying vetoes, and among them was that on the subject of selling the main line of the public improvements.

The election district bill relating chiefly to places for holding elections in particular districts was also among the number, and the others were of minor importance.

On Saturday last a resolution was offered in the Senate to inquire into the alleged defalcation of the Collector of Tolls at Lancaster, which is reported to be from 10 to 15,000 Dollars.

Mr. Hughes and Mr. Straub, both from this county, introduced simultaneously a joint resolution, one in the Senate and the other in the House, declaring that the existing tariff should not be changed, but that if it was altered, the duty on coal and iron should be increased.

Mr. Cooper, of Adams, introduced the following preamble and resolutions which were read and made the order of this week.

WHEREAS, The State of Pennsylvania owes a debt of upwards of \$4,000,000, which is grievously embarrassing and burdensome to the people. And whereas, it is the duty of the Legislature, enjoined by the high consideration of vindicating the sacred faith, and restoring the degraded credit of the State, and to provide means for the payment of the debt. And whereas, the already embarrassed condition of the people, and the common dictates of a sound policy require that the means of raising money be drawn from sources the least burdensome. And whereas, the sale of the Public Improvements of the State, and the appropriation by Congress of so much of the Public Lands of the United States, or the proceeds thereof, would be a most judicious and the best mode to liquidate the State debt, and free the people from the oppression of taxation.

Resolved, That honor, justice, humanity, as well as what we owe to our character as a people, unite in requiring that the faith of the State, pledged to its creditors at home and abroad, should be guaranteed by a speedy provision for the payment of the debt and all arrears of interest.

Resolved, That the Public Improvements, canals, railroads, and stocks, should be sold; and that the Committee of Ways and Means be and they are hereby required to report a bill authorizing the sale of the same.

Resolved, That we recommend our Senators and Representatives in Congress to use their exertions to procure the passage of a law authorizing the issue of \$200,000,000 of stock, to be distributed among the several States, in proportion to their Federal population, and to be payable by the United States out of the proceeds of the sale of the Public Lands, which lands shall be pledged for the redemption of the stock so issued.

Resolved, That should the proceeds of the sale of the Public Lands be insufficient for the redemption of the stock in a reasonable time, that ways and means should then be raised by Congress, by levying such additional duties on foreign goods as may be necessary.

DELEGATE TO THE NATIONAL CONVENTION.—A county Convention was held in Lebanon last week, at which the following resolutions were passed:

Resolved, That John C. Schuler, John Harper and John Bassler, Esqrs., be conferred, to meet those of Dauphin and Schuylkill counties, and appoint a delegate to represent this Congressional district, in said Convention.

Resolved, That we recommend the meeting of said conference to be held on Saturday, the 30th day of February, 1844, at the public house of Henry Heilmann, in Jonestown; and that we further recommend that the conferees appointed by this convention, upon the name of some suitable person from this county to be placed on the Democratic Whig electoral ticket of Pennsylvania, at this congressional district.

Strong resolutions were passed in favor of Henry Clay.

PHILADELPHIA, READING AND POTTSVILLE RAILROAD COMPANY.—At an election for 1844, of the road held on the 8th of January, 1844, the following gentlemen were chosen for the ensuing year:

President, JOHN T. LUGER. MANAGERS, Coleman Fisher, David E. Wilson, John A. Brown, Lewis R. Ashbarr, Samuel Norris, Matthias S. Richards, of Reading.

Secretary and Treasurer, Samuel Bradford.

Mrs. —Our streets are literally flooded with mud, reminding one forcibly of the early days of Pottsville, when, as tradition asserts, the ladies, heaven bless them! were forced to wear high Hessian boots and to go bareheaded, and to stand around on long stilts—Miners' Journal.

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THE STATES ISLAND MURDER.—We neglected in our previous numbers to notice the commission of a most horrid murder upon the bodies of Mrs. Houseman and child, at Port Richmond, Staten Island, on Christmas day. On first information the neighbors had of the deed was the evidence of fire in the house, when they broke in and found the bodies as the murderer had left them, with the exception of a slight disfigurement from the effects of the fire. Mrs. H. was the wife of Capt. Geo. Houseman, who was absent from home at the time, and as it was known that he had left \$1,000 in cash at his house, it was supposed that this knowledge induced the perpetrator of the deed. Many occurrences which transpired after the murder, tended to fix upon a sister of Capt. Houseman, named Polly Bodine, who was rather an abandoned character and co-habited with an apothecary in New York, named White. This man was known to be in great difficulty for want of funds, and it was supposed that this fact induced the wretched woman to commit the murder. She was accordingly arrested, and many circumstances transpiring which made her guilt the more apparent, she made the following confession. Whether it is true or not remains to be seen.

CONFESSION OF POLLY BODINE. REMOVED COURT JAIL. I went to New York on Christmas morning last, and went to George S. Waite's store. Mr. Waite told me that Emeline Houseman had died, and he said they were dead and that was enough. Then he began to find fault because there was not more money in the house of the deceased. He then took the watch, the room, and jewelry. He means of saying that he drew from sources the least burdensome. And whereas, the sale of the Public Improvements of the State, and the appropriation by Congress of so much of the Public Lands of the United States, or the proceeds thereof, would be a most judicious and the best mode to liquidate the State debt, and free the people from the oppression of taxation.

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President, JOHN T. LUGER. MANAGERS, Coleman Fisher, David E. Wilson, John A. Brown, Lewis R. Ashbarr, Samuel Norris, Matthias S. Richards, of Reading.

Secretary and Treasurer, Samuel Bradford.

Mrs. —Our streets are literally flooded with mud, reminding one forcibly of the early days of Pottsville, when, as tradition asserts, the ladies, heaven bless them! were forced to wear high Hessian boots and to go bareheaded, and to stand around on long stilts—Miners' Journal.

Let us be thankful that our lot has been cast upon dry land—Reading Gazette.

THE STATES ISLAND MURDER.—We neglected in our previous numbers to notice the commission of a most horrid murder upon the bodies of Mrs. Houseman and child, at Port Richmond, Staten Island, on Christmas day. On first information the neighbors had of the deed was the evidence of fire in the house, when they broke in and found the bodies as the murderer had left them, with the exception of a slight disfigurement from the effects of the fire. Mrs. H. was the wife of Capt. Geo. Houseman, who was absent from home at the time, and as it was known that he had left \$1,000 in cash at his house, it was supposed that this knowledge induced the perpetrator of the deed. Many occurrences which transpired after the murder, tended to fix upon a sister of Capt. Houseman, named Polly Bodine, who was rather an abandoned character and co-habited with an apothecary in New York, named White. This man was known to be in great difficulty for want of funds, and it was supposed that this fact induced the wretched woman to commit the murder. She was accordingly arrested, and many circumstances transpiring which made her guilt the more apparent, she made the following confession. Whether it is true or not remains to be seen.

CONFESSION OF POLLY BODINE. REMOVED COURT JAIL. I went to New York on Christmas morning last, and went to George S. Waite's store. Mr. Waite told me that Emeline Houseman had died, and he said they were dead and that was enough. Then he began to find fault because there was not more money in the house of the deceased. He then took the watch, the room, and jewelry. He means of saying that he drew from sources the least burdensome. And whereas, the sale of the Public Improvements of the State, and the appropriation by Congress of so much of the Public Lands of the United States, or the proceeds thereof, would be a most judicious and the best mode to liquidate the State debt, and free the people from the oppression of taxation.

Resolved, That honor, justice, humanity, as well as what we owe to our character as a people, unite in requiring that the faith of the State, pledged to its creditors at home and abroad, should be guaranteed by a speedy provision for the payment of the debt and all arrears of interest.

Resolved, That the Public Improvements, canals, railroads, and stocks, should be sold; and that the Committee of Ways and Means be and they are hereby required to