

THE PORTER.

E. S. GOODRICH,
GEO. SANDERSON, } Editors.

Wednesday, December 20, 1843.

For President in 1844,
COL. RICHARD M. JOHNSON,
OF KENTUCKY.

[Subject to decision of a National Convention.]

Operation of the present Tariff.

"What's in a name?" is an old saying, and one which the projectors of a tariff must have well considered, before they gave the name of "protective tariff," to laws building up the rich, and depressing the poor. There is something in this name at least, which at first prepossesses the casual reader and observer in its favor. The idea of fostering and encouraging home manufactures, of being dependent on no foreign country, is a patriotic and American feeling, and those who do not trace cause and effect are very apt to fall in with that unjust and oppressive measure, a high protective tariff, as being most likely to effect this. They look upon it merely as an enactment which shall shut out all foreign commodities, and supply their place with articles of home manufactures. But in doing this they do not reflect that the duty must be paid by the consuming class of community, who are principally the ones least able to pay it, and that it goes to build up the wealthy capitalists and monopolists of the land. Whom does it protect? Does it cheapen the necessities which the laboring man is obliged to purchase for the subsistence of his family? We all know that the present tariff has increased the price of those articles and left his wages as low or lower than formerly. Is there a person in Bradford County who could be directly or indirectly benefited by a high protective tariff? If there is, then he is a stockholder in some manufacturing monopoly, and the remainder of our citizens must pay him tribute. We have no fears for our manufactures; they are firmly established and able to compete with any foreign manufactures without Legislative interference. They will always accommodate themselves to the wants of a nation, and any other foundation except such necessities must be uncertain and hazardous, producing a deleterious and deranged state of commercial and pecuniary affairs, diverting the channels of trade from their proper and steady course, and directing industry and capital to an object which cannot be otherwise than ruinous. But we shall take occasion to renew this subject again, as our present purpose was to introduce to our readers the following article from the Philadelphia Ledger, a paper neutral in politics. It is well worth the attention of those who regard the general good of our citizens, showing as it does in faithful terms, the practical operation of the present tariff.

"The more we look at a protective tariff the more are we dissatisfied with its unjust and arbitrary operation. The natural effect of every tariff is to raise the price of every article, on which a duty is imposed, to a sum equal to the free trade price and the duty. This is plain to every observer, and if this has not been the case under the present tariff, no persons have been more disappointed than those who were instrumental in imposing it. It was what they designed to accomplish by the law, and promised to do. If this result has not been effected on every article, it is because some distinct influence has been in operation to prevent it; such as a glut in the market, scarcity of money, or great indebtedness among consumers. So soon as the casual influences are removed, and the present tariff has the full effect for which it was designed, we shall see the change in prices, and feel the soreness of the burden which it imposes. To know the true nature of the tariff, every sound mind would judge of it according to its natural operation, unaffected by temporary causes. But this raising of the prices of articles to the amount of the duty is not all it does. The wholesale and the retail dealer each exact a profit on the duty itself as advanced by them, the one about twenty per cent, and the other about thirty-three per cent. This increases the duty more than half its amount by the time it reaches the consumer. Suppose the cost of a dozen plates imported from abroad to be, when they reach the collector of duties, forty-four cents. He exacts for them a duty of thirteen and one fifth cents, which raises the cost to the importer to fifty-seven and one fifth cents. Upon this cost the importer charges the

retailer an advance—not on the simple free trade cost but on the duty also—of about twenty per cent, which makes the price to the retailer a fraction above sixty-eight cents; on this cost the retailer charges the consumer an advance of some thirty-three and a third per cent, which makes the cost to the consumer ninety-one cents. It will be seen that through all the hands to the consumer, the per centage of profit is counted as well on the duty as on the free trade cost of the article. The natural price of the article of plates, above instanced, without duty, would have been about seventy-one cents a dozen—allowing to the importer and the retailer all the profits above set down, viz: 20 per cent. to the former, and 33 1/3 to the latter. Thus is twenty cents drawn from the consumer on the very common article of a dozen plates, on the score of the tariff, while at the same time he is led to believe from the face of the transaction that he pays but thirteen cents. If the natural price of pins or needles, to the wife of the farmer and laborer, including the profits of the merchants, was sixty-four cents per pound, under the operation of the present tariff the cost would be, if the article could be imported, ninety-six cents for the pound. If the article could not be imported, then the home manufacturers would raise the price to the nearest possible limit short of the cost of importation under the duty. And this is the course with all the articles shut out by the tariff."

"We yesterday instanced the article of plates for the purpose of illustrating the fact that our present tariff was fifty per cent. more enormous to consumers than they were led to believe from the face of the law, inasmuch as the wholesale and retail dealer each exacted a profit on the duty as well as on the free trade cost of the imported article. We now purpose to give a more striking illustration, and to follow one of the most important articles of domestic use, through all the steps to the consumer. The common calico, which is used, more or less, by half the females in the country can be brought to the Custom House for about eight cents a yard. The first duty of the collector, under this tariff, is then to consider each yard as costing thirty cents. For each yard then he exacts a duty of thirty per cent. This duty is nine cents. Add to it the actual cost of eight cents, and the cost to the importer, thus far, is seventeen cents. On this he charges a profit of about twenty per cent, which makes the price to the retail merchant (not considering the jobber) twenty cents a yard. On this the retail merchant charges a profit of about thirty-three and a third per cent, and the article goes into the hands of the consumer at a cost of twenty-seven cents a yard. The natural price, with fair profits to the merchant, would have been eleven cents a yard. Let us follow this a little farther. Eight to ten yards are necessary for the dress of a female. Under the operation of the tariff, eight yards would cost two dollars and sixteen cents; under free trade and fair profits, eight yards would cost eighty-eight cents. The trimmings and the making of the dress are to be added before the calico is of any use. There are some millions of females in this country who labor for wages, and whose wages are one and two dollars a week. It would require the labor of such persons for three or four weeks to obtain the cheapest calico dress. To go further, look at the article of umbrellas, (and who is so poor as to be without at least one?) there is a duty on the covering, whether of silk or cotton; another on the stick, another on the horn tips, another on the heads, another on the stretchers, another on the runners, another on the wire, another on the whalebone; and, as if these were not sufficient, although prohibitory, there is a distinct duty on the frames; and, to cap the whole, and thus exclude every vestige of the foreign article, there is yet a separate duty on the umbrellas. And yet we hear that the present duty is not oppressive!"

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR.—The Madisonian contains the report of James M. Porter, Secretary of War. We glean the following information relative to the army. The regular army consists of 716 commissioned officers, 17 military store keepers, and 7,590 enlisted men, (which embraces non-commissioned officers, musicians and privates of dragoons, artillery, infantry and riflemen,) 40 sergeants and 250 enlisted men of ordnance, making an aggregate of 8,613.

"THE EXPOSITOR"—Is the name of a new paper printed by A. C. FELDER, at Hinsdale, Cattaraugus Co. N. Y. in quarto form, at \$1 50 per year. It is designed to illustrate the principles of the Manual Laboring School, established at that place.

ADVERTISING.—A cotemporary makes the following sensible remark: "A man's advertisement in a well circulated newspaper, is a locomotive sign board that travels about and is seen by thousands weekly. Merchants and business men should remember this."

Right side of the Question.

The whigs are asserting with more than usual confidence that they have the right side of the question. The Argus asserts it more than once in the last number, and therefore encourages the hope of an easy victory. Now if the whigs with similar assurance should assert that they were on all sides of the question, the history of their party would sustain it. They have been distinguished by some dozen or more names, and have sailed under as many piratical flags. Were they on the right side of the question in 1798 when they sustained the Elder Adams with his alien and sedition and gag laws in opposition to Thomas Jefferson? were they on the right side in opposing the election of James Madison? were they on the right side, when opposing the declaration of the last war, and congratulating the British on every occasion of their success? were they on the right side when by a corrupt bargain and sale with Henry Clay, they succeeded in defeating Genl. Jackson and electing John Q. Adams? were they on the right side when by this coalition they attempted to defeat General Jackson the second time? how have the people always decided this matter?—again and again have they been called to act upon it, and yet notwithstanding the history of our country stamps the assertion as false, they still re-assert the same thing. The whigs may say they are right now, because they are for a protective tariff and a national bank. Were they right in 1828 when they repudiated a protective tariff, if not, what makes them right now. What is meant when the whigs say they are on the right is, that they are so negatively, that they are on every side, that is not the wrong side. For example in this latitude they are for a protective tariff, in the middle and a portion of the southern states they are for individual protection by way of discriminating duties. In the north they are abolitionists, in the south anti-abolitionists; they have indeed a set of opinions for every latitude, thus making sure to be on the right side of the question.

MAIL ROBBERY.—The mail bag from the Albany office, for New York, was stolen from the Post-coach or the coach office at Hudson, on Tuesday last, rifled of many of its valuable contents, and thrown into the river, where it was found by the Captain of the steamboat Utica. Of the amount of money stolen it is impossible as yet to form any conjecture. The post master at Albany states that the way-bill was a very heavy one, and that there were drafts to the amount of sixty or seventy thousand dollars in the mail; the payment of which will of course be stopped, but the recovery of the money is another thing.

ALABAMA.—The Democrats of this State manifest the right spirit in reference to the next Presidency. Meetings have been held in various parts, and all resolve to go for the nominee of a National Convention. When Mr. Calhoun's friends were the most numerous, resolutions were passed in favor of sustaining Mr. Van Buren, if nominated; and when Mr. Van Buren's friends were in the majority, in favor of supporting Calhoun.

NEW YORK.—The New York Herald, a whig paper, in speaking of the result of the New York election, says that it is satisfied that public opinion is against Clay, High Tariff, and National Bank, and in favor of Martin Van Buren and Democratic measures. The majority in the popular vote for the Democrats is 21,487!

ACCIDENT.—A highly esteemed and promising young man, named Conrad Ramage, Jr., was accidentally wounded so severely by the discharge of his own gun, while hunting on the mountain, a few miles to the south of Wilkesbarre, Pa., on Thursday last, as to cause his death the following morning.

FOUND.—The money and notes lost by C. PAINE, Esq., at the fire at Mr. Post's house on court week, were found this morning (Tuesday) among the rubbish carried out of the room—after the fire was subdued.

NOT A BAD EXCUSE.—John W. Jones lately sentenced to the Kentucky penitentiary for living with two wives, gives as his excuse that when he had one she fought him, but when he got two they fought each other.

Mr. READ will accept our thanks for Congressional documents.

The Right of Petition.

Henry Clay is making use of his cunning and craft to secure the abolition vote. He is determined, if possible by any assurance he can give, to flatter and coax the abolitionists into his support.

Mr. Garland, in a recent speech, made at Oberlin, Ohio, read a letter from Mr. Clay, highly laudatory of Mr. Garland and his labors in the cause of the abolitionists. The people at Oberlin were not to be soaped in this way, and some of them have come out against him.

The Bradford Argus is piping the same tune, although it attempts to make capital in another way. In its minutes of the proceedings of Congress they say that when the question was taken on the 21st rule "affecting the right of petition," the whigs ALL voted for it and those who voted against it are ALL locofocos. Intimating thereby that the whigs are in favor of the right of petition and the Democrats are all against. It is by this kind of misrepresentation and falsehood that the whigs succeed, if they succeed at all. The true history of this matter is this. The 21st rule as it is called, is one of the rules formerly adopted for the government of the house, by the exertions of John Quincy Adams, and for the special benefit of the abolitionists. Before it was rescinded, Congress was flooded with abolition petitions, by which the business of the house was retarded and much loss of time. It was finally decided that Congress had no right to receive petitions which jeopardized the union, and that they could not meddle with the institutions of any of the states, and so the rule was repealed.

Ever since this, Mr. Adams, who is the leader of the abolitionists in Congress, offers the 21st rule when Congress is about organizing. The vote on the question shows how great favor the abolitionists meet with in congress. As usual the 21st rule was recently proposed again; as usual the democrats voted against it; but what has been unusual, the whigs, nearly all of them voted for it; and the Argus upon this, comes out and says ALL the locofoco delegation from Pennsylvania voted against the right of petition. The true version of this is, that the whigs if they can gull the abolitionists or hood-wink them to vote for Henry Clay they will do it; the abolitionists have ever accused us of voting against the right of petition, because our members vote against the 21st rule?—And now the whigs accuse us of the same thing. Surely they are determined to be on the right side of the question.

FIRE AT MONTROSE.—We learn from the Montrose papers, "that the extensive Tannery of Mr. William Foster, on the west side of that village, took fire on Monday last before dusk, and the main building, containing much valuable machinery and stock in the works, was entirely consumed in a short time. By the strenuous exertions of the citizens, the east wing of the building, containing the Steam Engine, Boilers, &c., was saved—also, an old building on the other side, a few feet distant, containing a large quantity of bark. As Mr. Foster was not insured, his loss must be severe—probably amounting to \$1000 or 1200.

ANOTHER ALMOST.—On Tuesday night the dwelling of S. Hatch esq., was discovered to be on fire, in the front chamber, it having caught the clothes hanging in the room. Fortunately it was discovered in time and was extinguished after doing some damage.

TRIAL FOR MURDER.—The trial of Mrs. Elizabeth Turpening, for the Murder of her husband, occupied nearly the whole of week before last, before Judge Monell, at Binghamton, N. Y. She was acquitted by the Jury. The verdict was cheered by the large assemblage.

AN ARBITRARY JUDGE.—Judge Manning, at St. Louis, struck the names of a Jury from the panel, because they brought in a verdict contrary to his instructions.

WISCONSIN.—It is said 60,000 emigrants have reached Wisconsin this year, by way of the Lakes, and the number has been increased to 120,000 by emigration through other routes.

THURLOW WEED, of the Albany Evening Journal, has returned from his tour through Europe, and resumed his editorial labors.

HON. R. M. JOHNSON has returned to his residence at White Sulphur Springs, Scott co., Kentucky.

ISAIAH H. CROSS is announced as one of the editors of the "Montrose Star."

FORGERY.—The Elmira Gazette

says "that on Saturday evening last, a certificate of deposit for \$1000, payable to the order of L. W. Baker," purporting to have been issued by the Chemung Canal Bank, was received by the Bank by mail, from a broker in Buffalo. The certificate is supposed to have been cashed by the Broker, and as it is forged, he will be the loser of all he paid for it, which amount is yet unknown here. Circumstances render it certain that the forgery was the work of a journeyman printer, named Samuel Goldsmith, (with a host of aliases) who was employed in this office a few weeks in September and October, and went to Buffalo about the 10th of November. A few days before he left here, a lot of blank certificates were printed for the Bank, at the office, from which he is supposed to have purloined a number, he having done the printing himself, and one of which it would seem he has filled out with an amount to suit himself, and very probably obtained, with the exception of a reasonable discount, the full amount for which it was drawn. The manner in which he prepared his operations for the forgery, bespeaks him a worthy disciple of Monroe Edwards; and we hope to see him meet the same fate, but we fear he has fled some days before the forgery was detected."

THE CALATHUMPIANS.—A band of lawless desperadoes, combined under the above name, and sworn to do all the mischief possible, and then swear one another out of the scrape, were lately convicted in Columbia county, and five of their number sentenced to the Penitentiary. They were a terror to the neighborhood, destroying property, stealing bee-hives, &c. We notice in the Columbia Democrat the marriage of one of their number in the jail of the county the evening before his departure to the Penitentiary.

STEAMBOAT EXPLOSION.—The Pittsburg Chronicle of Friday week contains the particulars of a distressing accident which occurred at Freeport on the Allegheny river, on the Steamboat Warren. The accident happened on Wednesday evening, just as the Warren was backing out from Freeport. She either collapsed her flues or her boilers exploded, it is not known which, and of eighteen or twenty on board, twelve are badly scalded; some of them, four or five, the physicians think will not survive.

CROMWELL.—We learn from the Journal of Commerce that a petition is in circulation in New York asking Congress to grant a pension for life to the widow of Samuel Cromwell, adequate to her support, on the ground that he was executed for piracy (on board the U. S. brig Somers) without trial or opportunity to defend himself, and that subsequently, on the trial of Captain M'Kenzie for said execution, no evidence was introduced which could implicate Cromwell in the offence charged.

MARYLAND.—The State debt of Maryland is \$14,071,179 23. A tax of thirty-five cents per one hundred dollars will cover the yearly indebtedness. Twenty-five cents per hundred dollars has already been assessed, and the Legislature will probably during this session, advance it to thirty-five.

A CONSPICUOUS MEMBER.—Mr. Wentworth a member of Congress from Illinois is the tallest man in the House. His height is only seven feet two inches. It will be very easy for him to catch the Speaker's eye.

DEATH WARRANT SIGNED.—The death warrant of James and Bridget Dolan has been signed by Gov. Porter, and February 16th appointed as the day of execution.

BANK ROBBERY.—The Providence County Bank, at Lime Rock R. I. was lately entered by false keys, and robbed of \$7455 in bills of the bank, and \$1108 in gold.

LETTERS.—The number of letters which annually pass through the United States Post office is twenty-four millions and a half.

SPEAKER.—A. L. Roumfort, Esq., is proposed as a candidate for Speaker of the House of Representatives of Pennsylvania.

ADAM HORN.—This wretched man, lately found guilty of the murder of his own wife, has made a full confession of that and subsequent crimes.

Congressional.

The twenty-eighth Congress convened at Washington on Monday, Dec. 13th. But little was done the first week, the organization of the two houses and the adjournment of preliminary business occupying the whole time. The election of officers to the House of Representatives, presenting the most perfect unanimity between the friends of the several presidential candidates, is a source of much gratification to the democracy of the Union. The officers elected for the House of Representatives, are as follows:—
Speaker—John W. Jones of Virginia;
Clerk—Caleb J. M'Nulty of Ohio;
Printers—Blair & Rives of Washington;
Sergeant-at-Arms—Rufus C. Lusk of Indiana;
Door Keeper—Jesse E. Dow of Washington.

Mr. C. J. Ingersoll has given notice of his intention to bring in a bill relating to Genl. Jackson with interest, a fine imposed upon him at New Orleans. The "one hour" rule has been maintained in the House.
Mr. Barnard attempted to read a protest against the reception of those members of Congress elected by general ballot, but after considerable discussion was refused the privilege.
Mr. Barnard then arose and said he should not press the reading of the protest, but he objected to the members were not elected in conformity to the constitution has yet been transacted.

HEAVY JUDGEMENT.—Miss Bishop of M'Connellsville, Ohio, prosecuted Stockton & More, proprietors of a stage line running from Baltimore to Wheeling. The Action was brought to recover damages for injuries sustained by Miss Bishop by upsetting a stage of one of the defendants in June 1842; and the case was tried at Freeburg a short time since. Miss Bishop's arm was broken, her elbow badly injured, and her head somewhat injured, which caused the accident. The returned a verdict for the plaintiff, \$6,500 and costs of suit.

DREADFUL ACCIDENT.—We recorded in the Susquehanna Register the shocking death of Mr. Ira Gray of Bridgewater, in the following manner: "It is supposed that in some obstruction in a saw-gate, he leaned his head over the frame attached to the saw, as it started suddenly, it carried against the timber above, creating a stomach and holding his body fast till he was found in that situation after, entirely dead. Mr. Gray, we believe, about 36 years of age, having recently lost his wife, and several young orphan children."

LYNCH LAW.—The good people of Easton, Pa., one day last week, ed themselves with the execution of Judge Lynch, and handled a man named Lebar, pretty severely, in consequence of his having attempted to idle them in the way of presidential chances. Several of the persons been arrested.

THANKSGIVING MESSAGES.

At a public meeting, convened at Court house on Monday evening for the purpose of adopting resolutions relative to the proper observance of the day appointed by the Executive of the Commonwealth for Thanksgiving and Prayer to Almighty God, Wm. B. Felt, Jr., was chosen President; Wm. Wells and David Cash, Vice Presidents, and E. S. Goodrich, Secretary, object of the meeting having been known by the President, and the remarks made by Mr. Overton, Anderson and Mr. Elwell, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:
Resolved, That the citizens of the Borough of Towanda, will on Thursday the 21st inst. observe Thanksgiving and Prayer to Almighty God, in conformity with the tradition of the Governor, and in accordance with the usage of our Fathers—
Resolved, That the Shop keepers and Mechanics of the Borough, be requested to close their Stores, Shops, Offices &c. on that day, and that the citizens generally, be requested to refrain from their usual occupations and employments—
Resolved, That it is desired that religious services be performed on that day at all the churches in this borough.
Resolved, That these resolutions be signed by the officers and