

# THE PORTER.

E. S. GOODRICH, Editor.  
GEO. SANDERSON, Editor.

Wednesday, January 17, 1844.

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

(Subject to decision of a National Convention.)

## The Message.

We intimated in our last number our non-concurrence in the views of the Governor upon the subject of the State Printers and the Tariff, deferring until this week a more particular expression of our own opinion upon those subjects. As to the State Printer question, it is hardly necessary that we should say much, as we have already said all that need be said, in previous numbers. Our views remain unchanged. The first and important question in this matter, has been taken for granted by the Executive. The question propounded to the Attorney General and upon which solely his opinion is given is "whether the election of E. G. McKinley as State Printer, to do the English printing, on the 15th day of April, was such a valid election, as will justify the approval of his bond by the Governor preparatory to his entering upon the duties of his office? Upon this question the Executive rests the gist of the whole matter. It has ever seemed to us that the first question to be settled is, "has the Executive any authority to decide in the legality or illegality of the election, or is his jurisdiction expressly limited to the exercise of his judgment and discretion, as to the sufficiency of the bond offered for his approval." Suppose the Clerk of the Senate had been designated to approve of the bond; what right would he have to enquire into the legality of the election? It has been taken for granted that the executive has this right; show us that he has; then it will be time to discuss the legality of the election.

**THE TARIFF.**—Our objection to this portion of the message is, its ultraism. The using of the word "protection" as the Whigs use it; assuming the constitutionality of the doctrine, is begging the question; it is not the Pennsylvania policy, and if it was, there is no reason why we should concur in it, unless it be right and just. "It is idle to talk of reciprocity of trade, says the Executive, when England will not receive our flour under a prohibitory duty of less than three dollars per barrel, for us to receive her coal and iron free, or nearly so, of duty." This language recommends, that we should retaliate, that is, England prohibits our flour, we ought therefore to prohibit her iron and coal. This would be taxing one department of industry to sustain another. Because the farmer is denied a market by England for his surplus produce, the Executive can see in that a reason why coal and iron should be protected; we cannot see the sequence. If anything can be done to benefit the farmer, let it be done, he is the man that suffers by the British policy. What would be the consequence of this protection to farmers? burdensome and unjust. Not only shut out of a foreign market, but that very fact is made the reason, why the farmer, who is a large consumer of iron, should pay a bounty to the iron master; thus the injustice of England to him, is to be made the basis of a law to compel him to pay a tax on iron and coal. The farmer will say, it is hard enough for us to be shut out of a foreign market without taxing us, because we are shut out.

The Executive says our flour is laid by England, under a prohibitory duty; and again he says, "a permanent home consumption, is, after all, the only market on which our farmers and other producers can always depend for a steady demand for their commodities." Then why complain of prohibitory duties; nothing will so effectually compel the farmer to take up with a permanent home market, as the prohibition of his commodities from a foreign market. If there is no where else he can go with his produce, he must sell it at home, if he sells at all. Hence there is no need of protection as such to iron and coal, to secure a permanent home market for the farmer; nor can it be done, without a tax upon him.

This permanent home market idea, is all moonshine. Who will undertake to satisfy the farmers of Bradford that this one market system is for their interest, and they must sell their grain at Towaunda and no where else? It seems to us the climax of absurdities, to say that the farmer is better off to be shut out of every market but one, and compelled to submit to its dictation, rather than have the benefit of them all. Half the legislation now-a-days is to help any one else but the farmer. If protection can be afforded in the exercise of a just discrimination of duties, let it be done; but then let the farmer be benefited, as well as rich stockholders in iron, woolen and cotton factories. The great business of this country is agriculture; manufacturers never will, and never can be, but a small portion of it compared to agriculture. We go for the whole country, and Bradford county in particular.

**THE SENIOR EDITOR.**—E. S. Goodrich was defeated by only one vote in the caucus nomination, for clerk of the Senate; he was however nominated as a transcribing clerk and elected, a post which he next preferred. Mr. Goodrich is eminently qualified for the place he now fills, or the place he first aspired after. Indeed we venture to say that there are but few persons, who would discharge the duties of either office, with more general satisfaction. Thus much we may be permitted to say of our associate, without being liable to the censure of having his own press sound his fame. Col. McCahen, his successful opponent, was last winter a prominent candidate for Clerk of the Senate. Without intending any disparagement to the other Senators who voted for Mr. G., it is thought in this quarter no small favor to him to have the preference of the Senators from Lancaster and Franklin.

**CANAL COMMISSIONERS.**—The newly elected board of Canal Commissioners met at their room on Monday, the 8th inst., and in pursuance of the requirements of the law, drew lots for the length of their respective terms.

William B. Foster, jr. drew 3 years.  
James Clarke " 2 "  
Jesse Miller " 1 year.

**JAMES CLARKE** was chosen President of the board; D. MITCHELL, Jr., of Perry County, appointed Secretary. Mr. MITCHELL, for a few months past, has been a resident of this county; and has here as well as in Perry county, many warm friends. He is eminently qualified for the post to which he is elected; few can be found more indefatigable in their application to business than he. To two of the board at least, his talents and qualifications must have been well known—having until recently always lived a neighbor to and a friend of Jesse Miller, and for some time associated with Mr. Foster as an engineer on the N. Branch.

**HENRY A. PETRIKEN, JR.**—The 24th number of the current volume of this paper, under the head of "Next Governor," we published an article, reflecting somewhat severely upon Henry A. Petriken, as the author of several scandalous articles against Henry A. Muhlenburg, which appeared in a new paper published at Harrisburg, called the Democratic Champion. Mr. P. disavows having connexion with that paper, and the authorship of those articles, and disapproves of them as much as we do. Our authority for supposing that he was connected with that paper, was his own language, as represented to us by one who professed to have heard it. We are satisfied now that such is not the case, and that Mr. P. will not condescend to such kind of warfare against Mr. Muhlenburg as is indicated by those articles.

**THAT "SAME OLD COON" AGAIN.**—The whigs of Baltimore made a request to Mr. Clay that he would condescend to cut a stick, with his own hand, from the shrubbery of Ashland farm, to serve for a flag staff, which he graciously complied with, and the stick has arrived, accompanied by two coons—real live "varmints."

**ANOTHER REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIER GONE.**—James Dickey, a revolutionary soldier, long a resident of this borough, died on Saturday, 6th inst., at the advanced age of 95. A large number of our citizens paid the last tribute due to one of the defenders of our liberty, by following his remains to the grave.

**GOVERNOR.**—Between forty or fifty of the delegates elected to the 4th March Convention, are instructed for Hon. H. A. Muhlenburg.

## H. A. Muhlenburg.

We are gratified to notice that the papers which are favorable to the nomination of Hon. H. A. Muhlenburg as the candidate for Governor, have expressed a mild and conciliatory course, in relation to the other candidates. We should regret exceedingly if any of them, should so far misrepresent the wishes and feelings of Mr. Muhlenburg, as to be driven into the abuse of his opponents. The friends of Mr. Muhlenburg have had great provocation; and for ourselves we confess that when reading from the papers favorable to the nomination of Mr. Shunk, the reflections cast upon Mr. Muhlenburg were almost constrained to open our batteries. But what is the use of this course; if by it they can defeat Mr. Muhlenburg, are they sure they can nominate Mr. Shunk? Think of it.

While upon this subject we would say that the prospect of Mr. Muhlenburg's nomination is almost certain. Philadelphia City and County which sends eighteen delegates has gone for him. Most of the eastern counties have done likewise, and some of the western counties. But few of the western counties have instructed for any one, thus showing that the west does, not unite on Mr. Shunk. Dr. Sturgeon is receiving much favor as the candidate of the west. He is now in the United States Senate; and would be an unexceptionable western man. It occurred to us a long time since that this was the man, more likely than any other than to unite the strength of the west; it surprises us that his friends were not earlier in the field. They must work the harder. Jesse Miller has been nominated by Perry county as its choice for the next Governor.

**HORRID MURDER.**—A most atrocious murder was committed in the vicinity of Richmond, Staten Island, on the 24th ult. The house of a Mr. Houseman was entered in his absence by some unknown person or persons—Mrs. H. and infant murdered in the most shocking manner—the house rifled of its most valuable contents, consisting of a gold watch, jewelry and money valued at \$1200, and afterwards set on fire.—Mrs. H. was a very amiable woman, beloved and respected by all who knew her. She was known to have a large amount of money in her possession, received from her husband prior to his leaving home; and it was doubtless for the purpose of plunder that the dreadful act was committed.

Mr. H. returned home on the 25th, and was completely overcome with grief by the heart rending intelligence. A sister of Mr. Houseman named Polly Bodine, a depraved and abandoned woman, has been arrested as the murderer. Circumstances have placed it beyond a doubt that this wretched woman has murdered her sister-in-law and infant for the purpose of plunder, and that to supply a guilty paramour, named Dr. Wait, with money. She has since become the mother of a child by this Dr. Wait, which she murdered at its birth. This most dreadful affair receives double horror from the fact of its having been committed by a fiend in female form. Dr. Wait and the woman were committed.

**DEATH ON A STEAMBOAT.**—A coroner's inquest was held in New York city on the 8th inst., on the body of a man named Peter Schermerhorn. He came on board the boat Saratoga, and proceeded as far as the boat could go, which was obliged to return to the city, owing to the ice. On the return of the boat he became worse, and died the evening afterward. In his pocket was found the following note:

"Brother Mix—Please see this poor man has lodged this night; he says he is a member of our church; he is unwell, making his way to his father near Wilkesbarre."  
Yours, L. FULLER."

**BOLD THIEF.**—A rogue named Robert Swift deliberately took up a Show case filled with fine wearing apparel, which stood at a tailors door in Broadway, New York, and endeavored to carry it off. The street was crowded at the time. The audacity of the attempt almost made it successful, but as Mr. Swift was rather slow, the owner of the goods overtook him, and had him committed.

**ARREST.**—Mr. W. Rust proprietor, of the Syracuse House, has been arrested on suspicion of having been concerned in the robbery of Pomeroy's & Cos. Express. No trace has yet been discovered as to the whereabouts of the money.

**THE COMET.**—This celestial visitor, which made its appearance last winter, it appears did actually come in contact with the sun, and made a visit rather close to the earth. From a lecture by Dr. Lardner, delivered in Philadelphia we take the following facts. The Dr. says:—In the latter end of February last, the centre of the head or nucleus passed within 15,000 miles of the sun, and as the head was about 30,000 miles in diameter, it must have grazed the sun for a considerable distance. This is the statement of M. Arago, from calculations made from observations taken at the Royal Observatory of Paris.—Some philosophers have contended that it actually pitched into the sun, but this is not confirmed. It must, however, have traversed a large portion of the sun's disc. It traveled with the most astonishing rapidity, actually traversing the half of the sun's circumference, and its tail, though 120 millions of miles in length, swinging round in about forty-eight hours. If the velocity of light, 200,000 miles between two ticks of a clock, is astonishing, what must have been the velocity of that appendage swinging around such an immense space describing such an astounding area in such a time? On the 27th of February, the head of comet was past the sun, and its tail must have actually touched our atmosphere, extending that enormous distance."

**RIOT AT SYRACUSE.**—A riot occurred at a tavern at Syracuse, N. Y. on the 2d inst., occasioned by a landlord firing a horse pistol at a person who had seized a bottle of brandy, wounding him severely in the under jaw. A mob collected outside of the house, who were fired upon by those within, wounding three persons. The military were called out, who quelled the riot, after some considerable property had been destroyed.

**SUICIDE.**—Miss Mary Alden, a young lady from Middleboro' (Mass.) on a visit to her uncle at Hallowell went out in the night, and attempted to get under the ice, thro' an opening near a wharf, but could only immerse a part of her body, owing to some obstruction from the wharf. Then she attempted to cut her throat with a pen knife, which was found near her. She perished from exposure. She had been watched by her friends for several days.

**ROBBERY.**—A German pedlar was lately robbed between Shickshinney and the western line of Luzerne county. Two men strangers, came out of the woods, as the Pedlar was passing, one of whom shot at him, the ball striking the thumb of his right hand, and considerably injuring it. The men seized the Pedlar; and after robbing him of thirteen dollars, permitted him to escape without further injury.

**ALABAMA.**—The Alabama Democratic State Convention has nominated MARTIN VAN BUREN, as the choice of that State for the next Presidency.—The vote in the Convention stood:—Van Buren 67. Calhoun, 50. Col. WILLIAM R. KING was unanimously nominated as the choice of the state for the Vice Presidency.

**ACCIDENT.**—From the Argus we learn that "A most melancholy accident occurred in Wyalsburg township, one day last week. A young man by the name of WILLIAM DONLEY, aged about twenty years, was in the act of moving some logs when a hand spike accidentally struck him in the breast causing instantaneous death."

**SUDDEN DEATH.**—Joseph Klapp one of the oldest physicians of Southwark, while attending the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia, swooned, and although there was prompt medical attendance, died in less than five minutes.

**REPUTATION.**—The whig Bankrupt paid off debts to the amount of about eleven millions of dollars, and yet the whigs affect a horror at the thought of Reputation!

**RESIGNED.**—Gen. Waddy Thompson son, the Minister of the United States to Mexico, has forwarded his resignation, and is expected to arrive in the United States very shortly.

**LOSS OF LIFE.**—The number of lives lost on Lake Erie during the past year was twelve.

**JUDGE PORTER,** U. S. Senator from Louisiana, is dangerously ill, and has returned to his home.

**SAD ACCIDENT.**—The Steuben Farmers' Advocate of the 10th inst. says: "As Mr. Edward A. Sweet and Hosea Thayer were out hunting pheasants in the woods near Hammondsport on the 4th inst., the gun of the former accidentally exploded and discharged its whole contents into the breast of Thayer, who instantly expired. Coroner Wells held an inquest over the body, and a verdict of the Jury was rendered accordingly. No blame, as we understand, is attached to Mr. Sweet;—but too much caution cannot be observed in handling fire-arms; scarcely a print comes to us, but contains one or more accidents of this nature."

**HORRIBLE MURDER.**—Mr. Amasa Sprague, of Crauston (R. I.) was cruelly murdered on his farm on the 31st ult. He left his house to attend to some portion of his farm; at 3 o'clock, and at 5 o'clock he was found prostrated on the earth, dead. A pistol ball had entered the front, and passed out the back of his head. Nicholas S. Gordon and his brother were arrested and committed for examination.

**SUDDEN DEATH.**—A Mr. David Silcox of Duval co. East Florida, expired in the midst of a Christmas party at his house. Mr. Silcox had a very numerous company at his house on Christmas night, dancing &c. Having asked one of the company to join him in a glass of wine, at the sideboard—while in the act of drinking, he tottered, fell to the floor and immediately expired.

**A SHOCKING SCENE.**—Two of the Mormons, while baptizing a woman in Cheshire, Ill., a few nights since, designedly let her slip from their hands and she was drowned. The perpetrators were her husband and a blacksmith priest—who are indicted for manslaughter. The husband declares, it was the will of God that she should be drowned for the weakness of her faith, but that she is in glory.

**ACQUITTED.**—Casselman, who was arrested at Utica a few days ago on suspicions of being concerned in the murder of his own son and another boy, has been discharged. It seems the boys, instead of having been murdered, had simply run away, and were seen on their way east, after the time when the murder was alleged to have been perpetrated.

**MURDER.**—We learn from the Mauch Chunk Transit of Tuesday last, that on Monday a man named M'Kee was arrested and lodged in the jail of that county charged with the murder of Henry M'Kloskin, at Summit Hill.—Both are said to have been "in their cups," and jealousy, provoked by a wife's imprudence, is mentioned as the cause.

**MAIL ROBBERY.**—A young man named Bacon, has been detected in robbing sundry letters at Albany. He confessed his guilt and was committed for trial. Lottery, gambling was the cause.

"THE MONTROSE STAR," has again made its appearance. No trace has been discovered of the villains who entered the office, carried off part of the press, and attempted to set fire to the office.

**FIRE IN BELLFONTE.**—There was quite a fire at Bellfonte Centre co. Pa., on the night of the 10th ult. Six stables and a store house were consumed. Loss \$3,500.

**SLEIGHING—IN PERSPECTIVE.**—Are we to pass the winter without the semblance of sleighing? A fall of snow would be particularly acceptable just now.

**EIGHTH OF JANUARY.**—The anniversary of the battle of New Orleans was celebrated by a portion of our citizens, at M. S. Warner's in Wysox by a dinner, &c.

**AN AVALANCHE OF SNOW** fell upon six children who were at play at L'Ance des Meres, near Quebec. Five were got out alive, the sixth was dead.

**FATAL ACCIDENT.**—A man named Lindly Kernes, fell off the cars on the Pennsylvania railroad thereby causing his death.

**DANIEL WEBSTER** has purchased the Weehawken house, formerly owned by Judge Bergen, for \$25,000, situate about two miles from Hoboken, N. J.

**GEN. JACKSON** was born on the 14th of March, 1767, and will be 77 years of age the 14th of next March.

## Correspondence from Harrisburg

HARRISBURG, January 10, 1844.  
The subject of State Printer has occupied the greater portion of the time of the Legislature; but a brief interview may now be expected, as the whole matter has been referred to a joint committee of the House and Senate for investigation, with power to read persons and papers. The committee consists of Messrs. Cooper, Mahan, Dinnlap, Rounsford, and Evans. It is to be some time before this committee report, thorough examination will be required respecting all the election of State Printer last winter. I do not anticipate, however, very startling developments—neither will I participate any thing that will redound to the public good; but as a matter of course, each party concerned will glean from the report a fund of facts sufficient for all purposes of consumption.

In the House of Representatives on the 10th the Speaker presented a message from the Governor returning the bill passed on the 10th of the last session appointing George M. Johnson and William M. Meredith Esqrs. of Philadelphia Co. council on the part of the Commonwealth to investigate the alleged bribery and corruption between the banks, members of the Legislature and the Executive—the bill having been passed by limitation. The Governor's message complains of unwarrantable persecutions, and demands an investigation.

The dull monotony of legislative session is broken in upon by a shock of indignation, as was decidedly the case on the 10th of the Senate, upon a proposition proposed by the Clerks from furnishing members with a stationery, either in the Senate or at the Executive. This proposition was made, as it appears the debate which followed, for the preventing grave and honorable members of the legislature of the great state of Pennsylvania from "cabbaging" and appropriating private use, the aforesaid "contingent." Some Senators treated this matter with gravity and seriousness of modern times, whilst others who took a different view, were strongly inclined to turn the matter into a joke, and as we have no one here who is specially designated the "funny member," Spackman of the city acted in that way upon the occasion. He said the proposition evidently made on the supposition that the members of the legislature would never have an opportunity presented itself, and was unsafe to trust them even with the stationery to transact business. The proposition however, he contended, would not be an object. It was drawn up in no longer than a coach and six could pass the without touching. The Clerk was asked to deliver to the members any stationery but the members could take what they pleased at Arms or Door Keeper could do them enough to satisfy all their piffling pretensions. Now the horse thief or the exhibited some degree of manly courage the palfrey pilferer of "candle snuff and parings," was beneath contempt. He considered this proposition as a degradation to the legislature, and would either be withdrawn or voted down. Senate thought differently, however, an amendment was incorporated into the bill, and sent to the House for action.

The Senate and House of Rep. will meet in convention next week Monday the 15th for the purpose of electing a State Printer.

HARRISBURG, JANUARY 11.  
The democratic members of the Senate House of Representatives, held a caucus evening and nominated Hon. Job Mearns Treasurer for the ensuing year.

**A QUADRUPLE ELOPEMENT**—town of Lexington, Mass., was introduced into a state of great excitement weeks ago, by the elopement of the young ladies of the first standing respectability in that place, with Journeyman tailors—sons of Liberty. The issue is not ascertained.

**ESCAPE.**—James Weaver, confined in the Bath jail, on a charge of being a runaway, escaped on Monday, 15th inst. He is aged about 20 years, is of a light complexion, brown hair, hazel eyes, 5 feet 10 inches high, and wears a dark colored frock coat, dark pantaloons and dark colored clothing.

**VALOROUS.**—Two "nice young men" named Powell and Norris, fought with rifles, near Washington a few days since, in consequence of refusing to shake the other's hand. Neither hurt, but both terribly alarmed. Their maternal parents were not aware of their absence.

**FAMILY JARS.**—Col. Carter's paper, "The Northern Pennsylvania" has appeared at Williamsport, and two democratic papers are busy in attacking each other. Bad business, and nothing to be gained for either.

**U. S. SENATOR.**—James A. Polk (Whig) has been elected U. S. Senator from Maryland, for six years to the 4th of March, 1843.

**CONFIRMED.**—The nominations of Mr. Upshur to be Secretary of State and Mr. Nelson to be Attorney General, were confirmed by the Senate.