

THE PORTER.

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

Wednesday, January 31, 1844.

For President in 1844,
COL. RICHARD M. JOHNSON,
OF KENTUCKY.
[Subject to decision of a National Convention.]

All accounts due for subscriptions, advertising job work &c., at this office prior to the 15th of December last, MUST be settled, at least—next February court will afford an excellent opportunity for those knowing themselves indebted to call and save costs!

Country Produce of most descriptions received at the market price.

Will some of our subscribers on Towanda Creek bring us a load or two of Coal?

The Coalition.

The last Argus has in it a very candid article on the subject of the "bargain and sale" made between Henry Clay and John Q. Adams, and is intended as a defence of Mr. Clay in answer to certain imputations made by us concerning this matter. The article written by us may be found in the Porter of December 20. The Argus that appeared next after that date, attempted a defence, by quoting the language of one, implicated in the transaction. The article now under notice, is a lengthy and more elaborate defence of Mr. Clay. We are called upon in this article "to retract the base insinuation thrown out" by us. Gentlemen we shall not do it, until you have shown that the imputation cannot justly rest on Mr. Clay. Admitting as true, the authorities quoted by the Argus they do not exculpate him. We have not said that Mr. Clay made a proposition to Gen'l Jackson with an intention to form with him a coalition; hence all the labor of the Argus is lost on this point, and the quotation from Mr. Buchanan's letter, if genuine, was wholly unnecessary.

In relation to what was said and done by George Kremer, we have to state from recollection, as we have not the documentary proof at hand. Mr. Kremer when the coalition between Clay and Adams was first discovered, came out in an article, bitter and severe against Mr. Clay; the corrupt bargain and transfer made was charged to him. The article was anonymous; Clay demanded the name of the author and in such a manner as to leave no doubt upon the minds of others, that the author would be challenged; indeed Mr. Clay in his conversation with others upon the subject, gave the public at Washington to understand, that such was his intention. Mr. Kremer was not the least daunted by the threats of the Kentucky duelist, and publicly gave to Mr. Clay his name as the author. Mr. Kremer expecting a challenge was determined not to refuse; and so sanguine was he and his friends that Clay would carry out his threat, that he, (Kremer) commenced practicing with his favorite weapon, the rifle, in the use of which he was a dead shot. Mr. Clay was told that Kremer expecting a challenge was practicing the rifle, and intended to select that kind of weapon. Clay instead of challenging him came out in a most vile and abusive article against Kremer; as was supposed, with the intention of provoking him to give the challenge, and thus place it out of his (Mr. K.'s) power to select his own weapons. Mr. Kremer has not to our knowledge ever changed his position in this respect.

Shortly after the treaty of Ghent, Mr. Clay came out with a pamphlet reflecting severely on the conduct of John Q. Adams in that treaty. These pamphlets were circulated throughout the country. If we recollect aright, the difficulty at this time grew out of the position in which Louisiana was likely to be placed by this treaty. Mr. Clay then sustaining Gen'l Jackson in his expedition to New Orleans. Matters between Clay, Adams and Jackson remained in this situation up to the time, that Clay gave his vote for John Q. Adams. Had there been no positive evidence of the fact, the known hostility of Clay to Adams for several years, and the publication of the pamphlet were sufficient to justify the imputation that these two men could not come together as they did; so suddenly, and so unexpected, without a coalition and fraud upon the people.

The people from that time have believed him guilty. The manner in which they signally rebuked him and Adams, by the subsequent triumphant election of Gen'l Jackson, proves at least, that they

were indignant at the conduct of both. This is briefly our version of the matter, and if we can procure one of Clay's pamphlets we will hand it over to the Argus, or publish from it ourselves.

Tariff.

The Argus has a correspondent, who is amusing himself with his own ideas of a tariff. We are willing for once to break a rule adopted by us, not to notice particularly the articles of anonymous writers, who think proper to attack our opinions. We dislike bosh fighting, it indicates rather, that the writer, if he has any reputation, is unwilling to take the responsibility of what he asserts. "Looker on in Venice" writes with much candor; the only reason we have for classifying him with the federalists, is his attack on our opinions. We are not disposed to call our opponent whigs, because Col. Webb, a renegade politician, has given to a party this name; a party ever distinguished as federalists. The Argus correspondent has (and we believe sincerely) great affection for the name of whig; we need scarcely remind him of the fable of the donkey and the lion. That lion skin unfortunately did not conceal the long ears of the donkey. Perhaps the Argus correspondent has not been in the ranks long enough, to become familiar to a name which seems to him reproachful. Perhaps earlier associations and recollections give him a repugnance to the name of "federalist;" if so, we hope he will never overcome it.

Our views of the tariff trouble him exceedingly. He finds it difficult to comprehend and reconcile what we say;—and charges us with mystifying the plainest subject in the world. Now as we wish to be clearly understood, and "Looker on in Venice" finds it so difficult to understand us, we will give our opinion in the language of another, and should like to see his refutation of that opinion:

"A tariff duty sufficiently high to meet the revenue wants of the government, is an act of necessity if it is considered as the best means of raising such revenue, and should be acquiesced in by all, as virtually equal and uniform whatever difference there might be made to appear in a strict construction of the measure. But let it be considered in whatever light it may, one thing appears certain viz: that the principle it involves is not strictly a republican principle, in as much as it clearly goes to tax the many, for the benefit of the few, as clearly as taxes are necessary at all for the support of the government. And it must be acquiesced in if acquiesced in at all, from the consideration that no better system for raising revenue could be devised, and therefore considered as the best means that could be adopted for self preservation. But this principle can reach no further than the revenue wants of government. If it goes beyond that point, it sets aside the necessity of the case—assumes a power not granted by the constitution—tramples on our republican principles, and sets up in their place the principles of aristocracy. These deductions are so self-evident, that they scarcely need an argument in their support.

"Unfortunately for our peace and harmony, the United States are so situated that some of the states cannot enter into the manufacturing business. It is an acknowledged fact among statesmen of different views on this subject, that the southern states cannot enter into the manufacturing system: their slave population will not admit of such a course. Where then is the justice even if the constitution was not against such a measure, that a direct protective tariff should be levied to aid the manufacturers in one part of the United States, when by so doing the tax paid by another part of the United States, operates as a bounty to the manufacturer, and is so much paid without the least equivalent or consideration in return, to the party paying?—Therefore to admit to admit the protective system to be a correct one, any farther than an incidental protection arising out of the necessary means required to supply the government with a revenue sufficient to carry on its concerns, would be evidently unjust.

"We highly approve of the recommendation of the President in his message at the opening of the present session of Congress. 'That the tariff be reduced to the revenue wants of the government.'"

The foregoing expresses fully our opinion on the subject of the tariff. If "Looker on in Venice," should differ with us, he will state specifically in what particulars. We attach considerable importance to the opinions of the author from whose writings the above extracts are made; our respect for his person is even greater.

A DUEL.—Two gentlemen at Memphis, Tenn., lately exchanged their shots, and then went at it with the butt ends of their pistols. They were from De Soto county, Miss.

Mahlenburg and Shunk.

These gentlemen are the prominent candidates for the next Governor, from present appearances one or the other of them will be nominated by the 4th March convention. Mr. M. has our preference, but no democrat can take exception to Mr. S. The friends of Mr. S. in many places have indulged pretty freely in abuse of Mr. M. which is highly improper. They assert that he is the people's candidate, and it has been reiterated by papers from one end of the state to the other.

This has induced us to ascertain by the only proper data whether this was the case, or whether it was intended as a reflection on Mr. M. We have examined the votes polled in 1841 for Governor Porter and the votes of 1840. Referring to the counties now instructed for Mr. Mahlenburg and those instructed for Mr. Shunk, we find that the former gave 9567 democratic majority in 1841, that the late gave 1064 democratic majority. In 1840 the counties now instructed for Mr. M. gave 15,000 democratic majority. Those now instructed for Mr. S. gave the same year a whig majority of 5000. Such is the result of figures taken from the official returns.

Melancholy and Singular Suicide.

Yesterday, the 19th ult., James J. Bartram, locksmith, in Sixth street below Cherry, committed suicide, under very singular and melancholy circumstances. From what we could learn, at a late hour last evening, it appears that on Thursday afternoon he made a visit to his mother's residence, in King'sessing Township, and that the act was committed yesterday, about dinner time, in the vicinity of her house. The statement is, that he had by some means prevailed upon a man to retire with him to the spot where the act was perpetrated, for the purpose of digging a grave, and that the man had proceeded in the undertaking according to the desire of the deceased, and that while so engaged, he heard the report of fire-arms, and looking up saw the deceased falling upon the ground, or into the hole, as far as it had been made. The man alarmed, ran to him, and found him a corpse, the contents of the piece having taken effect in the region of the heart. The fatal act was done with a rifle, which he must have had concealed under his cloak, and hence unperceived by the individual who accompanied him.

The deceased was about twenty-five years of age, of sober and industrious habits, honorable in his dealings, prosperous in business, moderately wealthy, and had large expectations. He is represented as being rather singular in his views upon some subjects and somewhat eccentric in his manners. It is said he was engaged to be married; the nuptials to have been celebrated on Tuesday next; that he had purchased a dwelling somewhere in Callowhill street and had it partially finished.

No cause is assigned for the rash act, as so far as regards earthly, present and prospective good, he was in the enjoyment of it. For several days he was reported to have been in rather a melancholy mood, which was however attributed to his complaint of the want of his usual good health. Within a week or two past, a young lady, to whom he was devotedly attached previous to paying his addresses to the latter one, was married, which circumstance is conceived to have worked upon his mind.—Ledger.

Eight Days Later from Europe.

By the ship Sea, at New York from Liverpool, which she left on the 18th ult., we have eight days later intelligence, but nothing of much moment. We find it condensed in the Herald, thus:

There is not much news of importance. Ireland is quiet, and O'Connell is sick.

Wales and Scotland are as they were. Parliament has been further prorogued to the 1st of February next.

The Queen and Prince Albert are going to visit Warwick Castle and Birmingham.

We find nothing relative to a government steamer leaving for New York.

The Roseus arrived out on the 12th. Steamer Caledonia arrived out on the 14th.

Spain seems to occupy general attention.

Louis Philippe dislikes to see the Duke of Bordeaux in England.

Sir H. Pottinger, British Plenipotentiary in China, and Sir C. Metcalfe, Governor General of Canada, have both resigned on account of illness, and are going home.

Michael Conway, a passenger by the Hottinger, from New York, was convicted in the penalty of £100, for attempting to smuggle 48 lbs. weight of tobacco, which he had concealed in his chest under a false bottom. John Weatherhead, a seaman, was fined in a similar sum for smuggling 7½ lbs. weight of tobacco.

The new primo basso, Mr. Hamilton Braham, is about to visit us very soon, and from what the London papers say, we may calculate on his being very attractive.

Correspondence from Harrisburg.

HARRISBURG, JANUARY 24, 1844.
The disclosures thus far made by the investigating committee, it must be confessed, is anything but flattering to the State Printers, and as the Governor has said in his message, they exhibit "a scene of scandalous bargaining and selling, alike disgraceful to the parties concerned, and dangerous to the purity of election." The first witness examined before the committee was J. M. G. Lecture, of the "Democratic Union." He testified that certain individuals, members of the last Legislature, had been appointed to office, and inferred that their appointment was in consideration of the votes given for the Governor's candidate, (John H. Dimock) for state printer. When questioned as to whether Adam J. Glosbrenner, of York, was to have any interest in the state printing, or the proceeds thereof, he replied that he had no knowledge that such was the case. But he had understood that Mr. Glosbrenner was extremely anxious to procure the election of John H. Dimock. E. W. Hutter was next called to the stand. His testimony is somewhat lengthy, and the tenor of which goes to exculpate the German printers from any participation in fraud and corruption to secure the election, and, by inference, to place the Governor in an odious light with reference to said election, and matters connected therewith. He says—"All that portion of David R. Porter's recent message to the Legislature, which charges Hutter & Bigler with having procured their election as State Printers, by fraud or corrupt negotiations of any character, I here assert to be wholly and unequivocally false, and from all the circumstances of the case, I am constrained to declare it as my solemn belief, that he must have known them to be false, when he uttered them."

Thomas J. Rehner, a clerk in the Surveyor General's office, was then sworn. The substance of Mr. Rehner's testimony was that he saw a paper in the Land Office, signed by Isaac G. M'Kinley, stipulating that Adam J. Glosbrenner, editor of the York Gazette, was to receive a fifth part of the state printing, or the profits thereof, provided he, Adam J. Glosbrenner, would influence the members of York and Adams counties to vote for the said Mr. M'Kinley, for the office of State Printer. Also, that he heard Mr. M'Kinley, one of the members from York county, say, that having secured an interest in the Printing for Glosbrenner, they, the members referred to, would now vote for Mr. M'Kinley.

Collon M'Curdy, of the Harrisburg Intelligencer, testified that Mr. Sedgwick had entered into a contract with Isaac G. M'Kinley, by which his (M'Curdy's) establishment was to receive \$3000, in the event of M'Kinley's election and confirmation. This was in consideration of whig votes.

Gen. Simon Cameron was next sworn. He states that sometime during last summer two packages were placed in his possession, to be deposited in the Middletown Bank. One package by M'Kinley and Sedgwick, containing notes to the amount of \$3000, payable to P. C. Sedgwick, for the use of the Harrisburg Intelligencer, upon the confirmation of Isaac G. M'Kinley as State printer. The other package was placed in his hands by I. G. M'Kinley and Theophilus Fenn—containing notes to the amount of \$2,500, to be paid to the said Theo. Fenn, upon the approval of I. G. M'Kinley's bonds as state printer. M. Sedgwick's testimony corroborates that given by Gen. Cameron. This is about the amount of the evidence thus far elicited.

A resolution was submitted by Mr. Darsie this morning directing the investigating committee, if the House concur, to report progress on or before Saturday next. This gave rise to a lengthy debate, in which Mr. Spackman, of the city, who happened to feel in the right mood, contributed largely, to the evident amusement of a crowded lobby, and to the evident discomfiture of what he termed the "anti-Porter party." He drew a picture, in his own inimitable and peculiar style, of the present condition and prospects of those members who came here with a firm determination to conquer the Executive, and to sustain and confirm the State printers. The Governor, he said, had completely out-generaled them, and they were now flat upon their backs—they had come here to conquer, and they had met with discomfiture and defeat. They had pursued the course pointed out by their antagonist, the executive, and his superior sagacity had led them where they now were—they were completely whipped up, and he would advise them now to "come down and give in." They had erected a monument to executive sagacity, and he would recommend to them to inscribe upon its base the words—"Here lies Anti-Porterism—How are the would-be mighty fallen!" Mr. Spackman spoke for nearly two hours, and concluded by moving to amend the motion of Mr. Darsie, by discharging the investigating committee.—Before any action was had, the Senate adjourned.

On Monday morning last Wm. J. B. Andrews resigned his office as Clerk of the House, and on Tuesday Wm. Jack of the county of Allegheny was elected to fill the vacancy.

The bill giving out the public printing to the lowest bidder, has passed committee of the whole in the Senate, and will I think be up to-morrow on second reading. It will pass both branches—my word for it.

A HORRIBLE MONSTER.—The Paris papers contain appalling lists of murders and suicides, and of attempts to commit those crimes. At St. Denis, a monster of Herculean strength, seized upon an unoffending young man, and throwing him down on the road, held him firmly until the wheels of an approaching wagon had passed over his head.

The Express Robbery.

RECOVERY OF THE TRUNK AND MONEY.—From the New York Sun of Saturday, we learn that the lost trunk has been found, the thief arrested and nearly all the money recovered. The following are the particulars:—

It appears that the description of a \$500 bill of the Merchant's Bank of this city, (which had been sent from Troy, and was in the trunk,) was given by Messrs. Drew, Robinson & Co., to all the Banks, and this bill was sent to the bank yesterday by the Bank of New York, in exchange. Immediate measures were taken to ascertain from whence it came, when it was discovered that it had been deposited in the Bank of New York by Mr. Van Schet, German fancy goods dealer, 14 Cedar street. He stated that it was paid him the day before by a German named Lachner, residing at 32 Rivington street who was about going to Milwaukee, and had purchased some goods. Information was given to the Mayor, who went to No. 14 Cedar street, and immediately despatched Mr. Clark, first Marshal, Justice Taylor, and officer M'Grath to arrest the prisoner and discover the trunk. Lachner was arrested by the first Marshal as he came out of a house kept by friend of named Reischmiller, his at 109 Cedar street, and carried to No. 14, thence to the Mayor's office. The other officers proceeded to the residence of Lachner, in Rivington street and discovered, immediately on going in, the identical trunk, which, with two others, was taken to the Mayor's office. A large proportion of the lost money was found spread between the sheets in Lachner's bed. The Bank Notes in sheets, which were in the trunk, are believed to have been burned by Lachner, as the servants noticed him destroying new paper in his room for some days past.

It was shown, on the examination, that time in Milwaukee, where, he says he has a partner. He was married five days ago, and his wife was deeply grieved at the proposal of losing their treasure. Lachner has recently bought a gold watch and other articles of jewelry. He came down, it is said, in the same boat with Mr. Copp. He states that it was his intention immediately to return to Milwaukee by the way of Buffalo, where he intended to purchase a span of horses, and go by land. He is a stout, rather handsome looking man, about thirty years of age. It is supposed no person had any hand in the robbery but himself. He was fully committed.

It is worthy of note that a German was seen in Albany, watching the movements of Mr. Copp on the day he left that city for New York with the trunk. That German is supposed to have been Lachner, or a confederate who apprised L. of Mr. Copp's movements.

The Pomeroy Trunk.—It is said that when Lachner stole the Pomeroy trunk, he was ignorant of its contents. A New York paper says:— "He is but recently from Germany, and speaks the English language very imperfectly; he even denies that he can read it. This strengthens the generally belief, inasmuch as the name of Pomeroy & Co. on the trunk, was not erased, and it can scarcely be believed that a man, perfectly conversant with what the trunk contained, would have dared to carry it at early morning through the Park on his shoulder, and actually pass by the Tombs on his way to Rivington street. He took no pains to conceal it, and his subsequent conduct shows clearly that he either knew nothing of the reward offered for its discovery, or that he must have been a most egregious dunce to have suffered the trunk to remain on his premises, without in some way or other defacing it."

By Monday night's mail we received the N. York Sun, of that morning, from which we copy the following:

The Pomeroy Express Robbery, and Suicide of the Robber in his Cell.—Our readers have been previously apprised that a German named Benoit Lachner had been arrested and placed in prison on Friday, charged with being the robber in stealing the trunk; and not only so, but that the trunk was found in his possession, and upwards of \$4000, part of its contents at his residence, No. 32 Rivington street.—Since then, the Mayor and his first marshal, (Mr. Clark) also officer M'Grath, have been active in their endeavors to find out where the notes counter-signed by the State Comptroller, had gone; consisting of some \$130,000 on the Union Bank of this city, and sent, on their return, to be dated and counter-signed by the cashier and president of that institution, to be made negotiable. Yesterday afternoon, discovery was made that a large quantity of partially burned paper was concealed in the chimney occupied by the man Lachner, and a careful examination of the fragments, the Union Bank was clearly discernible, and they were placed in a basket. The Mayor's first marshal, with Justice Taylor, and the officer, about 5 o'clock yesterday proceeded to the prison, fragments and baskets in hand, and on one of the turnkeys opening the door of Lachner's apartment allotted to him during his confinement there, discovered that he was dead; having suspended himself by a handkerchief, which he placed around his neck, and placing it across a board which was put on the upper end of his bunk or

bed, which had been set on end, and strangled himself sufficiently to produce strangulation. He was immediately cut down, and the corner next to all means used to resuscitate him; but were of no avail, life was extinct. The mayor was soon present, and ordered that no information of the suicide should be communicated to his wife, who was also in prison, and that she should be released from confinement as soon as the excitement in respect to the suicidal act of her husband, had in a measure subsided. Mr. Fallon, the keeper of the prison, had visited Lachner about an hour previous to the call of Justice Taylor and Mr. Clark to the cell, and left him well, and the preparations for his suicide must have been made. Thus ends the Pomeroy robbery and suicide being the complete details in the scene.

Loss of the Steamboat Surprised One Hundred Lives.

The St. Louis Democrat of the 21st inst. says that city was thrown into consternation the day previous by the announcement that the steamboat Shepherdess, from Pittsburg, had sunk to the sight of that city, about midnight of the night previous, and that from 70 to 100 lives were lost by the awful catastrophe. The night was extremely cold, and the fact it is mainly owing that many were drowned, who otherwise might have reached the shore. We subjoin a few particulars which have been ascertained from the Gazette of the evening of the 4th:

The Shepherdess was from the Ohio river, was commanded by Gen. Powell or Powers, (we could not understand which,) who had recently purchased and thoroughly repaired her. She left Pittsburg some six or seven days ago, with a crew of from fifteen persons, and at the time of the accident had upwards of 250 passengers on board, a very large number when we consider the lateness of the season. The boat encountered no usual obstacle, until last evening at half past 11 o'clock, when she ran aground at Cahokia Bend, about five miles below the city, and sank immediately, and before a general alarm could be given. The mate had but a moment before reported five feet of water, and yet he had not walked the length of the vessel when she reached his shoulders. He saved himself by jumping over-board and clinging to the hurricane deck when she sunk. The time, the suddenness of the accident, the unprepared state of the passengers, the appalling character of the danger, the intense cold of the night, (the coldest of the season all operated to cause a most agonizing scene. Men, women and children, most naked and partially submerged in the water, were calling for theiratives, or passing to and fro in confusion, endeavoring to obtain means of self-preservation; many others threw themselves into the water, and were drowned.

Many incidents connected with the sad affair are very distressing. A lady, who was suffering from pleurisy, was drawn through one of the doors up to the hurricane deck, and the boat careened; but she was so debilitated by pain and fright as to be unable to stand; she was accordingly upon one of the wagons with the boat was freighted; and upon a vessel making another lurch, she precipitated into the water. Children also perished from exposure while being conveyed from the boat to the shore. The captain, who was recognized, was climbing one of the irons which support the chimney. He is supposed to be drowned. The carpenter, who was acting as a lookout, was also drowned. The greatest loss of life was sustained when the cabin separated from the rest of the vessel. One of the passengers floated a portion of the wreck as far as Poche, when he was relieved from an uncomfortable situation.

As soon as news of the accident reached the city, the ferry boat Lachner was despatched to the place, and took from the wreck upwards of 200 passengers.

Since the above was in type, we were informed that many bodies have been found, supposed to have been from the death after reaching the shore. A number of the passengers were conveyed to the city to enable them to procure clothing, having lost every thing, this most dreadful calamity.

Great credit is due to the officers of the Henry Bry, and Mr. Paddock of the Shot Tower, and the citizens of Carondelet, for their humane exertions in behalf of the sufferers. Many passengers are at Carondelet, and the Little baggage is saved. The city's cry boat is at the wreck. Physicians, clothing, &c., had arrived from St. Louis.

A SEAL SHOT.—A Seal was lately off New Haven, Conn. He was seen near the wharf, with his nose above the surface of the water, when a rifle ball struck him most unceremoniously in the head and extinguished his light immediately. He sunk to the bottom, but was soon brought to the surface by grapples. He weighed about 200 pounds, and was expected to be taken down to New York for exhibition.