

THE PORTER.

Wednesday, March 6, 1844.

For President in 1844,
MARTIN VAN BUREN,
OF NEW YORK.
Per Vice President,
COL. RICHARD M. JOHNSON,
OF KENTUCKY.

[Subject to decision of a National Convention.]

As the Senior Editor must necessarily be absent for several weeks, the entire charge and control of the office will devolve upon his son, E. O. GOODRICH, who is equally interested in the publication, and to whom all payments, communications, &c., can be made.

A New Hand at the Bellows!

The Bradford Argus occupies a truly fortunate position as far as regards the facilities for the production of its editorials. Any Whig, whose imagination has become so fraught with ideas for the speedy and complete adjustment of all the complicated machinery of government, that there is danger in a longer suppression, may find a mental safety valve in its columns. Indeed, the ebullitions of the genius and talent and knowledge of any anonymous scribbler are thankfully received, and conspicuously inserted, provided they abound with denunciations of democratic principles, and are pretty plentifully interspersed with such hackneyed terms as "Albany Regency," "Loco foco," &c., which are all potent in an argument, and against the logic of which there is no contending.

The editor whom we have in hand now, was once familiar with the business, and it appears that he has, after a lapse of years, been seized with *cacothés scribendi*, and wishing to try his hand at an editorial, has pronounced upon an article which appeared in the Porter, giving an illustration of some of the effects of the present tariff.

In the commencement this "tariff editor" for the Argus, used probably to picking flaws in indictments, has discovered, as he thinks, an ambiguity in the phraseology, which renders it uncertain whether the Boston capitalists own the stock of the "York manufacturing company," or the town of Saco, and cavils at our authority for declaring that the "York Manufacturing company" at Saco, had declared a semi-annual dividend of 17 per cent. Now this will do for an editor who is unable to answer an argument, or controvert a position, but it is a flimsy way at best, and covers with an attenuated veil, the hideous deformities of a protective tariff.

Now we ask those who are most directly interested, if the "York Manufacturing company" should enjoy or exercise the right of compelling the consumer to pay them prices for their fancy goods, so that they may declare a dividend of 17 per cent. in six months. Is it not *compelling*, to shut out the manufacturers of other countries, and limiting us to the York Manufacturing company, with the expression, "If you do pay 30 or 50 per cent. more than you would otherwise, are you not protecting home manufactures?"

Again, this profound thinker, begs the question by asserting that this large dividend is probably owing to some perfection in machinery—some local or other peculiar advantage which this Yankee company enjoys, and not on account of the advanced price of the article produced by the tariff. Ah! indeed. Where then is your need of a tariff? If our manufacturers can sell their goods as cheap as foreign competitors, should we be obliged to pay them a bonus of 34 per cent. per annum to swell their coffers? This company is not an isolated case. Scarcely a paper comes to us but we can read in it, the evidence that our population are paying their treasure to the bloated aristocratic and grasping capitalists of our own country, through these restrictions and duties, to them indeed "protective."

His case illustrating the effects of a protection, would, at first blush, seem pretty and plausible enough, if we did not know that corporations are not apt to be liberal enough to place their goods at prices which will ensure them semi-annual dividends of 4 per cent, when by combination they can procure 17 per cent. The "capital" of this country is in the hands of the few, their interests are closely identified; and we believe that it would be as difficult to

procure the repeal of a tariff, after it had "protected" the purse-proud of our land into immense wealth, as it is for the suffering and starving population of Great Britain to repeal the laws which are grinding them in the very dust, steeping their children in ignorance and vice, and hurrying them by thousands to a premature grave, produced by the overworking and over-tasking of their physical powers, in their manufactories and collieries.

The people of England are in favor of free trade. In that country we can distinctly trace the practical effects of high duties. They are written on every page of her history in letters of blood, depicting misery and vice and degradation in its most hideous forms. Poverty and bloated wealth stand side by side, and the history of her tariff laws is fraught with the misery and suffering of the poor population of that Kingdom. But her aristocratic and grasping capitalists are entrenched behind a triple barrier, and the justice of the claims of those who are phrenzied by their wrongs, and maddened by their sufferings, fall unheeded upon their ears. We are taught a terrible lesson by the history of her protection; every sigh which has been wrung from her suffering population, every prayer which has been offered up for a redress of their grievances, should warn us of the danger of granting exclusive powers to the few.

We believe that her system of granting legislative favors has been mainly instrumental in bringing her to her present state; and we hope and trust, as we have a belief in the intelligence of the people, that our country will not follow her mad and disastrous example. The national interests of our country should be encouraged and fostered; and the motto of the democratic party is, "PROTECTION TO ALL; EXCLUSIVE PRIVILEGES TO NONE."

FATAL ENCOUNTER.—A dispute occurred in Philadelphia, between two boys which resulted in the death of one and the committal of the other to prison. They both kept stalls in the market, and after some words, had become engaged in a pugilistic encounter in which the deceased, named Peter Doescher, had the advantage, when the other ran to a stall, seized a butcher knife, returned, and Doescher's back being turned, he plunged the knife into his left side below the ribs, from the effects of which he died in less than an hour.

ACCIDENTS.—The Star of the North, published at Berwick, gives an account of an accident which occurred on Monday, 26th ult., to Mr. John Klinetob, of Salem township. A tree which he was falling, rebounded and crushed his leg in a most shocking manner.

On Wednesday evening last, at Summer Hill, in the same county, a lad named M'Hose started for mill with a team, and upon descending a slight hill, the tongue of his wagon was broken and the horses ran away, throwing him off and shattering his skull most awfully. One of the horses was killed.

BERKS COUNTY BANK.—The examination of the officers of the Berks county Bank has terminated. The two most important facts elicited are—1st. That the over issue, as it is called, is about \$20,000. 2d. The money went into the common funds of the Bank, without resulting to the personal benefit of the officers. The President, Mr. Dechert, stated on oath, that the bank is at this time indebted to him from \$12,000 to \$15,000 for cash advanced and notes redeemed, to keep the bank afloat.

DEATH OF NICHOLAS BIDDLE.—Nicholas Biddle died at his residence, at Andalusia Bucks county on Tuesday morning 20th ult. aged 58. Mr. Biddle was a member of the State Legislature in 1810, and of the State Senate in 1814. In 1822 he was elected President of the United States Bank, in place of Langdon Cheves.

MELANCHOLY DISASTER.—The dwelling of Dr. Lucien Spencer, of Bethany, Conn., caught fire about midnight, on Tuesday evening, the 20th ult., and Dr. Spencer perished in the flames with two children whom he attempted to save.

ENLARGEMENT.—The semi-weekly United States Gazette comes to us this week considerably enlarged, and otherwise improved.

FIRE AT BATH.—We observe in a Philadelphia paper mention made of a destructive fire at Bath, N. Y., but have not heard the particulars.

The Latest Humbug!

The latest "mare's nest" which the Whigs have discovered is in the shape of a circular, which is paraded in the columns of the Argus with a most imposing display of capitals and small capitals, italic and bold face. It appears that through a similarity of names, a circular letter of a committee appointed by the democratic members of the Legislature, was obtained by a whig, and straightway transferred to the columns of the Bradford Argus. The letter contains an appeal to the democracy to organize, and endeavor to carry the state in favor of democratic principles, with an infuncheon to keep their own counsel, as a matter of course.

IMPORTANT FROM EUROPE.—The news by the arrival of the Hibernia is of considerable importance. The State Trials had gone through seven days, each day being a perfect farce.

There is said to be a flaw in the indictment, and that if convicted and brought up for judgment, the traversers will be discharged on the legal defect being known.

On the fourteenth day of the trial, the Attorney General took offence at some remarks of Mr. Fitzgibbon one of the counsel for the defence and sent him a challenge in court. The Chief Justice gave a severe rebuke to the prosecuting officer. Every Catholic was challenged off the jury by the counsel for the Crown. Mr. Lalor Shiel had spoken for the traversers, and Mr. O'Connell was to speak on the next Monday.

Mr. O'Connell had mass celebrated his drawing room, at Merrion-square, on Monday, the 15th ultimo, before leaving for trial at the Four Courts.

One Drum has been committed to Omagh gaol for sedition. He had said that "The Queen ought to be shot, and O'Connell put in her place."

Mrs. Christina Gilmour, who was apprehended in this county for the murder of her husband in Scotland, and carried back to that country has had her trial at Edinburg, which resulted in her acquittal.

The news of the death of Prince Albert's father, the Prince of Saxa Coburg Gotha, was received in London on the afternoon of the 3d ult.

MRS. MADISON IN CONGRESS.—Mrs. Madison paid a visit to the House, on the 7th ult., accompanied by two young ladies. They were handed to seats placed for them on the right of the speaker's chair, on a level with the Clerk's seat, and remained for half an hour, listening to the speech of Mr. Belser.

GOVERNOR.—The 4th of March Convention have probably before this, selected a gentleman as the democratic candidate for Governor. We are glad to see this vexed question settled at last, and trust that the personal preferences of every one will be laid aside and a cordial and unanimous support given to the nominee.

TREMENDOUS FIRE IN CANTON.—A most destructive fire occurred at the city of Canton in China, on the 24th and 25th of October last. Twelve hundred houses were destroyed, together with a large quantity of teas, and an immense amount of other property.

SPECIAL ELECTION.—The Governor has issued a writ, directing a special election to be held in Allegheny county on the 15th of March, for the choice of a representative in congress to supply the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Judge Wilkins.

THE FIRST PRINTED BOOK.—The earliest printed book is a Latin Bible, printed in 1455, in Menz. About twenty different copies exist.

PAINFUL OCCURRENCE.—A. W. Loomis, Esq., a lawyer in Pittsburg while pleading a case in court on Friday was disabled by a stroke of apoplexy.

AMERICAN MERINO SHAWLS are now manufactured at Blakely township, Pa., from wool raised at Lancaster. They are said to be a large and handsome article, and sell readily at \$5.

NOT TRUE.—The rumor of the change of the Post Master at Williamsport is not true. Col. Titus is still P. M.

SUPERVISOR.—Mr. Maffit, of Wilkes-Barre, has been appointed Supervisor on the North Branch.

News from all Nations.

Viscount Napoleon Bertrand has arrived in Baltimore, from the eastward, and taken apartments at Barnum's City Hotel.

In digging a cellar for a house at Green Bay, Wisconsin, recently, where the first Catholic Church was erected by the French missionaries, a silver plate was found, with an inscription in French, dated 1681.

The grand jury of Lorain county Ohio have found sixteen bills of indictments against H. C. Taylor, late editor of the Oberlin Evangelist, to most of which, if not all, it is understood, he will plead guilty.

Miss Trimble, a young lady about 23 years of age, left her house at Buffalo, and has not been heard of since.

Miss Gleason, a magnetizer down east professes to tell by looking at a lock of hair, the character of the disease affecting its original owner, and prescribes with unerring certainty the proper remedies.

Two young women were baptised in the Mormon faith in Salem, Mass., on Sunday week. The administrator cut a hole in the ice, and dipped the young girls into the freezing water.

Mrs. Celia Dunn, wife of Mr. Dunn, of Garrard county, Kentucky, committed suicide on Tuesday evening week, by hanging herself by a rope to a peach tree.

We learn from the New Haven Courier that Mr. Wm. Peck, in the employ of Rich & Hotchkiss, of that place, fell dead on Sunday as he was stirring the fire in his own house. Cause—the bursting of blood vessel.

The Treasury Warrant in favor of Gen. Jackson for \$2700, was forwarded by special messenger to the Hermitage.

Commodore Stewart has written a letter that has been laid before Congress, in which he advocates the establishment of the rank of Admiral in the U. S. Navy.

They have a delicate way of announcing a cock fight in New York, they call it a "chicken dispute."

The schooner Amistad case is revived, and a claim by the Spanish Minister for \$10,000, for slaves and cargo, is now before the Congress committee of Foreign affairs.

The N. Y. Journal of Commerce says, the sales of real estate by auction and property, in New York, are very large, and at rapidly advancing prices.

A brute named John Peters has been arrested in New York for stabbing his wife with a jack knife.

A little boy near Norristown was sent after a jug of rum, became intoxicated by it fell into the Schuylkill, and was drowned.

A national salute was fired at 12 o'clock, on Saturday, on the Battery at N. Y., under the direction of Major Jos. Hopkins, in honor of the passage of the law, by Congress, restoring the fine of \$1000 imposed by Judge Hall on General Jackson.

Young Cochrane died the Saturday after the duel was fought.

A cow, with a most perverted taste, was killed in Trenton last week, and the Gazette says, more than eighty pieces, consisting of large and small nails, horse shoe nails, tacks, and broken pieces of iron, were taken from her stomach. The roughness of the iron had been polished down by the gastric fluid.

The Supreme court of Rhode Island will hold their next regular term at Newport on the first Monday of March; at which time it is presumed that the indictment against Mr. Dorr for the alleged crime of treason against the State, will be called for trial.

Pigeons are killed by thousands at an immense roost near Holmesburg, Miss.

Mr. Lambert S. Thomas, a druggist of Baltimore committed suicide by deliberately taking 100 grains of corrosive sublimate.

The village of Montgomery, Orange county N. Y., was visited by a destructive fire on Saturday evening. Total loss about \$20,000.

King Hewit was convicted of murder in the second degree at the February term of Oyer and Terminer of Westmoreland county. He was charged with the murder of James Hafferty, on the 10th of November last.

The poor house at Nantucket, Mass. was destroyed by fire on the night of the 20th ult. and eight persons inmates thereof, perished in the flames.

FRACAS AT HARRISBURG.—A personal encounter occurred in the rounds of the Capitol, on the afternoon of the 20th ult., in which Mr. William Stewart and Mr. Thomas J. Mills figured, though not very extensively, the whole affair being for "Buncombe" as they say of Congressional speeches; making more noise abroad than at home.

MR. TAYLOR'S SENTENCE.—The Rev. H. C. Taylor plead guilty of the charges preferred against him, and the Court sentenced him to be imprisoned in the jail of the county for one year, pay a fine of two hundred dollars and costs of prosecution, and fined twenty five dollars each on three charges of larceny. His situation in court is stated to have been humiliating in the extreme.

STATE DEBTS.—The proportion of state debt per head in the several states, is as follows:

New York,	\$10 25
Pennsylvania,	23 17
Ohio,	10 25
Indiana,	22 00
Illinois,	39 45
Maryland,	42 72
Louisiana,	57 75
Alabama,	18 38
Mississippi,	33 00
Arkansas,	38 00

THE FIRST CONVICTION.—On the 16th inst., a man from Erie County, Pa., was sentenced to the Penitentiary in Allegheny City, having been convicted of seduction under the law against that crime, passed at the last session of the Pennsylvania Legislature. This is first conviction under the new act.

H. A. KERR, formerly of this place, but more recently editor of the Locomotive Gazette, has received a lucrative situation in the War Department. So says madam rumor. He will be superseded in the editorial management of the Gazette by C. D. ELDRÉD, Esq. of Lock Haven.

DESTRUCTIVE EXPLOSION.—At Erie on the 13th ult., a tremendous explosion of gas occurred in the blast furnace of the Presque Isle Foundry company which set fire to and reduced to ashes the whole building, an area of 240 by 85 feet. Loss between \$20,000 and \$25,000.

SUICIDE OF A GOVERNOR.—Governor Thomas Reynolds, of Missouri, committed suicide at Jefferson city, on the 9th ult., by shooting himself through the head with a pistol. He lingered several hours in great agony. He had been in bad health for some time.

CHIVALRY AT A DISCOUNT.—Mr. Pooler, the individual engaged as Mr. May's second in the duel in which young Cochrane was murdered, has been arrested for purloining money from the pocket of a fellow boarder at Barnum's Hotel, at Baltimore, and committed for trial.

NATIONAL CONVENTION.—In answer to an inquiry, the Globe states, that the fourth Monday of May next, being the 27th day, is the time fixed for the meeting of the democratic National Convention, at Baltimore.

SEDUCTION.—The Legislature of Michigan has passed a law, declaring that crime of seduction a criminal offence. The term of imprisonment is limited to five years.

GREAT DUTIES.—The receipts at the New York Custom House on Thursday week \$140,000; and for this month, so far, they have averaged about \$100,000 a day.

VALUABLE CARGO.—The ship Morselle arrived at Boston from Havre on Thursday week, and brought a cargo, of which the invoice amounted to near \$900,000—duties \$270,000.

N. JERSEY CONSTITUTION.—The bill providing for the election of delegates to revise the constitution of the State of New Jersey, has passed both houses of the Legislature.

DELAWARE.—The Democratic state convention of Delaware met at Dover on the 22d ult. After much deliberation it was concluded not to send any delegates to the Baltimore convention.

SUICIDE.—Mr. H. Parker, of Adams, Jefferson county, aged about sixty, committed suicide on the 16th inst by hanging himself. He was an intemperate man.

STATE PRINTING.—Advices from Harrisburg states that the public printing will most undoubtedly be given to the lowest bidder.

Correspondence from Harrisburg

HARRISBURG, FEBRUARY 23, 1844.
February 22. This being Washington's birth-day there was nothing done in the way of legislation. At ten o'clock, the members of both Houses, assembled at the hall of the House to listen to the farewell address of Gen. Washington. After reading the address, the Houses adjourned.

February 23. No business of a public nature was transacted in either branch of the legislature, but a large amount of local matters disposed of.

February 24. In the Senate, Mr. Edgar from the select committee to which was referred so much of the Governor's message as relates to the tariff, and also a resolution reported by Mr. Hughes some time ago on the subject of the resolution with amendments, accompanied by a lengthy paper on the question. The report takes a medium ground and condemns alike a system of free trade and a prohibiting tariff. It is assumed as the policy of the general government, that a free tariff, with the principle of discrimination in favor of domestic products would be reasonable and sufficient protection to the interests of Pennsylvania. The compromise was a concession of public opinion, as well as an abandonment of the principle of the tariff of 1828, in regard to which a revision has taken place. The present tariff is referred to and its principle approved. The report is taken that the minimum reduction of the tariff, under the compromise act would be insufficient as a revenue measure, and the increase by the present act was required by the wants of the governments and the interests of Pennsylvania. Extracts from the opinions of Jefferson, Jackson, Buchanan, Van Buren, Johnson are incorporated to sustain the principle of a revenue tariff, with discrimination in favor of domestic products, thereby affording them incidental protection. The printing of the report was postponed until Tuesday, at the instance of the minority of the committee, signifying their intention to make a counter port.

A large number of local bills were introduced in the House. Mr. Dickey, from the committee on vice and immorality to which were referred the petitions of citizens of Philadelphia for the repeal of the law of 1765, which prohibits the sale of intoxicating drinks on Sabbath, reported at length against the passage of the bill. The report was unanimously adopted, and the committee discharged.

February 26. The business of this day pretty much of a local nature. The result of instructions relative to the survey of a national road from the Cumberland mountains to Erie Harbor was defeated in the Senate by a vote. On motion of Mr. Rounsevell, State Treasurer was requested inform the House of the amount still due on the assessment of 1841, '42, '43, in each county respectively.

February 27. Mr. Stewart, on the part of the minority of the select committee on the tariff question, submitted a report. It differs no essential particular from that of the majority except in reference to the public land distribution principle is advocated. The reports were ordered to be printed. Mr. Edgar reported a bill for the construction of an outlet lock at Black's Eddy. Mr. Hughes then called up the resolutions relative to the tariff, and the same were under consideration the remainder of the day. The bill refused to recede from its amendments to appropriation bill for repairs, and a committee of conference was appointed.

February 28. The bill giving out day for the printing and binding of the State lowest bidder was called up this morning. It passed second reading by a vote of 22 yeas. In the House, the bill to erect a new court out of parts of Huntingdon and Bedford counties called Blair, was debated for a long time—no vote was taken. On motion of Mr. Stinson the committee of ways and means were instructed to inquire into the expediency of amending the license law as to compel retailers who deal with a stock of less than \$1000 to pay a license.

I omitted to notice in my last, the most important bill of the session. On Wednesday last, Mr. Rounsevell, from the committee on ways and means reported "an act to provide for the secure the permanent revenue of the commonwealth, and redeem the public faith." Wilson submitted a resolution that the committee on the Judiciary be instructed to inquire into the expediency of so amending the law, that no tax payer shall be deprived of his one scholar to school whether such scholar be his own child or not. Adopted.

THE GAINES CASE.—A decision made a few days ago in the Supreme Court of the United States, on the case of which Gen. Gaines and his wife were plaintiffs, and the executor of Dr. Clarke, of New Orleans, defendants. A Washington correspondent of the Y. Evening Post says that the points on which the defendants appealed had been decided absolutely. The two other points with a qualification that requires the cause to go again before the Circuit Court, but which will not probably affect the result. The decision makes the General and his wife the lord and mistress of an immense property; some say fifty millions of dollars.

Messrs. ELLIOTT AND WILSON are our thanks for favors.