

THE PORTER.

Wednesday, March 20, 1844.

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

[Subject to decision of a National Convention.]

Electors for President and Vice President.

WILLIAM McCARDLE, } Senatorial.
ASA DIXON, }
1. George F. Lehman, 13. George Schnabel.
2. Christian Knapp, 14. Nathl B. Eldred.
3. William H. Smith, 15. M. N. Irvine.
4. John Hill, (Phila.), 16. James Woodburn.
5. Samuel E. Leach, 17. Hugh Montgomery.
6. Samuel Camp, 18. Isaac Ankey.
7. Jesse Sharpe, 19. John Matthews.
8. N. W. Sample, 20. William Patterson.
9. Wm. Heidenrich, 21. Andrew Burke.
10. Conrad Stimer, 22. John McGill.
11. Stephen Baldy, 23. Christian Meyers.
12. Jonah Brewster, 24. Robert Orr.

DEMOCRATIC NOMINATIONS.

For Governor,
HON. HENRY A. MUHLENBURG,
OF BERKS.
For Canal Commissioner,
JOSHUA HARSHORNE,
OF CHESTER.

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. GORMAN, who is equally interested in the publication, and to whom all payments, communications, &c., can be made.

The Nomination.

Our readers are already apprized of the action of the Democratic State Convention, and that HENRY A. MUHLENBURG, the favorite son of that Gibraltar of democracy, gallant "old Berks," is placed before his fellow-citizens as the nominee of the democratic party for Governor of the commonwealth; and that MARTIN VAN BUREN, of N. York, and COL. RICHARD M. JOHNSON, of Kentucky, with an unanimity almost unparalleled, received the nomination for President and Vice President of the U. States. We have flung the banner to the breeze, and enter the contest cheered with the conviction that these nominations will be responded to by the people and sustained at the polls in October next, by an overwhelming vote. It is known to our readers that our preferences were early expressed for Mr. Muhlenburg, and we cannot, on this occasion, refrain from expressing the peculiar satisfaction we feel in announcing his nomination. The choice of the Convention has fallen upon one of the most worthy sons of Pennsylvania, one whose devotion to the principles of democracy, whose services to the cause and to his country, whose talents and unbending integrity, fully entitle him to, and will secure, the vote of every friend of the party. True, a considerable portion of members of the Convention, and we may say of the party, had expressed preferences for another distinguished member of the party; but we have the most perfect assurance that those delegates, representing as they did, a constituency whose motto is, "every thing for principles—nothing for men," will return to their constituents, determined to render a full and hearty support to the nominees of the Convention, and that this spirit will be diffused through the length and breadth of the Commonwealth, until the second Tuesday of October next, when we shall have the proud satisfaction of recording for him an old-fashioned democratic majority of twenty-five thousand. Mr. Muhlenburg has been educated in the political school of the immortal JEFFERSON; his life has spent in advocating and defending the doctrines there imbibed, and the rights of the people; with a character above reproach or the reach of calumny, with the very highest order of talents, and, in all his associations and feelings identified with the best interests and prosperity of the Commonwealth, he is peculiarly fitted for the high station for which his name is before the people, and beyond all doubt he will be called by the voice of his countrymen. Let the democratic phalanx, then prepare for the contest; let every one, who wishes for the success of his principles, and who would not see them trodden under foot by a relentless enemy, arouse himself and gird on his armor for the contest and for victory. We have a wily and unscrupulous foe to contend against. The fortress of democracy will be assailed on every side, and should be defended with a zeal and a determination worthy the cause we espouse. The true spirit is

abroad, and must and will prevail. Let our democratic friends unite heart and hand in the good cause and our candidate will certainly triumph and the glory and success of our good old commonwealth be preserved from the thralldom of federalism.

FRIGHTFUL SCENE.—The equestrian corps of Herr Driesbach were riding through the streets of Baltimore, on Friday week, Herr Driesbach himself in a barouche, with a live leopard. The company stopped at a hotel, Driesbach taking the leopard with him under his arm. A crowd of boys, as usual, gathered about, and as Driesbach came out of the hotel, a lad named John Quinn, aged about 10 years of age, stumbled with his head against the leopard's nose. The animal caught the boy by the cheek, and burying his claws in the flesh, drew his head in his jaws. Driesbach instantly thrust his hand into the animal's mouth, and jammed it down his throat, all three falling on the pavement together. After some struggling, the boy was released, considerably lacerated in the cheek.

A GOOD HIT.—An amusing occurrence happened in the late Democratic Convention, which is as good a joke as we have seen lately. Mr. Crispin, of Philadelphia, who was Speaker of the Senate last winter, and very frequently interrupted the Convention by rising to points of order, and he invariably addressed himself to the President by saying, "Mr. President, I rise to a point of order." It was very evident that his too frequent interruptions were becoming rather annoying, when Mr. Galbraith, one of the Vice Presidents, turned to the President, and very gravely said—"Mr. President, it is no wonder that we are in a peck of trouble, for the gentleman has risen to sixteen points of order."

DELEGATES TO THE BALTIMORE CONVENTION.—The following named gentlemen were appointed as delegates to the Democratic National Convention, to be held at Baltimore on the 27th of May next.

1. William H. Harbeson, Phil'a.
2. Joseph Snyder, "
3. Maj. James Greer, "
4. Benjamin Moore, "
5. David Lyons, Delaware.
6. Stokes L. Roberts, Bucks.
7. John Hickman, Jr. Chester.
8. Col. Reah Frazer, Lancaster.
9. Charles Kessler, Berks.
10. Hon. Asa Packer, Carbon.
11. Luther Kidder, Luzerne.
12. Col. Seth Salisbury, Bradford.
13. Hon. Ellis Lewis, Lycoming.
14. Hon. E. B. Hubley, Schuylkill.
15. Dr. Alexander Small, York.
16. James X. McManahan, Franklin.
17. Gen. A. P. Wilson, Huntingdon.
18. John L. Dawson, Fayette.
19. Gen. Henry D. Foster, West'd.
20. John R. Shannon, Beaver.
21. William Kerr, Allegheny.
22. William Gill, Jr. Crawford.
23. William Beatty, Erie.
24. Hon. John Bredin, Butler.

SHOCKING STEAMBOAT DISASTER.—The steamboat De Soto, while passing down Old River, between three and four o'clock in the morning, came in contact with the steamboat Buckeye, bound up. The collision caused the Buckeye to sink in less than five minutes, up to the hurricane deck. There were 250 persons on board the Buckeye, of whom the greater part were saved. Of the number lost, but fifteen are supposed to be white; the rest were negroes and slaves. The confusion was so great that it was impossible to obtain correct particulars of the number lost, or their names. All the officers, and nearly all the cabin passengers were saved. Thirty or forty were picked up by the mate in the yawl.

FATAL DUEL.—A duel was fought at New Orleans on the 29th ult., between Mr. Ryan, editor of the Vicksburg Sentinel, and Mr. Hammer, editor of the Vicksburg Whig. At the fourth fire, Mr. Ryan fell mortally wounded, being shot directly through the lungs. He died in about ten minutes.

DREADFUL MISTAKE.—A lady named Hannah Hanners, residing at Waterford, Conn., came to her death in a shocking manner. Feeling unwell, she took what she supposed to be a dose of salts, but which proved to be a species of soda used in bleaching hats. She lived about an hour.

AN EDITOR IN TROUBLE.—The editor of the Fredericktown, (N. B.) Loyalist, has been arrested and thrown into jail by order of the Provincial House of Assembly, for commenting with some severity upon the action of that body.

News from all Nations.

The Pittsburg papers speak in very commendatory terms of young man named H. B. Alford, who lately, at the imminent peril of his life, dashed through smoke and flames into the garret of a burning house, and rescued from death a sleeping infant.

President Tyler has presented \$200 to the mother of the black servant who was killed at the time of the recent explosion on board the Princeton.

One of the richest men in Kentucky, and a large slave proprietor, Hon. Cassius M. Clay, announces his intention to liberate all his slaves in the course of the present year.

A damsel in Cincinnati took poison to cure a violent attack of love. The doctors marched in upon her with a pump, and ruined the romance of the thing by saving her life.

A lady in London named Blayden, has lately been made defendant in an action of ejectment. The principal count in the declaration was for throwing her husband out of the window!

Professor Locke, of Cincinnati, has invented and made a magnet which lifts 11,000 pounds. The magnet weighs only 17½ pounds.

Prince Albert has recently appeared to the English public as a musical composer. His talents in this line, it seems, have been devoted to sacred subjects, and his productions have been received with great eclat.

The Legislature of Pennsylvania passed an act last week legalizing a marriage contract between a Mr. R. F. Brunson and his wife. The parties were uncle and niece, but were not acquainted with the fact until a considerable time after their marriage.

The Calhoun committee of New York, as we learn from the Herald, of that city, held a meeting on Friday evening last, and passed resolutions assenting to and concurring in the call of the Baltimore Convention.

A London paper says, that a fire now burning on the hearth of Mr. Strandling, of Somerset was kindled in 1762, by one of his ancestors, and has never been suffered to go out.

Mr. Packenham, the new British Minister, has rented Mr. Webster's house and furniture at Washington.

W. B. Bayley, a Boston artist, has succeeded in executing in marble, a beautiful imitation of the rose, which places him high in his profession.

The Zanesville (O.) Journal, of the 28th ult. says that on the day previous, Mr. Isaac Mellyar, postmaster at Cambridge, was shot dead by accidental discharge of a gun in his hands.

Hon. Amos Gustine, late member of Congress from Juniata county, died at his residence on the 1st inst.

The wrought iron gun which exploded was manufactured at the foundry of Mr. Ward on the North River.

Duff Green has retired from the free trade paper, "The Republic."

The democratic citizens of Philadelphia city, and county, held a meeting on the 6th inst., to respond to the nomination of Van Buren, Johnson and Muhlenburg.

Mr. Willis, the New York correspondent of the National Intelligencer, states that a shop keeper in Broadway had imported several ladies' dresses, valued at one thousand dollars each, and found no difficulty in selling them.

The winter in England has been so mild that no ice has been found there, and the Hibernia took out about one hundred tons on her return voyage.

India rubber mail bags are manufactured at New Haven, for the United States government. They are flexible, durable, and of course impervious to water.

A lead mine, yielding 80 per cent. of the pure metal, has been discovered in Arkansas.

A considerable quantity of lumber has floated past this place for a market below. We understand that the prospects from below are favorable for the lumbermen.

At Alton, Illinois, 37,000 hogs have been cut up during the late winter.

The manufacture of gold pens is prosecuted successfully at Cincinnati.

Mayor Scott, of Philadelphia, lately prevented a duel between two colored gentlemen of that city. One had been saying a "great deal more than he ought to," about the other.

Three robbers were caught in Baltimore on Monday night, in the very act of plundering a store.

Correspondence from Harrisburg.

HARRISBURG, March 13th, 1844.

Most of the business transacted in the legislature since my last, has been of a local nature, and indeed there is an exceeding great demand for sectional and individual legislation this session—more than can possibly be accomplished in the "hundred days."

The bill for the removal of the seat of justice in Columbia county from Danville to Bloomsburg has been again defeated in the Senate by a vote of yeas 13, nays 17. Thus ends that matter for this session, and it ought to be ended for its discussion has consumed much time. Mr. Penniman's bill changing the mode of electing council-men in the city of Philadelphia has passed the Senate and gone to the House. The effect of this bill will be to infuse a small sprinkling of democracy into the city councils. City this had not been done before the Girard fund had all been squandered. The bill to erect a new county out of Huntingdon and Bedford to be called "Blair," was killed in the House yesterday by a vote of yeas 40, nays 45. It is very doubtful whether any new counties are made this winter. The bill for the sale of the main line of improvements from Philadelphia to Pittsburg passed committee of the whole in the Senate yesterday. The work is valued at \$20,000,000, and is divided into shares of \$100 each.

The bill allotting the public printing to the lowest bidder passed finally in the House to-day by a vote of 74 to 18, with some unimportant amendments. It will be in the hands of the Governor perhaps to-morrow.

The Speaker laid before the Senate yesterday a communication from the President of the Board of Canal Commissioners, transmitting an estimate of the amount of money necessary to pay the expenses of putting the canals and railroads of this Commonwealth in proper condition for navigation and transportation, and to pay the current expenses which will be incurred by the supervisors during the present fiscal year. It is founded on the reports of the present Supervisors, furnished in compliance with a requisition of the Board.

The whole sum which will be required, according to these reports for the fiscal year ending 30th November next, is \$225,059 65. From which deduct the sum of \$19,900 44, drawn from the Treasury by the present Supervisors, out of the unexpended balance of former appropriations, and also the sum of \$60,000, appropriated for repairs a few days ago, less \$2,000 specifically appropriated to the Franklin line. This leaves the balance to be provided for by an additional appropriation of \$147,159 21.

The aggregate amount of the estimates of the late Supervisors, as reported to the late Board, is \$206,498 25, making a difference of \$18,661 40, between the estimates of the present and late Supervisors. This difference arises principally in the estimates for the Philadelphia and Columbia Railroad—the Upper Division of the Juniata line of canal, and the Susquehanna Division.

It is the opinion of the Board, that it would promote the true interests of the State, if the present Legislature would make an appropriation to purchase materials during the present year, to be used after the close of the navigation next fall, and to pay the expenses which must necessarily be incurred between the close of the fiscal year and the usual time of passing the annual appropriation bill.

The communication was referred to the Internal Improvement Committee, and the usual number ordered to be printed.

The democratic nominations made by the 4th of March Convention give general satisfaction, and as far as my knowledge extends the democracy in all parts of the state are forming themselves into one solid phalanx to do battle in the good cause. Mr. Muhlenburg is eminently qualified for the office for which he is nominated, and perhaps in the present crisis of our state affairs policy could not have dictated a happier selection. He is not only well and favorably known at home, but his diplomatic career as Minister to Russia has established for him a permanent character abroad. This may be said of Mr. Muhlenburg without any disparagement to his deservedly popular competitor for the nomination, Francis R. Shunk. Mr. Shunk from his thorough acquaintance with the affairs of the commonwealth is in every way qualified to fill the gubernatorial chair; but upon a fair trial of strength, Mr. Muhlenburg was chosen, and the convention unanimously acquiesced in the decision.

The course of Mr. Wilmot of your county, in the convention was mainly, fair and honorable, and won for himself the applause and friendship of all. Mr. W. came here as the avowed friend of Mr. Shunk; and by his judicious course contributed much to reconcile conflicting interests and to sustain that union and harmony in the convention so essential to the well being of the democratic party. Mr. Wilmot addressed the convention upon several occasions, in which he displayed talents of a high order.

Yours &c. Fritz.

DEMOCRATIC VICTORY!—An election was held at New Orleans on Monday, the 26th of February, for a State Senator, to fill the place of Mr. Hoa, deceased, which resulted in a most triumphant victory for the democratic party. The most extraordinary exertions were used by the whigs to carry the election. Henry Clay was present and lent his influence to support his sinking cause. They were beaten however, in every municipality in the city. Slidell, democrat, received a majority of 416.

The Governor.

The democracy of Pennsylvania died but to be united to ensure for themselves a triumphant victory. From every quarter of our commonwealth we have most satisfactory and cheering assurances of the unanimity with which the democracy are laying aside personal preferences, and rallying to the support of HENRY A. MUHLENBURG. The contest for nomination between Mr. Shunk and Mr. Muhlenburg was unusually animated and close, but we believe the friends of either were fully prepared to sacrifice all former predilections and coincide cheerfully in the nomination. That nomination has been made, and all admit fairly. And while it is a duty which they owe to their party and to the success of their principles, still the friends of Mr. Shunk are deserving of much credit for the promptness with which they have forgotten the strife of the contest for the nomination. The nomination of Mr. Muhlenburg was well calculated to have this harmonious effect. His unquestioned integrity; his ability and firmness, and his long and unyielding support of democratic principles have given the democratic party a confidence in and impressed them with a respect for him, which will speak in tones of thunder at the polls, at next October election.

THE SCIENCE OF MNEMONOTECNY.—Professor Goraud, of New York city is teaching a system of Mnemonics or the art of memory, which promises to be highly useful. He has had unprecedented success thus far, and we are glad to observe, by the following card to the editors of the Journal of Commerce, that he intends sending out accredited teachers.

I am every day receiving a large number of letters from all parts of the country, making inquiries in relation to my system, and inviting me to extend my visit in various directions. As I cannot find leisure to answer each of these letters, I ask your columns to give publicity to my intentions. I shall not be able myself, to teach excepting in the large cities; but my intention is to select a suitable number of young gentlemen from my classes, those who appear to have the requisite capacity for teaching, and send them out to communicate my system in any part of the country where a class may be made up. These young gentlemen will be PROPERLY ACCREDITED FROM ME, and those only will be supplied with my copy righted Mnemonotecnical Dictionary Principles, without which the system cannot be taught with EFFICIENCY. Therefore, as none others can be fully qualified to teach the system, whose who desire to acquire it are respectfully cautioned to avoid giving their patronage to any others than so accredited, as by so doing they will encourage ignorant pretenders who will only degrade the science, of Mnemonotecnny, instead of affording valuable instructions to their pupils. To prevent this, is my principal motive in publishing this letter, and the course I recommend to those who desire to learn my system is, to refuse credence to all who come without full credentials from me. Respectfully your ob't servant, FAUVEL GOURAUD.

FIRE.—The Shoe & Carrying establishment of Mr. Christopher Hiney, at Orwell, was totally destroyed by fire, on Saturday morning, 2d inst. Mr. Hiney's loss was very severe, the fire destroying not only the implements of his business, but a considerable amount of provision and grain, boots and shoes, leather, bark, &c. The cause of the fire is not known. The amount of the loss is estimated at \$660. No insurance.

THE TIME OF THE EXPLOSION.—The precise time of the lamentable explosion on board the Princeton has been ascertained by Mr. Upshur's watch. The blow which caused the death of the owner stopped the watch, which was a gold patent lever, at exactly fourteen minutes and twenty seconds past four o'clock.

ACCIDENT.—At the celebration of Washington birth-day at New Hanover, Montgomery county, a young man, named Jacob Decker, came to his end by the premature discharge of the artillery while in the act of loading. Both arms were taken off, and his breast so injured as to cause his death in a few minutes.

SPECIAL ELECTION.—A special election for Member of Congress, in the 13th congressional district, to supply the vacancy occasioned by the death of Hon. HENRY FRICK, is to be held on Friday, April 6th.

Essays on Geology—No. GEOLOGY APPLIED TO AGRICULTURE.

On the Improvement of soils. my last essay I attempted to show the base of our soils were strata rocks from which they were derived. I propose to show in this, the ingredients of soils are distributed by natural causes, and the manner by which they may be improved.

Of the evidence that powerful forces have swept over our continent, already written in preceding essays, and have shown their general effect modifying the surface of our earth. To their influence, more than any other, is attributed the general distribution of the broken rocks, and loose masses that are found remote from native beds, together with much of the finer materials of our soils.

Next in importance, may be the effects of our streams. Whatever be their magnitude, are constantly carrying a portion of their load to distant places, and in so doing, and varying the soils of every land that they periodically overflow. The soils of all our rich valleys have been formed by river deposits. The rich valley of the Nile has been an immemorial yearly inundated by waters from the mountains of Abyssinia, the annual deposits they form, given that valley its celebrated fertility. The Po, the Rhine, and many eastern rivers, have not only deposited of the richest soil on their banks, but they have filled up the sea mouths, and formed dry land leagues in extent. The rivers of our own country, many of them overflow their banks, and deposit turbid treasures far from their beds. There are abundant evidences, too, of the existence of ancient rivers, whose waters have now ceased to flow, having been diverted from their course by a change of level, or deprived of supply by a change in the temperature of our earth. These have all had influence in the distribution of soils.

Springs, too, penetrate the soil, the veins on the animal, and, by bringing from every hill side, bring the otherwise hidden treasures of the earth to the surface, and add them to the soil. From the hard granite they bring the allumina and the potash, the siliceous, and fit them for the plants. From the rich lime rock they bring the calcareous principle to the soil, and spread it with its native goodness on the soil, or bring it in contact with the various acids that give it its different qualities. Springs are the natural carriers and distributors of all saline products of the earth, and constantly feeding our soils. Many marine situations overspread extensive tracts and deposits, not only detritus they hold in mechanical suspension, but their saline qualities, which, thus formed, are sometimes extremely fertile, while at others a superabundance of sand renders them entirely barren. The atmosphere that surrounds the earth acts an important part in determining the qualities of our soils. Strictly speaking it is but a compound of oxygen and nitrogen. It however, contains extraneous matters, solid and gaseous, which it carries and deposits according to known general laws. These, whatever their qualities, always affect the soil as receive them, and much of our productiveness is due to their influence.

Thus the carbonic acid of the atmosphere goes to form the woody part of all vegetables; while the solid part contains an equally important part in the growth of plants. Now these all the effects of chemical changes brought into activity by the laws of finite attraction. It is thus that the seen changes are wrought in the character of our soils, while the communication that exists between them and the atmosphere, is by the cultivators unheeded, or unknown. Fine particles of sand are sometimes carried in such quantities by winds, to change, or entirely destroy the productiveness of a soil. By this means whole districts in France have been rendered barren, and the ancient fields of western Egypt, have been turned into a desert.

In volcanic countries earthy matter as fine as ashes, is ejected from the earth, and carried by winds to distant places.

It will thus be seen that many natural causes are constantly active in modifying the constitutions of soils, and increasing, or diminishing their productiveness. It is these causes and their influence they exert on the growth of vegetation, that enables us to use artificial means for their improvement.

In the improvement of soils by artificial means, a regard to the fact with which these means may be procured, is of the highest importance. Thus a soil may be deficient in lime, or lime, or sand, or any other requisite for productiveness, and the difficulty and expense of procuring adding these, be so great as to prevent their economical use. It is however, oftener the case, that beds of different earths lie near, or contiguous to each other, and can be used in such quantities as materially to benefit the soil, with a trifling expense. Thus a soil may be fitted by nature for the growth