

THE CONVENTION.

MONDAY, May 8, 1837.

After preliminary motions and discussions the Convention agreed to a resolution appointing the following committees on the different articles of our present constitution, viz:

- The 1st Article to a Committee of nine.
- 2d Article to a Committee of nine.
- 3d Article to a Committee of nine.
- 4th Article to a Committee of nine.
- 5th Article to a Committee of nine.
- 6th Article to a Committee of nine.
- 7th Article to a Committee of nine.
- 8th Article to a Committee of nine.
- 9th Article to a Committee of nine.

TUESDAY, May 9, 1837.

Several resolutions requiring information from the Secretary of the Commonwealth in respect to the number of incorporated companies, for banking and other purposes, were offered, and laid on the table.

Mr. BANKS offered the following:

Resolved, That the secretary of the commonwealth be requested to furnish the convention with a statement or table of the number of taxable inhabitants in the respective wards of the several cities, and the respective boroughs and townships of the several counties in the state, according to the enumeration made in 1825 and '36.

Both of which were read and laid on the table.

Mr. BROWN of Philadelphia county, offered the following:

Resolved, That the Secretaries have printed for the use of the members of the convention, a tabular statement, showing the number and official names of all the officers, whose office is established by each of the constitutions of the States of the Union, by whom appointed or elected—official tenure—salary, &c.—also the official names, tenure, salary, &c. of all officers, whose office has been established by the laws of this state.

Resolved, That one hundred and thirty-three copies of the constitution of the United States, and of the several States of the Union, and one hundred and thirty-three copies of a book, called the Conventions of Pennsylvania, be purchased.

Mr. PORTER of Northampton, offered the following resolution, which was referred to the committee on printing:

Resolved, That the Secretaries be directed to pay, as part of the contingent expenses of this convention, the expense of two thousand seven hundred copies of the Daily Chronicle and Convention Journal, during the sitting of this body; and to be divided among the members, for distribution among their constituents.

Mr. STERIGER offered the following, which was laid upon the table.

Ordered, That the Journals of the convention, and of the committee of the whole, be printed on good paper, in royal octavo form, with long primer type—the yeas and nays to be inserted in solid paragraphs.

Ordered, That a number of copies of the English Debates corresponding with that of the English Journal, and a number of copies of the German Debates corresponding with that of the German Journal, be printed on good paper, in royal octavo form, with brevier type.

Ordered, That two hundred shall be considered the usual number of copies of any paper directed to be printed by the convention.

WEDNESDAY, May 10, 1837.

Mr. INGERSOLL offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the subjects of the currency, corporations, highways and Eminent Domain of the State, be referred to a select committee, to report thereon.

And that the subjects of public improvements, loans and debts, of the State, be referred to another special committee, to report thereon.

By Mr. BROWN of Philadelphia county:

ARTICLE I.

Resolved, That the Legislative departments of the constitution of this commonwealth ought to be amended.

I. By taking from it the veto power of the Governor; or, if retained, substitute three fifths of both Houses as necessary to pass a law, instead of two thirds, as at present.

II. By limiting the term of service of Senators to two years instead of four.

III. By prohibiting, the Legislature from passing in the same act laws relating to subjects unconnected with each other.

IV. By restricting the Legislature in granting special acts of incorporation to associations for internal improvements, for transportation, or for municipal governments and requiring all other acts of incorporation to be by general laws, equally free and open to all citizens.

V. By requiring the Legislature to meet on the second Tuesday of January, instead of the first Tuesday in December, as at present.

VI. By requiring all laws to be originated in the House of Representatives.

VII. By prohibiting any city, borough or district, incorporated for municipal government, from holding any real estate other than what is used for public purposes or connected with its public establishments.

ARTICLE II.

Resolved, That the executive departments of this commonwealth ought to be amended.

I. By reducing the term of service of the Governor to two years, and his eligibility to only four years out of six.

II. By taking from the Governor the appointment of all officers other than those connected with the state executive departments, as Secretary of State, Auditor General, Surveyor General, Secretary of the Land Office, and their assistants, and requiring the concurrence of the Senate to the appointment of the heads of those departments.

ARTICLE III.

Resolved, That article third, section first, of the constitution of this commonwealth ought to be amended.

I. By giving the rights of an elector to every citizen of the United States, native or natural, of the age of twenty-one years, who shall have resided in this state six months preceding the election.

II. By taking from it the tax qualification.

ARTICLE IV.

Resolved, That the Judiciary department of the constitution of this commonwealth ought to be amended.

I. By limiting the term of office of the Judges of the Supreme Court to five years, and by giving their appointments to the joint vote of both Houses of the legislature, one Judge to be appointed annually.

II. By limiting the term of office of the President Judges of the district or county Courts to three years, and giving their appointment to the joint vote of both Houses of the legislature, and by limiting the term of office of the associate judges to two years, one to be elected annually by the citizens of each county.

III. That justices of the peace shall be elected by the citizens of each ward, district, or township, and shall hold their offices for three years.

ARTICLE V.

Resolved, That the article 6th of the constitution of this commonwealth, ought to be amended.

I. That the citizens of each county in the state, shall elect their sheriff, coroner, prothonotaries, register, recorder, county commissioners, and such other county officers as conveniently can by them so elected—to hold their offices for three years.

II. That the citizens of each of the wards, districts or townships now established, or that may hereafter be established by law, shall under the powers that may be given them by law, elect on the third Friday of March, annually, judges and inspectors of elections, constables, assessors and collectors of taxes, school directors and overseers of the poor, who shall all hold their offices for one year, but may be re-elected at the expiration of that time.

ARTICLE VI.

Resolved, That article 7th of the constitution of this commonwealth, ought to be amended, so that provision be made for the establishment of schools throughout the whole commonwealth, on a permanent basis and on the most enlarged and liberal plan.

By Mr. J. M. PORTER:

Resolved, That the committee on the first article of the constitution be instructed to inquire into the expediency of so modifying that article as that,

I. The Senatorial term be reduced to three years.

II. The legislature shall meet on the first Tuesday in January in each year, unless sooner convened by the Governor.

III. The Lieutenant Governor shall be president of the Senate, and each House shall have the right to select a presiding officer, *pro tempore*, in the absence or other inability of the presiding officer to perform the duties of the chair.

IV. The legislature shall have no power to combine or unite in any one bill or act two distinct subjects or objects of legislation or any two distinct appropriations, or appropriations to distinct or different objects, except appropriations to works exclusively belonging to and carried on by the state, and that the objects or subject matter of each bill or act shall be distinctly stated in the title.

THURSDAY, May 11, 1837.

Mr. DILLINGER, from the committee to whom was referred the resolutions in relation to the printing of the Journals and debates, of the convention, reported the following resolution:

Resolved, 1. That the printer of the journal, in the English language, be directed to strike twelve hundred copies of the said journal, and the minutes of the committee of the whole, on good paper, in medium octavo form.

2. That the printer of the journal, in the German language, be directed to strike twelve hundred and fifty copies of said journal, and minutes in the same form.

3. That the printer of the debates of this convention, in the English language, be directed to strike twelve hundred and fifty copies, of said debates on good paper, in royal octavo form, the yeas and nays in solid paragraphs.

4. That the printer of said debates in the German language, be directed to strike twelve hundred and fifty copies, in the form and manner aforesaid.

5. That the secretaries of this convention, cause the said journal and debates, to be stitched, bound, and delivered, into the office of the secretary of the commonwealth, to be by him distributed in such manner as shall hereafter be directed by this convention.

THE COLUMBIA DEMOCRAT.



"TRUTH WITHOUT FEAR."

BLOOMSBURG:

Saturday, May 20, 1837.

The unavoidable absence of the Editor, on professional business at New Berlin, will be an apology for any errors or omissions in this number of our paper.

PHILADELPHIA MARKET.

Flour and Meal.—Sales confined to home use, at \$9 per bbl. for good brands—Western \$8 62½ without inspection, \$8 75 to 9 for standard. Rye Flour, free sales for shipment at \$6 a 6 12½; yesterday \$6 25 per bbl. Corn Meal, a sale in bbls. at about \$4. Grain—Wheat has been in good demand at advanced rates. Sales of 9 to 10,000 bushels of domestic wheat at \$2 10 per bushel for fair to prime quality, 3,000 foreign red at \$1 50 afloat, and some small sales from stores at \$1 60. Rye 1,000 bushels fair foreign sold at \$1 10 in store, several lots of Pennsylvania at \$1 15 a 1 20. Corn—Sales of round yellow at 90 to 91½ cts. afloat, flat 85 to 86 cts; white 82 a 83 being a slight advance.

We are indebted to William L. Harris, Esq. for Convention proceedings, to whom we tender our thanks.

SUSPENSION OF SPECIE PAYMENTS.

We learn by our last mails, that the banks of Philadelphia, New York, Baltimore, Harrisburg, Middletown and Northumberland, have suspended specie payments. It is supposed, however, that the adoption of this course was a measure of persecution only, and that the suspension will be of temporary duration.

While the Banks in the commercial cities generally, refuse specie payments, the Northumberland Bank deems it advisable to pay out for the 'purposes of change.' This course will preserve the institution safe and sound, and accommodate the public with change, until the present excitement blows over which will, we are confident, be in a short time.

The President of the United States has issued his proclamation for Congress to meet on the first Monday of September next.

The late news from New Orleans inform us that the U. S. sloop of war Natchez captured a Mexican brig of war in retaliation for several American vessels captured by the Mexicans.

THE PRESIDENT'S REPLY TO THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE.

We subjoin the reply of Mr. VAN BUREN to the address of the New York committee, which recently visited Washington. It is, as we anticipated it would be, courteous in manner, decided and explicit in its declarations, and in every respect a paper which will be received with satisfaction by all who are able to perceive, and have the candor to acknowledge, the real causes of existing embarrassments. In the address of the committee, we find that they actually assert, in the face of all the speculating madness of the last two or three years, that 'it is unjust to attribute the evils of the time to any excessive development of mercantile credit.' According to them, it is all attributable to the removal of the deposits in 1833, and to other acts of the administration, such as the importation of gold and silver, the Specie Circular, &c. They, therefore, asked for a repeal of the Specie Circular; that instructions may be given to prevent the commencing of suits in any of the collection districts, upon unpaid Bonds, until after the first day of January next; and urged upon the Executive the propriety of calling an extra session of Congress at as early a day as possible.—*Pa. Reporter.*

To which Mr. Van Buren replied as follows:

WASHINGTON, MAY 4, 1837.

Gentlemen—I have bestowed on your communication the attentive consideration which is due to the opinions, wishes, and interests of the respectable portion of my fellow citizens in whose behalf you act.

In the correctness of the judgment which in the exercise of an undoubted right, you have in such general terms pronounced upon particular points in the policy of the late and present administrations, you cannot expect

me to concur. My opinions on these points were distinctly announced to the American people before my election, and I have seen no reason to change them. But however much I may differ with you upon them, as well as in respect to the causes of the existing evil, you may be assured of the warm interest I shall ever feel in whatever concerns the mercantile community, of my deep sympathy with those who are now suffering from the times, and of my readiness to adopt any measures for their relief, consistent with my convictions of duty.

The propriety of giving to the Collectors of the Customs instructions of the character desired, necessarily involves inquiries into the extent of the power of the Executive over the subject, the present condition of the Treasury, and its probable receipts and expenditures for the remainder of the year.—These examinations have been directed, and are in progress, and the result will be communicated by the Secretary of the Treasury to the Collector at New York, who will be instructed to give it publicity. A few days will be required to arrive at a safe conclusion upon some parts of the investigation, but there shall be no unnecessary delay.

The other subjects to which you have called my attention, are, first, an immediate repeal of the order requiring specie in payment, on sales of public lands, issued by my predecessor, for the purpose of enforcing a strict execution of the Act of Congress, which forbids the allowance of credit on such sales, and secondly, an extra session of Congress. I have not been able to satisfy myself that I ought, under existing circumstances, to interfere with the order referred to.

You must be aware of the obstacles to an immediate convocation of Congress arising from the imperfect state of the representation in one branch of that body. Several of the States have not chosen their Representatives, and are to do so for some months to come. Independent of that consideration, I do not see at present, sufficient reasons to justify me in requiring an earlier meeting than that appointed by the constitution.

I am gentlemen, very respectfully,
Your obedient Servant,
M. VAN BUREN.

DRY DOCK BANK.

In consequence of some improper publication in a whig paper printed in New York, a run was made, last week, on the Dry Dock Bank of that city, and the institution was obliged to stop payment. A statement of the affairs of the bank has since been published, from which it appears that the bank is in possession of assets sufficient to meet all its liabilities, and leave a surplus of more than two hundred and eighty-seven thousand dollars. The notes are now redeemed at all the other banks in the city.—*Pa. Reporter.*

MORE MURDERS BY STRAGGLING INDIANS.

Jacksonville, April 20.

On the 5th inst. the house of Mr. William Clemmons, situated on the road from Alligator to Livingston's Ferry, on the Suwannee, about twenty miles from the latter place, was attacked by Indians. The inmates, consisting of Mrs. Clemmons and four children, a little orphan lad living with Mr. Clemmons, were murdered. Mr. C. was from home at the time this awful visitation was made upon his family. He returned on the 10th inst. the second day after the horrid transaction, and the first intimation of the calamity that had befallen his wife and little ones, was the desolate appearance of his home, and then the bodies of his wife and children, fifty or more yards from the house. They had been shot while attempting to escape, as it would seem from the position in which the bodies lay. They were unscalped.

The children were both shot in the head, and so near were the guns when discharged, that the heads of these unfortunate victims were literally blown to pieces. And to add to the horror of the sight, and anguish of the bereaved husband and father, the body of the youngest child, a babe, was almost devoured, and the arm of the mother eaten off by the hogs!

What a scene was this. What a duty, a heart rending duty, was there to be performed by the husband, the father! To collect the mutilated bodies of his wife and five children, four of them his own, and place them in a coffin till he could go eight miles for assistance to bury the dead. Breathe the man with heart so cold, as not to sympathize with the afflicted and suffering of East Florida.

RAVENNA.

A remarkable fact.—This town in Ohio, stands on a fixed and moderately elevated tract, directly on the dividing line between the waters which run into the Ohio, and those which run into Lake Erie. The old court house is so situated that the rain which falls on the north side of the roof passes into the Cuyahoga, and is discharged into the St. Lawrence while that which falls on the south side passes into the Mahoning, and is finally poured into the Gulf of Mexico, so that this house, in a rainy day, is a fountain of waters for two opposite hemispheres of the globe.

A Methodist in Vermont, thinks it wicked to play a base violin in church, and declares that if his people persist in using it, he will retire to private life.

A new city is to be laid out on the Mississippi, by Major McLemore at old Fort Pickering, two miles below Memphis. A railroad of two and a half miles is to connect with the Lagrange and Memphis railroad.

BANK OF NORTHUMBERLAND.

The Directors of the Bank of Northumberland, in announcing to the public, the partial and temporary suspension of specie payments, deem it their duty to state the causes that have compelled them to adopt a measure so repugnant to their feelings.

It is well known that the Banks in our three great commercial cities—New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore, no longer redeem their notes with specie, and that their example has been followed by all the banks of the interior as far as heard from, and of course this bank cannot at present receive specie for the debts due it. Such being the case, the Directors of this institution have been impelled to adopt the same course as a duty less due to the institution, than the community; as the attempt to continue specie payments under these circumstances, could only result in having it all drawn out by Brokers and others for the sake of the premium which it will necessarily command in our cities, and thereby deprive the institution of the means of accommodating the district in which it is located, with change, and prevent it resuming at once full payment, when other Banks adopt that measure.

The Directors can confidently assert that the Institution was never in a more solvent situation than at present; the amount of specie in the vaults is larger, and the balances due in Philadelphia greater than usual at this period of the year. After declaring the last dividend, a surplus of nearly 20,000 dollars was left, which (as the debts due to the Bank are well secured and based upon the business and produce of the country, unconnected with speculation) is far more than sufficient to meet any losses that could possibly occur; independent of which there is a capital of \$140,000—actually paid in; so that in no event can the note holders or depositors be losers.

The Directors confidently hope that the notes of the Bank of Northumberland, will sustain the same credit as heretofore in the city of Philadelphia, and answer the same purpose as they have hitherto done as city notes. No exertions shall be spared to continue that credit by which the institution, will preserve its usefulness in the collection and transmission of funds, and be among the first in resuming specie payments, when that desirable event shall be accomplished in the city. In the meantime, they feel convinced that an intelligent public will sustain them in an act unavoidable and as necessary for their interests as that of the Institution.—And that no doubt may be entertained of our entire confidence in the solvency of the Bank of Northumberland, we do hereby pledge our individual responsibility, for the ultimate payment of all liabilities. Witness our hands this 15th of May A. D. 1837.

JAMES HEPBURN,
A. GREEN,
PETER RICHTER,
JOHN TAGGART,
JAMES MERRILL,
J. H. COWDEN,
A. JORDAN,
H. FRICK,
WM. CLYDE,
WM. FLYSTHE,
T. CORVELL,
WM. M'KELVY,
J. R. PRIESTLY.

Arsenic for Cream-of-Tartar.—Melancholy Death.—We are pained to record the death of Mr. James Thompson of Indiana in this State, which took place on Tuesday at the Red Lion Hotel in Market street. This gentleman had been for some days rather unwell; not so much so, however, as to prevent his attending to business—having come to the city to buy goods, being a merchant in Indiana. Monday evening—as he stated—he called at an apothecary shop (the precise one he said he could not recollect, being a stranger in the city) to buy a little cream-of-tartar. He took the dose, and was soon convinced by its effects, that he had swallowed poison. He died Tuesday morning, and an examination of the stomach proved that he had taken arsenic instead of the simple medicine he had bespoken. We are told he has left an interesting family—a wife and several children—to mourn his melancholy and untimely demise. We wish it were in our power to give the name of the shop where this fatal carelessness was committed—for we should feel it our duty to warn persons from ever entering its portals to buy medicine.—*Saturday Courier.*

"Unfortunate Miss Bailey!"—A young man named John Robbins led to the altar in St. Luke's Church, on Sunday last, a very pretty girl, aged only 19, the daughter of George Bailey, a respectable farmer in this borough. While passing thro' the aisle of the church, the entire head dress of the bride, including a wig (!) was pulled from her head, which was left as bare as the back of her hand! In consequence of this unlucky exposure; the happy bridegroom desired further time to consider whether he would accept the bareheaded spinster as a partner for life; and the parties left the church. The mischievous trick was effected by a former lover of Miss Bailey.—*Bristol (Eng) Mercury.*

The Louisville Ky. insurance Company have suffered a loss of \$98,000 by losses sustained within a few weeks past by the burning or sinking of steamers on the western waters, viz: the Tiskilwa, Shoalwater, Rob Roy and Fancy Tullahoma. The loss of the lone, \$100,000 falls on the New Orleans office.