

relies that the government should not receive their paper? They would be conducted with more caution, and on sounder principles. By using specie only in its transactions, the government would create a demand for it, which would, to a great extent, prevent its exportation, and by keeping it in circulation, maintain a broader and safer basis for the paper currency. That the banks would thus be rendered more sound, and the community more safe, cannot admit of a doubt.

The foregoing views, it seems to me, do not fairly carry out the provisions of the Federal Constitution in relation to the currency, as far as relates to the public revenue. At the time that instrument was framed, there were but three or four banks in the United States; and had the extension of the banking system, and the evils growing out of it, been foreseen, they would probably have been specially guarded against. The same policy which led to the prohibition of bills of credit by the States, would, doubtless, in that event, have also interdicted their issue as a currency in any other form. The Constitution, however, contains no such prohibition; and since the States have exercised, for nearly half a century, the power to regulate the business of banking, it is not to be expected that it will be abandoned. The whole matter is now under discussion before the proper tribunal—the people of the States. Never before has the public mind been so thoroughly awakened to a proper sense of its importance; never has the subject, in all its bearings, been submitted to so searching an inquiry. It would be distressing the intelligence and virtue of the people to doubt the speedy and efficient adoption of such measures of reform as the public good demands. All that can rightfully be done by the Federal Government, to promote the accomplishment of that important object, will, without doubt, be performed.

In the mean time, it is our duty to provide all the remedies against a depreciated paper currency which the Constitution enables us to afford. The Treasury Department, on several former occasions, has suggested the propriety and importance of uniform law concerning bankruptcies of corporations, and other bankers. Through the instrumentality of such a law, a salutary check may doubtless be imposed on the issues of paper money, and an effectual remedy given to the citizen in a way at once equal in all parts of the Union and fully authorized by the constitution.

The indulgence gained by Executive authority in the payment of bonds for duties, has been already mentioned. Seeing that the immediate enforcement of these obligations would subject a large and highly respectable portion of our citizens to great sacrifices, and believing that a temporary postponement could be made without detriment to other interests, and with increased certainty of ultimate payment, I did not hesitate to comply with the request that was made of me. The terms allowed, are, to the full extent, as liberal as any that are to be found in the practice of the Executive Department. It remains for Congress to decide whether a further postponement may not with propriety be allowed, and, if so, their legislation upon the subject is respectfully invited.

The report of the Secretary of the Treasury will exhibit the condition of these debts; the extent and effect of the present indulgence; the probable result of its further extension on the state of the Treasury, and every other fact necessary to a full consideration of the subject. Similar information is communicated in regard to such depositories of the public moneys as are indebted to the Government, in order that Congress may also adopt the proper measures in regard to them.

The receipts and expenditures for the first half of the year, and an estimate of those for the residue, will be laid before you by the Secretary of the Treasury. In his report of December last, it was estimated that the current receipts would fall short of the expenditures by about three millions of dollars. It will be seen that the difference would be much greater. This is to be attributed not only to the occurrence of greater pecuniary embarrassments in the business of the country than those which were then predicted, and, consequently, a greater diminution in the revenue, but also to the fact that the appropriations exceeded, by nearly six millions, the amount which was asked for in the estimates then submitted. The sum necessary for the service of the year beyond the probable receipts, and the amount which it was intended should be reserved in the Treasury at the commencement of the year, will be about six millions. If the whole of the reserved balance be not at once applied to the current expenditures, but four millions be still kept in the Treasury, as seems most expedient, for the uses of the mint, and to meet contingencies, the sum needed will be ten millions.

In making this estimate, the receipts are calculated on the supposition of some further extension of the indulgence granted in the payment of bonds for duties, which will affect the amount of the revenue for the present year to the extent of two and a half millions.

It is not proposed to procure the required amount by loans or increased taxation. There are now in the Treasury nine millions three hundred and sixty-seven thousand two hundred and fourteen dollars, directed by the act of the 23d June, 1836, to be deposited with the States in October next. This sum, if so deposited, will be

subject, under the law, to be recalled, if needed, to defray existing appropriations; and as it is now evident that the whole, or the principal part of it, will be wanted for that purpose, it appears most proper that the deposits should be withheld.—Until the amount can be collected from the banks, Treasury notes may be temporarily issued, to be gradually redeemed as it is received.

I am aware that this course may be productive of inconvenience to many of the States.

Relying upon the acts of Congress which held out to them the strong probability, if not the certainty of receiving this installment, they have in some instances adopted measures with which its retention may seriously interfere. That such a condition of things should have occurred is much to be regretted. It is not the least among the unfortunate results of the disasters of the times; and it is for Congress to devise a fit remedy, if there be one.

The money being indispensable to the wants of the Treasury, it is difficult to conceive upon what principle of justice or expediency its application to that object can be avoided. To recall any portions of the sums already deposited with the States, would be more inconvenient and less efficient. To burden the country with increased taxation, when there is in fact a large surplus revenue, would be unjust and unwise; to raise moneys by loans under such circumstances, and thus to commence a new national debt, would scarcely be sanctioned by the American people.

The plan proposed will be a legate to all our fiscal operations, during the remainder of the year. Should it be adopted, the Treasury, aided by the ample resources of the country, will be able to discharge, punctually, every pecuniary obligation. For the future, all that is needed will be that caution and forbearance in appropriations which the diminution of the revenue requires, and which the complete accomplishment or great forwardness of many expensive national undertakings, renders equally consistent with prudence and patriotic liberality.

The preceding suggestions and recommendations are submitted, in the belief that their adoption by Congress will enable the Executive Department to conduct our fiscal concerns with success, so far as their management has been committed to it. Whilst the objects and the means proposed to attain them are within its constitutional powers and appropriate duties, they will at the same time, it is hoped, by their necessary operation, afford essential aid in the transaction of individual concerns, and thus afford relief to the people at large in a form adapted to the nature of our Government. Those who look to the action of this Government for specific aid to the citizen to relieve embarrassments arising from losses or reversions in commerce and credit, lose sight of the ends for which it was created and the powers with which it is clothed. It was established to give security to us all, in our lawful and honorable pursuits, under the lasting safeguard of republican institutions.

It was not intended to confer special favors on individuals, or on any classes of them; to create systems of agriculture, manufactures, or trade; or to engage in them, either separately or in connection with individual citizens or organized associations. If its operations were to be directed for the benefit of any one class, equivalent favors must, in justice, be extended to the rest; and the attempt to bestow such favors with an equal hand, or even to select those who should most deserve them, would never be successful. All communities are apt to look to government for too much.

Even in our own country, where its powers and duties are so strictly limited, we are prone to do so, especially at periods of sudden embarrassment and distress. But this ought not to be. The framers of our excellent Constitution, and the people who approved it with calm and sagacious deliberation, acted at the time on a sounder principle. They wisely judged that the less Government interferes with private pursuits, the better for the general prosperity. It is not its legitimate object to make men rich, or to repair, by direct grants of money or legislation in favor of particular pursuits, losses not incurred in the public service. This would be substantially to use the property of some for the benefit of others. But its real duty—that duty, the performance of which makes a good government the most precious of human blessings—is to enact and enforce a system of general laws commensurate with, but not exceeding, the objects of its establishment, and to leave every citizen and every interest to reap, under its benign protection, the rewards of virtue, industry, and prudence.

I cannot doubt that on this, as on all similar occasions, the Federal Government will find its agency most conducive to the security and happiness of the people, when limited to the exercise of its conceded powers. In never assuming, even for a well meant object, such powers as were not designed to be conferred upon it, we shall in reality do most for the general welfare. To avoid every unnecessary interference with the pursuits of the citizen, will result in more benefit than to adopt measures which could only assist limited interests, and are eagerly, but perhaps naturally sought for under the pressure of temporary circumstances. If therefore I refrain from suggesting to Congress any specific plan for regulating the exchanges of the country; relieving mercantile embarrassments; or interfering with the ordinary operations of

foreign or domestic commerce; it is from a conviction that such measures are not within the constitutional province of the General Government, and that their adoption would not promote the real and permanent welfare of the country which they are designed to aid.

The difficulties and distresses of the times, though unquestionably great, are limited in their extent, and cannot be regarded as affecting the permanent prosperity of the nation. Arising, in a great degree, from the transactions of foreign and domestic commerce, it is upon them that they have chiefly fallen. The great agricultural interest has in many parts of the country, suffered comparatively little, and, as if Providence intended to display the munificence of its goodness at the moment of our greatest need, and in direct contrast to the evils occasioned by the waywardness of man, we have been blessed throughout our extended territory with a season of general health and of uncommon fruitfulness. Proceeds of our great staples will soon furnish the means of liquidating debts at home and abroad, and contribute equally to the revival of commercial activity, and the restoration of commercial credit. The banks, established avowedly for its support, deriving their profits from it, and resting under obligations to it which cannot be overlooked, will feel at once the necessity and justice of uniting their energies with those of the mercantile interest. The suspension of specie payments at such a time and under such circumstances as we have lately witnessed, could not be other than a temporary measure; and we can scarcely err in believing that the period must soon arrive when all that are solvent will redeem their issues in gold and silver. Dealings abroad naturally depend on resources and prosperity at home. If the debt of our merchants has accumulated, or their credit is impaired, these are fluctuating evils always incident to extensive or extravagant mercantile transactions. But the ultimate security of such obligations does not admit of question. They are guaranteed by the resources of a country, the fruits of whose industry afford abundant means of ample liquidation, and by the evident interest of every merchant to sustain a credit, hitherto high, by promptly applying these means for its preservation.

I deeply regret that events have occurred which require me to ask your consideration of such serious topics. I could have wished that in making my first communication to the assembled representatives of my country, I had nothing to dwell upon but the history of her unalloyed prosperity.

Since it is otherwise, we can only feel more deeply the responsibility of the respective trusts that have been confided to us, and under the pressure of difficulties, unite in invoking the guidance and aid of the Supreme Ruler of nations, and in laboring with zealous resolution to overcome the difficulties by which we are environed.

It is, under such circumstances, a high gratification to know by long experience, that we act for a people to whom the truth, however unpromising, is always spoken with safety, for the trial of whose patriotism no emergency is too severe, and who are sure never to desert a public functionary honestly laboring for the public good. It seems just that they should receive, without delay, any aid in their embarrassments which your deliberations can afford. Coming directly from the midst of them, and knowing the course of events in every section of our country, from you may best be learned as well the extent and nature of these embarrassments, as the most desirable measures of relief.

I am aware, however, that it is not proper to detain you, at present, longer than may be demanded by the special objects for which you are convened. To them, therefore I have confined my communication, and believing it will not be your own wish to extend your deliberations beyond them, I reserve till the usual period of your annual meeting that general information on the state of the Union which the Constitution requires me to give.

M. VAN BUREN.

WASHINGTON, 4th September, 1837.

ALBUMS,

A very superior quality, neatly bound, and printed on gold-edged paper, with coloured designs, for sale at the cheap store of

J. T. Musselman, & Co.

September 16, 1837.

CAUTION.

WHEREAS my wife REBECCA has left my Bed and Board without any just cause or provocation, I do hereby caution all persons against trusting her on my account, as I will pay no debts of her contracting after this date.

WILLIAM SHOEMAKER.

Greenwood, August 26, 1837.

WANTED.

A Journeyman Potter will meet with employment and liberal wages by making immediate application to the subscriber, at Esopus town.

HUGH THOMPSON.

Aug. 19, 1837.

FLAX-SEED:

1000 Bushels of Flax-Seed wanted, and the highest price paid, by

J. T. Musselman, & Co.

September 2.

Steam-syrup Molasses, of a very superior quality, for sale at the cheap store of

MUSSELMAN, & Co.

Sept. 5, 1837.

JOHN S. INGRAM,

ATTORNEY AT LAW, TENDERS his professional services to the citizens of Columbia county. He will feel grateful for business entrusted to his care. Office in the same building with the Columbia Democrat.

Bloomburg, Aug, 1837.

THE COLUMBIA DEMOCRAT.



BLOOMSBURG:

SATURDAY, SEPT. 16, 1837.

COLUMBIA COUNTY DEMOCRATIC TICKET.

- For Assembly, **Evan O. Jackson.**
- For Sheriff, **John Eruit, Elias McKenry.**
- For Coroner, **Isaac C. Johnson, Jacob Seidel.**
- For Commissioner, **Stephen Eady.**
- For Treasurer, **Hugh McWilliams.**
- For Auditor, **John Fulton.**

The extreme length of the President's Message has crowded out several articles prepared for this week's paper. It is an interesting document—free from non-committal sentiments; and will well repay an attentive perusal.

The Democratic Ticket for Columbia county, will be found under our editorial head, where it shall remain until the day of trial, receiving our support, and without any doubts of its final triumph over all opposition.

- On Monday last the Federalists nominated the following Bank ticket:—
- For Assembly—**John Bowman.**
- For Sheriff—**William Ricart.**
- For Coroner—**Evan Evans.**
- For Commissioner—**Joseph Brobst.**
- For Treasurer—**Rudolph Seiler.**
- For Auditor—**George H. Willis.**

We will permit these gentlemen to enjoy the nominal distinction exhibited in the foregoing nominations. They may all be very popular men—in their own party; but that party being rather a slim one in Columbia, it would be wasting time & wind to oppose any portion of their ticket.

The "Lycoming Gazette" has hoisted its flag for Gen. JOSEPH B. ANTHONY as the candidate of the democratic party for Governor, subject to the decision of the 4th of March Convention. On two different occasions we zealously advocated the successful election of Gen. Anthony to Congress; and our confidence in his political integrity and eminent qualifications would freely permit a similar support of his gubernatorial election, should he be put in nomination by the 4th of March Convention.

SHIN-PLASTERS.

Hundreds of various denominations and hues of these rags now pass from hand to hand in this neighbourhood—some of them dated at Detroit, and a great number from Corporations in Maryland and New-Jersey. The following is a list of those issued by Corporations and individuals in this county, so far as our information extends:—

- Ca'tawissa Bridge Company;
- Nesquehock Bri'ge Company;
- Neal McCay, of Washington;
- E. H. Biggs, of Elmsburg;
- John P. Mayer, of Do.
- M. McDowell, at McDowell's Mills;
- Wm. Reynolds, of Daville;
- Wapples & Paxton, of Beaver Valley;
- John P. Fortner, of Ca'tawissa.

Several others will 'open shop' in a few days, and when 'the day of redemption' arrives will most likely be found amongst the 'missing' 'fortunates,' who have 'shut up shop' to avoid 'the pressure.' What a situation for a government and people like ours!

We learn from the "Vanguard Democrat" that James R. Snowden has followed the treacherous course of his brother-in-law, Jimmy Thompson, and is now the Antimasonic Shin-plaster candidate for Assembly in opposition to the Democratic nomination. This fact we simply record as evidence of the foresight of a certain portion of the Young Men's 4th of July Convention, 1836, in opposing his appointment as President of that body.

On Saturday last we received three letters from the same Washington correspondent, dated 4th, 6th, and 7th September. By the same mail we received the "Keystone" of the 6th, and the "Pennsylvania Reporter" of the 8th inst. On Sunday we received two copies of the President's message, which were certainly mailed at Washington city on the 5th inst. There is certainly something either unfair in this matter, or attributable to carelessness on the part of intermediate post-offices; and we hope through this avenue, to have no further occasion to be annoyed by delays.

CONGRESSIONAL.

The Hon. JAMES POLK, of Tennessee, was elected Speaker of the House of Representatives on the first ballot, by a majority of 13 votes over John Bell; and W. S. FRANKLIN, Esq. was re-elected Clerk by a majority of 98 votes. T. ALLEN, editor of the "Madisonian," was elected printer on the 12th ballot. The vote stood, for Thos. Allen 113, Blair & Rives 101, Gales & Seaton 9. This synopsis is all that our limited means will permit us to publish in this number, except the following Standing Committees of the Senate, which were appointed by the Vice President:—

- On Foreign Relations—Messrs. Buchanan, Tallmadge, King, of Georgia, Clay, of Kentucky, and Rives.
- On Finance—Messrs. Wright, Webster, Nicholas, Benton, and Hubbard.
- On Commerce—Messrs. King, of Ala., Davis, Brown, Ruggles, and Norvell.
- On Manufactures—Messrs. Niles, Buchanan, Preston, Strange, and Pierce.
- On Agriculture—Messrs. Smith of Connecticut, Spence, Linn, McKean, and Black.
- On Military Affairs—Messrs. Benton, Preston, Tipton, Wall, and Allen.
- On Militia—Messrs. Wall, Swift, Clay, of Ala., Mouton and Smith, of Indiana.
- On Naval Affairs—Messrs. Rives, Southard, Tallmadge, Culbert and Williams.
- On Public Lands—Messrs. Walker, Fulton, Clay, of Ala., Roane, and Prentiss.
- On Private Land Claims—Messrs. Linn, Sevier, Bayard, Mouton, and Lyon.
- On Indian Affairs—Messrs. White, Sevier, Tipton, Linn, and Swift.
- On Claims—Messrs. Hubbard, Tipton, Crittenden, Strange, and Young.
- On the Judiciary—Messrs. Grundy, Morris, King, of Georgia, Wall, and Clayton.
- On Post Offices and Post Roads—Messrs. Robinson, Grundy, Knight, Brown, and Niles.
- On Roads and Canals—Messrs. Tipton, McKean, Nicholas, Young, and Williams.
- On Patents—Messrs. Morris, Sevier, Prentiss, Pierce, and Roane.
- On Revolutionary Claims—Messrs. Brown, White, Crittenden, Norvell, and Smith, of Connecticut.
- On the District of Columbia—Messrs. Kent, King, of Ala., Nicholas, Roane, and Allen.
- On Patents and Patent Office—Messrs. Ruggles, Strange, Bayard, Prentiss, and Robinson.
- On Contingent Expenses of the Senate—Messrs. McKean, Tallmadge, and Black.
- On Enrolled Bills—Messrs. Clay, of Alabama, Smith, of Indiana, and Norvell.
- On Enrolled Bills—Messrs. Smith, of Conn., Lyon, and Allen.

Mr. HAMLET A. KERR, has issued proposals for continuing the publication of the "North American Farmer" under the title of "The North American." He possesses both the talents and energy necessary for the station; and as a printer and democrat, we hope he may receive ample patronage.

The Hon. D. Patrick, H. A. Mahanberg, L. Reily, and R. H. Hammon will accept our thanks for their kind attentions in furnishing us with Congressional documents.

"The Gentleman's Magazine," No. 3, is on our desk, possessing all the good qualities of its pre-lecessors. It is the very best literary periodical now published.

Great Speed.—The President's message was conveyed from Washington City to Philadelphia—140 miles—in 5 hours and 48 minutes; and from Philadelphia to New York in 5 hours! This goes ahead of any speed yet known to the world.

In our last we committed an error in publishing the proceedings of the County Convention, with respect to the township of Sagar Loaf. In the instructions for sheriff, the name of John Fruit should have been used instead of William Kitchen—which made eight townships from which instructions were given for Mr. Fruit, and which, with Hemlock, ought to have placed him on the ticket on the first ballot. We believe that Mr. Leeler, one of the Delegates, voted against his instructions, and thus defeated the intentions of the people. We notice this fact merely to confirm our assertions in regard to Mr. Fruit's popularity.

Our necessary absence from home during the next week will account for any errors in the paper, and also be an apology for any breach of professional engagements. We may probably be at home before the week closes.

Down.—Wheat at Louisville 80 cents per bushel, Corn 50 cents, and Oats 25 cents.

HYMENIAL.

MARRIED—On Thursday last, in this place, by the Rev. Mr. Drake, Mr. Israel Wells, and Mrs. Julia Dresher, both of Bloomburg.

At the house of Henry Sproul, Esq. in Turbottville on Tuesday last by the Rev. Isaac Coker, Col. Daniel Fullmer, of Limestone township, this county, to Mrs. Rachel Greer, of the borough of Milton.

On the 12th inst. by the Rev. D. S. Tobias, Mr. Samuel Harbauer, of Milton township, to Miss Elizabeth Scher, of Beaver valley.

OBITUARY.

In this place, on Sunday last, Jackson infant son of Mr. Nathan Bunney, aged 6 months and 18 days.

An Bloom township on Tuesday the 6th instant, Sarah B. B. B., daughter of the late Henry T. B. B., aged about 18 years.

In this township, on Saturday last, Henry B. B., son of Mr. B. B. B., aged 3 years, and 8 days.

In this township, on the 3d inst. James B. B., aged 3 years.