

## FIFTH OF MARCH CONVENTION.

### Democratic State Convention.

We regret that want of room prevents us from publishing entire the proceedings of the Democratic 5th of March Convention. The convention was temporarily organized by appointing Gen. ABBOT GREEN, of Union county, Chairman, and CHAS. W. HAZEN, of Northumberland, and EDWIN W. HUTTER, of Lehigh, Secretaries. The counties were then called over in alphabetical order, and each found to be fully represented, when a committee of one from each congressional district was appointed to nominate officers for the Convention, who in the afternoon reported the following:

President: WILLIAM MCCREERY, of Washington.

Vice Presidents: JAMES BEACE, of Perry, ASA MANN, of Tioga, GEORGE G. LEIPER, of Delaware, DANIEL K. HOTTENSTEIN, of Berks, GEORGE POTTS, of Butler, and ALEXANDER SMALL, of York.

Secretaries: Edwin W. Hutter, of Lehigh, Chas. W. Hazen, of Northumberland, John Morrison, of Westmoreland, and John Yeager, of Philadelphia.

The report of the committee was agreed to, and the officers took their seats. The rules of the Legislature were adopted for the government of the Convention, when they proceeded to the nomination; but before any ballot, the President laid before the Convention letters from LEWIS DEWART and CHAUNCEY FORWARD, Esquires, withdrawing their names as candidates for nomination, and leave was granted to withdraw the names of Nathaniel B. Eldred, of Warren, and John Ritter, of Berks.

The Convention then proceeded to ballot for a candidate for Governor, when

David R. Porter, had	37 votes;
Calvin Blythe,	13 votes;
Daniel Sturgeon,	11 votes;
John Klingensmith,	9 votes;
Daniel Sheffer,	9 votes;
George M. Keim,	8 votes;
William Wilkins,	9 votes;
John Galbraith,	6 votes;
David D. Wagner,	6 votes;
Joseph B. Anthony,	5 votes;
Thomas S. Bell,	5 votes;
Henry Meyers,	5 votes;
Isaac Leet,	4 votes;
Francis R. Shunk,	4 votes;
John Snyder,	3 votes;
John C. Bucher,	1 vote;
James Clarke,	1 vote;
Samuel L. Carpenter,	1 vote.

Some of the candidates having a majority of the whole number of delegates, and several of the names having been withdrawn, the convention proceeded to a second ballot, which resulted as follows:

David R. Porter, had	86 votes;
Calvin Blythe,	12
Daniel Sturgeon,	12
George M. Keim,	6
Henry Meyers,	4
John Snyder,	3
Joseph B. Anthony,	1

The President then announced that DAVID R. PORTER, having received a majority of the whole number of delegates, was duly nominated as the Democratic candidate for Governor.

The following resolution was then offered by Col. Stanbaugh, of Lancaster, and unanimously adopted:

"Resolved, That this Convention representing the democracy of Pennsylvania, entertain entire confidence in the inflexible democratic principles, high talents and uncompromising integrity of DAVID R. PORTER, of Huntingdon county, and we pledge ourselves, individually and collectively, to use all fair and honorable means to secure his election, as Governor of Pennsylvania, on the second Tuesday of October next."

A committee was then appointed to address the people of Pennsylvania, who, through their Chairman, Andrew G. Miller, Esq., of Adams, reported the following, which was unanimously adopted:

### Address to the People of Pennsylvania.

FELLOW CITIZENS—In rendering to you an account of the manner in which this Convention has discharged the duties confided to it by the democratic party of Pennsylvania, we tender to you, in advance, the assurance that the most cordial good feeling has predominated throughout our deliberations. The destinies of the great republican family of the Keystone State have been committed to our care on a matter not only vitally important to the existence of democratic principles here, but throughout the Union—and we feel proud in the conviction, that the sacred trust committed to us has been faithfully nurtured, and that the result of our labors will meet the unanimous approbation of our constituents.

It is a source of congratulation and just pride to the democratic citizens of this great commonwealth, that their convention was fully attended, by regularly elected delegates, from every county, at an inclement season of the year, without the aid and stimulus of official patronage. This shows, that a spirit of vigilance for the preservation of their rights and interests, is abroad among the people. This same spirit actuated your fathers, to strike for liberty.—This same spirit stimulated the brave hearts of American freemen in the second war of your independence. This same spirit has triumphantly sustained the democracy of numbers, in every conflict with the aristocracy of money. And this same spirit will hurl the present imbecile Executive and his satellites, from the power they abuse, and will re-establish the democracy of the Keystone State, on a firm and lasting basis. The party calling itself DEMOCRATIC, holds the same principles now that govern-

ed it at the adoption of the Federal Constitution—that sustained it during the despotic and fearful reign of the elder Adams, and animated and concentrated its youthful bands in the glorious struggle of 1800, which resulted in the election of THOMAS JEFFERSON. "Democrat" is an old and good name; in its true definition, "a form of government in which the supreme power is lodged in the hands of the people." It was adopted after the organization of our government, by the WHIGS OF THE REVOLUTION, as the cognomen of their party, in contradistinction to the opposition, who then assumed the name of Federalist. It has been the test-word of our party ever since; and has been regularly registered in our political annals, since the days of the patriarch Jefferson, with a devotion to the pure principles of its ancestry, which shows no diminution of attachment from that animating the parents of its early adoption. THOMAS JEFFERSON and the party which placed him in the Presidential chair in 1801, proclaimed their political creed throughout the Republic—they called themselves democratic republicans, and nobly sustained and cherished that darling principle of our institutions, which recognizes the "sovereignty of the people."—They believed the general government powerful enough to protect itself from danger, without guarding the constituted authorities by *alien and sedition laws*; and one of the first acts of the democratic administration was a repeal of these tyrannical and oppressive edicts of Federal misrule. We recognized and acknowledged the republicans of that eventful period as our political parents, and the principles contended for and established by them, shall always be held sacred by us. Those principles placed at the head of our national affairs, the distinguished patriots and statesmen, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, Jackson and Van Buren. Thus has the democratic republican party been in the ascendant, thirty-three out of thirty-seven years, in the administration of the general government—and under its guardian care, the infant confederacy has grown into a mighty republic, whose onward march in intelligence, science and the various branches of industry has made us a great and happy nation, and attracted the attention of the civilized world.

Federal aristocracy against which the democracy of the country has always contended, appears to be entirely lost sight of as a party name, expunged from the political calendar by the allied powers now arrayed against the democracy of the country. They have renounced the proud name of their first christening—the name given to them by their first distinguished god-fathers and prototypes in the Convention which framed the Constitution of the United States, who recommended the election of "Jefferson, the first and best of our Fathers." They are anxious to entail upon this infant Republic a very slenderly restricted monarchy. These were the views handed down by Alexander Hamilton and his political confederates as the pure principles of the federal party, and as such they were cherished by the leading recipients. Can it be a matter of surprise then, that this party should meet a succession of defeats, when opposed to the democracy which early enshined itself in the bosoms of American freemen? Not as education and intelligence marched onward, the hope still clung to by the leaders of the opposition, of succeeding under their true name and colors, gradually forsook them; and we now find the ancient and long cherished name of FEDERALISTS, entirely abandoned. When the venerable soldier and patriot, ANDREW JACKSON, entered the political arena as a candidate for the Chief Magistracy, the death blow was given to the attractions of high toned Federalism—the enlightened & moderate, who had before clung from early associations to that party, had then convincing proofs of the unsoundness of its principles, & left it in a body to swell the ranks of the democratic party, in support of the gallant soldier of liberty in two wars.

But, although the old arch enemy of democracy has chosen to assume a disguise—to hoist various colors and assume numerous and strange appellations: Yet, to the names of "National Republican," "Anti-mason," "Whig," and "Abolitionist," the old Federal party will still respond—it is the heart's core, the nucleus, the soul of the present opposition to democratic principles. Against this unseemly alliance the democratic party of this State is called upon to enter the lists in the coming contest. The struggle may be severe, but the result cannot be doubtful when the united strength of our party is brought into the field. In this State, we meet our old adversary Federalism, under the name of Anti-masonry. This party name was brought into existence when Federalism was at a low ebb. Many of those who joined it, were honest, upright politicians, who conscientiously believed they were organizing themselves to put down an Institution dangerous to the liberties of the country. But the film is daily removing from their eyes, and the trick and deception of their leaders becoming manifest. In the state of New York, where Anti-masonry was ushered into existence—where Morgan's ghost stalked abroad staring at all unbelievers—even there, on the very spot of the unchristian abduction, the famous bug-bear is thrown sneeringly aside. The name of Anti-masonry is considered no longer necessary in New York, and those who were governed by conscientious motives in leaving the ranks of the democratic party to put down masonry, are left to wonder at their own infatuation, and many

original Anti-masons in this State, who joined the party from principle, have already detected the manoeuvring and deception of their leaders, and will return with the first opportunity to the ranks of their old friends.

We feel a proud satisfaction, in being the representatives of the democracy at this time for we have every assurance that this convention shall not have been held in vain. We have every assurance, that the patriotism, honesty, and virtue of the people will prevail, and will lead them in triumph, at the next election, over an administration called into existence by accident, composed of factions of strangely discordant materials, without one fixed political principle for its guide. Joseph Ritter went into office by a minority vote—and at every successive annual election, a majority of the freemen of Pennsylvania put their seal of disapprobation upon his administration, and elected to every successive legislature, a majority of representatives in opposition to it. Why should they not, if they desire to preserve that liberty and equality, for which their fathers fought and bled?

But a short time previous to the election of Joseph Ritter, the people had declared with a voice and energy not to be mistaken, their uncompromising hostility to the bank of the United States, and they believed that its power to corrupt and endanger their liberties was terminated. But scarcely had the present Governor become warm in his seat, until he affixed his signature to a bill, to continue this institution in this State, with a capital of \$35,000,000, for the unprecedented time of thirty years! Indeed, if you look at almost every prominent act of the present State administration, and examine some of the laws that have received the sanction of the present executive, and under which you must live, you will readily agree that every effort should be made by all true republicans: to redress this great commonwealth from pollution.

In the assembly that was elected with the present Governor, there was a large majority of his political friends—and a majority in the senate also enlisted in the same ranks. That the executive and legislative branches of the State government, were for that session placed in federal hands. You have seen that legislature with the sanction of the Governor, district the State in such a manner as to secure a misrepresentation of the sentiments of the majority; and enable the minority to rule the majority, by apportioning the representatives of counties in notorious opposition to the number of taxable inhabitants. Great inconveniences to the people was created and representative duty lessened, by the establishment of senatorial districts for the election of senators, and left a large fraction of the democracy of Pennsylvania entirely unrepresented. For more than half a century, the election laws were uniform throughout the State, and every citizen enjoyed the same rights and privileges under them. On the day of the election, the suffrages of the people in the east, were regulated by the same laws as those of the west—and the people of the south of the State, on that day knew that their brethren in the north, were as free and equal as themselves. But it became the business of the present Governor and his legislature to restrict the people in one section of the State, in the exercise of their right of suffrage—to exclude the people of the city and county of Philadelphia, from the uniform provisions of the constitution and the general election law and to impose on them the odious duty and disgrace of having their names registered for some days previous to the election.

Your internal improvement system, the pride and boast of every Pennsylvanian, has, through the vacillating conduct of the present Governor, become involved in doubt and uncertainty. At one session he affixed his signature to a bill connected with the charter of the Bank of the United States, appropriating a large amount of money to the general improvement system, and also to private companies. At the next session he put his veto upon a similar bill, and alleged, for one of his reasons, that private companies were included. And at the present session, he withheld his name from a bill, making immediate provision for the prosecution of the work under contract, the relief of contractors, and for repairs, and retained it in his possession until it became a law. But he not only suffered this last bill to become a law without his signature, but retained it in his own possession, at the going out of one year and the coming in of another, until he imagined that he had obtained an advantage of the Legislature, in consequence of a particular reference as to time in the bill, and by this means, gave to the bill an effect and operation contrary to the obvious meaning and intention of the Legislature. Such conduct, on the part of the executive, is indicative of a little mind controlled by a dishonest cabal, and is calculated to rally every patriot to the rescue of this State from political degradation.

Not only has the vacillation of the Governor, on the internal improvement system greatly tended to retard its progress—but the frequent changes of the canal board, the removal of competent officers and appointment of inexperienced and incompetent men in their places, together with an increase in their numbers, have been, no doubt, seriously detrimental to the interests of the commonwealth.

The aristocracy are well aware, that they cannot successfully contend, in a fair and honorable warfare, with a party which is essentially popular and must be evidently

predominant. For this reason, they apply to the democracy, epithets, which honorable men despise, and impute to their principles never entertained by the party, and which every democrat disavows. An impression is attempted to be made upon the public mind, that it is the intention of the democratic party to destroy the credit system—to destroy all the banks—and to impose an exclusive metallic currency upon the people. Such intentions the democracy utterly disclaim. They recognize no principle which tends to interfere with the prosperity and enterprise of the people, the rights of property, or the public faith. It is not the object or design of the democratic party to destroy any institutions, legally and honestly established for the general good, but to foster and protect them—not to aggravate the onerous burdens of the people, by sweeping from existence the banking institutions, but to effect that salutary reform, now imperiously demanded by the interests as well of the banks as the people. If the democratic party were the destroyers, the agrarians, levellers, their opponents object to believe them to be, Pennsylvania could not now boast of the dense population, the immense wealth, the magnificent improvements, the boundless resources, which have been nursed into maturity under democratic administrations for the last thirty years. During that time, the same principles were entertained by the democratic party, that now are—the same doctrines advocated, and same policy pursued, and Pennsylvania, under the benign influence of these principles, doctrines and policy, has arisen to such eminence and importance among her sisters of this Union, as to be justly entitled to the distinguished appellation of "the Keystone State."

It was not without pride and satisfaction that the convention were called upon to consider the claims of so many distinguished, talented, and upright sons of Pennsylvania, in selecting a candidate worthy of her name. The candidates were numerous—men of strong minds, pure morals, high character, and unobscured honor; and guided by the great object for which you confided the trust, the delegates selected a candidate in whose support the democracy of Pennsylvania can and will freely, warmly, and vigorously unite. In presenting the name of DAVID RITTSBERGER PORTER to the democratic party of Pennsylvania, as a candidate for Governor in opposition to that of JOSEPH RITTER, honest and intelligent men can encounter no difficulty in arriving at a correct decision.

Gen. Porter is a man of superior mind and attractive demeanor. His principles are sound beyond suspicion or reproach.—He is a man of enlarged views and cultivated understanding, extensive experience, and irreproachable morals. In a word he is well qualified in every respect for the high station for which he has been designated by the unanimous voice of the convention, and he will reflect as much honor on that station as it will reflect on him. He has already discharged important public trusts with fidelity and credit—he is a citizen of whom Pennsylvania may be justly proud, and it is proper to add that he is the son of a revolutionary hero, worthy his country and worthy his sire. As a candidate identified in feelings, principles and practice with the democracy of Pennsylvania, the election of Gen. Porter may be safely regarded as certain, for under the standard now erected the old democrats of the State can rally as they did in the palmy days of Jefferson and Snyder.

Such is the character of the candidate now presented for your suffrages, which we are assured will not be extended to him in vain. The democracy of Pennsylvania never rallied in vain—victory always honored their standard, when they united heart and hand in the glorious cause. Notwithstanding all the difficulties you encountered in 1835, you recorded a majority of votes against Joseph Ritter. Since then you have at every annual election, returned a majority of democratic members to your House of Representatives, with a popular democratic majority—and you have honorably sustained the political character of your State, by the triumphant election of the present worthy and patriotic Chief Magistrate of the Union. This is evidence sufficient, that no opposition can withstand the sovereignty of the people, and that their cause will prevail in the approaching contest. Abundant evidence is before you that the political soil and climate of Pennsylvania are congenial to the democratic plant, where it will flourish luxuriantly, if through party feuds and dissensions, it is not left unprotected and exposed to unfriendly hands. The democratic party, when true to itself, has nothing to dread. Every patriot is fully sensible of the nature of the approaching contest, and of its great and lasting importance to the stability of the government, and the rights of the people. The democracy of the Keystone State, now maintains a noble attitude—its star is in the ascendant, and is truly auspicious of a glorious triumph. We call upon you, fellow-citizens to rally under the good old democratic flag, and it will not be soiled with the dust of defeat. We exhort you to pursue the same spirit of conciliation and harmony, which has characterized the convention of your delegates—to unite on those general and fundamental principles, which the democratic party has always recognized as the rock of its safety—and to contend shoulder to shoulder, in the approaching contest, and victory will again reward your labor and your patriotism.

**The late Duel.**—The political enemies of Mr. Benton have made another failure in endeavoring to injure his character, as will be seen by the annexed letter which we copy from the Globe of the 7th instant. Mr. Benton rather puts the blush upon those who even read and believed, even if he could not change the colour of the wretches who concocted and promulgated the charge.

WASHINGTON CITY, March 6, 1838.

SIR:—I enclose you three printed paragraphs, cut from newspapers, having relation to the inquiry with which the committee of which you are chairman has been charged by the House of Representatives. The first is taken from a letter written from Philadelphia; the second from a letter written from this city; and the third is taken from the editorial head of the N. Y. Courier and Enquirer; and all of them attributing the death of Mr. Cilley to my counsels and contrivances. The positiveness with which the writers of these paragraphs detail the circumstances which enable them to charge me with the death of Mr. Cilley, may present them as proper witnesses to be examined in relation to that event: and, if so, I here request that I may be allowed to be present at their examination.

In the mean time, justice to the dead, who can no longer speak for himself, and a due regard to the object of these coincident movements from three cities, induce me to say that, so far as my name is concerned, there is not one particle of truth in the statements of these paragraphs. So far from counselling with Mr. Cilley, and preventing him from admitting the true report of his conversations with Mr. Graves, it happens to be the fact that I never saw Mr. Cilley, to know him, but once in his life, and that at the commencement of the session, when he did me the honor to call upon me in company with Mr. Pierce, of the Senate; and that no communication of any kind, written or verbal, direct or indirect, personal or political, has ever taken place between us. Instead of contriving and creating this duel, it so happened that my first knowledge of it was received in my chair in the Senate, on Friday, from Mr. Haight, the Sergeant-at-arms, who mentioned it to me as a town talk; my next knowledge of it was from Mr. Pierce, of the Senate, and at my place in the Senate; so that I was in arrears of the town talk of the subject. With respect to this wonderful rifle firing, of which I am represented to have been the superintendent, and to have expressed such high admiration, it happens to be the fact that I have not seen a rifle fired in twenty years. With respect to Mr. Graves, whose death I am charged with so anxiously contriving, it so happens that I do not know the person of that gentleman; that not a word of any kind has ever passed between us; that I do not know that he has ever spent a thought upon me, and am certain that his existence even was unthought of by me at the time that I am charged with planning his death. With respect to Dr. Duncan, with whom I am charged with being in consultation nearly all the week; I have no recollection of having seen him until after mid-day on Saturday, when he and others stopped at Mr. Jones's door, which is next door to mine, on their way out, and when my counsels can be stated by others more appropriately than by myself.

Resorting any further details for a more suitable occasion, I have to request you to lay this letter with its enclosure, before the committee of which you are chairman, for such action upon it as they may think proper to have.

Respectfully, sir,  
Your obedient servant,  
THOMAS H. BENTON.  
To the Hon. Mr. TOUCHEY,  
Chairman, &c.

SHORT AND SWEET.—"I cannot speak in public—never done such a thing in my life," said a chap the other night, at a public meeting, who had been called upon to hold forth, "but if any body in the crowd will speak for me, I'll hold his hat.—Picayune.

OLD KENTUCK.—"No, stranger, there's no place on the universal 'arth like old Kentucky: he beats all out west, for prettiness; and you might bile down creation, and not get such another state out of it."

GOING THE FIGURE.—A prisoner at the Wayne county (Ind.) jail recently broke through the walls of his cell, and afterwards robbed the desk of the jailer of 15 dollars, to pay his travelling expenses.

CALEB QUOTER.—An Ohio paper advertises for a good practical printer, who would take charge of the mechanical department of a printing office, read proof, make selections, scribble a paragraph when necessary, rock the cradle, dig potatoes, cut wood, and go with the gals to singing schools, and neighborhood quiltings.

One of the London papers says that a charter has been obtained from the British government, under which a company has been organized for the establishment of a line of Steam Boats in the Pacific.

Princely Munificence.—The late Earl Egremont distributed in acts of charity and benevolence, during the last sixty years upwards of one million two hundred thousand sterling—or about twenty thousand pounds per annum.