

POLITICAL

ADDRESS

Of the Democratic Committee of Correspondence for the City of Philadelphia.

FELLOW CITIZENS:—The Democratic Committee of Correspondence of the City of Philadelphia, have deemed it advisable to address you on the subject of the approaching gubernatorial election. It is already known to you, that two candidates are presented for the suffrages of the people of this commonwealth, one of whom is Joseph Ritner, the present minority incumbent, and the other is David R. Porter, the nominee of the Democratic Convention, which assembled in Harrisburg on the fifth of March last. Between these two candidates, the people of necessity will have to choose, and so far as we may be permitted to draw conclusions from the spontaneous expressions of public feeling which meet us on all sides, it can scarcely be considered doubtful what will be the result. Between federalism and aristocracy on the one hand and democracy and popular will on the other, there can be no room to question what will be the issue; and our only object in addressing you at this crisis is to excite you to vigorous and united effort, in order that this portion of the state may have some share of the glory which will result from the victory. That David R. Porter must, and will be elected, is conceded by all who are conversant with the politics of the State, and who are willing to yield to the evidence that it is obvious to their senses. The democracy when united have never been defeated in the Keystone State, and their harmonious action has heretofore always resulted in securing the ascendancy of democratic men and measures. Such we predict will be the result of the election in October next, and the state will then be redeemed from the humiliation and degradation into which she has fallen.

That our opponents are strongly impressed with the belief that General Porter will be elected, is obvious in a great degree from the virulence with which they assail him, and the gross misrepresentations to which they continually resort. They allege that the democratic party is hostile to the best interests of the people, and is continually engaged in endeavoring to break up the credit system under which the community has prospered. They aver that it is hostile to all banking institutions, and is seeking to their overthrow and ruin, and endeavoring to impose upon the country a mere metallic circulation. This, suffer us to remark, is a sheer imposition upon the credulity of the community, and is at war with all the principles ever entertained by the republican party of the country. The acts of all democratic legislatures heretofore corroborate this remark, and show that banks have been brought into existence, and fostered, and protected by democratic administrations. —Even the last official organ of the party which assembled at Harrisburg, (we allude to the 5th of March Convention,) have exposed the fallacy of a contrary notion, and have vindicated the party from this slander of the enemy. That democracy has ever been opposed to the credit system is utterly untrue, on the contrary its friends are conscious that its influence in connection with the credit and enterprise of the people, has built up our country to its present greatness, contributed to fill up its dense population, and intersected in all quarters with railroads and canals, indicating the giant march of internal improvement, in a yet infant nation.—A contrary system, founded on the exclusion of all credit, would essentially tend to make the rich richer and the poor poorer, a result the very opposite of that which democracy seeks to produce. All that the democratic party has ever sought to accomplish was to place the banks under wholesome and proper regulations, to check an excess of issues which might flood and endanger the land, and so restore a metallic currency as to make it the basis of a circulation that should be healthy and safe for the community. How desperate, then, must be the hopes of a party which can resort to such misrepresentation, for the purpose of retaining a power which it originally obtained against the clear and recorded votes of a majority of the people of Pennsylvania.

That the democratic party must triumph in the approaching gubernatorial contest, will be evident from a slight review of what has occurred within the last few years. That the present position of the antimasonic and whig party in Pennsylvania is purely the result of accident, is shown by the actual vote by which Mr. Ritner was elected. He did not receive a majority of the votes of the citizens who recorded their will, and is, at this moment, conceded to be a mere minority Governor. At that very election, when the democratic party had no chance whatever of success—owing to an unfortunate division in their own ranks—yet they recorded a majority of votes against the supremacy of federalism, which even then showed that old Pennsylvania was democratic to the core. And what has been the result since? Let facts answer the interrogatory. From the year 1835, when Mr. Ritner was elected, down to the present time, we have always returned a majority of members to the House of Representatives, and have since sustained the ascendancy of the party by casting the vote of our state for the present democratic executive of the Union. At the very last general election which took place in the com-

monwealth, we showed a clear democratic majority of near ten thousand votes, which was made up by the fairest of all possible tests, viz: by taking the votes of those highest on the legislative ticket in each county, and comparing the poll. More recent evidence may be discovered nearer home, and our local elections in this section of the state have already given us an earnest of what awaits us in the fall, and old Southwark, in her recent election, and Moyamensing in her commissioner's election, have indicated what they mean to do with the enemy in the coming contest.

Another reason which must satisfy all who are doubtful as to what will be the result of the contest for Governor, is found in the character and principles of the candidates who are presented for the suffrages of the people. Joseph Ritner has been proved and tried, and is shown to be destitute of all the requisite qualifications which fit him for an executive station. He has been intent only on the keeping of power, and has suffered himself to be controlled and led by desperate and adventurous politicians and pedlars from other states. In order to retain the station into which accident has thrown him, he sanctioned the districting of the state in such a manner as to secure a misrepresentation of the sentiments of the majority, and enable a minority to rule, by apportioning the members of the legislature in palpable and direct opposition to the number of taxables. Besides, to use the language of the 5th of March convention—"For more than 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 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 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 first legislature, to restrict the people in one section of the state, in the exercise of their right of suffrage; to except the people of the city and county of Philadelphia, from the uniform provisions of the constitution, and the general election law, and to impose upon them the odious duty and disgrace of having their names registered for some days previous to the election." Can then, the people of Pennsylvania, and especially the citizens of Philadelphia, lend their suffrages to a candidate who has thus impaired the dearest right which freemen can enjoy, and rendered the election laws of the state a by-word and reproach throughout the land!

Besides, Joseph Ritner has violated all his principles and all his professions. Avowing himself to be an anti-mason, he has continually appointed masons to office, thus showing his hypocrisy and want of principle, and has exercised the veto power in so arbitrary and tyrannical a manner as to make it the instrument of executive oppression. He has used it for the purpose of lecturing and reviling the representatives of freemen, and has shown that he considers a veto in the light of a mere negative vote, and supposes he ought to use it in all cases in which he would vote in the negative, were he a member of the legislature. His supporters are also equally inconsistent with himself, for you find that all the antimasons in the senate of the state voted at the last session for an open and avowed mason for speaker. How base and hypocritical, therefore, must be the conduct of such men, and how clearly does it show that antimasonry is a mere delusion, and a trap for the unwary. It is certainly time that a party so recreant to profession and principle should be removed from power and their places filled by men who are honest and capable: and who will exercise the influence of their stations to promote the interests of the community.

The present position of our opponents is such that no man can view it without being sensible of the truth of a remark often made, that it is composed of the fragments and factions of parties—of parties which have changed their principle just as frequently as they have changed their names. That the antimasonic portion of the party is hypocritical and insincere, has already been shown, and that the whig portion of the alliance is just as little guided by dignity and adherence to principle may be readily demonstrated. After a National convention of whigs had assembled at Baltimore, and nominated Henry Clay for President, and John Sergeant, of Pennsylvania, for Vice President, the whigs of Pennsylvania abandoned their support of these candidates, and cast their votes for the candidates of the antimasonic party. How flagrant an instance of a violation of principle, and of desertion of long-tried political friends. And yet this was done by the boasted whig party of Pennsylvania. Ever since then, the whigs have been following in the walks of the antimasons—have become the mere hewers of wood and drawers of water for them, and are compelled to sustain whatever their antimasonic brethren may advise.

In opposition to Joseph Ritner stands the candidate of the democratic party, Gen. DAVID R. PORTER, of Huntingdon county. He is a democrat of tried and approved principles, and one who has uniformly upheld and sustained the interests of the party. He is a republican of the true Jeffersonian and Snyder school, and is a native of old democratic Montgomery. From his youth upwards his devotion to the party has been uniform and constant,

and his legislative career forms a bright page in the history of his state. He is a man of cultivated mind and vigorous understanding, versed in the knowledge of all our political rights, and nerved with the energy necessary to sustain them. To him the community may look with confidence in her present emergency, and safely confide to his hands the destinies of our great and growing commonwealth. His administration will bring us back to the days of Jeffersonian democracy, and once more place old Pennsylvania among the democratic states of the Union.

All that is necessary to enable us to realize our utmost expectations at the approaching contest is to unite vigorously in support of the nomination of the party. Union and Harmony, should be our motto. He that would distract should be viewed as an Akan in the camp, and an enemy to the cause. The redemption of the state from political pollution should be the sole object of every democrat, and no sacrifice should be deemed too great to accomplish it. Let us then, fellow citizens, steadily adhere to the great truths and doctrines we profess, conscious that our prosperity as a people is to be attributed mainly to their influence, and all will result well. We will still continue to be a people increasing in virtue and greatness, and will leave as a rich legacy to our children, that which is far better than gold or silver, the inheritance of upheld and perpetuated civil and religious privileges.

Adopted at a meeting of the committee, held on Wednesday, May 23d, 1838, and ordered to be published.

JOHN W. ASHMEAD, } Secretaries. JOHN D. MILES. }

PORTER IN LEHIGH.

For the last two weeks we have been considerably out and through many parts of the country, where we met and seen many of our citizens. Porter, Porter, Porter, is the burden of the song, let you go where you will. We can assure our distant friends, that Lehigh county will not only do her duty nobly but that the friends of Democracy and Porter, will poll more votes next October, and give us a larger majority, than has been the case for a number of years. Union and harmony prevails among the friends of Porter and Democracy, in all sections of the county, and it is cheering to see and learn how zealous and active our friends are. We are not going to stop at a small majority—but all are determined of doing abig business—and the way we shall put down our opponents will be long remembered by them. There is at this time much dissatisfaction and division among them; some are for Harrison, some for Clay, and many do not like Ritner. A number have declared themselves favorable to Gen. Porter—many are on the fence—and when gathering time arrives, Ritner's votes will be mighty slim. We go for at least 20,000 majority in the state—it cannot well be otherwise, when we have such a first rate man before the people as Gen. Porter, who possesses much experience, true and inflexible, superior qualifications, possesses moral and political integrity—of such qualifications is the man of our choice made of, and such is the choice and favorite of the people—and further this is the very man they will elect.—Lehigh Bulletin.

SLANDER REFUTED.

A large number of the citizens of Huntingdon have come forward and exposed the falsity of the base slanders propagated against the character of David R. Porter, the Democratic candidate for Governor. The following letter signed by eighty-four highly respectable citizens of Huntingdon, all neighbors of Gen. P., and 20 of whom voted for Gov. Ritner in 1835, will carry conviction to every mind of the total absence of any foundation for these charges, and of the reckless depravity of the leaders of the party which resorts to such dishonorable means to prop up a sinking cause. Let it be borne in mind that the said Robert Campbell, alluded to in the letter, is Governor Ritner's Prothotary for Huntingdon county!—Harrisburg Reporter.

From the Union Times.

CAMPBELL'S LETTER.

It is known to the people of Union county, that a letter signed "Robert Campbell," has for some time been shown about by Nerr Middlesworth and others, and more recently read at a public meeting in Millisburg making various grave charges against Gen. Porter. The following letter signed by 84 responsible citizens, neighbors of Gen. Porter, puts quite a different face upon this matter. Twenty of these signers voted for Ritner in 1835, among whom we recognize several who formerly represented that party in the legislature. Read the letter—

HUNTINGDON, May 12, 1838.

To Isaac Slenker, Esq.

Dear Sir—Having heard that a letter purporting to have been written by Robert Campbell, has been read in a public meeting in your county charging David R. Porter with certain things altogether disreputable to any man, let alone a candidate of the great state of Pennsylvania for Governor; we take the liberty of writing to you a few lines upon the subject. We have known David R. Porter for many years; some of us since he came into this county, and being his near and immediate neighbors can testify with honesty and truth to his character, and the falsehood of the charges made against him in that. Mr. Campbell, it is said, having since been called upon, denies that he is the author! But as a letter of this kind has no doubt been written, and endeavored to be circulated by some individuals for certain purposes, we can say at once that David R. Porter has never been charged by the people of this county for dishonesty, but on the contrary, is considered, and always has been, as a strictly honest man. He never refused to pay an honest debt, and the best evidence of this is to

be found in his old creditors, every one of whom are his warmest and most enthusiastic friends. David R. Porter has never been suspected of having purloined any papers from the public offices, of which he is charged in that letter. Such a charge was first heard of from that letter and creates nothing but disgust here amongst both parties of politicians. IT IS NOT TRUE! David R. Porter was elected to office in this county, when no other man of his party could be elected. This proves that the assertions of the writer are totally false. An indictment is now pending in this county against R. Campbell for writing that letter. If he cannot be proven the author, of course he will be acquitted—if otherwise it will be shown in what light he stands before the people of this county.

You no doubt observed that the letter has never been republished by the Ritner press here! That would never do. Upon the whole we say that a more black hearted tissue of falsehoods never were invented against the character of any man; and they go on to show what shifts will be made by some men, to prop up a cause when other means have deserted them.

- Thos: P. Campbell, J M Cunningham, Andrew Johnston, John R M'Curtaay, Daniel Agnew, David L. Wilmot, William Dorris, T B Luden, M D Michael Buoy, Isaac Haggs, S S Wharton, D Newingham, C Coats, John Aghly, Michael Claubaugh, Thomas Forster, John Nail, William K Rahm, Thomas Montgomery, James A Kerr, David Woods, John Henderson, Joseph Harvy, David Hazard, Frances B Wallace, John Nash, W R M'Caay, D Coldstock, Levi Westbrook, John Livingston, Walter B Hudson, John White, Chas. A Newingham, J Powell, James Simpson, William Stewart, John Livingston, ju Job Pympton, W S Hildebrand, Henry Miller, John Coldstock, Wm. Allen, Robert Cromwell, James S Stierrett, Joseph Stellville, John Lauck, George Black, Jacob Claubaugh, William Woods, A P Wilson, Edward Woods, James M'Connell, Johnston Smith, D Black, Thomas Smith, George Guckser, Alexander Westbrook, David M'Murtre, Henry Knees, John Simpson, George Jackson, Wm. H King, Christian Coldstock, John Williamson, John Montgomery, Patrick Gwin, Samuel Africa, Thomas Horrell, James Gwin, Irvin Horrell, George Gwin, G Nash, William I Snyder, David Snyder, William Glass, James Manly, Daniel Miller, Alex. M'Clure, James Hollinshead, Samuel Beiford, Charles A Nash, James Hemphill, Martin Griffin, Alexander Gwin,

THE NEWS.

CAPTURE OF RECTOR.

We find in the New York Courier and Enquirer the following account of the capture of Rector, who it will be recollected escaped from the city prison in N. York, by forcibly detaining the under keeper:

Yesterday afternoon two countrymen, named William Light and Robert Brown, brought to this city from Poughkeepsie, Thomas Rector, convicted of murder, whose escape from prison we noticed a few days since, and for whose apprehension a reward of one thousand dollars had been offered by the Governor and Sheriff. It appeared from the statement of his captors, and of a negro who had a hand in the arrest, that Rector had stolen a horse from a Mr. Mills, residing near Peekskill, and some young men having got upon his track, followed and came up with him when a few miles from Poughkeepsie. He then managed to escape and got into a swamp, where he effectually eluded his pursuers, who, however, recovered the stolen horse. After travelling some time through this place, he met a negro who took him in to Poughkeepsie for three dollars. He then stated that he had fallen overboard from a vessel coming up the river, and as he was wet at the time the poor negro believed the story, and lent him an overcoat. On their arrival at Poughkeepsie he also purchased for him a pair of shoes as he was barefooted, and he himself purchased a new hat.

The negro as he was going home met Light and Brown, who were in search of Rector as a horse thief, and he went back with them to Poughkeepsie, to assist in finding the rogue. After much trouble, he was found sitting near the dock, waiting for a steambot, and while watching him one of the young men chanced to take up a paper containing an account of the escape of Rector, and offering a reward for the apprehension of the murderer, and also giving a description of the person of Rector. After looking at the accused for some time, they became satisfied that he was Rector, the murderer, for whom the reward was offered, and they accordingly arrested him and brought him to this city, where his arrival was hailed with great joy by the unfortunate keeper, who was accused of abetting his escape.—The fugitive stated that after remaining some days concealed at a place near this city, he walked to Youkers, whence he started in the steambot for Sing Sing. Having landed there, he went on foot up the river, until caught as above stated. It is but fair to state, that he entirely exonerates the keepers from aiding or abetting his escape.

Fortunate Escape.—Our town Was a few days since thrown into a state of the most painful excitement by an accident, which we are happy to state did not result fatally. Mr. Moses Jones, a worthy and industrious citizen of Quincy, was engaged at Mr. Sherman's a short distance from the town in sinking a well. He had excavated to the depth of 80 feet, and commenced laying up the wall; removing by degrees the curbing from below and supporting it with props, until he should replace it with stone. The wall settled—the props became loose—the curbing gave way, and the soil, which for many feet above was loose sand, caved in around him. When the clouds fell he jumped on them, and cried to his assistants to let down the rope; but before that could be done, the sand pressed down so fast, as to cover him up completely; and a second fall occurring soon after buried him to the depth of six or eight feet. His head was forced to the side of the wall, one arm fixed to his side, and the other outstretched from his body. Some clapboards which fell in with the sand were so disposed around him, as to fasten him rigidly in his position; while those around his head probably preventing the sand from filling in so as to suffocate him. Immediately help was afforded; but from the danger and difficulty of approaching him some time was consumed in properly securing the well against further slides; and even then the narrowness of the place made it impossible for more than two to work together. They labored incessantly for his relief, from 2 o'clock on Tuesday at which time the sand gave way, till past 4 o'clock on Wednesday evening, when to their great joy, he was drawn up uninjured after being thus earth fast for 26 hours.—Quincy (Ill) Whig.

We extract the following article on the subject of the origin of coal, from the "Journal of the Franklin Institute" for April. It may not prove uninteresting to many of our readers.

ORIGIN OF COAL.

Coal is supposed by some writers to be the remains of antediluvian timber which floated in the waters of the deluge until several mineral strata had been formed; others conceive it to be antediluvian peat bog. It was used in England anterior to the reign of Henry III for that monarch, in 1234, renewed a charter granted by his father to the inhabitants of Newcastle, by which they were permitted to dig coal on the payment of 100l. per annum. Coals had been introduced into London before 1306, for in that year the use of them as fuel had been prohibited, from the supposed tendency of their smoke to corrupt the air. About the beginning of the sixteenth century the best coals were sold in London at the rate of 4s. 1d. per chaldron, and at Newcastle no more than 2s. 6d. for the same. During the ensuing century, however, they were received into such general use, that in 1648, on the scarcity of coal in London, many of the poor were said to have died from the want of fuel. The whole quantity of coal sent into London on an average of four years, has been estimated at 1,870,000 chaldrons per annum. There has been much dispute on the origin of coal, but Brogniart has given the following as the general conclusion of naturalists:—1. That coal was formed at the same time as, or after the existence of, organized bodies. 2. That this mineral when first formed was liquid, and in a great degree of purity. 3. That the same cause which produces this substance in several times renewed in the same circumstances. 4. That the cause, whatever it may be, is nearly the same over all the earth, since the beds of coal always exhibit nearly the same phenomena in their structure and accidental circumstances. 5. That these beds have not been deposited by any violent revolution, but on the contrary, in the most tranquil manner, since the organized bodies that are found in them are often found entire, and the leaves of vegetable impressed in the slate which covers the coals are hardly ever bruised or otherwise deranged.

Merthyr Chronicle.

Extract of proceedings of the Board of Canal Commissioners.

Canal Room, May 19, 1838.

Messrs. Editors, The Board of Canal Commissioners have been in Session during the past week and have agreed upon the following order of business:

Lettings of portions of the Erie Division will take place at Meadville, on the 29 of June. At Erie, of other portions thereof, on the 16th of July.

Of the West Branch, on the 17th of July; (place not decided.) Of the North Branch, at Tackhannock, on the 23d of July.

Of the Wisconsin Feeder at Halifax, on the 1st of August.

Of the Allegheny Feeder, at Kittanning, on the 11th of August.

Of the Gettysburg extension, at Gettysburg, on the 24th of August.

Between this and the 8th of June, the Board will visit the Columbia and Philadelphia Rail Road, and the Delaware Division of Canal for the purpose of inspecting the works, and settling claims for damages. About the 11th of June, they will leave Harrisburg to inspect the works westwardly, and on their route will settle all claims for damage which may be presented to them; and in like manner, will settle claims for damages on the West and North Branches, on their return from the lettings of those branches.

W. C McPHERSON, Sec'y.