

"I have sworn upon the Altar of God, eternal hostility to every form of Tyranny over the Mind of Man."—Thomas Jefferson.

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BLOOMSBURG, COLUMBIA COUNTY, PA. SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1838.

OFFICE OF THE DEMOCRAT,
NEXT DOOR TO ROBISON'S STAGE OFFICE.

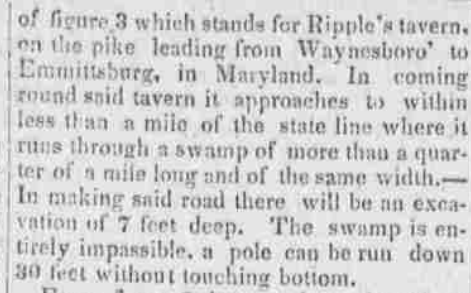
The COLUMBIA DEMOCRAT will be published every Saturday morning, at TWO DOLLARS per annum, payable half yearly in advance, or Two Dollars Fifty Cents, if not paid within the year.

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GETTYSBURG RAIL. ROAD.

We give below a map and description of the famous Gettysburg Rail Road, which is copied from the Franklin Telegraph. This is the same work, of which Mr. Strohm, Senator from Lancaster, an anti-slave, who examined the road last winter, says, "it was folly to commence it, and madness to continue it," and to complete which Thaddeus Stevens is so very anxious to procure the re-election of Gov. Riker.



From figure 3 it runs along the side of the mountain over ravines and at one place has another tunnel of about 400 feet, (which is in all 4 tunnels,) until it passes at some distance from Hughs' rolling mill, which is represented by figure 4, above which it takes another turn and gets off the mountain to the valley, through which it goes to Waynesboro,' its present termination. From Waynesboro' to Ripple's by the turnpike is 61 miles, while by the rail road it is 14 miles. In many places the excavations are from 80 to a 100 feet deep, and the embankments from 80 to 115 feet high; where the excavations and embankments do not exceed 40 feet, the work is considered light. At many points rocks as large as dwelling houses project over the road, while at other places millions of large stones, on the sides of mountains, hundreds of feet high, threaten the traveller with immediate destruction.— To this road there has been 455,000 dollars appropriated, and it seems to be Rtner's especial favorite in the catalogue of state works. Steven's influence obtained the office of canal commissioner for his partner Col. Paxton, who held it just long enough to locate the road past their iron works. Its length from Gettysburg to Waynesboro' is 25 miles, while the distance by the road now travelled is only 22 miles. To connect it with the Baltimore and Ohio rail road west of Williamsport, in Maryland; will cost the state 5 millions of dollars, at the very least.

The above is a true delineation and description of it—any one doubts it can examine for himself. In every respect the reports of the two committees who examined it were correct, but at that time it was not located further than Ripple's.

From the Huntingdon Gazette.



THE MESSRS. STONEBRAKERS.

We dislike exceedingly to be compelled to speak of the private character or veracity of individuals: as with the father and son voluntarily arrayed themselves in the political arena as the willing tools of a desperate faction, and lent themselves to Stevens, Genn, Benedict & Co. as the voluntary instruments of slander and detraction, for the purpose, as they thought, of damning the character of such a man as David R. Porter, we feel it due to the cause of truth to insert the following certificates from men of the highest respectability, and whose veracity even the Messrs. Stonebrakers would not dare doubt: William Hopkins, one of the nearest neighbours of John Stonebraker, a man who is known to have labored for years within a hundred yards of John Stonebraker, and who by his own hard labor, has raised himself from the anvil to be proprietor of a forge, in which, by day's dawn, you will yet see him at work. He states what he has heard John Stonebraker say: The people of Spruce Creek all know William Hopkins and very many citizens of other places know him, and no honorable man who does know him dare question his veracity. Richard Jones, a farmer in the im-

city. Richard Jones, a farmer in the immediate neighborhood of Mr. Stonebraker, Martin Gates, another old citizen of the county, and for many years a neighbor of the Messrs. Stonebrakers—and Daniel Hewitt, the brother of Nicholas Hewitt, the canal supervisor, and a near neighbor of the Messrs. Stonebrakers, have all stated what they know to be the truth, and what they have heard John Stonebraker say—besides we have on our files a number of similar certificates, omitted for want of room, from different highly respectable gentlemen, proving either that John Stonebraker continually and oft, up till about the time of the appointment of his son John as a canal boss, wilfully misrepresented, that he became superannuated and his mind enfeebled, or that he, in his alleged affidavits, grossly and shamefully under cover of the solemnity of an extrajudicial oath, mingled and murdered the sacred cause of truth. His statements at different times made "over and over again" are totally inconsistent and irreconcilable with his affidavit. As Mr. John Stonebraker is made to appear anxious in his affidavit to "set his mind at rest" whether he have the goodness to set the public "at rest" and his own mind further "at rest" by informing the public whether he did

did not at any time heretofore for the purpose of defrauding his creditors, convey to his brother-in-law, Archibald Huethison, his property, and whether there is any evidence of record in relation thereto—as Mr. Stonebraker has been made to volunteer for the purpose of “setting his mind at rest,” an exposition of the transfer of his property to his brother-in-law, from us may be attended to should he neglect it himself. The part acted by his son John H. Stonebraker, in that and certain other honest transactions will necessarily form a portion of the exposition. Charity empels us to think that the old man’s mind is greatly enfeebled, that he has been imposed on by the reckless agents hired to deceive and decoy him into lending his name to an affidavit which carries with it not the semblance of truth.

We would fain hope that the old man's feebleness and debility of mind may be a palliation for the awful responsibility under which the statements made in his alleged affidavit would leave him to answer in a state hereafter; but the son who would thus suborn an aged father, what can be said of him? What will the world say? What must conscience say? and with what dread should he look for a hereafter.

TO THE PUBLIC.

I have lately read the affidavit of John H. Stonebraker and his father John Stonebraker with surprise and astonishment. I live the next neighbour to John Stonebraker, and within one hundred and fifty yards of his shop. I have been intimately acquainted with him for the last fifteen years—he is in the habit of very frequently coming down and talking to me. I think he has been more in the habit of talking to me than other persons. We have had many and repeated conversations about David R. Porter, about his business and about all his vicissitudes in life. John Stonebraker has frequently told me all about his going secretly with Thomas Owens for Mr. Porter, and often spoke of Porter's honesty and integrity towards his bail in that transaction. He has said Porter was amongst the best friends he ever had—that he was the means of saving him and his family from many difficulties; and that he always thought Mr. Porter, at the time of his misfortunes in business, was very much wronged and better than the honest man on earth it was David R. Porter. He has continued to express himself in the above manner to me, until lately, until since Mr. Porter's nomination for Governor. He certainly has never expressed any opinion to the contrary until his son John was appointed a boss on the canal.

I also have known his son, John H. Stonebraker, since he was a boy, and I feel persuaded that no man who does know him, knows any good of him.

Since these affidavits have made their appearance they are a perfect laughingstock in the neighborhood where they live; and no body believes them. It appears to me that the old man's mind is much impaired of late; and being now completely under the control of his sons, he could not well be in worse hands.

Old John Stonebraker has frequently spoken to me about the claim of David McMoutre, and very often, and in every conversation on the subject until since the appointment of his son John as a boss on the canal; he said that he considered David McMoutre has wronged Mr Porter, and had got more off of Porter than was coming to him.— And in all the conversation I ever had with old Mr. Stonebraker, until very recently, and since the canal appointment of his son, he spoke of the integrity and honesty of Mr. Porter in the very highest terms.

WILLIAM HOPKINS.

Franklin Township, Aug. 23, 1898.

We have heard John Stonebraker very frequently speak of David R. Porter and his misfortunes in the Iron business on Spruce Creek, and always heard him speak in very high terms of Mr. Porter's honesty, and the honest manner in which he had discharged his debts and paid off his former creditors, and that he thought attempts had been made to wrong him. Since Mr. Porter's nomination for Governor, we have not heard him speak on the subject.

Old Mr. Stonebraker is becoming somewhat feeble, and we have read with astonishment his affidavits, and as well from various circumstances as from his repeated declarations with regard to the honesty of D. R. Porter heretofore. We certainly think that he never could have made such affidavits without the exercise of undue influence. His son John pretends in his affidavit to do tail matters which, by his own statements are said to have taken place when he must have been quite a small boy.

The affidavits of old Mr. Stonebrake and his son John can only excite our pity. We are sorry to see men who are our neighbors, as we firmly believe, lend themselves as instruments for the purpose for which these affidavits were procured. Their af-

affidavits, by whoever procured, are not considered entitled to credit, and certainly cannot be believed by any who have any knowledge of the circumstances, and are certainly inconsistent with their often repeated declarations. In justice to the cause of truth we are constrained to state our firm belief that the matter stated in these affidavits are very generally considered as having been manufactured since the appointment of John H. Stohnebraker as a boss on the canal.

MARTIN GATES,
RICHARD JONES.

Franklin Township, Aug. 24, 1898.

I had a conversation with John Stonebraker at his own shop, either about the time of the November court, 1837, or about the time of the April court, 1838, in which he stated that he thought the McMourries were attempting to wrong Mr. Porter. He spoke of having been subpoenaed as a witness or being a witness, and said that from what he knew of the transactions his testimony would have been against McMurtrie. He then also stated that Mr. Porter was as fine a man as ever was on Spruce Creek. I have frequently heard John Stonebraker speak of David R. Porter, and always heard him speak in the highest terms of Mr. Porter, until since the last break on the canal west of Huntington. I have heard him speak of having gone security for Mr. Porter. He lately said that the bonds he had received, or the proceeds of the western land, were not quite sufficient to pay him; that there was a balance coming to him for some expenses incurred in travelling, or about the collection of the money, but that he had full confidence in Mr. Porter's honesty that he would pay him, but that he had not called on him.

I never heard Mr. Stonebraker question Mr. Porter's honesty until since the appointment of his son John H. I firmly believe that every disinterested man in the neighborhood looks upon them with pity, as they are not considered entitled to any weight.

I heard John Stonebraker say, not more than three weeks since, that his son John H. was about 30 years of age. He then said, in the course of the same conversation, that he was perhaps something more, that

THE STONEBRAKERS AFFIDAVITS.

The office-holders seem determined to leave nothing undone that *extra judicial perfidy* can do, to retain their places, and defeat Gen. Porter. We have in past witnessed similar efforts on the part of the same party to elect their men. Hired and paid scoundrels, who are known by their neighbors to be unworthy of belief on oath—who hold their consciences in the market for the highest bid—murderers and prostitutes brought from the chambers of the brothel, and the dens of the negro, are brought to prove their charges against the private character of David R. Porter. Such are their WITNESSES!!! But there always seems to be a finger in all acts of villainy, which lays bare the unholy purpose, and shields the innocent victims. The

Stonebrakers swear that Mr. Porter concealed a tract of land of five hundred acres in Beaver county. It is fortunate they have mentioned the quantity, and where situated, which enables us to arrive at the facts:—David R. Porter was the owner of a tract of land in Beaver county, containing 200 acres, and another tract of five hundred acres in the same county and *no more*. The 500 acre tract, he mortgaged to the Huntington Bank, on the 27th day of May, 1818, and it was sold immediately after the fore-closure of the mortgage, by the Sheriff, and purchased in by William Orisons, Esq. President of the Huntington Bank. At the end of some twelve years afterwards, David R. Porter, thinking that he might regain some of his lost fortune, by the rise in value of property, along the canal, purchased the same from the Bank for \$2500 one fourth in hand and the residue in three equal payments, with interest.—But after making the second payment, finding that he could not pay for it without embarrassment he sold the same to John R. Shannon, Esq. of Beaver, in the year 1832, not for 4,500 as sworn to by that most reckless desperate young Stonebraker, but for \$3,100 in cash. All the above transactions have been clearly shown by Mr. Shannon, in his letter to the public, published some time ago; and with which transactions no man is more familiar than Wm. Orison, Esq. who resides in this town, and is, and always has been, politically opposed to Mr. Porter, and is a warm and ardent supporter of Joseph R. Porter, and certainly would not hesitate to correct it if there is any thing wrong in the statement.

Old John Stonebraker swears that he never received one cent of the last bond Kaddo and Russell, WHILE A STATEMENT FURNISHED BY JAMES A

LISON, Esquire now in our possession, SHOWS THAT HE RECEIVED OF THAT BOND, ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY TWO DOLLARS and NINETY THREE CENTS!!! He received from Mr. Allison \$276, 11 one bond, and \$102.93 on another bond on the same day —slips off from Mr. Allison, forgetting to sign the receipt that was written and handed to him to sign; comes home and refuses to account to Thomas M. Owens for the money so received: transfers the whole of his property to his son-in-law Archibald Hutchinson, for the express purpose of defrauding Thomas M. Owens, and the rest of his creditors; and is now made to sign his name to an affidavit, *because he is soon to meet him "who trieth the just and unjust"* Here is a sample of the integrity and honesty of the last witness. In conclusion, we do most solemnly assert, that we will prove as the noon day sun that every cents worth of the security, which was put into the hands of John Stonebraker, was re-delivered by him to D. R. Porter, NOT AFTER HIS INSOLVENCY, but previous thereto, to wit; on the 9th day of January, 1819, the day on which the bonds of Kiddo and Russell were assigned over to him and Owens.

Now to the charge of secreting "a note or bond for about \$500 drawn by some person whose name is not distinctly recollected"—which he thinks was "Myers or Byers." We propose this, as every voter within this state, has, ere this, heard the name of David R. Porter, that a call be made in every public newspaper throughout the commonwealth, to every man, woman or child in the known world among the children of men, to come forward and say that David R. Porter ever had or collected such a claim.

To the twenty persons who certify to the character of John H. Stonebraker we have nothing to say. At a time of such high political excitement, quite as good a certificate of character could be obtained by the same means for the celebrated *high-way man* DAVE LEWIS. Some of them never lived within *forty miles* of him, and not a *solitary one* in his own township!!! TWELVE out of the TWENTY are OFFICERS, and are carried around for a fortnight by the Collector of the Port.

But "liars should have good memories;" for here is the most damning part of the whole perjury unmasked. Hear his own words:—

Porter having secured Owens for his half of the bail money, out of the bonds given for a tract of land in the western part of the state, which he (Porter) sold for two or three thousand dollars, brought the balance of the moneys and another bond of five hundred dollars to John Stonebraker, as well as the title of a tract of land in Beaver county, (I think) and delivered the whole to my father, who was to secure himself and keep the rest safe for Porter." And again he is made to say:—"I resided with my father during all the time of the above transactions, and knew them well, having often seen the bonds and deeds."

Now could any thing more completely expose the falsehoods of this VILLAIN, than the naked statements of Mr. Allison and Mr. Owens? Mr. Allison says: "On the 14th day of December, 1818, David R. Porter placed in my hands for collection, three bonds on Jas. Kiddo and Alexander Russell, all dated 7th December 1838." Mr. Owens says: "He left those bonds with James Allison Esq. Attorney at law of Beaver, for collection, and brought us his receipt for the same, which he assigned to us!!" Now this hopeful youth, who must have been about ten or eleven years of age at the time, SWEARS "up to the hub," that he "has OFTEN SEEN THE BONDS," when it appears that those bonds *never were in Huntingdon county*, but remained in the hands of Mr. Allison, at Beaver, and remained there until brought in by "bob campbell," *this summer!!!* This is the promising culprit, of whom his *official certificates* say: "His word or any statement he may make is entitled to full confidence and credit!!!" If this fellow ~~was~~ never at Beaver, he never saw these bonds, and has committed a WITFUL and DELIBERATE PERJURY, so far as this extra judicial oath or voluntary affidavit can be legally made perjury.

The mean, contemptible charge of Gen. Porter stealing *his own books*, is scarcely worth notice.

When the partner (to whom he had sold out) absconded, the McMurtries, the father-in-law and brother-in-law of said partner, got their hands on every article of personal property about the establishment, and were contriving and advancing the bringing of suits against Gen. Porter by the creditors of Patton. Gen. Porter compelled the production of those books in the trial of one of those causes, in which old John Stonetake