

# THE COLUMBIA DEMOCRAT.

"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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## TERMS:

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## POLITICAL.

At an adjourned meeting of the Democratic Committee of Correspondence of Columbia county, convened at the house of John Rhodes, in Danville, on the 20th ult. on motion, it was

"Resolved—That a Committee of five be appointed to draft an Address to the Freemen of Columbia County upon the subject of the approaching Governor's election."

Whereupon, the Chair appointed John Cooper, V. Best, H. Webb, Levi L. Tate, and Stephen Baldy, Esq. said Committee.

In pursuance of their appointment, the Committee submit the following ADDRESS.

From the year 1789 until the present hour, two great political parties have divided the people of the United States. The federal and the democratic party. The leading features which distinguished the two parties have remained unchanged, and will remain unchangeable, so long as our country exists as a republic, and a free expression of opinion is considered a constitutional right.

It is however worthy of observation, that the great democratic party, from the moment of its existence, until now, has acted and been designated by its original name.—Whereas the federal or aristocratic party, as if conscious of the odium attached to its principles, has exhausted the political vocabulary, in the adoption of a succession of names, which its leaders have vainly imagined, would serve as a garb, to conceal from the people the aristocratical tendency of its measures. Thus we find the party styled "National Republicans," "Friends of the American System," and finally after calling to their aid the Anti-masons and Abolitionists, they have amalgamated and resolved themselves into a party under the once revered name of "Whigs," as if by this gross perversion and profanation of a name, they could change the nature of men and measures!!

But however by this sort of political empiricism they may delude themselves, they cannot deceive us; the cloven foot will display itself, and by whatever name it is their good will and pleasure to call themselves, we can recognize them as no other, than the arrogant, domineering, and aristocratic enemy, with whom we had to contend in 1798. The same party who opposed Thomas Jefferson, and tried by a disgraceful trick, to place Aaron Burr in the presidential chair. The same party, who by bargain and sale with Henry Clay, elected John Quincy Adams. The same party, who supported James Ross, of Pittsburg, and opposed and slandered Simon Snyder; and the same party, who taking advantage of the unfortunate division in our ranks in 1835, elected Joseph Ritner. The same black cockade federal party, who on all occasions, and at all times, have arrayed themselves against the rights of the people, and the same party, who have always contended for a gradual construction of the constitution of the United States, and have ever been intent on diminishing the power of the people, and strengthening the arm of the general government.

This party, although decidedly in the minority, has at times become dangerous

from adventitious circumstances. One principal cause of their power to injure, oppress, and defraud their fellow citizens, is, that Biddle's old and new Bank, have given them the command of the currency. This bank of thirty-five millions capital, controlled as it did, and does, 900 of the State Banks, has with them united in a crusade against the popular control of the general government. Owned as they are, by federalists and foreigners, they have contrived by the expulsion of the metallic currency from circulation, to substitute their own paper; which they issue to an unlimited and illimitable amount; and having thus the monied power within their grasp, they can purchase those, whose venality is greater than their honesty,—whatever, and whosoever, can be bribed or purchased, they can purchase, and bribe. And if not checked in time, the banks will make Presidents, Congressmen, Governors; they will make majorities in each of the State Legislatures, the advocates of banks will fill all executive and judicial offices. Banks will be the principal object of legislation; and the mass of the people, the farmers, mechanics and laborers, will be compelled in silence and despair, to give up the proceeds of their labors, in the shape of taxes, interest, and exchanges, to sustain the officers, stockholders and advocates of these monied corporations, while they, with Nicholas Biddle and Joseph Ritner at their head, wallow in luxury and idleness. The banks will point out to political men, ways and means by which they can improve their fortunes by speculations in stock. To men in trade they hold out the allurements of borrowing on easy terms. To their hired attorneys they pay large fees. They subsidize and purchase up printing presses. They get connected and intertwined with the public improvements, and to the speculator they offer irresistible temptations. To resist and overcome a power like this, will indeed require the united strength, talent, and exertion of the democratic party.

If in addition to the banking power, with the command of the currency, money, exchanges, and business of the country, the party can obtain government patronage; if they succeed in continuing and perpetuating an Union, between the fiscal concerns of government, and the commercial business of the country, so as to make the prosperity or adversity of the Union dependent upon commerce, and the fluctuating nature of its pursuits; if by backing the credit of the banks with the funds of government, they can secure circulation to their paper, exclude the precious metals from circulation, and bring all matters and men engaged in merchandize or speculation, within the sphere of their control and influence; then indeed, the days of our republic are numbered, and we become the serfs, the slaves, of a monied oligarchy—and this is the consummation so devoutly wished for by the federal party.

It is this party, who favor monopolies, and exclusive privilege;—who are forever preaching the sanctity of vested chartered rights, and justifying every act of aggression, or infraction of the conditions of their charters, by these monied corporations—who apply the names of Jacobin, disorganizer, Loco Foco, Agrarian, to every one who has manliness, and independence, to resist their encroachments, and to insist upon their being held responsible for the fulfillment of the conditions under which they are allowed to get rich, at the expense of their fellow citizens. Time nor space will allow us to trace with more minuteness, the dangers attendant upon the nefarious schemes of this blackcockade federal party; suffice it in this place to say, that to this party Joseph Ritner has attached himself—and by this party must he be supported or not at all.

The Democratic party on the contrary, are friendly to a perfect equality of political rights and privileges—averse to unnecessary multiplication of corporations, for any purpose—for a strict construction of the charter of our liberties, as handed down to us by the great apostles of freedom who

framed it. In that instrument they can discover no power, delegated by the States, to create any bank or other incorporation. Their creed is that the people, and they only, are the legitimate source from which all power must emanate, and that when they grant power, or privilege, upon the abuse of either, they have the right, and it is their duty to resume it—and that although they are not unfavorable to banks properly conducted, and properly restricted, chartered by the States; yet they repudiate with scorn, the idea, that these institutions, once having obtained a charter, may infringe with impunity its conditions and yet hold their charter, inviolate during the time for which they were incorporated. In fine, the democratic party are in favor of a government, which depends for its strength and duration on the popular will—and having discovered by useful experience, that these irresponsible corporations, are not to be trusted, are in favor of a complete and perfect divorce of banks and government. Such are some of the leading traits, which distinguished the democratic party from the federal or aristocratic party above described. To this party, David R. Porter has been attached all his life, and the democratic convention of March last, having maturely weighed his claims, and his merits, offer him to you as the candidate of the democratic party; and we confidently assure you, that as such, he will receive the support of the democracy of the State.

We shall now proceed as briefly as we well can, to instance some facts which afford reasons why Joseph Ritner should not be elected. Among the most prominent, is, that he approved of and signed, on the 18th February, 1836, an act to charter a state bank, to be called "the United States bank." In consequence of the division of the democratic party in 1835, the federal party composed of whigs and anti-masons, succeeded in obtaining a majority of the members of the house of representatives, who in conjunction with a band of twelve traitors in the senate, against the expressed wish of the people, without a single petition, and without giving time for remonstrance, contrived to continue this odious and detestable institution, under a charter from the most democratic state in the Union. And this institution, conceived in wickedness and treason, and brought forth in bribery and corruption, by its midwife Joseph Ritner, fifteen months after its birth, becomes bankrupt, takes the lead in the stoppage of specie payments; and three weeks before Biddle had determined to withdraw all the specie of the country to export to England, he had shin-plasters struck, for some 200 or 300,000 dollars laying on his counter ready for distribution. Thus did this former governor,—as his friends call him—become the father of the shin-plaster system, by which his fellow citizens have been robbed and plundered for sixteen months. The very title to the act, incorporating this wen on the body politic, is a fraud in terms, and intended for a deception. We will not dwell longer on this disgusting theme, than to say generally, that Joseph Ritner's diseased anxiety to be re-elected, has made him the supple and pliant tool of the bank of the United States, and her subordinate monied incorporations—and that he is bound hand and foot, to obey the behests of these, his masters, to whom he is sold body and soul. By them he breathes, and lives, and has his being as a political entity; and he, as in duty bound, lauds benefactors, and screens them from merited punishment.—If there were no other reasons to oppose him, this would be sufficient.

Joseph Ritner ought to be opposed, because when he was elected it was premised, that he was to retrench expenses and reform abuses. And how have these expectations been fulfilled? Without going into minute detail, we say, that official statements made by the accounting officers of the state, prove incontrovertibly, that Joseph Ritner, without adding one cent to the permanent revenue of the state—without making and not fulfilling one mite of well-used

or canal, has in three years expended nine millions of dollars. That he has increased the state debt five million seven hundred and eighteen thousand dollars! And that he has projected what he calls improvements, which will cost the people of the state sixteen millions of dollars! And this is what he calls retrenchment—from such economy good Lord deliver us! And how has he corrected abuses? During his administration, that vicious species of legislation, called log-rolling, has increased ten fold that it was during all the administrations of every Governor which preceded him, from Thomas Mifflin down to his own reign of misrule and mismanagement.

The present system of banking in our state under the auspices, and protected in its frauds by Joseph Ritner, has given rise to speculations in coal lands, western lands, iron ore lands, city out lots, &c. &c.—Every purchaser, anxious to have rail-road or canal near his property at the public expense, has aided in annually flooding Harrisburg with shoals of adventurers and bores to obtain appropriations for these local purposes; so that the people have been taxed some millions of dollars to make the rich richer, and the poor poorer! to make an acre of coal land worth when bought, fifteen dollars, bring to the rich speculator one hundred and fifty, and this by the aid, procurement and prostitution of his official duties, of this retrencher of expenses and reformer of abuses, Joseph Ritner! This is indeed to fertilize the rich man's field by the sweat of the poor man's brow!! For the truth of this accusation, fellow citizens, we refer you to the items of the annual appropriation bills passed during the administration of this patriotic governor.—Again, is it a reform of abuse to suffer our canal to become almost a dry ditch, from the neglect & inattention of the officers of his excellency? Is it an evidence of reform of abuses that the tolls received from the canal have not reached the amount calculated on, by some five hundred thousand dollars? Is it an evidence of correct administration, that at the ensuing session, some new species of taxation must be resorted to, in order to supply the deficit in the State Treasury? Or is it a correction of abuses that the offices, the contracts, the labour, of our public works, are put up for sale, and the price asked is a surrender of the right of suffrage? a destruction of the freedom of the labouring classes of the community!! And who is it that asks you to bend and crouch and become fawning sycophants and slaves? Who is it that tells you that the condition of your obtaining employment is, that you must vote for Joseph Ritner? Thaddeus Stevens! the Governor's governor! President of the Pennsylvania board of Canal Commissioners; a Yankee, graced with all the matchless impudence and effrontery which adorn the whole fraternity of tin cart pedlars! Unprincipled, selfish vulgar, and domineering, shrinking from the castigating lash of those who can more than cope with him; he slinks like a flogged hound to his kennel under the merited chastisement of talented and honest men.—from whence he issues, his scars healed by gubernatorial salve, to act his part of corruption and fraud, among those, willing to sacrifice the name and character of freemen, in order, that through his instrumentality, they may dip their spoons in the flesh pots of Egypt. And can the freemen, of one of the most enlightened republican counties of the state, vote for a candidate such as this?

In December, 1837, the legislature passed a bill, making appropriations to our public works; among these was contained an appropriation to the Gettysburg rail-road, with a proviso, directing a suspension of the work on that road after the first of January next—the money appropriated to be applied to existing debts. Thaddeus Stevens was deeply interested in this road, and desirous that the work should go on. And how do you suppose the chief magistrate of the state contrived to indulge the wishes of his favorite? Would you believe that he could pocket this bill until after the first of January,—and then return it to the Legis-

lature, with a message, that although the first of January, 1838, was intended by both houses of the Legislature as the day on which work on this road should cease; yet as the bill did not become a law until after the first of January, he, the Governor, would construe it as meaning the first of January 1839; having retained the bill for the express purpose of producing this effect.

That he will stoop to any means however contemptible, to assist his re-election, his proclamation ordering the banks to resume on the 13th of August, fully evinces.

On the 6th of December, 1837, Joseph Ritner announced, that such was the sound situation of the state banks, that resumption of specie payments could take place at any time; in his late proclamation he has admitted, that he had the power to compel the payment of specie; he has admitted, that the shin-plaster currency was ruinous to the country; that the banks had been and still were trespassing on the laws. And yet Governor Ritner, having the power,—bound as he was, to see the laws faithfully executed—knowing as he did, the anxious wishes of the citizens of the state generally, out of tenderness, or from fear of these monied corporations, shuts his eyes, ears, and heart to the distresses of his fellow citizens, until he is informed by Mr. Biddle, that necessity compels him to obey the voice of the people—and he, Ritner, has a glorious opportunity of preforming a trick on his fellow citizens, by issuing a proclamation, commanding the payment of specie on the 13th of August, 1838, thirteen days after the banks had commenced paying specie, except Biddle's Bank, and one or two under its immediate control, and eight months after he had declared, that they could resume at any time.—A trick which for low cunning, meanness, and falsehood, would have disgraced the most paltry politician that ever set a bar-room in an uproar. And we are asked, by the lightened black cockade federalists, to support a Governor, who can descend from his high station, and by such pitiful political quackery, humiliate and disgrace the state and people over whom he presides, in order to conciliate the monied aristocracy in his favor, and to continue his reign of ignorance, folly, extravagance, and childish imbecility, for another period of three years. Freemen of the county of Columbia, we can not, will not, recommend such a man to your support!

We will now turn our attention to the candidate recommended by the delegates in convention in March last, David R. Porter. He is by birth a Pennsylvanian, the son of a revolutionary officer; he has always been a firm and unwavering democratic republican—he has represented the county of Huntingdon—an anti-masonic county—returned to the legislature by a majority of 700 votes. He held under Governors Shultz and Wolf almost all the county offices in Huntingdon county—he was elected State Senator in 1836, from an anti-masonic senatorial district by a majority of 348 votes, in which Joseph Ritner had a majority in 1835 of 538 votes—and in Huntingdon county Joseph Ritner had a majority for Governor of 808 votes. This brief statement we deem sufficient to show the worth of our candidate, and the estimation in which he was held by those who best know him. And this we deem sufficient to refute all falsehoods and slanders raised by the black cockade party to injure him.

Fellow Citizens, David R. Porter is of every quality of head and heart worthy of your support! We therefore recommend him; and adjure you, on the day of the election to turn out to a man—arrange your business so that you can attend and do your duty on the second Tuesday of October next—as you value your freedom—as you prize the legacy of independence bequeathed to you by your ancestors—we call you to the rescue—and ask you to aid your brethren of the democratic party throughout the state, in this contest with the sons of Mammon!