

Government with the Indian tribes would escape misrepresentation. That there occurred in the early settlement of this country, as in all others where the civilized race has succeeded to the possessions of the savage, instances of oppression and fraud on the part of the former, there is too much reason to believe. No such offenses can, however, be justly charged upon this Government since it became free to pursue its own course. Its dealings with the Indian tribes have been just and friendly throughout, its efforts for their civilization constant and directed by the best feelings of humanity; its watchfulness in protecting them from individual frauds unremitting; its forbearance under the keenest provocations, the deepest injuries, and the most flagrant outrages, may challenge at least a comparison with any nation, ancient or modern, in similar circumstances; and if in future times a powerful, civilized, and happy nation of Indians shall be found to exist within the limits of this northern continent, it will be owing to the consummation of that policy which has been so unjustly assailed. Only a brief reference to facts in confirmation of this assertion can in this form be given, and you are, therefore, necessarily referred to the report of the Secretary of War, for further details. To the Cherokees, whose case has perhaps excited the greatest share of attention and sympathy, the United States have granted in fee, with a perpetual guaranty of exclusive and peaceable possession, 13,554,135 acres of land, on the west side of the Mississippi, eligibly situated in a healthy climate, and in all respects better suited to their condition than the country they have left, in exchange for only 9,492,160 acres on the east side of the same river. The United States have in addition stipulated to pay them five million six hundred thousand dollars for their interest in improvements on the lands thus relinquished, and one million one hundred and sixty thousand dollars for subsistence and other beneficial purposes thereby putting it in their power to become one of the most wealthy and independent separate communities, of the same extent, in the world.

By the treaties made and ratified with the Miamies, and Chippewas, the Sioux, the Sacs and Foxes, and the Winnebagoes, during the last year, the Indian title to eighteen million four hundred and fifty-eight thousand acres has been extinguished. These purchases have been much more extensive than those of any previous year, and have, with other Indian expenses; borne very heavily upon the Treasury. They leave, however, but a small quantity of un bought Indian lands within the States and Territories; and the Legislature and Executive were equally sensible of the propriety of a final and more speedy extinction of Indian titles within those limits. The treaties which were, with a single exception, made in pursuance of previous appropriations for defraying the expenses, have subsequently been ratified by the Senate, and received the sanction of Congress by the appropriation necessary to carry them into effect.

Of the terms upon which these important negotiations were concluded, I can speak from direct knowledge; and I feel no difficulty in affirming that the interest of the Indians in the extensive territory embraced by them, is to be paid for at its fair value, and that no more favorable terms have been granted to the United States than would have been reasonably expected in a negotiation with civilized men, fully capable of appreciating and protecting their own rights. For the Indian title to 116,349,807 acres acquired since the 4th of March, 1829, the United States have paid \$72,500,056, in permanent annuities, lands, reservations for Indians, expenses of removal and subsistence, merchandise, mechanical and agricultural establishments, and implements. When the heavy expenses incurred by the United States, and the circumstances that so large a portion of the entire territory will be for ever unsaleable, are considered, and this price is compared with that for which the United States sell their own lands, no one can doubt that justice has been done to the Indians in these purchases also. Certain it is, that the transactions of the Federal Government with the Indians have been uniformly characterized by a sincere and paramount desire to promote their welfare; and it must be a source of the highest gratification to every friend to justice and humanity to learn that, notwithstanding the obstructions from time to time thrown in its way, and the difficulties which have arisen from the peculiar and impracticable nature of the Indian character, the wise, humane, and undeviating policy of the Government in this, the most difficult of all our relations, foreign and domestic, has at length been justified to the world in its near approach to a happy and certain consummation.

The condition of the tribes which occupy the country set apart for them in the West, is highly prosperous, and encourages the hope of their early civilization.— They have, for the most part, abandoned the hunter state, and turned their attention to agricultural pursuits. All those who have been established for any length of time in that fertile region maintain themselves by their own industry. There are among them traders of no inconsiderable capital, and planters exporting cotton to some extent; but the greater number are small agriculturists, living in comfort upon the produce of their farms. The recent emigrants although they have in some in-

stances removed reluctantly, have readily acquiesced in their unavoidable destiny.— They have found at once a recompense for past sufferings, and an incentive to industrious habits, in the abundance and comforts around them. There is reason to believe that all these tribes are friendly in their feelings towards the United States; and it is to be hoped that the acquisition of individual wealth, the pursuits of agriculture, and habits of industry, will gradually subdue their warlike propensities, and incline them to maintain peace among themselves. To effect this desirable object, the attention of Congress is solicited to the measures recommended by the Secretary of War for their future government and protection, as well from each other as from the hostility of the warlike tribes around them, and the intrusions of the whites. The policy of the Government has given them a permanent home, and guaranteed to them its peaceful and undisturbed possession. It only remains to give them a government and laws which will encourage industry, and secure to them the rewards of their exertions. The importance of some form of government cannot be too much insisted upon. The earliest effects will be to diminish the causes and occasions for hostilities among the tribes, to inspire an interest in the observance of laws to which they will have themselves assented, and to multiply the securities of property, and the motives for self-improvement. Intimately connected with this subject, is the establishment of the military defenses recommended by the Secretary of War, which have been already referred to. Without them, the Government will be powerless to redeem its pledges of protection to the emigrating Indians against the numerous warlike tribes that surround them, and to provide for the safety of the frontier settlers of the bordering States.

The case of the Seminoles constitutes at present the only exception to the successful efforts of the Government to remove the Indians to the homes assigned to them west of the Mississippi. Four hundred of this tribe emigrated in 1836, and fifteen hundred in 1837 and 1838, leaving in the country, it is supposed, about 2,000 Indians. The continued treacherous conduct of these people; the savage and unprovoked murders they have lately committed, butchering whole families of the settlers of the Territory, without distinction of age or sex, and making their way into the very centre and heart of the country, so that no part of it is free from their ravages; their frequent attacks on the light-houses along that dangerous coast; and the barbarity with which they have murdered the passengers and crews of such vessels as have been wrecked upon the reefs and keys which border the Gulf, leave the Government no alternative but to continue the military operations against them until they are totally expelled from Florida.

There are other motives which would urge the Government to pursue their course towards the Seminoles. The United States have fulfilled in good faith all their treaty stipulations with the Indian tribes, and have, in every other instance, insisted upon a like performance of their obligations. To relax from this salutary rule because the Seminoles have maintained themselves so long in the territory they had relinquished, and, in defiance of their frequent and solemn engagements, still continue to wage a ruthless war against the United States, would not only evince a want of constancy on our part, but be of evil example in our intercourse with other tribes. Experience has shown that but little is to be gained by the march of armies through a country so intersected with inaccessible swamps and marshes, and which, from the fatal character of the climate, must be abandoned at the end of the winter. I recommend, therefore, to your attention, the plan submitted by the Secretary of War in the accompanying report, for the permanent occupation of the portion of the Territory freed from the Indians, and the more efficient protection of the people of Florida from their inhuman warfare.

From the report of the secretary of the navy, herewith transmitted, it will appear that a large portion of the disposable naval force is either actively employed, or in a state of preparation for the purposes of experience and discipline, and the protection of our commerce. So effectual has been this protection, that, so far as the information of Government extends, not a single outrage has been attempted on a vessel carrying the flag of the United States, within the present year, in any quarter, however distant or exposed.

The exploring expedition sailed from Norfolk on the 19th of August last; and information has been received of its safe arrival at the island of Madeira. The best spirit animates the officers and crews, and there is every reason to anticipate, from their efforts, results beneficial to commerce and honorable to the nation.

It will also be seen that no reduction of the force now in commission is contemplated. The unsettled state of a portion of South America renders it indispensable that our commerce should receive protection in that quarter; the vast and increasing interests embarked in the trade of the Indian and China seas, in the whale fisheries of the Pacific ocean, and in the Gulf of Mexico, require equal attention to their safety; and a small squadron may be employed to great advantage on our Atlantic

Coast, in meeting sudden demands for the reinforcement of other stations, in aiding merchant vessels in distress, in affording active service to an additional number of officers, and in visiting the different ports of the United States, an accurate knowledge of which is obviously of the highest importance.

The attention of Congress is respectfully called to that portion of the report recommending an increase in the number of smaller vessels, and to other suggestions contained in that document. The rapid increase and wide expansions of our commerce, which is every day seeking new avenues of profitable adventure; the absolute necessity of a naval force for its protection precisely in the degree of its extension; a due regard to the national rights and honor; the recollection of its former exploits, and the anticipation of its future triumphs whenever opportunity presents itself, which we may rightfully indulge from the experience of the past, all seem to point to the navy as a most efficient arm to our national defence, and a proper object of legislative encouragement.

(Concluded on fourth page.)

THE COLUMBIA DEMOCRAT.



BLOOMSBURG:

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1838.

"We are in the midst of a revolution, but bloodless as yet," is an exclamation that has been made use of by the whigs, whenever they have been foiled, by the democratic party, in their unholy machinations against the rights and liberties of the people. But until now, they have not, since the days of John Adams, had a sufficiently pliable tool in power to carry out their designs of overawing the majority with a military force, & compelling them to submit to the will of the minority. It was left for Governor Ritner to attempt to consummate this object, by ordering armed troops, from a distant whig city, to assemble in Harrisburg,—to surround the capital of our state, for the purpose of compelling a majority of the legislature to submit to his will, and to give him a pretext for arresting two members of the house, and several citizens, upon trumped up and groundless charges. Governor Ritner the pliant tool of federalism, has by this act, wringed war upon the Legislature and upon citizens of the state who had assembled at Harrisburg to witness the organization of the house, and had not done aught to disturb the peace of the town, save denouncing, in the language of freemen, the leaders in this unrighteous crusade against their rights, who were attempting to consummate the frauds and perjuries committed by them, during the late election, by forcing into the Legislature, as members, men, who were never elected, and who had not been legally returned, and of course were not entitled to seats. For exercising this right they are denounced as a mob, and of having been guilty of committing "lawless violence" and a military force ordered out, to prevent in future a repetition of an act, that every honest freeman would glory in being a participator.

ALARMING ATTEMPT TO OVERAWE THE LEGISLATURE.

On Sunday last, by order of Governor Ritner, the hitherto quiet town of Harrisburg was thrown into commotion by the arrival of about 800 volunteers from the city of Philadelphia, under the command of Major General Patterson. This has been done, without any previous call upon the civil authority of Harrisburg to keep the peace. On Monday 200 more from the city and 100 from Cumberland county arrived. It will be asked why are all these troops brought to Harrisburg? The Keystone gives the following, which we think the true answer.

"We do not think there can be any doubt but that the real object of bringing the military here, is to overawe the democratic portion of the Legislature to FORCE into the halls as members men who were never elected by the people, thereby to obtain a majority to perpetuate the administration of Joseph Ritner, to elect Thaddeus Stevens to the United States Senate, and to cover up the HEAVEN DARING FRAUDS, which if unveiled would make every honest man in the Commonwealth, turn pale, and sink the Ritner party to merited infamy for all time to come. For these purposes have the military been called out by Governor Ritner, and the state put to an expense of at least \$10,000 PER DAY until they shall return to their homes.

The length of the President's message, which we publish to-day, excludes a great deal of interesting matter prepared for this number.

MISREPRESENTATIONS REFUTED.

We lay before our readers the following statement of the High Sheriff of Dauphin county in relation to the disturbance mentioned in the proclamation of Governor Ritner. It entirely refutes his assertion that Harrisburg is under the control of a mob, or that the peace of the town has been in any way disturbed during the past week.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE,

Borough of Harrisburg, Dec. 8, 1838

I, WILLIAM COCHRAN, High Sheriff of the county of Dauphin, in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, having received by the hands of the Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth, a copy of a proclamation issued by Joseph Ritner, Governor of this Commonwealth, dated the 4th day of December, 1838, in which he declares that a lawless, infuriated, and armed mob has assembled at the seat of government, with the avowed object of disturbing, interrupting and overawing the Legislature, and of preventing its proper organization, and the peaceable and free discharge of its duties; and also, that said mob has threatened violence and death to the members of the Legislature and other officers of the Commonwealth, and that still remains in force here, setting the law at open defiance, and rendering it unsafe for the legislative bodies to assemble at the Capitol; and therefore, calling upon the civil authorities to exert themselves to restore order to the utmost of their power, and upon the militia force to hold themselves in readiness to repair to the seat of government—and upon all good citizens to aid in curbing this lawless mob, and in reinstating the supremacy of the laws—have deemed it my duty as the principal peace officer of the county, to state briefly the facts relative to the alleged disturbance of the public peace at Harrisburg, as far as I am acquainted with the same.

I have been in and about the borough of Harrisburg, during the whole of the present week, and have met and mingled with the citizens of this Commonwealth, assembled at Harrisburg to witness the organization of the Legislature, both in and about the town, and at different periods on Tuesday and Wednesday, in and about the Capitol; and I have not seen nor heard of any "in-furiated mobs," or riotous proceedings, which required my interposition to preserve the peace. It is true I learned that there was some uproar and confusion in the Chamber of the Senate on Tuesday, and in the House of Representatives on Wednesday; but both these bodies possess, under the Constitution and laws, ample power to preserve the peace and keep order within their respective houses. I neither witnessed nor heard of any proceedings there which rendered it necessary for me to interfere. I have heard of no threats against any man's life or property; nor has the Governor or any of his friends, or any of the members of the Legislature, called on me to aid in preserving the peace, or in protecting their persons and property against violence. I have been at all times ready and anxious to preserve the peace and quiet of the Borough of Harrisburg, and I have no doubt but that, at any moment, when my services might have been required to prevent disorder and violence, I should have found abundant power to sustain my efforts, in the coolness, firmness, independence, intrepidity and patriotism of the citizens of Dauphin county. I have seen no occasion to call upon the civil authorities of other counties, or upon the military force of the Commonwealth, to quell mobs, or prevent riots; and am of opinion, that at no time during the present month, has there existed any danger which would require civil or military force to repel it. I make this statement both in justice to myself, and to prevent unnecessary excitement in remote parts of the Commonwealth.

[L. s.] Given under my hand and seal at Harrisburg, the day and year aforesaid.
WILLIAM COCHRAN,
High Sheriff of Dauphin County.

We have received in an Extra from the Reporter office, an address to the freemen of Pennsylvania, by the Democratic members of the Senate and House of Representatives, giving a plain unvarnished statement of the transactions that have occurred at Harrisburg, since the commencement of Session. We are unable to publish it this week, but will give it in our next.

We are under obligations to Major William Colt, the Representative from this county, for sundry public documents and for his attention in communicating to us early information of the events that have transpired at Harrisburg, during the past week.

The Ritner papers here, have vied with each other for the last ten days, in endeavoring to invent and publish the greatest falsehoods. It is well for them that their characters have been so well established during the late disgraceful campaign that their own friends do not credit their statements—they are perfectly harmless & therefore we shall not waste our time and stain our paper, by attempting to contradict or refute them.

Keystone.

The Bump Parliament meet every day in some bye-place, in Harrisburg, but as three whigs, more honorable than the rest, refuse to assemble with them, they are unable to form a quorum, as they number but forty-nine, without the three seceding members.

We last week gave an account of the organization of the legislature by the appointment of two speakers of the house. Since then, the democratic members have every day regularly assembled in the legislative hall, but not having been recognized by the Senate or Governor, have been unable to do any business. The whig portion of the Representatives, on the 2d day of the session, attempted to take possession of the hall, but were soon compelled to make room for the democratic members. Up to Monday last they had not again attempted to disturb its proceedings. The democratic members of the Senate attended every day, but there was not a quorum, in consequence of the absence of most of the whig members, until Saturday, when the whigs all attended with the exception of the speaker, Mr. Penrose. On Monday they again met, with the speaker in the chair, but transacted no business of importance.

On Tuesday the Senate canvassed the votes for and against the New Constitution, and declared the new Constitution adopted by a majority of 1212, excluding the votes of ten districts out of the seventeen in Philadelphia county, which would have increased the majority to about 4000.

On Wednesday, the speaker of the Senate opened such returns for Governor as the Secretary of the commonwealth thought proper to present to him, and upon casting them up, declared David R. Porter elected Governor by a majority of 5,495,—but the actual majority was 10,013.

Our accounts from Harrisburg are up to Thursday morning, when it was estimated that there were more than 1000 citizens, and about 1200 volunteers, in the town, and the cry was "still they are coming." No compromise had been effected.

The Keystone of Tuesday says, that in addition to the volunteers from Philadelphia, several companies from York and Cumberland are quartered on the opposite bank of the river, not able to obtain lodging in town. It was expected that large reinforcements would be in the town on Wednesday. Citizens were flocking from all quarters to witness the folly of Governor Ritner, and to satisfy themselves of the wickedness of his advisers.

HYMENIAL.

MARRIED—In St. Paul's Church, Bloomsburg, on Tuesday Evening last, by the Rev. Mr. Drake, Mr. Jacob K. Edgar, to Miss Catharine Jane, daughter of Mr. Geo. Beidleman, all of Bloomsburg.
By the Rev. Mr. Tobias, on the 6th ult. Mr. John Mauser to Miss Lydia Wertman, of Henlock township.

I am in Earnest. BEWARE!!!

A few months since I gave notice that I wanted my BOOK ACCOUNTS settled, and but very little attention was paid to it by those interested. I now give further notice, that all persons having open accounts with me, must call and settle them, either by Note or Cash, within TWO MONTHS from date, or they will be required to settle with a Justice of the Peace. No mistake this time.
DANIEL SNYDER.

Bloomsburg, Dec. 8, 1838.
N. B. I have also on hand several NOTES, which must also be exchanged for CASH, within the above time, or the signers will have to pay cost.

DOCT. T. H. SWABY, Physician & Surgeon,

Inform the citizens of Bloom and vicinity, that he has located himself in the village of Bloomsburg, where he will always be ready to attend to all calls for his professional services.
Office next door to Robison's Stage Office.
Oct. 13 1838.

HOLIDAYS.

400 lbs. raisons, for pies and Preserves very good and cheap.
300 lbs. 2d quality good and cheap.
300 lbs. bunch box raisons good and cheap.
100 lbs. European currants first quality and uncommon cheap.
10 drums of figgs very good article and cheap.
10 bushels European ground nuts.
200 lbs. English walnuts.
200 lbs. cream nuts.
200 lbs. liberts or English Hazelnuts.
10 boxes Scotch herring smoked,
3 barrels of water crackers.
3 barrels of sugar biscuit.
And hundreds and thousands of other articles fresh goods and cheap, just from the city of Philadelphia, and for sale at the well known cheap Drug Store and Health Emporium in the town of Bloomsburg Col. co. Pa.

Oysters! Oysters!

THE Subscriber has just received a supply of Amboy Oysters, fresh and fine. He has made arrangements to have a regular supply during the winter.

J. R. MOYER.

November 24, 1838.

31.