

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.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY H. WEBB.

Volume II. BLOOMSBURG, COLUMBIA COUNTY, PA. SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1838. Number 36

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

TERMS:
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. No subscription will be taken for a shorter period than six months; nor any discontinuance permitted, until all arrearages are discharged.

ADVERTISEMENTS not exceeding a square will be conspicuously inserted at One Dollar for the first three insertions, and Two-fifty cents for every subsequent insertion. A liberal discount made to those who advertise by the year. **LETTERS** addressed on business, must be post paid.

MISCELLANEOUS.

SONG OF THE PEOPLE.

BY W. C. TOBET.
Air—Star Spangled Banner.
Wake Freedom awake! over mountain and stream,
The war-trumpet breathes loud the foul despot's orders.
Awake ere the war-cloud, with pluming gleam,
Spreads havoc and death through our once peaceful borders!
The fiat goes forth,
From the south to the north,
To assemble the blood-thirsty hordes of the earth;
That your capitol, where our proud banner doth wave,
Shall become, in its ruins, the patriot's grave.
Awake ere your tyrants their fettering yoke
Shall forge for the necks of a free generation.
Awake!—as the genius of liberty spoke—
And shield, the fair fame of our glorious nation:
Shall America's sons
Bow to tyrants or guns,
And blot the bright names of her glorious ones?
No! Freedom as long as a heart shall remain
That beats for its country, our rights we'll sustain!
O! where is that band, who on Concord's red plain,
And at Bunker and Yorktown gain'd immortal glory?
Who at Thames and Oloons, and on the wide main,
Performed the bold deeds so renowned in our story.
They have passed from this earth,
But the land of their birth
Has not yet forgotten their valor and worth;
And the star-spangled banner they nobly unfurled
Shall wave here forever, the pride of the world.
The bugle is heard over mountain and dell,
From the east to the west has the clarion sounded,
O'er the land where a Pike and Montgomey fell
Has the governor's bare proclamation resounded:
Our government's stored
With a hell-serving horde,
Who boldly usurp both the purse and the sword!
The shout of the soldier, the clank of the spear,
And artillery's thunder, they bid greet the ear.

Our county appealed, and she called not in vain,
Old Berks' hardy sons have arose to defend her;
Philadelphia sends forth her glorious train,
From the gray-headed sire to the youthful and slender.

Old Washington spoke,
Bucks east of the yoke,
And Redford and Fayette sent stout hearts of oak;
F'en Lancaster, bound as she is by their chains,
Proudly raises her voice, and our freedom sustains!

Then freedom, arise in your strength, in your might,
And write your names high in America's story!
Strike boldly for freedom, for justice, for right,
And Heaven will crown you with immortal glory:

Then conquer we must,
For our cause it is just,
And this be our motto—in God is our trust:
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave,
O'er the land of the free, and the home of the brave!

Things that are Wrong.

Telling a lie to cover a neglect of truth.
A boy of seventeen allowing his father to call him six times, and then lie in bed till breakfast is ready.
To spend time idly when it may be employed usefully.
To talk about things that don't concern us.
To laugh at sin when we ought to pray for the sinner.
To claim a living without striving to earn it.
To stand behind the door and listen to family conversation.
To disobey a father for the purpose of pleasing a crony.
To heap trouble upon a man who has already as much as he can bear.
To KEEP the PRINTER out of his DUES & YEAR when able to pay him.

Pennsylvania Legislature.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, Dec. 20.

Mr. Brodhead offered the following:

Whereas, This House was duly organized on the 4th inst. (December 4, 1838,) and gave notice to the Senate of such organization, and has held its session every day since that period in this hall, and has not received an official communication that the Senate, a co-ordinate branch of government is organized and ready to co-operate with it in the discharge of duties devolving on the legislature of Pennsylvania. And whereas, The public good requires that the legislature should proceed in the discharge of its official duties promptly and officially according to the constitution and laws. And whereas, It appears by the journals of the proceedings of the Senate, that that body has passed upon the constitutional organization of the House of Representatives and decided thereon. And whereas, By this decision the legislative departments of the government have become inoperative. Therefore,

Resolved, that a committee be appointed to report for the consideration and adoption of this House an address to the freemen of the Commonwealth calling upon them to take immediate measures for the restoration of the government.

Mr. Flenniken supported the resolution—he thought the time had come when the people of the state had a right to know whether they had a legislature, and what had been done by their representatives. More than two weeks had elapsed since the time had come, prescribed by the constitution, for the meeting of the legislature and nothing had been done. The wheels of government were stopped—the interests of the state were not taken care of—no provision was made for repairing or advancing the improvements, or for regulating the fiscal concerns of the commonwealth. Why was this so? Why was their no legislature—no laws passed to meet public exigencies? Why no legislation begun as expected in the different quarters of the state? Some great obstacles were thrown in the way which prevented the usual action of the people's representatives, and it was certainly worthy of the most serious enquiry to ascertain what these obstacles were, and show to the world who were in fault.

By the constitution, continued Mr. Flenniken, the legislative powers of the government were vested in a senate and house of representatives—a time for their meeting was prescribed—all the requisitions of that instrument, and of laws had been complied with in the organization of this house. A committee had been appointed to inform the body calling themselves the senate, that the house was ready to exercise its constitutional functions. This was done more than two weeks ago—but their communication was slighted and an official recognition was absolutely refused, thus preventing all legislation and virtually dissolving the government. It was time this state of things should end—the great interests of the state demanded immediate legislation, and he could see no other plan of obtaining this but an appeal to the people who were the true depository of all power, and who would apply the proper remedy when their agents were unfaithful.

Mr. McElwee recapitulated the history of events at the seat of government, since the first inst. In speaking of the senate's report upon the organization of the house, he said that it contained many palpable untruths. One in particular he noticed, as it related more immediately to himself. It was absolutely false, as sworn to by one of the tellers appointed by Mr. Stevens on the 4th inst., that Col. McCahen had assisted Mr. Speaker Hopkins to the chair at the time of his election. He, Mr. McElwee, had performed that act himself, and knew positively that Col. McCahen did not officiate, as he did not even see him at the time.

A systematic plan to disorganize and revolutionize the government, so as to place it in the hands of a minority, had now been for some time acted upon by a few reckless master spirits. The proceedings of the body calling themselves the senate, were of this character—they had acted in a way which had dissolved the government. They had this day, by a solemn vote, declared that this house was not legally organized, by which vote they declared there was no legislature and no constitutional government.

In such a crisis there was no other remedy but that contemplated to be brought about by the resolution before the house—a revival or reorganization of the government.

In disposing of this resolution, Mr. M. hoped that every member would act fearlessly and independently, though armed men, brought here by Gov. Ritner, were walking their rounds within a few rods of the capitol. Were we to be overawed by military forces? There was no doubt but this was

the object of bringing them here, but he trusted the sight of muskets and cannon would shake no man's honest purposes. It was a time to try the patriotism of gentlemen, when called upon to resist usurpation and anarchy surrounded by the armed legions of the usurpers. For himself he felt no fear—such an occasion required decided action—no compromise, no terms should be thought of, in the presence of troops brought here to intimidate and force us into submission. An appeal to the people is the only resource.

As the senate had declared virtually that there was no legislature in being, the resolution before the house properly proposed the call of a convention to re-organize the government, and provide for the meeting of a legislature that should be elected by the people, and truly and faithfully represent them. The government was now wielded by men who were aliens to our soil, and who had no interest in the honor or welfare of the state—no other interest amongst us but to pillage the treasury.—The whole secret of all the commotions they had brought upon us, was to keep honest men from investigating and exposing their frauds—to continue the wicked reign of their minority friends. To enable them to do this we had been harassed by soldiery—the seat of government had been converted into an encampment, and our quiet disturbed by morning guns, revolvers, drums, trumpets, &c.

The investigation under this resolution would show to the people of Pennsylvania, that their government was dissolved by fraud and violence. There had been no rebellion here, the military were called in merely to enable our rulers to preserve their ill-gotten and abused power. For himself he should be willing to go further than the resolution proposed, the unscrupulousness shown by the majority in the senate was so unprecedented and outrageous that he should be willing at once to aid in the call of a convention to expunge that body, so as the people could send members there more truly to represent them.

Mr. Snowden referred to what had been done—to the legal and customary organization of this house—to the fact that the senate had refused the customary intercourse, &c. The members of the house had complied with all the requisitions of the law & the constitution—they had done all in their power to form a legislature and to preserve the government—the proceedings in the senate to-day, compelled them to do something further. That body, by declaring the house of representatives was not legally organized had assumed power not granted them by the constitution.

We had had a very exciting time here for the last two weeks, and what was the cause of it? Was it not occasioned by the struggle of the minority to keep their power, after having been decided against by the people? In times past, the popular voice had been submitted to—the decisions of the majority had been met by calm acquiescence on the part of the minority. But now it was otherwise. A few designing politicians had laid plans for resisting and overturning the decision of the majority. If these were carried out, our government ceased longer to be a republic—it was an aristocracy, or a government where the few ruled the many.

The senate had declared this an illegal house. If this were not the true house, where was it? Was it at No. 40, Wilson's hotel, where Mr. Cunningham's body say they held their meetings? Such could not be the house, for the law especially provides that the house of representatives shall meet in this room in the capitol. This decision of the senate, then, says there is no legislature now in being in the state. What then remains to be done, but to appeal to first principles—call upon the people to assemble in convention, and re-organize their government? It is true that this is the dernier resort—the last great remedy. But this is justified by the occasion. Extreme cases justify extreme remedies. We have no constitutional government now in existence, and it behooves the people, the fountain of all power in a republic, to form one—their safety and protection demand it.

Harrisburg had been filled with armed forces—the arsenal was still garrisoned, and we met the military whenever we went out of the capitol. Why was this? We were told they were called here to put down an armed and infuriated mob. Where was that mob? Mr. S. believed it existed no where—not even in the imagination of those who issued the warlike proclamations and orders. No—Mr. S. believed the military were brought here to intimidate the legislature, and to coerce the house into measures of the minority.

Mr. Hill, of Westmoreland, approved of the resolution; he could see no other peaceful method of providing for the exigencies of the time. Had it indeed come to this,

that the senate, a co-ordinate and co-equal branch of the legislature, had taken upon itself to decide upon the qualification of members of this house—upon the legality of its organization. Such an assumption of power in relation to an equal body, was not to be borne. It destroyed the balances of the different members of the government—it was illegal and unconstitutional—it, in effect, broke up and dissolved the state government, and there was but the one remedy within our reach.

Mr. H. thought the time had come for appealing to the people—we had been insulted and trifled with already too long by the minority—it was time to act like patriots and freemen—nothing else could save us from the effects of the revolution sought to be accomplished by the minority; our rights were grossly invaded—our constitution was trampled in the dust—our legal government was overthrown, and longer forbearance was not to be thought of.

The Governor had issued his proclamation, stating that the capitol was beset by an infuriated armed mob? Where was this mob, or had it ever existed? Every one who was here, knew that the statement was false; it was like a great many other charges, statements and allegations made in the numerous messages, vetoes, proclamations and toasts which had come from the same quarter; there was not a shadow of truth in it. It was coined for a pretext to bring armed men here, to enable the minority to perpetuate their reign.

Mr. Roberts, alluded to the succession of extraordinary circumstances which had occurred at the seat of Government since the members had convened here—from the first day to the present. Why were we surrounded by soldiers, armed and equipped for mortal combat? He had been an attentive observer of passing events he knew the alleged reasons for marching them here untrue—he had watched the movements of certain men, and from all he had seen and observed he could not entertain a doubt but the military operations were for the purpose of subverting the great principle of republics that the majority shall govern.

Had it not been announced, said Mr. R. by a high public functionary, that the election should be treated as if it never had happened? A general action in obedience to this order had taken place, and a determination on the part of the minority had been boldly exhibited, not to submit to the decision of the ballot boxes. The question forced upon us then, is, whether the minority or the majority shall govern. On the first day of our meeting, an attempt was made to foist upon the house a set of members whose claims were groundless, except that they received a minority vote, and came certified to us by a minority return. Ought the people to tolerate such dangerous practices? Will they submit, and stand passively by, whilst their liberties are undermined and their government overturned? Or will they, in their sovereignty, rebuke this daring attempt to trample their authority in the dust?

The doctrines advanced by that party, whose brief reign has been so replete with usurpation and anti-republican practices, are directly subversive of all the principles and practices known to our constitution. They are to substitute the will of the executive for the will of the people, and to permit the agent of the Governor to corruptly fill this hall with minority representatives. This has been carried out in the senate—minority members have been voted into seats, whilst the majority claimants knock at their door in vain.

That body has also refused to recognize the people's representatives—they have arrogated to themselves the right to decide whether this is a house of representatives or not—whether we are the chosen agents of the people or not—they have decided that ours is an illegal body, and have refused to hold any official communication with us. Our commonwealth, then, is now without a government. It therefore becomes our duty, as the only legitimate representatives of the people to tell them what has been done in this capitol—to tell them who has overthrown their constitution and their government—to tell them to fly to the rescue of their rights.

What other course, enquired Mr. R. is there left to us? We had met and organized as usual—we had sent a committee to the senate to give the information that we were ready for business. In return we have received no reply, no recognition. All our constitutional advances had been met with silence, and to day we had been pronounced an illegal assemblage! How much longer should we endure these things!—When would legislation commence? Were we discharging our duty to the public by remaining longer here in passive submission to this grasping minority? Should we stand by and see the constitution the people have solemnly adopted remain null and

inoperative for want of legislation? Should we permit this government to tumble to pieces through the unhallowed schemes of a band of political trimmers whose desperation would uproot all law and government rather than the abuses and frauds practised by their administration should be disclosed.

In conclusion, Mr. R. expressed a hope that none would hesitate in deciding upon the momentous question under consideration. It was a question vital to the liberties of the country—it was to decide whether the majority or the minority shall rule, or whether our government shall be hereafter a free republic or a partial aristocracy.

Mr. Pray thought that the time had come when longer forbearance ceased to be a virtue. The house had been in session more than two weeks, and the senate had refused to co-operate with it so as to form a legislature. As the government was thus stopped in its operation, it became necessary to go back to first principles, and re-organize, under the power reserved, to the people in the bill of rights Mr. P. pointed to the declaration of independence, and hoped that the same firmness would be shown now in resisting oppression, that the signers of that instrument had so nobly exhibited. The occasion was truly momentous. An audacious minority had usurped power incompatible with the preservation of our freedom—they had surrounded us with armed men to intimidate and drive us into their measures. There was but the one remedy for all these grievances—an appeal to the people, the fountain of all power. No one present had occasion to distrust such an appeal or to fear the calm movement of their constituents.

The resolution was then unanimously adopted. The committee appointed by the speaker under the resolution were Messrs. Brodhead, Flenniken, Hill of Westmoreland, Field, Fegelly, Pray, Woodburn, Higgins, and Butler.

Adjourned until 10 o'clock to-morrow.

VERA CRUZ.

The town of Vera Cruz and its vicinity being now the theatre of very important events, we think the following compilation may prove interesting to our readers.

Vera Cruz is a seaport on the gulf of Mexico and Europe, and the place through which almost all the trade between Mexico and Europe, and the United States is carried on. Opposite to the town, on a small island, stands the castle of St. Juan d' Ulloa, which is fortified by 300 pieces of cannon. The port of Vera Cruz is not remarkably commodious. The town is situated on an arid plain, without running water, and on which the north winds, which blow with dreadful impetuosity from October to April, have formed hills of moving sand, from twenty-six to thirty-eight feet high, which change their form and situation every year.

The city is handsomely and regularly built, and the streets broad and straight; but the climate is hot and unhealthy, and extremely subject to the yellow fever. The buildings are constructed from stone drawn from the ocean, there being no rock in the town. The population is 30,000.

Vera Cruz is the capitol of the state of Vera Cruz, which belongs to the Mexican confederacy. It has a population of about 234,000 and is a very important province on account of its harbors. The soil is fertile, but the climate very hot and unhealthy particularly on the eastern part forms the declivity of the Cordillera of Anahuac, and such is the steepness of the mountains, in this part of the country, that a traveller passes in the course of a day, from suffocating heats to frosts, traversing as it were successive layers of climates.

The state contains the volcano of Orizaba having an elevation of 10,308 feet, and the coffee of Perote, 13,280 feet high, and familiar to navigators as the first land seen when approaching the coast of Mexico. The principle towns are Vera Cruz, Tampico, and Xalapa. The latter is celebrated for supplying immense quantities of the drug called Jalap. The chief productions of the country are coffee, cotton and tobacco.

The directors of the Brandon Bank, Miss., have recently called in their paper to the amount of one million two hundred thousand dollars, and committed the notes to the flames.

We learn from the Catskill Messenger of a late date, that four steamboats, and some 20 freight barges and canal boats, loaded with merchandise, are now lying at that place, embargoed by the ice.

An Agricultural Society in Kentucky has awarded a premium of a gold thimble to Mrs. Dr. Leavel, for her husband appearing in the best suit of homespun. There were several competitors for the premium.