

and thus soliloquised: 'The jade must be compelled to submit or she gets no property. Here's a blank in the will sufficiently large to insert what is necessary, and as I drew it originally, it will be the same hand writing, and never be detected. So I'll just insert here where it states that Eliza is to become possessed of her property on her marriage day—'provided, that she married with the consent of Samuel Pell, whom I have constituted her guardian, and sole executor of this my last will and testament.' Feter's room was adjoining that of Pell—there was a glass window in the room between them, and there was one who had been an attentive observer and listener to the conduct and soliloquy of Pell. The old man had dipped his pen in his ink-stand, smoothed out the parchment, which had been folded, and crooked his elbow to write—when—

'Forgery!' cried a dead toned, hollow and supernatural voice at his elbow—

'Forgery!' reiterated the same voice in another part of the room; and again the horrible word 'Forgery!' was slowly pronounced, and its tones gradually sunk in the earth beneath the floor.

Old Pell suddenly dropped the pen, and shrank back pale and trembling, with horror and fright depicted on his countenance. Having recovered from his astonishment, he looked round his apartment and under the bed. He listened. Nothing was heard but the snoring Peter in the adjoining room. He began to think it an illusion—was about to take up the will again, when as soon as he placed his hand upon it—

'Forgery!' again cried the voice in a tone of thunder.

Pell drew away his hand as if he had received an electric shock and leaving the will on the centre table, ran into Peter's room and awakened him.

'What's de trouble Massa?' asked the negro.

'Get up,' said Pell, shaking with fright, 'and come into my room.'

Peter went in accordingly. Pell continued.

'Did you hear nothing Peter?'

'No, Massa, what you hear dat scare you so?'

'No matter, I want you to stay with me and keep a candle burning, I'll go to bed.'

Pell accordingly prepared to turn in but he bethought himself that it would be best to put the will again in the safe before he retired. He advanced to the table for the purpose, and was in the act of taking up the parchment, when the same unearthly voice exclaimed—

'Let the will alone, old Pell.'

He started back with so much force as to upset Peter who falling against the table upset that also—the candle on the table became upset and extinguished, and all was total darkness.

'What de debil ail you, Massa?' asked Peter, 'what scare you dis time?'

'Did'nt you hear a voice, Peter?'

'No Massa—I hear nothing.'

During the darkness and confusion, Tim slipped into Pell's room, and with a phosphoric preparation, wrote on the wall, the word 'Forgery!' in large glaring characters picked up the will, and made his exit back into Peter's room. If any thing could have added to the consternation of the already horror-stricken Pell, was beholding that terrible word, blazing and twinkling on the opposite wall. He swooned away with fright.—Peter raised his master to a chair, threw some water in his face and re-lighted the candle. Pell soon revived, and was about hastening to bed; after inquiring of Peter if he saw nothing on the wall, to which the negro replied that he saw 'nothing but Massa's cloak hangin' dare,' and charged Peter to stay with a lighted candle in the room all night, he parted his curtains, preparing to leap into bed.

'Don't come in here you old sinner!' shrieked the same voice, issuing from the clothes, but Pell had already thrown himself upon the bed where he swooned again.

Peter threw some water on his face, and Pell again revived; but was so exhausted with his numerous frights, that he was fast sinking into sleep, when the same voice, in a singing strain, exclaimed—

'Good night, good night, old Sammy Pell, And recollect 'twill be as well That naught of this night's scenes you tell, Or else you'd better be in hell.'

[Conclusion next week.]

**Romance in death.**—The last Natchez Free Trader tells the following story: "On the 7th of the present month, Miss Mary Ann L. Barber, aged 17, and L. B. Young, aged 23, both of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, were buried in one grave, after having departed this life under the following circumstances: Mr. Y. was a high-minded, honorable young gentleman, most ardently and devotedly attached to Miss Barber between whom and himself those promises and attentions had been interchanged which pledged them to the marriage union at no distant day. One in every sentiment, as well as in sympathy, they both, a few months since, made a profession of religion at the same altar, and at the same time. On the day of their death, they had gone on a water excursion, with uncommon buoyancy and animation of spirits along with four others in a skiff, which suddenly overset, and plunged them all in the water. The lover seized the one whom, of all others, he would save, and they both perished! They were found at the bottom, locked fast in each other's arms. With a solemn propriety, their embrace was never broken, and their bodies thus rest in one grave together.

On Monday, the 10th inst., the secretary of the commonwealth presented to the legislature, the following from the Governor, upon the subject of appropriations to the main lines of the public improvements, and the repairs of those lines now in use, which was read as follows:—

**GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE,**  
*To the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.*

**GENTLEMEN:**—The deep stake which the commonwealth has in the speedy completion, and constant usefulness of our internal improvements, renders it my duty to invoke the legislature now about approaching the close of its session, to make some adequate provision by law to secure these objects.

In the message that I communicated to you on the 26th of January, I explained at some length the general views I entertained in respect to the importance of finishing the main lines of improvements, and those tributaries leaning directly into them. Those views remain, not only unchanged, but have been strengthened by reflection and experience. I am satisfied that enlightened policy and sound economy call alike for early and efficient appropriations to complete these works.

But the chief object of this communication, is to urge upon your attention the pressing necessity of immediately providing a sufficient fund for repairs. The money in the treasury applicable to the payment of repairs is not only entirely exhausted, but demands exceeding the amount of two thousand dollars, have been made at the treasury which there are no funds appropriated by law to meet. It must therefore be manifest, that, without a speedy appropriation, the continuance of operations on our public improvements, is extremely precarious. The tolls derived from our canals and rail roads, are all pledged to pay the interest on the public debt incurred in their construction. Not one dollar of the income arising from them can be applied to repairs; and unless funds be provided by the legislature, the use of the public improvements, throughout the remainder of this year, must depend upon chance or a violation of the law. Should bridges, aqueducts or dams get out of order, or be carried away, the treasury is without means to repair them. The constitution prudently and wisely forbids that "money shall be drawn from the treasury, but in consequence of appropriations made by law"—and I know of no mode of obtaining the requisite means, unless it be by re-assembling the legislature, or by trampling this stern injunction of the constitution under foot. To both of these expedients there are strong objections, and I trust the legislature would feel as repugnant to the adoption of either, as I do myself.

I will not undertake to fix upon the amount needed for repairs prior to the meeting of the next legislature on the first Tuesday of January, 1840. The current dilapidations of time, accident and use are to be provided for as well as preparations to be made for numerous repairs during the coming spring. Much is lost both in time and expense by postponing the day of preparation until it is too late. From the reports of the canal commissioners, their engineers, your committees, and other sources, you can readily determine this question, and accommodate your appropriation to the public wants, and the public expectation.

I have already observed that the tolls on our public improvements are all pledged to the payment of the interest on our public debt. It should not be forgotten that by failing to keep these improvements in a state of efficient repair, this interest fund is jeoparded—the credit of the state may be seriously affected—and the future value of our improvements themselves be deeply impaired. For if, through the inadequacy of means to repair our public works, they should cease to be capable of doing the business of the public, it must inevitably happen that much of the business upon them would pass off into other channels, never to be regained. This would be a result which no true Pennsylvanian could contemplate without feelings of the deepest mortification and regret. I am certain it is a result which no patriot will contribute to produce.

If any thing could add to the regret it would occasion, it would be the striking fact that we are in the midst of peace, prosperity and advancing glory, without even a shadow to obscure the bright path before us.

Our system of public improvement is fairly established, hostility has yielded its ground, and there is not a county in the commonwealth that does not directly or indirectly share and acknowledge the benefits it is conferring on all sections—the near and remote. Under these circumstances, it would be to the people of this commonwealth—to the people of the sister states, and of foreign nations, a subject of astonishment, that this system, so fraught with advantages, in the "full tide of successful experiment" should be suddenly arrested—the unfinished portions remain unfinished—and the finished be abandoned to accident, without means to keep them in repair, at a time when every man in and out of the legislature admits that such a course is at direct variance with true wisdom and sound policy.

I make these suggestions with a firm hope

and I will add a strong belief too, that they will meet the entire concurrence of the legislature—and that although in the usual course of events its session must be of brief duration, it will not fail to make ample provision for these important interests.

I most respectfully and most earnestly solicit the legislature to bestow on these interests that attention to which their magnitude entitles them, and to pursue in reference to them the path of duty pointed out by sound wisdom, and a due regard for the wants and expectations of the people.

Nothing but the paramount importance of this subject to the public at large, and particularly to that numerous and enterprising class of our fellow citizens who have hundreds of thousands of dollars involved in the successful operation of our public improvements, has induced me to call your attention to it again before you adjourn.

Being responsible for the performance of the duties devolving on the Executive, I have felt it to be an essential part of that duty to make this communication, and I leave the matter in your hands to be disposed of as you think proper: resting satisfied that if from any cause the transportation on our public improvements be suspended for the want of adequate appropriations, the responsibility will not be chargeable to the Executive. **DAVID R. PORTER.**  
Executive Chamber, June 10, 1839.

#### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE.

*Appointed to inquire whether THADDEUS STEVENS, a member from the county of Adams, has not forfeited his right to a seat in the house:*

Mr. HEGINS, from the committee appointed by the house of representatives, "to inquire whether Thaddeus Stevens, a member from the county of Adams, has not forfeited his right to a seat in the house," submitted the following report:

That immediately after their appointment they addressed a note, through their chairman, to Mr. Stevens informing him of the time and place of their meeting and that he might attend and be heard, to which he returned a reply, declining to appear before the committee.

The committee having proceeded to discharge the duties which were assigned to them, and given the subject the attention and consideration which its importance required, submit the result of their inquiry and investigation to the house.

It appears that Thaddeus Stevens was duly elected and returned as one of the representatives to the general assembly, from the county of Adams; and on the first of December last the day appointed by law for the meeting of the legislature, Mr. Stevens appeared and participated with the members elect in the proceedings preliminary to the organization of the house of representatives. He afterwards took part in the attempt which was made by a portion of the members to prevent the legal and constitutional organization of the house, of representatives, and continued to act and associate with that body until the recognition of the house of representatives by the senate, on the 25th of December last. On the day following, he addressed the annexed letter of resignation to his constituents, in which he says:

"I find no difficulty in choosing my course—in selecting between an association with successful insurgents, or withdrawal from office. Preferring retirement to dishonor, I withdraw from the legislature to mingle again with you, and await your decision on my conduct."

There cannot be a shadow of doubt that this address is both in letter and spirit a resignation of his office of representative to his constituents, and was intended as such at the time it was published, however he may now be disposed to treat it. A resignation of an office is not required to be in any precise form of words or set of phrases. Any language indicating an intention to resign it, is sufficient, and such an intention could not be expressed in clearer terms than those used by Mr. Stevens. He declares that he has no difficulty in choosing between the alternative presented, or withdrawing from office, and that he does withdraw from the legislature to mingle again with his constituents. But if there was really any doubt about his meaning and intention, his subsequent conduct entirely dispels it. He himself has treated it as a resignation from the time of its publication until shortly after the commencement of the present adjourned session of the house. The house of representatives was in session for a period of nearly three months, performing its appropriate business of legislation, and although Mr. Stevens was frequently in the lobbies of the house during its session, he never presented himself to claim a seat or made the least pretension to such a right. It is only now, when he has discovered that his withdrawal from office is likely to prove a death-blow to his political hopes and ambitious projects and that his retirement, preferred with so much promptness, threatens to consign him to an ignominious obscurity, that he wishes to assume the office of a representative without the formality of an election by the people.

Mr. Stevens having then resigned his office into the hands of those who elected him, it would be contrary to all right and precedent that he should be admitted to a seat in the house, and to the exercise of rights and privileges which he has irrevocably surrendered to his constituents. It would lead to inextricable confusion and disorder, if a representative or any other

officer of the government could one day resign his office and the next day take it upon himself again. If he has a right to do it once, he can do it as often as interest or fancy dictates, which would lead to endless confusion, and be destructive of all law and order in the administration of the government. If this was true, a member might resign his seat—the speaker issue his writ for an election just before the closing of the polls, he could present himself at the door of the house demand his right to a seat, and the house be compelled to admit him, and the election be thus entirely defeated. But it is not so. No person holding an office under the constitution, having once surrendered that office to the power that conferred it, can rightfully exercise it without a new election or appointment.

As no citizen can be compelled to accept the office of a representative or to discharge its duties against his will, it is not, therefore, necessary that his constituents should consent to his resignation. He is at liberty to resign the office whenever he wishes and it needs not the concurrence of his constituents to make his resignation binding and effectual.

It has been customary for members of the house of representatives to notify the house through the speaker, of their resignation, but there is nothing in the constitution, or any act of the assembly which requires it. There is no constitutional or legal provision upon the subject, and a different practice has prevailed in the other departments of the government. There the resignation is always made to the appointing power, and seems to be more in accordance with the nature and genius of our institutions than an officer should surrender his powers and privileges to those by whom they were delegated.

In a case, as in this, where a member elect refuses to acknowledge the constitutional authority of the house of representatives and declines taking his seat in the house, but is willing to resign that another may be elected in his stead, unless a resignation addressed to his constituents would be good and valid, they must remain unrepresented, which would be absurd.

It may be objected that the speaker of the house ought to have issued his writ for an election immediately after Mr. Stevens' resignation was published. But he would not have been warranted in doing so, without being officially notified of such resignation. It would be altogether irregular and dangerous for the speaker to make newspaper publications, without further evidence, in such cases the basis of official action. It was the duty of the people of Adams county, if they wished to be fully represented in the house of representatives, to have presented their petition informing the house of Mr. Stevens' resignation and request that a writ for an election to supply the vacancy might be issued.—They have the constitutional right of petitioning on this, as well as upon other subjects, and if they have neglected to exercise that right, and thereby remained partially unrepresented, the blame must rest with themselves.

The house of representatives is stigmatized by Mr. Stevens in his letter of resignation, and several subsequent publications, addressed by him to the people of Adams county, with the most approbrious and slanderous epithets which disappointed ambition and party rancour could invent. He has wantonly and wickedly uttered the most false and infamous libels upon a portion of its members, who frustrated his nefarious attempts to destroy the right of suffrage, and defeat the will of the people. But as he ceased to be a member coeval with the publication of his resignation, it became unnecessary for the committee to inquire, whether the house, under that clause in the constitution which delegates to each house, "all the powers necessary for the legislature of a free state," and in the exercise of the right of self-preservation, incident to every constitutional tribunal, has not the constitutional authority to exclude a member from taking his seat in the house who by his outrageous and infamous conduct towards the house has shown himself entirely unworthy of the station, to which he has been elected. Nor is it necessary to determine, whether Mr. Stevens' refusal for so long a period, to fulfil the duties of his office, would operate as a forfeiture of a right.

It is proper to remark, that Mr. T. S. Cunningham, a member of the committee, did not attend its meetings nor, does he join in this report.

The committee, therefore, submit the following resolution:

Resolved—That Thaddeus Stevens, a member elect from the county of Adams, having resigned his office, is not entitled to a seat in the house, and that the speaker issue a writ of election to fill the vacancy, agreeably to the constitutional provision upon the subject.

Resolved—That the committee be discharged from the further consideration of the subject.

**A Heavy Fire.**—A British writer says that no troops that ever took the field, could have stood before the fire that was poured from the American lines at the battle of N. Orleans—that it was heavier than any experienced by the British throughout the whole of the Peninsula contest, and by far more terrible than that which was directed against the force that stormed St. Sebastian.



#### LADIES' FAIR.

The Ladies of Bloomsburg will hold a Fair, in the Store Room in the house of Mr. Daniel Gross, in Bloomsburg, to commence on the 4th day of July next, and continue three days. A large assortment of valuable, and ornamental articles, prepared with judgment and taste, through the industry of the Ladies of this place, will be offered for sale, for the Benefit of St. PAUL'S CHURCH.

Bloomsburg, June 22, 1839.

The Berwick and Danville papers are requested to copy.

In another column we publish the able report of Mr. HEGINS, [the talented democratic representative from Northumberland county, in the case of Mr. Stevens. No one after reading this report, can doubt the correctness of the course of the legislature in declaring the seat of Mr. Stevens vacant. Mr. HEGINS is a very active and highly useful member, and has won for himself laurels which will endure after his detractors shall have passed away and been forgotten.

We have noticed with regret, for several weeks, the attempts making by the Harrisburg correspondent of the Danville Intelligencer, to destroy the well earned reputation of Mr. HEGINS, for his faithful and vigilant support of the present democratic state administration, and have looked around to find some justifiable cause for this attack; but, have not been able to find any, unless it be the stand he has taken in opposition to the grasping disposition of the Danville interest which has shown itself so conspicuously of late; particularly in their attempts to dismember Northumberland county for the purpose of retaining the courts of this county at that place. This is a sufficient reason for them; as it has always been their policy to destroy every man, if possible, who would not worship at their shrine, or succumb to their dictation. They know full well that so long as Mr. HEGINS retains a seat in either branch of the legislature, they cannot effect the dismemberment of that county, hence their attempt to prejudice the democracy against him, that they may prevent his re-election. But in this we feel assured they will not succeed; as we are happy to perceive a strong disposition appears to manifest itself to elect him this fall to a seat in the senate from that district, a station he would fill with honor to himself, to his constituents, and to the state.

Since writing the above, we have received the "Union Times," an able democratic paper, published at New Berlin, from which we copy the following article, upon the subject of the attack upon Mr. HEGINS.

"Who is the Harrisburg correspondent of the Danville Intelligencer? Is it Major Colt, the present Representative from Columbia county?"

This correspondent is endeavoring to destroy the standing of several Democratic members of the legislature. Among those is the able and efficient member from Northumberland county, C. W. HEGINS, Esq.—Mr. HEGINS is a sterling Democrat and an excellent legislator—true to his party and to his constituents, and instead of being censured by any true Democratic papers, is lauded by them as one of the most talented and deserving members of the House.—This is not the first time this practical print has been found slandering Democratic men, and endeavoring to build up the hopes of the opposition.

We esteem an honorable enemy, but DETEST A PIRATE. We trust the Intelligencer will soon sail under true colors, either as a Democratic or open Federal print. Take good advice in good time, friend BERT, or you might be exposed."

The Whig State Convention assembled at Chambersburg on the 13th inst., and adjourned after having passed heavy resolutions in favor of Clay, and appointing delegates to the National Convention. C. B. Penrose, and sixteen others,—Harrison Whigs—withdraw and the Convention broke up in a row. So much for the "all decency party."