

ges, by reason of construction of public works, as well as where the canal commissioners and engineers have estimated the amount of work done by contractors. Upon these, as well as upon all other subjects, steadiness of legislation is very desirable, and general rules and general system should not be made to yield, unless under very peculiar circumstances indeed, to the expatriate statements or representations of interested individuals. There is necessarily much evil, and great want of security in much special legislation. The increased population and business of the commonwealth, and the late period in the winter at which the legislature assembles, will, it is hoped, lead to the adoption of such general rules on the subject, as will save the legislature from being continually occupied with minor matters.

The expenditures of the administration of the government of the state have been much increased of late years, and in no department so much as that of the legislative. While the increase of business and population furnish a sufficient reason for a gradual corresponding addition to the expenses of the executive, judiciary and treasury departments, it is hard to account for the expenses of the legislature, which have advanced since November, 1835, in a ratio unparalleled in the history of the government. It will be found upon reference to the reports of the treasurer and auditor general, that the expenses of this department, for a number of years prior to November, 1835, were about one hundred thousand dollars, and are now upwards of one hundred and sixty thousand dollars annually. The public good requires a rigid system of retrenchment and reform, which, while it will allow to faithful public servants an adequate compensation for the time and talents devoted to the public, will lop off all wasteful and unnecessary expenditures in every department.

*Resolved*.—That this society pledge themselves to patronise a good Temperance Tavern in the town of Danville.

*Resolved*.—That a committee of three be appointed to prepare and circulate petitions, earnestly asking our Legislature to repeal all laws licensing the retail of intoxicating drinks, and also asking for the enactment of laws to prohibit the sale of intoxicating drinks as a beverage. James McMahon, M. C. Grier and Eli Wilson, were appointed as that committee.

*Resolved*.—That this convention earnestly recommend to the officers and members of all our auxiliaries to adopt such plans and measures as shall give, if possible, to every friend of virtue and order in the county of Columbia, an opportunity of moralising our legislators on the subject of the traffic in ardent spirits.

*Resolved*.—That there be a committee appointed by this society, whose business it shall be to collect all the information available with regard to the amount of pauperism within the bounds of the county, chargeable to intoxicating drinks, and what amount of revenue accrues yearly to the county, by licensing the sale of the same, and report to the society at its next annual meeting. J. C. Sproul, A. Vallerchamp, M. C. Grier, Rev. Daniel Barber, Richard Wilson, Jesse Bowman, Philip Dudder, and John Parke, were appointed as that committee.

Delegates appointed to meet the State Temperance Delegation at Harrisburg, provided such a delegation shall convene.—James C. Sproul, Azima Vallerchamp—alternates, M. C. Grier, Richard Wilson. The following officers were appointed for the ensuing year:

Rev. DANIEL BARBER, President.  
Azima Vallerchamp, Samuel Yorks, and Jesse Bowman, Vice Presidents.  
Eli Wilson, and M. C. Grier, Secretaries.

*Resolved*.—That the proceedings of this meeting be published in all the papers of the county friendly to the cause of Temperance.

*On motion, Resolved*.—That this meeting adjourn to meet again on the first Thursday of January, A. D. 1841, in the Presbyterian Lecture Room in Danville.

ELI WILSON, M. C. GRIER, *Secretaries.*

*How very Considerate.*—One of the silliest arguments that has yet been brought forward by the federal presses in their endeavor to entrap the support of the people in favor of the Hero of Tippecanoe, is the publication of a letter purporting to have been received from Gen. Harrison, in which this Modern Cincinnatus is made to say, that IF ELECTED, he will serve but one term! Not quite so fast, gentlemen, the people are not so gullible as you imagine. When a candidate is placed before them, in whom they have confidence, and whose capacities suit him for the office, they will cheerfully elect him for two terms, without asking him, prior, upon what conditions he seeks their suffrages. If he is unfit to serve two terms—as the arguments of the opposition make Gen. Harrison cut to be—he is certainly unfit for one. We advise his friends to procure another letter in which they must make him express a willingness to serve for HALF A TERM.—This is the only chance they have of electing him; and even then it will be a tight squeeze.—*State Cap. Gaz.*

Col. Wm. H. McCarty (whig) has been elected to Congress from Virginia, to supply the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of the Hon. Charles E. Mercer. Mr. Melchany was elected to the state senate, to fill the vacancy occasioned by Mr. McCarty's resignation of a seat in that body.

A man named Anthony McConnel fell dead in Race-Street, Philadelphia, a few weeks since. He left an estate valued at from \$50,000 to \$75,000, and it is not known that there are any heirs in this country. There are seven applicants for the office of Administrator of the estate. The No:th American states that in case no heirs are discovered, the coroner will be entitled to one-third of the estate, according to the law of escheat, he being the first person that informed the Governor of his decease.

Governor Boggs, of Missouri, has issued a proclamation dissenting from the suspension of hostilities between the State and Iowa, and calls upon the civil and military officers of the State to exercise their respective duties to their full extent, in conformity with the laws of the State.

## TEMPERANCE CONVENTION.

January 2, 1840.

The Columbia County Temperance Society, met pursuant to adjournment, in the Methodist Meeting House at Moorsburg. The meeting was called to order and organised by the President, JAMES C. SPROUL, and dedicated with prayer by the Secretary, A. VALLERCHAMP.

The delegates from the auxiliary societies were requested to take their seats—the report called for—read and adopted.

*Danville Temperance Society.*—M. C. Grier, Wm. Hartman, Rev. R. T. Nixon, Eli Wilson, John Paxton.

*Liberty and Chillicothe T. S.*—W. Durham, John Clarke, Richard Wilson, W. R. McMahon, J. R. Walker, Samuel McMahon.

*Washingtonville T. S.*—Rev. D. Barber, Thos. Robertson, Stephen Brasley, Jas. Hutchinson.

*Williamsburg T. S.*—Peter Ent, John Wardin, A. Vallerchamp.

*Jerseytown T. S.*—Wm. Richart, Dr. R. Parke, Joseph Sheep, Peter Shultz, Wm. Shultz, Samuel Russel, James McMicken, S. W. Lowry, Thomas Barber.

Berwick, Bloomsburg, Fishing Creek, and Mahoning Temperance Societies, not represented.

Business was then suspended and an address delivered before the society on the evils of intemperance, by A. Vallerchamp.

*On motion, Resolved*.—That this Convention deem it important for the interests of the Temperance reformation and the good of the county, to appoint the Rev. Daniel Barber, Samuel B. Wilson, and Richard Wilson, as a committee, whose business it shall be to procure a Temperance Agent for two months, to promote the cause throughout the county.

*Resolved*.—That this society pledge themselves to patronise a good Temperance Tavern in the town of Danville.

*Resolved*.—That a committee of three be appointed to prepare and circulate petitions, earnestly asking our Legislature to repeal all laws licensing the retail of intoxicating drinks, and also asking for the enactment of laws to prohibit the sale of intoxicating drinks as a beverage. James McMahon, M. C. Grier and Eli Wilson, were appointed as that committee.

*Resolved*.—That this convention earnestly recommend to the officers and members of all our auxiliaries to adopt such plans and measures as shall give, if possible, to every friend of virtue and order in the county of Columbia, an opportunity of moralising our legislators on the subject of the traffic in ardent spirits.

*Resolved*.—That there be a committee appointed by this society, whose business it shall be to collect all the information available with regard to the amount of pauperism within the bounds of the county, chargeable to intoxicating drinks, and what amount of revenue accrues yearly to the county, by licensing the sale of the same, and report to the society at its next annual meeting. J. C. Sproul, A. Vallerchamp, M. C. Grier, Rev. Daniel Barber, Richard Wilson, Jesse Bowman, Philip Dudder, and John Parke, were appointed as that committee.

Delegates appointed to meet the State Temperance Delegation at Harrisburg, provided such a delegation shall convene.—James C. Sproul, Azima Vallerchamp—alternates, M. C. Grier, Richard Wilson.

The following officers were appointed for the ensuing year:

Rev. DANIEL BARBER, President.  
Azima Vallerchamp, Samuel Yorks, and Jesse Bowman, Vice Presidents.

Eli Wilson, and M. C. Grier, Secretaries.

*Resolved*.—That the proceedings of this meeting be published in all the papers of the county friendly to the cause of Temperance.

*On motion, Resolved*.—That this meeting adjourn to meet again on the first Thursday of January, A. D. 1841, in the Presbyterian Lecture Room in Danville.

ELI WILSON, M. C. GRIER, *Secretaries.*

*How very Considerate.*—One of the silliest arguments that has yet been brought forward by the federal presses in their endeavor to entrap the support of the people in favor of the Hero of Tippecanoe, is the publication of a letter purporting to have been received from Gen. Harrison, in which this Modern Cincinnatus is made to say, that IF ELECTED, he will serve but one term! Not quite so fast, gentlemen, the people are not so gullible as you imagine. When a candidate is placed before them, in whom they have confidence, and whose capacities suit him for the office, they will cheerfully elect him for two terms, without asking him, prior, upon what conditions he seeks their suffrages. If he is unfit to serve two terms—as the arguments of the opposition make Gen. Harrison cut to be—he is certainly unfit for one. We advise his friends to procure another letter in which they must make him express a willingness to serve for HALF A TERM.—This is the only chance they have of electing him; and even then it will be a tight squeeze.—*State Cap. Gaz.*

Col. Wm. H. McCarty (whig) has been elected to Congress from Virginia, to supply the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of the Hon. Charles E. Mercer. Mr. Melchany was elected to the state senate, to fill the vacancy occasioned by Mr. McCarty's resignation of a seat in that body.

## From the N Orleans Courier, January 9

The celebration of the 8th of January, which took place yesterday, will not be forgotten while memory holds good among the thousands and tens of thousands who witnessed it. It was not a triumphal entry such as the Romans celebrated; the array and glittering arms of our citizen soldiers, it is true, might have compared with any of the cohorts of old Rome, but then there were no prisoners led in chains yesterday, or other captives to be seen, but such as were moved by gratitude. Nor could the celebration of yesterday be likened to a modern feie in Europe, where the sovereign has to ease his body in defensive armor, or shut himself up in ball-proof carriage. No—the whole scene was one befitting a free people, and worthy of the veteran who is first in the hearts of his countrymen.

It was a grand and pleasant thing to behold the manifestations of public gratitude, made on all hands, and by both sexes, old and young. The radiant and beaming countenances of the ladies in the thronged galleries of the houses in front of which the procession moved—the waving of handkerchiefs—the complementary missiles—and, above all, the spontaneous shout of the multitude, which ever and anon, as the old Chief approached, made even the brazen trumpet inaudible—all these demonstrated in a manner not to be misunderstood, that no party combinations can banish reverence and gratitude from a people like our own.—Well might the looker on exclaim, *vox populi vox dei*, and none can prevail against it.

A little before 12 o'clock, General Jackson landed on the Levee, in the second municipality, where more than a thousand of our volunteers, in splendid uniforms and beautiful array, awaited his arrival. Placed in an open barouche—his feeble state of health not permitting him to walk to any great distance—he was followed by some sixty of our citizens who had been his compatriots in arms on the plains of Lacoste and Chavenet. Among these veterans there was one who had been a soldier of the Revolution, and had fought under Rochambeau, bowed down by the frosts of ninety winters, still his desire to see the preserver of New Orleans, made him forget his infirmities, and take his place in the procession.

From the Levee the procession proceeded down the north side of Canal to Burgoon street, where it wheeled to the left until it arrived opposite the State House. There the venerable chief alighted, and was conducted into the hall of the Representatives, when the officers of the army and militia, and the heads of the State and Treasury Departments, judges, members of the Legislature, &c, were introduced to him.

From the State House the procession next moved up the south side of Canal street, until it reached the corner of Camp street, when it wheeled to the left, and moved down Chartres to the old Place d'Armes, attended by as great a multitude as that which assembled to meet Lafayette. We were particularly pleased with the magnanimity of several English merchants in the balconies of the houses who, one and all, took off their hats, and bowed to the conqueror of the elite of their own brave battalions.

Arrived at the Place d'Armes, the General found all the volunteers, cavalry, and infantry, displayed in lines on three sides.—In front of these lines, he passed, receiving the salutes usual on great occasions, and finally entered the old Parish Church of St. Louis, where a *te deum* was chanted by the clergy, and the revered Abbe Anetus delivered a thrilling oration, first in English and then in French.

We regret that we did not receive a copy of the Reverend Abbe's address in time to lay it before our readers. We have been more fortunate, however, in obtaining a copy of the oration pronounced by Judge Watts, which we annex.

Notwithstanding the sanctity of the place there were passages in this speech which called forth the strongest bursts of applause—indeed, we believe no American could have listened unmoved to similar language on such an occasion.

From the church and the square, the General and the military proceeded opposite the Exchange in St. Louis street, where the General alighted, and was conducted to the apartments prepared for him.

On reaching the saloon in the Hotel, the veterans of 1812'15 pressed forward to shake hands with the man, who had a quarter of a century before, showed them that the path of honor was also the path of safety. Here, J. B. Plauche, who commanded the Orleans battalion during the four engagements it had with the British, addressed the old chief in a few short but thrilling words. Finally, the General rested—the soldiers and the citizens retired.

P. S. Since the above was put in type, we have been informed that a great concourse of people were on the battle ground early in the day, expecting the arrival of General Jackson and his escort to lay the corner stone of the monument. The ceremonies in the city not having terminated before 3 o'clock, and the General's health being indifferent, it was judged proper to defer his visit. Had this been known earlier, there would have been some thousand added to the crowd in the city.

Mr. Speaker Hunter's name is Robert Musco Tulliferro Hunter.

## FIRE AT WILMINGTON, N. C.

*Washington Advertiser, (Extra.)*

January 17, 1840.

With a heavy heart we sit down to the task of making a brief record of one of the most disastrous fires with which our devoted town has ever been visited.

At about two o'clock this morning the alarm sounded, and proved to proceed from the store occupied by John Dawson, at the north east corner of the Court House. The Court House itself was soon on fire, as were also the buildings adjoining Mr. Dawson's. The flames progressed thence, with terrific fury, in an eastern and northerly direction of the square in which the fire originated, and in a few minutes caught the buildings in Front street in a westerly direction. The progress of the fire was then in every direction from a common centre; south, however, nothing was burnt but the Court House. In other directions indicated no barriers could be interposed until the two squares immediately north west and north east of the Court House were entirely destroyed, with the exception of the Bank of Cape Fear and two small houses next north of it, on the former square, and three brick buildings on the northwest angle of the latter. The whole number of buildings destroyed is about one hundred and fifty, including the offices of the Advertiser and Chronicle, the Custom House, and the Clarendon and Weston's Hotels.

A great deal of goods and furniture was got out of the houses and stores, although the loss of property of these kinds is immense. Many of the buildings on these two squares were among the most valuable in town, and on these two was done probably three fourths of the business of the place. We have heard no critical estimates of the aggregate loss, but are inclined to think it will sum up to nearly five hundred thousand dollars. What portion is insured is unascertained.

Thus has Wilmington received another blow to her prosperity, that many years will not serve to recover her from.

A young man, John Anderson, was shot recently in Lexington, Ky. by another named Harrison Jeter. The affray happened at a house of ill-fame. Anderson, between whom and Jeter there existed hostile feelings, attempted to enter a room where the latter was in bed. He broke open the door and entered, immediately upon which Jeter shot him through the breast with a pistol, causing instant death. Anderson was armed with a pistol and brickbat. A court of examination ordered Jeter to be discharged.

The Nashville (Tenn.) Whig of the 16th inst., says—A letter received in this city last evening from Jackson, in this state, advises that a gentleman had just arrived at that place, direct from Texas, with the news that General Samuel Houston had been shot, in a personal encounter, by the Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives—no hope is entertained of his recovery.—Houston was a member from St. Augustine county.

We learn by the Huntingdon (Pa.) Journal of the 8th, that at Shirleysburg about 2 o'clock on Thursday night, the 2d inst., a fire was discovered bursting through the roof of the house occupied by Mr. J. Bresler. As soon as the alarm was given, every possible effort was made to save its inmates, but such was the headway of the devouring element that three of the family perished in the flames. The individuals were Mrs. Margaret Brewster, about 70 years of age, and a grand son about six, and Miss Margaret Mitchell, about 28 years of age.

The young woman who killed Floor, the butcher at Catherine Market, a short time since by leaving poisoned cake on his stall, and who declares that she was married to him, has given birth to a daughter. She had been removed to the Asylum at Blackwell's Island, where she was well taken care of and comfortable. Alas for the child! a good-natured world will probably often remind her, by ad by, that her sire perished by the hands of her mother, and the latter stoned for it by that terrible expiation the murderer's doom!

The Detroit Advertiser, January 14th, says: We learn there are several hundred Indians, mostly Winnebagos, now encamped in the woods bordering on the St. Clair River. It is supposed they intend to pass into Canada, as their leaders are in treaty with the authorities on the other side. They prefer her Majesty's dominions to a western emigration.

*Poisoning.*—Mrs. Randolph, wife of a naval officer at Brooklyn, who had been married but six weeks, was poisoned this week by receiving arsenic instead of magnesia, from an apothecary's. The apothecary, afterwards, to show that the medicine given was really magnesia, took a dose himself, and was with difficulty saved from following the victim of his carelessness to the tomb.

The body of Henry J. Finn, the comedian, of Newport, one of the passengers on board the Lexington, had been picked up near that place—it was supported by a life preserver and had floated over one hundred and thirty miles from the place of the catastrophe.

A slight shock of an earthquake was felt at Utica, Deerfield, Trenton, and the adjoining towns in Herkimer county on Tuesday, January 16th, about 7 o'clock.

Lake Jackson, a body of water of several miles in extent, near Tallahassee, Florida, is said to have entirely disappeared.

The Montreal papers mention that Jan. 14th, was the coldest day of the season—the thermometer at 8 A. M. was 22 below zero, and continued the same during the day. On Friday it was at 20.

We learn from the Providence Journal that several suits have been commenced against the owners of the Lexington, by persons in that city who had goods on board.

Half a young American artist, has been engaged to paint the portrait of Louis Philippe.

Joe Smith, the Mormon prophet, is holding forth at Philadelphia, and is weekly adding numbers to his disciples.

The city of Wheeling, in Michigan, was sold recently, it is said, for a dollar, to pay its taxes.

During the past year, 442 vessels were totally wrecked, and 537 lives lost, besides 37 vessels reported as missing, the crews of which are also supposed to be lost.

*A proportionate fact.*—The public expenditures of the general government for 1839, are about six millions less than in 1838—and the estimates for 1840 are still less by about five millions.

*Handsome present.*—We have had the pleasure of accepting a splendid vase, presented to Governor Porter, by Mr. Stevenson of the Senate, in behalf to Miss Jane Porter of Philadelphia. It is, without exception, the richest and most elegant collection and arrangement of shells that we have seen. We understand that it is the work of Miss Porter's own hands, and that it engaged her attention for two full months. The present must be peculiarly acceptable to Governor Porter, and is creditable in the highest degree to her who made it.—It is one worthy of both the dace and donor.—*Reporier.*

A hog residing near Frederick, was buried 22 days in the snow, and being disinterred, walked home as lively as pigs usually are.

The Boston Evening Gazette states that Mr. Rhodes, the naval constructor, having resigned his employment under the Turkish government, intends returning to the United States with his family. He has been eight years engaged in constructing vessels of war for the Turkish navy.