



BLOOMSBURG:

STURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1840.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION—1840.

FOR PRESIDENT,

MARTIN VAN BUREN.

FOR VICE PRESIDENT,

RICHARD M. JOHNSON.

AND THE

CONSTITUTIONAL TREASURY.

DEMOCRATIC COUNTY MEETING.

By the Resolution below, passed at the Delegate Convention held at this place on the 3d inst. a county meeting is recommended to be held at this place on the 22d inst. As the salvation of our party depends upon union and harmony, it is very desirable that a general attendance of the friends of the state administration should be had, that a fair and full expression of the democracy of democratic Columbia upon the all absorbing subjects that now engross the attention of the community may be given. We hope therefore, that all who have the best interest of the party at heart will attend.

Resolved—That this convention, recommend a county meeting of the Democratic citizens of Columbia county to be held at the house of Daniel Gross, in Bloomsburg, on the 22d day of February, inst. for the purpose of taking into consideration, the general affairs of the state and of the Democratic party.

Appointments by the Governor.

Edward B. Hubley, William F. Packer, and Hugh Keyes, to be Canal Commissioners. The latter in the place of James Clark, resigned.

Dr. BECHTOLD, of the State of New York, has been appointed to the office of Surgeon General of the Army.

Wm. F. PACKER, Esq. has withdrawn from the Keystone establishment, on account of his arduous duties as Canal Commissioner engrossing the whole of his attention.

GOV. PORTER'S SPECIAL MESSAGE.

This document, which we published in our last, created considerable sensation upon its first appearance, and it was pounced upon with eagerness, by a few who had been watching for an opportunity to show their teeth, thinking that the people could not understand their own interest, and might easily be deceived; but they have found that they have caught a tartar this time.—The house of representatives had just passed a bill requiring the banks to resume on the 15th Feb., while the loan of \$870,000, authorized by the legislature to pay the interest on the state debt due the first instant, was not yet taken, the banks having declared their inability to take it, if they were compelled to resume at the time, unless they coerced payment from their debtors, who were generally unable to meet their engagements without a sacrifice of property, and bring ruin and distress on the people. Under these circumstances, the governor would have been recreant to his duty, had he not informed the legislature of these facts and placed the matter in its true light before them. The faith of the state was to be broken, and its credit abroad materially injured if this interest was not immediately paid. The governor, with that fearlessness and independency of character, which he so eminently displayed in his annual message, steps forth, "regardless of denunciations from any and every quarter," in defence of the people, and not of the banks, as some designing politicians would fain make us believe. Merely a resumption is not the question, but a permanent resumption is not only asked for, but demanded by the people, and this should be effected with as little injury to them as possible. To bring this about, the governor proposes that the banks should have a reasonable time to collect in their debts, and prepare for a resumption. It is no matter whether the time is the first of March or the first of May, if, when it does take place, it is a permanent one. It is a matter of expedi-

ency not of principle. It is so considered by the governor—it is so considered by the legislature, and is so considered by the greater part of community, and the Governor will be triumphantly sustained. The democratic papers throughout the state, with but few exceptions, applaud the course of the governor, and since the appearance of the message, meetings have been held in several counties entirely approving of its position. Among others, a large meeting was held in Philadelphia, Feb. 8, composed of the old and tried democrats of that city, at which the following resolutions were passed:—

Resolved—That this meeting highly approve of the messages of Governor PORTER to the legislature of Pennsylvania, and believe that in all his executive communications he has advocated and sustained the principles and measures of the democratic party.

Resolved—That Governor PORTER in his recent message to the legislature on the subject of the loans of the Commonwealth and the banks has avowed principles which are purely democratic, and acknowledged to be such by the mass of the democratic party of the city and county of Philadelphia.

Resolved—That DAVID R. PORTER has shown himself to be a governor worthy to preside over the destiny of a free and patriotic commonwealth, and has exhibited such evidence of firmness and devotion to the interests of the party and the state as will command the approbation of the democracy of the state and union.

Resolved—That we cordially approve of the course of our Senators and Representatives in the State legislature, who have determined to support the Governor in his recent message to the two Houses.

Resolved—That the thanks of this meeting be tendered to the democratic editors of the State, faithful sentinels upon the watch-tower of Democracy, who have fearlessly resolved to stand by the Governor in his effort to maintain the credit of the Commonwealth in her present crisis of pecuniary embarrassment.

Resolved—That we most heartily approve of the message of the Democrats of Adams, Delaware, Mercer and Columbia counties; at which they resolved to support the Governor in his views in reference to the banks.

Resolved—That we approve of the suggestions in relation to the banks, contained in the message of the Governor to the legislature at the commencement of the session, and that we recommend the passage of a bill placing upon the banks all the restrictions recommended by the Governor.

A democratic county convention was held at Bloomsburg, on the 10th inst., and unanimously passed the resolutions below. As they express our views and feelings in the fullest manner, we copy them with pleasure.

Resolved—That Anti-Bank Democrats desire to eradicate all exclusive banking privileges as speedily as prudence and the exigencies of the community will permit; but they have no wish to bring unnecessary distress and disastrous consequences upon the Commonwealth, or individual citizens, by any ill considered, total and sudden disruption of an extended system long established—and intimately interwoven with the business of the country, but they are willing however to endure with cheerfulness such losses and inconvenience as may unavoidably arise from correct measures found necessary for the establishment of a sound currency, and the ultimate triumph of that equality of rights which the Constitution aims to secure but which all bank monopolies have grossly violated.

Resolved—That the decided, manly and patriotic tone of the late annual message of Gov. David R. Porter, has fully confirmed and established his claims to the respect and confidence of the true Democracy of this Commonwealth, and to all liberal minded and enlightened men.

Resolved—That the more recent message of Governor Porter to the two branches of the legislature relating to the embarrassed condition of the public finances and the critical state of the public credit, eminently entitles him to the respect of every good citizen, who holds as sacred the fidelity of the government, and merits the commendation of every man who would preserve untarnished the integrity and honor of our political institutions.

Resolved—That while a firm, independent and manly conduct is always a subject of just admiration, it becomes peculiarly so when, during a critical period of her financial and political affairs, the chief executive of a state, in times of excitement and regardless of all denunciations that may be poured forth from any quarter, interposes to save her credit, to restore public confidence, and to avert a ruin and disaster which threatened to extend from the centre to the circumference of the commonwealth.

Resolved—That the hearty and cordial response and support given to the late message of Governor Porter by Messrs. Hopkins, Butler, M'Elwee, Snowden, Brodhead, Flenniken, Church, Heggins and Hoge, and other democratic members of the legislature was as honorable as it was prompt and patriotic; and while their efforts to sustain the Governor have proved them to be Pennsylvanians at heart—in policy—in principle and in practice; it has also given them a renewed claim to the respect and gratitude of their constituents.

CANAL COMMISSIONERS' REPORT.

We have received the able report of the Canal Commissioners made to the legislature a few days since, and have read it with considerable interest. Although the several portions of our extensive internal improvements are touched upon with as much brevity as their importance, and the nature of the case would permit, yet, its extreme length will not permit its publication entire in our columns. We must, therefore, content ourselves with making the following extract relating to the

NORTH BRANCH DIVISION.

This division extends from Northumberland to Lackawanna creek, and is 72½ miles in length. Navigation opened on it the first day of April, and continued with as few interruptions during the season, as from the wretched condition of the locks and aqueducts, could have been expected. The locks between Northumberland and Nanticoke, were originally constructed of wood; and having been ten years in use, from the natural decay of timber, it will be apparent to all, that navigation could only be kept up by the closest attention.

On the 29th of August last, proposals were received for rebuilding all the wooden locks on the North-Branch division, the aqueducts over Mill Creek and Lodge's Run, all the defective bridges on the divisions, and for constructing a substantial towing path along the pool of the Nanticoke dam. Contracts were entered into at prices favorable to the commonwealth, but the scarcity of funds prevented the rapid progression of the work. The locks will be built upon the combined plan with wood and stone.

The feeder dam, at Lackawanna, was swept away by the flood last spring, and the chute of the Nanticoke dam was very seriously injured. The latter has been placed under contract, and the repairs will be completed in time for the spring navigation.

By the fourth section of the act of the 9th day of July last, entitled "An act to provide for the repairs of the several lines of canal and rail road, and to continue the improvements of the state, the canal commissioners were authorized to change the location of the feeder dam on the Lackawanna river and if necessary, to extend the feeder up said creek to a distance not exceeding two miles—if, in the opinion of the commissioners, after a careful examination by a competent scientific engineer, they shall deem such change necessary to promote the interests of the commonwealth and secure the permanency of said work."

The board, accompanied by their engineer, Mr. Warford, personally examined the proposed change of location of the feeder dam, and are of the opinion, that for the purpose of introducing the Lackawanna as a feeder, it will not be necessary to extend the canal two miles up that stream. A good location occurs about one third of a mile above the old dam, which, for all the uses of a feeder should be adopted; but if the legislature designed to furnish to the inhabitants of Lackawanna valley, who are at present cut off from the improvements by the rapids in that stream, an outlet for their rich mineral and agricultural products, by extending the canal beyond the "Falls," which occur within the first two miles, then the dam should be constructed about one mile and seven-eighths above the former location. At that point there is an excellent site, requiring a little over two hundred feet weir, on rock bottom, and between natural rock abutments of coarse sand stone. Fifty-eight feet of Lockage would be required to descend from the pool formed by this dam to the level of the present canal, and the dam and locks are estimated to cost \$96,000.00. No appropriations having been made by the legislature, for the accomplishment of the proposed change, the board directed the temporary dam, which had been hastily thrown up to supply navigation, to be kept in repair throughout the season—and postponed a decision until further legislative action could be had on the subject. If the lower location be adopted the dam and additional feeder are estimated to cost \$11,700.00

In addition to the repairs now under contract on this division, requiring a very large sum to be appropriated, the board would recommend that provision be made for constructing a towing path bridge across the pool of the Nanticoke dam—for deepening about five miles of the lower end of the first level below the dam,—for about one mile of protection wall below Berwick, originally constructed of timber, and for erecting a guard lock at Hemlock creek to protect the canal below, in times of flood.

The following is the estimated amount required for repairs, viz:

Renewing eight locks,	\$66,386 85
Aqueduct over Lodge's run,	7,976 75
Aqueduct at Mill creek,	11,500 00
Repairing Nanticoke dam (balance)	2,562 89
Repairing chute at Nanticoke dam,	4,376 20
Constructing towing path along the pool of Nanticoke dam,	32,509 24
Rebuilding and repairing 69 bridges (balance)	31,895 16
Castings,	750 00
Rebuilding walls,	13,500 00
Repairing weigh lock at Northumberland,	2,000 00
Renewing waste weirs,	1,500 00
Renewing water ways,	3,500 00

Deepening five miles of canal,	7,850 00
Guard lock at Hemlock creek,	7,900 00
Towing path bridge across Nanticoke pool,	35,000 00
Lackawanna creek,	11,700 00
Ordinary repairs,	10,500 00

\$251,897 09  
Deduct unexp balance of approx'n 57,961 47

Balance required, \$194,235 62  
The amount drawn from the treasury during the last fiscal year, for the repairs on this division, is \$18,091 42

Mr Steverson of the senate, and Chairman of the Committee on Banks, on Thursday last, reported a bill, providing for the resumption of specie payments by the Banks on the 25th of this month. It materially changes the law as now applicable to the banks; it imposes many restrictions, upon the banks, and their officers; it is made a Penitentiary offence for any officer of a bank to appropriate to his own use, or the use of his friends, any money or property of Bank, or that may be left in care of the bank.

We publish the following extract from the Keystone of the 6th inst. in reference to the late message of the Governor.

SPECIAL MESSAGE.

The special message of the Governor, together with the correspondence on the subject of the interest unpaid on the state debt, will be found in this paper. The message is precisely such a one as was to have been expected from the Governor on this occasion. The recommendation that certificates be issued to the holders of the state stock for the amount of interest due them, was universally approved and passed the House of Representatives without opposition. It was admitted to be a measure of equal wisdom and justice.

The concluding paragraph of this message, expresses the opinion that as early a day as will render the resumption of specie payments permanent should be fixed; but at the same time says, that if too rigorous a system be adopted to coerce the resumption, it will seriously affect the people and the public. This opinion is a mere reiteration, in substance, of the conclusions to which the Governor arrived in his annual message, and is so perfectly conformable to common sense, sound policy and public justice, that it seems extraordinary that any man could be found; who would seek to prevent its meaning, or deny its truth. And it is more especially surprising, that any body should object to it after the universal commendation which the Governor's Annual Message has received from every rational man in the Commonwealth. In principle, this is identically the same with that, and we defy the utmost ingenuity to point out the slightest shade of difference.

When the Governor speaks of a reasonable time for resumption, he means such a time as will enable the debtors of the Banks and the Banks themselves, to discharge their several obligations with promptitude and fidelity. We have reason for believing that the Governor would consider it as a reasonable time to fix upon the first of April the first of May, or the first of June for the resumption of specie payments, as might be found expedient on due consideration.—We think it is the opinion of the Governor as we are sure it is of all other judicious men, that to force an immediate resumption would be to force every one of these institutions, large and small, to close their doors to put their concerns into the hands of commissioners to be wound up, to commence a series of law suits and commotion, which must end in wide spread ruin to all classes of the community. And to aggravate the state of things thus produced it would become necessary to send the tax gatherer to grind down still further an impoverished community.

It is against such evils as these, that the Governor announces his opposition. In so doing he has been sustained and will be sustained by every man who looks at the permanent good of the State. No man with proper feelings, who understands the subject, will be found to carp at and condemn the Governor's opinion. It is true, a very few honest men may be misled by clamor, and the perversion of the real meaning of the message. But they will soon all discover their mistake, and act as become men of honesty, and sound democratic principles.

THE FRESHET.

The ice in the Susquehanna river and Fishing creek, broke up on Monday last, and both streams are now nearly clear of ice, with a good rafting fresh. We understand that considerable damage has been done up the river to rafts and arks, several of which have passed down the river, with the ice, without "a man at the helm." We have heard of no damage being done to bridges, except to the large bridge across Fishing creek, near this town, which is nearly rendered useless by the falling of one of the piers. This was one of the oldest bridges in the county, having been built 33 years. Our active Commissioners have advertised for proposals for rebuilding it immediately. In the mean time, we understand that arrangements are making to establish a ferry near the bridge that there may be no interruption of travel.

The annual election for city officers in the city of Lancaster, took place on the 4th inst., and resulted in the election of the entire democratic ticket by an average majority of 400.

The 15 gallon law of Massachusetts has been repealed.

Blair & Rives, of the Washington Globe, have been elected printers to Congress.

RESUMPTION OF SPECIE PAYMENTS.

A bill was reported in the Senate yesterday, says the State Capitol Gazette of the 7th inst. by Mr. STEVENSON, chairman of the committee on Banks, providing for the resumption of specie payments on the 25th of February by the banks of this Commonwealth. The bill also imposes certain restrictions upon the officers of banks, which will very materially change the position of bank officers, and enlarge the responsibility devolved upon them. No bank will be allowed to suspend specie payments more than thirty days; and on the representation of any judge to the Governor, in writing, to the effect that any bank or savings institution refuses to redeem its notes in gold or silver for a longer period than thirty days, the Governor shall appoint three uninterested persons to investigate the concerns of said bank, and if it is found unable to meet the demands against it, said commissioners shall immediately take charge of the institution, and settle its accounts, and transmit an account of said proceeding to the Auditor General—the said commissioner to be allowed three dollars per day for their services—and in case the assets of any banking institution shall not be found sufficient to meet its liabilities, the directors of such bank shall be liable in their personal estates for the deficiency. And if any president, cashier, or the officers or clerk of any bank or corporation, shall fraudulently embezzle or appropriate to his own use, or the use of any other person or persons, any of the money or property of such incorporation, or money entrusted to the care or custody thereof, he shall be subject to a fine of not less than the amount embezzled or appropriated, and to an imprisonment of hard labor in the State Penitentiary, for any term not less than six months or more than three years; nor shall any cashier be allowed to engage in or carry on any other business, directly or indirectly, than that of the bank under a penalty of five thousand dollars, to be recovered by the board of directors for the use of the bank. At all elections for directors or any other officers, the holders of stock shall not be allowed to vote, except in their proper persons; and that each and every share of stock shall entitle the bona fide owner thereof to a vote, and no more; provided that the said share shall have been sold sixty days previous to the election; and all laws allowing stock holders to vote by proxy, to be repealed. It also provides that no bond, bill, or note shall be issued by any bank or corporation, except such as are payable on demand. It also provides that on the first Tuesday in February, in each year, it shall be the duty of each bank to transmit to the Auditor General a statement of the amount of its capital stock paid in; the amount of gold and silver held by the banks as its own; and within its vaults at the time of such statement, the highest and lowest amount within its vaults at any time, and an average of the amount between these periods and the time of making such statement; and also the amount of liabilities assets, and deposits; the amount of loans made by them, whether unlawful interest has been taken, &c. There are also many other restrictions in the bill, which we are obliged to omit for want of room.

The Portland Argus of Saturday says—We learn from a gentleman who left Canada five days since, that Col. Goldier, of the 11th regiment of infantry, had then been appointed commander of the British forces in the contested territory, and that a reinforcement had been ordered to the territory of two companies of regular troops, and a detachment of miners—in all about 250 men.

Gen. Harrison's Age.—Gen. Harrison is now in his 68th year—six years older than General Jackson was when elected.—Yet, according to his opponents, he was then an "old dotard." No difference what federalism does, it must shew its nakedness in the act.

The Cleveland (Ohio) Herald says: the Sacs and Winnebagoes agreed to hunt on the same ground this season, some miles west of Dubuque. A difficulty occurred there between the parties, and the Iowa Sun states that the Sacs, headed by Staubing Chief, attacked the Winnebagoes and killed forty or fifty. Two of the Sacs were killed.