

## POLITICAL.

### GEN. HARRISON'S POVERTY.

Our opponents are talking a great deal about General Harrison's poverty, and say that the administration papers are continually making it a subject for mirth and laughter. They are certainly very naughty for doing so, as poverty is, in our opinion, no disgrace to any body—and certainly not to one who has spent so great a portion of his life in the "wars," as Gen. Harrison is said to have done. But what has caused the old hero to be so very poor in his old days?—More than a quarter of a century has passed away, since he fought the British and "Ingens" at Fort Stephenson, and he has held various, important, and profitable offices, almost continually since that time. We think his poverty, if he is really as poor as he is now represented to be, is not much in his favor—as it seems to indicate that he is pretty much of a spendthrift, which is certainly not very creditable to him. The Chillicothe, Ohio, Advertiser, states that this poor old gentleman has been for many years, and is now, receiving from the county of Hamilton, as Clerk of the Courts of that county, fees varying seven to nine thousand dollars per annum. It is generally admitted that office is worth, on an average, at least eight thousand dollars. The Advertiser states on most respectable authority that he is incompetent to perform the duties of the office himself, that other persons are employed at moderate salaries to do the work—and that, after allowing the utmost for expenses, it leaves about six thousand dollars, as a sinecure for the Hero of North Bend for doing nothing. If this be true, and Gen. Harrison spends six thousand dollars, per annum, besides the profits from the produce which he raises on his farm, he must be a very extravagant old gentleman, that's all; and as our opponents profess so much dislike for any thing like extravagance, they surely are not anxious to send him to the "White House" in Washington!—for if they do, they will have to raise his salary, as one term will not be sufficient to satisfy him. If Gen. Harrison, after filling so many offices, and after realizing six thousand dollars a year for ten or twelve years past, still pleads poverty, we imagine he will not be much better off, if he should succeed in reaching the Executive chair. Twenty dollars a day, we should think sufficient to keep any common farmer—but it seems the farmer of North Bend cannot live on so small a sum, and more! Farmers of Delaware and Pennsylvania, what say you to Gen. Harrison's poverty now? Don't you think him rather an extravagant old chap, to spend so much money every year? Yes, we think we hear you say, too much so to occupy the "White Mansion" in Washington, and we will therefore, permit him to end his days on his farm at North Bend, as we do not wish to see so much poverty in these parts."—*Delaware Gazette.*

### BANKS IN THE UNITED STATES.

It appears from the late report of the Hon. Levi Woodbury, Secretary of the Treasury, that the number of banks in the United States, including 109 branches, is 959! Of these 343 suspended specie payments entirely, and 63 in part only, during the year 1839. The number of them that have been discontinued or broken within two or three years is 56! Of those that had suspended 48 only have resumed. How strikingly this short statement exhibits the insecurity of the rights and interests of the people under the present banking laws. Nearly one half of the banks have violated the laws, and one out of every twenty has either cheated and defrauded, or shamefully mismanaged its affairs! Yet the immaculate whigs and Harrisonians take these institutions under their protection—they foster them with as much tender care as if they were the offspring of patriotism and the trusty guardians of the country's welfare. Such men, indeed, are very firm and resolute defenders and upholders of the supremacy of the laws! They continually warn the people to beware of the Sub-treasury, which, they say, will fill the country with *Swartwouters*, who will plunder the public treasury—that the precious metals, gold and silver, will be paid into their hands and thus enable them to feast upon the luxuries and pleasures that the country affords, whilst the honest business man and laborer will receive a depreciated currency in remuneration for their daily labors, and be obliged to live upon that kind of a nonishment, that produces as Cervantes would say, nothing but "grumbings and groanings." This is not any thing like the results of the banking system! The democratic whigs, we would suppose, by their great clamors against frauds and defaulters, would never be guilty of upholding a system that gives employment and support to the dishonest. But let us draw a parallel between the conduct of many banks and stock speculators and those who have made their fortunes by plundering the treasury, and the fact will be plainly established, that banks, as well as a few "leg-trousers," have drawn into their voracious grasp the moneys of the people, without the intention of ever giving a just and honorable account of them! We are decided in expressing our opinion that the banking system must be reformed before the prosperity and happiness of the people can be firmly and permanently secured. Our Legislature has now the power and opportunity to bring about this re-

form, without any danger of being accused for the violation of contracts. The banks that suspended have forfeited their charters and the curse of nation will rest upon them if they are left to escape without having those guards and protective principles thrown around them, that will forever put to rest the fear of future suspensions and frauds. Let this work be done with a "view to the credit of the commonwealth" and the immediate interests of the people; but, woe to them, who shall neglect it. We cannot believe, however, that a single democrat in the Legislature will be found wanting in his labors to forward all expedient measures in promotion of this object; and, from the repeated and earnest recommendations of the Governor we may safely say, that he will not be wanting with his hearty co-operation.—*State Capitol Gazette.*

From the Bedford Gazette.

### GOVERNOR PORTER AND THE CRISIS.

In another column will be found a special message from the Governor Pennsylvania, by which it will be seen that he has had the most serious difficulties to encounter in order to sustain the faith and credit of the State. Owing to the prodigality of the late antimonastic Administration, to use the last words of Joseph Ritner on retiring from the Executive chair—a chair which he disgraced and dishonored—

"It has come to pass, that notwithstanding a succession of circumstances the most fortunate, and receipts the most ample and unexpected, the commonwealth is left without means to continue her own works and redeem her own faith!"

Thus, according to the solemn declaration of Joseph Ritner and Thaddeus Stevens, when Gen. Porter was inaugurated Governor of this commonwealth there was not a dollar in the Treasury to sustain the credit of the state and carry on her improvements. In addition to this, a combination has been entered into among the Banks and Aristocracies of the cities, headed by that monster of corruption, the British Bank of the United States of Pennsylvania, to defeat every measure that is calculated to relieve the State from her financial embarrassments. Under these circumstances, no Executive has ever been placed in so peculiar or trying a position as David R. Porter now is, and we think there are few men in Pennsylvania beside himself who would have nerve enough to stem the torrent that surrounds him on all sides. But he is equal to the CRISIS!—and on him the people may confidently rely for a safe conveyance over the difficulties that now surround us in so unmerciful a manner. The winds may howl, the waves may roll high as the Allegheny, the storm may beat with the fury of a hurricane, the Whigs may attempt to flatter and cajole, but David R. Porter is as immovable and firm as the "Rock of Ages" in his determination to stand by the Flag Staff of Popular Liberty and the Free Democratic Institutions of our country. His first annual message to the legislature is a state document that stands unrivaled and admits of no superior; and his special message is a postscript worthy to be appended to its legitimate parent. In regard to the banks, Gov. Porter has suggested a plan for their future operations such as cannot fail to be approved of by every republican in the state; and which, if adopted, will hereafter secure the people against all losses from an irredeemable paper currency, such as has flooded the country from our infancy to the present time. The banking system, owing to the enormous privileges that have been extended to it in days gone by, has wound itself, like a serpent, into every branch of domestic industry, as well as into all the public improvements of our commonwealth and, in consequence of this most unfortunate state of things, it behoves us to extricate ourselves in the easiest manner possible. If you have your hand in the jaws of a Tiger, take it out with great care and prudence, lest a sudden and unguarded effort to relieve yourself, results in the total loss of your hand, a calamity which might have been averted by dealing gently with the fearful monster until you felt yourself free from its unnatural embraces, when, in the plenitude of true wisdom, you might lay your antagonist dead at your feet, while you would escape the fury of the conflict unscathed!—therefore it may be safely said that those accursed swindling shops, the banks, have the interests of the people and the commonwealth to a great extent in their unwholy embraces, consequently it will require great caution and foresight to bring ourselves out of the fiery furnace without engendering a system of destruction that must be felt to the remotest parts of the commonwealth. Let us work ourselves out of their serpentine folds, and then pass such laws as will render them a benefit, not a curse to the country—that will make them the servants, not the masters of the power that brought them into existence! In view of this the Governor very justly observes, "that if too rigorous a system of measures be adopted to coerce the payment of the liabilities of the banks, immediately, the credit of the State must and will be seriously affected."

Let assurance be given to the public that at a certain and fixed day, within a reasonable time, such resumption will take place, and that it will then be PERMANENT!—This is precisely what the people want—they do not care whether the resumption takes place to-day or in a few weeks, provided it then be made permanent. The Governor looks upon the Banks pre-

cisely in the same manner that does the great Republican party of Pennsylvania, and we know that he abhors their conduct from the indignation of his soul—but still this is no reason why he should bring his personal feelings, as an individual, in conflict with what he knows to be the true interests of the commonwealth—he is the Governor of the whole state, and therefore it becomes him to act with mature deliberation. Let it be remembered that he is grappling with a tremendous subject, that of effecting a total reform in the Banking system which has been plundering the people for the last twenty years—and let it also be remembered that this reform cannot be effected in a day. It would not benefit the public if the Banks were made to resume, without making that resumption permanent—without securing the people against the impositions of those soulless corporations for all time hereafter—therefore as this subject is one second only in importance to that which proclaimed us a free people from the yoke of British Tyrants, at the mouth of the cannon and the point of the bayonet, let us see that we go into its merits with that prudence and FIRMNESS which marked the conduct of the signers of the Declaration of Independence; and may the everlasting and eternal curse of the People rest upon the head of that DEMOCRAT who shrinks from the principles that were instrumental in elevating him to the office, those of a thorough, total and radical reform in the Banking system, such as suggested by the Governor in his annual message. Gov. Porter has among other Reforms, effected one in particular, which will immortalize him for ages after he ceases to exist, that of putting an end to Shipplasters!—and this circumstance, of itself, is sufficient to satisfy the people that his whole mind is fixed upon a reformation of the abuses that have crept into the banking system.

## News by the Mails.

### SHOCKING FAMINE.

Sad Condition of British India—500,000 People Swept off.

British India is an empire as large as Europe, exclusive of Russia, with a population, including tributary States, of more than 150,000,000. Over this empire and people a sway was exercised wholly British; while it is affirmed that ignorance, poverty, crime and disaffection prevail there, to a distressing and alarming extent.

It has been estimated that the famine of 1837 and 1838; in the Upper Province of Bengal; swept off more than 500,000 people. The famines of the year 1830, visited the Northern Provinces of Bombay and Madras.

The Asiatic Journal for August, 1838, states that "200,000 were starved daily by Government and private individuals in the north west provinces; yet this is but a faint palliative. The people are dying like dogs—mothers throwing their children at night into the Jumna—disease destroying numbers whom famine has spared—dogs and jackals actually devouring bodies in which life was not extinct." At Gwalior "hydrophobia was as cholera—famine dreadful—horses, asses, bullocks, every thing that has died a natural death, eaten by the natives." At Agra "the police pick up 150 bodies daily."

On the 14th of April, 1838, 78,000 pining wretches, men, women and children, were fed by the bound at Agra; and between the 1st and 15th of March, 71,523 infirm and sightless creatures were relieved in a similar manner. So great were the ravages of death, that the air for miles was tainted with the effluvia from the putrefying carcasses of men and cattle, and the rivers of the Jumna and the Ganges were choked and poisoned by the dead bodies thrown into their channels. The water and fish of these rivers were rejected as unfit for use, and man kept constantly employed in pushing the accumulated bodies down the torrents. The mortality was at the rate of ten thousand a month; a destruction of life which if it had continued, would have swept off the entire population in less than a year.

A still more dreadful picture is given in a letter from Calcutta, under date of the 10th of April, which says:—"Since the despatch of the overland mail over the Berar, which left Bombay at the close of last month public attention in this quarter has been engrossed by the accounts which daily reach the capital of the horrid ravages of famine in the provinces to the west and north west. It is impossible to compute the numbers who die in their tedious progress from the desolate districts to the towns where food is procurable. We hear almost daily of mothers deserting their children on the highways—of infants crawling around the granaries to pick up the grains of rice accidentally scattered during the process of distribution at the doors—of the roads being lined with dead bodies, a prey to the vulture and jackal—of the corpses of small rivers actually obstructed by the masses of dead bodies thrown therein, by those who are employed to clear the highways—of the European inhabitants of the large towns of Agra, Cawnpore, &c., being compelled to abandon their evening drive from the impossibility of encountering the effluvia from the putrid corpses around."

Gen. Alexander Anderson, of Knox, has been elected to succeed Judge White, as United States Senator from Tennessee.

**A Perilous Adventure.**—During the severe snow storm, on Wednesday night last as the Chicago mail sleigh was passing from Peru to Hennepin, and when within four or five miles of the latter place, the driver got lost, and with the passengers remained out all night. The snow had completely obliterated the track, so as to make it impossible, in the absence of all houses, fences, or other land marks, to keep it.—The wind was also directly ahead, and blowing with great violence. There were two passengers, who encouraged the driver to keep the team in motion, and thus four hours were spent wandering about the prairie. Reaching at length a clump of trees, they determined to make a halt and wait for daylight. The driver in securing his horses, became necessarily more exposed to the storm, and was ready to perish ere he had finished. The two passengers, one of whom was Mr. Bigelow, railroad contractor, were provided with buffalo robes, and lay down in the snow which was whirled about them by the wind with unrelenting fury. Mr. B. says he felt a strong tendency to sleep, which he knew must prove the sleep of death. Rousing himself therefore, he sprang to his feet, and with his fellow passengers, proceeded to look after the driver, who was found lifeless. By shaking and rousing him into exercise, consciousness was at length restored, and the group, adopting various expedients to keep in motion till day light, then saw where they were, and in an hour reached Hennepin. Mr. B.'s fellow passenger on reaching that place was unable to proceed farther, but Mr. B. continued on, reached here on Thursday, and left for Springfield yesterday morning.—*Peoria (Ill.) Register, 1st inst.*

From the Tallahassee Star 1st inst.

**Florida.**—The Indians are troublesome in the West—they appear to know every movement of the troops, and to evade them at almost every point. A few days since a party of these savages, about 20 in number attacked a government wagon, which was travelling with supplies in Gadsden county, in the neighborhood of Carnoohan's plantation, on the Apalachicola river; fired on the team—killed two mules and wounded one of the men. A sergeant, who was with the wagon, and two soldiers, defended themselves, it is said, with great bravery, and kept the Indians off until two mules were released from the wagon, with the aid of which the men made their escape.

A letter received at the Executive office from Major Bryan, of Marianna, states positively that three persons were killed by the Indians near Blom's Town, on the west side of Apalachicola 15th ult., doubtless by the same party of Indians that attacked the wagon, of which we have spoken.

From gentlemen just arrived from Apalachicola, we learn of further depredations. The Indians attacked the house of Mr. Rowlett, situated on the bank of the river, about twenty miles above the town of Apalachicola—fired at, but missed Rowlett, who escaped by crawling under a house, killed a negro child, and actually carried off, as a prisoner, Mrs. Hollis, and a sister of Mr. Rowlett!

The people of the West will, we suspect, be much harassed by the Indians for some time to come. They are travelling Westward.

**Horrible!**—We copy the following letter from the Edenton Sentinel. It relates a tale of horror, indeed!

SALMON GREEN, Jan. 27, 1840.  
**Dear Sir:**—Be pleased to publish in your next paper, and hand to the "Sentinel," for publication, the following particulars of a heart-rending and awful catastrophe:

On Friday night, the 24th of January, about 7 o'clock, the dwelling house of Miss Paisy Ward, near Windsor, Bertie county was consumed by fire; together with all its inmates, consisting of an elderly lady, three children, and Miss Ward herself. The fire was not discovered until it had progressed so far as to render the efforts of all to extinguish it, or save the inhabitants, unavailing. Two sons of the elderly lady reached the scene only in time to see their only parent buried beneath the mass of burning timber. No person lived nearer than a quarter of a mile of the scene, and none arrived in time to hear a groan or cry of distress from the burning inmates.

After the fire had burned out, the consumed bones, supposed to be of Miss Ward and the three children, were found among the ashes congregated together. It was indeed a dreadful sight!—a scene so awful I hope never to witness again. The whole matter is a mystery—how the house took fire—that no one of the inmates should have escaped—and more than all, that they should not have been aroused by the flames, for from the position in which their ashes were found after the fire, they must either have perished while sleeping or have been confined in the house beyond the possibility of escape.

A suspicion daily gaining ground, is entertained in the community, that the house was set on fire, and the inmates either murdered or secured within by violence by the incendiary, to prevent the possibility of detection. Respectfully yours,  
J. L. WEBB.

T. J. BLAND, Esq. Edenton, N. C.

The Cherokee nation, in general council convened, have chosen John Ross, who is now at Washington, to be their principal Chief.

ST. JOSEPH, Jan. 20.

**Indians!**—An express has just arrived (Tuesday morning) from Iola, with a letter from Mr. J. L. Smulwood, merchant of that place, stating that on Monday night the family of Mrs. Harlan, about six miles from Iola, were all murdered and the premises burnt, by a party of Indians, supposed to be about twenty in number. The citizens of that neighborhood were without arms or ammunition, and call for assistance. The Indians will either remain the Apalachicola swamps, or make for the eastern arm of St. Andrew's Bay. A company hence, under the command of Colonel Fitzpatrick, has gone in pursuit of them.

APPALACHICOLA, (E. F.) Jan. 20, 1840.

We this morning received the distressing intelligence that the family of Mr. Rowlett, at Rowlett's Mills, in this county, about thirty miles from this city, were massacred by a party of Indians just before sundown last evening. Mr. P. W. Rowlett and a mulatto man were shot down by the Indians before they had shown themselves. The Indians then approached the house, and the inmates were shot down in endeavoring to make their escape. Mrs. Hollis, a daughter of Mr. Daniel Rowlett, was seen to run some distance from the house before she fell. A negro man was shot near the house. One individual, a Mr. Robison, we believe, who was near the premises, alone escaped, to tell the story. The elder Mr. Rowlett and one of his sons were from home when the massacre took place.—*Gazette.*

From the Buffalo Commercial of January 23d.

### AN INCIDENT AT THE FALLS.

We learn from a correspondent at the Falls, that there was a general turnout of the citizens of that place, day before yesterday, to see a live deer take the awful plunge.—The deer was driven to the shore of the river about two and a half miles above the Falls. Being closely pursued by sportsmen and hounds, he took to the ice, and ventured out so far, that the portion on which he stood broke off from the main body, and floated out into the stream and was wafted down the stream very gently until he reached the rapids, when his trail support soon broke in pieces, and he was left to struggle for life in the mad torrent. He finally succeeded in reaching a small island which many of our readers may remember, near the head of Goat Island, and between that and the Canada shore. No person has ever been on the island except when the ice lodges around its head, and forms a kind of dam, which admits of a hazardous passage. At the present time the river is as open as in midsummer, yet Robinson who distinguished himself last summer by his daring in rescuing Chapin resolved to go over in a boat and bring the deer off. He made the attempt, but was not able to gain the island. Mr. Wm. Conklin, accompanied by Mr. Manger, then determined to go. They rowed out to the rapids below the island, thinking to get into the eddy at its foot, but while contending with the strong current, one of the horses, and with the speed of a race horse they were instantly hurried towards the brink of the precipice. As they passed over a small bar Conklin jumped out, and succeeded in stepping the boat, the water being only about waist deep. After regaining their presence of mind, they started again, and by means of their single oar and a pole, landed on Goat Island just above the Falls.

The deer still remains on his rocky islet.

**A Child in the Woods.**—Some sensation has been caused in the neighborhood of Sherbrook, Lower Canada by the discovery of a white child, supposed to be four or five months old in the possession of a small party of the St. Francis, Indians.—The poor little creature was in a wretched state of suffering—emaciated almost to a mere skeleton—lashed to a board, popposse fashion, with a piece of raw venison in its mouth which the squaw who had it in charge had given it to satisfy its ravenous hunger, being herself incapable of supplying the proper food designed by nature for infants of that tender age.

The poor child was purchased from the Indians by a kind hearted Captain Adams, who paid them for it five dollars and a barrel of flour. He also provided for it a suitable nurse and comfortable clothing.

It is estimated that the parents are known, or at least suspected. The child was not stolen from them, but transferred by themselves to the Indians—with what purpose the Canada papers do not say.

**American Farmers.**—There is one class of men on whom we can as yet rely. It is the same class that stood on the little green at Lexington, that gathered on the heights of Bunker Hill, and poured down from the hills of New England, and which were the life-blood of the nation. I mean the farmers. They were never found trampling on law and right. Were I to commit my character to any class of men let it be the farmers. They are a class of men such as the world never saw, for honesty, intelligence, and Roman virtue, sweetened by the gospel of God. And when this nation quarrels, they and their sons are those that will stand by the sheet anchor of our liberties, and hold the ship at her moorings till she outrides the storm.—*Paulding.*

Forty-three of the Banks in Michigan have been proceeded against, by the Attorney General; and thirty-four of them owe the state an aggregate of a million and a half of dollars.