

his family. If his wages increased with the increasing expansion of our credit system, aggravated in its effects by the immense sales of State bonds in Europe, still the prices of all the necessities of life rose in a greater proportion, and he was not benefited. I might mention, also, the vast monopoly of pork produced by a combination of individuals extending from Boston to Cincinnati, which by means of bank facilities, succeeded in raising the price of that necessary of life to an enormous pitch. What then did the laborer gain, even at the time of the greatest expansion? Nothing—literally nothing. The laborers were a suffering class, even in the midst of all this delusive prosperity. Instead of being able to lay by any thing for the present day of adversity, which was a necessary consequence of the system, the laborer was even then scarcely able to maintain himself and his family. His condition has been terrible during the past winter. In view of these facts, I said:

"All other circumstance being equal, I agree with the Senator from Kentucky that that country is most prosperous where labor commands the highest wages. I do not, however, mean by the terms 'highest wages,' the greatest nominal amount. During the Revolutionary war, one day's work commanded a hundred dollars of continental paper; but this would scarcely have purchased a breakfast. The more proper expression would be, to say that that country is most prosperous where labor commands the greatest reward; where one day's labor will procure, not the greatest nominal amount of a depreciated currency, but most of the necessities and comforts of life. If, therefore, you should, in some degree, reduce the nominal price paid for labor, by reducing the amount of your bank issues within reasonable and safe limits, and establishing a metallic basis for your paper circulation, would this injure the laborer? Certainly not; because the price of all the necessities and comforts of life are reduced in the same proportion, and he will be able to purchase more of them for one dollar in a sound currency, than he could have done, in the days of extravagant expansion, for a dollar and a quarter. So far from injuring, it will greatly benefit the laboring man. It will insure to him constant employment and regular prices, paid in a sound currency, which, of all things, he ought most to desire; and it will save him from being involved in ruin by a recurrence of those periodical expansions and contractions of the currency, which have hitherto convulsed the country."

Now, sir, is not my meaning clearly expressed in this paragraph? I contended that it would not injure, but greatly benefit the laboring man, to prevent the violent and ruinous expansion, and contractions to which our currency was incident; and by so the consequence? That, if the laboring man could not receive as great a nominal amount for his labor, as he did "in the days of extravagant expansion," which must always, under our present system, be of short duration, he would be indemnified, and far more than indemnified, by the constant employment, the regular wages, and the uniform and more moderate prices of the necessities and comforts of life, which a more stable currency would produce. Can this proposition be controverted? I think not. It is too plain for argument. Mark me, sir, I desire to produce this result, not by establishing a pure metallic currency; but "by reducing the amount of your bank issues within reasonable and safe limits, and establishing a metallic basis of your paper circulation." The idea plainly expressed is, that it is better, much better, for the laboring man, as well as for every other class of society, except the speculator, that the business of the country should be placed upon that fixed and permanent foundation which would be laid by establishing such a bank reform as would render it certain that bank notes should be always convertible into gold and silver.

And yet this plain and simple exposition of my views has been seized upon by those who desire to make political capital out of their perversion; and it has been represented far and wide, that it was my desire to reduce wages down to the prices received by the miserable serfs and laborers of European despotisms. I shall most cheerfully leave the public to decide between me and my traducers. The Senator from Massachusetts, after having attributed to me the intention of reducing the wages of labor to the hard money standard, through the agency of the Independent Treasury bill, has added, as an appendix to his speech, a statement made by the Senator from Maryland, [Mr. MERRICK], of the prices of labor in these hard money despotisms; and it is thus left to be inferred that I am in favor of reducing the honest and independent laborer of this glorious and free country to the same degraded condition. The Senator ought to know that there is too much intelligence among the laboring classes in this highly favored land to be led astray by such representations.

3. Payment of wages in a sound currency. Under the present unrestricted banking system this is entirely out of the question. Nothing can ever produce this effect except the absolute prohibition of the issue and circulation of small notes. As long as bank notes exist of denominations so low as to render it possible to make them the medium of payment for a day's or a week's labor, so long will the laboring man be compelled to accept the very worst of these

notes for his wages. Unless it may be at periods of the highest expansion, when labor is in the very greatest demand, notes of doubtful credit will always be forced upon him. This was emphatically the case after the explosion of the banks in 1837. He could then procure nothing for his work but the miserable shiplaster currency with which the country was inundated. True he would not lay by for a rainy day, because he did not know at what moment it might become altogether worthless on his hands. The effect of it was to destroy all habits of economy. Besides, as a class, laborers suffer more from counterfeit and broken bank notes than any other class of society. In order to afford the laborer the necessary protection against these evils, he ought always to be paid, and would, from necessity, always be paid, in gold and silver, if the issue and circulation of small notes were entirely prohibited.

Thus, it will be perceived, that without the imposition of wholesome restrictions upon the banks, the laboring man can never expect to receive either constant employment, or steady and fair wages, paid in a sound currency, or to pay uniform prices for the necessities and comforts of life, which he is obliged to purchase. Under our present system every thing is in a state of constant fluctuation and change. Prices are high to-day, low to-morrow. Labor is in demand to-day, there is no employment to-morrow. There is no stability, no uniformity, under our present system. Of all men, laborers are the most interested in such a wise regulation of the banking system, by the States, as would prevent the violent expansions and contractions in the currency, and the consequent suspensions of specie payments under which we have been suffering. Why, under our present system, we endure the evils both of an exclusive hard money currency and a bloated paper system, without experiencing the benefits of either. The one is the inevitable consequence of the other. At the present moment we have reached a point of depression in the currency which the Senator from South Carolina [Mr. CALHOUN] considers as low, or lower, than the hard money standard. Here we are, without credit, because no man, for the prosecution of his necessary business, can procure a loan from the banks. They are now in that state of exhaustion which is the inevitable consequence of their former highly excited action. The case which Senators supposed might exist, should we suddenly adopt a hard money currency, exists already. The man who purchased a property but one year ago, in the days of the highest expansion, for two thousand dollars, and paid half the purchase money upon it, could, at this moment of depression, scarcely sell it for the remaining one thousand dollars. This is one of the greatest evils of our present ever changing currency.

But the Senator from Massachusetts has appealed to the ballot box in the most solemn manner, as the means of freeing the country from the calamities which he says I have admitted would flow from the passage of the Independent Treasury bill. I unite with him most freely in this appeal. His fear of the result in his own State is probably the best excuse which he could make for the manner in which he has treated my speech. The morning is not merely dawning upon old Massachusetts; but a beautiful and brilliant Aurora is now shedding her light upon it, and giving promise of a bright and glorious day. We have at least an equal chance with the friends of the Senator, of carrying Massachusetts.

Mr. WEBSTER. As good a chance as we have of carrying Pennsylvania?

Mr. B. said: before I take my seat I shall answer this question; but at present I am speaking of the Senator's State. I will not venture absolutely to predict success to the cause of the Administration in Massachusetts at the next election, although my hopes are high. Year after year the cause of correct principles has been gradually advancing in that ancient and renowned Commonwealth; and such a revolution in public opinion never goes backward.

The Senator appeals to the polls, and expects that the laboring men of the country will come to the rescue. In this I venture to predict he will be entirely mistaken. He will find it to be a Herculean task to persuade the laboring man that the party with which he is identified is friendly to him and to his interest. What have we heretofore witnessed in the Senate? When the preemption bill was before this body, the Senator from Maryland [Mr. MERRICK] attempted to deprive the poor man who had fled from the oppression of Europe to seek a home in the far West from enjoying its benefits unless he were a naturalized citizen. His proposed amendment was sustained by distinguished Whig members in debate; but was voted down by the friends of the Administration. Again, sir, what party is it which, with some honorable and distinguished exceptions, has always opposed these pre-emption laws? Is not the poor man who goes into the wilderness, settles upon the public lands, erects himself a cabin, and expects to maintain and rear his family by the labor of his hands, entitled to our protection? To permit him to purchase his quarter section of land on which he has settled, at the minimum price, in preference to all others, is but sheer justice to him, and experience has proved that it diminishes the receipts of the Government but two or three cents per acre. Which is the party that has ever opposed this equitable

and just principle; and, by the course which it has pursued, would afford the speculator an opportunity of enriching himself, by purchasing the house and the home of this poor settler over his head; and thus depriving him of the fruits of his honest labor? No, sir; no: the laboring men of the country know too well which party is their true friend to be persuaded to enlist under the Whig banner by the Senator of Massachusetts.

The right of suffrage is the most sacred political right which the citizens of a free Government can enjoy. Like the right of conscience, it ought ever to be regarded as a question between the individual man and his Maker, with which no human power ought to interfere, unless by convincing the reason. This is the very foundation upon which our Republican institutions rest. All men are regarded as equal in the sight of the law; and they ought all, therefore, to be equally free when they approach the ballot box. Ask, has this principle been respected in regard to the laboring man in our extensive manufactures? Have they never been told that unless they voted according to the dictation of their employers, they should be immediately discharged?—Have they never even been accompanied to the polls by their employer or his agent, to see that the tyrannical mandate should be carried into execution? "The man who would act in such a manner, and thus abuse the little brief authority which his station has given him over his fellow men, is at heart a despot and a tyrant. These things I have never witnessed myself, but have often heard."

I now come to answer the question propounded to me by the Senator from Massachusetts [Mr. WEBSTER] in regard to the political prospects in Pennsylvania; and permit me here to say, that although I do not complain, I should not have been the first to introduce such topics upon this floor. Unlike some of my friends in the Opposition, I have made no predictions here which the result has not verified. I am, therefore, entitled to some little character as a prophet, which, small as it may be, I should be sorry to lose. The smoke which was raised by late Whig National Convention has had time to vanish away; and we can now see objects in their true colors and just proportions. I have endeavored to view the party struggle in my own State in the light of truth, so as not to deceive myself or others; and I have had the best opportunities of acquiring correct information. I now declare that I firmly believe the Keystone State will remain true to her ancient political faith; and from present appearances, no future event can be more certain than that she will sustain the present Chief Magistrate and his principles, by a triumphant majority. There is a circumstance which, in my opinion, renders the result absolutely certain. It was our misfortune to have, during the administration of Governor Ritner, in what manner did that administration treat the laboring men employed upon the public works? No laboring man was permitted to remain in the employment of the State, unless he would pledge himself to support the re-election of Governor Ritner. He was deprived of the means of earning his bread by the sweat of his brow, unless he would abandon his right to feel and to think and to act, as a free and independent citizen of the Commonwealth. In many instances, the superintendents on our rail-roads and canals, marched up to the polls at the head of numerous bands of the laborers, to enforce a compliance with the pledges which had thus been extorted from them, and to see that they voted for Governor Ritner. The election came, and Governor Ritner was defeated at the polls by a handsome majority. Immediately afterwards, it was announced from high official authority that this election should be treated as if it had never taken place. The attempt to carry this mandate into execution produced what has been most unjustly called the mob. A revolution was threatened, but the leaders fled from the fearful responsibility which they had assumed, at the first moment of fancied danger; and what had begun in tragedy, thus ended in broad farce.

No, sir, I shall not say one word to the prejudice of General Harrison. It is his misfortune in Pennsylvania to be identified with the leaders of the party which I have described. They are his chief and most prominent supporters, and were the most active and influential in procuring his nomination; and they are sufficiently heavy to drag down any candidate for the Presidency in Pennsylvania to whom they are politically bound. This very fact will lose General Harrison thousands of independent Whig votes in Pennsylvania. I trust I have now sufficiently answered the inquiry of the Senator from Massachusetts.

Gen. Harrison at Home.—The Cincinnati Advertiser states, that the whigs, a short time since, called a meeting in Gen. Harrison's own neighborhood, to which they invited "both parties." At the appointed time, a large number of citizens assembled. The leaders in the affair had prepared a number of Whig resolutions, but on presenting them to the meeting, after an animated debate, they were voted down, and others, approving of the present administration adopted.

The Providence (R. I.) Journal, is dreadfully alarmed at the reduction in the price of onions. They ought to rejoice. Whig tears for the poor can be produced at a much cheaper rate, in consequence,

WAYS AND MEANS.

Mr. FLENNIKEN, Chairman of the committee of Ways and Means, made a most excellent report to the House on the 18th instant. It is a document of such great length as to exclude it from our columns at present. The house, however, ordered three thousand copies in the English and fifteen hundred in the German, to be printed for distribution. Possibly we may find room for it hereafter, and if so, shall take great pleasure in laying it before our readers. In the mean time it must be satisfactory to the public to learn that the credit of the commonwealth, and her ability to meet present engagements, and any future appropriations to complete the public works, are upheld in the report upon a substantial basis, and with great force and clearness. "Good faith and a punctual performance of contracts" on the part of the commonwealth are insisted on, not only as the ground of her credit heretofore, but the means of preserving it hereafter both from being impaired and from the unfavorable terms which would be imposed if she fail to meet her contracts, in any loans which she may have occasion to make.

The annual deficit in the revenue of the state is set down at \$1,087,748, which must be borrowed to pay interest on the present debt, and be constantly increasing if other means cannot be devised. To avoid such manifest evil, the committee recommend taxation in such form as to be the least expensive and inconvenient to the community. Three objects of taxation are brought in view, viz: capital, consumption, and production—from which, however, the last is excluded as inexpedient in our relation to other states. But to show the ability of the state to bear taxation on capital and consumption, the quota paid in tax and duties to the general government, in 1815, to sustain the late war with England, is put down at \$2,110,979, as deduced from public documents. At that time the population was about 900,000 souls; and it is now computed to be 1,775,000, and able at that rate to pay \$3,928,800, showing not only her capacity to liquidate her present debt by a system in no wise oppressive, but likewise to complete her improvements without borrowing a dollar. The report, however, considers the system then adopted by the general government as inexpedient, as it imposed taxes on production. Nor is it deemed necessary, there being other objects that will bear taxation sufficiently to raise the required revenue.

In 1815, the direct tax on land in Pennsylvania was \$730,958, and the valuation of real estate \$345,632,880. Estimating the valuation according to the population at this time, it will amount to \$946,000,000, and a tax of 30 cents on the \$100 would produce \$1,938,000. The tax on carriages in 1813 was \$26,000, and by the same ratio will be perceived is the mode which the committee derives from experience in its assessments and thus.

The plan brought into view is as follows:

Tax on real estate,	\$1,937,000
" Carriages,	50,000
" Stamps,	163,000
" Furniture and watches,	50,000
" Licenses to brokers,	20,000
" Bonds, Mortgages, ground rents and stocks,	250,000
" Addition to auction duties,	100,000
" Salaries and emoluments of officer,	20,000
	2,500,000
Deduct for loss and expense of collection	140,880
	\$2,445,120

But the committee say, as a less amount than the above will meet the object in view the reduction can best be made by striking out the amount set opposite the item of real estate, being now burdened by all county expenses, and but little of it bearing like money at interest, &c. six per cent on its valuation. This tax on real estate is therefore not recommended, but on the contrary it is maintained that the land-holder should be exempt from it so long as other sources are found to be sufficient. And in connection with this view the committee refer to the other immense resources of our great commonwealth, which are yet scarcely opened up—the fields of coal and iron, and other minerals which are so rich and extensive within our borders.

For raising immediate means, the committee recommend the sale of stock held by the state, in the Bank of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia Bank and Farmers and Mechanics' Bank which amounts to \$2,108,700. They also recommend the sale of the Locomotives and other property on the state rail roads, leaving them open to individual enterprise and competition. This property together is estimated to amount to \$2,250,000.

The committee deserve great praise for urging the creation of a sinking fund.—Such a thing has been found effective in the financial arrangements of other governments, and has long been considered peculiarly adapted to the condition of this state by our experienced statesmen.

They also suggest that in future when the Legislature borrows money for any purpose, they should provide means for its payment. Such a course would have the salutary effect of keeping the people advised of the extent they are likely to be involved.

The bill provides:
First.—That all ground rents, money at

interest, promissory notes, bills, bonds, judgments, bank and other money stocks, are to pay a yearly tax of one half of one per cent on every dollar.

Second.—That all household furniture over \$300—all gold or silver plate, and all pleasure carriages to pay a tax of two per cent on each dollar of value.

Third.—That all gold lever watches pay a tax of \$1.50 each—common gold watches \$1. each—silver levers \$1.—common silver 50 cents each, per year.

Fourth.—All salaries and emoluments of office to be subject to a tax of one per cent on every dollar of value.

Fifth and remaining provisions of the bill, prescribe the manner &c. of collecting and of taking assessments.

15th. Sec. Provides that the act shall continue in force five years.

It is impossible to do justice to the able report in an article of this sort. It must be read entire and attentively to do it full credit. One thing, however, we cannot forbear saying, that it shows and sustains the title of the commonwealth and the Pennsylvania community to any amount of credit she needs, on a foundation so sure and steadfast that no circumstance but a voluntary breach of her faith, and consequent surrender of her honor, can affect.—*Penna. Reporter.*

John Taylor, Jr., of Carolons who was nominated by the Whig convention as their elector, for that district, has declined the honor. He is not for Harrison—does not approve his principles—and cannot therefore vote for him. As it has been with Mr. Taylor so it will be with other of the Virginia politicians. The Tariff and Internal Improvement notions of the Whig nominee his non committalism upon the bank question—and his attitude towards the Abolitionists, are not such principles as will endear him to Virginia politicians and secure him their support. The people ought to recollect that in 1835 his colleague for the Vice Presidency, was Granger of New York—a full blooded abolitionist, and that this ticket received the support at that time of the whole Abolition interest in the North. These facts explain the course of Mr. Taylor.—*Virginia Valley Star.*

AWFUL DISCLOSURE OF FIVE MURDERS IN ONE FAMILY.

The Frankfort (Kentucky) Commonwealth of the 17th inst, gives the following revolting particulars in a letter from Greensburg, in that state, dated March 8. It appears there lived, in July, 1838, about 7 miles from that town, an aged woman named Lucinda White, with her two sons, aged 14 and 13, and a daughter-in-law (whose husband lives in the southern states) with an infant about 20 months old. Intending to move south in the month of July, 1838, as above, a man named Garrington Simpson undertook to convey them, and on a certain night he set off with the younger Mrs. White, the infant and the younger boy, all on pack horses. In about a mile, Simpson knocked them on the head till they were dead, and buried them in a hole two feet deep, near an old out-house. The next morning the elder boy was sent off from the home of his mother, and the same night the old woman was killed, and buried in the same hole, and in a week after, the older boy returning, was also killed and buried in the same place—making five human beings murdered! Suspensions lately led to the arrest of Simpson, and 60 or 70 men traced out and found the bones, and an inquest was held. Simpson has confessed, and implicates two others whose names are concealed. The fiend killed them for their property, which consisted of a few beds and old furniture, altogether not worth \$100. The two implicated by Simpson, and the family of the latter, have all been arrested. This deed of blood almost unparalleled all that has blackened the annals of our country.

A Clergyman Frozen to Death.—A few weeks ago, as we learn from the Burlington Iowa Patriot, the Rev. Samuel Leonard left that place on horseback in very feeble health, the weather being exceeding cold.—After going some distance, he stopped to warm himself at a house, and while he was there, his horse broke loose and escaped.—Mr. L. followed his horse on foot till he came to another house, where he requested to be allowed to stay all night, but was refused. He passed on to the next house, the lady told him that she had several children, only one room, and no spare bedding, but that she was willing to make him as comfortable as possible under the circumstances. Unwilling to put her and her family to inconvenience he passed on, but before reaching another house, perished of the cold.

He was a preacher of the Cumberland Presbyterian order, and about 50 years of age. He had been engaged as a Missionary among the Western Indians, and was once a teacher in Col. R. M. Johnson's Indian Academy, at the Great Crossings.

The following was endorsed on a letter lately received at the Natchez Post office: "The Postmaster will confer a favor by informing Mr. Wallace of this letter, or sending it to him by the first opportunity, as he moved into your county about the first of December last, and I think lives at a distance from your post office. If you are a single man it will be worth your trouble to go, as he has a very pretty daughter."