

Whose, and flame. It is true, we might question his claim to a place in history as a great military leader, and on this issue we might call for the universal judgment of his country. Acts should speak for themselves, and most especially military exploits, and the General who requires from his subalterns their written testimonials to prove the wisdom of his conduct, the fact of his presence in danger, or the value of his service to his country, can scarcely aspire to the dignity of a hero. Are we mistaken in the fact that doubts and questions surround the military reputation of Gen. Harrison? Did they not exist even in his camp and among his most brave and efficient officers? Did they not reach the Congress of the United States, and; at a time when the transactions were recent, and the means of information full, induce the Senate to refuse to him those honors which were unanimously awarded to others with whom his name was associated? Did he not leave the military service of his country at the most gloomy period of a desperate war, thus making his own act, and the time chosen for it, a confirmation of those doubts and questions? To General Harrison we would render strict and impartial justice, and we propose these inquiries because the history of the times not only suggests them but furnishes a positive and affirmative answer to each. Will his friends reply that we are proving their candidate not to be a military chieftain? Be it so. Their consistency in claiming for him that character as a merit and a qualification for the Presidency, is not the less apparent, if they shall be found to admit that the claim has no foundation in fact and history.

Beyond this single claim to the support of a free people, as distinctive of the Federal candidate for the Presidency, we are unable to speak from any ground as yet assumed by himself or his friends. In reference to his principles, opinions, and acts, beyond his military chieftainship, there is an organized silence, as studied as it is singular. The country has been told, as it would seem by authority, that he is to write no more "for the public eye," until after the Presidential election, and his supporters very carefully follow this example of their selected leader. His public history is certainly not a history of civic triumphs, nor has a life spent in public employment, mostly civil, presented him as the author of measures, or even a leading supporter of the measures of others, essentially connected with the principles of our Government or with the interests of our people. We are compelled, therefore, to dismiss General Harrison; and, beyond what we have already said, to follow the example he has set and his friends sanctioned, to say nothing, because, as we are forced to presume nothing is to be said. We leave him, therefore, with his Federalism established beyond question, and with his questionable claim to a military reputation.

Once more, we repeat, we are not alarmists; but our duty to the Democracy we are here to represent, would be ill discharged, did we not call their serious attention to the desperate efforts which their opponents are every where making to carry the approaching election, and to gain possession of the General Government. If they were to succeed in the accomplishment of their object, and thus be enabled to carry into execution their schemes of policy—those especially which relate to the management of the public finances by the agency of a great moneyed institution—there is danger that our Republican institutions, though they might preserve their form, would not long retain their purity, their simplicity, or their strength. But our confidence in the discrimination and patriotism of the people is unshaken; and we confidently trust and believe that they will not only see the coming danger, but that they will meet it with all the necessary measures of precaution.

The history of all Republics is replete with instructive lessons to every American citizen—lessons peculiarly applicable to a Government like ours, formed by a union of independent States.

One, and perhaps the most important of all these lessons, is the constant danger of a foreign influence, exerted through the power of money. The approaches of this influence have been gradual and imperceptible, until within the last few years; within which the progress has been rapid, and the diffusion almost universal. The ordinary operations of trade between commercial countries are reciprocal and salutary. Enabling each to exchange the commodities of which it has a surplus, for others which it wants, the industry, the convenience, and the comforts of all are promoted, the wealth of all, both individual and national, increased, a healthful and useful intercourse secured, and harmony of feeling produced, without any necessary sense of dependence.—If, however, the reciprocal relations of trade be changed for the relations of borrowers from another country, or its citizens, for purposes not commercial, the consequences are wholly different, and the truth, that "the borrower is servant to the lender" of money, will be found to have its application as strongly, and much more dangerously, than when that dependent relation exists between citizen and citizen of the same country.

We are not to be understood as condemning, in all cases, loans between country and country, or between the citizens of different countries. The demands arising from a state of war, and perhaps other great exigencies, frequently render such loans, by a nation, indispensable, while the transac-

tions of commerce are constantly creating credits between commercial men of all countries. In the first class of cases, the war must be prosecuted, or the other great national exigency met, and the relation of debtor endured, until returning peace, or renewed prosperity, shall have wiped out the debt. In the second, the operations are anticipated, and ordinarily depended upon with safety to balance the accounts, and terminate the unpleasant relation. To no transactions of these classes are any of our subsequent remarks intended to be applied.

A very different description of foreign loans and foreign debts have become common in our country, and to these it is our wish to draw the public attention. We refer to loans made by banking institutions, either to relieve themselves from embarrassment caused by improvident expansions in banking, or to enable them to extend their operations beyond the limit intended by those who granted their charters; by companies and associations, to enable them to monopolize an entire branch of internal trade, or to embark in some enterprise of questionable productiveness, and by the States of the Union, without the provision by taxation or otherwise, of a safe and certain fund to meet the interest upon their loans.

We think we are not mistaken in the assumption that early State loans were sought in our own market and from our own countrymen. We believe, also, that one of the first acts of the borrowing State was to establish and set apart a fund to meet the payments of interest upon the money borrowed. This safe policy prevailed for a series of years, and until deleterious examples, proceeding not from the States of the Union but from incorporations, the creations of the State and Federal Governments; produced the change, the consequences of which we consider so fearful and alarming.

The Bank of the United States was the first to make the standard of its credit in London the measure of its business in the United States. Other leading State institutions followed this practice of evil tendency, and none of the incorporations which once adopted this standard, failed to make their interests conform to it. Thus a change in the value of money in foreign countries would become the measure of bank expansions and contractions in the United States, so far as the business of the Bank of the United States, and many of the larger State banking institutions, were concerned.

A long period of general peace, and of great prosperity in all the branches of trade and industry, rendered expansions, graduated by this standard, much more prevalent than contractions; and thus, from the known excessive profits of banking in this country engendered an appetite for the multiplication of bank charters, before unknown to us. Hence the number of banks in the country was at least doubled, in the course of some three or four years, and the banking capital was enlarged in a still greater proportion.

This multiplication of banks and banking capital in so short a period, could not fail to produce a proportionate expansion of our paper circulation. Such was the effect with the further consequences of increased prices of property, and an almost universal passion for speculation. The multiplied banks found customers, because almost the entire community were stimulated to become borrowers, and the great mass borrowed, not to expend the avails of their loans in aid of productive industry, but to purchase to-day, for a high price, property which it was believed some other borrower would purchase to-morrow at a still higher. In a process of this sort, employing hundreds of millions of credit, in the shape of bank paper and bank discounts, the amount of interest annually accruing in favor of the banks was enormous, while the property upon which the money was expended was actually producing nothing.

Influence of this powerful character, communicated to the great body of citizens of our country, could not fail to be felt in the Legislatures of the States of the Union.—They felt the impulsion, and acted under it. Large loans were proposed, and it soon appeared that the increase of banks, and other demands, had absorbed too much of the American capital to enable them to find a ready or a cheap market in our own country. The markets of Europe were naturally sought, as not the Federal Government, and not the Governments of the States alone, but local corporations in our commercial cities, had there found such a market for large loans upon their credit. For a time the State stocks of all descriptions were greedily taken; but, as in all cases of over tasked credit, the supply became more than equal to the demand, and the market fell. The consequences were electric throughout our country, and the depressions we now feel in commercial transactions in every branch of trade, in the prices of property, in our domestic industry, in the wages of labor, flow from these excessive uses of credit at home, and these attempts to overstock the foreign markets with our credits abroad.

We are aware that these are plain suggestions; but can we be mistaken in placing them before our constituents, and asking their awakened attention to them, when we see the mere bankers of London publishing to the American public a proposition that the United States shall become endorsers for the individual States, a survey for their engagements, as a condition, not simply to

their obtaining further loans, but to the favorable sale, in the British market, of their stocks and bonds, now resting there in pledge for advances of money?

Such a proposition as it seems to us, should startle the whole American people. It is a bold attempt, upon the part of foreign bankers, to compel the government of the United States again to assume a fearful amount of debt, or to punish the States of the Union by a refusal of further loans, and a depression of their securities now in the foreign market.

We have spoken of the danger of a foreign influence pervading our country, and exerted through the power of money. Can we have any stronger evidence of the existence of that influence, and of the disposition to exert it, than we have already given. When foreign bankers call upon the Federal Government to endorse for the States of this Union, and threaten them with a suspension of their credit, in case that endorsement is not procured, can we measure the influence which is exerted from the same quarter over private and corporate debtors in this country?

If then, these influences of a foreign debt are an evil to be deprecated; if our expansions of credit at home have been excessive, and require to be checked; and if both are objects which call for the serious consideration and action of the people of the country, to which of the existing political parties are they to look for a remedial policy?

The universal suspension of the banks, in May, 1837, met Mr Van Buren at the threshold of his administration; and from that moment to this he has been laboring assiduously to lay the foundation for a more stable basis for our currency and business; a foundation equal and just to all, and resting upon the Constitution of the country. It has not been the object of his policy, as is falsely alleged, to destroy credit; but to make credit safe and dependable; not to overthrow the banking institutions of the country, but to separate them from the management of the public revenues, not to cripple commerce, but to give commerce a standard of currency so far as the action of the Federal Government can do it, which shall not disturb it by expansions dictated by private interests and monopolizing efforts; not to suspend trade, but to restore it to a healthful activity, and give it a sound and stable circulating medium to sustain it; not to depress the wages of labor but to afford the honest laborer full and constant employment at fair wages and to secure to him the pay for his sweat and his toil, in a currency upon which he may sleep quietly, without the fear of finding it dross in his pocket when he rises in the morning. Such is our policy, and that of the administration we support.

Of Gen. Harrison and his policy, upon all these important subjects, we have already declared we can say nothing. Silence, profound and unbroken, is the order at present resting upon him, and we have already expressed our inability to raise the latch which closes the door upon his opinions.

Of the favorite policy of his party, however, we can speak; because in this ancient party, dating its existence from the administration of the elder Adams, and never more apparently confident, since the time of his defeat, than at this moment, there have been, and now are, open doors and unsealed lips.

This party, then, would create a new National Bank, with the vain hope of still further expanding our present system of excessive credits. They would not only increase the State debts, but they would prosecute a system of internal improvements under the authority of this Government; to be extended within and through the States at its pleasure. They would take from the General Government some of its proper sources of revenue, at a time when the National Treasury is driven to loans to supply the ordinary demands upon it, and would borrow money in Europe, or increase the taxes upon the people, or both, to carry out their plan of a more splendid administration. And, finally, they would deliver over again to the banks, State or National, all the revenues of the country, subject to be used by them with the inevitable consequence of increasing bank expansions, until the appropriations of Congress should call for the money, and then to be the cause of, or the apology for bank contractions, to an extent far beyond the amount of money involved.

Before we dismiss the subject, we cannot forbear to refer to the well known fact, that large sums of money have, within a few years past, been expended upon elections, with a view to overrule and defeat the wishes of the people. These contributions are manifestly, from the evidences of their effects, so large in amount as to excite the most painful suspicions as to the sources from which they are derived. Time will determine what ground there may be for such suspicions. But from whatever quarter these pecuniary aids may come, it is the duty of all who value the independence of their country, who would exclude foreign interference, under any form, from our elections and our councils, and who regard the purity of the elective franchise as the best safeguard of our free institutions, to meet the crisis with unflinching vigilance, and with the determination to expose and frustrate all attempts to control political results by any other influences than those of reason and argument.

But our opponents do not alone depend for their anticipated triumph over the Democratic party on the influence to which

we have referred. They have enlisted the fanaticism of the old and new world in their cause. They have associated with one of the most dangerous political sects that has been arrayed against the sacred union of the States, which the Father of his Country, in his last address to his children, thus solemnly commends to their care:

"It is (he says) of infinite moment that you should properly estimate the immense value of your national union to your collective and individual happiness; that you should cherish a cordial, habitual, and immoveable attachment to it, accustoming yourselves to think and speak of it as of the palladium of your political safety and prosperity; watching for its preservation with jealous anxiety; discountenancing whatever may suggest a suspicion that it can in any event be abandoned; and indignantly frowning upon any attempt to alienate any portion of our country from the rest, or to enfeeble the sacred ties which now link together the various parts."

Such are the paring words of the great and good Washington! The federal whigs pretend to cherish his principles; and to be governed by his admonitions and example. Yet they have, at this very time, made common cause with the Abolitionists—a political sect, whose objects and measures have a direct tendency to dissolve that Union which he so earnestly and pathetically recommends; whose organs have denounced the written compact on which it rests, as containing principles at war with the rights of man and the laws of God; who have openly declared that they prefer emancipation without union, to union without emancipation; who have, by calumny and misrepresentation contributed to make one portion of our fellow citizens odious to the other; to foster sectional feeling; to change brotherly love into bitter antipathy; and who, if we may credit the declarations which some of them have made; would willingly see the political fabric uprooted from its deepest foundations, provided their favorite system of measures could be built upon its ruins.

The social duties, the rights of property the charities of life, the domestic relations are all disturbed by the conduct of this misguided sect, and if it were possible that their influence could so far prevail as to produce an interference on the part of the National Legislature, with the institutions of individual States, these great interests would become a sacrifice to a wild, visionary, and impracticable, if not a designing scheme of philanthropy. In the prosecution of this scheme, portions of our fellow-citizens have been denounced as robbers and man-stealers; foreign emissaries have been encouraged to travel through the country, uttering and disseminating atrocious misrepresentations and inflammatory harangues, calculated to excite servile insurrection and intestine war; and money has even been solicited and procured of enthusiasm in other countries, and expended here, in scattering the firebrands of discord and division throughout the land. Those who see these results; and persist in the measures which have produced them, will not be deterred by the sketch we have drawn; but if there be among them others, whose attention has been turned away by exaggerated and exciting representations, from the great principles of forbearance, mutual concession, and compromise, upon which the Union was founded, and by the sacred preservation of which alone it can be upheld, we appeal to all such to say whether a connection, which impeaches their judgment, their patriotism, their justice, and their devotion to our Republican institutions, should not be renounced at once and forever.

The limits of an address will not permit us to extend our remarks, though the field is broad, and the harvest could not fail to be rich. We must, therefore, leave the decision of the great issues we have raised to the sovereign people of our beloved country, and to the intelligence, honesty and patriotism of our fellow-citizens; not under the belief that we have sufficiently discussed those issues, but in the hope that we have said enough to awaken their attention to them.

Our principles and objects have been avowed. The purity and freedom of the elective franchise; the exemption of our country from a dangerous foreign influence, and the preservation of our Union against the unconstitutional and fatal spirit of Abolitionism, are the great points in the pending contest, and we proclaim them to our countrymen as matters of vital interest to our free institutions.

The candidate we present as the exponent of our principles, has been tried. His views upon all these questions are distinctly known, and have been severely tested.—As to him, therefore, the people may act with confidence and certainty.

Not so with our busy and confident opponents, and their candidate. When assembled, as we are, in National Convention, "their policy" dictated that that they should make to the country no declaration of principles, and since that time, an Executive Committee has taken possession of their candidate, not to declare his principles and opinions to the country, but to proclaim to a nation of freemen that those principles and opinions shall not be declared, "for the public eye," until after the election.

Freemen of the United States, choose between these parties and these candidates! The decision is yours, and the stake is yours!

Confiding in the intelligence and republican spirit of our countrymen, we do not doubt of success in the important contest

which is now pending. The people achieved a revolution in 1800, which transferred us from under the iron rod of Federal rule, and we cannot doubt, that in 1840, they will maintain, successfully, the same high position with the same great principles.—In the close of the present memorable campaign, which has been opened on the one side by costly and stately pageant, addressed merely to the senses, it will be found that the Democratic party, sustained by truth and by reason, will have continued its march of uninterrupted triumphs.

THE COLUMBIA DEMOCRAT.

"TRUTH WITHOUT FEAR"



BLOOMSBURG:

ATURDAY, MAY 30, 1840.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION—1840.

FOR PRESIDENT,

MARTIN VAN BUREN.

FOR VICE PRESIDENT,

RICHARD M. JOHNSON.

AND THE

CONSTITUTIONAL TREASURY:

ELECTORAL TICKET.

JAMES CLARKE, of Indiana, } Senatorial
Geo. G. LEIPER, of Delaware, }
1 Col. John Thompson 12 Frederick Smith
2 Benjamin Millin 13 Charles McClure
3 Frederick Stoeber 14 J. M. Gemmill
4 Wm. H. Smith 15 G. M. Hollenback
5 John F. Steinman 16 Leonard Pfouts
6 John Dowlin 17 John Horton Jr.
7 Henry Myers 18 William Philson
8 Daniel Jacoby 19 John Morrison
9 Jesse Johnson 20 Westly Frost
10 Jacob Able 21 Benj. Anderson
11 Geo. Christman 22 William Wilkins
12 Wm. Shoener 23 A. K. Wright
13 Henry Dehuff 24 John Findley
14 Henry Logan 25 Stephen Barlow

4th OF JULY.

We are not one of those who would, at all times, make the celebration of this memorable day political, but at a time like the present, when the opposition to democracy and the rights of the people, are making every exertion in their power to elect a man to the Presidency who has voted to sell white men into slavery to pay a paltry fine—an avowed opponent of universal suffrage—an advocate of monopolies and a United States Bank—an abolitionist and in fact, an opponent of all the principles of equality and the rights of man, which the declaration of Independence was calculated to sustain, we think it the bounden duty of the Democratic party to give, their decided disapprobation, by a public demonstration of their feelings and sentiments on a day so glorious to be remembered by all who are well wishers to the best interests of mankind. We would therefore suggest the propriety of the democracy of the county making arrangement for a celebration, to be held somewhere near the centre. Let the arrangement be made upon a liberal scale, so that all may have a chance of participating in the festivities of the day. Should it be thought advisable to have such a celebration, measures should be immediately commenced—a meeting held and preparatory arrangements entered into, for no time is to be lost. What say you democrats of Columbia will you unite.

APPOINTMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT.

By and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

JOHN M. NILES, of Connecticut, to be Post Master General.

CHURCHILL C. CAMBRIDGE, of New York to be Minister to Russia.

We have received the proceedings, in pamphlet form, of an Improvement meeting, of citizens from Luzerne, Susquehanna and Bradford counties, held at Tunckhannock, a few days since. The proceeding reported by H. B. Wright, Esq. Chairman of the committee appointed for that purpose, and adopted by the meeting, are interesting and important. They urge the necessity of an immediate completion of the main lines of the state improvements, and conclusively prove from facts that it would be policy to do so. We intend hereafter to make some extracts from the proceedings.