

POLITICAL

From the Erie Observer.

By reference to the Debates (published officially) of the New York Reform Convention, page 465, it will be found that Judge Spencer, a leading and wealthy Federalist, moved an amendment to the Report of the Committee on the right of suffrage, that no man should vote for Senators unless possessed of a 'freehold estate of \$250.'

In concluding his able speech Mr. Van Buren said— 'If he could possibly believe, that any portion of the calamitous consequences could result from the rejection of the amendment, which had been so feelingly portrayed by the honorable gentleman from Albany (Mr. Kent) and for whom he would repeat the acknowledgement of his respect and regard, he would be the last man who would vote for it. But believing as he conscientiously did that those fears were altogether unfounded; hoping and expecting that the happiest results would follow from the abolition of the freehold qualification, and hoping too, that caution and circumspection would preside over the settlement of the general right which was here after to be made, and knowing besides, that this state, in abolishing freehold qualification, would but be uniting herself in the march of principle which has already prevailed in every state of the Union, except two or three, including the Royal charter of Rhode Island, he would cheerfully record his vote AGAINST the amendment offered by Judge Spencer.'

The federalists, failing to restrict the right of suffrage by carrying the property qualification as proposed by Judge Spencer, then endeavored to abolish all qualifications, and give every man white or black (except actual paupers) who should have resided in the state six months and was over twenty-one years of age, the right to vote. This extreme was resorted to in order that the people would reject the whole proposition as amended, and not out of any extension of the right of suffrage. This proposition was opposed by Mr. Van Buren and all the friends of a liberal extension of the right of suffrage. On page 365 of the Debates in the New York Reform Convention, may be seen the following remarks of Mr. Van Buren:

'Mr. Van Buren said, that as to the vote he should now give on what was called the highway qualification, would be different from what it had been on a former occasion he felt it a duty to make a brief explanation of the motives which governed him. The qualifications reported by the first committee; were of three kinds, viz: the payment of a money tax, the performance of military duty, and working on the highway. The two former had met with his decided approbation; to the latter he wished to add the additional qualification, that the elector should, if he be paid no tax, performed no militia duty, but offered his vote on the sole ground that he had labored on the highways also be a householder; and that was the only point in which he had dissented from the report of the committee. To effect this object, he supported a motion made by a gentleman from Dutchess to strike out the highway qualification, with a view of adding 'householder.' That motion, after full discussion, had prevailed by a majority of twenty. But what was the consequence. The very next day, the same gentleman who thought the highway tax too liberal a qualification, voted that every person of twenty-one years of age, having a certain term of residence and excluding actual paupers, should be permitted to vote for any officer in the government, from the highest to the lowest—far outvoting, in this particular, the other states in the Union, and voicing from the extreme of restricted, to that of universal suffrage. The convention sensible of the very great stride which had been taken by the last vote the next morning referred the whole matter to a select committee of thirteen, whose report was now under consideration. This committee though composed of gentlemen, a large majority of whom had voted for the proposition for universal suffrage, had now recommended a middle course, viz—the payment of a money tax, or labor on the highway, excluding militia service, which had, however, been very properly reinstated. The question then recurred; shall an attempt be again made to add that of householder, to the highway qualification and run the hazard of the re-introduction of the proposition of the gentleman from Washington, abandoning all qualifications, and throwing open the ballot boxes to every body—demolishing at one blow, the distinctive character of an elector, the proudest and most invaluable attribute of freemen?'

On the final vote Mr. Van Buren voted for the original report of the committee, which 'extended the privilege of voting to all free white citizens who had paid any tax; or did any military duty, or worked on the highway; though as we have seen, he would have preferred an addition to the last qualification, requiring the candidate in case he possessed neither of the other qualifications, to be a householder.'

A VOICE FROM THE HERMITAGE.

Repeated attempts have been made by the opposition prints, to induce the people to believe that Gen. Jackson is hostile to Mr. VAN BUREN, and that his political sentiments are decidedly in favor of Gen. HARRISON upon the ground that the latter is a military chieftain. This slander against that good old man, has been circulated far and wide. Yet we are pleased to see that it has met with a check, and that too from the pen of the old hero himself, as will be seen by the following letter. This last attempt of Whig duplicity, exhibits federal meanness in its true character. It is an outrage upon the intelligence and good sense of the American people, and a foul attempt to stab the reputation of a patriot and soldier, who has already filled the measure of his country's glory to overflowing. Verily, such conduct will meet its reward.

HERMITAGE, Jan 23, 1840.

To the Editor of the Nashville Union.

Sir—From the many letters which have been recently addressed to me asking for an expression of my views relative to the leading measures of the present administration of the General Government, some of which are from well known and respectable sources, representing that efforts are made in various quarters of the Union to incite a belief in the public mind that my confidence in the present Chief Magistrate has been impaired, it seems to be proper that some steps should be taken by me to undeceive those who are thus imposed upon. For this purpose, sir, I beg the favor of you to give a place in your columns to this note which I trust will be as acceptable to those who have written to me on the subject as a direct answer in the form of a letter would be.

From whatever cause, or on whatever authority, statements may be made representing me as having changed my views of the leading measures of the present administration, they are unfounded and unjust. Of the wisdom and importance of these measures, and particularly of that which aims at the establishment by Congress of a fiscal agency for the Government without the use or aid of Banks, time and the fullest opportunity for reflection have left not a doubt on my mind. And the ability which Mr. Van Buren has manifested in developing the bearing of this great question, and of its antagonist one, on the free institutions of our country, and the firmness he has displayed in the face of every temptation to compromise them, entitle him in my judgment to a rank not inferior to that of Mr. Jefferson or Mr. Madison as a patriot and a statesman.

With such opinions of the present Chief Magistrate and of the measures to which he has given his sanction—opinions which I have never failed to express when I have had occasion to speak on the subject—it is surprising how any one could take up the idea that my confidence in him had been impaired, or that I had become indifferent as to the choice to be made at the next election between him and General Harrison. Looking upon the latter gentleman as the representative of Federal principles in the present contest, and knowing that he has never been identified with the republican party in any of its great struggles against the influences which have been calculated to take power from the people and the States and give it to the General Government, to suppose that I would for a moment think of giving my support to such an individual as a candidate for the Presidency would be a mockery of all public principle.

In respect to the statements which have been made in several of the newspapers of the day that I disagree with many of my political friends in the estimate they have formed of Gen. Harrison's military merits, I am not aware of having said any thing to justify them. Having never admired Gen. Harrison as a military man, or considered him as possessing the qualities which constitute the commander of an army. I have looked at his political relations alone in the opinions I have formed or expressed respecting his pretensions to the Presidency, and the consequences which would result to the country should the suffrages of the people place him in that high office.

I am very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
ANDREW JACKSON.

Pickled.—The opposition, we suspect, begin to fear that they will not keep till November. The Baltimore Patriot, for instance, is publishing a new article called "Log Cabin Pickles, preserved in hard Cider," and "dedicated to the Whig National Convention. The same paper advises every true friend of the log cabin candidate to "get a jar." They may pickle themselves for summer if they like, but we propose to pickle 'em ourselves in November, and it is quite unnecessary for the "true friends" of old Tip to "get a jar" now at their own expense. The best "jar" they can purchase will be no "great shakes" compared to the one they will shortly get from the democratic party.—Pennsylvania.

THE BET TAKEN.

Mr. ENRON:—The Patriot and Democrat, a week since, gave notice that some whigs stood ready to bet \$400 that Harrison would be elected—\$400 that he would get the vote of Pennsylvania—\$400 that he would get the vote of Ohio—and \$400 that he would get the vote of Virginia—the money to be deposited in the Hartford Bank. This part of the arrangement is objected to. The Hartford Bank is probably a party to the bet, and it would be unfair to give them the use of the money; besides as banks have no souls, they might not pay over the money.

You are now authorized to say that responsible men will take the bets. The \$2,000 shall be deposited in specie—gold or silver—with Col. John Ishman of Colchester, an honorable man, and a whig, and on his giving notice that the Patriot folks have furnished him the money \$2,000, we will furnish and deposit with him the same sum.

And now, we go farther. We will bet \$500 that Harrison will not get his own township—\$500 that he will not get Ohio—\$500 that he will not get one Southern State—\$500 that he will not get Kentucky—and \$2,000 that he will not get a third of the Electoral votes. All the money to be deposited in specie with Col. Ishman, to be delivered over to the winner the day after he ascertains who is chosen. We will also bet that Mr. Van Buren carries the State of New York by 15,000 majority. Let the whigs put down the money. If they are in earnest, let them show it. The money is ready for them.—Times.

The Candidate of "Necessity."—The Columbus [O.] Enquirer, a Whig paper has the following:

"Gen. Harrison is not supported by us from choice, but from necessity. We pretend not to approve of all his political views and practices; nor shall we contend that he is a man of extraordinary wisdom or virtue."

Neither does the Louisville Journal support Gen. Harrison from choice. Before Harrison was nominated, it was as violent in abusing him as almost any paper in the country.

Reception of Col. Richard M. Johnson at New York.—The reception of the Vice President at New York, was one of the greatest and most enthusiastic processions ever witnessed. The Herald a Whig paper, speaks thus of it:—

"The Vice President accompanied by the Mayor, in a barouche drawn by four cream coloured horses followed, and then came the committee in carriages, the military, and a variety of societies and associations. The procession was triumphal throughout. As he passed up Broadway every light of stens was crowded—every window was filled with ladies, who greeted the hero with smiles and waving of handkerchiefs. As the procession turned out of Broadway three cheers were given, and the passage down the Bowry was frequently cheered, and pistols were occasionally fired."

'Which is Gen. Harrison's cage?' enquired an urchin at the menagerie, the other day. 'Put that boy out,' said a federal office-holder to one of the keepers.'

The democracy of Pennsylvania are beginning to buckle on their armor for the contest; several great gatherings of the people have recently taken place in the western counties, and the resolutions passed by them, breathe the pure spirit of republicanism. Those who advocate a change in Government from a democracy to something else, which they are afraid to name, will find that the people will not submit to a change, especially such a change as the federalists want to impose upon them. Register and Democrat.

Political.—The Hon. R. M. T. Hunter, Speaker of the House of Representatives, has addressed a letter to his constituents, in which he declines a re-election, and offers, if his constituents ask, his immediate resignation.

They wouldn't go.—On the Fourth, in Providence, R. I. the carriages for the Revolutionary soldiers, were decked with Tippecanoe flags. It was no go. The old patriots wouldn't sail under them. The flags had to be taken down before a single patriot would enter them.

Good Signs.—Not less than six democratic papers have been started lately in Ohio and Kentucky. They are, 'The Flail' printed at Akron, O.; 'The Democratic Raap,' at Newark, O.; 'The Hickory Club,' at Canton, O.; 'The Kinderhook Dutchman,' Xenia, O.; 'The Log Cabin Humbug,' Maysville, Ky.; 'Yankee Doodle Covington,' Ky.

No Dividends.—The U. S. Bank has decided that it is inexpedient to declare dividends. The Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company has come to the same conclusion and determination. We pity the stockholders that have nothing else to live upon.

Democratic prospects look well in Kentucky. Whiggery will get used up even in that State.

THE COLUMBIA DEMOCRAT.

"TRUTH WITHOUT FEAR"



BLOOMSBURG:

SATURDAY, JULY 18, 1840.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION—1840.

FOR PRESIDENT,

MARTIN VAN BUREN.

FOR VICE PRESIDENT,

RICHARD M. JOHNSON.

AND THE

CONSTITUTIONAL TREASURY.

ELECTORAL TICKET.

Table listing electoral tickets for Senators and Electors, including names like James Clarke, Geo. G. Leiper, Col. John Thompson, etc.

The old saying, that an Ethiopian cannot change his skin, or a Leopard his spots is strictly verified in the case of the little man of Danville. He is by nature, a low, ill bred fellow, destitute of principle, and of all moral honesty; and it is impossible to change him. You may lecture him as much as you please, he still remains the same. He cannot change his skin. The Hog will wallow in the mire. His vile and malicious disposition leads him to believe that all others are as dishonest as himself, and act from the same selfish and knavish motives. The only weapons that he uses in opposition to facts and arguments, is slander and vituperation. He cannot indite an article without it embraces a personal attack on some individual. It is the element in which he lives. The highest moral and intellectual character is no protection of the ruthlessness of his revengeful feelings, should it come in contact with his interest. No services that he may have rendered to him or his friends heretofore, gives him now the least protection from his villainy, when he is placed in a situation that their interests may clash. As an evidence of this, look at his conduct towards J. S. Ingram, when he commenced the publication of the "Columbia Democrat." Mr. Ingram, had for years published a Democratic paper in a neighboring county, and had been lauded to the skies by him as a firm, consistent, democratic Editor. He had applauded him, time and again for his sterling and unyielding democracy. But no sooner was he located in Bloomsburg, and had declared his determination to support the rights of the "Fishing Creek Settlement" than the tune was changed. He had become the most base, unprincipled scoundrel living. He was a "Pirate" a "Federalist" a "Liar," and the truth was not in him. In fact, no words could be found in "Webster's big Dictionary," or invented by him sufficiently strong to express his hatred & feeling towards him. At the expiration of a year Mr. Ingram removed to Pottsville, and we came to Bloomsburg. A sudden conversion came over the little man.—His former stereotype edition of praise, of the able, talented and sterling Democratic Editor, Mr. Ingram was renewed, and his abuse and slander turned upon us. What constituted Mr. Ingram's "political knavery?" Was he any more of a political knaver while here than he was before or is now? No he was the same man then, that he is now; but he was publishing a paper in Bloomsburg, and was likely from his situation, to circumvent some of the base schemes of the little man. This was a sufficient apology for him to "plot his destiny," by destroying his political and moral character. But thanks to the good sense of the community, his barbed arrows passed by him like the "idle wind." Mr. Ingram was then as much above his malice, as he is now above his praise. Neither of them could effect him, as it was well known that the abuse and praise were alike inten-

ded to benefit the little man's personal interest, and that of his Danville friends. As respects ourselves, we have fought in defence. He made a disgraceful attack on us without any just cause and so long as we are able to wield a pen, we will turn his shots, and if his back should ache he may console himself with the reflection that he merits all that can be given him.

Valentine Best says that we offered to barter away the rights of the upper portion of the county, by assuring him, and others to assure him, that if he would in recommending us for supervisor, he would make no opposition to his election last fall. This we pronounce a deliberate falsehood. It is true that we had some conversation with him, in relation to the pointment of supervisor, and he offered sign our recommendation; but their assurances of the kind ever offered by ourselves, nor by our friends, to our knowledge or by our consent; but he did propose to our friends to sustain us for the appointment of the "Democrat." This proposition was indignantly rejected. The instance of getting the "Democrat" out the way, overcame his scruples of conscience of extending us "the right hand fellowship." He was willing that we, though we had not been in the county year, should hold this important office, provided he could be benefited by it, and interest of the Fishing Creek Settlers abandoned to his tender mercies. Oh, what a disinterested politician!

There is one admission in the above that we did not expect even the baseness of Valentine Best would allow him to make, though he is possessed of the most abominable impudence, to wit: that his election last fall would have been destructive to the "interests of the upper portion of the county," as it puts the lie direct upon his "tender mercies." It is, however, all of a piece with the course pursued by the Danville Junto. Before an election, their cry has always been, no local question should be brought into question, but when success they have universally boasted of a local victory, and it is now evident, from Best's admission that had he been elected, welkin would have rung with shouts of "pirates and loafers," as he has been pleased to term them, of the upper section of the county.

The little man professes great friendship for the Fishing Creek Settlement, and he is constantly abusing every one who advocates their rights and interest, or who is likely to become prominent in their support. He never even attempts to show a large majority of the county are not seriously injured by the Courts being removed in Danville, or to refute the arguments are brought in favor of a removal. No he dare not, because he knows his gross are wholly untenable, but like all other and debased minds, who know they are wrong, he would cover up his inquiries and slander of individuals to draw attention of the injured from the real subject in dispute, and try to make them believe that it is nothing but a personal quarrel, or an attempt to divide the democratic party. We have shown by his acts that he was always opposed to the interest of the "Fishing Creek Settlement." This he virtually admits to be true in his last issue by neither denying it, or even attempting to palliate his conduct towards them, with his usual slang whang, pour out seals of wrath upon our devoted brethren. He raves, stamps and tears about his ravenous tiger when he thinks he is securing his prey after having been severely scorched with pointed arrows. He appears to be completely choked with rage as he has thought of having the iniquity he has practiced for years exposed to public view. We can tell him, however, that we can do on as much as he pleases, it will not make us falter in our course or satisfy the Fishing Creek Settlement, that he is a better specimen of theirs than we are, nor will make that that believe Danville is any nearer the centre of the county now than it was twenty five years ago.

A Veteran.—The Nantuxet Light states that the recent sheep shearing in the town, among the operatives at the penitentiary, the venerable Daniel Allen, who has attended eighty successive shearings, never missing one since the year 1760, at which time he was five years old.