

was possible that Stephen might not see them, for he had not yet looked round. Least the sound of the oars might attract his attention. Charles had instantly, on coming in sight, ordered the boys to stop rowing, and he had grasped his paddle with breathless anxiety, and waited for Stephen again to disappear. But just as he was upon the point of passing behind some trees, where the boat would be out of his hearing and looked around. He stopped short, turned round, and stood for the space of a minute looking steadily at the boat. Then lifting his hand, and shaking his fist resolutely at Charles, as much as to say I understand you, he started into a quick run.

'Now, boys,' said Charles, 'buckle to your oars for your lives, and if you get to the shore so I can reach the school-house before Stephen does, I'll give you half a dollar a piece.'

This of course added new life to the boys, and increased speed to the boat. Their little canoe flew over the water almost like a bird, carrying a white bone in her mouth and leaving a long ripple on the glassy wave behind her. Charles' hands trembled, but still he did good execution with his paddle. Although Stephen upon the run a very different thing from Stephen at a slow walk, Charles still had strong hopes of winning the race and gaining his point. He several times caught glimpses of Stephen through the trees, and, as well as he could judge, the boat had a little the best of it. But when they came out into the last opening, where for a little way they had a fair view of each other, Charles thought Stephen ran faster than ever; and although he was now considerably nearer the school-house than Stephen was, he still trembled for the result. They were now within fifty rods of the shore, and Charles appealed again to the boys' love of money.

'Now,' said he, 'we have not a minute to spare. If we gain the point, I'll give you a dollar a piece.'

The boys strained every nerve, and Charles' paddle made the water fly like the tail of a wounded shark. When within half a dozen rods of the shore, Charles urged them again to spring with all their might, and one of the boys, making a desperate plunge upon his oar, snatched it in two. The first pull of the other oar, headed the boat from land. Charles saw at once that the delay must be fatal, if he depended on the boat to carry him ashore. The water was but three feet deep, and the bottom was sandy. He sprang from the boat, and rushed toward the shore as fast as he was able to press through the water. He flew up the bank, and along the road, till he reached the school house. The door was open, but he could see no one within. Several children were at play round the door, who, having seen Charles approach with such haste, stood with mouths and eyes wide open, looking at him.

'Where's the schoolma'm?' said Charles hastily, to one of the largest boys.

'Why,' said the boy opening his eyes still wider, 'is any of the folks dead?'

'You little rascal, I say, where's the schoolma'm?'

'She jest went down that road,' said the boy, 'two or three minutes ago.'

'Was she alone?' said Charles.

'She started alone,' said the boy, and a man met her out there a little ways, and turned about and went with her.'

Charles felt that his cake was all dough again, and that he might as well give it up for a bad job, and go home. Stephen Jones and Lucy Brown walked very leisurely home through the woods, and Charles and the boys went very feebly in the boat across the pond. They even stopped by the way, and caught a mess of fish, since the boys had thrown their lines into the boat when they started. And when they reached the wharf, Charles, in order to show that he had been fishing, took a large string of the fish in his hand, and carried them up to the house. Miss Lucy Brown, on her way home through the woods, had undoubtedly been informed of the proposed tea-party for the evening, to which she was to be invited, and to which Stephen Jones and Susan Jones were not invited; and when Miss Lucy's invitation came, she sent word back, that she was engaged.

'Sam what are you doing there on the floor?'

'Why, sir, I've had a shock.'

'A shock?'

'Yes sir.'

'What kind of a shock?'

'Why sir, one of your subscribers came in during your absence and offered to pay a year's subscription which produced such effect upon me that I have been perfectly helpless ever since.'

'No wonder, Sam; but cheer up, if you survive this you are safe—as there is little prospect of another such a catastrophe in this office.'

The Picayune tells a story of an old boy so far gone that he was not able to sit. He used to lean on the sunny side of the barn without strength enough to wink the flies off from his eyelids, and his owner was finally compelled to get a northern horse to help him draw his last breath.

[CORRESPONDENCE.]

JONES' HOTEL, 7th Dec. 1842.

Messrs. Miffin, & Parry—

Dear Sirs—I deem no apology necessary in asking you to publish the following correspondence. The facts stated by Mr. RUSH, in his letter, are so extraordinary; and show such a remarkable omission of Pennsylvanians to fill the higher offices of the country, that they should, in my opinion, be made known to every citizen of the State; and particularly at this moment, when the friends of Mr. BUCHANAN, a native Pennsylvanian, are about to present his claims for the Presidency of the Union, to a Democratic National Convention.

Very truly, your friend,

GEORGE PLITT.

JONES' HOTEL, Monday morning,

5th December, 1842.

My Dear Sir—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of Saturday, and beg to thank you for the valuable information it imparts. The facts stated, are so remarkable, and so very far from being generally known, that I trust you will give me your permission to have the letter published.

With high regard,

I am, sincerely, your friend,

GEORGE PLITT.

Hon. RICHARD RUSH, Sydenham.

SYDENHAM, Tuesday, Dec. 6, 1842.

My Dear Sir—I have received your note of yesterday, asking permission to publish the letter I wrote you on Saturday.

In answer, I must say that it was written with no view of publication—not the slightest—but merely to take up the thread of an accidental conversation between us, which chanced to be of two eminent Pennsylvanians—our distinguished Senator, Mr. Buchanan, and our naval hero, Commodore Stewart. I am not at present aware, however, that it contains any errors, or any material ones, though thrown together hastily and familiarly, on the spot of the occasion, with no copy kept.

Saying thus much, as some guard to me, if the letter be deemed at all worth publicity, I do not perceive any sufficient ground for objecting to your request; and remain, my dear sir, with renewed assurances of friendly esteem, yours, very faithfully,

RICHARD RUSH.

GEORGE PLITT, Esq.

SYDENHAM, near Philadelphia,

Dec. 3, 1842.

My Dear Sir,—I stretched to day for the bundle of newspapers I alluded to in our conversation yesterday, and which I promised to send you without being able to find them; but can recall from memory the chief facts they embodied, which is all that is now important to our topic. As for example:—

1. No Pennsylvanian has ever been President.

2. Nor Vice President. These facts every body knows.

3. Nor has any Pennsylvanian ever as much as been put in regular nomination for the Presidency, by either political party, since the government began.

4. No Pennsylvanian has ever been appointed Chief Justice of the United States, —the head of the Judiciary.

5. Nor Secretary of State:—the head of the Cabinet. In a list I have seen, Mr. Pickens, who was a short time Secretary of State, under the elder Adams, was set down as from Pennsylvania, but this is a mistake. He once owned a small farm in one of the northern counties, where he lived a little while, I believe; but was a Massachusetts man, out and out,—born there, permanently residing there, and dying there.

6. No Pennsylvanian has been on the bench of the Supreme Court of the United States. Mr. Wilson excepted, who was appointed a Judge on the adoption of the Federal Constitution, a few years after he came from Scotland, where he was born;—and with the further exception of Judge Baldwin, originally from Connecticut, tho' he also once represented us ably in Congress from a Western district.

7. No Pennsylvanian has ever been Secretary of War; an office which, besides the patronage of the army proper, draws to itself the whole Commissariat and the entire Indian interests and agencies.

8. No Pennsylvanian has ever been Postmaster General; an office possessing more wide-spread and effective patronage than any under the Federal government.

9. Of the two great foreign appointments those to England and France, no Pennsylvanian has ever had either, with a single exception in the person of him who now writes to you; for certainly Mr. Gallatin, who once indeed resided a few years among us, after first settling in Massachusetts, on his arrival from Europe, and who has lived permanently in New York since his appointment ceased, can have little claim to be handed down by history, as a Pennsylvanian, however proud any state might be of his name.

10. In regard to the important committees in Congress, there has been an extraordinary neglect of this state. Mr. Brown, our patriotic and spirited member of the House of Representatives, from this county, lately stated facts in this connection, upon the floor of the house, that might have seemed incredible. They were, that

in the present Congress, Pennsylvania had not, at the time he spoke, a single member upon.

1. The Committee of Ways and Means

2. Nor upon the Committee of Foreign Relations.

3. Nor upon the Committee of Public Lands [the great measure of distributing them among the States being then under deliberation.]

4. Nor a single one upon the Military Committee.

5. Nor a single one upon the Naval Committee; [though our unsettled affairs with England made the prospect of war, at that time, by no means improbable on the contingency of which, appropriations for defence were, to some extent, going on.]

The above gives you the broad outline of what we talked about, omitting much of the filling up.

Now, let the favorable side of the case for us be presented:—

Pennsylvania, during the fifty odd years that the federal government has been in operation, has had,

1. Three Attorneys General; an office of not the slightest political patronage or favor [One State in the Union; Virginia, has had double that number of Secretaries of State during this time—from names illustrious, I admit.]

2. She has had one Secretary of the Navy, Mr. Jones.

3. She has had several Secretaries of the Treasury; an office which has generally impaired the present popularity of its incumbents, and; from its nature, will be likely to continue to do so, in our country; and that draws to itself no distinguished patronage whatever, compared to the Secretaryships of State, War, and the Navy.

4. She has had an abundance of the second and third rate posts, and of the clerkships at Washington; as she has also ever mustered strong on the subordinate committees in both Houses of Congress.

Thus, my dear sir, it has fared as regards the allotment of high federal honors, with this our ancient commonwealth; the commonwealth from whose capital, Independence was proclaimed to the world near seventy years ago; and whose resources of all kinds, towards making up the importance and power of the republic, have, ever since that day, been in the first class, and for a length of years stood at number one.

The facts are very remarkable, and to any citizen of this state reasoning rightly, and feeling rightly, supply matter for curious reflection. If he believes that from the Revolution's dawn to the present day, she has produced her full portion of men known to genius, philosophy, statesmanship, literature, oratory, patriotism, valor, and other just renown, whether in professional life, in legislative halls, in the field, or upon the ocean. That her citizens have, nevertheless, been astonishingly in the back ground, compared with those of all the other old States, of her size and class, is certain; and now the new ones would seek to eclipse her too. The question is, what are the causes?

I do not mean to discuss them here though I should not be unwilling to attempt their discussion under proper circumstances if necessary. I have simply but most cheerfully, thrown hastily upon paper what you see, in consequence of the wish you expressed; remaining with cordial esteem Yours very faithfully,

RICHARD RUSH.

GEORGE PLITT, Esq.

GOV. CASS AND THE PRESIDENCY.

This gentleman, since his return from Europe, has met with the civilities which the high character of his public services merit, independent of all partisan considerations. In Boston and in New York he has been waited upon by large numbers of the citizens; ready to show their respect for his talents and worth.

The name of Mr. Cass having been frequently mentioned as a presidential candidate; Hon. Mahlon Dickerson has addressed to him a letter, which gives him an opportunity to define his position. Mr. Dickerson, after alluding to the nomination, tells Mr. Cass the manner in which his name is mentioned by some of the Whig papers, is such as to excite suspicion among those who do not know the Ex-Minister, that he favors Whig principles; and that his views on a National Bank are identical with those of the Whigs. Mr. D. takes such explanation as shall be satisfactory to the political friends of Mr. Cass.

In reply, Mr. C. says that he finds no difficulty in giving a prompt and unequivocal answer. He says he is a member of Democratic party, and has been so from his youth—that he was first called into public life by Mr. Jefferson, thirty-six years ago, is a firm believer in the principles laid down by him, and has never swayed an instant. He thinks the feelings and experience of the country have decided against a National Bank, and that no such institution should be chartered. He adds as the result of his foreign observation the opinion, that while a due degree of credit is highly useful in the business concerns of a country, a sound specie basis is essential to its permanent prosperity.

Such is the definition of the position of Mr. Cass. Polypicians may find still an open question or two in it; but we leave to them the argument.

The Bank of Baltimore has declared a half yearly dividend of three per cent.

Extraordinary Steamship.—We copy from a London paper the following narrative of a remarkable voyage from Tampico to England, in which the vessel was navigated by the master alone.

On Tuesday, the 18th of October, the brigantine Eddes, of London, Shaddock, master, from Tampico for Liverpool, laden with fustic, arrived at Milford, having left the former port on the 7th of August. The disastrous voyage commenced by the vessel striking on the bar in coming out, where she hung for some time, and which caused her to be leaky. The next day John Powell and John Ellis, two of the seamen who were natives of Port Madoc, were taken ill of yellow fever, and both died on the 19th. The weather being hot and sultry, their bodies were in a few hours afterwards committed to the deep, the captain having previously read over them the burial service.

After being at sea four days, the whole of the crew were below ill of fever, with the exception of the master. Shaddock hoped to be able to make one of the ports in the island of Cuba. He therefore, at one A. M. on the 23d, bore away for the Havana, and at six A. M. on the following day, made the land to the eastward of Havana, but could not get in, in consequence of the lightness of the wind. All his efforts to make the land having proved unsuccessful, the captain notwithstanding the whole of the crew were ill, determined to navigate the vessel across the Atlantic by himself, which he has succeeded in doing, having derived only occasional assistance from the carpenter, who partially recovered, but whose services were, however, not of much value, he never having been to sea previous to this voyage. On the 21st of September, he spoke the American ship Kentucky, from Liverpool to Boston, and asked the captain the latitude and longitude, and told him, that part of his crew were dead and the remainder very ill, and begged he would spare him a man.

The captain of the American vessel gave him the latitude and longitude, but made him no answer respecting rendering any assistance, and proceeded on his voyage. On the 5th of October, the mate, Mr. E. Bannister a native of London, died. Five days afterwards Cape Clear light was seen, and on the 18th of October, the vessel was safely anchored in Milford Haven. The remainder of the crew, consisting of an ordinary seaman and a boy, continue very ill. Captain Shaddock is worn quite thin from his unparalleled exertions, and deserves to be handsomely rewarded for bringing the vessel home under such trying circumstances. He is a native of Pembroke Dock.

Some extraordinary feats of seamanship were performed by him during the voyage. For instance, on the 1st of September, in lat. 31 N. the weather being squally, he took in the flying jib, royal, topgallant sail, and took a reef in the foretop sail; a cross sea running at the time, and the ship laboring very much. On another occasion a heavy squall threw the ship on her beam ends, and he had to cut the sails to save the vessel from upsetting; and again to bend others in their stead when the weather moderated. He managed to hoist them up with the windlass, holding on with one hand, and heaving with the other.

On Monday morning week, he was two hours by himself double reefing the topsail, and reefing the mainsail. What added to his accumulated difficulties, was his having to attend daily to the pump, which had worn him down, he states, more than anything else. He has been whole days constantly pumping, and succeeded in sucking the pumps when there had been four feet water in the hold. When the weather was fine, he would set all sail, and when it changed he took in and reefed as circumstances required. Thus he performed all the arduous duties of a whole ship's company, having only the occasional help of the carpenter, whose health was weakly.—Camarian.

Horors of a Shipwreck.—The Boston Transcript gives the following account of the sufferings of a young man from New York, who was recently taken from a wreck and carried into that city:

'It appears from his statement that he remained forty nine days on the wreck, with little or no food. A little flour was washed up from the hold, which they collected, wet with salt water, and dried it in the sun, and ate. It was known that there was a canister of salmon, preserved in oil, in the cabin.—Fosdick dove down several times, and succeeded in obtaining six, on which they lived for some time; after that nothing remained to support life. Of the seven that remained (two being drowned in the fore-castle when the Naia upset,) it is remarkable that the most fleshy, and apparently the strongest, died first. Every thing was done by Fosdick to keep up the spirits of his companions, but they failed, one after another, and as soon as hope fled they yielded and died. When the weather was at all rough, they were obliged to take to the fore-top, and lash themselves, there to remain till it became calm. They had now all perished but two.—Fordick and a companion, who were in top one dark night, when it began to rain. Fosdick reached over to where his companion lay, to rouse him to obtain a few drops of water as it fell, but found him dead. In the morning he cut him loose, and he fell into the sea. He then remained alone six six days before he was taken off by Captain Kimball.'

DEMOCRAT.

"TRUTH WITHOUT FEAR"

BLOOMSBURG:

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1842.

FOR PRESIDENT.

JAMES BUCHANAN.

(Subject to the decision of a National Convention.)

WANTED

A FEW BUSHELS OF WHEAT, CORN, OATS, BUCKWHEAT AND POTATOES.

In payment for papers at this Office.

DEMOCRATIC COUNTY MEETING.

The democratic citizens of Columbia county are hereby requested to meet, in County Meeting, at the house of C. DOEBLER, in BLOOMSBURG, on

Saturday the 31st day of December,

inst. at one o'clock, P. M. for the purpose of expressing their views in relation to the candidate for the next Presidency, and of the expediency of appointing delegates to the state convention to be held at Harrisburg, on the 8th of January next.

DANIEL FERNWALD,

STEPHEN BALDY,

CHARLES KAHLER,

CHARLES F. MANN.

Democratic Standing Committee of Columbia county.

Dec. 16, 1842.

Curious Antiquities.—Mr. H. Henry

R. Schoolcraft has been read before the Royal Geographical Society of London, a memoir describing a very curious inscription on a small tabular stone, found in one of the large tumuli in the Ohio valley. It consist of twenty-four characters, arranged between parallel lines. Several of these correspond with the Runic, others bear a resemblance to the old Etruscan or Pictish. A copy of the inscription has been put in the hands of a person learned in the ancient Druidical characters of Britain, and another forwarded to the Royal Society of Northern Antiquarians at Copenhagen, in the hope of its being read, and of thus throwing light on the Ante-Columbian history of America. Many other articles were in this tumulus, which is situated at Grave Creek, in the Western Virginia, particularly a number of small seashells, bone or ivory heads, perforated plates of mica, and several copper ornaments, together with the osseous remains of three skeletons, in a state almost of complete decay.

Terrible.—It is ascertained by computation, says the N. Y. Tribune that the number of lives lost since November 10th by the wrecking and burning of vessels, and the swamping of boats, is five hundred and seventy-eight, and of this number, one hundred and thirty-four were drowned by the swamping of the ordinary boats. Life boats should be more generally used.

New York Bank.—The banking capital of New York, estimated at the selling prices, is said to have sunk, since 1836; from twenty-four to fifteen millions of dollars. One third of this difference has been sunk in bad debts.

The Galena Gazette states that the product of the Lead Mines alone has this year been worth almost one million of dollars, this at the low price which the article has borne.

A Mr. John Perkins was fined \$3 by the Police Court at Boston, a day or two since, for tying his wife to a bedpost, to prevent her from going out shopping.

Joel Hotchkiss, of Guilford, Conn. was recently fined \$100 and imprisoned six months for whipping his wife. The fine should be given to her.

The House of Representatives of New Hampshire have declared by a vote of 111 to 100, in favor of the total abolition of capital punishment.

President Tyler has been confined to his apartment by serious illness, but is, we are pleased to learn, recovering.