

## LEGISLATIVE.

The following interesting debate took place in the house of representatives, on Friday, the 31st of March. It shows up the board of Canal Commissioners, in not a very enviable light. We hope the question will be probed to the bottom, and if the Commissioners have been tampering with members of the house, in order to sustain themselves in their office, we hope they will receive that justice at the hands of the Legislature which they will so richly deserve.

Mr. HECKMAN submitted the following:

Whereas: it is alleged that certain members of the board of Canal Commissioners of this Commonwealth, have held out inducements or bribes to the members of the Legislature to corrupt them, and thereby influence their votes on certain measures pending before the Legislature; therefore

Resolved, That a select committee of three be appointed to examine said charges and have authority to send for persons and papers.

Mr. HECKMAN said it had been alleged, and he thought it could be proved, that the Canal Commissioners had been endeavoring to use the influence of their office, by holding out inducements to members to vote against the expected veto of the Canal Commissioners' bill.

Mr. HINCHMAN.—What veto?

Mr. HECKMAN.—That will be in to-morrow.

Mr. SHERWOOD.—I hope there will be no opposition to the resolution.

Mr. HECKMAN.—I hope not.

Mr. SHERWOOD.—Such a grave charge ought to be inquired into.

Mr. MORRIS.—But the gentleman from Northampton, should wait until the bribe is accepted.

Mr. HECKMAN.—I perceive there are members here disposed to treat this matter lightly; but there are those present who know the truth of it. Now, sir, I call upon the member from Northampton, to rise in his place, and state what he knows, (laughter.)

Mr. HILL rising in his seat, half inclined to respond to the call upon him resumed it.

Mr. HINCHMAN.—I move that the matter be referred to the committee appointed, to examine into the alleged frauds on the Delaware division.

Mr. HECKMAN hoped that the amendment would not prevail, and that the original motion would.

Mr. SHERWOOD expressed his hope that no opposition would be made to the resolution, and that a committee would be appointed to lay all the facts before the Legislature.

Mr. LOWRY.—I would suggest to the gentleman from Northampton, to cover the whole ground by making an inquiry in which the charges against certain members being bought up at \$100 per head, to vote for John H. Dimock. (A Laugh.)

Mr. HECKMAN said that this was a serious matter. It was a matter which he thought inflicted a wound fatal to the liberties of the country. If members of the Legislature were to be tampered with by interested officers, it was striking a blow at the Constitution of the land. The truth was, and it could not be denied that offers of appointments had been made by the Canal Commissioners to members of this House, at least to one or more, that if he would vote in favor of the veto on the Canal Commissioners' bill, they would appoint him to any office he asked. And if he could not perform the duties himself, they would give it to any one he named, and he could get some one to perform the duties at a less price than he himself should receive, and thus the profits would come to himself. Now if this grave charge was true, it showed corruption to exist which ought to be rooted out. He would therefore say the matter ought to be investigated, and if the Canal Commissioners were innocent, let the fact come to their benefit, and if guilty, let the consequence fall on their heads where it should fall.

Mr. HINCHMAN withdrew his motion.

Mr. BRAWLEY. There has been a committee appointed, of which the gentleman is the head, and we have not yet heard from it.

Mr. HECKMAN. It was true there had been a committee appointed in relation to the Delaware division, but there had not been one in regard to the charge of bribery under consideration.

After some remarks of a conversational character between Mr. Brawley and Mr. Heckman.

Mr. JAMES observed that it was a remarkable coincidence to say the least of it that resolutions for the appointment of committees of inquiry, had been again and again introduced, just about the time when a veto was expected to come in. He did not mean to say that there was any design in the matter, but it was truly a singular coincidence. The gentleman had frequently predicted vetoes, and how he came to know that one would be received here to-morrow, he (Mr. James) was at a loss to divine. He had no objection to granting the gentleman a committee, although he must say that the gentleman seemed to pursue the Canal Commissioners with a spirit bordering on persecution. He meant no disrespect to the gentleman, who was

only a man, and liable to err like the rest of us.

Messrs. BRAWLEY, JAMES and HECKMAN having here made a few remarks.

Mr. ELWELL said that no one had attempted to deny the charges against the Canal Commissioners, and he therefore wished to know whether those charges were more than fifteen minutes old!

Mr. HECKMAN.—The gentleman from Armstrong (Mr. Hill) can give you all the information.

Mr. ELWELL.—The gentleman from Armstrong had been called upon twice, and gentlemen had gone to him and told him to say nothing on the subject. There was not a solitary thing to support the allegations. Without naming the officers, without naming the members on the subject upon which the charge of bribery rested, he (Mr. Elwell) asked if this House would, in the dark; place upon record, at the instance of a man who had swallowed up the Canal Commissioners—he might almost go so far as to say that he was thirsting for their blood—grave charges affecting their honor and character? It was certainly a most beautiful indictment against the canal board! He had not heard the charges, nor did he hear that any had been made, and yet he was called upon to vote in entire ignorance of the facts in the case. The gentleman said to be in possession of the information had declined to give it, and yet he, (Mr. E.) was asked to vote for the appointment of a committee, a few hours perhaps before action was had on the veto on the Canal Commissioners' bill. He did not wish to throw any embarrassment in the way of the resolution, but he would say that it was wrong to raise a committee without first knowing what the charges were.

Mr. HILL then rose and made the following statement to the House: On day before yesterday, General McCulloch (a member of the House) while walking up to the Capitol, told me that I could get the situation of Collector at Freeport, if I wanted it. He said he had seen Mr. Reynolds who was then sick, and as the Commissioners would make a change there, I could get the office, as he has it from the best authority. I talked about it some little and told him, as I had a family and lived on a farm, I did not think it would suit me. He then told me that I could get it for any friend that I desired to have appointed. I told him I would consider the matter. Afterward, we had a conversation on the same subject, at the General's seat in this House and I asked him what consideration it was expected I would give for this office. He said that he did not know exactly, but supposed the Commissioners would expect me to sustain the veto of the Canal Commissioners' bill, but that I should see the Commissioners in regard to this matter. Last evening, Mr. Kerr of Mercer, took hold of my arm as we were going down the Capitol, and told me that he understood that I could get any friend appointed to the Collectorship at Freeport, as he thought the present incumbent was unpopular, and the Commissioners would make a change. I told him, also, that I would think about this matter. The morning after breakfast, I met Mr. Overfield, one of the Canal Commissioners, and had some conversation with him in regard to the existing state of affairs in the Legislature, and amongst other things, the conversation of General McCulloch came up. I asked him if it was true as the General had stated, that I could get the office of collector at Freeport for myself, or any friend I desired to have appointed. He said that they were in rather a tight place just now, and that if I would help them out by sustaining the Governor's veto of the Canal Commissioners' bill, the office should be at my disposal. He said that all I had to do was to write two lines to them, saying who I wanted appointed, and if I sustained the veto, it should be done. I told him I would study upon this matter, and left him.

Mr. McCULLOCH said that so far as this statement related to himself, part of it was correct, and a part was not, and he presumed the gentleman from Armstrong had not recollected a part of his conversation. While walking up to the Capitol the other day from Buchler's, I asked the gentleman from Armstrong whether he was not dissatisfied with the canal collector in his section of country. He said he was. I told him I was well aware that some of the Canal Commissioners were not pleased with that appointment when made; and they were not yet satisfied. I then told the gentleman that I thought he could get that situation.—He asked me if I had any authority for saying so, and this is the part of the gentleman's statement which is not correct. I told him that I had no authority for saying so, but I was almost certain such was the fact. In regard to the condition spoken of by the gentleman, I knew of no condition, although I said I had no doubt he could get the appointment.

Mr. HILL here interrupted.—I, sir, asked the gentleman what was to be the condition, and he said he supposed they would want me to sustain the veto.

Mr. McCULLOCH.—No, sir, I don't recollect of saying anything about that I did not know of any condition; but I heard one of the Canal Commissioners say that the appointment at Freeport was not satisfactory.

Mr. HILL.—The gentleman said so. I assert it most positively that he did.

Mr. KERR of Mercer.—My conversation with the gentleman was this. I asked him the character of a certain individual, he

said he was unpopular, and could not get 30 votes in his neighborhood. I told him that I had heard so; and that under these circumstances I did believe, if he would point out a good man, whether a friend of his own or not, that he could get the appointment. This I believed from the fact that the man was unpopular, and not because I had any authority from the Canal Commissioners to say anything on this subject.

Mr. Lowry offered the following as an amendment.

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed with power to send for persons and papers to investigate charges which have been made, that members of this Legislature have attempted to legislate the Canal Commissioners out of office from motives other than the public welfare, or to get themselves and friends office, or contracts.

Mr. Lowry said he supposed the House would not be willing to grant a committee of this character. If they wished to investigate the truth of the charge, then he hoped they would adopt his resolution. Were he to be granted a committee, he could show up poor human depravity in regard to this dark transaction from its origin to the moment it was presented here. Yes! he would like to see the character of the Canal Commissioners set side by side with certain honorable members on this floor.

After some remarks from Messrs. Barrett and Sherwood,

Mr. Lowry withdrew his amendment.

And the question being taken on the adoption of Mr. Heckman's resolution, it was a greed to.

And the Speaker appointed as the committee, Messrs. Heckman, Deford and Morris.

Mr. Lowry then offered his amendment as a distinct and substantial resolution, and it was agreed to.

And Messrs. Lowry, Sherwood and Walter were appointed the committee.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF OREGON

Much interest is every where felt at the present time in regard to Oregon Territory. In extent it is larger than the Atlantic portion of the old thirteen United States; in climate, softer, in fertility, greater; in salubrity superior, in position, better—because, fronting Asia and washed by a tranquil sea. In all these particulars, the western slope of our continent is far more happy than the eastern. In its configuration it is incomparably fine and grand—a vast oblong square, with natural boundaries, and a single gate way into the sea. The snow capped Rocky Mountains enclose on the east, an iron bound coast on the west; a frozen desert on the north, and sandy plains on the south. All its rivers, rising on the segment of a vast circumference, run to meet each other in the centre, and then together into the ocean, through a gap in the mountain where the heats of summer and the colds of winter are never felt, and where northern diseases are equally unknown. This is the valley of the Columbia—a country whose every advantage of its configuration—by the union of all its parts, the inaccessibility of its borders, and its single intregression to the sea. Such a country is formed for union, wealth and strength. It can have but one capital, and that will be a Thebes; but one commercial emporium, and that will be a Tyre, queen of cities.

*The Late Awful Gales.*—The sacrifice of life and property at sea during the late six weeks, has been, we regret to say with parallel in the history of our mercantile affairs. On the coast of England, 154 vessels were wrecked, and 190 lives lost; on the coast of Ireland, 5 vessels were lost, with 134 lives. On the coast of Scotland, 17 vessels were wrecked, and 39 lives lost; and on the coast of France, 4 vessels and 100 lives lost. The value of the vessels and cargoes have been roughly estimated at £585,000. On the three following days after the 13th January, numerous other wrecks occurred, to the extent of nearly 60, the losses of which were upwards of £240,000. This with the others, making a total of £825,000. To this is to be added the great loss of vessels that occurred in the course of the storm of Friday and Saturday last, the 4th and 2th February.—*English paper.*

*A Carrier Pigeon* recently alighted on the deck of the ship Sirabane, on the voyage from Calcutta to Britain, having a regimental button attached to his leg by a piece of brass wire. From a reference to the log of the Mary Transport, on her voyage to Bombay, it has been discovered that from the time the bird was liberated from that vessel, to the time it alighted on the Sirabane, it had flown no less than two thousand miles in ten days!

*A Reverend Seducer.*—The Rev. Mr. Griebeler, a foreigner, and a pastor of a Lutheran Church in the upper part of Berks county, in this state, is charged with having recently seduced a young girl, employed as a servant in his family, and after having borrowed various sums of money from his neighbors, suddenly left the neighborhood. A Reading paper says that Parson Griebeler, was, until the discovery of this shameful affair, much esteemed in his neighborhood, and, by his pleasing manners and plausible conduct, made himself everywhere welcome.

## DIENOCRA.

"TRUTH WITHOUT FEAR"

## BLOOMSBURG:

SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 1843.

FOR PRESIDENT,

**JAMES BUCHANAN.**

(Subject to the decision of a National Convention.)

## THE MAILS.

Never were the mails between this and Harrisburg so deranged a state as they are at the present time, and have been for a week or two past. For that time, we have not in a single instance received the Harrisburg mail on the day it was due. Our letters and papers from some cause or other are three four and even five days coming from Harrisburg; and some do not come to hand at all, when they should not be over twenty four hours upon the road, and that too, as we learn, at Danville letters and papers are regularly received. And what is equally as vexing, letters sent from this place to Harrisburg do not arrive there,—if they do, it is after a long and protracted journey, or an escape from some secret prison. How is this? Can it be possible that the division question has any thing to do with it? We should like to know! Will the Postmasters at Northumberland and Harrisburg look to it, and not suffer the public to be any longer imposed upon in this way.

There appears to be trouble in the Governors wigwam, at Harrisburg. The Keystone, which has heretofore been considered as the organ of the governor, has charged him with an attempt to use their columns for the advancement of Captain Tyler to the Presidency, and in consequence of their refusal, the governor in using his executive influence to destroy the patronage of the paper.—The governor and the Canal Commissioners, appear determined to sell the Democracy of the state to the Captain. Will they do it?—That is the question.

## THE LEGISLATURE.

On Saturday last the Governor sent into both houses his veto of the bill electing the Canal Commissioners by the people, and on Tuesday, the question was taken on the passage of the bill, when there were 57 yeas to 30 nays, not being two thirds, it does not become a law. The committee of conference upon the state apportionment having reported a bill it was adopted by both houses, and is now in the hands of the Governor. This bill gives Columbia county one member in the house of representatives, and places us with Luzerne for senator, notwithstanding the exertions of Mr. Headley to place us in the unnatural connection with Lycoming and Clinton:

A bill has passed both houses authorising the sale of the Delaware Division of the Pennsylvania canal to a company for \$1,800,000. Another bill is before the house authorising the sale of the main line from Philadelphia to Pittsburg; which will probably pass.

Mr. Heckman, chairman of the committee on the resolution to enquire whether any attempt had been made by the Canal Commissioners to bribe members of the house, reported on Tuesday last the testimony of Mr. Hill, similar to the statement which he made to the house. A motion was made to bring Mr. Overfield, one of the Canal Commissioners to the bar of the house, which brought out a discussion that lasted until the hour of adjournment. As we have not received a single paper from Harrisburg of this week, we cannot give any further particulars of the action of the house. What the new county bill is out of the way we may be able to get our letters and papers from Harrisburg more regular.

It will be recollected that the Legislature passed an act for election of a state printer to do all the printing for the state at fixed prices. On Monday of last week the Legislature met on joint ballot to elect a printer, in pursuance of the law. After two ballottings, without any election the convention adjourned to Friday. On Friday they again met, but without coming to any better result, not however, until an understanding was had, that a supplement should be passed, authorising the printing to be given to the lowest bidder.

The Northampton Bank at Allentown has closed its doors, and stopped payment. It, however, like all other banks, in like situation, makes far promises for the future.

## THE NEW COUNTY

No action had been had upon the new county at the last dates, although John Rhodes, Peter Baldy, and others from Danville, were at Harrisburg. 'Pushing it with desperation.'

The eastern States, have suffered considerably from high water, withing a few days. Stonington and Providence Rail Road, and Norwich and Worcester Road were rendered impassible for several days in consequence of the injury received from the freshet.

Rumors are afloat of all sorts of changes and even fights in the cabinet of the President, at Washington. None of them, however, can be traced to any responsible source.

*Horrible.*—We understand that a man by the name of Dick Stewart, living at Cypress Bend, in Arkansas, recently shot a poor woodchopper, who came to his house & set his dogs upon his carcass to devour it. His motive for this brutal act was revenge for some other woodchoppers having stolen one of his negroes. A reward of \$1000 has been offered for the apprehension of the murderer. The intelligence of this horrid affair was brought to the city yesterday, by the steamboat Somerville. The details are dreadful for rehearsal, and evince a degree of ferocity and barbarism almost impossible of belief.—N. O. Bee.

*Comfort of the Coal Merchants.*—A man is preaching in Illinois that this winter will continue a thousand years. Should it prove true there will not be much complaint of overstocks in the coal market. The severity of the present month has been of much advantage to them.

*Westward Ho!*—The New Orleans Bee says that about one thousand persons will rendezvous at Fort Leavenworth, on the first of May, for the purpose of emigrating to the Oregon Territory.

It is stated in a late Foreign paper that a Flemish gentleman recently purchased a lot of old books from a priest, and found among them the sixth copy of the first edition of the Bible ever printed. In 1816, a copy of this edition of the Scriptures was sold to the King of France for nearly four thousand dollars.

The editor of the Boston Post says he has been eating butter all winter, strong enough to pull over Solomon's temple—so full has the market of that city been with the vile snuff.

*A lot of Flour* was offered at a mill near Harrisburg at \$3 per barrel, cash, during the past week. This is the lowest price we have heard of east of the Allegheny.

*Hold Him.*—Gen. Micheltorens, of the Mexican army, when he first heard of the taking of Monterey, by Com. Jones, thus wrote to the Mexican Minister of War—'Your Excellency may imagine my indignation. I wished myself a thunderbolt to fly and annihilate the invaders! W-h-e-w!!'

Solomon Van Rensselaer has been removed from the office of Postmaster at Albany, and Alderman Wasson, an adherent of Mr. Van Buren, appointed in his place. Also that William C. Bouck, a son of the Governor, has been appointed Postmaster at Schenectady.

The town of Wakefield N. H. has elected to the Legislature, John Burns, Esq. a revolutionary soldier; who fought at the Battle of Bunker Hill, and who also served during the late war. He will be eighty-eight years of age on the 1st of August.

*Unusual Escape.*—An old man named George, living about fifteen miles from Danville, during the recent severe snow storm, looking for his sheep, and night coming on, he became bewildered and remained all night in a snow drift. He was found next morning about 10 o'clock, by some persons in search of him, and was speechless, but recovered soon after being taken home. He is nearly eighty years old.