

and interest of the whole. It is unjust to those States which have with their own means constructed their own internal improvements, to make from the common treasury appropriations for similar improvements in other States.

In its operation it will be oppressive and unjust towards those States whose representatives and people either deny or doubt the existence of the power, or think its exercise inexpedient, and who, while they equally contribute to the treasury, cannot consistently with their opinions engage in the general competition for a share of the public money. Thus a large portion of the Union in numbers and geographical extent, contributing its equal proportion of taxes to the support of the government, would under the operation of such a system be compelled to see the national treasury—the common stock of all—unequally distributed, and often improvidently used for the advantage of small sections, instead of being applied to the great national purposes in which all have a common interest, and for which alone the power to collect the revenue was given. Should the system of internal improvements proposed, prevail all these evils will multiply and increase with the increase of the number of the States, and the extension of the geographical limits of the settled portions of our country. With the increase of our numbers and the extension of our settlements the local objects demanding the appropriations of the public money for their improvement will be proportionately increased. In each case the expenditure of the public money would confer benefits, direct or indirect, only on a section, while these sections would become daily less in comparison with the whole.

The wisdom of the framers of the constitution in withholding power over such objects from the federal government, and leaving them to the local governments of the States, becomes more and more manifest with every year's experience of the operations of our system.

In a country of limited extent, with but few such objects of expenditure, (if the form of government permitted it,) a common treasury might be used for their improvement with much less inequality and injustice than in one of the vast extent which ours now presents in population and territory. The treasure of the world would hardly be equal to the improvement of every bay inlet creek and river in our country which might be supposed to promote the agricultural, manufacturing, or commercial interests of a neighborhood.

The federal constitution was wisely adapted in its provisions to any expansion of our limits and population; and with the advance of the confederacy of the States in the career of national greatness, it becomes more apparent that the harmony of the Union, and the equal justice to which all its parts are entitled, require that the federal government should confine its action within the limits prescribed by the constitution to its power and authority.—Some of the provisions of this bill are not subject to the objections stated, and did they stand alone I should not feel it to be my duty to withhold my approval.

If no constitutional objections existed to the bill, there are others of a serious nature which deserve some consideration. It appropriates between one and two millions of dollars for objects which are of no pressing necessity; and this is proposed at a time when the country is engaged in a foreign war, and when Congress at its present session has authorized a loan for the issue of treasury notes to defray the expenses of the war to be resorted to if the exigencies of the government shall require it. It would seem to be the dictate of wisdom under such circumstances to husband our means, and not to waste them on comparatively unimportant objects, so that we may reduce the loan or issue of treasury notes which may become necessary to the smallest practicable sum. It would seem to be wise too to abstain from such expenditures with a view to avoid the accumulation of a large public debt, the existence of which would be opposed to the interests of our people, as well as the genius of our free institutions.

Should this bill become a law, the principle which it establishes will inevitably lead to a more and annually increasing appropriation and drains upon the treasury, for it is not to be doubted that numerous other localities are embraced in the provisions, but quite as much entitled to the favor of the government, as those which are embraced, will demand, through their representatives in Congress to be placed on an equal footing with them. With such an increase of expenditure must necessarily follow either an increased public debt, or increased burdens upon the people by taxation, to supply

the treasury with means of meeting the accumulated demands upon it.

With profound respect for the opinions of Congress, and ever anxious, as far as I can consistently with my responsibility to our common constituents, to co-operate with them in the discharge of our respective duties, it is with unfeigned regret that I find myself constrained, for the reasons which I have assigned, to withhold my approval from this bill.

JAMES K. POLK,

Washington, Aug. 2d, 1845.

Correspondence of the Public Ledger.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 10, 1845

After a most excessive heat of from 95 to 100 degrees, Congress adjourned and left the Departments comparatively free and Mr. Davis, of Massachusetts, by speaking against time killed the appropriation demanded by the President of \$2,000,000 for negotiating with Mexico; though after the injunctions of secrecy being removed, it will appear that only seven members of the Senate were opposed to it. This is passing strange, but not much to the purpose, as the State Department will probably find means to negotiate a treaty of amity and peace with Mexico, without such a special appropriation. Depend on it, peace with Mexico will be established and the administration not reduced to the stress anticipated in certain quarters. It will arise above circumstances, and take palm and olive branch out of the hands of the peace party to adorn with it its own brow. The country wants peace, and will have it on honorable terms. There is not the shadow of a shadow of interference from any quarter, and we shall be able to settle the California business pretty much our own way.

The Tariff is not so hotly discussed in this quarter as it is with you in Pennsylvania. After a close survey, we shall find that the damage done is not as great as anticipated, and above all things, not irreparable. The democratic form of government is that which may most readily remedy an evil, real or imaginary; and there is, therefore, no reason why even those who are most affected by it should not depend on the great mischief, I apprehend, is done by making the tariff a party question, while it ought only to be discussed in regard to its own intrinsic merits. The belief generally, seems to prevail that the tariff of 1842 could not be made to stand, either in justice to all classes of society or the States let us not now get on the other horn of the dilemma, by opposing in the same indiscriminate way, what is good.

Let us examine where the shoe pinches, and endeavor, if we think it proper and just to stretch that part and not the whole shoe, lest we should make it unfit for wear. It is perhaps as reasonable for Democratic Pennsylvania to expect as much favor from its friends in power as from those whom she would have first to raise to it, as in the words of an old English adage, 'a bird in hand is worth two in the bush.' I mention this, irrespective of all parties merely as a matter for sober consideration, and with a view to the immediate interest of Pennsylvania.

I propose to enter on the special sources of real or imaginary complaint in Pennsylvania in my next; and would only remark now that they are not overlooked in this neighborhood and that they will be treated with all the consideration they deserve. I should not be surprised to see Mr. Buchanan himself come out over his own signature with words of peace consolation and ripe statesmanship, the moment he can find leisure to do so at the Bedford Springs, whether he will go in a few days for the benefit of his health if the President do not himself pay a visit to Old Point Comfort.

The Hon. George M. Dallas has left for the Springs of Virginia, or is going to leave soon. The Vice President is as firm as a rock, and looks as cheerful as the sun in May. He is probably satisfied that there is no immediate danger for the staple products of Pennsylvania, and that Congress and the Administration are not without ample means of providing against accidents in the future. The present duty on foreign iron may be considered as sufficient at the present prices in Europe, and the progress of rail-roads in England and on the Continent of Europe does not warrant the belief that prices will fall in consequence of the opening of a new market. At any rate, we have no repentential pallment, and our yearly session of Congress has and our annual remedy in case of a change in price. Above all things, let the masses reflect on the great difference there is between the protection of the manufactured article and the protection of the labor which produces it. They are by no means identical. The protection of the manufactured article in England for centuries past has raised the British manufacturer to wealth and the

peage, while it has, at the same time, given rise to a species of the most abject poverty on the part of the operatives, such as the world has never seen, and which disgraces the records of history. Let us not forget that all political economists, from Adam Smith down to Louis Blanc, Reybaud and Proudhon, are agreed that the daily wages of the operatives in all large manufacturing establishments are constantly tending to the minimum that will support his body, and that the fostering of large establishments tends to destroy the independent labor of the small manufacturer. Let us, therefore, not cry before we are hurt. The greatest evils, like the greatest pleasures, arise from anticipation.

THE RIVER AND HARBOR BILL, VETOED.

The President has returned this bill to the House of Representatives, with a message setting forth his objections to its becoming a law. His reasons for disapproving of its passage, are given with clearness and precision. There is no doubt the principle involved in it would be hereafter productive of the most hazardous results to the general government by encouraging the expenditure of its funds for purposes of a sectional rather than a general benefit to the people at large. It is justly remarked by the President, that were the principle necessarily involved, conceded, the treasury of the world would hardly be equal to the improvement of every bay, inlet creek and river in our country, which might be supposed to promote the agricultural, manufacturing our commercial interests of a neighborhood. Independent of this, the President objects to it at the present time particularly, when all our resources are demanded in another quarter. The sum proposed to be appropriated by the bill, is one million, three hundred and seventy-eight thousand four hundred and fifty dollars. We refer our readers to the message itself, which we give in another column, — *Intelligencer*.

The features of the independent treasury bill, as it passed the Senate, are as yet unknown, as the amendments made to the bill as it came from the lower house, have not been officially announced, and have not been concurred in by the lower house. If that bill goes into operation, upon a proper basis, it will have a wonderful influence upon the workings of the ad valorem tariff. It will annul the revenue principles of that act, and tend to make it more protective than the protective features of the independent treasury bill is of a very restrictive character, it will increase the value of the currency, and tend more to check importations than the protective features of the tariff act of 1842 ever did. Whatever checks the inflation of depreciation of the currency, but out foreign fabrics from our markets more effectually than any duty, short of a prohibitory one, could, and our manufactures will be better protected by the independent treasury bill than they ever were by a high tariff. The manufacturers of Europe are deeply interested in preserving in this country an inflated currency. We find their agents here strongly advocating the re-establishment of another government bank. The old United States Bank did more for the foreign manufactures than it ever did for any domestic interest, and its downfall was an unfortunate thing to them. For the truth of this we have only to refer to the immense importations from 1834 up to 1837, when the currency of this country was composed of nothing but paper, and when the banks were running riot in all the speculations of the day. We had a protective tariff then—the average duty on the aggregate importations, under the compromise act up to 1837 ranging above twenty-eight per cent., notwithstanding which the importations were immense, reaching in one year the enormous amount of one hundred and ninety millions of dollars. Did the high tariff at that time check importations in the slightest degree, or were our manufactures benefited in any way by the protective features of the compromise act, in the first few years of its operation? Not at all.

The currency had become so much depreciated by the immense issues of the thousands of banks in every section of the country—prices for everything became so inflated, that the manufactures of Europe were so little affected by the duty upon their fabrics, that they poured their goods into our market in immense quantities, forced their sale, turned the paper money received in payment into specie, and carried it home. If the duties at that time had been double what they were, there would have been very little difference in the importation. Goods manufactured under a specie currency can afford to pay a very heavy duty, to be admitted for sale into

markets where prices are regulated by an inflated paper currency—and the manufactures of Europe have enjoyed this position long enough; it is time we should pay more attention to the volume and value of our currency, if we wish to preserve the present prosperity of our domestic interests.—*N. Y. Herald*.

HAS'N'T CHANGED.

The *Union*, of Wednesday, contains an interesting document, in reference to perfect consistency which the President has always maintained in his political career. The paper in question is a report made by Mr. Polk, from a select committee, to whom had been referred the subject of a 'Distribution of Surplus Funds,' in January, 1831, more than fifteen and a half years ago.—It is a most able document, and fully discusses the theory of 'distribution,' and particularly 'internal improvements.' The sentiments expressed by the President in his late message, vetoing the 'River and Harbor Bill,' are in perfect consistency with those set forth in this prior report showing that he has always been, what his friends have declared, a consistent politician. Does not the seeming ignorance of the federalists, in 1844, in regard to the very name of Mr. Polk, seem doubly strange, when an important State paper like this, now and then turns up? We presume by this time, however, their ears are becoming familiarized to the sound of his name!

Romantic Incident.—At the late fire in Quebec, the following romantic incident occurred:

'Whilst the devouring flames were rapidly enveloping every portion of this noble structure, the doors being entirely blocked by the mass of human beings, who, in their consternation, had precipitated themselves upon them, in the vain hope of escaping to the open air, a young lady, the beautiful and accomplished Miss St. Pierre, as she turned out in the arched way seen standing at an open window in the third story of the building, whither she had run, no doubt, with the idea of precipitating herself on the payment beneath. There she stood—the bright glare from the approaching flames displaying in bold relief, the lovely contour of her noble, yet sylph-like form. An expression of agonizing despair was stamped on that fair face, which, but a few moments before, had been decked in radiant smiles. The palor of death had usurped the place of the rose. The excited multitude beneath, at least that part of it beneath the window where she stood, remained silent and motionless. To all human appearance, no aid could reach her: A few minutes more and she must be lost forever. At this moment, clasping her hands, she exclaimed in heart-rending accents, 'my mother!' and immediately after the word 'William!' fell from her lips in softer tones. Now a rush was heard at the extremity of the crowd, and a young man, dressed in fatigue suit of U. S. 'Middy,' bounded forward and gazed for a moment with wild and haggard looks on the lovely vision before him. It was but for a moment. With one bound, into which he seemed to throw the concentrated energy of despair and hope, if such a union can take place, he reached a window in the building some five feet from the street, from which, even then the smoke and flames were belched forth—attempts were made to stop him; but he was gone. The anxiety and interests below were intense.

In a moment he made his appearance beside the lady, and grasping her round the waist again disappeared. In another moment he appeared at a window in the second story, the lower one being entirely enveloped by the devouring element. What was to be done; no ladder, and the distance too great to risk jumping. With the rapidity of lightning he laid down the lady, and took off his coat, which was a frock—tied the sleeves as tight as he could round his right foot, then swung himself from the window, holding on with his hands, and a few words to the lady, when she got upon his shoulders, and with a coolness and presence of mind which would have done credit to old Blucher, slipped down his legs, then seized the coat, by which means she came within ten feet

of the ground, when she let go and was caught in the arms of several of the spectators.

The hero of this little romance was then in imminent danger, hanging at a distance of some twenty feet from the ground holding by his hand, and the flames already scorching them. Death seemed to be inevitable. He relaxed his hold and fell to the pavement, lifeless it is true, but more from the stun of the fall than real injury. Both were carried to house of Miss St. Pier's mother, and in a few hours were almost recovered. What gives the real romance to this incident, is, that the 'William' of the story had, some months before, seen loved and been accepted, secretly it is true, by the rich and beautiful Kate St. Pierre. The attachment, 'tis said, was (yes, and is,) mutual, but owing to the disparity in fortune, Mrs. St. Pierre would not listen to the proposals of young S.—'Tis said that they are now to be married in a very short time, making good the words of the poet—
'None but the brave deserve the fair.'

A Woman Killed by her Husband at her own request.—The following extraordinary case occurred a short time since at Wurtenburgh; we find it related in a late foreign journal:

Adam Gayring, a man 64 years of age, of honest and upright dealings; loved and respected by all who knew him, presented himself on the 6th ult, before the authorities at Heidenheim, and stated calmly that he had just killed his wife. His declaration was immediately taken, as follows:—'My wife,' as every one knows, has been suffering for a long time from illness, and at times the pains she had to endure were such as to effect her reason, she latterly gave up all hope of recovery, and continually repeated that not only was life a torment to her, but that she feared that if I died before her, she would be reduced to misery. This morning, after we had read together the 4th chapter of the *Book of Judges* (they were devout people and read the Bible every day,) she requested me to drive a nail into her temple, as Joel did to Sisera, as such a death seemed to her short and easy, and would put an end to her sufferings; she said she forgave me beforehand for the act, of which she absolved me before God and man. A nail, she said, would not cause a great hemorrhage, and would make but a slight wound. 'As soon as I am dead,' she added, 'you can close the wound, put me on a clean cap, and no one will know anything at all about it.' After long resistance (continued Gayring) I gave way to the wishes of my wife. I took a nail and began to drive it into her left temple with a hammer, but the nail was too weak, and the point instead of entering flattened itself on the bone. I then took a small drill, but equally unsuccessful. My wife grew impatient, and requested me to kill her at once with the hammer, which I accordingly did, by knocking in the skull. The body of my wife is at my house, where you can examine it at your leisure.'

The magistrate immediately proceeded to the house with a medical man, and Gayring under a strong guard. They found the body dressed; upon the bed on the left temple there were two wounds, and the right side of the skull was knocked in as low down as the temple. Beside the bed was a table, on which was a Bible, the nail, drill and hammer alluded to. On the ground was a basin of water, in which the murderer, according to his own declaration washed his hands before presenting himself to the authorities.

Gayring is now in prison, he is perfectly calm, and convinced that he acted well in fulfilling the wishes of his wife by putting an end to her sufferings. Some Wurtenburgh papers state that the inhabitants of the village of Gussenstadt where the murder was committed; left their work as soon as they heard of the murder, and spent the day in the church fasting and praying for the soul of the departed.

The last accounts from Fort Leavenworth, state that Capt. ALLEN (now Lieut. Col.) had arrived there with the five hundred Mormon volunteers. They were to leave with all possible despatch to join Gen. KEARNY.

DEMOCRAT.

"TRUTH WITHOUT FEAR"

BLOOMSBURG:

SAURDAY, AUGUST 22, 1845.

DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE FOR CANAL COMMISSIONER, WILLIAM B. FOSTER, jr.

Removal.

The Office of the *COLUMBIA DEMOCRAT* has been removed into the new Brick Building, South side of Main-street, a few doors below Market.

AGENCY.

V. B. PALMER, Esq. is authorized to act as Agent for the *COLUMBIA DEMOCRAT*, and receive all monies for Subscription and Advertising at his Agencies in Philadelphia No. 59 Pine-street. New York " 160 Nassau-street. Boston " 15 State-street. Baltimore S. E. cor. Balt. and Calvert-sts. Merchants-Mechanics and Tradesmen may find it to their advantage to advertise in this paper as it is the only one published in the County seat and has a greater circulation in the county than any other paper published within its limits.

Democratic County Convention.

The Democratic voters of Columbia County are recommended to meet at the stated places of holding the General Elections in their respective Election Districts, on

Saturday the 5th day of September

next, between the hours of two and six o'clock in the afternoon, and elect two Delegates to represent each township in a Democratic County Convention to meet at the house of John Clayton in Bloomsburg, on the Monday following, September 7th, 1845, at 12 o'clock, noon, for the purpose of nominating a ticket to be supported at the next October election.

CHARLES R. BUCKALEW,

WM. J. IKELLER,

M. E. JACKSON,

THOS. J. HUTCHISON,

M. R. HOWER,

Standing Committee chosen at the County Convention, September 1845.

E. H. BALDY

GEO. W. HARDER

ENOS MILLER

MARTIN BILMEYER

STEWART PEARCE

A. M. GANGWEY

SAMUEL CRESSY

JACOB D. KLINE.

Standing Committee appointed by a Convention held at Bloomsburg Sept. 16, 1844

THE NEW COURT HOUSE.

On the 14th inst. the Corner Stone of this building was laid, in which was placed a box containing a brief history of Columbia county, and of the transactions relating to the Removal, the Subscription List to the building, list of County Officers, Court, Representative and Senator, building committee, contractor, &c. Removal Bill, and the official returns of the election in 1845.

The building is now rapidly progressing, the walls of the basement story being nearly completed, and the work so far, is substantially done, strictly in conformity to the original plan. The basement story is divided into five rooms, exclusive of the three fire proof rooms. Much credit is due Mr. Meers for the faithfulness with which he has performed his contract thus far.

We publish this week, a comparison of the rates of duty imposed by the Tariffs of 1842 and 1845, on certain articles, and invite thereto the reader's attention. This table exhibits the fact, that the late act raises the duties upon many articles of luxury, and reduces them on many articles of general use. A thorough comparison of the details of the acts of '42 and '45 is a work of difficulty, where the change is from specific to ad valorem duties, and the article is one of fluctuating price, or varied rates of value. Upon the whole, the new law materially reduces duties from the rates of the old, although there is an increase upon numerous articles, as the statement shows. The Whig paper of this county, complained last week of this statement, or table of comparison, as deceptive, and of its publication as an attempt to deceive. We confess that we are unable to perceive the justice of this accusation. How the mere exhibition of facts in relation to rates of duty under the two laws is deceptive, must be made to appear before it is admitted. The statement does not profess to give all the details of the tariff; but so far as it goes, it is strictly and conscientiously accurate.

While upon this subject, we will say, that the only attempt at deception in the publication of this statement, which we have noticed, was in a Whig newspaper, we think the *United States Gazette*. The statement was published with the word "Luxury" at the top, and the words—"Articles of general use," lower down carefully omitted! This was obviously done in order to render less apparent the fact, that duties were increased upon luxuries, and lowered upon articles of general use by the new act.

The People of Iowa are much opposed to coming into the Union, with the State lines prescribed by the act of Congress. A new vote was recently taken on the subject; and the few returns received indicate that the proposition has

not been defeated.