

AMERICAN PATRIOT.

"To speak his thoughts,
In every Freeman's right."

BELLEVILLE, SEPTEMBER 1, 1817.

ELECTION.

AT a large and respectable meeting of the democratic citizens of Centre county, held at the house of John Rankin, in the borough of Bellefonte, on Wednesday the 27th August, 1817—

PAUL WOLF, esq. was nominated chairman, and

JAMES CRAWFORD, esq. secretary:

RESOLVED, That this meeting recommend to the democratic citizens of Centre and Clearfield counties to meet at their respective places of holding township meetings on Saturday the 6th of September next, for the purpose of choosing township delegates; and said delegates when chosen, to meet in the borough of Bellefonte on Saturday the 13th inst for the purpose of forming a county ticket, to be supported by them at the ensuing election, and do such other business as they may deem necessary to ensure success.

RESOLVED, That the proceedings of this meeting be signed by the chairman and secretary, and published in the American Patriot.

PAUL WOLF, Chairman.
JAMES CRAWFORD, Secretary.

Copy of a letter from a gentleman in Meadville, to the Editor, dated

Meadville, August 1, 1817

DEAR SIR,—On Saturday the 26th ultimo, at this place, was executed George Speth Vanhollandt in conformity to the sentence of the Court and the Death Warrant of the Governor, for the murder of Hugh Fitzpatrick.

In his trial all the rules of criminal justice were strictly observed. There was no violation of any of his rights or privileges. The testimony may be ranged into three classes, either of which would have been sufficient to have convicted him.

1st. Positive—that of the wife of the deceased.

2d. Presumptive—that of the men who followed and took him.

3d. His own confession when he was first taken, and afterwards, before two justices of the peace in a voluntary manner. And, I might add a fourth, viz. his involuntary confession when he was brought back to the house of the deceased—Some person observed that the appearance of the wound was as though he had been struck twice—the prisoner immediately exclaimed, "So help me God, I struck him but once."

The next morning after conviction, he was brought into court to receive sentence of death, which was delivered by the president of the court in a very feeling and impressive manner, and at which the whole audience were greatly moved.

During his confinement he exhibited no signs of contrition, but rather appeared to increase in a hardness of heart that betrayed a total absence of all moral feeling. From his conduct and some of his expressions, it would seem he had his doubts of a future state. On the morning of the day of his execution, he tampered with his guard to bring him some arsenic, but was denied it. "Then" said he, "I will resign myself to my fate; I will die like a soldier," but added, he would first break the neck of the hangman. At 12 o'clock he was taken from the goal to the place of execution. At his own request he was permitted to proceed on foot after the waggon, in which was his coffin. The platform of the gallows was about ten feet high. The executioner first ascended it; the prisoner sat down at the foot of the stairs and took some whiskey and water. On seeing the hangman aloft, he exclaimed, "d—n the man that would take the life of another for money."

He ascended the platform with seeming indifference. A terrible pause ensued. Few of this vast assembly ever beheld such a sight! To behold a man in the prime of life, dressed in the attire of the dead, and about to make atonement with his life to

the justice of his country for the murder of a fellow creature, and then to enter the unseen world and meet that judge "from whose face the Heavens and the Earth shall one day flee away as the hunted Hart from before its pursuers," was, of itself, sufficiently awful and affecting; but what added still more to the awfulness and horror's irring solemnity of the scene, was to see the blasphemous and unaffected object of attention, in the last moments of his existence—on the brink of eternity, struggling to wreak his vengeance on the hangman; for, just as he was preparing to fasten the rope to the beam, he sprang at him with the fury of a demon, and precipitated him to the ground, jumped after him, but missed him. Addressing himself to one of the guard, he said, "had it not been for the d—n'd rope I would have jumped on him." He was again taken up, and the rope made fast. The sheriff then told him to "make his time, and if he had any thing to say he should be heard." He replied, "I am an assassinated man. I am innocent. I die for the crimes of another. I have nothing more to say. The Rev. Timothy Aiden has my papers, he may speak if he pleases."

The Rev. Timothy Alden, president of Allegany College, then delivered a very appropriate discourse; in the midst of which, the prisoner finding it to bear hard on him, turned round, and said, "stop, sir, you have said enough on that subject."

At the conclusion of a very fervent prayer to the throne of grace on his behalf, the Sheriff asked him if he was ready. "Yes," said he, "my time is spent—may God have mercy on my soul." At that instant, and precisely at 1 o'clock, he made his exit, and passed into that country from which no traveller ever returns.

George S. Vanhollandt was about 37 years of age, of the common size, and very athletic. He possessed a considerable share of cunning, and a retentive memory. He was of an irritable temper, and impatient under his sufferings. He was continually accusing the judges, jury, and witnesses, and prosecutors. Indeed he appeared to have a general malice against mankind, and it was meet he should be removed.

By this example of severity we ought to profit by, and remember the injunction—"Take heed lest ye be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin."

We shall lay before our readers next week, a full statement of the transaction relative to the exchange of the \$ 8,000. Its great length precludes its insertion in this day's paper. It places the conduct of Mr. Findlay as it regards the exchange, in a light the most honorable and correct. It is thus will fall to the ground, every charge which his enemies may be able to scrape up against him, and his character, like the diamond, the more it is rubbed, be made the brighter to appear.

After the manner of the Independent Republican.

We had almost forgot to mention, that our little town of Bellefonte, last week, was to use the appropriate language of Dr Sutherland, "literally running over" with runners from different quarters of the state, electioneering for Joseph Heister. So many were they, that to have counted them correctly, would have been almost as hopeless a task, as it would be to count a flock of Sheep in full gallop over a set of bars.

A host of runners from Reading and elsewhere, arrived in this place on Sunday last, no doubt "loaded with pamphlets dictated by" the vital spirit, and his aid from Marcus Hook. Their business appeared to be to circulate reports for the purpose of injuring the election of Mr. Findlay. They exhibited a paper as their authority for the fabrications—being interrogated respecting it they gave vague and unsatisfactory answers. They have proceeded westward. Citizens be on your guard against these wolves in sheep's clothing—their object is to divide the democratic party—the assertions of Heister's runners should be taken "for just as much as they are worth"—a few days will determine their real value.

My readers need not be surprised if I should, in a few days lay before them a statement which will leave no room to doubt that the editor of the Advertiser received by one of the runners above mentioned, who resides in Reading forty dollars in addition to his former receipts for the prostitution of his press. If a man can obtain the first office in the gift of the people, by Bribery we may shortly bid adieu to our liberties.

Ly. Gazette.

From the Norristown Register. Extracts from the correspondence of the committee, appointed by the convention at Harrisburg, for this county.

Extract of a letter from Franklin, (Venango county) dated, July 4th, 1817.

"We trust the election of William Findlay, esq. is sure, the daring attempts of designing men to the contrary notwithstanding. We have the pleasure of giving you a favorable statement as respects this county. Our majority will be about 500: allowing 50 votes for Mr. Heister—There being not many federalists in this county, the opposition will be trifling."

Extract of a letter from Uniontown, (Fayette county) dated July 15th, 1817.

"The voice of this county is nearly unanimous for Mr. Findlay—his majority, will probably, be not less than 1800. The conviction that the "welfare and prosperity of the state" is inseparably connected with the election of Mr. Findlay, will lead us to use every honorable exertion in his favor; and we indulge the pleasing expectation that the united efforts of his friends in every part of the state, will be crowned with triumph."

Extract of a letter from M'Keansburg, Schuylkill county, dated July 26th 1817.

"Respecting this county, as it stands now, Mr. Heister would have a small majority—but, if the minds of the people should continue changing as they have for six weeks past, you may rest assured Mr. Findlay will have a majority.—In M'Keansburg district, Findlay will have nearly three votes to one over Heister."

"How now—SECRET black and midnight hags."

We have seen the deposition of the door keeper of the Carlisle Caucus, in which he solemnly declares & swears that he was directed to keep the door shut and not to permit any person to enter the Caucus except the members—that he was himself ordered out of the room that evening, the man of their choice, might neither see nor hear what was done.—He has sworn that he was ordered to take care that no person should be permitted even to listen or hear ken to what was doing, and further we have seen, the deposition of citizens of Carlisle who applied for admission and were positively refused.

We shall hereafter publish the depositions and we shall then wait to see whether the Carlisle Committee of Correspondence will again have the hardhood, in the face of these depositions, to deny that the Carlisle Caucus sat with closed doors!!!

Dem. Press.

On reference to an official copy of the United States census of 1810, we are satisfied that the whole number of YOUNG MEN now in Pennsylvania between the ages of 21 and 22 is 45 thousand. Suppose two thirds of these young men to be sons of "Freeholders," there would remain 15,000 young men the sons of other Persons. If Joseph Heister's opinion had prevailed in the convention these fifteen thousand young men would not be entitled to vote. They would be disfranchised. Happily Mr. Heister's opinion was not adopted, and the young men were not robbed of their birth right. Quere. Will any one of those fifteen thousand young men give their votes for Mr. Heister, for him who voted against their being allowed to exercise the inestimable right of suffrage?

LEIB AND HEISTER'S PRESENT.

In the most ancient of all writings, (says a political writer) I mean the sacred, we find wisdom and virtue the most synonymous terms, and vice and folly put promiscuously for each other. Wisdom is pursuing the noblest ends by the most promising means. But the ends corrupt men have in view, are raising themselves and their own pockets.

Is Bribery the most promising scheme for attaining those ends? I trow not.

"HEAR THE ENEMY."

After passing some merited compliments on the venerable Gen. David Mitchell for his zeal in defence of the arbitration System, the Harrisburg Chronicle says he is "one of the most practical statesmen that ever legislated for Pennsylvania, and one whose political theories would fully bear the test of experience and improve upon use."

We would remind the Harrisburg Chronicle that this same Gen. David Mitchell is the respected gentleman who presided at the meeting of electors of President and Vice President of the United States, when they devised and recommended the Harrisburg Convention—the Chronicle will also remember that in pursuance of that respectable re

commendation, the Democratic Convention sent forward 113 Delegates, and that these delegates met in public and unanimously resolved to support William Findlay, governor of Pennsylvania.

The success of the measures resulting from the meeting over which Gen. Mitchell presided, will be another proof that he is a "practical statesman" his theories will bear the test of experience, and improve on use.

LEIB AND HEISTER'S PRESENT OF \$ 1364

Certainly if men thought of the dangerous consequences of corruption, says a political writer, there would be no occasion to make laws against it, it would appear so horrible that no man would allow it to approach him. The corrupted ought to consider that they do not sell their country only: they sell themselves to the corrupter; who corrupt them not for their sakes but for his own. This makes it necessary in every free state to guard against corruption. For from that fatal distemper, when it has once been introduced, no free state has ever yet recovered.

From the Harrisburg Chronicle.

AGAINST

JOSEPH HEISTER.

Hugh Hamilton in the Harrisburg Chronicle of the 10th of March last said "that the fraternity in 1805 known by the name of quids," were "at that time in an offensive and defensive alliance with the federal party."

The most noted of the quid party in 1805, was Joseph Heister. He not only supported the election of M'Kean and opposed Snyder, but he circulated the shameful and abusive story that the friends and advocates of Snyder were in favor of "an equal distribution of property" And by means of that Snyder lost his election.

Thus Mr. Hamilton himself has explicitly announced that Joseph Heister so early as 1815, was engaged in an offensive and defensive alliance with the federal party; and yet he complains of those who call Heister a federalist!—Mr. Hamilton himself truly marked the era of Heister's avowed federalism. It began in 1805, as Mr. Hamilton correctly states. He was then like many of his present advocates, a federal quid; and since that time he has been a through going federalist of the Boston stamp.

H. Ref.

From the American Volunteer.

Pennsion Presses.—The advocates of Heister, say Findlay is poor—yet they accuse him of purchasing a majority of the presses in the state. But when we look around us, we cannot find a single press, that at first advocated Heister's election, that is now in favor of Findlay! On the contrary, we can count several that were warm advocates of Findlay, that now are as warmly opposed to him. If they were not purchased—Let them account for the change:

If the old-school were serious in their professions for reform, is it plausible to suppose they would take up Joseph Heister—to effect it—the very man who opposed it in 1805 and 8? The man who, old as he is, was guilty of uttering a falsehood to prevent it—the man who said, that in case a convention was had to obtain a reform, their would be an equal distribution of property. We ask if they were serious in wishing for a reform—would they take up a man to effect it who now is and always has been opposed to it? But, suppose the governor, let him be whom he may, were he friendly to reform he could not effect it—and were he opposed to it, he could not prevent it; provided the people thought differently from him. The governor can only control a part of his own appointments; such as Registers, Records &c. and if they are all over the state like the one in Cumberland; we confess that not only we, but the generality of the people of the county think a change; or, if you will, a reform necessary.—To this Mr. Kline can have no objection, for two reasons,—because he says all the state officers are corrupt; and that the old-school, of which he professes to be a scholar, want no offices. Let him—resign.

Notwithstanding all the pains the old school folks take to create enmity amongst the Dutch and Irish—it is believed, that of the Dutch, who are not office hunters, there will not be fifty in the county in favor of Mr. Heister.

St Louis, the capital of Missouri Territory, is rapidly increasing in wealth and importance. The present population is estimated at 3000—the buildings are generally small, but a number of spacious and commodious brick and stone buildings are now erecting. There are in the town upwards of twenty three commercial